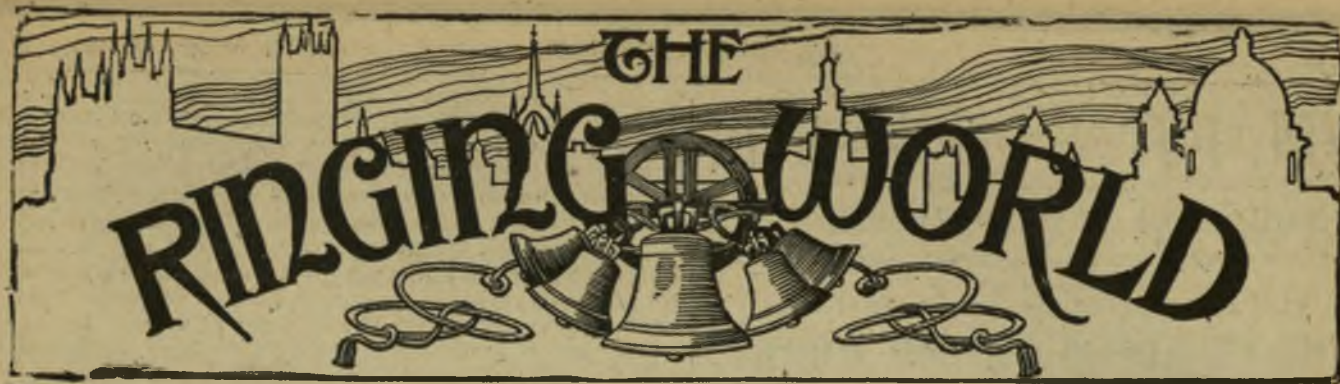




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LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

The future of London's bombed churches is a matter which concerns churchmen generally, and those who are lovers of those historic buildings will learn with some alarm that the Deputy Director of the National Buildings Record has suggested that some, including even the most notable among them, should not be replaced. Mr. John Summerson's official position in this institution gives his views, which were expressed before the Architectural Association at a meeting in London, an importance which cannot be ignored. It is the business of the institution to supplement the existing graphic, photographic and other records of buildings of merit, which have been damaged or are in danger of damage by warfare, by adequate surveys, as well as to make a record of damage to buildings and of evidence of history or construction which such damage often discloses. The urgency and importance of the task has been recognised by the Government, and the Minister of Works and Buildings has promised the full co-operation of his department. That fact alone will give weight to any proposals which may emanate from the officials of the National Buildings Record, and the suggestion that the restoration of any of Wren's churches, except for museum purposes, should not be undertaken, is a disturbing one to those who have regarded these buildings as part and parcel of London itself.

How far the opinions expressed are Mr. Summerson's own, or represent the views of the organisation in which he holds so important a position, is uncertain, but it would, we think, be a tragedy if these churches, hallowed by centuries of Christian usage, should be allowed lightly to pass out of existence. To lose Wren's original buildings by the devastation of war is bad enough, to make this the excuse never to replace them savours of the pagan attitude to religion, which we condemn in our enemies.

When Wren undertook the rebuilding of London churches after the Great Fire, he beautified the city not merely with the vision of an artist but with a practical realisation of the conditions he had to deal with. Where the church was open to the public gaze, such as St. Lawrence Jewry, the whole structure was adorned; where the building was hidden from view he concentrated his skill on the design of the tower, as in the case of St. Mary-le-Bow, or on the interior, as in the case of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, and often on both, as at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. He rebuilt partly with the material that remained, but the vital fact not to be lost sight of is that he also rebuilt on the sites dedicated for hundreds of years to the Christian faith. For this alone it would be a real disaster to our national life to make the present conditions an ex-

(Continued on page 530.)

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cuse for destroying, except here and there as a museum, the age-old centres of London's religious life.

It is true that some of the churches have been, in these later years, considerably denuded of worshippers, but that is not necessarily a proof that in the future the people will not return to the churches in these London parishes, or that to commercialise the sites now might not be a matter for perpetual regret in the years to come. London would not be any better for the wiping away of these churches, and spiritually would be far worse off, for even their silent witness cannot be without effect. It may, of course, prove necessary in some few instances to sacrifice what has been regarded as a precious part of London's heritage, its glorious city churches, but lightly to suggest that there is little or no point in restoring the buildings of Wren's creation seems to us to savour of sacrilege. Once let the idea get abroad in influential quarters that these churches are not needed and that, therefore, there is no necessity to reconstruct them, and a great tie with London's past, its people, its history and its religion may be lost. Once they have gone, gone also will be the cherished bells, which have marked the lives of untold generations of citizens by their pealing. Lovers of London churches will, we hope, watch carefully the trend of events and take appropriate action if any threatened abandonment of these historic buildings shows itself.

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

MR. G. F. WOODHOUSE'S TRIBUTE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to add my tribute to the late Mr. A. G. Driver. After I had made a ringing machine and published a pamphlet about it, I got a postcard from him, 'Very nice, but it won't splice.'

Splicing had not even occurred to me, and the machine had to be entirely redesigned so that it was possible to change the method while the machine was running. This took about three years to accomplish, during which time we had a long and interesting correspondence, in which he made many very valuable suggestions. I think we discussed every possible mechanism that could be used.

I cannot be too grateful to him for his encouragement and interest, in fact but for him the machine would never have been altered. I had the great pleasure of calling on him at Belvedere and getting to know this modest, kindly genius.

G. F. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

THE DEVIL AMONG THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I remember reading an article in your paper some time ago, 'The Devil Among the Bells.' In my youth I lived at Hindhead, where the devil was mentioned a lot. The place was named the Devil's Punch Bowl, and I must say I was scared a bit in going past it when I went to Bramshott and Haslemere to ring.

Here at Buxton I have come across a book at the public library called 'Herod's Peal or Devil Among the Bells,' which is remarkable for its history of the incidents referring to various towers about the country.

I think ringers would like to read the book. It is a volume of over 300 pages, written by Russel Thorndyke and published by Rich and Cowan, Soho Square, London, W.1.

I may say Grandsire Bob Major, St. James' Change and Herod's Peal always excite the devil and cause him to do acts of violence, hence the sub-title, 'Devil Among the Bells.'

JESSE PUPLETT.

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THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANOTHER HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT.

Besides the account of the College Youths described in 'The Ringing World' recently, the manuscript book damaged in the fire raid contained another account by a different writer and rather later in date. As history it is quite worthless, but it is interesting as showing how legends grow up and on what insubstantial grounds so many of the so-called historical statements about ringing are based.

