THE RINGING WORLD

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HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

The activity of the Watford District has been one of the most encouraging signs of life in the Hertford County Association during the depression caused by the war. The district has met with considerable regularity and, while it has offered excellent opportunities for handbell practice by reason of the talented members who reside in the area, there must be something beyond this in its virility to continue to draw such excellent attendances at its meetings. On the last occasion that the district met it developed discussions on more than more subject; at least some formal resolutions were adopted. One expressed a desire for the publication in 'The Ringing World' of Dr. Slack's two-part peal of Stedman Triples, as marking an important development in the history of the method. While agreeing that this peal is something new in composition, its 'importance' as a development of Stedman Triples is not, we think, so obvious. Let us not be misunderstood. Dr. Slack's peal is the outcome of genius and skill, but it is not a development in composition which can have the effect, for instance, of the discovery of the twin-bob principle, or even of the application of odd-bob courses to peal construction. That, however, is not the reason why hitherto the figures of the peal have not appeared in our columns. We have felt that it would serve little if any useful purpose. To the ordinary reader, indeed even to the average conductor the mere printing of the figures would convey very little except the idea of an indigestible mass of six-ends. The peal has been called once, and few, if any, conductors, are likely to undertake it again, except maybe to add it to their records as something of a freak performance. Those who want to call it for this purpose can always obtain the figures from manuscript, and the composition might quite appropriately find a place in the Central Council library.

Another resolution of the meeting, and one which was carried unanimously, was an instruction to the district representatives on the association's committee to oppose the payment of the next subscription to the Central Council in view of the 'torpidity' of that body. It is true that the Council's activities have been almost, if not entirely, suspended owing to the war, but so have those of a good many associations, and it hardly seems loyal in days of stress to deny the Council support merely because the war has made it impossible to hold the customary meetings. After all, the subscription to the Council is little more than a 'token' contribution at any time, and while they complain of the ordinary members who make excuses in these days for not paying their dues, the associations themselves should set an example and meet their moral

(Continued on page 590.)

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responsibilities. It will be all the easier to get going again after the war if the Central Council can function as a fully organised body immediately the opportunity occurs. But if there are secessions now, time will be required to bring the Council back to its full representative strength at a moment when we may require it urgently to act as the mouthpiece of the Exercise in the days of reconstruction. The attitude of the Watford District is, we feel, particularly regrettable in that it sets a bad example not only in Hertfordshire, but to members of other associations who may be thinking of the present rather than the future.

Having said this, we must add that we do feel that ringers generally would welcome some greater signs of life than the executive of the Council has shown. It is not so much evidence of persistent activity that is required, because that is rendered impossible by the demands upon the members by the war effort, but it would be encouraging from time to time to learn what is going on quietly behind the scenes, for we do know that the interests of the Exercise have not been entirely neglected. If the Council as a body does not meet, it is only because it is felt that it would be wasted effort to try to call together a hundred or more members whose energies are bent on war work and who therefore could not give a couple of days each for such a purpose. That does not make it any the less desirable that the Exercise should know what the executive is doing to keep the organisation in being and in touch with the affairs which may have a serious influence on ringing in the future.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. F. I. HAIRS	1-2	R. GORDON CROSS	5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS	3-4	MRS. R. G. CROSS	7-8

Conducted by FRANK I. HAIRS.

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

On Tuesday, December 2, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 17 in A.

ROYSTON G. BRYANT... ...	1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER	5-6
*THOMAS HARRIS	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT...	7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First handbell peal away from 1-2. Rung to commemorate the forming of the Guild in November, 1940.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 5, 1941, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT	1-2	R. GORDON CROSS	5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS	3-4	MRS. F. I. HAIRS...	7-8

Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from page 581.)

THE NAMES ON THE TITLE PAGE.

William Jones cherished two great ambitions. One was to issue a really good book on ringing; the other was to be the most important and prominent man among London ringers. These two ambitions merged into each other and contributed to each other.

The leadership he aimed at was not the sort that Benjamin Annable or George Partrick had exercised. Annable was leader of the London Exercise by virtue of being the most skilful ringer, the best conductor, and the most outstanding composer. When he spoke men listened because they recognised him as an authority. Jones had no such qualifications. He was a good ringer, a competent conductor, and he knew something about composition, but there were several other men who far surpassed him in these things. He was no heavy-bell ringer, and he did not take part in any of the peals of outstanding merit, such as the Cambridge Surprise at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, or the Stedman Caters at Horsleydown. What he aimed at was to be the patron of other ringers, to get together the most skilful band possible and to share vicariously in the glory of their achievements.

In this ambition he had no small degree of success. Rather pompous and superior in manner and dictatorial in temper, for a time he dominated a large and important number of first-class ringers. There is nothing elsewhere like the record of fulsome flattery which the peal board at Horsleydown paid him—he at the time still living and a comparatively young man. 'May this panel (so it read) transmit their names (those of the men who rang in the peal) to posterity with that of the ingenious Mr. W. Jones (who did not take part) on whose abilities his inimitable commentaries so happily concludes with: Here the Cynic and the Panegyrist stop and join in eulogies to such distinguished merit.'

But the position was a radically unsound one. The leading London ringers were far too independent and individualistic and the traditions of the old companies, especially of the College Youths, far too strong for a patron to be permanently possible, and when the crisis came Jones' ambitions and dreams of domination crumbled into nothing.

The character and personality of John Reeves are one of the enigmas of the history of London ringing. His record shows that he was a keen and skilful ringer; we know that he had a first-class mathematical brain; and he ranks as one of the foremost composers of all time. But of the man himself we know almost nothing. He was born about 1740, and he died about 1820. He lived at Whitechapel or nearby; he joined the Cumberlands in 1761; and from then until the time of his death he was one of the best-known ringers in the metropolis.

But what sort of a man he was, what his station in life, what his trade or occupation, what degree of education he possessed—these things we do not know. There are no tales told about him, no traditions, no letters or manuscripts of his survive. At one time or another he held the foremost place in each of the leading companies except the 'junior' Society of College Youths; but he never held that position for long, and the last ten years and more of his ringing career were spent in obscurity, only relieved by two performances of outstanding interest.

We are rather compelled to suspect some defect or deficiency in the man's make-up. It may have been a domineering or quarrelsome nature; or a bitter or sarcastic tongue; or just merely coldness and lack of sympathy which failed to attract men, and gave to his rivals a decisive advantage. It is significant that, though his peals were widely know and widely rung, yet ringers in general seem to have been chary of allowing him any credit for them; his name is never mentioned as the composer, except on one or two occasions when he himself called the bobs; and it was not until his old age that Shipway in his book generously acknowledged his outstanding merits.

Though the evidence is so very weak, I am inclined to think that Reeves belonged to the lower orders, that, like John Holt, he was without any particular education, and that his success was due to his natural abilities and to his industry.

