THE RINGING WORLD

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## RECONSTRUCTION AND REORGANISATION

Just now there is much talk among ringers about reconstruction, and reconstruction not merely in the sense of the restoration of pre-war conditions in the Exercise, but of replacing the organisations which have done service during the last sixty years or so by others said to be more efficient. All this is quite natural; for in times of upheaval like the present, men's minds are more open to new ideas and they alter more in a year or two than during half a century of settled peace. So we found during the last war. Then there was little or no desire to alter outward conditions, and on the surface ringing after the war was no different from ringing before the war, yet there were changes and those important.

To many people, especially the older and more conservative, the idea of change is distasteful. They are satisfied with an organisation which has worked well in the past and which they feel is capable of being adapted to any necessities that may arise. Such men probably represent the great mass of solid opinion in the Exercise that in the long run will prevail.

Yet we must remember that nothing is perfect and there is always room for improvement. Compared with the whole life of the Exercise, our present organisation is comparatively modern. It came into being towards the end of the last century to meet the needs of the moment. Has it fulfilled its purpose, and should it give way now to something better? Some men say it should, and whatever may be the final opinion of ringers, there never was a time when there was more readiness to listen to what these people have to say. We hope, therefore, they will say it fully and clearly, so all may understand. They will get a careful hearing; that we can promise, even if we can promise nothing more.

But one thing must be made quite clear. These men have got to convince ringers in general that their ideas are sound, and to do that they must give us definite facts and figures which can be tested. It is no good merely to give a vague sketch of some utopian scheme based on a membership of 40,000 and an income of some thousands of pounds, paid officials, and a permanent headquarters. We want to know what membership and what income can be relied on definitely, and what are the reasons for thinking so. It is no good drawing analogies from other organisations unless it can be shown that the conditions which make them a success exist among ringers too. We must be satisfied that centralisation would be a good thing for ringing, and we must know what benefits would accrue from the new

(Continued on page 202.)

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organisation which cannot be had, or cannot be had in like measure, from existing organisations.

Finally, we must know what chance there is of a new scheme, however good, being accepted by ringers at large. All these questions may be capable of favourable answers, but until they are supplied any talk of a new and national association is not much more than beating the air.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Friday, April 24, 1942, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,*

AT 48, HIGH STREET,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| G. EDMUND DRABBLE ... ... | 1-2 | NORMAN W. FOX ... ... ... | 7-8 |
| G. GORDON GRAHAM ... ... | 3-4 | GORDON C. BRIGGS ... ... | 9-10 |
| A. ROY FOX ... ... ... ... | 5-6 | PERCY J. JERVIS ... ... ... | 11-12 |

Composed by H. JOHNSON. Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

Witness—J. E. Bradshaw.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

*On Saturday, April 25, 1942, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,*

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

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

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

The 100th peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells by the St. Martin's Guild. The 100th peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells together by Messrs. A. Walker and G. F. Swann. First peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells as conductor.

CLEEVE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Sunday, April 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,*

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. H. W. KNIGHT,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HERBERT W. KNIGHT ... ... | 1-2 | ALBERT M. TYLER ... ... | 5-6 |
| THOMAS S. HARRIS ... ... | 3-4 | DONALD G. CLIFT ... ... | 7-8 |

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

A birthday compliment to Miss Daisy Skidmore, who heard part of the peal.

## THE SUFFOLK GUILD

ANNUAL MEETING AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on April 18th. Members were present from Cretingham, Framsden, Grundisburgh, Ipswich, Sudbury, Ufford and Woodbridge, as well as Mr. R. W. Stannard, of Barking. Mr. C. J. Sedgeley was in the chair.

It was decided on the proposition of the Rev. H. Drake, seconded by Mr. W. P. Garrett, that the question of a report should be left over until the next meeting.

The balance sheet for the year 1941 was received and passed with thanks to the treasurer, on the motion of Mr. F. Bowell, seconded by Miss S. Bowyer, and it was decided to purchase £20 three per cent. Defence Bonds.

All the officers were re-elected on the proposition of Mr. W. P. Garrett, seconded by Mr. P. C. Bicknell.

Two prominent members who had passed away, Charles Mee and Frederick Watling, were referred to, and the meeting stood in silence as a token of respect.

