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ANONYMITY.

One of the most encouraging things for ringers in these sombre and difficult days is the correspondence which has taken place in our columns. We have received and printed a large number of letters dealing with a great variety of subjects and written by men from all parts of the country. These letters not only show that the writers are doing what they can to keep their own interest in our art alive until the better times come, but they help in no small degree to keep alive the interest in other people. The man who writes on some subject is not only amusing himself but he is doing good to others, and we welcome correspondence on any matter which may be helpful or of interest to ringers.

Nor do we make any distinctions between the writers. All alike are welcome. Many, in fact, are old and valued friends whose opinions carry weight with the Exercise, whatever they say. Others are newcomers and comparatively unknown. And others still prefer to hide their identity behind a nom-de-plume and withhold their names.

This latter thing seems to be to some of our readers a stumbling-block. They do not like anonymous letters. They think there is something underhanded about them, and they hold that if a man has something to say he should say it over his own name, or else hold his peace.

Of course, there is a sense in which anonymous letters are an unmitigated evil. The man who from behind the smoke screen of anonymity unfairly attacks another is universally and justly condemned as a despicable character, and it is undoubtedly true that anonymous letters of that sort have brought all anonymous letters into very bad odour with many people.

But the abuse of a thing must not blind us to its legitimate uses, and the anonymous letter has its recognised position in English journalism. From 'The Times' downwards all the great newspapers print letters over nom-de-plumes, and the higher the standing of the paper the more perhaps it does so. There was a time well within memory when it was quite the exception for letters and articles in newspapers and reviews to be signed, and even great statesmen and leading public men said what they had to say without putting their names to it.

If therefore a man when he writes to us prefers to remain anonymous, he has in most circumstances a perfect right to do so, and no one should try to impugn his right. He may have very good reasons for not signing his name. He may prefer that what he says should be considered objectively and free from personal considerations. He may wish not to be publicly identified with opinions which he knows are objected to by his friends. He may not care

(Continued on page 50.)

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to advertise his own personality. And generally ironical and leg-pulling letters are unsigned.

All these are valid reasons, but, of course, there are rules and limits to be observed. The anonymous writer must play the game fairly and not try to deceive other people. To decide where the line must be drawn is, of course, one of an editor's functions.

We do not, then, intend to discourage anonymous letters to 'The Ringing World,' but the case will be entirely different if the proposed scheme for a Ringers' Council in our pages takes effect. Then the idea will be to reproduce as far as possible the conditions which obtain at a conference where people are present in the body. At such a meeting a speaker cannot pretend to be anything but himself, nor can he divorce his opinions from his own personality. It will be necessary, not only for the 'speaker's' name to be published in the report, but he must also supply the name of his tower. In some respects this will be an excellent thing for, as has been pointed out, it may be the means of bringing forward some young and as yet unknown men who will be able to carry on in the future the direction and leadership of the Exercise when those to whom at present we look for guidance are no longer present.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

*MRS. JOHN THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
GEORGE W. FLEICHER ... 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLEICHER ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Treble Bob Royal.

OCTOGENARIAN DEFIES SNOW.

A happy little gathering took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Munday at Liss, Hants, recently. It was another 'variation' of the regular Saturday afternoon handbell practices which originated in Guildford. On this occasion Messrs. Pulling and Hazelden, of Guildford, and Ayliffe, of Haslemere, were joined by Messrs. G. Williams (Master) and F. W. Rogers (secretary), of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild. A number of touches were rung on handbells, and Mr. and Mrs. Munday's sumptuous tea was much enjoyed.

One of the most amazing things was the presence of Mr. Williams, who had had to travel from Eastleigh. The country was snow covered, but this did not keep the 84-year-old Master from fulfilling his engagement. His vitality is amazing.

We wonder if he recalls a tramp through almost a blizzard from Hayward's Heath Station to Cuckfield, in the old Sussex days, on a Saturday in January, 1897? The weather caused one absentee, but the other seven went on in faith, and, finding a local treble man, who afterwards became well known in ringing, rang a peal of Superlative, and then had to walk back! That night Keith Hart collected his 100th peal.

AN IPSWICH RINGER'S RECORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When visiting Ipswich this New Year, I went to St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, where they meet for handbell practice on Sunday mornings, 10 till 11.30, and heard the following mentioned.

Mr. W. P. Garratt is the only ringer who has rung 100 peals of Maximus, and also he is the *only* ringer who rang in *all* the first peals of Surprise Maximus by this talented company of ringers.

Having known Mr. Garratt for nearly 56 years, I am pleased to bring this achievement forward, as personally I think it is well worthy to be published in your valuable paper.

R. W. STANNARD.

153, Beeches Drive, Bocking.

THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

RUDHALL'S FAMOUS RING.

(Continued from page 41.)

The opening of Fulham bells was made an occasion of much rejoicing among the townsfolk, and leading ringers took part—probably the College Youths, and certainly the London Scholars, then nearing the end of their distinguished career.

Several professors of music listened to the ringing, some of the company went along the towing path on the Putney side of the river, others along the Bishop's Walk, and others to different parts of the town where they could best hear the bells. It was characteristic of the times that there was no religious service in the church and no dedication of the bells, but afterwards a dinner was held at the King's Arms, where the opinion was freely expressed that for its weight the peal was one of the best in England.

Since then ten generations of ringers have endorsed that opinion. Even those who have little good to say about bells which are not cast and tuned in the modern style, will usually make an exception in favour of the Fulham ring. The older and more unsophisticated opinion is given by J. T. Smith in his 'Book for a Rainy Day' (Smith died in 1833)—'Next evening away I truged to take water with George Heath at Strand Lane. "I find the Swan to be your usual sign on the river," said I. "Why, yes," replied George, "I don't know what a coach, or a wagon and horses or the high mettled racer have to do with our river. Bells—now bells—we might have bells, because the Thames is so famous for bells." "You like bells, then?" "I was a famous ringer in my youth at St. Mary's, Ovaries. They are beautiful bells, but of all the bells give me Fulham. St. Margaret's are fine bells, and so are St. Martin's; but, after all, Fulham for my money."'

George Heath, the waterman, was a well-known character at the time and the original of a popular theatrical sketch. His claim to have been a famous ringer in his youth was perhaps a bit of pardonable exaggeration, but he was for some years one of a number of ringers who without ever getting into the really leading bands were active among the London belfries. It was he who gave to the ancient Society of College Youths the book which was damaged in the fire raid and about which Mr. E. A. Young wrote in 'The Ringing World.'