To give an account of his ringing career would be to tell the tale of London ringing during the last fifty years of the eighteenth century, and that is outside my present subject. Nor do I propose to deal in any detail with his compositions which, however, will amply repay careful study. His first peal as composer and conductor was rung as early as 1764, and was one of Bob Major in three parts with sixty-six bobs only. This, we may reasonably conclude, was identical with one John Holt had called several years before, but it was the forerunner of a brilliant series of compositions.

Two years later the London Youths rang a 6,608 in the same method, conducted by Thomas Harrison, and containing 'the full extent of changes with bobs on five bells.' Reeves did not take part, nor was his name mentioned, but he was the composer. It was a very fine achievement, not only to produce such a peal at that early date, but especially to have proved that it was the extent. In merit the composition ranks with Holt's Original. This was only one of a very excellent group of Bob Major peals.

In the year 1767 Thomas Harrison called for the London Youths at Lewisham a very interesting peal of Treble Bob Major. The length was 5,120, but it was a reduction of a five-part composition containing 6,400 changes and the sixty course-ends. The lead-ends are true, but men had not yet realised the necessity for proving the interior rows, and the peal is false. But only just so. By using the alternative calling in the last course of each part the repetitions can be avoided, and this will give John Reeves' well-known five-part composition with 6,720 changes and the sixty course-ends.

The peal is interesting for another thing. In its original form, though false for Major, it supplies the familiar four courses which have been used time and again to produce the twelve course-ends with the sixth at home in Royal and Maximus. Ignorance of the liability to internal falseness no doubt spoilt most of Reeves' early peals of Treble Bob, but later on he was to master the proof of the method with the tenors together, and to produce a splendid series covering practically the whole range of composition in the method as understood in his day.

For the making of a good book on change ringing, William Jones and John Reeves formed an almost perfect combination. Jones had literary ability, but it would have been futile without technical knowledge. Reeves had technical knowledge far beyond any other man of his time, but it would have been sterile without literary skill.

(Continued on next page.)

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

JOHN REEVES AND THOMAS BLAKEMORE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Where the one was most deficient, there the other was best equipped, and this fact not only clearly defined their several roles, but ruled out any causes of dispute and jealousy between the two.

The part played by Thomas Blakemore was a subordinate one. A Piccadilly stationer and bookseller, he belonged to the lower middle classes, and necessarily had some education and knowledge of books. He was the publisher of the 'Clavis,' and his value to the combination lay in the fact that he understood the technique of putting a book together, of dealing with the printers, of proof reading and of securing subscribers.

But it may well be doubted whether he was content with his subordinate position. He was just as ambitious as the other two to be the leading ringer of the day. He probably looked on Reeves as his inferior, as people of the lower middle class did on people of the lower class, and he probably was not disposed to treat Jones as his superior as Reeves was. He was a composer and a conductor, and in both roles his ambitions clashed with those of John Reeves.

Thomas Blakemore was the disruptive force among the authors of the 'Clavis.' For five or six years the three men worked together on the book and within, first the Society of London Youths, and then the ancient Society of College Youths. We can imagine the growing jealousy and rivalry between Reeves and Blakemore, kept within bounds for long by the influence of William Jones, and then coming to a crisis after the Norwich visit, and ending finally in a hot dispute and the break-up of the ancient Society of College Youths.

And now that the book was finished and on the market, the three men parted company and went each his own way. All three had yet many years to live as ringers, but they never again associated together, and probably never again so much as met. Reeves joined the Cumberland Youths, Blakemore became the leader of the reunited Society of College Youths.

For William Jones these changes meant the end of his ambition to be the leading man in the London Exercise, and he accepted the situation completely and finally. He continued to be an active ringer for twenty years more, and rang several peals; but, except for a short time when he was a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, he confined himself to the belfries of the western suburbs, and chiefly to Kensington, where apparently he lived. It is perhaps significant that, although both he and Reeves called peals for the Cumberlands in 1789 and 1791, the two did not take part together in any performance.

No doubt William Jones found compensation for his disappointments in the 'Clavis Campanalogia.' The man who sees in print for the first time the book on which he has been working for years has a sense of pride and satisfaction which is all his own, and which amply repays him for his troubles and his set-backs. Here, Jones may well have thought, was his real claim to fame. Far better than any board at Horsleydown, the book would 'transmit his name to posterity.' But in this, too, he has been singularly unfortunate. The 'Clavis' was the most famous of all books on ringing, and was known to almost every member of the Exercise. The author was almost entirely forgotten.

For this there were two main reasons. Jones associated two other names with his own on the title page. The impression was created that the book was the work of a committee, and the idea of a committee suggests something impersonal. We cannot, of course, say definitely what share and what responsibility each of the three men had in the book, but if Jones had followed modern usage he probably would have put his own name on the title page as author, put Reeves' name at the foot of the compositions, and acknowledged Blakemore's help in the preface.

The second reason was that, while Jones chose an extraordinarily fine name for the book, one which appealed to the imagination of the Exercise, his own name was prosaic and commonplace to the last degree. Why there should be something distinctive about such a name as Adam Smith or Samuel Johnson, and nothing at all about such a name as William Jones is hard to see; but so it is, and ringers always refer to the book as the 'Clavis,' never as Jones' book. Yet they talk about Shipway's book and Hubbard's and Troyte's; and perhaps never know what titles those books actually possess.

As I have said, we cannot definitely say how far the responsibility for the 'Clavis' as a whole is shared by the three authors, but the main contribution of each is clearly marked. Tradition has credited John Reeves with the authorship of all the compositions to which a name is not put. The book itself does not say so. What it does say is that 'there will not be wanting those who may lay claim to some of our productions and charge us with plagiarism; but should even that be the case, we do assure the candid and impartial public that whatever occasion we have had of introducing anything not our own, we have always introduced its author, except the matter was too old to do it with tolerable certainty.'

The reference seems to be to the fact that other men had conducted as their own composition peals which are usually considered to be by Reeves; and especially perhaps to the elder George Gross. Elsewhere in the book there is an oblique reference to a peal of Grandsire Triples which Gross claimed to have been composed by him, but which, it is hinted, was only a simple variation of Holt's ten-part.

In the Cumberlands' peal book the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal rung at Shoreditch in 1784 is said to have been composed and called by Gross, and that probably was only one of several instances where Gross used Reeves' work for his own purposes without acknowledgment. Here, no doubt, is the cause of the jealousy and rivalry which undoubtedly existed between the two men.

We have not got Gross' version of the matter, and as all but one or two of his compositions have perished we cannot give any definite opinion of his merits as a composer; but it is significant that Shipway who, though a younger man, was contemporaneous with Reeves and Gross and knew them both, ascribed in his book all the disputed peals to the former. I have, however, a suspicion that Gross, who was an ignorant and unlettered man, had snubbed Shipway when, as a novice, he asked him about composition.