A letter was read from the executors of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, offering the Guild the gift of 55 handbells. This was gratefully accepted, and three trustees, Messrs. F. L. Fisher, C. J. Sedgeley and G. Symonds, were appointed with authority to lend the bells to members of the Guild and to towers.

A letter was received from the Lord Bishop of the diocese accepting the invitation to become Patron of the Guild and thanking the members. Mr Symonds, of Lavenham, wrote regretting his absence and saying that, if the question of a National Association came up, he was in opposition to it.

## MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.

SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

The many friends of Mr. James E. Davis will congratulate him on his seventy-fifth birthday, which falls to-day.

Mr. Davis was born in the parish of St. James', Bermondsey, on May 1st, 1867, and learnt to handle a bell at St. George's, Camberwell. His first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was at Deptford in 1891, and his first as conductor, Holt's Original, at Putney in 1893. In 1896 he took part in the ringing of the same composition non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road.

MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.

Mr. Davis is one of the few men who have over one thousand peals to their credit and his list is a very fine one. It includes many peals in Surprise Major methods, the 10,400 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Walthamstow in 1923, and the 7,392 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow. He was the inventor of the silencers which were first used at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and have since been adopted in many churches.

Mr. Davis holds medals for the South African War, the 1914 Star, the medal for the first Great War, the 1918 Victory Medal and the George V. Coronation Medal.

## WEDDING OF MR. FRED W. ROGERS.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's, Portsea, on Saturday, April 4th, of Mr. Frederick William Rogers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, 52, Samuel Road Portsmouth, to Miss Ruth Joy Barnes, youngest daughter of Mrs. E. A. Barnes and the late Mr. Barnes, of 35, Carisbrooke Road, Milton, Portsmouth.

The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, Canon H. Robins. The bride was dressed in white satin and was attended by three bridesmaids. Mr. Alfred T. Greenwood was best man. The reception, at the Unity Hall, St. John's Road, Portsmouth, was attended by about 40 guests, handbells being rung during the reception. The honeymoon was spent in London. Among the ringers present were Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, of which the bridegroom is hon. secretary, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bayley (Titchfield, Hants), Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Taylor (Portsmouth), and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith (Godalming, Surrey).

## BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

CHEW DEANERY BRANCH.

At the quarterly meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association, held at Yatton on April 18th, members attended from Nailsea, Wrington, Yatton, Ubley, Churchill, Long Ashton and Bristol.

Full use was made of the bells with the silent apparatus, which was in perfect order and appreciated by all.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Noel Kempe, who gave an interesting address. Tea was followed by the business meeting. It was resolved to hold monthly meetings during the summer alternately at Long Ashton and Yatton, and so maintain interest in the art, with the help of the silent apparatus.

The National Association came up for discussion and several views were expressed, such as the suggestion that 'The Ringing World' should be controlled by the ringing associations financially, as it was essentially a ringers' paper. Another view was that no drastic changes should be made at present with so many ringers away in the Forces and unable to give their views. Further discussion took place, but it was thought that pending further information no decisions could be made. A resolution was then made that the meeting would support the National Association in any effort to the benefit of ringers generally.

The secretary read the accounts for 1941, which showed a balance of £6 5s. on the year's working, which was thought by all to be very satisfactory.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for his service and address and to Mr. L. W. Pullin for the tea brought the meeting to a close and the tower was again visited.

## WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT NUNEATON.

A very successful meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held on Saturday week at the Griff Colliery and Chilvers Coton Sports Club and Institute, Nuneaton. Members and friends were present from Allesley, Chilvers Coton, Burbage, Keresley, Nuneaton, Wolvey and Stoke-in-Coventry. Touches and courses of Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major on handbells were rung or attempted before tea.

A substantial meal had been provided and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The business meeting began under the chairmanship of the Master, Mr. J. H. W. White. As the position of president was vacant, due to the removal of Archdeacon Brook (who is now Bishop of Ipswich), Mr. A. H Beamish proposed that the Vicar of Chilvers Coton (the Rev. F. W. Moyle) should be asked to accept the presidency. Mr. D. H. Argyle seconded and it was carried. The remaining officers were re-elected en bloc.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. A. Walker (Birmingham), Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann (Rugby), Messrs. Hayne and Ellender (Stoke).

