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## AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION.

Whatever opinions we may form about the practical value of the suggestions that have been made lately for forming a National Association or for more activity on the part of the Central Council we must recognise that behind them lies a very real and very important idea. It is that every effort should be made to maintain the active life and interest of the Exercise so that when peace comes, as come it may sooner than perhaps we expect or even hope, we shall be ready to meet the difficulties and the duties which will then front us. At the back of the minds of people is the fear that if we let things take their course now without troubling about them and merely hoping for the best, when the testing time does come it will find us wanting.

There is much that is sound in these views. Yet we must face facts. However desirable it may be for the Central Council to try to carry on now as if there were no war, it simply cannot be done. Members have not the time nor opportunity to spare to attend a meeting, and we all know and recognise that the first and overwhelmingly important thing is to do what may be our part in winning the war. Nevertheless, when that claim is met most of us have a little to spare for other things. It would not be well if it were otherwise; for everyone, and the nation as a whole, will keep to the highest pitch of war effort if there is some other interest strong enough to prevent staleness.

So far as ringers are concerned, we cannot imagine anything which can so well or so easily give the necessary relief as a continued and lively interest in the art they love.

Yes, but unfortunately we are debarred from all activity in the belfry, and to many that must seem the end of the matter. But need it? There are scores of things connected with bells and ringing that a man may interest himself in even when he is by himself at home after his day's work is done. And if he does he will be doing himself good, for he will obtain relief from strain and boredom; and he will be doing others good too, because when the time comes that England will call for her bells to be rung he will be ready to answer the call.

In our columns this week we print a letter from a valued correspondent who suggests that we should try and arrange for an exchange of ideas and opinions among ringers and that it should take the form of a series of debates carried out, not at a meeting, but in our pages. The idea is an attractive one. Nothing more stimulates a man's interest than the attempt to

(Continued on page 26.)



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explain his views and opinions to others. Nothing is better for a man's outlook than to hear and study the views and opinions of others. When all is said and done that is the value of the Central Council itself. There are plenty of subjects that ringers could discuss and nothing but good could come out of such discussion.

We do not profess to have formed any definite opinion on the matter. There are obvious and serious difficulties to contend with; but, at any rate, there are great possibilities in the suggestion, and we invite our readers to tell us what they think and say if they would be prepared to co-operate.

### OUR SILENT BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'Robert Triples' asks what is going to happen when the armistice is signed to end the war, and he then proceeds to give an answer. Ringers, he says, will lay down their tools and rush to the belfries, but when all is ready the parson and the policeman will enter and forbid them because the ban is not yet lifted. Something, he says, should be done now.

I fully agree and have already planned my own course of action. The war is over and we have got together what is left of the band in the belfry, raised the bells, and are preparing to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples. Enter the authorities of Church and State with a peremptory order to stop. What shall I do?

This. After having assumed a firm but graceful attitude in the middle of the belfry, I shall raise my right arm with a dignified motion, and, having spread my four fingers as widely apart as is physically possible, I shall place my thumb on the tip of my nose and direct the little or smallest finger towards whichever of the visitors as shall appear to be the greatest in status and honour, whether it be the Bishop of London, the Chief Commissioner of Police, the Mayor of Ealing or the Vicar of the parish. If the occasion seems to call for it I shall reinforce the action of my right hand with that of my left.

Having performed this ancient and solemn ritual, I shall courteously invite the strangers to take a seat and thereafter carry on with the ringing.

This seems to meet the case adequately.

J. A. T.

### HANDBELLS.

IS THIS THE OLDEST SET?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think that Mr. Sanger and your readers will be interested to know of a very old peal of handbells that I saw about eleven years ago. The owner of these bells, not being a ringer, aroused my interest when he described them to me, and it was arranged that I should go and see them. The bells are a peal of twelve by R. Cor, of Aldbourne. On the inside of the soundbow is a raised outline of what looks like a duck, and the name R. Cor. They have leather straps and the clapper springs are very long, the clappers being of iron with long slender flights.

Writing from memory, the size of the tenor would compare with our present-day No. 16 or 17. The tone of the bells was quite good, considering that they appeared not to have been tuned, and they were thicker than present-day bells and of good shape.

At that time I wrote to Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, and explained them to him. He kindly sent me a short history of the Aldbourne foundry, which I enclose.

S. G. CHAPLIN.

Birmingham.

The information given by Mr. Hughes was as follows: There is no doubt the handbells were made at Aldbourne, Wilts, where a bell foundry existed from 1649 to 1825.

From 1686 to 1750 it was in the hands of the family of Cor (William, Robert, Oliver and John successively). The foundry then passed to Edward Read until 1757, when it was taken over by Robert Wells, in whose family it remained until 1825, when it was taken over by us. As your bells bear the name Cor they must be over 180 years old. They are, therefore, the oldest set of handbells of which I have heard.

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## HANDBELL PEALS.

SEDGEBERROW, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, January 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT ADBYNS, CHELTENHAM ROAD,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

|                         |     |                       |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| THOMAS HARRIS ...       | 1-2 | JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... | 5-6 |
| GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... | 3-4 | AUBREY W. LLOYD ...   | 7-8 |

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Arranged for Mr. T. Harris, now of Bristol, and rung as the branch quarterly peal.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

|                     |     |                      |     |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| GEORGE H. SPICE ... | 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ...    | 5-6 |
| BETTY SPICE ...     | 3-4 | Mrs. G. H. SPICE ... | 7-8 |

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE,

\* First attempt for a peal 'in hand.' This is believed to be the first peal in which father, mother, son and daughter have taken part.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 40 six-scores in ten different callings and one Morris' 240.

Tenor size 11 in G.

|                          |     |                    |     |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Mrs. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY | 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS... | 3-4 |
| FRANCIS S. WILSON ...    | 5-6 |                    |     |

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

First peal of Doubles 'in hand' by all. Rung on the Feast of the Epiphany in thanksgiving for a beautiful Christmas festival at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT 9, BRVERLEY ROAD,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

|                         |     |                   |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| HARRY HOVERD ...        | 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... | 5-6 |
| WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... | 3-4 | EDWIN BARNETT ... | 7-8 |

Composed by H. J. HOWLETT. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

HAVERCROFT, WAKEFIELD; YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Friday, January 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 36 BRIAR LANE,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

|                  |     |                    |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| DANIEL SMITH ... | 1-2 | PETER WOODWARD ... | 5-6 |
| HAROLD CHANT ... | 3-4 | RAYMOND FORD ...   | 7-8 |

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to the parents of Mr. 'Dan' Smith—Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith—who celebrated their golden wedding on the above date at Ruardean, Glos.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, January 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

## A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

|                      |     |                     |       |
|----------------------|-----|---------------------|-------|
| FRANK E. PERVIN ...  | 1-2 | FRANK E. HAYNES ... | 7-8   |
| FRANK W. PERRENS ... | 3-4 | GEORGE F. SWANN ... | 9-10  |
| ALBERT WALKER ...    | 5-6 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... | 11-12 |

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee—Mr. Bernard W. Ashford.

