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THE WINCHESTER GUILD'S DECISION

In the area of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild it has been thought desirable to suspend all activities while the ban on the ringing of church bells lasts and the danger of air-raids remains. The organisation of the Guild will, of course, remain in being, and there is to be an annual meeting called next year. The decision was arrived at by the members at the general meeting last Saturday, although the resolution only formally recognised what had actually been the state of affairs for a year or more. At first sight it seems a pity that the Guild which covers so wide an area should decide upon what looks like a policy of surrender to conditions which other associations are cheerfully endeavouring to overcome. Admittedly the season is now approaching, with long nights and early black-out, when there is little possibility of holding meetings, but we believe this is the first instance of an association officially abandoning all activity and putting up the shutters so completely.

Some excuse may be found for the Guild, apart from the loss of members which it shares in common with all other ringing organisations. Part of the area the Guild covers is one of the most vulnerable in the country, and the centre of its past activities has been in that strip of Hampshire which has suffered most at enemy hands. The risks of holding a gathering in that part of the county are therefore greater than in some other places, and winter meetings may be considered impossible. On the other hand, in the territory farther removed from the sea, enthusiasm has long been less marked, and cannot, we suppose, be expected to rise to fresh heights when there are no bells to ring. Between risks in one part and indifference in the other, the Guild has decided there is little hope of carrying on, and it is going into hibernation until, some time next year, the members will be asked to come together again to transact the business of the annual meeting required by the rules.

So completely are the Guild activities to be put aside that not only is there to be no annual report or balance sheet printed until after the war, but the rule requiring the payment of subscriptions by December 31st is to be suspended. This, of course, will keep the names on the roll, and a Guild with funds of over £200 and few, if any, expenses, can be expected to carry on in name for a long time, but on the face of it the whole policy looks very much like a defeatist attitude. And yet there are indications that the Guild still has life. An attendance of sixty, drawn from a wide area, at last week's meeting shows that the Guild is by no means dead, and that, in all probability, a few optimists might keep the spark of life in

(Continued on page 434.)

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being, but on last Saturday's decision how will they answer if in days to come they are asked, 'What did you do to keep the flag of ringing flying?' At the moment the flag has been struck, and how long it will be before it goes up to the masthead again no one can say. It will not be yet, unless some miracle happens. In reply to a letter forwarded from the Doncaster and District Society the Minister of Home Security (Mr. Herbert Morrison) has said, 'Unfortunately the threat of invasion remains, and as the circumstances are the same as a year ago when the Church Bell Order was made, I cannot recommend any amendment of the Order.'

But one ray of hope stands out. The veteran Master of the Guild has set an example to other towers. Most of the older members of his band are dispersed, but he has gathered round him a group of youngsters who meet Sunday by Sunday, 'bells or no bells,' and have a weekly handbell practice. That is the spirit to keep the art alive. North Stoneham is in the vulnerable part of the area, and if this sort of thing is possible there it ought to be possible elsewhere where the towers are left standing. The recommendations of the executive committee, which were accepted by last Saturday's meeting, were passed last November, when the Battle of Britain had only just been fought, and the onslaught on our coastal areas was at its height. The outlook then was different, and doubtless had its influence on the committee in coming to their decision. It is true there are still risks, but it was a pity officially to discourage the maintenance of life in those areas where something might even in these days have been done to keep up the interest of the members.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 1004 CHANGES,

Tenor size 15 in C.

CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 5-6

EDWARD COWPERTHWAITE ... 3-4 | E. ROGER MARTIN ... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Composed by CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE

First peal as conductor in the method and 'in hand.'

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, September 5, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 1040 CHANGES,

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4

CADET A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN ... 5-6

Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witnesses: Miss E. M. Richardson and Miss Pauline Ley.

'SCROOF'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Scroof is a form, current from the 16th to the 18th centuries, but now practically obsolete, of the word scurf, which is itself another form of scurf. According to the dictionary, one meaning of this last word is 'a contemptible person,' and another, 'but rarer, meaning 'the scum of the population.' S.

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LETTER FROM MINISTER OF HOME SECURITY.

No Change Yet.

The following letter was sent by Mr. Herbert Morrison (Minister of Home Security) on August 6th to Mr. E. Walker, M.P. for Doncaster: I am writing further in reply to your letter dated the 31st ultimo, with which you forwarded a letter you had received from the secretary of the Doncaster District Society of Change Ringers about the use of church bells as a warning of enemy troops landing by air.

Unfortunately, the threat of invasion remains, and as the circumstances are the same as a year ago when the church bells order was made, I cannot recommend any amendment of the order.

The sirens are not capable of much variety of signals and there is a danger that a special signal might be misunderstood, but the main objection to their use for the purpose for which church bells are now to be used is that sirens have only been installed in urban areas. There are none in rural districts and it is in rural districts that enemy parachutists are most likely to be dropped.

Admittedly churches in urban areas have suffered seriously from enemy action, but it has been in the course of an indiscriminate attack, and does not indicate that they have become military objectives because their bells might be used for giving a signal.

The letter was read at a meeting of the Doncaster and District Society, held at Barnby Don on Saturday week.

The attendance was very poor and in view of this it was decided to hold over the meetings for the winter months.

The correspondence with the local M.P. did not raise any great hopes in the hearts of ringers of the lifting of the ban.

Handbells were put to good use and some useful work was done on six and eight bells. Ringers attended from Arksey, Doncaster, Felkirk and the local company.

DEATH OF FREDERICK WILLIAM DIXON.

A PROMINENT YORKSHIRE RINGER.

Yorkshire ringers have learnt with regret of the passing of Frederick William Dixon, of Guseley, on July 15th, in his 71st year, a ringer and churchman for over fifty years.

He was especially well known in the West Riding as a first-class conductor, and his ability in this direction was appreciated by all who rang peals with him, for he was very definite in his conducting, both as regards accuracy and striking.

Born at Guseley, he began to ring in 1887 at the age of 17 and was one of the earliest members of the Yorkshire Association. He rang his first peal, one of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1889. His total number of peals was upwards of 200, of which he conducted about 130. They included Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal, Grandshire, Bob Major (including one of 10,400), Stedman Triples and Caters, London and Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich Little Bob Major and Royal, and several handbell peals, one of which was the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major rung by the Yorkshire Association.

He was a tower of strength to his fellow ringers at Guseley during the whole of his ringing career and his place will be very hard to fill, for his whole heart was in his ringing and churchmanship at the Parish Church, where he was an honorary sidesman.

The funeral service was at the church where he had worshipped all his life and was conducted by the Rector and Canon Marshall, president of the Yorkshire Association. A plain course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by J. Ambler, P. J. Johnson, J. McGleenn and T. M. Thomson (the latter having been associated with him as a ringer for over fifty years).

Many ringers were present at the service, including a large number of old friends and members of the Yorkshire Association Executive Committee to pay their respect to a departed friend and ringer. Canon Marshall gave a short address and paid tribute to Frederick William Dixon's reputation by declaring him truly a man of sterling character.

THE LATE MR. ARTHUR PANTHER.