It was written in 1849, soon after the society had come into possession of the copy of the original name and peal book, by a man named Francis Marshall, of whom I know nothing. The account reads as follows:—

An Epitome of the Art of Ringing, compiled from unimpeachable sources of information, by Mr. Francis Marshall, a Member, in 1849.

The First Company established for the promotion of the Art of Ringing were the College Youths. They were instituted November 5th, 1637, by a number of wealthy and influential individuals, a fact fully corroborated by the books containing the names of the members and transactions of this society. Lord Brereton was the first Master; he was succeeded by Sir Cliff Clifton, Knight, who in his turn was succeeded by persons of the first distinction.

Who the inventor of the Art of Ringing was can only be conjectured, but there is every reason to ascribe the honour to Mr. Fabian Steadman, who was born in the town of Cambridge in 1631; he afterwards became a member of this Society, he composed various peals on five and six bells; being a printer by profession, he transferred his compositions to paper and distributed round the Country. It is but reasonable to infer that the company which he belonged to would be the first to avail themselves of his discoveries, and they must have made great progress, as they were enabled to ring (on the occasion of a visit paid to Mr. Steadman) on March 30th, 1671, at St. Bennett's, Cambridge, for the first time the beautiful production since known after its author. In 1662 Mr. Steadman published a book styled Campanalogia, or the Art of Ringing, which went through three editions previous to 1680. Before the extension of the Art to 8 or 10 bells, the ringers placed the 4th and 8th behind; on 10 bells 1, 2, 3, 10 behind, or which others might be preferred, a plan even practised to the present Day and styled Mock Triples, Caters and Cinques.

On January 7th, 1689, the whole peal of Plain Bob Triples, containing 5,040 changes, with two singles, was rung at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, in 3 hours and 45 minutes, composed by Mr. Anable, who also composed the first peal of Grandsire Triples, which, though false, was held in great repute until Mr. Holt's peal was produced. At this time there were two other Companies established for the practice of the art, viz., The London Scholars, and the Union Scholars of whom we cannot obtain any account; they do not appear to have existed long.

On Saturday, February 26th, 1726, the first peal of Bob Maximus containing 5,280 changes was rung at St. Bride's, in which a Young Gentleman (Mr. Francis Geary) assisted; he was a Naval Officer and rose to the rank of Admiral, he commanded the Grand Fleet in 1789, and rang several other peals with the company; frequently he met them in after life to amuse himself with the pastime of his early youth.

There was another distinguished member whom we must not forget, viz., Mr. Benjamin Anable, to him we are indebted for the improvements in Caters and Cinques by throwing them into the tittum position (he died in 1755, between 70 and 80 years of age).

The Company appear to have been in great repute up to 1800 being supported by the most wealthy and influential persons in the kingdom; at one time they held their meetings at the Paul's Head Tavern in the City, and on the anniversary day the members walked in procession to Bow Church to hear Divine Service; on this occasion the Company were preceded by their Beadle, dressed in a Blue Great Coat and cocked hat trimmed with broad gold lace, carrying a splendid staff surmounted by a silver bell suspended in a massive frame of embossed silver, representing St. Bride's and St. Martin's Steeples. After divine service they returned in the same state to their Club House, and dined together in company with the Aldermen and other civil authorities.

There was also at this time a branch of the Company called the Hertford College Youths, the members of which met and dined at the Town Hall, Hertford, annually, the chair being usually taken by the Marquis of Salisbury (who was a great patron of the art of ringing) supported by the Nobility and Gentry of the County.

In the year 1787 the company visited the City of York and rung in the Cathedral, on the ten bells, a peal of Grandsire Caters, and was the first peal ever rung in the North of England; on this occasion they were received with marked distinction and Hospitality, entertained by the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Norwich, Oxford, Shrewsbury, and indeed most of the principal Gentry of the County.

The Company have been patronised by the most eminent men, among whom will be found Dean Aldrich, Sir Matthew Hale, S. Blackwell, M.P., Admiral Gearey, Lord Dysart, the late Marquis of Salisbury, the late S. Whitbread and his son, F. Powell, Esq., Judge Park, Lord Brereton, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, etc.

The Company have now a continuous record of all the peals rung by them from their first foundation to the present time, and is well worth the perusal of the Campanologist.

The first three Peals of Minor were rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on November 18th, 1684. The methods were Oxford Treble Bob, College Single, and Oxford Single, total 2,160 changes.

St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill,

On January 7th, 1689,

The Company rang the first Peal on eight bells; the method was Plain Bob Triples (containing 5,040 changes) with two singles; it was accomplished in three hours and fifty-five minutes. Composed and conducted by Mr. Benjamin Anable.

It is quite easy to see where the writer got his information from. Most of it came from the earlier manuscript and from the 'Clavis'; the rest directly or indirectly from Shipway and Osborn, and the more or less vague memories of what old ringers like William Lyford had talked about; while many of the statements are only guesses and glosses by the writer to enhance, as he supposed, the fame and dignity of the society.

He says, for instance, that the founders were a number of wealthy and influential individuals, but he knew

nothing whatever about them beyond the fact that the first two men in the list had titles. He calls the second Master Sir Cliff Clifton, as did all the writers who followed him, but Clifton's Christian name actually was Clifford, and he did not receive his knighthood until 1661, twenty-three years after he held the office of Master of the College Youths.

That mistake is understandable and pardonable, but generally the writer uses his material very badly. He mixed up the account of the 1690 peal of Triples from the earlier manuscript, with the reference to the 1730 peal of Bob Triples at Southwark in the 'Clavis.'

He says (following the 'Clavis') that Annable died in 1755, between 70 and 80 years of age; and a little later that he composed and conducted the peal at St. Sepulchre's, when he would have been something between five and fifteen years old. Actually he was born in 1703 and died in 1756.

This statement has done perhaps more than anything else to discredit the claim of the College Youths to have rung the first five-thousand ever accomplished; but I think the evidence for it is sufficient, and there is good reason for believing it to have been a true peal, though it was not 'with two singles,' and, of course, Annable had nothing to do with it. Strictly speaking, it was not Plain Bob Triples.

The statement that Annable composed 'the first peal of Grandsire Triples which though false was held in great repute until Mr. Holt's peal was produced,' is based on a misreading of what the authors of the 'Clavis' say. They did not know very much about the matter, but the false peal they were referring to was the composition in 'The Campanalogia' of 1702. It is there given as a half-peal and is true, but was often rung doubled by singles when it is false. Annable's peal is true. It is a bob-and-single peal somewhat older than Holt's, and there seems to be no record of it ever having been rung.