First peal on 12 handbells.

## A PROBLEM IN STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I have read the letters and comments on my two-part peal of Stedman Triples which have appeared in 'The Ringing World' with some interest and (dare I add) amusement.

With many of your statements I am in complete agreement. As a musical production the peal is a vile one. As a well-balanced composition it is foul. As a collection of Q-sets it is an abomination before the face of Mr. Trollope. As an easy example in 'conducting in six easy lessons' it would be a hopeless failure. But it is an exact two-part peal of Stedman Triples with only two singles. And it was the first to be obtained with those properties.

Of course, such a peal was impossible, or so Heywood and Bulwer supposed, and this was, I believe, confirmed by Mr. Trollope, so that is perhaps the reason why it has such blots on its escutcheon. The existence of such a collection of rows might fulfil all the usual requirements of continuity, etc., but it seems that its essential bastardy remains. One can almost hear of 'Six bob sets—good heavens, do such things exist? Oh, yes, didn't a man Edwards, Noonan or was it Tabbs use some such thing before the days of Board School education' or perhaps it is merely a little more of the usual tradition which a little historical research will dispel.

One section of your remarks, however, I entirely fail to understand. In your leading article you say that 'the so-called courses are not courses at all, nor are the apparent course-ends really course-ends. We cannot imagine anyone dividing the peal like this if they wanted to call it, nor can we imagine anyone writing the peal out like this if they want to understand its composition.'

This, sir, is double Dutch to me, as in the composition as submitted to you by me there were no courses indicated, nor were any course-ends marked. The arrangement adopted was to give the six-ends of the first half-peal. This was done for two reasons:—

(1) It was the form in which the peal was first obtained. (I expect that some people would have done it in a better manner and could probably tell how it should have been done—now!) However, as it was put together in the course of an hour or two one Sunday afternoon after 'The Cross-eyed Yokel' or some other such anonymous gentleman had stated in your previous issue that such a peal was impossible of attainment, I cannot be held responsible for its lack of form.

(2) As it was not on any of the usual plans with the seventh a fixed bell, the most convenient form for independent proof was to give it by six ends, and whilst I personally was certain of its truth, inasmuch as it was proved first and composed afterwards, I did not expect other people merely to take my word for it.

One other point remains. If you desire a simple explanation of the way in which the peal was obtained, and it is on an exceedingly simple plan, I should be quite pleased to provide it if I could be furnished with a copy of the figures of the peal in the form I submitted them to you, as I myself have no copy.

G. W. SLACK.

Mill Lane, Winterslow, Wilts.

[The form of Dr. Slack's peal which we criticised was that sent by the conductor and which the Hertfordshire resolutions asked to be printed.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

## PUBLICATION IN ASSOCIATION REPORT.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to trouble you for space again, but the remarks of our friends, Messrs. Cross and Pulling, call for some comment and I would like to assure them both that the fact that the Hertford County Association do not publish compositions has caused concern in this district on more than one occasion. At the same time I would inform the two gentlemen that we in this district have very little influence in the association affairs.

There is, however, one point on which the ringers of this district are agreed, and that is that more false peals have been rung owing to the fact that the compositions have appeared in the various associations' reports than in 'The Ringing World.'

The article on Stedman Triples by 'An Average Composer,' appearing in your current issue, has not, I suppose, made much impression on your readers. People may state their views, but an anonymous writer who ridicules a performance either theoretical or practical of others is not calculated to command respect.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey

## JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to see the suggestion of Mr. G. H. Cross in last week's 'Ringing World.' I feel sure that some interesting events in the careers of men like J. W. Washbrook and other giants of the past 50 years would be welcomed and much appreciated by ringers generally. The records and doings of the men of 100 years ago and upwards are not entirely uninteresting, but are less interesting than the experiences of many we knew in the flesh. Trusting you may be able to carry this suggestion through.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.



## THE BELLS OF TWICKENHAM.

### A NOTED MIDDLESEX STEEPLE.

The medieval tower of St. Mary's, Twickenham, contains a ring of eight bells which are very interesting both archæologically and from the part they played in the early history of change ringing.

The sixth is a pre-Reformation bell, one of the oldest in Middlesex and dates from the early days of the sixteenth century. It was cast by John Saunders, of Reading, who was probably then the leading bell founder in the country. The times were troublous and many changes were being made in Church and State which were strongly opposed by many men. Among them was John Saunders; he did not keep his opinions to himself, and as the following from the Acts of the Privy Council shows, got into serious trouble.

'Greenwich, the xxvij of May 1553. A lettre to the Mayour of Reading, Thomas Vachell, and William Edmondes, to cause on John Saunders of that towne to be set in the Pillorie the next market day, with a paper on his hed conteyning in great lettres these wordes— "For Lewde and Sediscious Woordes touching the Kinges Majestie and the State"; and when he hath stode there the hole market tyme to cause both his ears to be cut off, and his body to be returned to prison untill the Kinges Majesties further pleasure shalbe signified unto them.'

That was not the end of Saunders' punishment; his fellow townsmen took a hand. For the above offence 'and for other seditious, lewd and slanderous words by hym at sundry tymes after that spoken to the great perturbation and disquiet of his honest neighbours, hit was therefore thought by the Mayor and Burgesses, with one assent and consent, for causes aforesaid, the said day and yere, have expelled, discharged & clearly avoided the said Saunders from the said hall & company for ever.'

They were evil days in King Edward's time for poor John Saunders. He was getting to be an old man, the things he valued in religion were being swept away, and his work as a bell founder had come to an end. What happened to him I do not know, but there still remain a number of bells to bear witness to his craftsmanship, and among them this at Twickenham.

One of the things about which Saunders had uttered 'lewd and sediscious woordes' was no doubt the proposal made by the Government to confiscate the bells of the parish churches. In 1551 inventories had been made of all the church goods and ornaments throughout the country. That relating to Twickenham has not survived and we cannot say how many bells were in the steeple then. Edward Ironsides, who wrote towards the end of the eighteenth century, judged that the frame then in the tower had been built for five bells and had afterwards been altered to take the completed octave, from which he assumed that originally there was a ring of five. Evidently it was so just before 1669, and in that year William Eldridge added a treble.