LIST OF HIS PEALS.

The late Mr. Arthur Panther, of Wath-on-Dearne, rang in all 145 peals, of which he conducted 26. Thirty-eight were on eight bells as follows: Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Rutland 1, Yorkshire 3, Killamarsh 1, Superlative 1, Treble Bob 14, Spliced Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 9, Plain Bob 3, Grandshire Triples 1. His six-bell peals included one in each of 14, 16 and 35 Spliced methods; two of 20 Spliced methods; one of each 10 and 15 Surprise Extents, and 9 and 10 Treble Bob Extents; fifteen in 7 Surprise Extents; eighty-two in 7 methods; and one in 3 methods. One hundred and forty-two were rung for the Yorkshire Association, one for the Barnsley District, one for the Guildford and one for the Middlesex Associations.

The most outstanding peals are the 10 and 15 Surprise Minor Extents, the spliced peals ranging from 14 to 35 methods, and the non-conducted peal of Minor in seven Treble Bob methods.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My Cumberland certificate states that I was 'duly elected a member of this society on the 1st day of November, 1878.'

Henley, Ipswich.

WILLIAM C. PEARSON.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CANON SOLLOWAY'S DEPARTURE FROM SELBY.

President's Tribute.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on Saturday, August 30th, and was attended by over 20 ringers from Bradford, Campsall, Headingley (St. Chad's), Hessele, Howden, Pudsey, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York and the local company.

During the afternoon the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Solloway, D.D., acted as guide to the party on a tour of the Abbey, and later conducted shortened evensong, at which the singing was led by the choirboys.

After tea the business meeting was held in the Sacristy, over which the president of the association, the Rev. Canon C. C. Marshall, presided. It was decided not to hold the December meeting owing to the 'black-out,' and the date and place of the next annual meeting was left to the secretary to arrange.

The principal item on the agenda was a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Selby (Canon Solloway) for his many kindnesses to the association during his 31 years' stay at Selby. He is retiring at the end of September and is going to live at Scarborough, where he spent some few years as curate at St. Mary's Church in the early days of his ministry.

Canon Marshall, in proposing the resolution, said how sorry they all felt at the impending retirement of Canon Solloway, who had always been so considerate of their welfare whenever they visited Selby. Bellringers desired and looked for the help and sympathy of the clergy, who had bells under their charge, and one thing was certain, they always got it in connection with Canon Solloway. The Selby ringers knew that was the case, and that he always looked upon ringers as a real part of church life. As an association, they always knew that whenever they wanted anyone to help them they had only to turn to Canon Solloway and he had always been most willing to assist. That had been Canon Solloway's great characteristic since their association with him. He added that they would look back with pleasure on the many occasions the Canon had kindly conducted parties round the Abbey, and how he made them appreciate not only the Abbey, but every other great church they visited, by his minute examination and his explanation of the varying styles of architecture from the Norman period to the present day, of which the Abbey is so rich. Canon Marshall concluded by wishing Canon Solloway many years of happy retirement; they were sorry to part with him, but they knew he would retain his interest in the bells and of the Abbey where he had spent so many years as Vicar.

Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president, seconded the vote of thanks, and said he had never had a wrong word with Canon Solloway or with any of his three predecessors during the whole of his ringing career at Selby, which went back nearly 70 years. He said Canon Solloway came to Selby from York 31 years ago to have a rest, and he had been working hard ever since he came. He was sorry Canon Solloway could not stay another 20 years with them.

The resolution was carried with applause, and, in reply, Canon Solloway said how grateful he was for their kind words. Many of the things said were undeserved, but he had always been keenly interested in their work, and everything that had passed between them had been perfectly amicable. He only wished he could have heard the bells again at this particular time of his life ringing as they used to ring. He was not going far away, and if he knew at any time when they were going to ring a peal he would try and come over to hear them once again. He had been in Selby a long while, he added, and felt the time had come when he should make room for a younger man. He thanked God he was in good health and he wished them every success in their good work and hoped they would soon be ringing the bells again in honour of peace and victory.

Handbell ringing took place till after 8 o'clock, when an enjoyable meeting terminated.

CARTER RINGING MACHINE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the enquiry as to the Carter Ringing Machine, I am glad to say that it is kept reasonably secure.

Mr. W. Sharman, one of the two demonstrators, tried the machine early this year. Unfortunately, neither my fellow trustee (Mr. A. A. Hughes) nor myself could attend on the day he was there. Mr. Sharman later called upon me and said that the machine was brought up from the vaults and that he made a satisfactory test, whereupon he understood that it would be again placed in safety. He added that practically all the other exhibits appeared to have been likewise removed.

It would be interesting for us to know about Mr. Woodhouse's machine and whether it is also in a fairly safe place.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG (Trustee).

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Thursday, August 28th, at the Vicarage, 720 Bob Minor: Henry G. Keeley 1-2, Rev. C. Carew Cox 3-4 (conductor), Mrs. C. W. Powell 5-6. First 720 on handbells by all and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Powell for the first anniversary of their wedding.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 425.)

POINTS FOR PEALS.

Apart from the duplication of the names of associations, there was another thing in the original Analysis which struck people as unfair. The only thing that counted was the number of peals; their quality went for nothing. One association might come out at the top whose performances consisted almost entirely of Grand-sire Triples and Plain Bob or Treble Bob Major, while another association which rang London or Superlative Surprise and Stedman Cinques might be well down the table. It was felt that something ought to be done to correct such a state of affairs, and that led to the adoption of points for peals.

I am not quite sure what was the ultimate origin of points for peals, but I believe it came out of a practice of the Sussex County Association. They had a scheme by which, whenever a peal was rung, so many points were allotted to each individual ringer and were credited to his home tower. For instance, if a peal of Treble Bob was rung at Steyning, and five of the band came from St. Peter's, Brighton, two from Eastbourne, and one from Southover, Brighton would have ten points, Eastbourne four, and Southover two. The list of towers was given in the annual report with the aggregate number of points gained, and the one with the biggest number was the champion for the year.

At the time, when comparatively few methods were rung, and in a county like Sussex, where there was no ring of twelve bells and but one of ten, and no tenor above 25 cwt. in weight, the scheme worked quite well and fairly, and was a pretty good test of the peal-ringing capacity of the various companies.

George F. Attree, who compiled the Analysis, was the secretary of the Sussex Association, and so, when it became clear that there was a call for some better plan than merely arranging the associations according to the number of the peals they had rung, it was only natural that he should adopt the scheme which had proved successful in his own association; and when the Analysis for 1891 was published the number of points earned by each association was stated, though the names were still given according to the number of peals.

The schedule of points was as follows:—Triples in all plain methods, 1 point for each ringer. Major, in all plain methods, 1½ points. Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Forward, 2 points. Double Methods twice the number of points as the single of the same method. Duffield, 3 points. Stedman Triples, 4 points. Superlative, 5 points. Cambridge 6 points. London, 8 points. Peals of Minor received from 1 to 6 points, according to the number of methods rung.

The positions of the various associations in the table according to the number of points they had earned did not differ very much from the positions according to the number of peals rung.