BOURNEMOUTH.—At St. Peter's Hall on November 25th, 504 Grandsire Triples: H. R. Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay (conductor) 3-4, E. G. L. Coward 5-6, F. S. Wilson 7-8. On December 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay 1-2, E. G. L. Coward (conductor) 3-4, F. S. Wilson 5-6.

STYLE IN RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—' Once a Novice ' appears to consider that a ringer, whose stance or style is not quite as the book prescribes, is a slovenly ringer and advocates that all ringers should ring their bells with military precision.

Whilst agreeing that slovenly ringing which produces bad striking is to be discouraged, my own view is that the only thing that matters is whether the man at the rope's end can control his bell in such a way that he can strike it perfectly.

If by departing from the text-book he can ring more comfortably for long periods and strike his bell perfectly whilst doing so, I see no reason why he should be called a slovenly ringer.

The illustration of the soldier and his drills is hardly fair comparison to apply to ringers, since I think it is generally accepted that military discipline is founded on fear, and I feel sure that no ringer would advocate bullying a novice into shape.

My own view is that each ringer must form his own individual style of handling a bell, but that all must adhere to the sound advice given to me, ' Have one ear up top and one down here,' and be able to act on what they hear. J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford.

HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that handbell ringing has come so much to the fore, could we not have an article or series of articles on the makers of handbells? I imagine there must have been many famous makers in the past. I have a peal of 28 myself made by one of the Symondsons, and I am told they must be at least 100 years old.

There must be many peals as old or older about, and much could surely be written of them which would interest us ringers. In closing may I offer my humble congratulations on your efforts to keep ' The Ringing World ' so interesting.

H. J. SANGER.

The difficulty of complying with our correspondent's request is that makers of handbells have not left their mark upon the product of their handicraft to the same degree as the founders of church bells, neither have the bells themselves survived to anything like the same extent. The collection of material for an article would thus be a somewhat difficult task. If, however, any of our readers can comply with Mr. Sanger's suggestion we shall be pleased to publish it. Perhaps some of the possessors of ancient peals of handbells could send us details of the bells and their makers.—Editor, ' Ringing World.'

LEAVING BELLS UP.

DOES IT DO HARM?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some of us had a discussion a few days ago about the bells and were wondering if it did any injury to leave them up from Sunday to Sunday (any of them that were not required for the clock or any other purpose).

Some of us decided it would injure the bells, and several said that it would not. Therefore, we would be very glad if you would let us have your opinion on the matter, also we would like to see you publish same in ' The Ringing World.' JOHN JOHNSTON.

Bridge View House, Chapelgod, Dublin.

DEATH OF MRS. F. W. J. REES.

' The Daily Telegraph ' of December 3rd announced the death on November 30th, at Swanage, of Alice Hawthorn Rees, at the age of 98. Mrs. Rees was the widow of Frederick W. J. Rees, who 50 years ago was a prominent member of the Exercise. He had learned to ring as a schoolboy, and after 25 years' service in India resumed his practice of the art on his return home.

He was one of the earliest members of the Central Council, representing the Winchester Diocesan Guild until 1894 and being an honorary member from 1896 until his death in 1903. He did much of his ringing at Guildford, where he gave two trebles to S. Nicolas' to make a peal of ten.

BASINGSTOKE BOYS AT HOME.

On Sunday, November 30th, Guardsman F. Munday, G.G., Pte. C. J. Munday, R.A.O.C., and A.C. Ron Kingham, R.A.F., found themselves home for a few hours' leave at the same time, and a handbell practice was quickly made a great objective. A raid was made on the Sergeant-Major, Home Guard, and W. Hibbert was torn away from his fireside. A good practice was then enjoyed, with touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. The reunion was very enjoyable.

A week earlier Corpl. E. Gower, R.E., was home for seven days, and as no handbell ringing was available in Basingstoke, he and Miss Joyce Cottrell made the journey to Reading and took part in Stedman and Grandsire Triples there.

Sergt.-Pilot D. Nash, R.A.F., is now due home for seven days' leave, and the hope of all these ringers of North Hampshire is to be able to get together again in more settled times and enjoy Stedman Caters and Cinques ' in hand ' as in the days of yore.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rt. Rev. Bertram Simpson, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington and Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, has been nominated to the See of Southwark. Dr. Simpson, who was at one time Rector of Stepney, is well known to London ringers. He is a vice-president of the Middlesex County Association and has more than once preached at their annual meetings.

Ten years ago to-day the Norwich Diocesan Association rang 11,264 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Saxlingham Nethergate. The peal was composed and conducted by Mr. Nolan Golden.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung, one in each of the following: Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Darlaston Bob Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

On December 8th, 1883, the College Youths rang at All Saints', Fulham, 11,111 changes of Stedman Caters, at the time the longest length in the method. James Pettit conducted, and Mr. F. E. Dawe, the only survivor of the band, rang the second.

The first peal of Edinburgh Surprise Major was rung by the Suffolk Guild at Leiston on December 8th, 1923.

John Cox, for many years one of the most prominent members of the London Exercise, was born on December 9th, 1813.

On the same date in 1833 the Painswick band rang the then record length of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 10,224 changes.

The first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung on December 10th, 1881. The first peal of Real Double Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Magnus', London Bridge, on December 10th, 1770, and on the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang Bob Major on the South Indian Ocean.

One hundred years ago yesterday, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, the last peal in the method in the steeple. When, we wonder, will the next be rung there?

To-day is the ninety-third anniversary of the long peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, the first outside London.

The secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association intends to resign at the annual meeting to-morrow and will therefore be glad to receive nominations for the office.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL NON-CONDUCTED.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ONE OF BAND OF 55 YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am most interested to read in your issue of 14th November that at long last Holt's Original has again been rung on handbells 'non-conducted,' and I would like, if you will so kindly allow me the hospitality of your columns, publicly to offer hearty congratulations to the ringers, Messrs. Turner, Williams, Thomas and Clift, on their success.

I understand from Mr. Hughes that not only was the peal accomplished without a slip, but that, what is also very important, the bells were well rung.

On March 11th next it will be 55 years since Messrs. Winney, McLaughlin, Buckingham and I rang the peal, and it remains with me a proud memory as the best peal I ever rang, and I trust it may long so remain with the present band. JOHN C. MITCHELL.

126, Canterbury Grove, S.E.27.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH.