The statement that Stedman printed his peals on paper and distributed them throughout the country was made by Shipway on the authority of Parnell. There is no reason to think it was more than a guess, and it is not very probable. There was but one edition of Stedman's 'Campanalogia.' The Society of Hertford College Youths was not a branch of the London society, though it borrowed the name, and the chair at the annual dinner was never once taken by the Marquis of Salisbury, though on one occasion, when he was still only an earl, he was present. Lord Dacre then presided.

All through the manuscript the writer gives rein to his imagination when he thinks he can magnify the importance of the society by bringing in the names of big people, and nowhere more so than in his account of the visit to York in 1787. Osborn tells us what actually happened, and he evidently derived his information directly or at secondhand from William Lyford, John Inville and Joseph Holdsworth, who were in the band.

A new ring of bells was hung in the Parish Church of Halifax, and the College Youths made the long journey down to the north to the opening. They rang a peal of Treble Bob on October 10th, and then went on to York where, two days later, they accomplished a peal of Grandsire Caters at the Minster. The visit attracted some attention in the city and came to the notice of the Archbishop, Dr. William Markham, who sent them a couple of guineas to drink his health. The College Youths ac-

knowledgeed his generosity, but refused the money, because they considered themselves above that sort of thing and did not wish to be classed with the men who rang for what they could get out of it. It was characteristic of them, and the story rings true, but Marshall turns it into a tale of 'marked distinction and hospitality by the Arch-



THE TOWER OF ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, SNOW HILL
Where the first peal was rung.

bishop of York, the Bishops of Norwich, Oxford and Shrewsbury and most of the principal gentry of the county.' One rather wonders where he got all those prelates from, especially as there was not, and never had been, a Bishop of Shrewsbury. Perhaps the explanation is that about this time the College Youths paid visits to the towns named, and the writer, or his informants, muddled up the accounts.

Most of the men who are said to have 'patronised' the society apparently had little or nothing to do with it.

Sir Matthew Hale's name does not appear among the members, but it is not impossible that in his young days he may have belonged to it. Dean Aldrich almost certainly had nothing to do with it; Francis Marshall evidently included his name because the words of his catch, The Bonny Christchurch Bells, are given in the appendix to the 'Clavis.' 'F. Powell' was John Powell Powell, of Quex Park who, after being a Cumberland Youth for almost all his ringing career, joined the College Youths towards its close; as did William Shipway.

Lord Fitzroy Somerset was a soldier, who served on Wellington's staff throughout the Peninsula War, and lost an arm at Waterloo. He commanded the English army in the Crimea and died there in 1855. Judge Park was Sir James Alan Park, a celebrated high court judge in the early years of the nineteenth century. What connection these two latter had with the society cannot be said, but it must have been slight.

Mr. Justice Park was 'a lawyer of the old school, with prejudices of the oldest.' 'He was singularly like His Majesty King George III., a fact of which he was proud. He was well versed in the more abstruse branches of the profession, and was generally respected by the public and the bar.' Deeply, but narrowly religious, hot-tempered, irritable and rather old-womanish, with much self-complacency, he was sometimes led by his failings into ludicrous positions. A good tale is told to illustrate this side of his character. In one of the cases before him a little girl was called as a witness. It was his duty, before allowing her to give evidence, to make sure that she understood the nature of an oath, and, following the usual custom, he began to question her about religion and

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT GUILD. MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

On Saturday, October 25th, the East Grinstead and District Guild held a meeting in the belfry of St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, and although the attendance was rather poor, some good practice was obtained on both handbells and the eight silent tower bells. The main attraction was an octave of miniature handbells belonging to Mr. E. J. Ladd.

Tea was partaken of in St. Peter's Parish Hall, and although a rather large party had been catered for, those present soon showed themselves capable of eating double rations.

The main item of business was the appointment of a new treasurer in the place of Mr. R. D. Divall, who is being called up for military duties. After some discussion Mr. E. J. Oliver was appointed for the duration of war, and the moneys in the P.O. Savings Bank were transferred to the joint care of Messrs. E. J. Oliver and A. L. Ryman.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to Mr. E. J. Ladd and Mr. B. Collison for silencing the bells, and to the St. Peter's ringers for defraying part cost of teas. Further ringing in the tower brought the meeting to a close. The following towers were represented: East Grinstead, Hartfield, Penshurst, Lanberhurst, Wadhurst and the local company.

BELLS AS DEODANDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article in your issue of October 17th, Ellacombe's 'Church Bells of Devon' states that at Axminster in 1662 John Brocas, while ringing the present (1864) fifth bell was strangled by the rope. The King claimed the bell as a deodand. The judges differed in opinion, and the bell remained in the church.

In 1898 when the remaining bells were recast by Mears the old fifth was spared from the furnace and hung above the new octave. Doubtless some of my fellow Devonians can confirm whether it still there.

E. J. TAYLOR.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

whether she said her prayers. 'What do you do, my little maid,' he asked kindly, beaming at her with all the animation of his lively countenance, 'just before you get into bed?' The court tittered and the child blushed red with confusion, but the judge in his simplicity noticed nothing and repeated the question. Then he got his answer, but it was not the one he was expecting.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. W. H. Barber, who reached his sixty-fifth birthday last Tuesday.

On November 1st, 1831, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, in that city. It was for long supposed to be the longest length in the method, but 60 years earlier 6,720 changes had been rung on the same bells.

The first peal by the Middlesex Association was rung on November 1st, 1889. This was one of the two societies which united to form the present Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major in the Southern Hemisphere was rung on Nov. 2nd, 1934, at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, Tasmania. A previous attempt had been lost after nearly three hours owing to the treble slipping wheel. The Rector, Archdeacon Blackwood, was surprised that it did not count, since the bells were going for a longer time than in the previous completed peal.

The first name peal on ten bells was rung by eleven Williams belonging to the Cumberland Youths at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on November 3rd, 1796. William Shipway conducted.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung on November 5th, 1821, at St. Peter's, Huddersfield. On the same date 34 years earlier 6,048 changes of Cambridge had been rung at Sheffield. That peal was false.

The Australian tourists rang another peal at Hobart (Bob Major this time) on November 6th, 1934.

Fifty years ago to-day 13 peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Union Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 3, Grandsire Caters 2, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

One of the Grandsire Caters was at St. Giles', Camberwell, and was Mr. James E. Davis' first peal on ten bells.

The first peal on the heavy ring at Wells Cathedral was rung fifty years ago last Tuesday.