As applied to the whole country the scheme was not so successful as when applied to Sussex only. People began to point out what they thought were anomalies, the matter came before the Council at the Sheffield meeting in 1895, and a committee was appointed to deal with the subject. It was a very strong committee and consisted of Attree, Dr. Carpenter, Henry Dains, James W. Washbrook, John Carter, E. B. James and A. P. Heywood.

In the discussion some people thought weight of metal and number of changes should be taken into account, and some asked why Cambridge should be rated so much higher than Superlative. William Wakley, speaking for the Burton men, said that if London were given 50 points then Cambridge, Superlative, and New Cumberland were each worth 30 points. Attree's opinion was that Cambridge is more difficult than Superlative. It was easier to get a band for the latter and men were safer in it than in the former.

In 1897 the Council adopted the following scheme. All plain methods, Triples, 7; Major, 8; Caters, 9; Royal, 10; Cinques, 11; Maximus, 12. All double methods, Double Norwich, Oxford Bob, Duffield, etc., Major 16, Royal 18, Maximus 20. Stedman Triples, 24; Stedman Caters, 24; Stedman Cinques, 28. Treble Bob methods, Major, 12; Royal, 14; Maximus, 16. London Surprise Major, 50; Cambridge, 40; Superlative, 30.

These figures show the great respect people then had for Stedman Triples, which indeed was for the majority the height of a ringer's ambition. There was a great deal of ignorance and prejudice against anything outside the very beaten track. When Law James asked Attree why he had omitted Double Norwich Caters, the latter said he did not think methods of that sort ought to be rung. When it was urged that it was a perfectly good method, he rejoined that it might be so, but Double Norwich ought to be rung on even numbers only. He was not the only man who held that opinion, and some years later Sir Arthur Heywood confessed to me in a letter that the relationship between the Major and the Caters which I had pointed out was quite new to him.

In 1898 and the following fourteen years the names of the associations were arranged in the Analysis according to the number of points they had earned.

Attree had begun the Analysis, and for several years he carried it on, but in the course of time it became more complicated and not unnaturally the labour began to get irksome. For a while much of the routine work was done by people in his employment, and from 1898 to 1904 Mr. George Baker's name was added to his own. In 1905 at the Canterbury meeting a proposal was made that an annual grant of five guineas should be made to pay for the work, but the Council has necessarily to depend on voluntary service, and when the motion was put to the meeting no one voted for it. For three years no Analysis appeared and it seemed as if it had lapsed entirely.

Its revival was due to Mr. Charles E. Borrett, who then and for many years represented the Norwich Diocesan Association. He gave notice of a motion to appoint a committee to deal with the matter. As he could not attend the London meeting in 1906, he asked me to move for him, and a committee was appointed, consisting of himself, Mr. Joseph Griffin, Mr. Arthur T. King and myself. I remained on the committee until 1910, but, so far as I remember, I did not do very much of the work. The others, however, worked hard. The overdue tables for 1904 and 1905 were published in 1906, and by 1907 the arrears had been brought up to date. Since then the Analysis has appeared annually.

The interest taken in points for peals is shown by the fact that for a long time there was hardly a meeting of the Council at which they were not debated in some form or other. The Peal Values Committee was kept in

being for more than ten years, and then was discharged only because its functions were taken over by the Analysis Committee. Heywood summed up the general opinion when he said at Manchester in 1910 that there was no longer much ringing for money, but Englishmen would have competition in some form, and the Analysis, with its points for peals, was the only way in which the Exercise could, and did, compete. It was a healthy substitute for the ringing of church bells for money prizes, and was a vast improvement upon the old state of affairs.

There was, however, all along a considerable amount of opinion which objected strongly to points. Some people thought that they 'degraded' change ringing, and Law James never lost an opportunity of saying so. Others complained that they were unfair, and in many cases their complaint was based on some local circumstances not unconnected with rivalry between individuals and bands. In 1907 an incident brought this feeling to the front. In October in that year the three brothers Pye and Mr. William Keeble rang on handbells in the belfry of Romford Church a peal of Bristol Surprise Major, which, with its points, was credited to the Middlesex County Association. This brought to 'The Bell News' a letter of protest from Benjamin Keeble. After saying that a peal on tower bells should not be classed with sport of any kind, and that 'those who cannot practise the science without peal ringing, should have a higher and more noble object than that of football, golf, or any other athletic profession (which was a little bit pharisaical), he came to his main point, 'the injustice of the whole thing.' The peal had been rung by Essex men in an Essex tower affiliated to the Essex Association from the day it was founded, and upon handbells be-

longing to the tower; yet another association got the credit of the points. 'Is it not time,' he said, 'that points for peals were abolished?'

This letter started a long correspondence, in which Edwin Barnett, Canon Papillon, Arthur T. King, Edward O'Meara, John R. Sharman, George Williams and others took part. R. A. Daniell, in his role as the advocate for the old London societies, contributed a long article, in which he directly challenged the Middlesex Association. At the time the relations between the old societies and that association were somewhat strained. The rights and wrongs of the dispute do not matter much for our present subject, for, after all, it was only the sort of thing that has been common in the London Exercise from the earliest days. Once the rivalry was between the College Youths and the London Scholars, then between the College Youths and the Eastern Scholars, later between the College Youths and the Cumberlands, and now between the College Youths and the Middlesex Association. A good deal of heat was generated and some bad feeling, but an impartial observer would probably conclude that on the whole the old London societies benefited, by the rivalry of their younger opponents.

(To be continued.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The composition of Superlative, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Major mentioned by Mr. C. T. Coles in his interesting and able letter concerning Spliced Surprise Major was published in 'The Ringing World' of August 12th, 1932. The figures of the peal called by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, in which all the bells ring all the work in the course of London, Bristol and Superlative, were published in 'The Ringing World' of June 14th, 1935. The study of Spliced Surprise Major is extremely interesting and there is still plenty of scope for further investigation.

A. J. PITMAN.

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LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

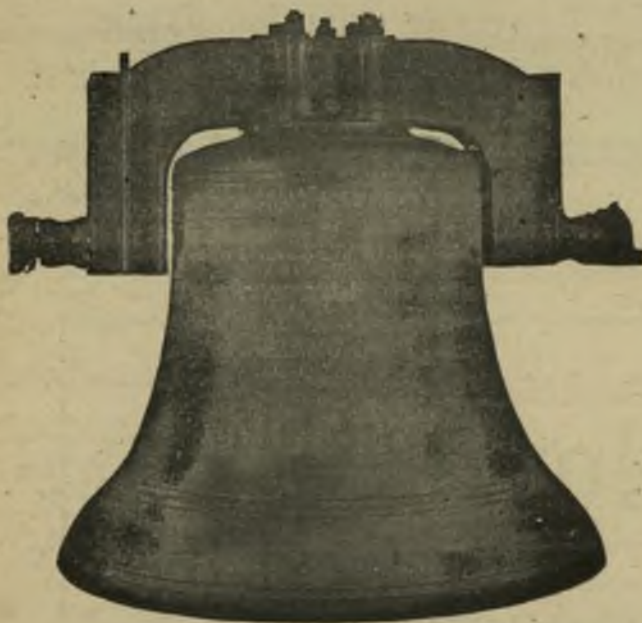
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

His friends will learn with pleasure that Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, now 84 years old, is still active. 'Hale and hearty' is the way to describe him, and he is still teaching ringing. He has a new company of youths, who meet regularly for handbell practice at North Stoneham.

