



No. 1,587. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 3d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON L^{td}. CROYDON

Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
Cast in England
and Carillons of the
BRITISH EMPIRE

in

**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**

Telephone

Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

THE PRESERVATION OF BELLS.

We are glad to learn that associations in many parts of the country are taking up seriously the question of the preservation of church bells during the ban upon ringing. We understand that among the associations which contemplate immediately circularising the clergy is the Yorkshire Association, in whose extensive area there are hundreds of rings of bells. Oxford and Kent are already taking action and others are moving in the matter. Those associations which have not already done so would be well advised to remind the responsible church authorities that their bells may suffer unless they take precautions, and in this connection it is important that it is not only the clergy who have the care of bells in towers where there are association members who should be approached, but also those who have bells and no ringers and those whose bells have been seldom rung. Indeed, it is even more important that these latter towers should receive attention because they are almost certain to have suffered from earlier neglect, whereas where there are ringers and the bells were rung up to the time of the ban there is unlikely to be the preliminary handicap of previous cumulative neglect.

Expert advice on what to do to preserve our church bells was given to our readers by the head of one of the leading firms of bell founders a little more than a year ago, and, for the benefit of those who did not take that advice to heart, we are reproducing the article in this issue, in the hope that it will be of further use. In concise language it deals with the best method of treating the bells and their fittings, and, if followed, the bells will be ready for immediate use when the time comes that they can be rung again.

To one point in the advice we would like to call special attention, in case there should be any misconception. Because bells, which happen to be hung in ball bearings, were expected to run for years with a minimum of attention—and in that way may, incidentally, have helped to make a certain number of lazy steeplekeepers—it must not be assumed they now need no attention because they are not being used. The very fact that they have remained so long unmoved may render the bearings liable to deterioration through the breaking of the protective film of grease. It is not for lubrication that ball bearings are packed in grease, but for the prevention of rust, and those bells which had not received attention for some time before the ban ought to get some attention without delay, if only as a matter of precaution. The painting of metal bell frames is also an important matter. Under normal conditions this is a thing which

(Continued on page 398.)

WM. POTTS & SONS LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St., Newcastle-on-Tyne,

and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or PendantWith name of your Association engraved
—as Illustration.

gct. HALL MARKED GOLD	..	45/-
HALL MARKED SILVER	..	7/6
GILT OR WHITE METAL	..	4/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can
be engraved on the reverse side at a
small extra charge.

Exact size

**GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND
ENGRAVER,**
6, PARK ST., NINEHEAD, SOMERSET

METHOD SPLICING

*The Newest and Most Interesting
Development of Change Ringing*

Study this latest phase of the Art
and learn how to practise it.

The System is fully explained in
'METHOD SPLICING,' price 1/3 (post free)
from 'The Ringing World' Office,
LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING.

ESTABLISHED 1780

JOHN NICOLL,

*Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,*

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.W.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

is frequently neglected. Nowadays when towerkeepers seldom, if ever, visit the bells it is likely to be the thing which least of all will receive attention. Steel and wrought iron frames are specially liable to rust and long neglect leads to certain trouble.

One other matter needs to be stressed, and that is the importance of getting the advice which may be proffered acted upon. It is an easy thing to send a circular; it is not so easy to ensure that it receives attention. Issued by an association, it goes out with the stamp of authority, but for lack of interest or, maybe, in ignorance, some clergy may not attach to it the importance it merits. In these things the help of the diocesan authorities should, if possible, be enlisted, and if Bishops or Archdeacons can be induced to call attention to the subject in the official monthly diocesan publications clergy who might otherwise pass over the matter in indifference, may be brought to realise that this is one thing in the care of church property that ought not to be neglected even in these times. The ringing associations in the past have not made all the use of the diocesan authorities and publications that they might have done; here is a case where very valuable aid might be secured.

WEST CORNWALL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The tower in the Castle of St. Michael's Mount, near Penzance, contains six or rather the remains of six bells, of which only one, the tenor by John Pennington, 1640, is hung in a frame for the clock to strike on, all the others lying on the floor, the second and third broken. Their inscriptions are:—

1. ORDO PROTESTATUM.
2. (COME AWAY MAKE NO DELAY 1785.
3. CHARLES & JOHN RUDHALL FE(CERUNT).
4. SPIRITUS SANCTUS EST DEUS.
GABRIEL SANCTE PAULE, ORA PRO NOBIS.
ORDO VIRTUTUM MARIA.
5. FILIUS EST DEUS.
RAPHAEL ORDO ARCHANGELORUM,
SANCTA MARGARETA ORA PRO NOBIS.
6. SULI DEO DETUR GLORIA 1640 I.P.

(The original tenor was inscribed 'Pater Est Deus' and probably the name 'Michael' also appeared on it.)

It is, therefore, impossible within the past seventy years to have heard the six bells rung in peal.

It is probable that the six bells heard by your correspondent were those of Ludgvan, lying about two miles north of the Mount, from whence 'stone' or call changes may be heard, but not even six changes of Grandsire Doubles.

'COLLEGE YOUTH.'

Similar information as to St. Michael's bells has been sent to us by the Rev. C. J. Sturton from an account compiled by his uncle, the late Mr. J. R. Jerram, of Salisbury, who during his lifetime contributed many articles on the history of famous rings of bells to 'The Ringing World.'

THE SILENT TOWER.

Forrabury, another Cornish coast church, has what is locally known as 'The Silent Tower.' Its one bell, hanging in a massive tower that almost dwarfs the little church, contains one bell, 17½ inches in diameter, inscribed 'John Tink, 1812.'

Here is the legend of the tower as recorded by Mr. Jerram:—

'For some years after the church was built there were no bells in the tower. In process of time the people became dissatisfied with this state of things. Accordingly money was collected and a fine peal of bells was ordered from a mediæval London founder.

'In due time the bells were cast and shipped to Forrabury. After a most prosperous voyage the ship arrived in sight of land. The people on shore watched it making its way into the bay.

'On board, however, an uproar was taking place. The pilot, a devout man, lifted his hat and thanked God for the safe and prosperous voyage. But the captain, a bombastic infidel, reviled the pilot, and said that it was only his own skill as a navigator and the efficiency of the crew that they had to thank for their safe arrival in sight of land. The pilot rebuked the captain, but he only repeated his boastful assertion with blasphemous oaths and curses.

'At this moment clouds suddenly gathered, and the wind rose to a gale, and an immense sea swamped the ship. To the horror of the people on shore she went down in an instant. Of all the crew the pilot only was saved.

'The bells were never recovered and to this day Forrabury tower only possesses one small bell, with the appropriate inscription, John Tink, 1812.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*ALBERT CATTERWELL ... 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	MISS HILDA G. SNOWDEN ... 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.
* First peal of Major away from the tenors. † First peal on handbells. 100th peal as conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in E.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... 1-2	JACK BRAY ... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4	*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN ... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.
* First peal away from the trebles.