Heath rang one College Youths peal, not with the men from headquarters, but with a band made up from the villages of Middlesex. It was in 1791 at Battersea and one of Union Triples. He also took part about the same time in another interesting performance, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob upon St. George's Day by eight men all named George. The attempt was made first at St. George's-in-the-Borough, but after rotten ropes had caused a breakdown the band adjourned to St. Olave's, Tooley Street, and rang the peal there. The elder George Gross was the conductor and this was probably the first name peal ever rung. It was a non-society performance and no board was put up to record it. It would have been clean forgotten, but that George Heath, who was a genial chatty sort of person, loved to talk in his old age about what he had done in his youth.

The old man was quite right when he claimed that the Thames is famous for its bells. It is remarkable

how many well-known towers stand on its banks or within a few score yards. Leaving aside the towers of Oxford and many others upstream, Twickenham, Isleworth, Brentford, Mortlake, Chiswick, Battersea, Fulham, Putney, Lambeth, St. Saviour's, St. Magnus', St. Olave's, Rotherhithe, and Greenwich are all on the river bank, and there are a dozen or so others very close. St. Olave's and its bells were destroyed by fire.

William Skelton was a member of the Society of College Youths, and it was only natural that he should invite them to ring the first peal on Fulham's new bells. They did so on August 24th, 1730, ringing a peal of Bob Major.

The band was an interesting one. At the time the rivalry which existed between Benjamin Annable and John Cundell had led to the temporary exclusion of the former from the society's peal ringing band. Cundell called the peal at Fulham from the tenor, and his friend, John Hardham, the celebrated tobacconist of Fleet Street, rang the treble. Laughton rang the second; and William Thompson, who had left the College Youths for the London Scholars, came back for this peal, perhaps because Annable was not in it.

A local band was formed in the parish, but we have no account of any early peals, and the next we know of in the steeple was also by the College Youths. It was one of Union Triples on July 16th, 1733, and Annable conducted. Hardham rang the tenor.

By January, 1736, the local men, who called themselves the Fulham Youths, were far advanced enough to rang 10,080 changes of Bob Major. It was the fifth peal that so far had been rung of over ten thousand changes, and was a notable performance; so much so that we must suppose that they had already rung shorter peals now forgotten. The name of none of the band appears elsewhere, but among them were two men of the name of Hudnott, a family which supplied several ringers during the eighteenth century.

For many years a member of the family held the office of beadle and sexton to the parish, and that carried with it the control of the bells and ringing. In the belfry there is a large oil painting of an elderly man in a red coat, holding a quart pot in one hand and smoking a long churchwarden pipe. It represents John Hudnott, who was beadle in 1690, and since his portrait was painted, evidently an important person in the parish. Who the painter was and what are the artistic merits of the painting I cannot say. It is hung high on the wall and needs cleaning.

The College Youths rang Double Bob Major at Fulham in 1739 and the Eastern Scholars the same method in 1740. The Union Scholars rang Bob Major in 1739 and in 1741; and the Eastern Scholars Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1741.

Fulham bells were increased to ten in 1746, and through the generosity of Theodore Eccleston and William Skelton. The details of the transaction are somewhat obscure, but what happened appears to be this. Eccleston, who was a wealthy young man and a keen ringer, lived at Mortlake, and also had an estate in Suffolk. In that county he gave a ring of eight bells to Coddenham and one of ten to Stonham Aspal, and at Mortlake in 1741 he added two trebles to the old six.

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

Five years later he married and (it may be to celebrate the event) he decided to increase the bells at Mortlake further, and make them into a ring of ten, besides replacing the two Robert Catlin had supplied in 1741. The bells were supplied, but when an attempt was made to hang them it was found that there was no room in the steeple. It seems a rather curious story, for one would have thought the bellhangers would have known all along if the bells could be hung. The story depends on a very vague tradition, but the known facts corroborate it.

Since the two smallest bells could not be hung at Mortlake, Eccleston offered them to Fulham, which is not far away on the other side of the river; William Skelton undertook to pay the cost of hanging, and on January 29th, 1746, the vestry decided to accept the gift, on the understanding that the parish should be at no expense whatever for the same or any part thereof.

The bells were opened in March, and on the 16th the College Youths rang 5,076 changes of Grandsire Caters. Benjamin Annable conducted from the second and called his well-known 5,076, the figures of which were given by Mr. Edgar Shepherd in 'The Ringing World' of October 31st last. It was the first time the peal was rung. A fortnight later the Eastern Scholars, with Joseph Prior as conductor, rang 5,886 changes in the same method.

The tenors at Mortlake and Fulham are much the same note, and it was probably hoped that the trebles cast for one steeple would fit into the other with a little tuning, but it soon became apparent that the new bells were not good enough but Rudhall's bells, and it was decided to recast them. On May 26th the vestry 'agreed that the churchwardens do deliver the new small bells to Mr. Robert Catlin, the bell founder, to be new cast, Mr. Theodore Eccleston by letter having desired the same, and Mr. Holland having engaged to deliver the same with all convenient speed as the property of the parish.' Holland was one of the ringers and had rung the seventh to the long peals.

Catlin's recast bells were not a great success, and in 1760 they were exchanged for two others which had been the trebles at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. They, too, had been a failure there, but in their new home were a complete success. One is still in the steeple and has the peculiar distinction of being the only one in a family of ten that has taken part in a peal of Cinques.

For a time after 1746 we have no account of any peals on Fulham bells, but probably some were rung by the local men, including one of Fulham Triples. In 1754 the Union Scholars rang Bob Major, and in 1756 the Eastern Scholars 5,040 Bob Major Royal, otherwise Ten-in. The latter was called by Richard Royce, who, though he is now forgotten, was for a short time a leading composer and conductor.

In 1759 George Patrick, the founder and first Master of the Society of Cumberland Youths, left his old friends and went for a time to the ancient Society of College Youths, and on July 17th he called for them at Fulham the first peal of Grandsire Caters ever brought round at hand. Francis Roberts was the first man to find out the way to bring Grandsire Caters round at hand, but when he called a peal in the method at Fulham in 1761 it was an ordinary round-at-back composition. The third in this peal was rung by William Skelton, the son of the man we

have been talking about, and the third of the name. Like his father and grandfather, he was an ecclesiastical lawyer, a proctor in the Court of Arches.