THE LOST PEAL BOOK.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice your remarks concerning Bromley Parish Church, its bells and peal books. As I write I have before me the sad spectacle of the remains of the historic peal book containing the records of peals rung since 1773. Our church authorities have kindly called in an expert to inspect and report on the damage caused by water and exposure. The cost of the best treatment for these historical pages would be high (about £150), and would only be guaranteed for a period of about five years. Our church and bells have been destroyed and we ringers realise that we shall retain these remnants only for a short while, but before the 'last rites' ceremony I shall endeavour to secure copies of the peals (where possible) which the book contains.

P. SPICE,
Secretary, Society of Bromley Youths.

W. D. CROFTS MANUSCRIPTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to the question of Plain Bob Triples rung by W. D. Crofts, the method is not mentioned in his manuscript, but there is a method named Double Bob Triples, with method, touches and a 5,040.

Also there is a method called Gatherns Tripples, composed in 1717 and rung at Norwich in 1718, the first of its kind ever rung with two Doubles. Rung in London 1719. Is this the method and peal in question? If so, the figures of the 5,040 are all in the manuscript.

I shall be pleased to be of any service I can.

FREDERICK A. SALTER.

110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your correspondent 'X,' may I say that my remarks re St. Mary Aldermary were intended to apply to the exterior of the church. I have not been inside for some years, and do not recollect the details. I do not attempt to defend lath and plaster vaulting, or to suggest that Wren's Gothic is comparable with the best of the ancient examples.

Wren's Gothic towers are usually of good outline and proportions, but sometimes display incongruous detail, as at Westminster Abbey, where Italian features crept in. Admittedly the tower of St. Mary Aldermary is rather monotonous in design, and might have been improved by external offsets, which would at least have given the appearance of strength. As I have already mentioned, it has suffered by the loss of the terminals of the pinnacles, which were of no great beauty in themselves, but gave a kind of 'finish' to the composition.

I am not so sure that this tower would be unsuitable for bells at least of moderate weight; it probably compares favourably in strength with the tower of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, which is very lightly built, yet accommodated a peal with a 24 cwt. tenor with remarkably little oscillation.

The site of St. Mary Aldermary was spoilt many years ago by the erection on the churchyard of an unsightly office building, which prevents a proper view of the church and tower from any point. The original appearance is fortunately recorded by old photographs; I believe one can still be seen in a place of refreshment entered from Bow Lane, immediately opposite the tower. This gives a much better impression than we get at the present day. I don't agree with 'X' that either St. Dunstan's or St. Magnus' would have been more suitable for the position.

Such churches as St. Mary Aldermary show that our love of pointed architecture has never quite died out, theugh for a period the 'Gothic' was looked upon as barbaric: this was so to some extent in Wren's day (though Wren appreciated the constructional ingenuity of the ancient builders). Even such churches as St. Dunstan's-in-the-West and St. Luke's, Chelsea, built when church architecture was in very low water, are interesting as connecting links between the Gothic, which expired in the 15th century, and the 'Gothic Revival' of the 1870's, which produced many fine churches and, it must be admitted, a vast amount of commonplace work.—R. F. DEAL.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

A very successful meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th, twenty members and friends (including the general secretary of the Guild) being present.

The usual service forms having been mislaid, the Rev. A. E. Chapman conducted a shortened form of evensong, with Mrs. Arnold at the organ.

A good tea was enjoyed at the Duke's Head, but another engagement prevented the Rev. A. E. Chapman from presiding over that function. However, he arrived in time to take the chair for the business meeting which followed.

The meeting first stood in silence in memory of two old friends and members who had 'passed on' since the last meeting, Mr. Arthur Dean, of Leatherhead, and Mr. F. G. Woodiss, of Sutton.

The retiring district officers were re-nominated for 1942, and it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Leatherhead on February 21st.

The Vicar's (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge) absence was much regretted. Many present learned for the first time of his serious illness, and the secretary was asked to convey to him the meeting's sympathy and best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the Rev. A. E. Chapman for his services, especially as he had been called on at the last moment, the original preacher, the Rev. Hickox (priest-in-charge) having succumbed to a bad throat. The organist was also thanked.

Some of those present then went on to the tower for 'silent' ringing, while others stayed for handbells before joining them.

The secretary would like to mention the spontaneous appreciation given by the non-ringing occupants of the vestry on hearing the service ringing coming from under the tower, which inclines him to believe that one of our recent correspondents 'is making mole-hills into mountains.'

BELLS AS LUXURIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was pleased to see the letter in 'The Ringing World' from the Rev. A. A. Linev, and though he wrote to contradict something I said on October 10th, I agree entirely with him. My excuse is that I was not quoting from his parish magazine, but from what your correspondent, who calls himself 'Anti-Silent,' said was in that article. It was 'Anti-Silent' who added to Mr. Linev's words the ridiculous statement that bells replaced trumpets in churches and who claimed as supporting his extravagant ideas what is really a sound and reasonable view of a rather difficult question.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

'BRING BACK THE BELLS.'

A STIRRING CALL.

A. P. Herbert's column in the last issue of 'The Sunday Graphic' contains a stirring call by this great writer to 'Bring Back the Bells.' It begins thus:—

Bring back the bells. The bells are dumb
Until the parachuters come:
And even Huns may be excused
For bombing belfries so abused.
Bring back the bells: for there remains
No music but the aeroplane's
To make us contemplate the sky
And wonder what is what and why.
Let there be steel in Aaron's rod,
And fighters in the ranks of God;
But leave the little church in peace
While we have soldiers and police.

And then, after calling for other means of warning,

'Without inviting Huns to search
For targets in the parish church,'

concludes with the appeal,

Bring back the bells; for Christmas spells
So many things that sound like bells.

QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

Notice has been given by Rear-Admiral Beamish, M.P. for the Lewes Division of Sussex, to ask the Prime Minister whether in view of the high standard of the Home Guard and the general preparedness in the country, church bells may not ring again. He suggests Christmas Day as a suitable occasion.

BELLS AND INVASION.

The following letter was printed last week by 'The Times' in a prominent position on its leader page. It is good evidence of a widespread feeling among influential people that the use of church bells should be restored if it can be done consonant with public safety.

'Dear Sir,—Now that the Home Guard is well established over all the country, would it not be well to provide every man on watch with a whistle so that he may give warning of the approach of paratroops? The warning would be quickly spread from one Home Guard to another even while the enemy is in the air. When minutes and even seconds may decide the success or failure of such attacks from the air, can we afford time to run to a church and ring the bell?

'Again, the sound of a bell does not travel far against the wind, and the knowledge that bellringing is at present our only provision for warning the neighbourhood will make every church tower in the country a target for bombs, with a loss to England that would be permanent and greater than we think.

'May not the church bells be restored to their proper use, beginning perhaps on Christmas morning? The country has lost much by their silence and it would give us new heart to hear them ringing over all our land again.

HUGH LEWEN.

Hove.'