BOCKING, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At 11, ALICE COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

RONALD SUCKLING ... 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL ... 3-4	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 7-8

ALBERT WIFFEN ... 9-10

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Tuesday, August 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
In THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALL
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising 12 six-scores of Plain Bob and 30 of Grandsire, with 14 different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS HARRIS ... 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER ... 3-4
-----------------------	-------------------------

DONALD G. CLIFT ... 5-6

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

First peal of Doubles 'in hand' by all, by the Guild, and first peal 'in hand' as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5036 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
Rung as a birthday peal to Mrs. J. Thomas.

SWINDON, WILTS.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
At HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in C.

DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 1-2	IVOR C. N. BELL ... 3-6
JACK S. ROBERTS ... 3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE
First peal by the society.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,
At THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2	R. GORDON CROSS ... 5-6
†MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4	*MRS. R. G. CROSS ... 7-8

Composed by H. HOWLETT. Conducted by R. G. CROSS.
* First peal. † First peal of Major 'in hand.' First handbell peal as conductor.

(Continued in next column.)

THE DEVON GUILD.

MEETING AT TEDBURN ST. MARY.

Those who have motored from Exeter to Okehampton must have been impressed by the view of Tedburn's tall tower, on the north side of a narrow valley and standing amid a panorama of neatly hedge-rowed fields.

The sandstone tower, of the Decorated period, contains six bells which have not been rung for 70 years. The church is as fine as any village church and in the vale below nestles one of the most delightful old, big rectories, with stable accommodation for half a dozen horses. The charm of the gardens and lawns is impressive. At this place, the home of the honoured and esteemed president of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox, the Exeter Branch held their summer meeting, and every member present was impressed and pleased.

The company took part in handbell practice and clock golf before the service, at which Preb. Cox officiated. A touch of Grandsire Triples and a record of a course of Grandsire Caters in the tower commenced the proceedings. In his address Preb. Cox referred to the unringable bells and said two were cast by Worth, two by Pennington and two by Mears. The tenor has only a half-wheel. He referred also to a frontal cloth, which was a copy of part of a cope discovered some 70 years ago by a former rector. The original is now in the keeping of the South Kensington Museum. The theme of his address was loyalty to our King, love of our Church and honesty.

Mrs. Cox and her staff provided an ample tea, pasties, honey and what not. Her cook must be an adept in her craft, overcoming all rationing difficulties, and every hungry ringer was satisfied.

Chairman E. J. Ryle acted as secretary in the unavoidable absence of William H. Howe. Messrs. Charles E. Lilley, Jim and Mrs. Lilley, Charley Glass, Tom Laver, Bill Richardson and F. H. Gardner were in the company. There were too few of the young brigade and for that we must blame the war. Mr. W. S. Lethbridge, of St. David's, Exeter, was re-elected as a member, and it was decided that the next meeting should take place at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on December 6th.

Mr. Laver read a letter he had received from Mr. J. H. Godfrey, secretary of the East Devon Branch. There was a general expression of pleasure that Mr. Godfrey was better. Mr. A. E. Searle sent apologies for his absence.

Hearty vote of thanks were given the organist and choir, who, though few in number, contributed so much to the delightful service. The Prebendary and Mrs. Cox were thanked for their kind hospitality and the service. More handbell practice ended a most enjoyable afternoon.

F. C. S.

VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Once upon a time, in the year 1936 to be exact, a prolific writer, at the expense of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, wrote a booklet, the title of which is the heading of this paper. In this booklet the writer gives two peals: (1) A peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major by the late N. J. Pitsoy; (2) a peal of Bob Major (slightly altered) by Gabriel Lindoff. Of these two peals the writer (I am quoting from the booklet) says: 'These two compositions look quite different; actually they are the same and they contain exactly the same lead-ends, but in a different order.'

If the writer of the booklet had known anything of round blocks and transpositions in peal compositions he would not have made this false statement.

There are probably many peals that contain the same Q sets, the same course-heads, the same lead-heads as in the two peals given, but that does not make them 'actually the same' as stated by the writer.

By round blocks and transpositions in peal compositions it is possible to prove whether or no any two peals are actually the same.

GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton

HANDBELL PEALS

(Continued from previous column.)

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).	Tenor size 15 in C.
ALBERT M. TYLER ... 1-2	L/C F. C. SHORTER, R.A.S.C. ... 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT ... 7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal in the method on handbells and first handbell peal as conductor. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of 7-8. The band wish to associate the names of Mr. T. Harris and Mr. R. G. Bryant with this peal, they kindly standing down for the visitors.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 389.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Of all the early members of the Council none seemed more likely to take a leading part in its activities than Edward F. Strange. He was of a rather better class and education than the ordinary ringers, he was ambitious and he had marked ability. He held a position in the National Art Library of the South Kensington Museum, and lived in one of the southern or south-western suburbs. Where he learned to ring I do not know, but early he mixed with the London ringers, and he joined the Society of College Youths. At the time there was much in the metropolitan societies, and in London ringing generally, which would strike a young and ardent man as undesirable, and he set himself the task of improving matters. In 1884 he published anonymously a series of short articles in 'The Bell News,' which he called Thumb-nail Sketches, and which were intended to satirise the foibles and eccentricities of some of the characters to be met in London steeples.

He professed to be dealing with types, not with individuals, but his shafts went home in many instances; and since he was anxious to keep on good terms with the College Youths and his anonymity was difficult to maintain, after a time he thought it prudent to drop the series.

One of his complaints was that there was little chance of a young newcomer getting into the inner circle unless he was prepared to do a great deal of toadying and treating at the meeting place. He himself rang some peals of Grandsire Triples with more outlying bands, but except on one or two occasions he never had a chance of a ten-bell peal, and ten-bell ringing was his ambition.

It is impossible to say how far he was a competent practical ringer, but he evidently did not succeed in getting a place in the inner circle, and that probably had something to do with the renewal of his hostile criticism. He published a very unfavourable account of ringing in the metropolitan steeples. There was no change ringing at all at Bow, St. Bride's, or Cripplegate; an occasional practice at Cornhill and St. Paul's; and at St. Saviour's thirty or forty members in the meeting room, and only five or six of the youngest outside the tower, 'who wait about on the bare chance of some extraordinary circumstance procuring them a touch on twelve.'

Things in the ten-bell towers were no better. Out of thirteen there were only two in which a pupil could make sure of a touch on ten.

From criticising the ringing, Strange went on to criticise the way the Society of College Youths was conducted, and as he was supported by a few more malcontents, the older members were compelled to take action. Strange dropped his anonymity and admitted his responsibility for all the letters and articles; he was therefore summoned under rule ten to appear before the society and answer for his conduct.

The result was a foregone conclusion. Nominally Strange was on trial; actually he was the accuser, and the accused were the men who would give the verdict and pronounce the sentence. He was expelled from the society.

When the Central Council was founded, Strange was elected to represent the Surrey Association. He was one of the candidates for the office of secretary, but, as already mentioned, he was rejected. He owed his defeat

undoubtedly to the opposition of the College Youths, and in the long run it was a good thing, for the failure of the man who was appointed cleared the way for the election at the second meeting of Earle Bulwer, who was not only a thoroughly competent man, but was the most likely person to work in harmony and understanding with Heyward.