MR. ISAAC EMERY.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Emery will be pleased to hear that a letter was read at the Kent County Association meeting at Chislehurst on October 25th, in which he said that he was leaving hospital that day, though he would not be able to come to the meeting. Mr. Emery has had a long spell in hospital, but we hope he will be permanently better for his recent severe operation.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP OF LONDON SOCIETIES.

A ROLL OF HONOUR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As opinion is divided with regard to the deletion of the rule banning joint membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Youths, could not a scheme be devised whereby this ban could be overcome in respect of distinguished ringers who have done well by the Exercise?

I would suggest that membership might be offered to noteworthy ringers of either society without the penalty of resigning or being struck off the other society's books.

Such persons as might be invited to join in this way could be regarded as forming a 'roll of honour' among ringers, and the invitation be looked on as some slight recognition of their services.

Should a scheme of this nature be formulated, perhaps the names of persons so elected could be published at the Central Council meetings annually.

Sutton, Surrey.

Hon. Sec., Royal Cumberland Youths.

THE PARSON'S JOB.

'NOTHING LIKE IT.'

How would you like a country parson's job? It's a busy life whatever we may think of it. Services, sermons, christenings, weddings, funerals—they are only part of his work. The villagers bring their troubles to him, he has to be something of a Solomon in judgment, he has a finger in nearly every activity in the parish, and he is at it often from morning to night, seven days a week.

What do the parsons themselves think of it? One of them at a recent ringers' meeting in his parish said in the course of conversation, when a reference had been made to his multifarious duties and the calls upon his time, 'Well, it's exacting and strenuous and I feel there is nothing like it, but sometimes, on the other hand—well, I still feel there's nothing like it.'

A CANDIDATE FOR CONVOCATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While parliamentary elections are having a quiet time, the clergy of the Salisbury Diocese have the excitement of a keenly contested election, no less than five candidates competing for a seat in Convocation. Needless to say, each has issued a circular stating his aims and qualifications—one of them indeed two or three circulars.

One of the five has added the postscript: 'I shall also endeavour to look after the interests of "the Exercise."' This is a refreshing innovation and will commend itself to one or two of your recent correspondents. We may well say, 'Other candidates for Convocation, please copy.'

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

WELLS CATHEDRAL. A NOBLE PEAL OF BELLS.

Last Tuesday was the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the bells at Wells Cathedral after they had been rehung and augmented to ten. For many years previously they had been the heaviest octave in England, the tenor weighing 56½ cwt. Some of them were cast by Thomas Purdue in 1673, two were by Abel Rudhall in 1757, and the two tenors were by Taylors, of Loughborough, in 1877.

In 1891 the bells had become unringable and the job of restoration was entrusted to Blackburn and Greenleaf, of Salisbury, who supplied a cast-iron frame. The two new trebles were by Mears and Stainbank.

A special band belonging to the Oxford Diocesan Guild was engaged for the opening, and after the dedication a peal of Stedman Caters was started for, with James W. Washbrook as conductor. He called his own composition and he attempted to ring the heavy tenor single-handed.

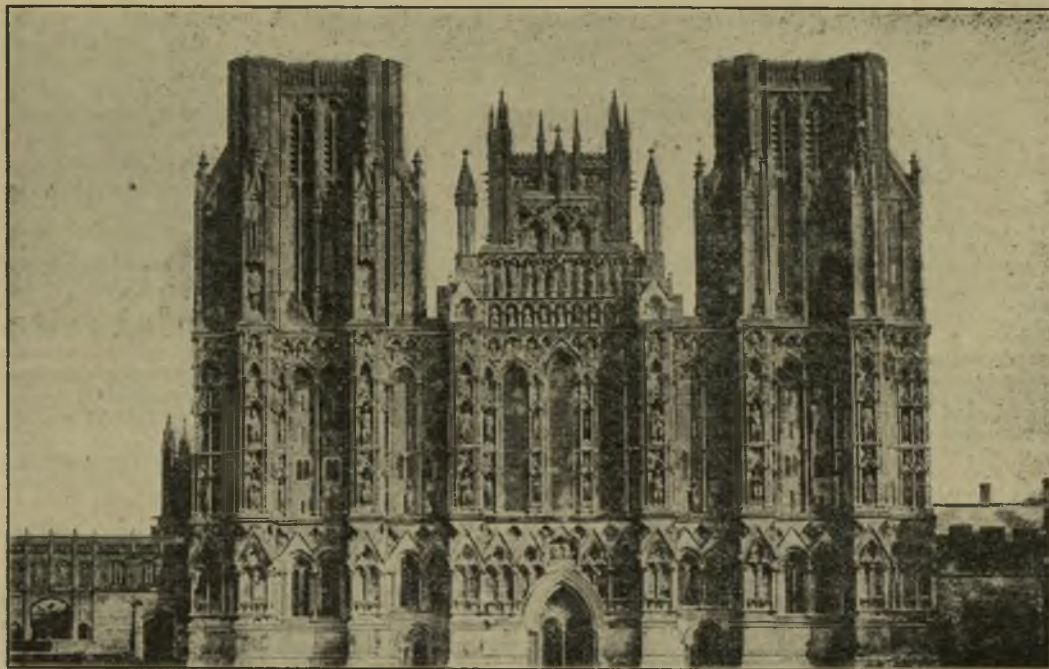
The rest of the band was: Fred White 1, G. H. Philott 2, Charles Hounslow 3, the Rev. H. A. Cockey 4, the Rev. F. E. Robinson 5, William W. Gifford 6, James Hinton 7, and Richard T. Hibbert 9.

The band was a picked one, drawn from several towers. Hounslow and Washbrook came from Oxford, White from Appleton, Blackburn and Gifford from Salisbury, Hinton from Bristol, Hibbert from Reading, Philott from Cheltenham, and Robinson from Drayton. Each was a leading man in his home belfry.

Washbrook rang the tenor single-handed for three and a quarter hours, and then turned her over to William Greenleaf. It was a magnificent heavy bell performance, for with the old style of plain bearings it was very rare indeed for a bell to go well until it had been rung for some time. Four years later Washbrook completely eclipsed this feat and actually turned the bell single-handed in to a peal of Treble Bob Royal. This has often been stated to be the finest heavy bell performance on record.

The day following the Stedman Caters at the Cathedral Washbrook rang the 28 cwt. tenor at St. Cuthbert's to Double Norwich Major. Robinson was at the sixth and Mr. Tom Hibbert at the seventh. On the next day Stedman Triples was rung at Prestbury, and another peal of Stedman Caters at Cheltenham in the evening. All the peals during the visit were composed and called by Washbrook.