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A successful meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when members attended from Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Leigh, East Peckham, Lamberhurst, Wadhurst, Paddock Wood, Chislehurst and Dartford. Among those present were Messrs. T. E. Sone, T. Groombridge, sen., J. Wheadon and R. H. Dove.

The tower was open at 3 p.m. and the bells, although silent, were made good use of until 4 o'clock, when a service was held and an address given by the Rev. E. F. Yorke, Vicar of Tunbridge Wells, who gave the members a hearty welcome and said he was proud to meet the members of the association.

Tea was served in the Parish Room, 25 doing ample justice to same. The Vicar, being unable to stay to the meeting, was elected an honorary member of the association before the business meeting. Mr. W. Latter was unanimously voted to the chair. The accounts and balance sheet for 1941 up to date showed the receipts were £10 1s. 10d. and the expenses £2 13s. 10d., leaving a balance in the secretary's hands of £7 8s.

Mr. T. Groombridge said this meeting brought a memory back to him of 50 years ago, when Mr. W. Latter taught him to handle a bell rope and in the same year he rang his first peal on Christmas Eve.

Mr. W. Latter said he joined the association 58 years ago. He did not know how many pupils he had had, but he gave Mr. Groombridge the preference of being the best one of all.

Penshurst was selected for the next meeting, to be held some time in March.

Mr. A. Batten proposed a very hearty welcome to the visitors and said he did like to hear a man give his appreciation for what had been done for him years ago. He thanked Mr. B. Collison for arranging the tea, and Mr. Collison replied, saying what he had done was a pleasure.

Touches on handbells were rung before and after the meeting, some members returning to the tower, and the bells were kept going until 7 o'clock, when a good and successful meeting was brought to a close.

BELLS JUBILEE AT DARLINGTON.

FIFTY YEARS OF CHANGE RINGING AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

It will be fifty years on December 15th since the ring of six bells of Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, were opened by the ringing of an extent of Bob Minor, and although the tower has not been one of the leading towers of the Exercise, in the broader sense of the term, perhaps a few notes on the activities leading to the installation of the bells and since might be permitted.

The church was opened in 1838, and one bell, weighing about 6 cwt., from the Whitechapel Foundry, did duty from that time until the present ring of six was installed in 1891. Efforts were made by ringers in the town to retain the bell as one of the ring, but they were told by the Vicar that the matter was in the hands of a capable bell committee, consisting of the organist and some of the leading lights of the parish, who had apparently convinced the Vicar that their knowledge of bells was, to say the least, profound. In any event, all efforts to retain the bell were of no avail.

The money for the new ring was bequeathed many years before the bells were actually installed, but there was much opposition to the placing of bells in the tower, by leading residents in the vicinity of the church, and others who did not think the donor a suitable person to make such a bequest. The result of the opposition was that the money eventually got into chancery, and by the time it was released about one-third of the amount had been lost. Had the whole of the bequest been available there would have been sufficient to instal a light octave instead of a light ring of six with a 7½ cwt. tenor which materialised.

Messrs. John Warner and Sons were entrusted with the order for the bells, and owing to the loss of so much of the money it was thought that nothing but a cheap job would be the result. However, the general opinion is that an excellent job was done and a really nice toned and well-balanced ring provided. It is worthy of note that in the whole of the fifty years during which the bells have been in the tower it has not once been necessary to call in the bellhanger; the only 'serious' damage being a broken stay many years ago. Of course, they have been carefully looked after and oiled regularly, but it is safe to say that over a similar period there is not a ring of bells within a radius of many miles which have been rung so regularly for services, practices and peals.

SOLE SURVIVOR.

Of the ringers who started as a band, Mr. G. W. Park is the sole survivor and he tells many amusing stories of the early days. One concerns the old gentleman who was desirous of becoming a ringer and who insisted on ringing a tied bell, complete with his top hat and frock coat; all arguments designed to persuade him to remove these articles of clothing for his own comfort and safety were unavailing. His aspirations towards ringing ended somewhat abruptly when by some means or other the rope became entangled in his clothing and he was lifted to the ceiling and deposited rather heavily on the floor. He thought it was much too dangerous a pastime.

Then there is the story of the enthusiasts who obtained the belfry key from the Vicar and took the tower by storm on a Tuesday night. They created such a horrible disturbance that two ringers of St. Cuthbert's belfry, who heard the commotion, proceeded to the tower and were alarmed to find that there was no one present who had previously handled a bell. Their description of the scene which met their eyes was somewhat reminiscent of pictures of continental ringers swinging on the ropes in comical postures. When they enquired the object of the performance they were told quite seriously that it was a practice to enable the ringers to become sufficiently proficient to ring the bells for Christmas, which was some four days hence! There have been many stories told of rapid advancement in the art, but surely this would have been the record.

Eventually those whose intention it was to take seriously to change ringing were formed into an organised band, and the others who regarded the whole thing as a novelty were informed that their presence was no longer desirable. The newly-formed band practised assiduously under the guidance of a competent instructor on both handbells and tower bells and generally made rapid progress, ringing their first extent as a band, a 720 of Bob Minor, conducted by Mr. G. W. Park, on Advent Sunday, November 27th, 1892, although individuals had rung extents elsewhere prior to this. Various of the standard methods were rung regularly, but it was not until January, 1896, that they rang their first peal. This was not rung at Holy Trinity, but at the nearby village of Heighington, and was a 5,040 in seven different methods, conducted by Mr. G. W. Park.

As time elapsed the band were not content to ring the plain and Treble Bob methods then generally rung and proceeded to practise Surprise methods, being one of the first towers in the North to ring Surprise Minor regularly. The tower was the first winner of the original Sunday Service Ringing Certificate awarded by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association against such doughty competition as that provided by the Goftons of Whitley Bay. This certificate was won with a score of points never since equalled in the scheme, and it has an honoured place in the archives. Many certificates have been won since which testify to the ringing done for services, but 'No. 1' holds pride of place.

One of the most successful periods in the history of the tower until

(Continued in next column.)

SURPRISE EXTENT IN SIX METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'Minormania's' tribute to the late Mr. A. G. Driver he mentions that I had produced a 720 in six Surprise methods. As it has never yet been published I thought some of your readers might like to see it. It was composed in 1936.

Although I produced it, the main credit should go to Mr. Driver, as he was always ready to show me the way when I got into difficulties. But for his ready help and encouragement my interest in spliced Minor would never have gone beyond our 21-method peal rung in 1930.

Lamberhurst. A. RELFE.