Strange moved the resolution defining a peal on seven bells which led to the most important debate at the first meeting. For the second meeting he gave notice of a motion, 'That it is expedient to publish a bibliography or catalogue of books relating to bells and ringing, and that a committee be instructed to confer and report as to how this can best be done.'

This motion was carried at Birmingham with the amendment that the matter should be left to the Standing Committee on the understanding that Strange himself would undertake the work. He had said that his position in the National Art Library gave him facilities for undertaking a work of the nature, which were probably possessed by few others.'

The preparation and publishing of a catalogue of books on bells and ringing would seem at first sight a fairly simple and straightforward matter, but directly the job is undertaken difficulties appear. To be of any real use, the catalogue must be a full and fairly exhaustive one. It is easy enough to make a list of the well-known books, but to deal with the rare and little-known ones entails a lot of research work and the expenditure of much time and patience. It is not time that can be taken from odd leisure hours, for it must be spent in great libraries and in places that are not usually readily accessible to the worker.

Strange started well. In April, 1895, he published in 'The Bell News' a list of seventy books on bells and ringing which are included in the National Art Library at South Kensington. But then he had practically exhausted all his opportunities for gathering information, and the work flagged. His enthusiasm died down, he began to lose interest in ringing, and after 1900 he ceased to be a member of the Council. Beyond the published list, his work on bibliography was lost to the Exercise.

After a while, R. A. Daniell undertook to carry on the work with the help of Henry Dains. His experience was much the same as Strange's, except that he worked at the British Museum library. There is, of course, no place like it in the kingdom, but the great number of books and the size and complexity of the catalogues make any research work there a job for an expert or, at any rate, for one who is prepared to spend a vast amount of time and patience.

Daniell published a short list of books on ringing to be found at Bloomsbury, and then nothing more was heard about the matter.

In more recent years I was able to complete to some extent these men's work, and, chiefly because I did not set out with the deliberate intention of forming a catalogue of bell literature. When I started to write a history of London bells and ringers, the subject was as yet untouched. I had to gather all my material from a very large number of sources, and that meant much research work among little-known books and periodicals. I spent many hours at the British Museum, and, as I kept a careful account of all the books I consulted, I got together a list of several hundreds which contain more or less references to bells and ringing, or gave some particulars

(Continued on next page.)

R. A. DANIELL'S WORK FOR THE COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the lives of ringers of bygone years. I calendared these books with short notes of what they contain, and, having bound the sheets, I gave them to the Central Council library.

Something more could be done to improve my catalogue, but it is a fairly full and comprehensive guide to all the books and magazine articles which have been published and relate to bells and bellringing. It is available for the use of anyone who needs such a guide.

Robert Arthur Daniell was an outstanding example of the fact that interest in bells and ringing is not confined to one class of man or to those who are practical ringers. His knowledge of both the art and the science of change ringing was but small, yet he was for many years an active member of the London Exercise; he took a leading part in the Central Council; and he earned a distinguished place in the history of ringing as a writer.

He was a Cambridge University man and a solicitor by profession. He early became connected with the belfry of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, when the band there rang nothing but stoney.

Daniell afterwards took up change ringing, but he did not progress very far. He rang the seventh to one peal of Bob Major at St. Andrew's, Cambridge, with the University Guild. It was not, it would seem, a very good peal.

The social life of the London societies attracted him strongly, and he was for long a leading man among the Cumberlands and for a time in the St. James' Society.

It was this interest that supplied the motive for his main activities. He made himself the champion of the old societies against those (and especially Arthur T. King)

who wished to reorganise the London Exercise on the lines of the great provincial associations, and against those who said that ringers of past days were a drunken and disorderly lot.

This led him to study the history of the Exercise, and here he did good and original work. Other men had written well and learnedly about the history of bells. A few, notably Jasper Snowdon, had written about the history of change ringing. But no one had tried to give an account of the old ringers as men, or to describe them in relationship to the times they lived in.

It was a subject well worth study, and Daniell deserves praise for having undertaken it; but his work is marred by the fact that he wrote to support the opinions he had already formed. He went to the past to find justification for his views on the present. He had not the true historian's gift of looking at events and men objectively; he was too often intent on controverting some other writer's opinion; and he was much too rambling and diffuse in his writing.

His most ambitious work was an attempt to show that change ringing is and always has been essentially a secular affair and should remain so. Much of his contention was perfectly sound, but he missed the real causes which led to the conditions he described.

For several years he was a frequent contributor to the pages of 'The Bell News.' Some of his articles contained an excessive amount of padding, but many of them were good and valuable additions to an important and much neglected side of the history of the Exercise.

R. A. Daniell represented the Society of Cumberland Youths on the Central Council from 1900 to 1911, and was an honorary member from 1912 to 1923. He died in 1938.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

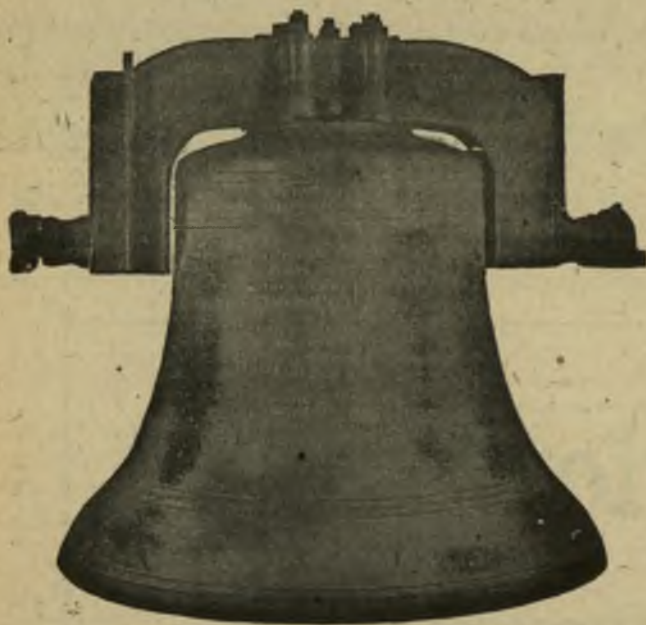
MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570
(12th year
of reign of
Elizabeth).

**Bellfounders &
Bellhangers,**

**32 & 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD,
LONDON, E.1.**

Telephone Bishopsgate 8849



SHERBORNE ABBEY RECAST TENOR.
46 cwt. 0 qr. 5 lb.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

for

Recasting Retuning and Rehanging

HANDBELLS

in sets of any number.

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

For the first time in history so far as we know a meeting is to be held at Crowthorne, Berks, on Saturday, August 30th. Crowthorne Church has only one bell, but its Vicar is one of the most popular and revered figures in the Exercise—Canon G. F. Coleridge. We hope the Master of the Oxford Guild will have a bumper meeting.

We have received a letter from Mr. Peter Laffin which confirms what Mr. Tyler said last week about Single Oxford Bob Major. The late Mr. A. T. Beeston made a mistake in the year.