Only a very few peals have been rung since at Wells Cathedral, all of them Caters.



THE FINE WEST FRONT OF WELLS CATHEDRAL. THE BELLS ARE IN THE RIGHT-HAND TOWER.

INFORMATION WANTED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Can any reader supply the answers to the following questions: 1. Is there a peal of six anywhere lighter than the six at Tetworth, Bucks, tenor 4 cwt. 2 gr. 25 lb.; if so, where, and weight of tenor? It should be a ringing peal and not a chime or hung 'dead.'

2. Which are the heaviest five and which are the lightest five hung for ringing; weights of tenors?

3. Which is the smallest tower in the country in which a ringing peal is hung, the number of bells contained, weight of tenor, the interior measurements of the bell chamber, the thickness of its walls and, if known, its height? I have heard say it is in Devon or Cornwall.

4. Which is the largest tower, number of bells contained and interior measurements of bell chamber.

5. If another church exists in England besides that at Bromham, Beds, which is dedicated to St. Owen, and, if so, where?

'ENQUIRER.'

IPSWICH RINGERS WED.

The wedding took place at All Saints' Church, Ipswich, on Saturday, October 25th, of Sergt. Ernest A. Hardman, R.A., and Corpl. Bertha Reeve, A.T.S., of Chingford, Essex. The bride is well known as a member of the St. Matthew's Church company and St. Mary-le-Tower Society. Another well-known member of the Ipswich companies of St. Clement's and St. Mary-le-Tower, Corpl. Herbert Shemming, of the Suffolk Regt., was also recently married.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Melbourne St. Paul's Cathedral Society was held in the vestry of the Cathedral on Tuesday evening, Aug. 5th.

The Precentor, the Rev. H. O. Hole, occupied the chair, and the following members were present: Messrs. J. W. Spencer, W. Hall, F. Broughton, A. Reeder, W. Waghorn, E. Behan, T. Trotter, A. Hurford, J. Trotter and E. Knott.

The balance sheet showed a balance of £10 12s. 1d.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Captain, Mr. J. W. Spencer; vice-captain, Mr. A. Reeder; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Waghorn; steeplekeeper, Mr. T. Trotter; committee, Mr. E. Knott, Mr. F. Broughton and Mr. H. Ross.

It was agreed to make Mr. W. H. Preston, an old member of the society, a life member.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Mr. J. Murray would be 80 years of age on February 12th next, and the members decided to celebrate the event, as Mr. Murray is still an active member.

The members were pleased to hear of the recovery of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, a life member of this society, after his operation, and hoped he will permanently be restored to health.

The members of the society wish to convey their best wishes to life members in England.

Since the annual meeting the passing away has been announced of Mr. W. H. Preston, one of the oldest ringers, who had been ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral for the past 40 years, aged 73 years. Mr. W. H. Preston came from Chatham, Kent, England.

A VILLAGE MEETING. DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME. Bells as Warning 100 Years Ago.

A handful of members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild met in the village of Chobham, Surrey, on Saturday, and, small though the gathering was, they did not regret their trouble. Chobham is in the Chertsey District and is not an easy place to get at (for it has no railway station), unless, of course, you have a car and petrol, a bicycle, a good pair of legs or a lot of patience to wait for the bus. Even the planning of the meeting was not easy and Mr. Frank Hawthorne, the district secretary, had his arrangements nearly knocked on the head at the last moment. The ringing 'room,' which is a gallery overlooking the interior of the church, was not available for handbell practice owing to two weddings, so last minute resort was had to a school classroom, where, in the interests of economy, there was no fire. But it served, although two of the early visitors quickly decided they had had enough and went home. They vanished on a bus just as another contingent arrived. The newcomers might have done the same thing, for the change of venue was unknown, and after inquiring at the church and the neighbouring inn without result, they found the secretary scouring the village street for stray ringers. Then another useful hour in handbell ringing was put in.

While this was in progress the secretary visited the four village 'pubs' in turn before at length persuading the landlady of one to provide a tea, which in due course she did, and did well.

The little party attended a special service, which the Vicar (the Rev. F. T. Robinson) kindly added to his numerous engagements for the afternoon. He used a shortened form of the Guild's service, pitched the note for the two hymns (which the congregation of eight ringers sang unaccompanied with great success), and then gave a short address from the chancel step. That service was typical of the spirit which animated the little gathering—sincerity and determination.

The Vicar referred to the fact that the bells had been stopped by the necessities of war and the activities of the bellringers throughout the country had been almost entirely suspended. It was, therefore, a fine thing to find the Guild were doing their best to keep the art and the Exercise going by means of handbells and maintaining interest. The abandonment of ringing was one of the sacrifices which we were having to make, and everyone was looking forward eagerly to the time when, please God, the bells would ring out for victory and peace and resume their place in interpreting the people's joys and sorrows.

After the service the ringers had their hastily provided tea at the King's Arms, being generously entertained by the Guild hon. treasurer (Mr. J. Corbett), who presided over a brief business meeting, at which the retiring district officers were renominated en bloc. The election will take place at the annual meeting in the new year.

Mr. Corbett was also cordially thanked for his kindness.

During the visit of the ringers it was discovered that in Chobham, at any rate, history was repeating itself. An old minute book has revealed that in the troublous days of 1830 a resolution was passed by the 'Chobham Association for Detecting and Prosecuting Rioters and Incendiaries' appointing 'fire watchers' (fire raising being one of the weapons of those who were in rebellion against the existing order of things) and forming a body of men to go in search of the criminals. This 'Home Guard' was to be called out by 'ringing the bells of the parish church confusedly.'

Chobham, like other parishes, has once more got its wardens, its fire watchers and its Home Guard, with the bells ready to give a warning if need be.

The resolution of the Chobham Association was worded as follows: 'That if any tumultuous or riotous assembling of the people should take place alarm be forthwith given by ringing confusedly the parish bells and messengers be dispatched to give information to the representative leaders.'

The Vicar who presided over the vestry meeting in 1830, when that resolution was passed, was Charles J. Jerram, who had been Vicar since 1810. He was followed by his son Thomas in 1834, who in turn was succeeded in 1854 by another member of the family, S. J. Jerram, who was incumbent until 1880. The latter's son, Sir Martin Jerram, who was born in Chobham, commanded the second battle squadron at the Battle of Jutland, and flew his flag in the King George V. He was made G.C.M.G. for his services, and his banner of the Order hangs at the entrance to the chancel in Chobham Church. The portraits of all these hang in the vestry.