Messages of remembrance to all the members were read from two members now with H.M. Forces, Mr. N. Maskell and Gunner Jack Smith, of Knowle.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £28 18s. 7d.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed that £20 of this amount be invested in War Savings, and this was agreed to.

Future meetings were arranged for the next three months—in May, a joint meeting with the Midland Counties Association at Allesley on the 2nd; in June, at Shilton; and in July, at Coventry.

Mr. F. E. Pervin spoke about the Ringers' Conference now in progress in 'The Ringing World,' its purpose and the interest it was creating, and hoped the Guild would support it individually. Other members were of the opinion that the paper was of great interest now and deserved every support.

This was the first meeting of the Guild since the passing of Abram Wilkerson, a former secretary, who rendered yeoman service, and on the call of Mr. E. Stone all stood for a few moments in silence.

The secretary was asked to convey to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith the warmest wishes of the members for a complete restoration to health.

Votes of thanks were passed to all the officers for their services, to the ladies who had prepared the tea, and to Mr. J. F. Clarke, who is a vice-president of the Sports Club, and whose kindness in placing a room at the disposal of the members was greatly appreciated.

Further handbell ringing was indulged in, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters being successfully brought round.

Tunes were also played by Mr. C. H. Webb and his band, and a song by Master Maurice Billington was well received. Train and bus time brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

## BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BARNSLEY.

The April meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday week. It followed the funeral of Mr. A. Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, which most of the members attended. Handbells were rung in the afternoon until 5.30, when tea was served.

At the business meeting in the Crown Room, the president (Mr. E. Brookes) occupied the chair, and members were present from Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rotherham Parish and Sandal.

The secretary informed the members that two members had passed away since the last meeting, namely, Mr. J. Fitzgerald, of Monk Bretton, and Mr. A. Gill, of Wath, and those present stood in silence as a token of respect.

The business, being of the usual routine, was soon disposed of.

Mr. Nash, of Rotherham, praised the good work Mr. Gill had done for the society. He was a good method ringer and striker on six, eight and ten bells. He came to Wath-on-Dearne about 30 years ago. Mr. Nash expressed the great loss suffered by the society by his sudden death.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Felkirk on May 16th.

Further handbell ringing followed. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Plain, Little and Gainsborough Major Spliced, and a course each of Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal.

## PRIMROSE SURPRISE MAJOR.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I notice that you have mentioned the peal of Primrose Surprise Major. It was rung ten years ago at Edenham in Lincolnshire, not at Edenbridge as stated.

The late Rev. H. L. James gave us the method and two peals of it on his last visit to Edenham a few weeks before his death, but we were very sorry not to be able to score the peal before he was taken from us.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

Edenham.

# LONDON BELL TOWERS.

## THE NEW BELLS.

(Continued from page 180.)

Wren knew what he was about when he put his richest ornament into the spires and cupolas. The streets in the old city were narrow and winding. There were few sites where a church could be seen as a whole, but the towers and spires rose clear above the huddled houses, and together with the dominating mass of the great dome, made a magnificent scene from places like Highgate, or Greenwich, or Westminster Bridge.

Earth hath not anything to show more fair;
Dull must he be of soul that could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty.

In later years many of the churches were, for one reason or another, pulled down, and the ugly mass of Cannon Street Railway Station, and the bulk of more modern buildings like Adelaide House by London Bridge, have completely ruined the scale.

In one or two instances where the parishes determined to have their towers rebuilt as nearly as possible as they were before the fire, Wren built Gothic steeples. Such were St. Michael's, Cornhill; St. Mary's, Aldermary, and St. Alban's, Wood Street. They are quite good, but they will not bear comparison with the great towers of country Gothic churches. At St. Dunstan's-in-the-East he built a tower with a spire on flying buttresses much in the same style as that of Faversham in Kent. In proportion and line, if not in detail, St. Dunstan's can hold its own with the work of any of the medieval architects, and to-day, now the houses that cloaked and almost hid it, are removed, it stands above the ruins, a burnt out shell, stripped of its bells and fittings, but still beautiful in its desolation.