The Highcliff Society, which was formed last February, have rung their first peal, and revealed the identity of some of their members. Messrs. Smout and Bell are 14 and 16 years old respectively. These and other members of the society have rung a large variety of methods, including Sextuples and Spliced Surprise Major.

On August 5th, 1882, Holt's Original was called at Christ Church, Ealing, by William Baron. It was the first peal by the West Middlesex Association, which later on was absorbed into the Middlesex Association. It was Mr. W. H. Fussell's first peal and the first by John Basden and F. G. Goddard, both afterwards well-known ringers in the district. J. J. Parker rang the second.

On August 17th, 1812, a peal of 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Michael's, Coventry, 'to celebrate the glorious victory obtained by Lord Wellington over the French at Salamanca.' Joseph Keene called it and some of the band came from Birmingham.

A tablet in the belfry of Keighley Church, Yorkshire, says that on August 18th, 1811, eight ringers of the town rang '5,376 changes of that most intricate peal Cambridge Surprise, being the first true peal in that method ever rung in the North of England.' It was, however, false.

A new ring of the bells cast by Lester and Pack, of Whitechapel, for York Minster, was opened on August 19th, 1765, by the Norwich Scholars, who had made the long journey to the North for the purpose. They did not attempt a peal, but rang a long touch of Plain Bob Royal. Samuel Turner was the bellhanger. He was one of a family who worked for many years in conjunction with the Whitechapel Foundry and made many good frames.

To-day is the 189th anniversary of the first time Holt's Original was called by a man who also took part in the ringing. It was at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich.

The second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung was conducted at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by John Reeves with a band of Cumberland Youths on August 23rd, 1788.

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

THE TERM 'BOB.' HOW DID IT ORIGINATE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Henry Hubbard's definition of the term 'Bob,' in your issue of August 8th, although written in perfect literary style, misses a point, in my opinion, about the first uses of the word. When I was very young I went fishing with a bent pin and a cork for a float, which would bob when there was a bite, also when playing snowball I would bob my head to prevent being hit in the face.

This is just what happens to the line drawn of a working bell in, say, Bob Major.

I believe when change ringing began the ringer of the treble would call, when he came to lead, 'Now bob,' meaning, of course, 'Now dodge.'

So 'Bob' and 'Dodge' at one time had the same meaning.

Ipswich.
G. E. SYMONDS.

THE FIRST PEAL OF HEReward BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one who has supported 'The Ringing World' since its first number, allow me to congratulate you on the interesting items you continue to bring forward to fill its columns week by week.

I regret the Stockport handbell band have not been able for various reasons to forward you any peals for insertion, but, seeing your pithy 'pars' week by week, I thought perhaps you could mention the recording of the first peal of Hereward Bob Major, rung at Reddish on Thursday, August 20th, 1914. The composition, a 5,040 by H. W. Wilde, was conducted by the late Rev. A. T. Beeston. It was first published as 'Reddish Court Bob Major.' It is really a combination of Oxford Bob above the treble and Double Norwich below.

ALFRED BARNES.

3, Longford Road, North Reddish, Stockport.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' one or two names mentioned as the oldest Royal Cumberland Youths now living.

I make no claim to be the oldest, but in the book of rules and regulations I received when elected, my election is entered as on November 21st, 1884.

High Street, Henfield, Sussex.

C. TYLER.

THE CARE OF CHURCH BELLS.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE BAN.

At the request of the secretaries of two or three associations we are reproducing the article written by Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitchapel Bell Foundry, on the 'Care of Church Bells,' which appeared in our issue of July 5th, 1940.

It is just as important that church bells should now receive the same regular attention that they ought to have had when in full use.

In a very large number of towers one sees printed cards of instruction hanging in the ringing chamber, and these instructions ought practically all to be carried out regularly, even though the bells are not in use. The most important items are:—

Frames.—The regular testing of all bolts in the fittings, framework and supporting beams, and this is of particular importance in cases where the bell frame, beams and headstocks are of timber.

Gun-metal bearings.—See that they are well charged with a suitable lubricant, such as a mixture of tallow and castor oil.

Ball bearings.—These will run for a number of years before re-charging becomes necessary, but in cases of doubt, err on the right side and see that they are filled, **BUT ONLY WITH A BALL-BEARING GREASE.**

Ball-bearing pulleys.—See that the grease caps are charged and that sufficient is forced into the ball races in order to obviate any risk of rust.

Plain-bearing pulleys.—See that the spindles are well greased.

Clapper joints.—Where greasers are fitted, see that they are charged and screwed up. In the case of the old 'bawdrick' type, see that the leather liners are thickly greased. It will be necessary to remove the clappers for this purpose, but **ALWAYS** replace spring washers, cotter pins or wire fastenings if you do not wish to run the risk of a clapper falling out.

All ironwork.—Do not wait until it is corroded with rust before having it painted. Steel and wrought iron require much more frequent painting than cast iron.

Tightening headstock bolts.—It ought by now to be well known that these bolts or straps should be screwed up methodically. All should be tightened evenly, i.e., nuts should be given half a turn at a time until all are tight. Where lock nuts are fitted, the lock nut must be loosened before the lower one is tightened. The lock nuts should then be screwed down tight, the under nuts being held with another spanner to ensure a perfect lock.

Clapper-staple centre bolts are frequently fitted with a castle nut and cotter pin. The cotter pin must first be removed, and replaced after the tightening.

Belfry.—Have the floor cleaned up periodically, especially between the bottom timbers and the walls.

Additional attention advisable at all times.—Give your belfry a 'spring clean' once a year, i.e., clean down the framework and fittings, and do not allow grease from the bearings to accumulate on the soundbow of the bells. An annual 'wire-brush up' will prevent bells from corroding.

DEATH OF LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.

SURFLEET TOWER'S SAD LOSS.

We regret to announce that after being previously reported missing, believed to be prisoner of war, L.-Cpl. Ernest T. King, of the Surfleet tower, has now been reported killed in action on June 9th in the Middle East.

L.-Cpl. King joined the Lincolnshire Territorial Regiment just previous to the outbreak of war and was called up at the commencement of hostilities. He went with his unit to France and took part in many episodes there, including Dunkirk. On returning to England he came under the Scottish Command and was sent out to the Middle East, from where little was heard of him until the news of his death.

Young Ernie, as he was always known to his fellow ringers, was one of the most promising youngsters the Surfleet band have had. He joined the company at a very early age and rang his first peal at Surfleet on December 17th, 1935, at the age of 14 years. Since then he had rung a total of 12 peals, of which he conducted two. Always of a jolly disposition, he was liked by all with whom he came in contact. He was a most regular attender in the belfry and showed great keenness. His place will be hard to fill.

He was the only son of Mr. Norman T. King, also a ringer at the above church, for whom much sympathy is felt.

B. R.

THE CLERGY AND RESTORATIONS.

INSURANCE OF CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—'Anti-Silent' takes up much space in your current issue in making cheap sneers at the clergy and the Church (of which he is a unit) which have nothing to do with the matters I raised, and are not likely to promote the Christian good fellowship which I hope he desires, in spite of his letter. So far as I am concerned they will be ignored. But may I say that if he thinks I am a parson who dislikes the sound of bells he is greatly mistaken. From my earliest youth I have lived near them and loved them.