Mr. Williams presided over the Guild annual meeting and conducted the business with the aplomb of one at least 20 years younger.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) had returned from the Orkney Islands just in time to make the arrangements for the meeting, and among the 'visitors' was Mr. Alf Greenwood, formerly Portsmouth District secretary, who was home on a holiday from Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Emery will be glad to hear that he is making a good recovery after his operation, and hopes to be discharged from hospital this week.

Eighteen years ago last Monday the first twelve-bell peal in Hampshire was rung at Winchester Cathedral. The method was Stedman Cinques and the conductor was Mr. F. E. Dawe.

On September 10th, 1741, the Crowfield Society rang at Coddensham in Suffolk John Garthorn's peal of Grandsire Triples. It was conducted by John Foster, whom Theodore Eccleston, the donor of the bells, had got from Norwich to help to make up a good company.

Ninety-seven years ago to-day Charles Henry Hattersley was born at Sheffield, and 85 years ago to-day Charles D. P. Davies was born at Tewkesbury.

On September 13th, 1802, the Cumberlands rang 5,040 changes of Imperial Place Major at Islington. The method, by Shipway, was constructed without a dodge.

Charles Middleton, the composer of the well-known peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, died at Norwich on September 14th, 1886.

On the same date in 1934, the Australian tour began. Next Tuesday Mr. W. H. Fussell, who organised the tour, will celebrate his 80th birthday. Fifty years ago last Wednesday, Washbrook rang the tenor and called the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Oxford. In those days the bell was always stated to be 40 cwt.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. Two were Bob Major and one Double Norwich. The latter was at Crawley, the first peal in the method on the bells and by Mr. James Parker. It was composed and called by Mr. George Williams.

Revisiting Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, writes a correspondent, I noticed in one of the stalls in the choir a cushion, with a remarkable embroidered portrait of the late Mr. J. W. Elkins, for so many years Dean's Verger and a life member of the Winchester Guild, who was so well known to ringers. This surely is a unique memorial to find in a Cathedral. But then, J. W. Elkins was in many respects a remarkable man.

Recent references to Quex Park remind us of a rather remarkable record made by Mr. J. R. Sharman. He went to Birchington on four Easters and was successful in ringing three peals on each visit. On each occasion he rang a different bell, and except on the last visit by chance and not by design, so in twelve attempts he had rung all twelve bells to a peal. The peals were on all numbers from Major to Maximus.

PRISONER OF WAR.

News has been received by his parents at Tolworth, Surrey, that Mr. Cyril C. Rayner, one of the ringers at Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, Parish Church, who has been missing since April, is now a prisoner of war in Germany. He was serving with the Royal Corps of Signals in the Middle East at the time of his capture.

Cyril Rayner learnt his ringing at Selby Abbey, Yorkshire, where he was always very popular, both with the Selby ringers and those of Hemingbrough and Sherburn-in-Elmet, which towers he often visited on practice nights whilst living at Selby.

His ringing friends all wish him a safe and speedy return home.

PROTECTION OF CHURCH BELLS FROM FIRE.

In the light of recent happenings, the following letter which appeared in 'The Bell News' as far back as January 26th, 1907, will be read with interest:—

'In view of the several church fires which have occurred lately at Selby and elsewhere, in which bells have been destroyed, I suggest to those building or restoring churches that the first floor of the tower (and, if a low one, the roof also) be of steel and concrete construction; that the louvre openings be fitted with interval fire-proof sliding doors, so hung as to close automatically with excessive heat, and that windows abutting on roofs be glazed with wired glass. With these precautions, the burning of a church need not involve the destruction of the bells and clock, often the most valuable contents of the building.—Richard F. Deal.'

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

ACTIVITIES TO BE SUSPENDED.

Effect of Ban and Air Raid Danger.

A fateful decision was taken at the annual meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild on Saturday, when it was resolved to approve various recommendations of the Executive Committee suspending the activities of the Guild in all the districts. The recommendations were drawn up last November, and, as far as they affected the conduct of the Guild's affairs, had been acted upon since. The meeting last week at Winchester confirmed this course of action.

The Master of the Guild (Mr. George Williams) presided over an attendance of some 60 members from all parts of the diocese, from Christchurch in the west to Petersfield in the east, from Basingstoke in the north to the Isle of Wight in the south. The chairman was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the acting treasurer (Mr. W. Linter).

LOWER MEMBERSHIP, BUT INCREASED BALANCE.

The meeting resolved to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. G. H. Coombes, of Ryde, the oldest member of the Guild, who at the age of 98 is still hale and hearty.

Among the apologies received was one from the Rev. N. C. Woods, chairman of the Winchester District, and now at St. John's Vicarage, Ladbroke Grove, London, who sent his greetings and good wishes.

Mr. W. Linter, acting hon. treasurer, presented the balance sheet and statement of accounts for the year 1940. It showed that the year began with a balance in hand of £219 5s. 5d., including £93 1s. 1d. retained by the districts. The receipts included subscriptions from 92 honorary members amounting to £24 11s., and from 420 ringing members £41 4s., one new life member £2 2s., and an arrear of 2s.; £4 2s. was received in interest from the Post Office Savings Bank for 1939 and 1940, the total receipts being £73 18s. 7d. Among the items of expenditure was £17 14s. for printing the previous year's report. The balance in hand had risen to £237 9s., including £80 from the district balances which had been invested in War Savings; the net increase on the year being £18 3s. 7d.

Mr. Linter, in giving some comparative figures of membership, said in 1939 they had 139 honorary members, but in 1940 only 92. They had 686 full ringing members in 1939, but only 420 in 1940. In 1939 they elected 39 compounding members, but in 1940 only eight.

The balance sheet was adopted on the motion of Mr. R. Brown, who congratulated the Guild on the result in a very difficult year.

The Hon. Secretary thanked Mr. Linter for his services in connection with the accounts. Owing to the death of the late treasurer, Mr. H. Barton, they were somewhat at 'sixes and sevens,' and they wondered how they could get hold of someone to undertake to visit Mr. Barton's executors at Ventnor. The Guild was indebted to Mr. Linter for stepping into the breach and extricating the Guild's finances in the way he had done.

Later a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Linter for his services.

The report of the Peal Recorder (Mr. R. A. Reed, now in the Royal Air Force) was read by the hon. secretary. Seven peals were rung before the ban put an end to church bell ringing, three of them having been by the young band at St. Michael's, Basingstoke.

ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the future of the Guild's activities was discussed at a special meeting of the Executive Committee on November 9th, and it was decided to ask the general meeting to say whether they should carry on under war-time conditions. The feeling of the committee was that, at least until the ban was lifted and the risk of air raids less serious, they could not advise the resumption of district meetings. Fifteen members of the committee were present, representing six out of the eight districts, and the committee made the following report:—

The various aspects of the Guild's activities were discussed, in the light of war conditions, and the following decisions were reached, with a recommendation to the districts for their adoption:—

1. Guild meetings.—Until the ban is lifted on church bell ringing, and the danger of air raids less serious, the committee does not see how to recommend the resumption of any district meetings.

2. District accounts.—(a) That the district accounts be balanced up for 1940, and annually for the duration of the war, and added to any balance that may be in the hands of the respective secretaries, after which three-quarters (75 per cent.) of these amounts be deposited in the general treasurer's account on deposit at the Post Office. These moneys will remain in this account until such times as the district secretaries may require them again. This will not only help the 'war effort,' but will be safely invested. (b) That in view of the fact it is considered impracticable to hold any district meetings, the Executive Committee directs that the district secretaries balance their accounts for 1940, and annually for the duration of the war, have them duly audited and signed by the district auditor and representative(s) without submission to the usual annual district meeting, and then forward the appropriate balance to the general treasurer not later than February 14th of each following year.

A RULE SUSPENDED.

3. Membership.—It was felt by the committee that many members, both honorary and ringing, could not see their way clear to continue their financial support, and in order to retain their membership it was decided that, for the duration of the war, Rule 6, Paragraph 4,

be suspended. It is hoped, however, that those more fortunately placed will continue to give their financial support.

In making these recommendations, which, the committee feel, is to the best advantage of the Guild, it is hoped that if and when the situation permits, a return can be made to normal conditions in the districts.

Rule 6, Paragraph 4, referred to in the report, provides that a member who fails to pay his subscription for any year by December 31st shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Guild.

The Hon. Secretary pointed out that the 1940 accounts were drawn up under the altered rule.

The meeting confirmed the committee's recommendation.

On the motion of Mr. Wilfred Andrews, seconded by Mr. W. Tucker, the Master (Mr. G. Williams), the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the peals recorder (Mr. R. A. Reed) were re-elected, and Mr. W. Linter was elected hon. treasurer.

In acknowledging his election, Mr. Rogers, as it is not possible to hold district meetings, appealed to the members to continue their support of the Guild. As there is no ringing, he said, there is no incentive to do anything, but they should realise that the war will end some time and they would be able to resume their activities. He asked the members to continue to give their support to the Guild and rally round the officers so that when the time came they could get together again.

It was decided to elect the four representatives to the Central Council to which the Guild is entitled, and the following were appointed: Messrs. G. Williams, F. W. Rogers and G. Pullinger (re-appointed) and W. Andrews (to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. H. Barton).

On the question of the place and date of the next annual meeting, Mr. Pullinger moved that it be left to the Master, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary to decide. It was useless, he said, to decide at that meeting something which they might next year find it impossible to carry out.—Mr. R. Brown seconded.

Mr. W. Tucker moved an amendment that the meeting be held at Winchester, whatever happened. 'I am not a pessimist,' he added.—Mr. J. W. Faithfull seconded.

The amendment was carried, but the date of the meeting was left to the officers to decide.

NO 'ANNUAL REPORT.'

Mr. Pullinger brought forward the question of printing an annual report for 1940, and moved 'That the reports for 1940 and subsequent war years be not printed, but that the accounts and records be carefully preserved, and as soon as possible after the end of the war be published under one cover; that four copies of these records be made and distributed in different parts of the county for safety from enemy action.' Apart from the shortage of paper, he said, there was the difficulty of distribution. If they didn't print one copy for each member, the members who did not get them might feel aggrieved; if they did print them, there was the difficulty of finding the members, many of whom were in the Forces; others had been scattered through evacuation and other causes and they were out of touch with them. If the reports were left to the end of the war they would not lose anything, but after the war the combined reports would give them something from which to make a fresh start.

Mr. W. Melville seconded and the motion was supported by Mr. Faithfull, who said that the reports could only remain in the tower secretaries' hands. In his own case he did not know where all his members were, and it was impossible to meet, as the tower went up in smoke and they lost everything.

The Master opposed Mr. Pullinger's motion. He thought the records of the Guild should be kept up and a report in an abridged form published every year, as it was in the last war. At that time he was hon. secretary of the Guild and they printed a pamphlet of a few pages with the balance sheet and the names of the secretaries of the towers. He thought for a wealthy society like theirs not to print a report would make them look very small.

Mr. Melville said the circumstances of the last war and of this were very different. In the last war the towers were still open and a meeting place for the ringers every Sunday. Now, they didn't meet at all and they could not get the reports into the hands of the members.

The Master said in his own tower (North Stoneham) they met nearly every Sunday, bells or no bells. It was true that many of them were young ringers, but they had handbell practice in most weeks. He hoped they would not let the reports lapse.

The Hon. Secretary said he sympathised with both sides. He did not want to see the reports dropped, but they had to realise that, perhaps, 75 per cent. would be left in tower secretaries' hands and many would never reach the members.

The Hon. Treasurer supported the Master's view. He thought there ought to be an annual report on their finances, especially for the hon. members. If they did not give them any report for four or five years they would begin to wonder where their money was going to. He thought they should try to keep in touch with their members, war or no war.

Mr. Pullinger, in replying to the discussion, said he was as anxious as anyone to keep things together, and he felt that if, as soon as peace came, the committee liked to go forward and publish a report it would be a start for them right away, and the reports would get into the hands of those whom they wanted to have them. He dis-

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LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

By W. TAYLOR.

Continued from page 429.)

Unless the treble is one of the three bells concerned or when it is coursing immediately before or after the three coursing bells, the B.S. has no effect on the position of the treble at the lead end or head. The plain course of Grandsire is determined by the B.S.'s with the treble and bell in the hunt remaining constant and each of the other bells making 3rd's place in turn like example C above. Example D may be called the inverse form of the B.S.; its effect or final result is exactly the same as the other examples. The bobs of Double Norwich are like example D. In Treble Bob there is a peculiar case of the B.S. where a snap blow has the effect of a place, i.e., it changes the direction in which the bell hunts. It is exemplified in the first five rows of London Surprise Major. I will give the work of 3.5.7 in skeleton form. It will readily be seen how the 3rd crosses the tracks of 5th and 7th and finally courses after them instead of before (especially so if lines are drawn along the paths of 3.5.7).