There is still a link of more than four hundred years in history in Chobham steeple, for in the present ring of eight is a bell cast by William Culverden, brazier, of London, who died in 1522. It bears his shield, which embodies a bell and a rebus of his name, and an inscription in large crowned capitals, 'Sancta Mergereta Ora Pro Nobis.' There are also two bells by Richard Eldridge from the Wokingham foundry dated 1597 and another cast in 1610, while, when the foundry had moved to Chertsey, William Eldridge, his grandson, cast a further bell in 1684, all these, of course, being replacements, for in the Edward VI. inventory there were already four bells 'whereof the best waies ix. c. and the rest one under another according to the rate.' The 1597 bells are inscribed, 'Oure hope is in the lorde,' and the 1610 bell, 'In trouble and adversitie the lord god heare thee.' The pre-Reformation bell is now the sixth in the octave, an additional bell having been put in in 1684 and the three trebles added within the last fifty years or so.

WREN'S CHURCHES.

REBUILDING CONDEMNED.

St. Bride's as a Museum?

Should Wren's city churches, now in ruins as the result of enemy action, be rebuilt? Challenging views on the restoration of these and other historic buildings were, says 'The Daily Telegraph,' expressed by Mr. John Summerson, deputy director of the National Buildings Record, at a meeting of the Architectural Association in London.

He thought that the City churches, about half of which had now been destroyed by enemy action, should not, generally speaking, be rebuilt except in the few cases where a substantial part of the old structure and fittings had survived.

'The quality of Wren's churches varies enormously,' he said. 'Some were probably merely given a shape by him and the execution left to someone else. The whole world admires St. Stephen's, Walbrook, but I doubt if anybody has seen much to admire in St. Mary Aldermary or St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.'

St. Bride's, Fleet Street, or Christ Church, Greyfriars, might be rebuilt as a Wren museum. Models of all the other churches, vanished or still existing, could be placed there, and the body of the church used as a concert hall.

There was sure to be a great drive from some quarters after the war for rebuilding Wren churches as they were, but 'we must keep in front of our minds the element of futility this would involve.'

Mr. Summerson was not enthusiastic for the preservation of houses in which great men had been born or lived. Birthplaces were usually the least significant structures in a man's life.

CHURCH BELLS AND AIR RAIDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your list of churches whose bells were destroyed during air raids no mention is made of the peal of six at St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool. This church was completely devastated by fire, only the walls and tower being left standing. They were a peal by Rudhall with a tenor of 9 cwt. and for many years were rung by a very excellent local company. They were cast, I believe, in 1736 and sent from Gloucester to Liverpool by canal. The first 5,040 i seven methods in Lancashire was rung on the bells on January 20th, 1891.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LONDON'S LOSS.

Dear Sir,—In your list of bells destroyed in air raids you omit two London peals which you have already told us have been destroyed. They are St. George's-in-the-East and St. John the Divine, Kennington. Many of your readers would, I am sure, like to know what has happened to the bells at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green; St. Mary's, Islington; St. Vedast's, Foster Lane; and St. Alphage's, Greenwich, all of which churches have been at different times reported as being destroyed. Can you or anyone else give us any information about these bells?

There are also other churches and bells in London that we should be relieved to know are safe. Has anything happened to St. James', Bermondsey; St. Paul's, Shadwell; All Saints', Poplar; Christ Church, Isle of Dogs; Holy Trinity, Newington; St. Mary's, Rotherhithe; St. Nicholas', Deptford; and St. George's and St. Giles', Camberwell? If any ringers could let us know that all or any of these churches with their bells are safe we should be very much relieved.

'LONDON COUNTY.'

BICENTENARY OF A CATLIN PEAL.

The bells in the Parish Church of Horsell, Surrey, will shortly reach their 200th birthday. But unless something happens quickly—which is not likely—they will not ring to celebrate this auspicious anniversary.

At the time of the Edwardian inventory there were three bells in the steeple, 'the best bie extymacion,' 14 cwt. In addition, there was a saunce bell and two sacring bells. Later the three were increased to four, which in turn were taken down on October 23rd, 1741, and replaced by six new ones, which were rung for the first time on December 14th, 1741. They were cast by Robert Catlin and are now the only complete six by this founder in Surrey. They all bear Catlin's name or initials. The tenor has the names of the churchwardens, but the name of the Vicar does not appear on either of them.

Typical of the style of inscriptions of those days are those on the 3rd and 4th: 'Prosperity to the parish of Horsell,' 'Health and prosperity to all our benefactors.'

HANDLING A BELL.—It has been justly observed that an awkward and ungraceful method of ringing is frequently acquired by attempting to ring rounds and changes before the practitioner is capable of properly managing a bell. It would be well for young practitioners to notice such ringers as have an easy and agreeable pull with them, and imitate their example.—William Shipway.

BELLS AS NECESSITIES.

WHAT ARE RINGERS DOING ABOUT IT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We are hearing a lot in these days about bells as luxuries, or otherwise, but the arguments which we are getting do not seem to lead us anywhere. The discussion seems to give your correspondent 'Anti-Silent' opportunity for belabouring his opponents with a big stick and of flinging at them accusations like 'Quislings of the Exercise,' which are cheap but not very effective. I believe 'Anti-Silent' began this discussion, and he ought not to become so annoyed, as he apparently is, with those who disagree with him. (I suppose I shall now come in for castigation.) But doesn't the whole thing boil down to this: One side looks at the question, 'Are bells luxuries?' from the aspect of ringers, the other side is looking at it from the immediate position of the Church?

To ringers the necessity for bells is as important as the bat and ball to the cricketer or his clubs to the golfer. It is heresy to suggest to ringers that bells are luxuries, and I must admit that personally I am surprised that any ringer has the temerity to suggest that they are. It is the Church authorities, however, who are primarily responsible for this attitude of looking upon bells as luxuries, and it is those and most of all the ringers who do not share this view who should try and convince them otherwise.

But what are ringers doing about it? As far as I can see, very little. Some of them are moaning over the seeming indifference of churchmen in the matter, but in how many cases, I wonder, have serious representations been made to the parochial councils on the subject of the insurance of the bells? How many associations have taken any action to support their local branches in this matter, and what has the Central Council done about it? The Council, surely, as the central authority of the Exercise, ought long ago to have taken this question up through the channels which are open to them. They are in a position to approach the highest ecclesiastical quarters, where, if their representations have any weight at all, they could make their voice heard.