I do not know how widespread is the objection to the sound of bells; I have not met it amongst any clergy of my acquaintance, though I have among some of the laity. This point never entered my mind when I wrote my previous letter. That letter was written by an incumbent who with his Church Councils (kindly note, Mr. Anti-Silent) has been and is responsible for the war damage insurance of two churches. In this connection I gave plain facts, and I made the reasonable conjecture that, from the nature of the case, the Government will not be able to provide the money for anything more than a utilitarian building in the cases where churches have been utterly ruined. Anything more than this will, I imagine, have to be raised from other sources, and no doubt will be raised. I hoped that what I said would remove some misconceptions and open the eyes of ringers and others to the need of *monetary support* if insurances are to be effected for more than the barest minimum.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

(Rev.) A. M. SAMSON.

'SCARED BY HIS OWN BOGEY.'

Dear Sir,—What is the object of 'Anti-Silent's' tirade against the clergy? Is this a time to attempt to create feeling against them? Surely those who have lost their churches, and with them the bells, are entitled to our full sympathy and ought not to be made an object of suspicion. Where, I ask, has 'Anti-Silent' found any indication that, under the disguise that the new or rebuilt churches after the war will have to be strictly utilitarian, it is fairly evident that these people intend to use this as one of the front line weapons in order to gain their own way?

If 'Anti-Silent' were bombed out of his own home, his house brought to the ground in ruins and all his belongings destroyed, including his grand piano, and if he had only a limited supply of money for replacements, he would probably be only too glad to get another roof over his head, however modest the building, and would probably, also, be content with the barest necessities of household furnishings until he could later on accumulate funds to re-establish his home on its former scale. I imagine the replacement of his grand piano would be one of the last things he would be able to find the money for—unless, of course, he happens to be one of those individuals who must have music before necessities.

Is not the position in regard to a bombed out church much the same? It is the spiritual home of the parish; the roof, however humble, and the furniture to meet immediate needs must come first. The 'grand piano,' which may be represented by the bells, must wait until later.

Can 'Anti-Silent' tell us of any single case in which the tower and bells have been destroyed where there is proof that, if the church is restored, the parson, whom he seeks mostly to blame as the arch-conspirator, has shown any indication that he wants to prevent also the restoration of the bells? I doubt if he can point to one.

There may be cases, as you, sir, pointed out in your last leading article, where bells may not now be reinstated because the churches themselves on the same site would be redundant. Where, however, there was formerly a ring of bells and the churches are rebuilt I feel quite convinced that eventually a peal of bells will again hang in the towers, for it is well known that, even in the over-blitzed cities, the church towers have in nearly every case come through the ordeal and now stand silent sentinels over the ruined churches, to be used again as soon as circumstances permit.

The 'bogy' to which 'Anti-Silent' refers is, I feel, of his own making, and it is, in his sight, so fearsome that he has frightened himself with it. Instead of casting stones at the clergy and the Church, let him seek the mote in his own eye. If his own parish church should happen to be the next to suffer, let him be thankful for any building, whether mission hall or otherwise, which will enable the Church in his parish to get to work again on its principal task of providing a spiritual home, however temporary, for the people. Stately buildings, beautiful furnishings and rings of bells will come in time to replace the ravages of war. It should not be forgotten that even the buildings which we now so much admire, and their contents, not always so admirable but nevertheless cherished, were not provided in a day. They grew in the past gradually, as the restored churches must grow in the future.

To say that a section of the clergy are out to build 'strictly utilitarian' churches because they 'dislike the sound of bells' is indeed a bogy that will scare no one but the creator of it.

F. H. SMITH.

TREBLE BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

At Ipswich on Sunday, August 17th, in the belfry of St. Mary-le-Tower Church, a plain course of Kent Treble Bob fourteen-in: G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. P. Garrett 9-10, W. J. G. Brown 11-12, F. J. Tillett 13-14.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

A NEW PLAN.

Composition in Five-Lead Courses.

After the war is ended it will inevitably be some time before the Exercise can again resume its normal life. There will be much reconstruction to be done. Bands will be broken up or depleted. Some ringers will have lost much of their old enthusiasm, more will have lost some of their skill, and all will be older.

We must not, therefore, expect that it will be possible at once to resume the practice of the higher methods, and perhaps it will be well if the attempt is not generally made. There are more important things. Especially the standard of striking must be kept up and we ought not to risk lowering it in the quest for peals in many and complex methods. Better at first to concentrate on the easier and well-proven methods. The others will then come naturally.

But progress is bound to come, and nowhere does a more fruitful field seem to be open than in spliced ringing. Not so very long ago it was a curiosity and then an opportunity for a few specially brilliant bands to show their skill; but when war broke out it was beginning to take a recognised and useful place in the ringers' repertoire.

At first it was tied down, at least so far as the Surprise Major methods are concerned, to a very rigid plan. Law James' peal consisted of three-lead courses each with two leads of London and one of Superlative or Cambridge and occasional bobbed leads of Bristol. This plan seemed to be necessitated by the great liability to internal falseness when two or more methods are joined together, and it led to some adverse criticism. Some people objected that the tenors never ring the whole of the work of the methods. Others said that since only three leads of the course are rung (the Middle, the Wrong and the Home), spliced ringing is not nearly so difficult as is claimed.

These latter critics were perhaps mostly found outside the ranks of those who had actually rung the new style peals, but there is some truth in the contention that the rigid plan of Law James' peal does in some degrees lessen its difficulty.

But composers did not intend to be confined to the plan, if there were any means of breaking away from it. Here Mr. A. J. Pitman showed himself a pioneer, not merely in the number of methods he used, but also in the way he spliced them together.

He was the first to use plain leads of Bristol instead of bobbed leads. It seems a small change, but it meant a good deal in actual ringing. He was the first, too, to introduce full courses of some of the methods, and one of his peals with full courses of London, Bristol and Superlative, interspersed with the 3-lead courses, was called at Willesden a few years ago by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner.

One object of composers has been to obtain peals with approximately the same number of changes in each method. Here Mr. Turner has been very successful. Our readers will remember the very clever peals by Mr. J. W. Parker published in our columns some weeks ago.

MR. A. J. PITMAN'S PEAL.

23456	B	M	W	H
42356				— S S C X L
35426				— S S C X L
35264	—			— S S S S
32654				— 2 L X L B
24653				— 2 B B X L B
43652				— 2 B B X L B
23564		— 2		— B X B C S S
62534			— 3	— L X L B B
45236				— L X L
24536				— S S C X L
62345	2	— 2		— S S C B X B B B
63425				— 2 L X B B B
64235				— 2 L X B B B
52436				— L X L
52364	—			— S S S S
65324		— 3		— L X L B B
43626				— L X L
54326				— S S C X L
54263	—			— S S S S
32465				— L X C S S
43265				— L X C S S
24365				— L X C S S
53462				— L X C S S
45362				— L X C S S
34562				— L X C S S
25463				— L X C S S
42563				— L X C S S
64523		— 3		— L X L B B
32546				— L X L
53246				— S S C X L
25346				— S S C X L
34256				— S S C X L
23456				— S S C X L

X Cambridge or Superlative. Contains 1,536 Superlative, 576 Cambridge, 960 Cambridge or Superlative, 832 Bristol, 1,152 London.