10030507

10305070 rounds

01350700

10537000

01573000

05170300

50713000

If plain hunting is continued from here the effect will be even more apparent. It will be seen that both the 5th and 7th stop to make a place, but, instead of reversing as the 3rd does, they continue in original direction. It is as if the 5th and 7th turn slightly aside to avoid bumping someone (the treble and/or the 2nd). After a B.S. original C.O. can be restored in several ways. I have already mentioned how it is done in Grandsire. It can also be restored by two other B.S.'s on the same three bells, in one of which (in our example on 468) the 6th makes the places and in the other the 8th. These three B.S.'s constitute a Bobbed Q set and are exactly similar to three Bobs wrong or three middles or three homes. Another way is by the interplay of portions of two Q sets where four coursing bells are involved as in the Bob Major touch W.H. repeated where each of the four course bells 5.3.2.4 makes one of the Bobs. The two Bobbed Q sets are on 532 and 324 respectively. It will be noticed that two of the coursing bells, viz., 3 and 2, are common to both Q sets. There are other ways of restoring original C.O. after a B.S. which I need not go into here. I explained the one made use of in Superlative many years ago. With regard to the places or shunts which take no part in fixing the first lead head of a method, it is necessary that they should be neutralised or reversed in the lead itself, in other words they must obey the Q set laws corresponding to the way the Q set laws are obeyed in composing touches and peals. With regard to the shunts which fix the first lead head, they are made up of portions only of a Plained Q set. If a complete Plained Q set were used, then rounds would occur at the first lead head. In the Plain course of a method the total number of Plained Q sets is the same multiple of one Q set as there are members of the Q set in one lead. Many years ago, I showed by implication how this is true in the cases of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge, Superlative, Yorkshire, the Bristol group, etc. London Surprise Major baffled all my attempts to separate those places which fix the first lead head from those which prevent repetition of rows, that is: to separate those places which form the partial plained Q sets fixing the first lead head from those places which have to obey the similar Q set laws of composition, these Q sets are, however, more varied than those of composition. I have now solved this most difficult of method construction problems, and with the aid of the foregoing explanatory notes and the Editor's permission, propose to give you the result and how it is arrived at. I must premise that C.O. is continuous and may be written forwards or backwards. It may be termed 'forward' when the even bells come to lead in direct order and the odds in inverse order, thus: 2468753124687531. C.O. can be commenced at any convenient point, it is cyclic. With forward order the bells normally lead handstroke and backstroke, but not necessarily so, as shown later. Backward C.O. is, of course, obtained by reversing the above order, thus: 1357864213, etc. This usually occurs when the bells lead backstroke and handstroke. As a general rule I will give the C.O. of a given row, commencing and ending with the same bell. Other rows may show C.O. commencing with different bells. Occasionally, to bring out some especial point, more or fewer of the C.O. bells will be shown.

The biggest difficulty in sorting out the shunts of London Surprise arises from the fact that the C.O. is sometimes forward, sometimes backward, but mainly part forward and part backward.

(To be continued.)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Chaddesley Corbett on August 30th, when 34 members and friends attended. The eight tower bells were available for silent practice and the methods ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge and London Surprise Major. After tea the handbells were kept busy, the high spots being touches of Bob Major and Grandsire and Stedman Caters, interspersed with tunes.

UTILITARIAN CHURCHES.

BELLS ARE NOT LUXURIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am sorry your correspondents, F. H. Smith and the Rev. A. M. Samson, find themselves unable to judge between vilification and criticism, and if Mr. Samson reads my second letter again he will see that what he calls 'cheap sneers at the clergy' are the expressed views of people higher up in religious life than either myself or he. They are words which received the tremendous ovation of a congregation (members of the three principal religious bodies) which packed a large church in the centre of one of our chief industrial towns as I have never seen any church packed before, which proves that they are not just isolated opinions. It is as well that some of our religious leaders, no less than people of other denominations, should be shaken out of their complacency, and all who attended that great gathering were satisfied that the words of each of the speakers (and particularly Dr. Berry) did much to achieve that end.

'The Ringing World' and other personalities have many times pointed out in very able manner that bells are no more luxuries than are expensive organs, pulpits, choir robes, huge crucifixes, saintly images, stained glass windows or pews; yet it is remarkable of recent years (and especially since this question of war damage insurance has cropped up) how many of our clergy classify them as luxuries and among the last things which should be insured. The Peterborough Diocesan leaflet recently circularised all incumbents and parochial councils to the effect that bells (and they also included organs) were considered luxuries and should not be insured. As to what are luxuries and what are necessities is a matter, I maintain, which should not be decided or influenced by just the clergy, neither is it a matter which (as Mr. Smith seems to think) affects just bombed churches or even the war period. It is a matter where all should have an eye to the future. It is important that there should be a constant watch. Ringers should be represented where decisions have to be made, and it is as well that they should not bury their heads ostrich-like in sand. In every parish they should be prepared to resist any attempt to rush ill-considered measures (be they parochial, diocesan, civic or parliamentary) that might menace the very existence of the art itself, which this utilitarian policy does.

Some years ago 'The Ringing World' said, 'The agitation against bells is not very vociferous, but it may rise in a crescendo at any time. That time is, I consider, now here, with the agitation for 'non-bell churches' and 'no war damage insurance' for existing bells. So whether or not it is a 'bogy' of 'Anti-Silent's' own making, and in his sight so fearsome that he has frightened himself with it, as Mr. Smith asserts, it is nevertheless an accomplished fact. So when Mr. Smith sees these parsons agitating for non-insurance and non-bell churches and asks, 'Is this a time to attempt to create feeling against them?' the answer is definitely, 'Yes.' Mr. Smith cannot have it both ways, but the more I read into his letter the more I think that 'he never ought to have been a campanologist; he ought to have been a dumb-bell ringer, or a tin-whistle player, like a wealthy boot manufacturer who sat on a local town council, a Socialist and once contested a seat for Parliament in the same interests and was once very pertinently told that he was 'fighting in the wrong camp.' Mr. Smith, I suppose, will want to tell us that bells do serve as a spiritual reminder to those people outside the Church, that they are a follow-on to boys leaving the choir, as a means of keeping members of boys' brigades, scouts and ringers interested in the Church, as a means of providing social fellowship to ringers. Yes, he will want to agree to all that, and at the same time he is ready to support those people who will classify bells 'luxuries.'

If we treat bells in their truest sense they conform less to the term 'luxury' than the pulpit, which has been recommended for insurance as a great necessity. The parson reads the Word of God from the lectern, yet his own word (which is very often written) must (say the ecclesiastical authorities) be read or preached from an elaborate, expensive pulpit. Cutting out all the show and formality (which utilitarianists tell us is part of their policy), consistency should tell us that if the Bible can be read from the ground, so can the parson's own words. The choir could also sing (as my own did for years) without robes; in fact to be strictly utilitarian a church would be, as I said in my last letter, like some of our preachers—'cold and anæmic.'

Even if nothing but bare necessities are within the pressing demands which are laid upon the ecclesiastical bodies at present, this should not preclude looking to the future. It costs no more at the outset to adapt a design to include a tower for a ringing peal at some later date than it does to produce plans which more or less irrevocably preclude the addition of a tower if and when opportunity occurs, but all or nearly all of these utilitarian churches are built complete from the beginning and with no idea of making any provision—even if the money was forthcoming; therefore, immediate financial needs is *not* always the reason for no bells. It is, I again repeat, more often than not the excuse, and prompted by people who have a dislike of bells. Some years ago Salisbury Town Council decided to sell to its Bishop a site for a church, and a few members of its Council tried to insert a condition that there should be no bells. Here, sir, is where a minority if they get on such bodies as these can do a lot of harm. Bureaucracy has swayed much in national life; pray that it is never allowed to do so in religion. Other examples similar to Salisbury have

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WAR-TIME MEETINGS.**A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—When 'The Ringing World' arrives (usually, but not always) on Friday morning, force of habit makes me turn to the notices page to see what meetings are announced. In former days this was invariably followed by a search of the map to see if a particular place was within cycling distance, in order that the tower might be bagged! Nowadays this search is just a matter of form, to see just how many associations and societies are keeping their meetings alive.