23456	Horton	—45623	Cheddleton
—56423	Hanley	—64523	Horton
—56234	Hanley	—23564	Cheddleton
—56342	Horton	—52364	Hanley
—42356	Hanley	—52643	Hanley
—42563	Milton	—52436	Cheddleton
54326	Milton	—45236	Milton
—63542	Hanley	—62453	Hanley
—63425	Cheddleton	—62534	Hanley
—46325	Hanley	—62345	Milton
—46253	Horton	—53624	Horton
—53246	Hanley	—24653	Milton
34562	Allendale	—36245	Cheddleton
—34625	Westminster	—23645	Hanley
—34256	Westminster		
45362	Hanley	—23456	

In the Collection of Minor Methods (Surprise Section), Horton is No. 45, Hanley No. 44, Milton No. 46, Cheddleton No. 43, Allandale No. 18 and Westminster No. 26.

THE LATE MR. DRIVER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think both Mr. Joyce and Mr. Prior must be mistaken with regard to Mr. Driver as a practical ringer. My father, whenever Mr. Driver's ability was mentioned, always remarked, 'He is the only man I never succeeded in teaching to handle a bell.' He was a frequent visitor on practice nights at local towers, and almost the last he attended at Crayford during father's lifetime was the only occasion that anyone round here saw him with a rope in his hand. This was only for a whole pull, and our tenor stay still bears witness of this attempt.

I well remember one of his visits when he got us to ring Grandsire Triples with the hunt bell before the Treble. He called it 'Grandmother Triples.' It was subsequently found that John Carter had rung peals of it as 'New Grandsire.'

On another occasion he got us on to Reverse Stedman. There was some difference of opinion as to which was the correct reversal, and I well remember his 'simple visual example' of the correct way, by holding the course in 'Standard Methods' in front of the belfry mirror.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

DARLINGTON BELLS JUBILEE.

(Continued from previous column.)

recent years was during 1907-8, when the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson was curate of the parish. Rapid strides were made in Surprise ringing and the first peal by the association in seven legitimate Surprise methods was rung. Since then every effort has been made to maintain the Surprise methods as the main forte of the tower, and prior to the outbreak of war a peal in seven Surprise Minor methods was rung on handbells, being the first of its kind by the association. Spliced Surprise ringing was engaging the attention of the band and two peals in twelve methods had been accomplished with the hope of more to follow when 'Stand' had to be called until more propitious times.

AN ASSOCIATION STRONGHOLD.

The tower has had an unbroken period of membership of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association since 1892 and has always been a stronghold of the association, having provided during this time a president, two general honorary secretaries, an honorary treasurer, four vice-presidents and two district secretaries. Mr. G. W. Park has been the guiding influence in the activities of the tower since the early days and it is due in no small measure to him that such a consistent record of ringing has been maintained. He always endeavoured to maintain a high standard of striking and his motto always has been quality before quantity. Altogether forty peals have been rung on the bells, and Mr. Park has the unique distinction of having taken part in them all.

Unfortunately, a visitors' book has not been kept, but had there been one many names famous in the Exercise would have appeared therein.

The published performances of the tower may not have been 'headliners' when compared with others, but the records show an uphill fight against ringers leaving, others passing away and, of course, those afflicted by apathy, but, generally speaking, there has been a devotion to the main object of ringing for services. And, taken all round, the fifty years have produced a not invaluable contribution towards the maintenance and advancement of the art in the north country.

R. P.

POINTS FOR PEALS.

CONTROL IN THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The introduction of points into the national rationing scheme has set me thinking whether it may not be well, later on, to apply something of the same kind of thing to peal ringing. Not that points are new to peal ringing. They were systematically applied to peals in my young days and we have read all about them again recently in the review of the first fifty years of the Central Council. But it is not quite that kind of point reckoning I have now in mind. In the past the more peals you rang the more points you got; but my idea is that peal ringers should now be rationed.

Before the war they were running away with themselves and filling your columns unduly. Moreover, not all peal ringers had sufficient regard for beginners. I would like to see some control exercised. In order to do this I would suggest that ringers should each be allowed, say, a hundred points, represented by coupons, with which to start off the year, and when the points are exhausted—well, there would be no more peal ringing for them that year.

Peals, of course, would have to be classified. For instance, a peal of Bob Major might be put on the basis of a tin of canned beans and call for the surrender of four points; while a peal of Surprise Major ought, on that basis, to be worth at any rate the same as a Lease and Lend tin of 'Spam' and mean giving up twelve points, while a spliced peal ought to be equal to the 24 points of a 1½lb. tin of 'Pork Sausage in its natural juices,' the natural juices, as I have found from experience, being just lard, and plenty of it. Incidentally, this has taught us that lard is the juice of the pig.

Of course, there would have to be something done for beginners. We might treat them like miners, agricultural workers, engine drivers and suchlike, who get extra cheese, and give them an additional allowance, say, first peals coupon free; first peals in the method, or first as conductor, half points, although I shouldn't give any extra points to those who do little else but ring first peals in the method. It's too easy for them.

Someone else may perhaps be able to work the scheme out in greater detail, but where there is a shortage of bells, particularly in London, something ought to be done to make the opportunities go round.

It would, I imagine, be one of the duties of any future national association to issue the coupons, and, of course, it would be the obligation of the steeplekeeper to collect the coupons from the ringers at the end of any peal in his tower.

Some people will, of course, say that such a plan would restrict ringing at a time when everything ought to be done to encourage it. I had thought of that. For instance, I have suggested free points for peals for beginners, but I would go further. I would give an additional two points to every ringer for every time he put in a full attendance at Sunday service ringing. That would encourage some of the peal ringers to do a little more for the other side of the business.

One thing would have to be carefully watched and that is that there should be no 'black market' in coupons. Heavy penalties would have to be inflicted if illicit trading was discovered. Purchasing half a dozen coupons for a pint of old and mild at the Blue Boar, for instance, must be made definitely not worth while.

I make a free gift of this scheme to the organisers of peal ringing in the future, subject to an arrangement by which I may have a double issue of coupons every year in exchange for the copyright.

'A POINTER.'

BERGH APTON, NORFOLK

FAREWELL PRESENTATION TO THE RECTOR.

On Wednesday evening, December 3rd, many of the Bergh Apton ringers met at the School House to pay a farewell tribute to the Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Heard on their leaving the parish.

The members (including those in H.M. Forces) gave them a silver bell-inkstand, suitably inscribed, and a book token, and, in making the presentation, Mr. H. C. Boggis spoke of their great kindness and friendship during the five years they had been at Bergh Apton. They had taken a very keen interest in the ringers, entertaining them at the Rectory weekly for handbell practice since the ban on tower ringing. Mr. Heard, who is learning the art, always accompanied the ringers to the meetings of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and was a member of the Standing Committee.

Although he regretted that the Bergh Apton ringers had sustained a great loss by their departure, Mr. Boggis was very pleased to say they would still be living in the district, and he hoped to see them from time to time.