Ringers, associations, Central Council, what have they done? And echo answers, 'What?'

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Ewell on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells were put to good use in the tower in the afternoon, and courses and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples and Bob Minor and Major were rung.

After a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. G. Holland, 25 ringers representing Banstead, Beddington, Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Epsom (Christ Church), Ewell, Kingston and Leatherhead in the North-Western District, Bletchingley, Merstham and Reigate in the Southern District, and West Grinstead, sat down to an enjoyable meal despite somewhat crowded accommodation.

Following tea a short business meeting of the North-Western District was held, presided over by the District Master, Mr. D. Cooper.

Before commencing the business those present stood for a few moments as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. F. G. Woodiss, who had passed away since the last meeting.

Messrs. J. Prior, of London, and H. Jones, of Croydon, were elected ringing members, and Mr. Edgar R. Rapley, of West Grinstead, was elected a compounding member of the association.

The following nominations were received for district officers for 1942: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. H. N. Pitstow; committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Messrs. C. Potheary, F. E. Collins, W. Massey and H. V. Young.

It was proposed that Mr. D. Cooper should act as secretary when the present district secretary joins His Majesty's Forces. Those present extended to the secretary their best wishes for a safe and speedy return.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Leatherhead, probably during March. Croydon was chosen as an alternative place.

The subject of the revision of the association's service forms was discussed, and the committee was asked to consider the matter further, particularly regarding the selection of hymns and tunes.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar for conducting the service and for welcoming the association to the parish, to Mrs. J. Beams for the loan of her late husband's handbells, to Mrs. Sycamore for the excellent catering arrangements, and to Mr. C. E. Read for making all other arrangements.

Handbells were again utilised until about 8.30 in methods up to Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

ANCIENT OAK BEAMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here are two passages which may provide Mr. Alsop with an answer to his enquiry.

'On the Blackmoor estate there is a small wood called Losel's, of a few acres, that was lately furnished with a set of oaks of a peculiar growth and great value: they were tall and tapered like firs, but, standing near together, had very small heads, only a little brush without any large limbs. About 20 years ago the bridge near Hampton Court being much decayed, some trees were wanted for the repairs that were 50ft. long without bough and would measure 12in. diameter at the little end. Twenty such trees did a purveyor find in this little wood, with this advantage, that many of them answered the description at 60ft. These trees were sold for £20 apiece.'—'Natural History of Selborne,' Penguin Edition, 1941, pp. 16-17.

'... the Gelenos oak ... stood about four miles from Newport, Monmouthshire, cut down in 1810, yielded 2,426 cubic feet of sound timber and six tons of bark, which realised about £600. The timber and bark from this one tree were about equal to the average produce of three acres of oak coppice after 15 years' growth.'—'Observer's Book of Trees and Shrubs,' Warne.

Oaks, of course, may take a matter of centuries to produce timber of any great value, and the maximum height of these trees is only attained in woodland-forest conditions. Oaks growing in the open spread branches laterally and developed thick short boles. The disappearance of the originally extensive oak forests in Britain appears to date back to pre-Roman times, since evidence of iron smelting in the weald of Kent at this period indicates the use of wood in charcoal burning. Ever since this early period increasing demands for timber have greatly reduced the woodland areas, until to-day very few 'natural' woodlands exist, nearly all being plantations.

If planted for timber, the tendency would be to fell much earlier than in natural forest, and hence a decrease in the number of 'out-size' oaks.

An interesting account of the history of British vegetation—especially woodland—occurs in 'The British Islands and Their Vegetation,' A. G. Tansley, Camb. Univ. Press, 1939.

D. G. BROWN.

24, Edward Street, Warwick.

DEATH OF MANCHESTER RINGER.

LEADER AT BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH.

Many bellringers in Lancashire and Cheshire will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Charles Ollier, at the age of 77 years, at the home of his son, 26, Marland Crescent, Reddish, Lancashire, on October 25th.

The funeral service was held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, Manchester, on October 28th, prior to the interment at the Gorton Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. Fred Cottier, who recalled the fact that Mr. Ollier, well-known in bellringing circles, was a member of the Brookfield Church band for over forty years, and up to the time when the war emergency silenced the bells was acting leader of the band.

Mr. Ollier began ringing at the early age of 15 years at the village church of Church-Lawton in the Potteries, where he was born, and was a well-known figure in most of the belfries in the district as a frequent and welcome ringing visitor.

His business brought him to Manchester in the year 1900, and he lost no time in becoming a member of the band at Brookfield Unitarian Church, Gorton. In all he had taken an active part in over sixty peals, one of which was rung on the occasion of the death of Queen Victoria. He was an interested member of the Lancashire Association and Chester Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Ollier was held in high esteem and respect by all who came in contact with him as a tactful leader and proficient ringer. At his funeral it was, of course, impossible for the church bells to be rung, but three of his belfry colleagues, with Mr. A. Barnes, rang rounds on handbells in the church as a token and tribute to a loyal, steadfast and excellent ringer and friend.

F. C.
Mr. Ollier's peals were rung for the Stoke Archidiaconal Association, the Chester Diocesan Guild and the Lancashire Association, and were as follows: Minor in three methods 1, Grandsire Triples 16 (conducted 2), Bob Triples 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1 (1), Stedman Triples 6, Bob Major 9 (1), Kent Treble Bob Major 21 (1), Oxford Treble Bob Major 3, Double Norwich Major 6 (1), Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Grandsire Caters 2, Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, total 69, conducted 6.

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

(Continued from page 527.)

Francis Roberts' discovery of the plan of bringing Grandsire Caters round at hand is of great importance, and great credit is due to the inventor. To be able to bring the bells round in five leads was an immense improvement. The bells could remain in the Tittums until the very last few leads, the clumsy unmusical homing course was avoided, and the peal could roll home with dignity and grace.

The method of bringing the bells round at handstroke used by Roberts we do not know, but the following plans are to be found in common use in the works of George Gross, John Reeves and John Martin. The first of these is the familiar 'Round by 9th in and out at 2,' from 42563978, and the other is 'Round at hand from 62354978 by bobs at 2,9,10.'

The three composers mentioned above, the suave John Reeves, stout old John Martin, of Leicester, and that grand ringer and composer, George Gross, all flourished towards the end of the 18th century, and have left among their works evidence of their labours on Grandsire Caters. John Reeves was part author of the 'Clavis' (1788), and that work contains specimens of his compositions. His well-known 5,040 follows the plan of Annable and Holt, falls into five parts, and comes round from 42356978 by bobs at 3,9,11. More noteworthy, if not so regular, is his 5,003, being the first evidence of a peal of Caters of the minimum length.