The first ten thousand of Caters on the bells was rung by the ancient Society of College Youths on March 29th, 1762. William Underwood conducted, the elder Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor, and Christopher Wells the fifth. The performance is not recorded in the College Youths' peal book.

In 1776 Charles Purser composed and called with a band of College Youths 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal with the sixth the extent right and wrong. All Purser's figures are lost, and perhaps their truth is very doubtful.

What seems to have been the first peal of Grandsire Royal ever rung was accomplished at Fulham on November 26th, 1780, when John Povey called for the College Youths 5,360 changes of Grandsire Tittum Ten-in; and the only peal of Bob Caters in London was called for the same society at Fulham in 1783 by Edward Simmonds. The other eighteenth-century performances in the steeple are of no particular interest.

The Junior Society of College Youths was founded in 1820, and on May 20th they rang at Fulham their first peal, one of Grandsire Caters conducted by Henry Symondson.

The longest peal on Fulham bells was 12,096 changes of Grandsire Caters by the 'St. James' Society on Whit Monday, 1837. The composition was by Thomas Brooke, who is well known in connection with the familiar variation of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples. Thomas Tolladay conducted, and the claim was made that it was the greatest number of changes ever performed by ten men only. Actually the Painswick men had already in 1817 rung 12,312 changes.

The Fulham peal is recorded in the belfry by a very elaborate tablet given by John Powell Powell, as was also the tablet recording the Junior College Youths' peal. Powell is best known as the owner of Quex Park and the ring of twelve bells there. His family had a long connection with Fulham, where he had a residence, Park House. On the gallery of the old church it was recorded that in 1773 John Powell Powell, Esq., paid £100 for a piece of land taken from the common, called Eel Brook, the interest arising thereof to be equally divided between Fulham and Hammersmith and distributed in bread and meat to the poor.

Henry Haley called the first peal of Stedman Caters on Fulham bells in 1843, and on December 8th, 1883, the then longest length in the method, 11,111 changes, was rung in the steeple. It was by the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was conducted by James Pettitt. An earlier attempt was lost after nearly ten thousand changes. Next year the Cumberlands attempted Cox's peal with the 120 Tittum course-ends, but a shift occurred after six hours and thirty-three minutes.

Another interesting performance on the bells was the peal of London Surprise Major by the band from Burton-on-Trent on December 8th, 1888. It was not until ten years later that one of the metropolitan societies was able to ring a peal in the method.

(To be continued.)

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Friday, January 16th, 1,800 Bob Royal: *E. Drabble 1-2, G. G. Graham (conductor) 3-4, †R. Fox 5-6. †N. Fox 7-8, P. J. Jervis 9-10. * First quarter-peal. † Longest length rung. Longest touch 'in hand' for the rest.

THE MUSIC OF TRIPLES METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much surprised to see the opinions on the music of Triples methods given in your paper by so practised and skilful a ringer as Mr. Maurice Hibbert.

Mr. Hibbert tells us that in a peal in any seven-bell method every row, good and bad, must be included and so there can be no difference in the music, and all that matters is the striking. Surely that is quite wrong. Music in change ringing does not depend only, or even mainly, on what rows are rung, but on the way in which they follow each other, that is on dodging and coursing order. It has been generally agreed by ringers at all times that double dodging is the most musical movement there is. Many people have admired the triple dodging at the bob in Treble Bob Major, and some find little fault with the four-pull dodging we get in some of the new methods.

But that is as far as people generally are prepared to go except in one particular circumstance. They will tolerate the five-pull dodging of Superlative, but if you ask for their real opinion most people will agree that they find it rather monotonous and a defect in an otherwise excellent method.

But what ringers do not object to, and do not much notice, is the five-pull dodging we get at the bob in Double Norwich and Stedman. That no doubt is because these do not appear to be five-pull dodges, but in each case a double dodge followed by a triple dodge. This probably is the reason why four and six-bob sets in Stedman Triples do not seem to some men so intolerable as they otherwise would do.

We can hardly imagine a band ringing a method which calls on a ringer to dodge for 42 changes in 6-7 up, but that is what a six-bob set in Stedman does.

I should be very much surprised to learn that average ringers do not notice any difference between the music of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples. It may be very difficult to say which is the better, or even if one is better than the other; but that they are not the same is, I think, certain. In both methods the numbers of bobs alters the amount of dodging and therefore alters the music, but it can hardly be denied that while in Grandsire the more bobs there are the better is the music; in Stedman, since the method already gives you as much dodging as you want, the more bobs there are the worse is the music.

The plain courses of Double Norwich and Double Oxford Major contain exactly the same rows. Will anyone seriously maintain that the first is not altogether the more musical of the two?

I quite believe that Mr. Hibbert did not find the fifty 6-bob sets in Mr. Slack's peal monotonous either to listen to or to ring; but he was the conductor and had his mind fully occupied without much opportunity for paying attention to music or monotony.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

**DEATH OF MR. DAVID GRAHAM TAYLOR.
GREAT SERVICES TO ILMINSTER.**

By the sudden death of Mr. D. G. Taylor, of Iminster, Somerset, Iminster has lost one of its best known residents, a man who has figured prominently in the business and public life of the town. He was 75 years of age. The news was a shock to those closely associated with him.

It was not till he was 34 years of age that the then churchwarden, Col. Paull, persuaded him to take up ringing, and in the course of his career he took part in 49 peals, some of which he conducted. He was ever ready to offer assistance and nearly all the towers of West Somerset have appreciated his invaluable help, not only financially, but when the bells have been restored to help to teach the recruits. Only recently the clergy at Iminster, having a view that they should have a band able to ring when victory comes, obtained the instructorship of Mr. T. H. Taffender to teach the new men when he is able to attend from his war-time duties. Mr. Taylor went along to help and was of real assistance and will be truly missed. Mr. Taylor had held the position of churchwarden at the Iminster and was for some years secretary to the Ruri-decanal Conference. A former member of the Urban District Council, being its vice-chairman at one time, he was also Governor of Iminster Endowed Schools. Iminster Fire Brigade had his services in his younger days, and other secretarial posts which Mr. Taylor held up to the time of his death was that of the Iminster Reading Society, one of the oldest organisations in the town, and not least secretary of the Crewkerne Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Ringers. Mr. Taylor was a man of considerable accomplishments and introduced much enthusiasm and competency into everything he undertook.