We have now a peal by Mr. Pitman on a distinct plan. Instead of a 3-lead course he uses a 5-lead course. A great advantage is that

(Continued in next column.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THE MASTERS OF THE PAST.

A representative gathering supported the Master and officers of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last. Among the members present were Messrs. Dan Cooper (Croydon), C. H. Kippin (Beddington) and J. E. Lewis Cockey (Ealing). The visitors were Messrs. E. Wallace, Newcastle Cathedral, and Arthur Hughes, Tooting. The secretary brought greetings from Mr. George Pullinger, of Bishopstoke, Hants.

Mr. E. Murrell raised an interesting discussion as to the likelihood of filling gaps by further discovery of the names of past Masters. Would some Samuel Pepys come to light by further research in the libraries?

Mr. Young thought that these had been pretty well gleaned by Messrs. Daniell, Morris and Trollope, especially the latter, at the British Museum and the Records Office. Undoubtedly further facts would come to light. There were thousands of papers and letters awaiting search and publication in the old records and letters of the county families and many years of 'Bells Life' still awaited gleaning. Much has already been obtained from these files and other old newspapers. He (Mr. Young) paid tribute to Past Master J. S. Hawkins, who on behalf of the Rule Book Revision Committee of 1928 went all through the extant Pence and Minute books and so obtained the names of every Master from 1822 onwards, but for which most of the names would be unknown to-day and would have perished with The Coffee Pot.

The next meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on August 30th at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LAMBELL.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. William Lambell at his home at East Hagbourne on August 14th at the early age of 33 years after only one day's illness.

Mr. Lambell had been a ringer and member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild since he was 16 years old and had been secretary to the Hagbourne band for the last five or six years. He was, first of all, a staunch Sunday service ringer and had rung several peals of Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob in the district and with neighbouring bands. The funeral took place at East Hagbourne on August 16th, and his fellow ringers acted as bearers and rang the handbells at the graveside.

Much sympathy is extended to his relatives and fiancée, more so as his wedding was to have taken place shortly.

GERMAN VANDALISM.

NORWEGIAN BELLS CONFISCATED.

The Stockholm correspondent of 'The Daily Telegraph' reported that last Monday Swedish papers published an order issued by Terboven, Nazi Governor of Norway, according to which all church bells in Norway must be dismantled and handed over to the German authorities. Many bells have already been taken down and sent to Germany to be melted down.

To give a thin veneer of legality to this vandalism Terboven declares that it is 'for vital purposes of the country's defence.' He adds that the Germans will replace the bells with new ones 'when circumstances permit.'

For some months Nazi officials have been busy compiling a list of bells throughout Norway, with details of their weight and the quantity of copper they contain. Protests by local church authorities have been disregarded.

This latest act of provocation has roused much indignation, particularly among the deeply religious peasant folk. Some of their bells are hundreds of years old.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

(Continued from previous column.)

the tenors have a larger share of the work of Cambridge and Superlative, while a disadvantage is that peals of this sort seem bound to be one-part, and so difficult to call.

Mr. Turner tells us that he made some investigations into a similar plan some time since and has peals in 5-lead courses with Cambridge, Superlative, Rutland and Yorkshire. There is still much scope for the clever composer in spliced peals.

One other point is worth considering. Which is the best way to give these compositions of Spliced Surprise on paper? Composers have differed a good deal and some confusion has been caused in the minds of conductors and readers. Some peals have been given by the lead ends. Mr. Parker, it will be remembered, adopted a plan in which the calling is put before the course end produced by it, and the methods shown after the course end are those of the following course.

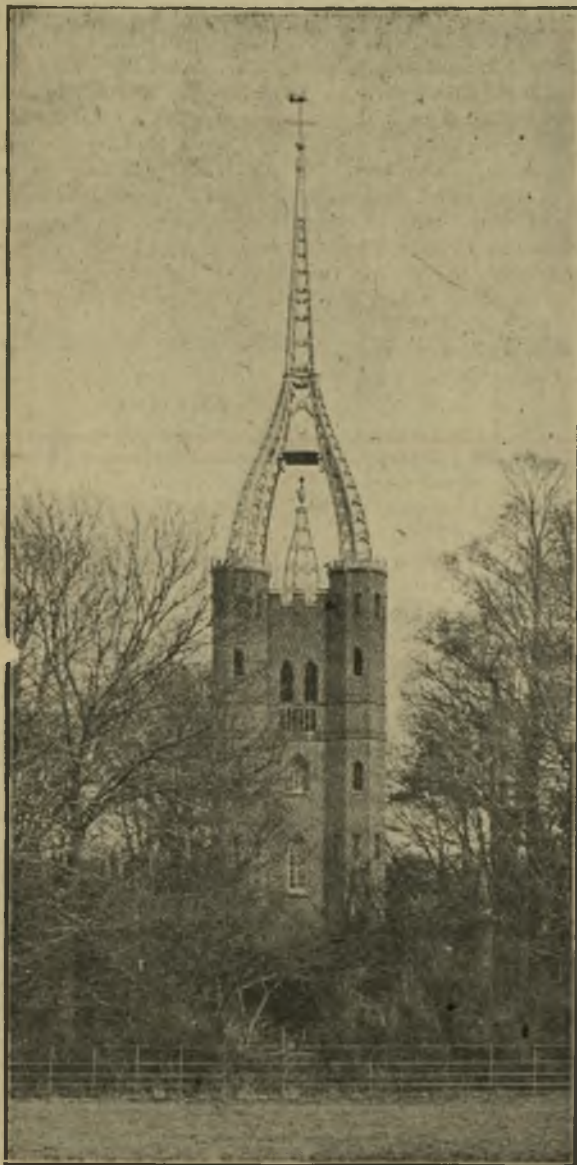
When he sent us his peal Mr. Pitman adopted the same plan, but after having consulted some conductors most experienced in spliced ringing, we have altered the arrangement as above. This arrangement follows most closely the traditional practice of the Exercise. First we have the course end, then the calling which produces it, and then the methods which are rung in it. We suggest that this should be the standard way of giving spliced peals as the best to avoid confusion; but we welcome any comments on the matter.

MEMORIES OF QUEX PARK.

A TALE OF TWO STRANDED RINGERS.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

In his reminiscences E. B. mentions Quex Park, and it would be strange if a Kent ringer had not had something to say about it. It is just the place to excite memories, for everything about it is so unusual. A ring of twelve bells privately owned, hung in a tower which stands in the middle of a large park a mile or so from the sea and far away from any houses; an ideal place for a holiday week-end where you can ring to your heart's content with no more restriction than you must be silent during service time on Sunday morning—in such conditions you expect something to talk about afterwards and you usually get it.