In returning thanks for the gift, Mr. Heard said he was deeply touched by what Mr. Boggis had said, and would always remember the happy times he had spent with the Bergh Apton ringers. He looked forward to seeing them at future association meetings.

It was regretted that the members with the Forces could not be present, but all hoped that happier times were not far distant when they would be together again.

The evening concluded with touches on the handbells, which were given to the company by the Rector in 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames were thanked for their kind hospitality.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF WATFORD DISTRICT.

At the annual meeting of the Watford District of the Hertford County Association, held at Bushey on November 29th, Mr. C. C. Mayne was in the chair, and was supported by the secretary (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) and 25 members.

The secretary reported that ten meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of fifteen, handbell ringing at these meetings ranging from Bob Major to Spliced Surprise and Grandsire Cinques.

It was also reported that the eight bells at St. Mary's, Watford, had been taken out of the tower for safety, and that the bells of St. James', Bushey, had been insured against damage by enemy action.

The members present stood as a mark of respect to the late Mr. P. Buckell, a member of the Stanmore band, reported killed in action.

The secretary and committee were unanimously re-elected.

Mr. C. W. Taylor spoke on the desirability of sending a report of the meetings of the district to 'The Ringing World' for publication, and it was agreed that this should be done.

Mr. E. Jennings proposed the following resolution and Mrs. Mayne seconded:—

'That this meeting is of the opinion that Dr. G. W. Slack's two-part composition of Stedman Triples marks an important development in the history of the method, and suggests that the figures be published in "The Ringing World" as soon as possible.'

The resolution was carried without dissent.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. E. Jennings and seconded by Mr. L. Luck, was also carried unanimously:—

'That in view of the torpidity of the Central Council of Church Bellringers since the commencement of the present war, the representatives of the district on the County Committee be instructed to oppose the payment of the next subscription to the said Central Council.'

Before and after the meeting handbells were put to good use and a very enjoyable time was spent.

BRISTOL HANDBELL GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the Bristol Guild of Handbell Ringers was held on Sunday morning, November 30th.

The secretary read his annual report and presented the year's accounts, which were adopted. Mr. T. Harris said that members had reason to be proud of the progress made, as about seven peals had been rung since the Guild was formed.

It was agreed to compile a modified report to be issued to members.

The question of a membership certificate was discussed, and it was decided to issue one at a nominal sum when printed.

The Master, Mr. D. G. Clift, resigned, and Mr. R. Bryant was elected for the ensuing year. The secretary was re-elected.

Mr. R. Bryant kindly agreed to assist the secretary by taking over the Guild peal book, and to complete the writing of the peals rung by the Guild.

The Secretary said that he had received a letter from Mr. S. Riches, who apparently is stationed in the Middle East. He expressed a wish to be nominated as one of the Guild's first members, and those present unanimously agreed to elect him and to waive his subscriptions until he returned to Bristol. He said he was receiving 'The Ringing World,' and so, through the medium of the ringers' journal, members and ringers from Bristol send best wishes for a safe return.

A peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to commemorate the founding of the Guild in November, 1940.

DEATH OF AN OLD WALKDEN RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Potter on November 26th as the result of an accident.

He was coming downstairs and when about four stairs from the bottom collapsed. When picked up he was found to be dead. At the inquest a verdict of natural causes was reported.

Deceased joined the Lancashire Association in 1884 and was a member of the Walkden band since then. He was laid to rest in the Parish Churchyard on November 29th. Before leaving the house a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Miss A. Potter 1-2, P. H. Derbyshire (Worsley) 3-4, J. H. Ridyard (Worsley) 5-6, T. Jones 7-8. He was carried to his last resting place by his brother ringers, James Denner, John Denner, A. Burton, J. Lee, P. H. Derbyshire, J. H. Ridyard, T. Jones and F. Critchley.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Lawton, and the organist, Mr. F. Ainscough, played 'O rest in the Lord' and 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' Deceased's favourite hymn, 'Abide with me,' was also sung. He was 78 years of age.

Mr. Potter had rung in the following 110 peals for the Lancashire Association: Seven Minor methods 2, four Minor methods 1, Bob Triples 2, Darlaston Bob Triples 2, Duffield Major 3, Double Norwich 4, Superlative 4, Bob Major 5, Kent Treble Bob 20, Oxford Treble Bob 2, Grandsire Triples 16, Stedman Caters 1, Stedman Triples 48, total 110.

WINNERSH, BERKS.—On December 6th at The Briars, Westfields Road, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: Mrs. B. C. Castle (conductor) 1-2, B. C. Castle 3-4, T. Davies 5-6. The first 720 by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6. First in hand by 3-4.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see one of your correspondents has again raised the question of a National Association. We have heard about this thing several times before, but nobody ever does anything. Surely the benefits must be apparent to everyone, all we want is somebody to take the thing in hand and carry it through.

It is no good, I think, waiting for the old members of the Exercise to act, they are too much set in their old ways and satisfied with things as they are. Now is the time for the younger men to come forward and take the lead. The organisation of the Exercise should be reformed from top to bottom, the proper persons put in charge, and if it means scrapping some of the old fogies we can't help that.

Who is there that will give us a lead?

'LOOKING FORWARD.'

WEST HAM TENOR.

We are informed by Mr. Albert A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, that the old tenor at West Ham by Samuel Knight weighed 25 cwt. 22 lb., and that the bell was recast in 1847 by Mears and now weighs 26 cwt. 2 qr. 5 lb.

WARKTON BELLRINGER'S WEDDING.

On Saturday, November 15th, at All Saints' Church, Stoneycroft, Liverpool, Mr. Archibald Stanley Toseland was married to Miss Margaret Dodd, of Gorton Road, Liverpool. The bridegroom, who is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Toseland, of Warkton, is a member of the local company of ringers and also of the local Home Guard. The bride is the only daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Edward Dodd.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. B. Whitley, and two hymns, 'O perfect love' and 'For the beauty of the earth,' were sung.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Paul Dodd, and the bridesmaid was Miss Elizabeth Wright, her cousin. Mr. Norman Ferris (a friend of the bridegroom), of Kettering, was best man.

After the reception the happy couple left for Rhos-on-Sea for the honeymooh.

Amongst the presents received was an electric table lamp from the Rector and ringers of St. Edmund's, Warkton.

PEALS AT BIDDENDEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In a corner of Biddenden belfry there is a peal board recording four peals rung by the Biddenden Youths in the years 1786 and 1787. Two were 5,040's of Bob Major, one 6,720 Bob Major, and one 5,376 Kentish Treble Bob. It does not say who composed the peals, or who conducted them, the only distinction being that the tenor ringer's name is in printed letters.

I should think this band must have rung peals in other towers, but I have not been able to trace any. Perhaps someone else can do better.

R. EDWARDS.

West House, Tenterden.