Change ringing was already very popular in the parish, and that was the reason why in 1695 two more bells were added to complete the octave. At the same time one of the other bells, 'lately given by Madame Layton,' was recast. In 1708 Richard Phelps renewed the tenor, in 1722 the seventh and in 1730 the fourth. The first and last of these had been recast in 1660 'at the publick charge.'

Twickenham is on the way from London to Hampton Court, and the church stood then open to the high road, not, as now, shut off by high buildings. So at the not infrequent passings to and fro of royal persons there was ringing of the bells. When King James went by in 1606 with the King of Denmark the ringers were paid eightpence for their services. Nineteen years later, when Charles the First and his Queen went to Hampton Court, the fee was two shillings and sixpence.

In 1647, under very different circumstances, Charles came by again. It was harvest time, the ringers were all at work in the fields, and the bells were not rung; for which neglect the parish was fined thirteen shillings and sixpence.

There is a somewhat pathetic interest in this entry in the parish accounts. The civil war was over. Charles had surrendered to the Scots, and by them had been sold to the English Parliament, who hardly knew what to do with him. The King was moved from place to place, and in August, 1647, he came to Hampton Court. Then for a short time it looked as if he was going to be treated with his old royal dignity. Nobles and courtiers attended him, the proscribed Church service was said to the palace chapel, and the Parliamentary Commissioners who had charge of his person kept discreetly in the background. But they were there, and he had to ask their permission when he went to visit his two youngest children at Sion House, Isleworth. It was then that Twickenham parish was fined for not ringing. Perhaps the plea of harvest was only an excuse, and the churchwardens, who at the time doubtless belonged to the Puritan party, did not think it worth while to bother about a king, fallen and a prisoner.

Soon afterwards Charles fell into the hands of Oliver Cromwell and the army, and there followed the events which led to the 'memorable scene' on that bleak January morning outside the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall.

Twickenham bells were rung in 1647 on the anniversary of the Coronation, as were those of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and many a steeple throughout the land; but many years were to pass by before church bells were again rung for royalty, and this incident is, I think, the very last on which a parish was fined for neglecting to pay the tribute.

Ringing as a sport was, as I have already said, very popular in Twickenham. So much so that to some of the parishioners it became a nuisance. They appear to have obtained legal advice on the matter, and on September 20th, 1674, it was ordered that the bells were not to be rung 'but according to a declaration under My Lord Chief Justice's hand how they may be legally ringed.'

The sport, however, went on and when Dr. John Hartcliff was rector he had to complain seriously of it. The ringers were practising at all times and in defiance of his and the churchwardens' regulations. So the matter was brought before the Vestry, and on Sunday afternoon, May 13th, 1711, due notice having been given at the morning service, the following resolution was passed:—

'Whereas the late continual ringing of bells at unreasonable hours was represented as a very great disturbance to Dr. Hartcliff in his study, and whereas several disorderly persons did lately in a very insolent manner and contrary to the order of the said Dr. Hartcliff and the present churchwardens, with the help of a



ladder break into the steeple of the church and ring the bells to the intent and purpose to disturb and provoke the said Dr. Hartcliff, it is therefore ordered by this Vestry that for the future during the said doctor's residence in the parish there be no more ringing of bells for recreation (unless upon some solemn occasion) but two nights a week, viz., Thursdays and Mondays, and not to exceed the hour of nine.'

These terms are certainly not very severe, for nine o'clock was then a much later hour than it is now. We can sympathise with the doctor. His house was quite close to the church; evidently he had no objection to ringing kept within reasonable limits; and his name is cast on the tenor bell.

He was almost the last rector of the old medieval church, for a year after his death there is a short but significant notice that twenty trustees were appointed to consider the rebuilding of the church, 'it having fallen down in the night of Thursday, April 9th, 1713.' The present church of brick is of its style a very fine building. The ancient tower still remains.

By the second quarter of the eighteenth century Twickenham possessed one of the best bands of change ringers in the country. They called themselves the Twickenham Scholars and many of them belonged to the Society of College Youths. In 1734 they rang a peal of Middlesex Triples, a not very good variation of Plain Bob Triples by Benjamin Annable, and some time later one of the earliest Bob and Single peals of Grand-sire Triples, which they called Royal Tripples. In 1749 they rang 6,000 changes of Bob Major.

The band was composed of good class men, small gentlemen and farmers, of whom Robert Holmes and

Henry Cowley may be taken as typical. Holmes, who rang in Annable's last peal, was at one time churchwarden. Edward Ironsides (who was a contemporary) refers to him as a freeholder of Twickenham Common, not an 'esquire' or a 'gentleman,' and therefore a yeoman farmer. Afterwards he moved to the neighbouring parish of Richmond, but when he died in 1797, he was brought back and buried under the shadow of Twickenham steeple, where his tombstone still is. He had been a member of the Society of College Youths since 1750, and had taken part in three or four peals with them.

Henry Cowley was one of the subscribers to John Holt's broadsheet of peals, and Enos Redknapp, another of the band, belonged to a family well known in the district. The name can be seen on several tombstones in the churchyard and representatives of the family are still living in the town.

There was a good company at Twickenham throughout the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth. They rang several peals on the bells, and visiting bands of the College Youths rang one or two others.

The bells are now rung from the ground floor, but formerly either from the chamber immediately beneath the bells, or from a floor which has since been taken away. In consequence the peal boards were removed from the walls and hidden in the space between the ceiling and the roof of the church. Fortunately, three or four have been recovered and replaced on the walls of the belfry.

The present Vicar of Twickenham, the Rev. Prebendary W. P. Cole Sheane, is the President of the Middlesex County Association.

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.....

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor wishes to thank all those friends who have made kind enquiries about him in his present illness. Although still confined to bed, he is progressing satisfactorily.

We should like to remind correspondents that though their letters may, if they so desire, appear anonymously, they cannot be printed unless the writer's name and address are sent to the Editor with the copy.

A previous attempt for the peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham was made on November 27th in St. Martin's belfry, when after 34 courses had been rung the tower lights were switched off in the church below and the ringers left in complete darkness, due to the tower window lights being blacked out.

The handbells used are a new peal of 12 by Mears and Stainbank, and this is the second peal on them, 1 Stedman Caters and 1 Cinques. They were a present to Mr. George E. Fearn from his wife.