THE QUAIN TOWER OF QUEX.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

Most ringers know the story of the tower and its builder, John Powell Powell, and I am not going to repeat it now. There is, however, the question of the quality of the bells which I have never heard satisfactorily explained. Most visitors perhaps put them down as a failure; a poor lot, dreadfully out of tune, and leave it at that. But it will hardly do. They came as a peal from the Whitechapel foundry at a time when some really good bells were being cast there, though those who can see no good in any old bells may not admit it.

Thomas Mears was not likely to give anything but his very best to so wealthy and influential a patron as Squire Powell.

If you examine the bells critically you would probably find that the strike notes of the twelve are quite sufficiently in tune. The back eight are a good eight, the back ten just passable, the front five not a bad little ring and the middle six good. But the twelve as a whole are a thing to laugh at. They do not sound like twelve bells at all. I suppose the explanation (and, of course, there is an explanation) will be found in the overtones and undertones and their relative prominence.

Out of the memories of the things which have happened to me at Quex Park and which could have happened nowhere else there is one which I will tell, because it is of no importance, but was rather amusing at the time.

Some years ago I was asked by Jack Cheeseman to make one of a band to attempt a number of peals during the August Bank Holiday week-end in the Margate and Canterbury district. We were to meet on the Saturday at Quex, ring three peals there and then go on to Ramsgate and Canterbury. It was an ambitious programme and the band was rather a mixed one.

We met at Birchington on the Saturday, and since all the men had not yet turned up, started for Cambridge on the back eight, but had no luck. Walking through the park afterwards, Jack said to me, 'We had better go down to the town and get some lodgings.' I said, 'I thought you had done all that. We shan't get in anywhere this time of night in Birchington on the eve of a Bank Holiday.' 'Yes,' he said, 'I did make the arrangements, but there are two chaps coming by the last train and will have to be put up.'

I suggested that we should give them our beds and go and sleep in the tower, but he did not like the idea, so we went hunting for lodgings.

Of course, we had no luck. Every bathroom and every coal cellar in the place was taken, so with much misgiving he agreed to my suggestion.

We went back to the park and then found that the man who kept the tower key had gone to Margate and would not be back till after eleven. We waited for him, and when he turned up, told our tale and induced him to let us have the key.

A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.

To get to the tower at Quex you go along the drive through an iron gate and across the park into a wood which surrounds the tower. A way easy enough to find when you know it as we did.

But it was a dark night and the drive is bordered by thick undergrowth and bushes, and, search as we might, we could not find the path through. At last in desperation we went up to the house, cut across the ornamental flower beds and climbed the fence into the park that way, not without fear that we might run across a keeper or suddenly find a big dog with his teeth in the seat of our trousers.

When we got into the park we could see the dark mass of trees which surrounds the tower, but we had come to it from an unfamiliar angle and we had to search round that blessed wood two or three times before we could find the gate. And then when we did reach the tower the key would not open the lock.

He tried and I tried. I tried and he tried. We hammered on the door, but it was no use. The lock was a good lock and the door fitted properly. He swore and I swore, but even that did no good; and at last we gave it up as a bad job and began to wonder what we should do. It is easy to talk about sleeping in the open on an August night in England. Have you tried it? I have, and I know. And then for no reason at all the door opened almost before he had put the key into the lock for a final attempt.

We happened both of us to have some sandwiches, and so after lighting the candles and having a smoke we prepared for the night. 'Take your clothes off, Jack,' I told him, 'and especially your boots.' 'I shall be cold if I do,' he objected. 'You'll be cold if you don't,' I said, for I had not long since worn the King's uniform and was a veteran campaigner. But he would not heed.

Next morning I woke up well refreshed, but poor old Jack had not slept a wink. It was a lovely morning, and if we could have had a wash all would have been heavenly. A rubber sponge moistened with dew from the grass was not a really efficient substitute. But when we went to the town and saw the stuffy rooms where the others had been sleeping I thought we had not done so very badly after all.

But Jack was not up to peal ringing that morning, so we rang Treble Ten. In the afternoon we started for Stedman Cinques, but you don't always get the peals you start for at Quex, and we did not.

Next morning we rang another peal of Treble Ten at Ramsgate and then went on to Canterbury. Another attempt for Stedman Cinques was to be made there, but one of the local men was late in turning up. I could not afford to miss the last train, and so after waiting till the last moment I gave up my rope and went outside and listened while the rest started for another peal of Treble Ten. They finished their job, but just before the end the clapper of the tenth fell out and the last few changes were rung with only nine bells speaking.

Some people will remember the incident and the ensuing controversy which led in the end to the peal being withdrawn.

WOODDITTON, NEAR NEWMARKET.—On Sunday, August 17th. at Sunny View, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3-4, R. C. Sharpe 5-6, J. Acres 7-8.

THE STANDARD METHODS

THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.

One of the conditions laid down by Sir Arthur Heywood as essential in a standard method for Royal and Maximus was that it must be capable of being practised on eight bells and of extension to ten and twelve without material alteration in the work. It is a condition which obtains in the more simply constructed methods, such as Plain Bob, Grandsire, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Stedman, but becomes impossible as soon as any degree of complexity is introduced into the construction.

In the simpler methods it is possible to describe the movement of the bells in a short and simple statement which will apply to every number alike. For instance, we can say that in Plain Bob all the bells hunt forward until the treble leads, when second's place is made and the bells above dodge. We can say that in Kent all the bells hunt forward Treble Bob fashion except that the bell left on the lead by the treble leads and makes seconds until it returns again, and that certain fourths and thirds, and thirds and fourths are made before and after a bell goes in and out of the Slow. Stedman and Grandsire and Forward and Duffield we can describe in similarly short and comprehensive sentences.

But, as soon as we get away from this elementary group we find it difficult, and usually impossible, to draw up any general statement which will describe the work of a particular method on all numbers of bells. It is very difficult, for instance, to give a description of the movement of the bells in Double Norwich which would apply equally to Major, Royal and Maximus; and it is quite impossible to do so in the cases of Superlative, Bristol and London.

The natural conclusion is that, while the former group of methods will extend satisfactorily, for the latter methods no real extensions do or can exist. We may call methods Double Norwich Royal, Superlative Royal, Bristol Royal or London Royal, and we may produce a lot of arguments to justify our doing so, but actually those methods do not exist on the higher numbers in the sense that Plain Bob or Kent exist equally well on six and on twelve.

All this raises the question of the extension of methods, a very important and interesting subject, which for the moment we do not intend to discuss. Our object is to call attention to an exception to the general rule that the more complex methods are practically confined to one number of bells. The exception is Cambridge and one or two other methods which are closely related to it.

At first sight Cambridge might seem to be very similar to Superlative, and, indeed, the latter is usually considered to have been produced by an attempt to improve Cambridge, which was looked upon by Heywood and the leading men of his generation as crude and imperfect in construction, and interesting only on account of its antiquity. Really it is one of the very few methods of which the work on all numbers can be described in a short comprehensive statement, and therefore, if physical conditions allowed, it could be rung on a hundred bells or a thousand, with no more knowledge than can be gathered from eight or ten. That can be said of Plain Bob or Kent; it cannot be said of Superlative or London.