Much sympathy is felt with Miss Louise Taylor, who resided with him. The funeral took place on Thursday, January 15th, the first part of the service being held at the Iminster. The clergy taking part were the Rural Dean, the Rev. H. C. Tritton (Curry Mallet), the Vicar of Iminster, the Rev. G. G. Hickman, and the curate, the Rev. J. L. Leslie. Mr. G. H. Fowler Sharpe was at the organ. He first played 'O rest in the Lord' (Parry). During the service the psalm, 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' and hymn, 'Jesus shall reign,' and the Nunc Dimittis were sung. There was a large congregation. After the interment at the New Road Cemetery, at the graveside handbells were rung three whole pulls of rounds with interval three times, etc. This was originally introduced by the late Mr. C. F. Winney, who conducted Mr. Taylor's first peal of Stedman Triples.

Mr. Taylor was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. The ringers were Mr. T. H. Taffender 1-2, P. W. Lenthall 3-4, Gordon Rice 5-6, and Mr. S. V. Crabb 7-8. Another good ringer has passed on, his place difficult to fill.

T. H. T.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) is making slow progress towards recovery. He is still confined to bed. He desires to thank all those friends who have made inquiries and regrets that his condition has not allowed him to reply to them individually.

The Vale of White Horse Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild has lost a very valuable and keen ringer by the death of Mr. Harold A. Edwards at Buckland on December 13th last.

One hundred years ago last Sunday the Painswick men rang 8,105 changes of Stedman Caters, the then longest length in the method. It was composed and conducted by William Estcourt, but afterwards turned out to be false. So did an 8,081 of Grandsire Caters rung on the same day in the neighbouring town of Stroud.

Elijah Roberts, who made a name by his marvellous feats of tapped peals, committed suicide at Liverpool on January 26th, 1865.

The first peal by the Sussex Association, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at Cuckfield on January 26th, 1885. Two of the band, Mr. G. King and Mr. C. Tyler, are still alive. Mr. King has been living for several years in Canada.

The second peal by the association was Oxford Bob Triples at Horsham on January 31st. It was conducted by Henry Burston, who was a noted character of the town. He died on January 30th, 1916, at the age of 89.

Not all the peals rung by the College Youths were recorded in the peal book. There is a board in Ealing Parish Church for a 6,048 Bob Major rung on January 28th, 1798, conducted by James Bartlett.

The College Youths rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on January 28th, 1911, the first peal of Cambridge Maximus in London.

Henry Haley died at Bethnal Green on January 29th, 1886, at the age of 66.

The record peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,312 changes, was rung at Bolton on January 29th, 1927. The composition was by Mr. Thomas B. Worsley and the conductor was Mr. E. Jenkins.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, two Stedman Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major and one Cambridge Surprise Major.

One of the Stedman Triples was rung at Lindfield in Sussex. Mr. George Williams conducted and it was Mr. James Parker's first peal in the method.

As early as 1780 John Reeves called a peal of Cambridge Major at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and another in 1783. Both, however, were false, and it was not until January 30th, 1892, that George Newson called on the same bells the first true peal in the method in Central London.

Ten years ago to-day 29 peals were rung. They were: Bob Triples 1, Major 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, Spliced Oxford and Kent Major 1, Stedman Triples 5, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Royal 2, Superlative Surprise Major 1, Maximus 1, Ipswich Surprise Major 1, London Surprise Major 1, Doubles 2, Minor 7.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES MEE.

LEADING SUFFOLK RINGER.

We greatly regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Mee, of Sproughton, who passed away on Monday last at the age of 77 years.

For nearly sixty years Mr. Mee was one of the foremost ringers of Suffolk, and although there were only six bells at Sproughton, he rang many peals, first with the St. Mary-le-Tower company, and then with a band he had got together at his home village. They progressed so far as to be able to ring peals of Cambridge and London Surprise Major single-handed on handbells, as well as many tower-bell peals. For many years he represented the Suffolk Guild on the Central Council.

The funeral took place yesterday at Sproughton Church.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD.

GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College on Tuesday, January 20th. The treasurer showed that in spite of large expenses during the previous term the society had been able to pay its way and to start the new year with a satisfactory balance.

The Master gave his report of the activities of the society during the previous term, a summary of which has already appeared in 'The Ringing World.'

Elections to vacancies on the committee were made as follows: Mr. D. Boulton (New College), Miss P. Seaddan (St. Hilda's), Miss R. M. Wrong (Lady Margaret Hall).

In spite of war-time conditions, it was decided to hold an annual lunch during the term, if a restaurant could be found to cater for it.

It was proposed that the society should be reinstated on the Central Council, and after a short debate the motion was carried.

The meeting discussed the 'Ringers' Council' suggestion put forward by Mr. J. P. Price in 'The Ringing World,' and a resolution was passed expressing general agreement.

The meeting closed after some efficient handbell ringing, which included a course of Bob Royal.

THE PROPOSED 'RINGERS' COUNCIL'

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT.

More Opinions.

WILL STIMULATE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest your leading article of January 16th, which is prompted by the suggestion contained in the letter of Mr. J. P. Price published in the same issue.

I agree completely with all your remarks and think there is no method better calculated to stimulate and keep alive our interest and enthusiasm during the continuance of the ban than some scheme on the lines suggested by your correspondent.

It will require a great deal of effort to rebuild the Exercise, and the longer the ban lasts the harder it will be to find the requisite number of rebuilders unless something is done now to keep alive our interest.

It is also essential that 'The Ringing World' shall continue, and it cannot do this without the necessary copy. You have managed to keep the paper going up to the present, but it is quite obvious that the material for each week's copy will be increasingly difficult to find unless the Exercise itself provides it.

Here in Mr. Price's suggestion appears to be the required combination, interest for your readers, material for your paper, hoped for result—a live Exercise kept in being.

I hope Mr. Price's suggestion will meet with general approval and that it will be possible for you to launch some scheme based thereon. If you do I will, for one, do my best to help you make it 'go.'

G. L. GROVER.

East Clandon.

WILL MOTIONS BE RECEIVED AS LAW?

Dear Sir,—The suggestion made by your correspondent is an admirable one, and, provided it can be carefully directed by you, sir, it ought to provide every opportunity for some very interesting discussions.

There is one point, however, which I think ought to be made clear at the outset, and that is how far will the motions debated and passed by the Ringers' Council be received as 'law' by ringers in general? Is the Ringers' Council to be something just to amuse us for the duration, and then when the war is over to be completely forgotten; or is it to be the authorised 'Central Council' of the war and be recognised as such by that body?