On January 11th, 1911, the College Youths, with Mr. Henry R. Newton at the tenor, rang 5,088 changes of London Surprise Major on the back eight at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside.

The Norwich men rang 6,048 Imperial the Third Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on January 13th, 1772, and on the same date in 1903 the Birmingham men rang the first peal of Forward Maximus.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung—Grandsire Minor 1, Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, and Darlaston Bob Triples 1.

Ten years ago 27 peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 4, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Superlative 1, London 1, Stedman Caters 1, Bob Maximus 1, Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Minor 4, and Doubles 5.

One of the Bob Major was on handbells, the Bob Maximus was the first in the method on Halifax bells, and the Cambridge Maximus at Southwark was conducted by Mrs. Fletcher.

### RINGERS' ENGAGEMENT.

The announcement is made of the engagement of Mr. Edwin A. Barnett, of Crayford and now of the R.A.F., and Miss Olive Hairs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hairs, of Burgess Hill. The young couple both come of families greatly distinguished in ringing circles. The marriage will take place shortly at St. John's, Burgess Hill.

### DEATH OF MR. EDWARD MURRELL.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Murrell, a well-known member of the band of St. Lawrence Jewry and of the Society of College Youths.

Mr. Murrell, who was suffering from a long-standing complaint, had been removed to hospital on the Sunday after Christmas. He had been a sergeant-major in the Grenadier Guards and was one of the Expeditionary Force in the last war, the Old Contemptibles. He lost a leg in the retreat from Mons and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

It will be remembered that he took a leading part in the discussion on silent apparatuses in our columns a few months ago and gave descriptions of a system he had been responsible for installing at St. Lawrence Jewry. He also wrote the article on New Year's Eve which we published on December 26th last.

### CHRISTMAS BELLS AT CORSTON.

BY THE RECTOR, THE REV. J. W. TUNWELL.

'We shall miss the bells on Christmas Day. Couldn't we ring handbells in the tower? Well, we could, but I doubt if we could get a band together for practice; however, we can try.'

The trial was unsuccessful, but Mr. Arthur Prince heard about it, and if bells were desired to speak the Christmas message, bells there should be.

He gathered the bells together, prepared them for action, and, having satisfied himself that they were in tune with the organ, enquired the time of the first service on Christmas Day.

A four-mile ride on a bicycle at seven o'clock in the morning brought Arthur Prince to the church before the first worshippers had arrived, and we whose hearts were uplifted by the mystical music of the bells wish to record our gratitude and express our appreciation for his generous and devoted service.

Under a clear starry sky, in the clean crisp air the stained glass windows glowed rather alarmingly, but inside the church four candles had transformed the scene into a wonderland of shadows, where the evergreens and flowers shone with the undimmed glory of their own light. We appreciated this last year, but when the eyes were accustomed to the light there seemed something lacking.

This year we found it. Hardly perceptible at first, it seemed a pulsing, like the first stirrings of life, a moment of tense listening and then the music swayed amongst us, rippling and ringing, rising and falling, silver music that seemed to come from the stars. The bells sank to rest as the service started and spoke again during the offertory. Later they joined with the hymns, and so we had what many had not known before, the organ and the voices and the bells, and as so many have said, 'It was beautiful.'

It seemed rather hard to me that one man should be 'on duty' for three services on end without relief and without reward, and so the best tribute I can pay to campanology is to say that when I said good-bye, Arthur Prince was happy and we were uplifted.



## A 'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

### MEETING IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

#### Correspondent's Novel Suggestion.

Here is a suggestion from a correspondent which we warmly commend to the consideration of our readers.

It opens a field for discussion which should provide both entertainment and profit.

We would willingly place our columns at the disposal of such a scheme because we believe it would lead to a new form of interest during these days when our church bells remain silent.

We would like to emphasise the point made by our correspondent that the success of the discussions must rest upon the ringers themselves, who must make their contribution to the scheme.

We invite our readers to give us their views on the subject.

#### DISCUSSIONS OPEN TO ALL.

##### To the Editor.

Sir,—From time to time we read in your columns references to the inactivity of the Central Council, and in one association there has already been a proposal to cease paying the annual subscription.

It seems obvious that in days like these the Council would have the greatest difficulty in meeting, and, even if it met, a greater difficulty in holding anything like a representative gathering. Moreover, if the members could be brought together it is hard to see what useful work the Council could perform.

Apart from the one burning question of the ban on church bell ringing, which at this stage no resolution by the Council or any other body would be likely to alter, there is no subject which in my opinion and in the opinion of a good many other ringers, including, I think, most members of the Council, would justify calling the Council together. The most that can be asked of it is that the officials should continue to hold a watching brief and that the committees should continue as far as possible to function.

There is, however, one way in which we as ringers might maintain our interest in ringing affairs on the lines which the Council has followed, and I make the following suggestions in all seriousness in the hope that your readers may think the scheme worth while.

It is just this: Let us hold a meeting in 'The Ringing World.' Instead of the Council meeting in session next Whitsuntide, let all ringers be invited to take part in discussions on various matters of interest through your columns, the debates being carried on in accordance with the rules usually recognised at meetings.

Let us have formal motions moved and seconded, and then openly discuss the subjects, but, instead of doing it by way of speeches, forward our observations to your paper for publication.

The discussion should not be limited to members of the Central Council; but should be open to all ringers. For this reason my proposal could not be carried on under the title of 'The Central Council,' but it might be called 'The Bellringers' Council' or something of the kind. I would make it a condition that any contribution made to the debates should be made under the name of the person and not under any nom-de-plume. Let us make it as real as we can, expressing our opinions frankly as we would do if we were present in person at a meeting.

#### VOTING BY POSTCARD.

It would be an excellent thing if our debates could have the guidance of the president of the Central Council, but it would probably be more practicable if the actual conduct of the business was left to the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' as a kind of acting chairman, because he would be more immediately in touch with the progress of the discussions.

Reasonable scope should be given to the debates, and when the subject appears to be exhausted I suggest that a postcard vote on the motion should be taken and that it should be open to all, whether or not they have contributed to the discussion itself, so that we may get a decision from a wider circle than merely those who have voiced their opinions.

Further, I would suggest that an effort be made to provide an agenda beforehand so that ringers may know exactly what is to be discussed and, with your permission, that here and now ringers should draw up motions on any subject of ringing interest which they are prepared to debate and send them to you with the name of a seconder, for publication when the agenda is complete.

When the 'meeting' opens it will be for the proposer and seconder of the first motion to send you their 'speeches' for publication, after which all who desire to do so should follow up with their contributions to the debate. When the subject has been disposed of by vote or otherwise, then the same procedure would be followed with the next motion, and so on to the end.