Generally speaking, the Home Counties seem to have put up the shutters for the duration, with a few very notable exceptions. One London society carries on its meetings regularly, and as time goes on it would not be a surprise to me if that society's meetings became the meeting place for London and district ringers. At the present time it is the only place where ringers can meet and say afterwards, 'See you on the . . .'

We, in this part of Middlesex, can get to Bushey quite easily and we do so with alacrity. If associations pursue a purely negative policy, and many seem to be doing so, they must not complain if membership falls off. I have no particular association in mind, but this seems to be the policy of many: (1) As few meetings as possible—the annual district and the annual general usually being held if possible on any Saturday but the ones prescribed by the rules. (2) An apologetic report by the secretary, explaining the difficulty of arranging war-time meetings and often saying how undesirable it is to hold them at all! This is followed by the statement that 'members will understand,' etc. (3) The annual report is, of course, not published, on account of the cost involved. Members are promised a 'bumper omnibus report' covering the whole period—when the war is over. (4) Lastly, the secretary announces that there are many unpaid subscriptions and that he has the receipt book with him. Members are told that it is important for them to continue their subscriptions and also, if possible, pay those of serving members of their tower!

Frankly, it seems to me as though the associations, like the small boy, want 'cake and halfpenny.'

The solution of the problem seems to be quite simple. From all towns there are transport services radiating into the surrounding areas. This is an obvious fact and could be used to advantage when meetings are arranged. The peace-time policy of having a different meeting place each time a meeting is held quite often means an awkward 'cross-country' journey or else a long journey to the town and out again to the selected spot. Now if all districts of all associations were to select their local 'big town' and arrange with some church to rent or use their church hall once a month, all their troubles would be over. The secretary's difficulty in finding a place each month would be over.

The not so enthusiastic member who says, 'I can't go all that way and come home in the black-out,' loses his excuse. The man who says, 'I can't leave the wife,' need not—he can bring her along, there's always plenty to do in a town even nowadays. Even if the gentlemen described above cannot be enticed in spite of everything being made easy for them, there is the last type of ringer, the oft despised enthusiast. He will be there, wet or fine, blitz or no blitz; there is no need to worry about him only on one score.

In London (where normally four societies vied with each other for members' support), secretaries and officials should bear in mind that enthusiastic ringers will go to whatever meetings are being held and maybe sever their connection with those societies which do not have regular meetings. It seems imperative to hold meetings, however few attend, for otherwise how is one to know that an association is alive?

ERIC B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park, Middlesex.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

(Continued from page 439.)

agreed with the Master that they would 'look small' if they did not publish the report while the war was on. If they put the money into War Loan instead of spending it they would be looked upon as heroes. If they wished to do so they could have a typed copy of the accounts and records placed in the hands of each district secretary. It would be an additional safeguard and the secretaries would have the documents to refer to at any time if necessary.

The motion was carried by 35 votes to 15.

Alfred Picknell, one of the Master's young pupils at North Stoneham, was elected a member of the Guild.

This concluded the business, and tea was served in the meeting room.

Afterwards the members attended evensong in the Choir of the Cathedral at the spot where many Saxon kings were crowned. The hymns were 'All people that on earth do dwell' and 'We love the place, O God.' The preacher was Canon Brabant, who took for his text Numbers x., 7 and 8, and spoke of the religious and national uses of bells, their call to the people and the obligations of ringers.

Subsequently many of the ringers returned to the meeting room and indulged in handbell ringing, or watched it with interest.

THE STANDARD METHODS.**YORKSHIRE AND PUDSEY.**

Yorkshire Surprise retains the natural coursing order in the interior of the lead better than Cambridge does, since, as the bells hunt from back to front one has a run-through, followed by place-making, and the next place-making followed by a run-through, they reach the front in their proper order. This is more noticeable on the higher numbers, and makes Yorkshire Royal and Maximus better methods than Cambridge Royal and Maximus.

Yorkshire S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 4 6 3 8 5 7
2 1 6 4 8 3 7 5

2 6 1 4 3 8 5 7
6 2 4 1 8 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 8 7 3 5
6 2 4 1 7 8 5 3

6 4 2 7 1 8 3 5
4 6 7 2 8 1 5 3
4 6 2 7 1 8 3 5
6 4 7 2 8 1 5 3

4 6 7 8 2 5 1 3
6 4 8 7 5 2 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1

6 8 4 7 2 5 3 1
8 6 7 4 5 2 1 3
8 7 6 4 2 5 3 1
7 8 4 6 5 2 1 3

8 7 4 5 6 1 2 3
7 8 5 4 1 6 3 2
7 8 4 5 6 1 2 3
8 7 5 4 1 6 3 2

8 5 7 1 4 6 2 3
5 8 1 7 6 4 3 2
8 5 7 1 6 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 3 6 2 4

5 1 8 7 6 3 4 2
1 5 7 8 3 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

Pudsey S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5

2 4 1 8 3 6 5 7
4 2 8 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 1 8 3 6 5 7
2 4 8 1 6 3 7 5

4 2 8 6 1 7 3 5
2 4 6 8 7 1 5 3
2 6 4 8 1 7 3 5
6 2 8 4 7 1 5 3

2 6 4 8 7 5 1 3
6 2 8 4 5 7 3 1
6 8 2 5 4 7 1 3
8 6 5 2 7 4 3 1

6 8 2 5 4 7 3 1
8 6 5 2 7 4 1 3
8 5 6 7 2 4 3 1
5 8 7 6 4 2 1 3

8 5 6 7 4 1 2 3
5 8 7 6 1 4 3 2
5 7 8 6 4 1 2 3
7 5 6 8 1 4 3 2

5 7 6 1 8 3 4 2
7 5 1 6 3 8 2 4
7 5 6 1 8 3 4 2
5 7 1 6 3 8 2 4

5 1 7 3 6 8 4 2
1 5 3 7 8 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

It will be seen by examination that, owing to the alternation of run-through and place-making a bell makes Court places round its after bell, and then immediately the after bell makes Court places round the first. The two bells are thus for a few blows reversed in coursing order. For instance, in the first half-lead above, the 8th makes places round the 7th, and then the 7th makes places round the 8th. Earlier the 4th makes places round the 6th, and then the 6th makes second's place over the 4th.

In Yorkshire Major you always work behind with your course bell and your after bell, never with any other.

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

Two bells come to the front temporarily reversed in coursing order, but they lie still and regain their natural positions. From that point to the corresponding point in the second half-lead, the bells on the front are in natural coursing order.