If the Ringers' Council has not this safeguard, then I feel that the discussions, interesting and valuable in themselves, would be nothing more than just points of view provided by so many individuals, without any authority to back them.

M. MELVILLE.

NOVEL, BUT PRACTICABLE.

Dear Sir,—I have read with particular interest the letter from J. P. Price in your issue dated the 16th inst. The suggestion of a Ringers' Council conducted through the medium of 'The Ringing World' is quite novel, but surely quite practicable, and could lead to some interesting discussions. Whilst it is impossible for anyone to foretell what conditions will be like after the war as regards facilities for ringing, yet I am sure if the items for discussion are run on right lines, then a lot of useful suggestions will result which could be put into operation should circumstances be favourable.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

Birmingham.

SUPPORT FROM MR. SMALLWOOD.

Dear Sir,—I heartily support the proposal for a 'ringers' forum' and will do everything possible to assist in the scheme. I congratulate the originator of the idea, and feel sure it will be a great success, provided good humour and commonsense are used.

Every good wish for the new scheme.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

CARRYING ON IN TRYING TIMES.

Dear Sir,—I agree that the suggestion in your issue of the 16th would be an excellent idea of carrying on and keeping alive a keener interest in 'The Ringing World' during the very trying times through which it is now passing through the ban in stopping all church bell ringing and its activities in connection therewith. Of course, it is immaterial as to the name it may run under, but I quite agree with Mr. Hughes' prompt reply that there is no room for 'A National Association.' What about an 'Independent Ringers' Council'?

You want a send-off for the scheme to give 'The Ringing World' an opportunity of pushing it on with some hope of success. This ought to be forthcoming from our younger enthusiasts, and as Mr. W. Sheppard remarks in the first paragraph of his letter of January 16th, if an opportunity presented itself some of us old members may be able to 'butt in.'

Hoping these few remarks may help the scheme to develop and that we may get some real live debates in connection therewith from those who are always anxious to catch the speaker's eye.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that the opening of the columns of 'The Ringing World' for the purpose of holding such a 'Ringers' Conference' as has been proposed will prove a gain in many respects.

I agree with the Rev. L. Edwards that for practical reasons the Editor should act as president, and venture to offer the following suggestions for maintaining general interest:—

(1) That subjects for discussion should be submitted to a small selection committee, which should include the general secretary of the Central Council.

(2) That the committee should, after selection, publish an agenda, which would allow ringers opportunity to collect their matter.

(3) That, at the Editor's and committee's discretion, a limit should be placed upon the number of weeks to be allotted for the discussion of each subject.

(4) That the president shall exercise his prerogative to edit, or refrain from publishing, letters which introduce irrelevant matter, or overlap other subjects.

(5) That contributors should write with as much brevity as possible.

(6) That at the conclusion of each discussion the president might sum up in his leading article in 'The Ringing World.'

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis.

C. CAREW COX.

OPEN TO ALL.

Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. J. P. Price for his helpful and suggestive letter about 'Discussions open to all,' and to say that I hope you may be able to take steps to call together, through the medium of your paper, a Ringers' Conference on the lines, generally speaking, laid down in your correspondent's letter.

E. V. COX, President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

WAR-TIME RECRUIT TURNS BELL HANGER.

Dear Sir,—I gladly write from a place in the most westerly deanery in England to support the suggestion for a 'Ringers' Council.' There is no doubt that it is a suggestion that the clergy should support and so encourage those ringers who are able to keep alive the spirit of the Exercise. It is the plain duty of those of us who can to provide for the future and train what ringers we can, and perhaps our 'discussions' will lead to some definite plan being settled upon. It seems to me that we should concentrate upon boys and girls of 12 to 15 years of age, and those of us who have vacancies in our midst to train them also, as they would be of great value to depleted town and city bands when they return. We could commend these young people to the care of well-known ringers later on.

After our 'debates' I hope we shall be permitted to have a 'social hour,' for then it is that so many interesting stories of experiences can be told. If you will allow the space I will tell you of one who was learning to ring and who became a competent bell hanger! Last summer I took a few young people to a nearby tower to teach them to handle a bell. My organist was one of the party and he became very keen and soon handled a bell quite well. This success gave him an interest in the one small bell in the tower here at Carbis Bay (which tower, by the way, will take a ring of bells, and we have a bell fund and all donations to this are loaned to the Government for the time being). He suggested to me that he should take the bell down and hang it for ringing, for it was hung up on one of the beams supporting the tower roof. I told him to carry on and do what he could. Getting the bell down was the worst job, as although it only weighed 75 lb. there was an iron wheel also weighing almost as much. I arrived in the tower one evening to find that, with the help of another man, the whole contraption was being lowered to the top floor of the tower. Everything was dismantled and he proceeded to make a wooden frame and hang the bell by following the drawing given in Troyte, and from his recently acquired knowledge of bells. But a problem arose—where could he get a wheel? To my amusement a trap wheel with an iron rim, from which the rubber tyre had been taken, was obtained from a wheelwright's shop and proved just the thing. I was doubtful whether it would hold the rope, but it does.

The whole thing is complete with headstock, stay and slider. It was finished rather hurriedly, as his calling-up papers came. So there the little bell is, with its clapper tied, a reminder of a war-time recruit and, I hope, the sign of an after-war enthusiast. Three weeks ago he was home on leave, and after the morning service he asked me for the tower key so that he could go up and 'ring.' I happened to have the key in my pocket, as that Cornish enthusiast, Cyril E. Lauxon (now Sergeant), had been to see me a few days before and had 'rung' the bell, much to his interest. I left my organist to ring his 'peal' alone whilst I went to my lunch, but it made me hope that the day is not far distant when he will bear a bell speak when he is at the end of the rope.

I am sure there are still many ringing enthusiasts who can be found if we will only search a little and struggle to provide for the future.

A. S. ROBERTS.

Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

(Continued on next page.)

'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous page.)

GAIN IN KNOWLEDGE.

Dear Sir,—The letters which appear daily (or weekly) in our well-known papers are looked for eagerly by thousands of readers. When winnowed out, edited or given only as 'extracts,' they form a valuable source of interest and help also to maintain the paper. It used to be said that all papers were prone to encourage debate in the so-called 'silly season' in order to keep up their daily sale. All topics, however, came at last to 'This correspondence must now cease.—Editor.' There had been a gain in knowledge (often special), a useful safety-valve and, of course, a welcome increase in circulation.