If ringers will co-operate I feel sure this would be a means of helping to maintain interest in the varied matters connected with ringing, but to make the scheme a success ringers themselves must

(Continued in next column.)

## ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The first meeting in the New Year, held on January 3rd, was well supported, and one new member was elected, Mr. George J. Strickland, of Putney.

Arising from a notice of motion, Mr. C. H. Kippen moved a resolution that Rule 12 'be suspended until the end of the war and a temporary rule be substituted to read: 'That no person be entitled to vote in matters of finance unless he shall have attended ten meetings or 50 per cent. of the total number of meetings held during the preceding twelve months (whichever is the lesser), or contribute the sum of 1s. 8d. to the society's funds between November 5th and February 28th following.' After a lengthy discussion the resolution, which was seconded by the treasurer, was carried.

The Master especially welcomed Capt. W. H. J. Hooton, B.A., librarian of the Central Council.

The Treasurer stated that he had received news that Mr. E. Murrell, who has been very dangerously ill, was a little better. Expressions of sympathy were extended to Mr. E. Murrell, also to Mr. Frank M. Butler and Mr. John S. Goldsmith, who are also on the sick list.

Members present, in addition to the master, treasurer and secretary, were Messrs. E. A. Young, H. G. Miles, W. H. Pasmore, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, H. Hoskins, J. G. A. Prior, C. H. Kippen, F. E. Collins, E. Kennings, C. C. Mayne, H. Alford, G. N. Price, F. C. Newman, G. J. Strickland, G. M. Kilby and Capt. Hooton.

After thanking members for their continued support, the Master announced that the next meeting would be held on January 17th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

## A FAMILY HANDBELL PEAL.

### FATHER, MOTHER, SON AND DAUGHTER.

An interesting handbell peal was rung at Sittingbourne on Monday week, when four members of the Spice family—father, mother, son and daughter—rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. This is believed to be the first family peal of its kind.

The member of the band most deserving of congratulation is Mrs. Spice, who is not keen on ringing, and hardly ever rings handbells. She had previously rung one tower-bell peal (also Grandsire Triples), and when this was over she vowed never to attempt another peal if she could possibly help it. She was no more enthusiastic over the idea of a handbell peal, thinking that the time would seem interminable (from her experience of quarter-peals, etc.).

The handbell peal now recorded was in no sense prearranged. At the beginning of the evening the family was engaged on its usual occupations. When a chance suggestion was made that a peal should be attempted, with the result that 15 minutes later, before Mrs. Spice had had time to protest, ringing had started. Considering the fact that months may go by without her touching a pair of handbells, the way she settled down to her task was remarkable, and because of the competent way in which she 'banged the tenor in,' a very good beat was maintained throughout. The ringing, we are told, was almost faultless, and it may also be recorded that Mrs. Spice does not now regard peal ringing with quite so much horror. The family hope she may possibly be induced to go for another in the future.

## A 'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous column.)

help 'Speeches' need not necessarily be long, in fact very often, as we all know, the shorter they are the more effective. In any case, the chairman should have the power to put a 'time limit' on the 'speeches,' in other words, fix the length of the contributions.

No doubt many of us have at times fancied ourselves as members of the Central Council. The scheme which I suggest would enable everybody to fill the same role in another Council, even to the extent of having voting power, although all may not care actually to make speeches but to remain, as many members of the Council prefer to do, 'silent.'

If the scheme thus outlined has any appeal to your readers we could have discussions on such things as—

Would a National Association benefit the art of ringing?

Is a Ringing Association justified in accumulating large reserve funds?

Is it a good policy to try and interest the general public in church bell ringing or should ringing remain, as in the past, a semi-mystery to the outsider?

What can be done to raise the standard of striking?

There are many other subjects which will suggest themselves. For myself, if the plan goes forward, I propose to put down the following motion:—

'That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.'

and I do not mean this as any pious resolution. I hope such a committee can be set up to investigate the subject, to anticipate difficulties and to make practical suggestions in a report which will be subsequently published.

I hope the scheme which I have here outlined will be received as a constructive contribution to the difficult task of maintaining interest in ringing in these dark days and that you, sir, will be kind enough to allow the views of other readers to be published. J. P. PRICE.



## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Saturday, January 3rd, at the Guild's headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City.

Councillor A. Paddon Smith presided over 'a good company.' Apologies were received from Messrs. James George, W. C. Dowding, E. C. Shepherd, John Jaggar and G. H. Williams. The ordinary business was quickly dealt with, and, owing to lack of ringing facilities, there were no new members to propose.

It is usual to hold the first quarterly meeting of the year at Aston. Mr. W. Davies pointed out the difficulties of arranging a tea as is usual there, but promised to do the best he could to make things comfortable, and it was unanimously agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston.

The Chairman referred to the loss the Guild and the ringing Exercise generally had sustained by the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin. He was sure that many present had had the pleasure of ringing with Mr. Lindoff and had enjoyed his lovable personality. He asked all to stand for a moment as a last tribute of respect to a really great man. Mr. Smith also referred to the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the secretary was requested to write Mr. Goldsmith on behalf of all present expressing sympathy and best wishes for his complete recovery.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors, who included Messrs. Wilfred Williams, B. G. Ashford, John Bass and a very old member, Mr. William Short.

The Secretary announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. James George regretting his inability to be present in person, but he would be with them in spirit. He sent best wishes for the continued success of the Guild and enclosed a cheque for £2 as a donation to the funds. The best thanks of the Guild were accorded, and the secretary was requested to convey same to Mr. George.

Before proceeding with the election of officers, the secretary announced receipt of the following motion: 'That the office of Master be allowed to remain vacant for the duration of the war.' In the opinion of the proposer and seconder it was not essential that the office of Master, rendered vacant by the death of the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett, be filled during the war. An interesting discussion followed, when the duties of the Master were explained and also the position from an historical point of view, so much so that the proposer and seconder asked permission to withdraw the motion, which was granted.

It was proposed by the chairman and seconded by Mr. F. W. Perrens that the president and vice-presidents be re-elected en bloc. This was carried unanimously.