The number of changes is 5,003. The peal is in four parts. The first, consisting of 13 courses, starts with bobs at 1,4,5, and then has two 78's and two 89's alternately, and ends with the lead-end 24637589.

The second part has a bob at 1; and then eleven courses with two 89's and two 78's alternately and finishing with three 89's.

The third part, consisting of ten courses, is called as the first ten of the first part, except that it starts with a bob at 1.

The fourth part is as the first, except that the first course has a bob at 7 only. The part-end is 42563978, and from it the bells are brought round by calling the 9th in and out at 2.

Some apology was deemed necessary at the publication of a peal of less than 5,040, for a footnote to the above is given as follows:—

'It was a maxim formerly, not to constitute any number of changes of a peal, that is under 5,040, the extent that seven bells will produce, no practitioner would think of ringing a less number than the whole, for a peal of Triples; but it is no reason why it should be the standard for a greater number of bells, for if 5,600 changes are rung, it is only deemed by the Exercise a five thousand; therefore, why not as near five thousand as possible; this

certainly is reason sufficient to constitute 5,000 changes a peal, and is as worthy of record as 5,040.'

Comforted by this reflection, Reeves goes on to give a 5,021, a 5,039, and several longer lengths all round at hand, including a 5,165, in which the homing course is as given here.

Very little advance is made from the old plan. The alternate two-course method is still followed, the bell behind the 9th regarded as of very little importance, and real use of the 5th still not apprehended. The following comment on the 5,003 shows

this clearly:—

'It may be observed in the above peal there are only four bells behind the ninth, viz., first the fifth, next the third, then the fourth, and lastly the sixth; so that the second is omitted; therefore, as it is unnecessary to use any more in peals of five thousand, we shall vary them, as some prefer the music of one bell behind the ninth, and some another.'

George Gross was a prominent member of the Cumberland Youths. He was distinguished as a composer and conductor in all the standard methods on 8, 10 and 12 bells, and rang 142 peals. To the record of his last peal is added the following tribute:—

'On the third of May died Mr. George Gross, sen., who served the Society as Warner for twenty years, and by his abilities as Composer and bob-caller caused the fame of this Society to be extended through these kingdoms. His compositions in this Art are held in the highest estimation by all admirers of this Exercise: But more especially for his productions in Treble Bob, in which he surpassed all his contemporaries, and which will ever remain a lasting monument to his skill.'

Alas! his Treble Bob compositions have not remained as a monument. They are lost, a regrettable state of affairs, which Jasper Snowdon deeply deplored.

Gross left, nevertheless, a fine peal of Grandsire Caters, a 7,001, which he conducted at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on November 13th, 1773.

		7,001.	
23456789		26543978	1,4.
		56342	89
34256789	89	35642	9-3
24653	97	65243	89
46253	89	25346	89
56472938	38	32546	9-3
64572938	38	52643	89
52643	89	62345	89
26543	89	36245	9-3
65243	89	23645	9-3
		63542	89
		53246	89

The last twelve courses four times repeated, calling the first course 8-3, producing 42563. Round as usual.

George Gross.

It will be seen at a glance that this peal breaks new ground. The use of short courses is the precursor of the modern plan, and the old method of placing a new bell behind the 9th by calling the 7th to dodge in 89 up (and

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so cutting out the course-end) has given place to the more graceful 8-3 course. The peal contains the 60 eight-nines and the 60 nine-seven-eights.

The Tittum position was so excellent and so much admired that it was deeply regretted that not more than some 6,000 changes could be obtained with 789 undisturbed. The only way in which longer lengths could be secured was by introducing sections of non-Tittum music. Reeves and Gross tacked the extra portions on to the front of the peal (as will be seen in the 7,001). John Martin, as we shall see, adopted a plan all his own.

Martin was composer to the Leicester Scholars at the height of their fame towards the end of the 18th century. He composed the 6,012 of Grandsire Caters rung in 1776 and the famous 10,080, rung in 1777. His manuscript book is a most interesting piece of work, not only on account of the compositions, but also for the accompanying comments, which give a clear insight of the composer's mind. He gives two leads of the plain course with the following comment:—

'I have hear prick'd two leads in (full?) length that it may be adapted to the Method, the Remainder of ye course I have prick'd the Back Stroke Leads of ye Treble, as above.'

A bob block (four leads) is thus labelled:—

'These four leads are to Shoe ye Nature of a bob and how It is to Be Made according to the Method.'

His touches are built on a mixture of the long-course and short-course plans, and he uses 8-2 for placing a new bell behind the 9th; but his peals follow the traditional long-course plan.

A 5,040 by Martin starts with a course called 1,4 bringing up the course-end 43627589. Then follow five equal parts all of eight courses and all called alike, except that the first course of the first has bobs at 1,5 and the others at 7,11. The remainder of the courses are produced by one 8.9 and then two 78's and two 89's alternately.

5,039.

23456789		56234978	
43627589	1.4.	52364	7.12.
		23564	78
43526978	1.6.	53462	89
35426	78	43265	89
45623	89	32465	78
65324	89	24365	78
53624	78	34562	89
36524	78	45362	78
56423	89	35264	89
46325	89	25463	89
63425	78	54263	78
34625	78	42563	78
Repeat the last		Round by 9th in	
10 courses twice,		and out at 2.	
calling the first		John Martin, 1779.	
course 7,12, to pro-			
duce 56234.			

This 5,039 contains what Martin calls 'the Long Twelve Hundred Course with the 6th behind ye Ninth.'

This particular block of courses, to which frequent reference is made in the composer's book, was in his estimation, the very quintessence of Tittum ringing, and, as such, was very much to be desired. John Martin was the first composer to say quite plainly that he considered the

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Linton on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar) and business meeting.—C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Business meeting and election of officers afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available Church House at 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., Warburton's Cafe. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next silent ringing meeting is at Earl Shilton on Saturday, November 15th. Bells at 4.30 p.m. Handbells, etc., at the Plough during the evening. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by November 26th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

BIRTH.

POST.—At the Radcliffe Maternity Home, Oxford, on Tuesday, October 28th, to Dorothy Elizabeth, wife of Richard A. Post, a daughter (Valerie Joan).

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WANTED.—A set of 12 (or more) handbells (Mears for preference), in good condition.—Send particulars, including size, maker's name, etc., to J. S. Roberts, 134, Croft Road, Swindon, Wilts.

GRANDSIRE CATERS

(Continued from previous column.)

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(To be continued.)

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