This may not be a silly season, but it is a very difficult one, and if a widening of our already useful correspondence column will advance or help our paper, I cordially support it, and I think it would.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

A COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest of the proposed Ringers' Council suggested by Mr. J. P. Price in 'The Ringing World' and the correspondence with reference thereto. I think the idea will prove a sound one, has great possibilities and will ventilate a long-felt want.

Nevertheless, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Central Council has done some yeoman service until the war curtailed its activities and has been looked upon as the 'Ringers' Parliament' with as its members the delegates of the associations and guilds, which may be likened to the local governments in ringing.

I have always contended that to stand still is to go backwards, and as this proposed Ringers' Council makes for progress (though we do not know its limits as yet), by the reason of its uniqueness it should prove a success.

In any matter needing special consideration a committee could be formed (by vote), and the views of the committee sent to the address of the chairman, who should be impartial and act in an advisory capacity, and the findings of the committee forwarded to 'The Ringing World' for publication and subsequent criticism or adoption on the postcard vote system suggested.

F. E. PITMAN.

Bromley.

THE CHANGE IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Sir,—The suggestion that the spoken discussion which would normally have taken place at Central Council meetings should be replaced by written discussions in your columns is likely to appeal to many.

Probably few papers during the war have changed their character as much as 'The Ringing World.' What was formerly to a considerable extent a catalogue of peals rung has perforce been replaced by articles covering a wide range of interests, and many have written to express their appreciation.

One subject which might be discussed is whether, when peal ringing is restarted, the paper should revert to its previous form, or whether peal reports should in general not be printed. There would certainly be strong arguments on both sides.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

DISCUSSION BY THE O.U.S.C.R.

Dear Sir,—At the recent general meeting of the Oxford University Society was discussed the proposal of your correspondent, Mr. Price, that a 'Bellringers' Council' should meet by postcard in the columns of 'The Ringing World.'

The proposal met with the approval of the meeting, but at the same time it was pointed out that the topics which might be discussed would be of little interest to most members of the society, who have had no acquaintance with conditions of the Exercise in normal times. This must also apply to many other young bands of handbell ringers throughout the country which have been formed since the war began.

A motion was then carried to the effect that the society would welcome some scheme, to operate through 'The Ringing World,' whereby bands practising handbells could be brought into touch with each other, and thereby compare notes on aids to progress and similar topics.

The tendency for bands to operate as isolated entities is largely unavoidable in these days, and, of course, the only thing which holds us together at all is 'The Ringing World.' Nevertheless, those who are still practising handbell ringing would, I am sure, appreciate some scheme to bring them into closer touch with others at about the same stage of progress. To offer a few tentative suggestions, this might include a debate on the best ways of teaching handbell ringing (possibly incorporated in Mr. Price's idea), statistics on the proportion of failures to successes as regards recruits, records of unsuccessful peal attempts, etc.

After all, those who are painstakingly learning to ring at the present time may be expected to be the keen and active ringers of some future generation, and every endeavour should now be made to awaken and maintain interest in the wider aspects of our art.

JOHN E. SPICE.

New College, Oxford.

(Continued in next column.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**PUDSEY RINGERS' HOSPITALITY.**

The first meeting in 1942 of the Leeds and District Society was held at Pudsey on Saturday.

Handbell ringing commenced soon after 3 p.m. and continued at intervals until the break for tea, which was again provided by the Pudsey ringers.

At the business meeting which was held soon after tea, Mr. J. F. Harvey, the president, presided, and members were present from Arncliffe, Batley, Bradford, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Liversedge, Shipley and the local company.

The vote of thanks to the local company for their genial hospitality was proposed by the Rev. Canon C. C. Marshall and seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who entertained the meeting with anecdotes relating to the days of tower-bell ringing, and said there was always a feeling of welcome at the Pudsey meetings. He hoped the company would continue to flourish. Mr. W. Barton acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The next meeting is due to be held at Headingley St. Michael's on February 23th. Members are asked to watch the notice columns of 'The Ringing World.'

After the business meeting further handbell ringing took place. It included touches of Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Grandisrè Caters and Cinques. Most of the ringing was of a very high standard, the striking being a real pleasure to listen to.

RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Having read with interest the letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon in your issue of August 8th describing his tower snatching activities at Woodstock, I can also lay claim to have 'beaten the ban,' as you call it, having rung at St. Paul's, Durban.

There is a local stoney band and with these and some other young men in the Services I was fortunate in getting a pull at the short Friday practice. There is also service ringing on Sunday evenings and I have no doubt that there must be many others who have rung there.

The ring of eight, with a tenor of 14 cwt., was cast by Taylor's in 1921, and is hung in three tiers in a weak tower not intended to house a ringing peal, but the bells are quite pealable.

I gathered that so far no peal has been rung there and that there is also another ring of ten at St. Mary's, Durban.

HAROLD V. FROST.

This letter, dated December 12th, was received by airgraph. Gunner H. V. Frost is now with the Middle East Forces.

WINCHESTER.—At the Royal Hants County Hospital, by kind invitation of the matron (Miss Mackay), G. and Miss Noice played handbells in the wards on December 29th, 1941, and January 5th, 1942. The patients enjoyed the ringing very much.

'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous column.)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPRESSION.

Dear Sir,—I was with great interest that I read the letter by Mr. J. P. Price which appeared recently in 'The Ringing World' regarding the proposed 'Ringers' Council.'

I am sure the suggestion will appeal to the majority of your readers and it should be a means of ringers giving expression to their opinions on various matters.

In these difficult times we cannot expect the Central Council to meet and the same would appear to apply to the Standing Committee. I, therefore, hope that the suggested 'Ringers' Council' with your good self as the president may be a success.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

Dear Sir,—I certainly agree with the proposal of a Ringers' Council and will support it to the best of my ability if formed.

With regard to subjects for discussion, one I would like to see taken up is interaffiliation. I am a member of the Constitutional Organisation (Conservative Club), and Rule No. 1 is 'That it shall be in strict connection with the Conservative and Unionist Party and shall be affiliated to and interaffiliated with the Association of Conservative Clubs, subject to the rules and regulations thereof and as hereinafter provided.'

Well now as regards the proposal of a National Association recently suggested, are we not already one inasmuch as the affiliation of all ringing associations to the Central Council combines one body of ringers through its representatives on the Council?

An interaffiliation ticket (which I hold) need only cost a couple of coppers yearly. This entitles me to the social privileges of any other affiliated club in whatever part of the country I happen to visit.