The Secretary, in proposing that Councillor A. Paddon Smith be elected Master, pointed out that this was the highest honour to be held by any member and should be reserved for outstanding services rendered. In his opinion, no one deserved that honour more than the chairman. He became secretary at a time when the Guild's affairs were in an almost hopeless condition. He restored order out of chaos and for 20 years carried on the good work. He was still keenly interested in the Guild's welfare and when normal days came along would be amongst them as much as ever. Mr. Albert Walker seconded and also referred to the good work done by Mr. Smith during many years and hoped he would still continue to come amongst them. This was supported by Mr. G. F. Swann and several others present, and, on being put to the meeting by the secretary, was carried unanimously. Mr. Smith suitably responded, thanking the members for the honour conferred on him, which he greatly appreciated.

Mr. F. W. Perrens proposed and Mr. A. Morris seconded that the rest of the officers be re-elected en bloc, and this was agreed to.

It was proposed by the chairman that the Henry Johnson Commemoration be held on similar lines to that of last year, namely, a luncheon at the Imperial Hotel at 1.30 on Saturday, March 7th, and that the proceedings be cut down to enable everyone to get home before black-out, and that Mr. Albert Walker should occupy the chair. This was seconded by Mr. G. F. Swann and carried unanimously. This concluded the business.

Reference was made to Mr. John Jaggar, who attained his 80th birthday that day. The Chairman expressed the hope that his legs would soon be all right again and that he would continue to enjoy good health and come amongst them for many years. The secretary was requested to convey their hearty congratulations.

The remainder of the evening was taken up in social intercourse and handbell ringing, several good touches being brought round, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Stedman Cinques.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT COLCHESTER

At the annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, January 3rd, 25 ringers attended from 12 different towers. St. Peter's, Colchester, Harwich, Mistley, Clacton-on-Sea, Great Bentley, Thorington, Ipswich, Penn (Bucks), Wivenhoe, Springfield, Halstead and Dedham.

Handbells were rung in various Minor, Major and Royal methods. A service in church at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Edward H. Shaw, who gave an inspiring address and mentioned that he thought the Government officials were entirely wrong when they denied the country its bells for holy worship. If, he said, we were the enemy and knew that the bells were only to be used to call the defenders together against invasion, we should at once make the towers our targets.

The business meeting followed and then tea at Crispin Court. The District Master, Mr. G. Waterman, presided, supported by the district secretary, Mr. L. Wright. The Master extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, including Corp. W. A. and Mrs. Randall, from Penn. Bucks, Mr. J. Jennings, of Ipswich, Mr. H. A. Shadrack, hon. district secretary of the South-Eastern Division, Mr. E. Runter, of Springfield, and Miss H. G. Snowden, hon. district secretary of the Northern Division.

In his annual report the hon. secretary mentioned that meetings had been held at Little Clacton, Ramsey and Bradfield, with an average attendance of 17. Although no peals had been rung, there had been considerable activity in handbell ringing. One honorary member had been elected and the membership now stood at honorary members 7, paid up ringing members 71. Fourteen other members had not paid their subscriptions. Twenty-three members were serving in H.M. Forces, and the number of towers in union with the association was unchanged. The district had lost by death during the year four of the most active members.

The retiring Master thanked the members for their attendances during the year, and said that if they could carry on for another year in the way they did last year, they would be pulling their weight for the Essex Association.

Mr. H. A. Wright proposed and Mr. H. T. Pye seconded the re-election of Mr. G. Waterman as Master, and this was carried.

Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Mr. W. Chalk seconded that Mr. L. Wright should retain his office as district secretary and treasurer. This was agreed to.

Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. A. Ellis were elected as members of the General Committee.

For the next meeting Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Mr. H. T. Pye seconded Great Tey some time in April, leaving the secretary to fix the date.

Silence was observed for the passing of Pte. Jim Durrant, of Thorpe-le-Soken, killed at the evacuation of Dunkirk. The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Durrant and to Mr. Gabriel Lindoff's son conveying the sympathy of the members in their bereavements.

A hearty vote of thanks are accorded the Vicar for having the meeting and for his very touching address; and to the organist, Mr. D. J. Durrant, the vergier and the St. Peter's ringers for helping to make the meeting a success.

The Vicar replied in very humorous vein, and said he had come from a great ringing family of at least three generations. He had often wished he could ring, but, like a good many more when young, he preferred the rugger field or boxing ring. However, they had his sympathies, for he knew full well the difficulties in trying to carry on, but 'stick it,' he said, 'and pray God the time won't be long when you can meet here again and ring the joyful tower bells.'

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 17s. 3d.

## THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter from Mr. Harris tells us it is no use waiting for the older members of the Exercise to give a lead, and then says it would be very helpful if some of the older members gave us their opinion on the matter. Why not resolve to start the scheme without consulting the older members and thereby have a new broom?

Our Central Council has done a vast amount of real hard work since its inception and has uplifted the Exercise in many ways. It has not been possible to please everyone, but I for one certainly think that their work over a great number of years deserves thanks for its fine work towards the betterment of ringers and ringing.

Mr. Harris suggests that leaders be selected for their business ability, not social standing or ringing ability, but I should be very sorry to see any ringing body put a bar on anyone because of these qualifications in order that those of business ability should get a seat. Ringers elect the members of the Central Council and have given the Council some of the finest brains in the Exercise, and I wonder what sort of meeting would result if a selected body of business people ran a National Association of Church Bellringers.

Those who are of the opinion that a National Association could play a big part in the life of the Exercise should work out its aims and objects now rather than wait for the future and have to rush many important points at the last minute.

W. SHEPHERD.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

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**GRANDSIRE CATERS.****THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 22.)

In the year 1817 the Painswick Youths rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters and set up a record that remained unbroken until the peal at Appleton in 1888. William Estcourt rang the fourth.

William Estcourt was born in 1798, so that he was only 19 years old when the long peal was rung. His son became Mayor of Bristol, and presented the second bell to St. Michael's, Gloucester, in 1897, when the ring was augmented to ten. Of Painswick and William Estcourt, the Rev. H. A. Cockey writes:—

‘Many notable feats of change ringing have been performed on these bells in bygone days, as well as in more recent times, and the members of the Painswick Society of Change Ringers have greatly distinguished themselves in the ringing world. Mr. William Estcourt as composer, conductor and ringer was one of the most noted in England, and amongst other fine performances took part in a peal of 12,212 changes of Grandsire Caters in May, 1817, the ringing taking seven hours and forty-four minutes.’

Some of Estcourt's Treble Bob compositions will be found in Snowdon's ‘Treatise on Treble Bob.’