Here is the method thus comprehensively stated. The treble has a forward Treble Bob movement. All the other bells have also a forward Treble Bob movement, but

when the treble dodges they hunt forward; and when the treble hunts forward they dodge.

```

10300000
01030000
10003000
01000300
-----
00103000
00010300
00100030
00010003

```

Now when there are two bells each moving in a regular path, if the movements are dissimilar it is evident that it will not be long before they will clash. So long as the treble and the third in the above illustration are apart, each can keep to its particular path, but when they come together they will get in each other's road and, unless one gives way to the other, there will be confusion and disaster. The treble is the fixed bell and has the right of the road, therefore the other must temporarily adapt its movement to that of the treble. It does so in this manner. When hunting up or down it will reach the treble's path in one or two ways: either before it has dodged or after it has dodged. If it comes there before it has dodged, it will omit that dodge and the dodge in the next position thus:—

```

10000300      00100003
01003000      00010030
10030000      00100300
01300000      00013000
-----
03100000      00031000
30010000      00300100
30100000      03001000
03010000      30000100

```

But if the bell meets the treble after it has dodged it must make a couple of places, dodge with the treble, and make a couple more places, before it can resume its treble bob hunting.

```

00000301      01003000
-----
00003001      00100300
00000310      00013000
00000301      00103000
00003010      00010300
-----
00003100      00001300
00001300      00003100
00003100      00001300
00001300      00003100
-----
00010300      00003010
00103000      00000301
00013000      00000310
00100300      00003001

```

All this can be tested practically; not now, of course, in the steeple, but in this manner.

Take a large sheet of square ruled paper and on it trace the path of a Treble Bob hunting treble on twelve or fourteen bells. Then trace the path of another bell causing it to hunt within the sections and dodge at the cross-sections. When it reaches the treble's path let it cross it either by running through or by place making, as explained above. When you have completed the course you will have the work of a bell in Cambridge on twelve or fourteen bells.

NOTICES.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held, by kind permission of the Rector, at the Rectory Gardens at Stratton, on Saturday, August 23rd. Handbells and games from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Canon D. F. Slemeck, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next ringing meeting at Stoney Stanton, Saturday, Aug. 23rd. Bells (silenced and oiled) at 4.30. No tea. Handbells.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 30th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Chaddesley Corbett (D.V.) on Saturday, August 30th (not August 23rd). Eight bells available for silent practice 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements at the Swan (Tim's).—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Selby Abbey on Saturday, August 30th. Handbells and ringing on the back eight tower bells (silent). The Vicar, Canon Solloway, will conduct those present round the Abbey at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea can be obtained at Olde Cross Cafe, near Abbey. Business meeting at 6 o'clock, at which all outstanding annual subscriptions should be paid.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Barnby Don, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Buses start from Christ Church, Doncaster. Tea will be arranged for those who notify me by Wednesday, Aug. 27th.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton and Manchester Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Prestwick, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, to start at 3.30 p.m. Bells (silent). Tea can be obtained at the Co-op Cafe until 6 p.m. There are still many 1939-40 annual reports on hand.—Peter Crook and Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, Aug. 30th. Service in Parish Church at 3.45 p.m., followed by handbell ringing at the Vicarage and a cup of tea for those who inform me by Aug. 26th.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at East Ardsley. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea for drinking will

be provided. Members are requested to bring their own food. Business meeting in the Schools.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe on Aug. 30th. Ringing (silent) at about 3 p.m. (Six bells). Tea, about 5 p.m., at the King William IV., 15, 3d. each, for those only who notify Mr. W. Root, 19, Leicester Road, Countesthorpe, not later than Aug. 26th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Six tower bells available for silent ringing. Tea, by kind invitation, only to those who notify Mr. G. P. Elphick, 66, Priory Street, Lewes, by previous Saturday.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Further particulars later.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting in Church House. Those requiring tea please notify me by Aug. 30th. All ringers welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Service at 4 p.m. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock. Tea for those who notify Mr. L. Pullin, High Street, Yatton, by Thursday, Sept. 4th.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

FOR SALE.—800 copies 'Ringing World,' 1921 to 1940. What offers?—Box X., 'Ringing World' Office, Woking.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

FALSE ALARM AT NOTTINGHAM.

Nottingham people could hardly believe their ears when the bell of Trinity Church, in the city centre, rang on Sunday afternoon. Police found a Canadian, Sgt.-Air Gunner Richard Derry, in the balcony, near the bell rope. He said to them, 'I want the padre.' At Nottingham on Monday Derry pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly but he was given a good character by his commanding officer, and the case was dismissed.

BELL ROPES

MADE FROM ITALIAN HEMP, OR ITALIAN FLAX.
SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.
Cheap Quotations. Established 150 years. 'Phone 203.

DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM

The Central Council Publications

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE

from the

Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry

COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section I. (Odd-Bell Treble Dominated Methods)	9
COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section II. (Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob)	9
COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section III. (Double Norwich)	9
CORRIGENDA LEAFLET issued free with the above collections	
COLLECTION OF TRIPLES METHODS	1 0
REPORT OF CONFERENCE WITH S.P.A.B.	6
CARD OF INSTRUCTIONS IN THE CARE AND USE OF BELLS	11
METHOD SHEETS.—Stedman and Grandsire Triples	3
Cambridge Surprise Major	2
Double Norwich and Cambridge Court Bristol Surprise Major	2
HINTS TO INSTRUCTORS AND BEGINNERS	2
VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION	1 0
COLLECTION OF DOUBLES AND MINOR METHODS (New Edition)	2 0

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE,' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages, commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' ninth edition, 2s. 10d.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. O. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 128 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss MARGARET E. SNOWDON
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

PUBLICATIONS.

'GRANDSIRE DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, Simply Explained,' 9th thousand, 6½d. each, or 5s. 9d. dozen, post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Womersley, Surrey.

'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.

'CAMBRIDGE MINOR AND MAJOR,' for those about to begin more advanced methods. 7½d. each, 6s. 9d. dozen, post free. From M. Broome, Orchards, Womersley, Surrey.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9 (6 copies for 15/-), 6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPE'S'

NOTED FOR EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) LTD. LOUGHBOROUGH

Order your Bell Ropes now, before prices increase, pre-war quality, and send us your old Bell Ropes for repairs whilst not in use.

Clock and Chiming Ropes
Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs

RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

Suitable for Presentation or Wedding Gift

Correctly Modelled BELL INKSTAND (Regd. Design) in Solid Silver



Diameter	2½in	2½in	3½in	3½in	4in	4½in	5in	5½in
Price	18/6	22/6	28/6	33/6	42/-	52/6	67/6	78/6

The 5in. size is also made to hold 50 cigarettes.

Initials and Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges

T.E. RUSSELL Jeweller and Optician
Telephone 276 WOKING

SMITH of DERBY

for Church and Turret Clocks

Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

John Smith & Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works, Queen St., Derby
Tel. No. DERBY 45569 Grams. CLOCKS, DERBY

Send for Booklet.

Estimates and Advice Free

Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.