If a ringer held such a ticket it would be evidence of his being bona fide and entitled to social privilege and to be received with greater welcome.

JOHN W. JONES.

Newport, Mon.

SILVER WEDDING BELLS.

A BEACONSFIELD CELEBRATION.

On Sunday, January 11th, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wingrove, of Malthouse Square, Beaconsfield, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding day. An attempt for a handbell peal in honour of the occasion was made on Saturday at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, but this came to grief, and a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung by H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, W. Lee 7-8.

On the Silver Wedding Day, a 720 of Bob Minor was rung at 23 Malthouse Square: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6. Some 'family' ringing also took place, when courses of Grandsire Doubles were rung by Mr. Wingrove and his daughter and son, the latter, who is in the R.A.F., being home for a fortunate week-end leave.

Mr. Harry Wingrove was born at Beaconsfield on March 12th, 1893, and learned to handle a bell at the village church in 1910. He rang his first peal in 1916 and his first as conductor in 1929. His first attempt was in 1913. It was Grandsire Triples, which came to grief after 2½ hours, and since then he has only rung one peal in the method.

His first peal was during the last war, a muffled peal of Oxford Bob Triples for two of the Beaconsfield ringers who had been killed in action. His first peal as conductor was Cambridge Surprise Major at Old Windsor, and since then he has called peals in many Surprise Major methods. Some of them were the first peals rung in the methods.

Among his other interesting performances were four non-conducted peals—two of Cambridge Surprise Major, one of Yorkshire, and one of Stedman Triples.

It was mainly due to him that for several years before the war Beaconsfield possessed a very skilful change ringing band.



MR. H. WINGROVE.

DISCIPLINE FOUNDED ON SELF-RESPECT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am sure your correspondent, Mr. J. E. Bailey, will allow me to correct his (may I say) rather unfortunate ideas on military discipline. I have commanded and trained men for 40 years and certainly should not be still doing so had my 'discipline been founded on fear.' In this respect the soldier is in exactly the same position as the civilian. I do not think that in either case it can be substantiated that the basis of their rule to life is fear of the law; though doubtless there is an under-running current.

Military discipline is founded on self-respect, as is the discipline of a civilian and to this may be added a great understanding and mutual trust between the officer and man.

For the rest, as one who has also tried to teach ringers, I think I agree with Mr. Bailey. One of the best strikers I know has a horrible stance as compared with the usually accepted standard, and another of the best has a perfect stance!

C. F. JERRAM.

Thurlstone, Devon.

RINGERS' WEDDING AT PRESTON.

The wedding took place at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, January 24th, between Mr. Cyril Crossthwaite and Miss Peggy Clarke, both of whom are prominent churchworkers.

The bridegroom is a leading member of the belfry, whilst the bride has learnt to handle both tower and handbells.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. I. G. Jones, curate, and was fully choral. A large congregation assembled and Girl Guides formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church. The bride was charmingly attired in white satin and was given away by her father. Her brother, Mr. Harry Clarke, who is also a ringer and now in the R.A., was best man.

As the happy couple came down the aisle handbells were rung to rounds, Queens and Whittingtons. The bridegroom is shortly to enter the R.A.F., and the good wishes of his colleagues and also of the Lancashire Association go with him for a safe return.

THE LATE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

APPRECIATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with extreme regret that I read of the passing of the Rev. W. C. Pearson and Charles W. Clarke, who were both old and valued members of the Cumberland Youths.

In their various ways each has done much for the Exercise and such gentlemen can ill be spared.

I am afraid it was not correct to say that since the formation of the Suffolk Guild the name of the Rector and Henley bells disappeared from peal records. It was, I believe, a condition that if permission was granted for a peal on Henley bells that the peal should be rung for the Norwich Diocesan Association. From the records of the Norwich Diocesan Association it will be found quite a number of peals were rung at Henley after the formation of the Suffolk Guild, in one of which a peal of Cambridge, conducted by W. C. Rumsey, the Rector took part, together with myself.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

Barnehurst, Kent.

GIFT TO LICHFIELD COLLEGE.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read in 'The Ringing World' of the death of the Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, Ipswich. Although I never knew Mr. Pearson personally, I shall always remember him with gratitude, for it was he who presented to Lichfield Theological College a beautiful set of 16 handbells in 1938 for use among present and future students. I myself was a student at the college at the time, and my appeal through 'The Ringing World' for a set of handbells was met so magnificently by Mr. Pearson's gift.

At that time too, largely through the energies of the late Mr. Stephen Wood and Mr. E. H. Lewis, and the kindness of many of your readers, we were presented with many ringing books which enabled us to start a section on ringing in the college library. Alas, our two friends have now passed over, the one under tragic circumstances in the prime of his life and the other at the grand age of 82.

In one of his letters Mr. Pearson told me that he rang his first six-score of Bob Doubles on Henley bells in 1878, the year before he went up to Cambridge. Perhaps one of our Ipswich friends could tell me whether he was a native of the place where he afterwards served as Rector for nearly half a century. May his soul rest in peace!

Swindon

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

HENLEY BELLS.

When the late Mr. W. C. Pearson went to Henley in 1894 he found there a ring of five, of which the two biggest were pre-Reformation bells cast at Bury about the year 1480, the tenor being 8 cwt. In 1902 Taylors recast the second and added three bells to complete the octave. Bellfounders had by that time solved the problem of making good little bells, and some very fine light peals were being cast at Loughborough. Henley bells as restored are most musical and for their weight a splendid set.

The bells were dedicated on May 15th, 1902, and two days later the first peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, was rung on them by the St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, company. A little more than eight years later, on December 3rd, 1910, the one hundredth peal, one of London Surprise Major, was rung by the same society.

The hundred peals included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Forward, Double Norwich and Double Oxford, and Cambridge, New Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major. There was also one peal of Minor in three methods.

In all Mr. Pearson rang about 150 peals in his own belfry. He was educated at Clare College, Cambridge, and graduated B.A. in 1881 and M.A. in 1926. He was ordained in 1882, and after holding curacies at Syston (1882-1886) and Southwold (1886-88), he was appointed Vicar of Henley in 1894.

We understand that he has bequeathed his splendid collection of ringing books to the Cambridge University Library. No better place could be found for them. The British Museum has already a very representative selection, and at Cambridge we may hope there will always be members of the University Guild who will be able to take advantage of Mr. Pearson's bequest.