On October 16th, 1820, the Wakefield Society rang 6,030 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 44 minutes, composed and conducted by William Woodhead. The only clue to the figures is provided by the part ends. A footnote states that the peal contained the 60 nine-six-eights and the 60 eight-nines. It is clear that each part must contain 67 leads and that 6, 8 and 9 are the fixed bells; but beyond these facts there is no certain means of determining the calling. If, however, the student will turn to George Gross' peal, 7,001 changes, he may find the following interesting fact. The 115th lead of Gross' composition is 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 9. From this point a block of changes leads to 2 3 4 6 7 5 8 9 in 67 leads. If this block is repeated four times a round block of 6,030 changes is obtained, ending where it began, at 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 9, and containing 60 nine-seven-eights and 60 eight-nines. If this calling is used, starting from Rounds, a peal of 6,030 is obtained, and this composition contains the 60 nine-six-eights and the 60 eight-nines. The part ends will be the same as the Wakefield peal. It is probable, therefore, that these are the actual figures of the Wakefield peal.

Whether Woodhead ‘lifted’ the block wholesale from Gross' 7,001 or whether he composed it independently cannot be determined. He certainly was an able composer, for the first peal of Cambridge Royal was composed by him and conducted at Wakefield in 1822. Later, in 1826, he conducted the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal.

The importance of keeping exact records is emphasised by the long peal at Fulham in 1837. The words of Jasper Snowdon will best illustrate the point. He says:—

‘As I am endeavouring to state correctly the precise lengths attained in this method, the following example will show the necessity of all ringers co-operating to arrive at correct conclusions in such matters. The incompleteness of the information possessed in the case I

am about to mention by persons whom it might have been thought would be in full possession of such particulars, will be a matter of surprise, and were it not that the facts are before us, they might not readily be credited. In 1837 the St. James' Society, after ringing unsuccessfully over 9,000 on a previous date, accomplished on May 15th 12,096 changes at All Saints', Fulham. This peal they recorded as ‘the greatest number of changes ever performed by ten men only,’ and as such the performance was generally accepted by the London ringers. Unfortunately, just twenty years before, the Painswick men had rung their peal, which was 216 changes longer than this one; and thus, by want of correct information on the point, this arduous performance stands only second on the list of single-handed lengths, and by the lack of a few hundred changes its original purpose was entirely defeated. It is, indeed, very hard to go so far, and yet not get to the top of the tree.’

The tablet in the belfry of All Saints', Fulham, reads: ‘To record an extraordinary performance by the young ringers of St. James' Society, who on Whit-Monday, 15th of May, 1837, rung in this steeple, a true and complete peal of 12,096 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 7 hrs. and 50 minutes, being the greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only; the truth of which is attested by several of the ablest judges of the art, who witnessed the whole performance, and which can only be equalled by the same ability and persevering exertions. The performers were: T. Tolliday Treble. Jas. Rogers Second. Jno. Fairbairn Third. Jos. Harrison Fourth. Geo. Stockham Fifth. Chas. Randall Sixth. Geo. Clayton Seventh. Rich. Turner Eighth. Jno. Bradley Ninth. Rt. Burgess Tenor. The peal was composed by T. Brooke and conducted by T. Tolliday. The Revd. R. G. Baker, Vicar, Wm. Matyear, Wm. Hicker, Churchwardens.’

In 1877 what appears to have been the first peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells was rung at York. The figures of the composition are to be found on page 69 of the ‘Central Council Collection of Peals.’ The number of changes is given as 5,039, but the ‘Corrigenda Leaflet’ corrects this to 5,057. The performance is credited to the Yorkshire Association, but in Banister's book it is claimed by the College Youths. Mr. P. J. Johnson has pointed out that prior to the formation of the Yorkshire Association in 1875 the College Youths were fairly strong in York and Sheffield, and this would account for the peal being booked by both societies. The particulars are as follows:—

‘York. On Monday, March 5th, 1877, in 3 hrs. and 5 mins., at Fetter Lane, A Peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,039 changes. Thos. Dixon 1-2. Geo. Breed 3-4. C. Underwood 5-6. Wm. Howard 7-8. Wm. Morrell 9-10. Composed by C. Hattersley. Conducted by T. Dixon.’

Although there is no claim that this was the first peal of Grandsire Caters in hand, no record of any previous performance can be traced, and the footnote to the following peal indicates that the York men were first in the field.

‘Birmingham Amalgamated Society. On August 20, 1882, at 63, Heaton Street, Hockley, Birmingham, 5,003 Grandsire Caters in 2 hrs. and 50 mins. Thomas Russam 1-2. John Carter 3-4. Thomas Miller 5-6. (Continued on next page.)



**THE HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.****THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is nice to know from Mr. Russell Spears that the Hertfordshire Resolutions were not aimed at any individual members, but at the Council as a whole. But what do these good people think the Council could have done? In the ordinary way it meets once a year. Could it have done so these last two years? A meeting takes quite a lot of organisation and calls for the expenditure of both time and money from the members. I, for one, could not afford either to make the long journey to London at this time.

When the Council is not in session its activities are carried on by its officers and the various committees. The efforts made by the secretary to get the ban lifted have been acknowledged. As for the committees, they will probably be able to say what they have been able to do when the next meeting comes. The work of the Towers and Belfries Committee is largely to give advice when asked. I do not suppose many parishes are doing much now in the way of bell restoration. The ban has made the work of the Analysis Committee largely a sinecure, the Methods Committee, I suppose, are waiting until the Surprise Book can be published, the Literature Committee we may be sure is quite alive, and the Peal Boards Committee has, I have been told, been promoted to the rank of corporal, and is now looking after the British Army somewhere in the North of England. What more do these people want?

I suggest that the best plan would be for these Bushey people to take over the duties of the Central Council for the duration and see what they could do. Half of them could easily do that job and the other half could run 'The Ringing World.' In the intervals between their activities they could amuse themselves by ringing Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples, for they at least have the figures.

A MEMBER.

**DEATH OF TWO LANCASHIRE RINGERS.**

Through the deaths of William Booth and Edward Kittins, Liverpool has sustained further serious losses. The former died at Aigburth some weeks ago, having been 'blitzed' from his home last spring. He was 79 years of age and was formerly a very active member of the St. Peter's (Pro-Cathedral) Company. He had not done much ringing of late years, but in his younger days was a great enthusiast.

Mr. Kittins, who was 77 years of age, started ringing in his early days at Bromborough, Cheshire, removing many years ago to Liverpool. He was for long a regular Sunday service ringer at Childwall and was a loyal supporter of the Lancashire Association, of which he was a member for many years.