When we consider the enormous financial loss caused by the Plague and the Fire, and the great cost of rebuilding the destroyed houses, it is really wonderful that London should have been able to erect such a large number of fine churches. There is nothing cheap about them. To build St. Paul's Cathedral alone was a stupendous undertaking and it takes its place as one of the greatest churches of the world. Nowadays churches are built by private subscription; then they were a charge on the public rates, and a tax on coals supplied most of the necessary funds. But it was a tax levied by common consent and paid by the general public.

Necessarily the towers and steeples were built last, and it was not until the early years of the next century that some of them were finished. The last was St. Michael's, Cornhill, which is said to have been designed by Wren when he was nearly ninety years old.

One of the earliest cares of the churchwardens and vestrymen as soon as they could get among the smoking embers of the ruined churches was the bells. The fire broke out on September 2nd and as early as October 30th the vestry of St. Sepulchre's had taken steps to deal with the destroyed bells. In the following December John Hodson was ordered to cast three new bells to match those which had escaped the fire and still hung in the steeple.

St. Sepulchre's was fortunate, for it had escaped complete destruction; and it is fortunate now, for it stands to-day unharmed amid many ruins. In 1666 it was the most notable place for change ringing in London and the parish did not suffer its bells to be silent for long. Other parishes could do little more than hang a temporary bell in the burnt out steeple and hope for better days; but at St. Dionis', Backchurch, where the old tower still stood, there was very soon a ringing peal of five.

St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, soon had six bells and then the full octave; and the noble and weighty eight at St. Lawrence Jewry were hung in 1687.

But for the most part it was not until later that the steeples were ready to receive bells. No doubt every parish fully intended to have a full ringing peal, but the intention was not often carried out, and no more than two bells, one large and one small, were usually hung.

For that we may find more than one reason. One was financial. The bells were not a charge on the coal tax. They could only be supplied by voluntary contributions, and then, as now, voluntary contributions could only be collected if there was someone sufficiently interested to undertake the job. In some parishes there were such men, but in most the long silence had broken the traditions of the past. Bells, more than the minimum number of two, were not needed for the services of the church, and the only incentives were the pride of the parishioners in their church and the love of bell ringing as a sport. The first was strong enough in some parishes, and it produced such fine rings as those at St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Other parishes could less afford such expensive luxuries.

Between the fire and the time when so many of the steeples were again ready to receive bells, a change had begun to take place in the Exercise. Ringing was still very generally popular, but it was becoming less and less a sport for moneyed people. Ringers could only occasionally themselves supply or augment rings, the art was developing towards eight and ten bell ringing, and fewer rings of more bells took the place of the many fives. So in the event most of Wren's towers never held the bells they were designed for.

The majority of the bells hung in the towers of London after the fire and during the first half of the eighteenth century were cast by four famous foundries Anthony Bartlet had succeeded to the Whitechapel foundry in 1647 and was followed by James Bartlet in 1676. They supplied many of the bells to the rebuilt churches, mostly singles, one large and one small to each tower. James Bartlet's most important peal was the fine octave with a tenor of 32 cwt. at St. Lawrence Jewry. His six largest bells were still in the tower until recently, and the whole ring after the restoration and, retuning a few years ago, ranked among the best octaves in England. Its destruction was the first and not the least of the disasters that have befallen London bells through enemy action during the war. Bartlet also supplied a ring of eight to Christ Church, Southwark. It bore an important part in the history of the London Exercise, and it, too, has perished in an air raid.

It was a very common thing in the old foundries, when the family succession failed, for the business to be transferred to the founder's foreman. James, the last of the Bartlet's, died in 1702. For a year or two his foreman had been Richard Phelps, and the latter, succeeding to the business, in the next 38 years did as much as almost anyone to establish the great reputation of the Whitechapel foundry.

Phelps, who was a native of Avebury in Wiltshire, cast some hundreds of bells for parishes in different parts of England. In the City of London his name is on three

notable rings, the noble twelve at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the ten at St. Magnus', London Bridge, and the ten cast for St. Dionis', Backchurch, then at All Hallows' Lombard Street, and now awaiting a new home at Guildford Cathedral. The hour bell at St. Paul's was by him and so was the tenor at Westminster Abbey. He also cast the octaves at St. Mary's, Lambeth (since recast) and at Enfield. Among his many bells in the provinces are the fine ring at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and the splendid octave at St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds.