'THE COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

'This is one of the very few books I have read which seem to me might, with advantage, have been considerably longer.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's.*

'Mr. Trollope has achieved more than his immediate purpose of writing a history of the Society of College Youths. So closely has the guild been identified with English change ringing that its history is to a very large extent an account of the ancient sport of ringing developed into an elaborate art. . . .

'Throughout his book Mr. Trollope takes his readers into a strange and fascinating world whose traditions so peculiarly English deserve far more popular attention than they usually receive.'—*The Guardian.*

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

By Edgar C. Shepherd.

(Continued from page 587.)

The collection of peals of Grandsire Caters published by the Central Council in 1903 forms a basis for much interesting study of the diversity of plans and musical arrangements.

Broadly speaking, there are six plans of composition given in the book, and each of these plans offers a great variety of treatment. To print them all would not be possible, but for the benefit of the student it is proposed here to tabulate them and to show where outstanding examples of each may be found. The numbers refer to the numbers of the compositions in the Collection.

1. *The old Classical plan.* Nos. 1 to 8. The peals by Annable, Holt and Reeves have already been discussed. Some 19th century composers turned back to this plan, and their compositions will be found here and in Nos. 25 to 31.

2. *Tittum Plan Short Courses.* Of these there is a large selection, and the best of them exploit the 6th and the 5th. Hubbard's 5039 (No. 33) and Johnson's 5003 (No. 37) are good examples of the 5th and 6th the extent in 5th's place. In both compositions the arrangement of the main blocks is very symmetrical, but Johnson's peal suffers from a clumsy opening course. Carter's 5,003 (No. 60) and Johnson's 5,003 (No. 61) are both splendid examples of the 6th her extent Wrong and Right. In No. 60 the extra courses needed to make up the five thousand form a little block in the middle of the peal. In No. 61 Johnson makes up his number by running three course in the Handstroke Home position. Note that in this peal there is no call on 89 or on 978.

3. *Tittums and Handstroke Home.* The most satisfactory Handstroke Home music is produced when the 6th is behind the 8th. There are 24 such courses, nearly enough for half a peal. A popular form of composition, therefore, is the 'half-and-half' peal, where rather more than half the 5,000 is in the Tittums and the remainder in the Handstroke Home. Carter's 5,039 (No. 53) has the 6th twenty-four courses behind the 9th in the Tittums, followed by the standard 24 Handstroke Home courses. Six courses at the beginning, with 5th in 5th's place, make up the required number. Hattersley's 5,021 (No. 54) has the same Tittum and Handstroke Home properties, but by turning the bells into the Inverted Tittums for five courses in the middle of the peal the composer preserves the 6th in 5th's place throughout. Both these compositions have clumsy opening courses.

4. *Inverted Tittums.* James George's 5,003 (No. 75) is a very good example of neat construction. The composer gives the extent of the 6th, Right and Wrong, and concludes with six courses in the Handstroke Home. The peal is in short courses throughout, and it would be rather difficult to find a better Inverted Tittum plan. In 'The Bell News' of December 14th, 1895, Mr. William Willson published an excellent 5,075 in the Inverted Tittums and Handstroke Home, with a footnote, 'Specially suitable for a muffled peal.'

These are the two chief plans for Inverted Tittums peals, but the more popular is the second one, the 'half-and-half' plan.

5. *Tittums and Handstroke Home alternately.* This is a very beautiful plan, and one that attracted that fine composer, Arthur Knights. In the Central Council Collection No. 55 is the only example of Mr. Knights' work on this plan. Here the bells are turned almost every course. His usual plan, however, was to run a short block of courses in the Tittums followed by a block of the same size in the Handstroke Home. 'The Bell News' of March 4th, 1899, published a splendid 5,021 by William Kent in which the bells are turned every six courses. A deservedly popular 5,057 by William Mickelwright is on the same lines.

The best compositions of this type aim, of course, at keeping the 6th in 5th's place throughout, and as there are not enough courses of this type to make up a 5,000, the odd courses are usually woven into the beginning of the peal.

6. *Other positions of* 789. The best of these contain the 7968 position. W. T. Elson's 5,021 (No. 98) is an outstanding composition. Twelve opening courses in the 7968 position lead to twelve Tittum courses with the 6th at home. Six transition courses follow, and then the 6th is behind the 9th for twelve courses. The last twelve courses are in the Handstroke Home. George Cleal's 5,021 (No. 96) has alternate 7968 and 6978 courses, and after the first six preliminary courses has calls at 2.3.4 in each course.

Nos. 72, 83, 85, 90, 92 and 93 reveal some interesting experiments in the use of the six positions of 789. Unfortunately some of these positions are of little musical value, and the merit of such compositions lies chiefly in the ingenuity of their construction.

A study of the Central Council Collection will perhaps produce the impression that the possibilities of Grandsire Caters were exhausted by the end of the 19th century. A study of subsequent compositions, however, will correct this impression, and will clearly indicate that the Collection needs revising, rearranging and augmenting. The work of the later composers concentrates on the exploitation of musical positions like 7968 and 7896. Among these composers may be mentioned Frederick Dexter and Ernest Morris. In 1911 Dexter produced a splendid 5,039, a regular production in two halves, the first half running in alternate 6978 and 7968 courses, and the second half having 7896 and 7698 alternately. Ernest Morris' 5,022, also published in 1911, is in three regular parts, using 7968, 7689, and 6789, and having the front bells in the same position in each part. The same composer's 5,021, published in 1913, opens with seven courses in the 7968 position, and then proceeds to run the extent of the 7896 and 7698 positions.

Of recent years, experiments have been made in the use of the inverted forms of 7896 and 7968 for the purpose of muffled ringing; and as late as 1935 George W. Debenham composed and conducted two very interesting com-

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. All members and ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James'). The business will include the election of officers for the ensuing year, presentation of annual accounts and 'Shall the Branch continue to hold its monthly meetings?' Handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Annual branch meeting at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School on Saturday, December 13th, at 6 p.m. Handbells available.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Waddesdon on Saturday, December 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 4 30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Gibbard, 30 Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 20th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, December 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

positions in which he used the extents of 57968 and 97568 course ends.

I have attempted to survey the development of composition in Grandsire Caters from the first establishment of a musical form, and have, I hope, shown how more and more interesting and complex the compositions have become. Far from being the 'same thing over and over again' (as 'Plain Speaker' wrote in 1898), or 'very uninteresting to the average ringer' (as Mr. Trollope wrote in 1941), peals of Grandsire Caters, considered musically and constructionally, seem to offer a wider and more varied field for study than peals in any other method. The possibilities of Tittum and Handstroke Home compositions are probably (though not certainly) exhausted, but the use and combinations of other placings of 6789 still provide the composer with a wealth of musical material.

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