It is believed Mr. Kittins rang only two peals, one of Grandsire Triples at Bromborough in 1883 and one of Bob Major at Garston in 1908. The passing of these two old friends will cause much regret, and sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

**THE LATE GABRIEL LINDOFF.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to the query by Mr. Keeble in 'The Ringing World' dated December 5th re the late Gabriel Lindoff's books and manuscripts, I regret that it was not possible for me to reply up to the present.

A number of Mr. Lindoff's notebooks were handed over to me for safe keeping by his son. As these books have yet to be sorted out, I am unable to give any further information at the present. If any ringer is interested and writes personally to me, I shall endeavour to give the required assistance.

FRED E. DUKES.

23, Skreen Road, Cabra, Dublin.

**GRANDSIRE CATERS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Walter Bryant 7-8. Richard Hackley 9-10. Composed and conducted by John Carter. The first handbell peal of Grandsire Caters to be rung in Birmingham.

A footnote given in Mr. Miller's 'Peal Book' says: 'The only peal before the above was rung in Yorkshire.'

The Birmingham peal was rung at the second attempt. The first attempt reached the very last course (the familiar 'Round at hand by 9 in and out at 2'), and at this point Walter Bryant in his excitement threw his bells across the room! Nearly sixty years later the veteran Tom Miller could repeat with glee all the details of those early days, and could unhesitatingly recite the calling of the peal. The figures are No. 67 in the 'C.C. Collection.'

(To be continued.)

**GOOD COPY AND OTHER SUBJECTS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am in entire agreement with you in not publishing the figures of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples. The space it would take up could be used for more useful purposes. The figures can always be obtained by anyone who wishes to by applying to those who have them in their possession.

My friend, Mr. G. H. Cross, criticises the style in ringing of the late William Pye, but admits his bell was always in its place. So far so good, but might I ask which is the most important—style or striking? I have rung many peals, both on tower and on handbells, with Mr. Pye, and certainly should not class him as a slovenly ringer on either. Practical experience is worth a ton of theory.

I now come to my friend, A. H. Pulling, on first things first, and my only comment is, Alf, you have hit the nail bang on the head with one blow. I should also like to congratulate Mr. George Symonds on his recent letter. Plenty of old fogies (and I can claim to be one) are willing to stand aside if there are others as good to take our places. We are quite content to rest on our laurels, but those who come after us should not forget that we old fogies, as a recent writer dubbed us, have all done our bit and have helped to blaze the trail for those who follow.

Lastly, I come to my friend, J. W. Dyer, of Tey, on silent church bells. I, too, am puzzled why church clocks are allowed to chime every quarter, day in, day out. Here is a point that should be taken up by the associations or possibly the hon. secretary of the Central Council.

Colchester.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

**THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. T. Harris' letter, may I ask him what would be the really worth while advantages of such an association? 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

A. A. HUGHES.

**THE BIG OAKS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank the two gentlemen who replied to my inquiry for their kind and informative letters.

I can assure them that several kindred spirits who read their replies were as interested as myself. One gentleman who is an undertaker was anxious to know the whereabouts of the big oaks I mentioned. I did not tell him, for, enthuse as he would, and try as I would, I could not interest myself in his 'art,' and should be sorry for him to get them.

R. ALSOP.

**NOTICES—Continued from next page.**

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Romford on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available. All ringers welcome. — J. H. Champion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

**BIRTH.**

On Friday, Jan. 9th, at The Stork's Nest, Exeter, to Kathleen and Harry G. Stokes, of Webber's Farm, Woodbury, Devon—a son. Mrs. Stokes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes, of the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

**HANDBELLS WANTED.**

**WANTED,** a set of either 6 or 8 handbells, second-hand; must be in good condition; state lowest price.—Rev. F. Gibson, Hensingham Vicarage, Cumberland.

**WANTED,** good set of Handbells; 2 to 3 octaves; chromatic.—H. Halford, 4, All Saints' Road, Cheltenham.

**FOR SALE.**

**DON'T LET HITLER DESTROY ALL YOUR HOBBIES!** Though the ban on bell ringing has been made, the ban on domestic poultry keeping has been lifted. Have YOU taken advantage of the last named? If not, why not do it now? Write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope for particulars of birds for sale, and hatching eggs, etc.—P. Amos, 2a, Beverley Crescent, Northampton.



**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.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th, in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, St. Albans. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will all members please endeavour to attend as important business must be discussed.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, Jan. 17th, 3 p.m. Tower bells available for silent practice. Tea, Central Café, 5.15 p.m. Usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The annual district meeting is being held at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, on Jan. 17th, at 6 p.m. Back entrance and bring your own 'eats.' Handbells, etc., follow meeting. Silent tower bell ringing from 3.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in the Park Hotel. Usual arrangements.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Jan. 24th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held at Leicester on Jan. 24th. Ringing (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. at St. John's. Tea at the Cathedral Church House 5.30 p.m. at about 1s. 9d. each, followed by a meeting. Afterwards there will be a social evening at the Globe Hotel, near the Cathedral. It is important that all those requiring tea should notify me not later than Jan. 21st.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Broxbourne on Saturday, Jan. 24th, at 2.30 p.m. Silent bells, together with handbells, available. Tea at the Welcome at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Please make a special effort to be present. With best wishes to all my ringing friends for 1942.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's Parochial Hall, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives?—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Service 3.45 p.m.—J. C. Dean, Hon. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24th, in All Saints' Ringing Chamber, Gainsborough. Service 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Ringing up to 9 p.m. on handbells and 6 clapperless tower bells.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. John's, Newhall, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Short service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Handbells available after tea in Church Room. Important business. Good attendance requested. Everyone welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Tower open for handbell ringing at 3 p.m. Tea, at the kind invitation of the local ringers, at 4.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Members requiring tea must notify Mr. R. A. Jenkins, Cosette, 76, Brent Lane, Dartford, not later than Tuesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The district annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Eight silent bells available. Business meeting in the belfry at 3.45. Service at 4.30. It is regretted that arrangements for tea cannot be made, but efforts are being made to engage a room for the evening for a social chat and handbell ringing at which all ringers and their friends are welcome.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough District.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4.30, followed by tea in Co-operative Hall, Queen Street. Please come for 'old times sake,' but let me know early and bring your sugar. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting of the Association will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 31st, at 3 p.m. prompt. Unfortunately, it has not been found possible to make arrangements for tea, but an announcement regarding this matter will be made at the meeting. A social evening will take place on the same premises at 6.30 p.m., for which the small charge of 1s. per head will be made to cover expenses. All members are cordially invited. Subscriptions are now due and reports will be available at this meeting.—Leslie W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

(Continued on previous page.)



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