LEAVING BELLS UP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the enquiry by a correspondent a few weeks ago about damage caused to bells by leaving them up, may I point out that in many cases, especially during the winter months, rain and snow drive in through the louvred windows of the belfry, and if the bells are left up there is a possibility of the bells being partly filled with water, thus causing serious damage to crown staples, etc.

I seem to remember something about this happening somewhere a few years ago.

I think 'The Ringing World' has become even more interesting since the ban, and wish it continued success.

Caston, Attleborough.

C. E. G. BANHAM.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

We propose during the next week or two to publish a few articles dealing with the subject of composition, and in doing so we do not intend to write for experts or to deal with any of the more difficult or abstruse parts of the question. We do not intend even to address ourselves primarily to those who hope to gain enough knowledge to become themselves composers. Those we hope to cater for are the men whose interest in ringing is essentially a practical one, who are content for the most part to leave composition and conducting to others, and to rest satisfied with what they do; the men, in fact, who form the majority of the Exercise.

But it may be asked, Why should we write for them, seeing they are not particularly interested in the matter? These men get all they need out of ringing without bothering their heads about composition. They can and do enjoy the ringing of a peal of Grandsire, or Stedman, or London Surprise, without knowing the least bit about how it is composed or how its truth may be made sure. They trust other people for those things and do not trust in vain. We do not need to know anything about the theory of music to enjoy a good song, and we do not need to know anything about the construction of Thurstans' Four-part to enjoy ringing a peal of Stedman Triples.

All that is very true, and it is true also that some men are by nature averse from taking an interest in mathematical subjects. On the other hand, most of us like to know something of the questions that are discussed and debated in our company. We shall not find a body of ringers talking together for long before something or other is said about some peal composition, and when one proceeds to argue on this wise and another on that, it is nice to be able to form some idea what it is all about. Besides, it is common proof that the more a man is interested in the various questions arising out of bells and ringing, the more interest he takes and the more enjoyment he gets out of the actual ringing itself. But to many the trouble of learning the preliminary technique of composition seems too great to make the effort worth while.

Now the greatest difficulty in writing about a matter like composition is not in the subject itself but in being sure that the words which are used convey to the reader the exact ideas that are in the mind of the writer. What seems to the one as clear as crystal, often only creates fog in the mind of the other. The most valuable gift a writer can possess is to be able to put himself in complete sympathy with his readers and them with him, but that cannot always be done by taking thought. We are going to do what we can, but we should very much like readers to help us by asking questions on anything they do not understand or on any points that may arise out of what we say. Perhaps in this way we may between us find one more interest to tide over the dull time before we can raise the bells once more.

Broadly speaking, composition includes all the work and all the activity which is necessary to produce something which ringers can practise when they go into a belfry, and it includes not only the production of this something but also the understanding of how and why things happen. The subject goes back over the centuries and seeks to find out why men first began to ring

changes, and then why the art developed as it did. It searches out the mathematical laws which control the science, it seeks to understand them, and it applies them to further discoveries.

It is indeed a noble science worthy of the attention of any mind, and it can and has afforded a lifelong interest to many.

We do not intend, of course, to attempt to deal with it on those lines. We shall only concern ourselves with some of the simpler questions which from time to time force themselves on the attention of ringers, and we shall try as far as possible to deal with each point by itself and free from the complications and distractions caused by side issues. But before we come to the subject itself, there is one point we think is worth making.

What is ringing? That seems a rather silly and superfluous question to ask a ringer, but it really is worth asking, because on the right answer depends to a very great extent how far we understand the problems of composition and how and why the art is what it is.

In its essence change ringing is not a branch of music, though it may be and is productive of music. It is not essentially the sounding of bells in different orders, and it is not the writing of figures on paper. Essentially it is movement. Starting with a row we call rounds, the bells move among themselves tracing more or less elaborate and complicated paths and producing varying orders. It is a condition laid down that the same order shall never be repeated; but it is a condition, not really a fundamental, for we could, and unfortunately we sometimes do, ring false peals.

We may illustrate what change ringing really is by comparing it to a very elaborate set dance where the dancers have to go through complicated movements, the movement of one being dependent on the movement of the others.

We should, then, keep this idea of movement being the essential thing in change ringing at the back of our minds. We shall not want it always or perhaps even often, but it will come in very handy and helpful if we should have to think about a method or the extension of a method, or those things called by composers Q Sets, which to some people seem so mysterious.

Incidentally we shall flatly refuse to recognise that what is produced by John Carter's machine is change ringing. We shall acknowledge to the full the extraordinary skill and ingenuity which went to the designing and making of that machine, but we shall maintain that it has nothing to do with our art. For the essentials of change ringing take place in the human mind.

On the other hand the Editor's famous ringing machine which he exhibited some years ago at a Central Council social was change ringing. It was funny and it was burlesque, but it had the essential things.

All this is preliminary. We will get down to business next week.

JUBILEE OF A PEAL.

Mr. Henry Ferguson, of Scarborough, has sent us a reminder that 50 years ago on New Year's Day the first peal was rung on the bells of St. George's Church, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, and the ringers were John Simm, Henry Ferguson, Robert C. Hudson, Joseph Pattison, Frederick J. Harrison, Charles L. Routledge, Robert S. Story and Francis Lees, and the peal was conducted by the late Mr. Robert Story. Only Mr. Ferguson and Mr. C. L. Routledge now survive of that company.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31st, 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.

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.

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. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Welling-

borough 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.

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.

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.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—

Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. (It is hoped the silent apparatus will also be ready.) Service at 4, followed by tea and business meeting at Major's Cafe—opposite the church.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

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. 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.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leeds on Saturday, January 31st. It has been decided that there shall be no charge for the social evening at the Conservative Club, South Parade, at 6.30 p.m. We hope for a good attendance.—C. C. Marshall.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Staverton on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Silent and handbell ringing.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Feb. 7th. Handbells and six silent tower bells. Tea for those who notify by Feb. 4th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pen-drill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—

Chew Deanery.—The eight bells of Long Ashton will be available (with silent apparatus) from 3 o'clock onwards on Saturday, February 7th. All ringers are welcome and their pleasure assured on bells that go like tops.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, Feb. 7th, at 3 p.m. Bells available for silent practice and handbells. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Tuesday.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archæological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling, post free.

DEATH.

MEE.—At the Post Office, Sproughton, on Monday, January 26th, Charles Mee, after a short illness, aged 77 years.

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