Yorkshire has but one false course end, B.24365. The first section, which is the same as Cambridge, gives the same false course end, the sixth lead of one course being false against the fifth of the other, and the third lead false against the second. In the third section two coursing bells lie still in 1-2, and that inevitably gives the same B false course end, the incidence of the falseness being 7-1. The second and fourth sections, where in Cambridge the falseness which causes so much trouble lies, have in Yorkshire a clear proof scale.

Thirty full natural courses are available for composition in Yorkshire, and there is a good deal of latitude as to which thirty may be used. So long as the bells in 5-6 are not reversed there will be no internal falseness, and it is also possible to use many courses where those bells are reversed. If 23456 is used 24365 may not be included; but there is no cause to exclude 32465 if 34256 is not used or 43265 if 42356 is not used. Twenty-seven full courses are available without either the second or third in sixth's place at a course end. As in Cambridge, the lead between the Middle and the Wrong from false courses may be used without fear of internal repetition.

In construction, Pudsey is very similar to Yorkshire, but in practice it is not nearly so good a method. It is useful for an occasional peal, but has no real claims to rank as a standard method. Below the treble it is exactly the same as Cambridge; above the treble it has the Cambridge Minor triangle of places.

The general plan is the same as Cambridge and Yorkshire. All the bells have the Cambridge Treble Bob hunting (dodging when the treble hunts and hunting when the treble dodges), with the exception that the bell which courses in front of the treble as it goes up, and courses behind the treble as it goes down, has an ordinary Treble Bob hunting which is strictly parallel to that of the treble. Pudsey deviates from Cambridge above the treble as Yorkshire deviates from it below the treble.

The two kinds of hunting (the ordinary Treble Bob and the Cambridge Treble Bob) are reconciled in exactly the same way as in Yorkshire, with the exception that the two bells to be passed are met in reverse order. When a bell hunting down meets the bell in front of the treble before it has dodged, it has a run-through and then passes the treble by making half a set of Cambridge places. When it meets the bell in front of the treble after it has dodged, it makes half a set of Cambridge places and then runs past the treble.

Hunting up a bell passes the treble as in Cambridge, but half a set of Cambridge places is followed by a run-through and a run-through is followed by half a set of places. These rules should be compared with those of Yorkshire, and in both methods they are more easily seen and more practically useful on the higher numbers than on eight.

The work of Pudsey Major in detail is as follows. The bell next in front of the treble (the third in the first lead of the plain course) hunts up in ordinary Treble Bob

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Next meeting will be held at Codsall, on Saturday, September 13th. Meet in the belfry at 3 o'clock for handbell practice. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your own victuals and sugar. Buses leave Queen Square, Wolverhampton, at 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes.—H. Knight.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Newhall on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells in tower at 3.30. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A full tea MAY be provided at a moderate cost, but please take own sugar. Everyone cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting to be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Tower and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. A good attendance requested.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Branch Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells available in Parish Room 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 13th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells. Bring sandwiches.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, September 13th. St. John's peal of six (silent) and handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting at 4.15. All welcome.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Winslow on Saturday, September 13th. Silent bells and handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Blechley, Bucks.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous column.)

fashion, makes sevenths under the treble when it lies behind, and then courses it down. It makes a 3-pull dodge in 3-4, and goes to the front. It is now doing the 'intermediate' work of Cambridge, and goes up to places in 5-6. It makes half a set of places (sixths and fifths and dodge with the treble) and then goes behind to a double and a single dodge. Hunting down, it runs past the bell in front of the treble, and makes places in 3-4. It is again ringing Cambridge, and after Treble Bob work on the front runs past the treble in 4-5, and makes 5-6 places round the following bell. Behind it does a double and a single dodge, and comes down to the ordinary Treble Work Before of Cambridge. After making second's place over the treble, it repeats the work in reverse order.

(To be continued.)

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—The annual general meeting will be held on September 13th at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Hall at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. No provision for tea is being made this year. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend, as the new Vicar has promised to be present. Handbells will be available after completion of business.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chertsey on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Churchroom 5 p.m. Tea can be provided on receipt of a p.c. by Tuesday, Sept. 16th. The larger the attendance the more the officers will be pleased.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, September 20th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Bring your own sugar. How many do you think will require tea, which will be held in the Mission Hall, Harrington Hill, Mount Pleasant Lane, E.5.2.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 20th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, on or before September 16th.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 20th. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Short service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., to follow, and usual evening arrangements. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained at this meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, September 20th. Business: Appointment of branch secretary in place of Mr. Sharples, who is removing back to Oswaldtwistle in the near future. A good attendance is desired.—C. Sharples, 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Heptonstall on Saturday, September 20th. Ramblers meet at Hebden Bridge Trackless Terminus at 3 o'clock for walk to Heptonstall. Tea at Co-operative Cafe, Town Gate, at 4.30 (2s. 3d.). Business meeting in schools at 5.30. Handbells during the afternoon and evening. Subscriptions now due. All names for tea to reach me by Friday, September 19th.—Frank Rayment, Greenhill Road, Bramley, Leeds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Buckby on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Bells (5) will be rung silent. Tea provided for those who notify me by Sept. 16th.—C. Green, Hon. Sec., Murcatt, Long Buckby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Preston, Saturday, September 27th. Handbells in vestry and ringing room. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in school after at 1s. 9d. each to those only who send in their names to Mr. C. Crossthwaite, 114, Oxford Street, Preston, not later than Wednesday, the 24th. Meeting in the same school afterwards. We hope as many as possible will try to attend.—W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxborne (8 bells, silent) on Saturday, September 27th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at the Welcome Cafe, near church. All are welcome. Please come.—A. Laurence, 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, September 27th. Tea at the Westbrook Memorial Hall, 1s. 8d. per head, for which notice must be sent to Mr. H. C. Chandler, 44, New Heston Road, Hounslow, not later than September 25th. Handbells available. Reports ready. Subscriptions due. A good attendance is hoped for.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Bradfield on Saturday, September 27th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m., most probably in the Village Hall. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Village Hall. Owing to catering difficulties, those intending to be present must bring their own teas for all meetings while the war lasts. This parish is clear of the defence area, provided people travel via the Harwich Road from Colchester and enter Mistley end of the village. There is a good bus and rail service.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th. Tower bells (silent), if possible, 2.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Coffee Tavern 4.45 p.m. Please note change of date of meeting. Please write Albert G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, about numbers for tea.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

UTILITARIAN CHURCHES

(Continued from page 440.)

been known, and at Peterborough there is a church which is not allowed to have bells owing to a condition attached to a legacy a lady left. Finally, I warn the Exercise against another 'stunt' which the ecclesiastical authorities are likely to go for, that is the weak tower with a stationary hung peal. Not only is this likely to be tried in new towers, but if not checked may lead to some of our old peals being hung in this way. Hymn tunes played on bells are more and more finding sympathy with the public (I must claim a sneaking liking for them myself), but the stationary peal is not the only one which, as the public should be educated to know, can be used for this purpose. Before the war I used to go to three churches with tune playing apparatus to practise, but this was only a side line, like handbell tune playing.

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