Almost the last job done by Richard Phelps was the old tenor at Bow Church, Cheapside. It probably was the best, and it certainly was the most famous bell in the London district, but when the ring was restored in 1933, it was found to be cracked in the crown, and was recast. Its successor had but a short life, for eight years later it perished with the rest of the bells in an air raid.

Another ring by Phelps which had a great reputation but which has long since disappeared was the heavy eight with a tenor of 44 cwt. at Christ Church, Spitalfields.

In the last three years of his life Phelps was assisted as partner by Thomas Lester and after his death the latter carried on the foundry.

One of the first men to benefit by the work created by the rebuilding of the churches was John Hodson, of Bishopsgate. He was by trade a carpenter and probably did a good deal of work as a bell hanger. He seems to have taken to bell founding as a side issue and employed other men to do the actual work, first William Hull and then Christopher Hodson, who probably was a relative and who had his foundry at St. Mary Cray.

William Wightman was at one time foreman to John Hodson, but he afterwards set up in business for himself in partnership with his brother Philip. The latter cast the eight at St. Clement Danes', a very fine ring, and another to be added to the list of those destroyed during the war. The back six at Mortlake and at Tottenham were by Wightman.

Of all English bell founders none has enjoyed a greater reputation than Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester and, on the whole, none, perhaps, has more deserved it. He came of a family which started a foundry towards the end of the seventeenth century, and from then until 1830 cast about 4,521 bells.

London possessed five of their rings and all of them were good. They were the twelves at St. Brides and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the ten at Fulham, and the octaves at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East and St. George's-in-the-Borough. Of them the bells of St. Brides and St. Dunstan's have been completely destroyed, but the others remain.

The fourth of the leading foundries belonged to Samuel Knight and was an off-shoot of a foundry which had long been established in Reading. As early as 1478 John Knight was casting bells in that town, and over three hundred bells cast by members of his family during the following two and a half centuries are still in existence. The last of the family, Samuel, left Reading and came to London, where he had a foundry in St. Andrew's parish, Holborn. He cast many bells for churches in towns and villages, and in London he is represented by three notable rings, St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, and St. Margaret's, Westminster. In all cases some of the bells, and those the largest, have been recast. Happily, these rings have not suffered in the air raids.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to say that the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) has had a further relapse, and is consequently once more unable to transact any business.

The difficulties of publishing 'The Ringing World' this week have been increased by the indisposition of his colleague, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who has had a sharp attack of sciatica.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reaches his 66th birthday on Sunday next.

The names of two of those present at the farewell gathering for the Rector of Liverpool, Messrs. E. R. Rapley and W. Birchell, were omitted from the report.

On April 27th, 1868, the College Youths rang Thomas Day's 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green. It was the then record length, and seven years previously on the same date the society had rung 8,580 Stedman Cinques at Cornhill.

The Midland Counties Association rang the record peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,896 changes, at Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, on April 28th, 1923. The first peal by the Cambridge University Guild was rung on the same date in 1890.

Fifty years ago yesterday nine peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, Cinques 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

To-morrow is the 227th anniversary of the peal of Grandsire Bob Triples at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, generally reckoned to be the first true peal ever rung.

## DEATH OF BARNSLEY DISTRICT RINGER.

### PASSING OF MR. ARTHUR GILL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, who passed away at his home very suddenly on Wednesday, April 15th. Mr. Gill was well known among Yorkshire ringers and was a tower of strength wherever ringing was concerned. He was a member of the committee of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association and of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield District Societies. He had been a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1899 and rang 189 peals for it out of a total of 198. He was one of the first members of the Barnsley Society when it was formed in 1909, and he was a strong supporter until the time of his death. No one could over-estimate the good work he did to help forward its cause and exploit ringing, especially Minor methods in all varieties. Mr. Gill was a good ringer on six, eight or ten bells. His death is a great loss to the Barnsley Society and he will be greatly missed. He was 65 years of age. He had been a miner, but lost an eye and had to work on the pit top, retiring about 12 months since. He leaves a widow, one son and five daughters to mourn his death.

Arthur Gill learnt to ring at New Mills in 1897, he afterwards rang at Ackworth and South Kirkby, and later came to Wath-on-Dearne, where he did the greater part of his ringing.

The funeral was on Saturday, April 18th. The service was held in the Parish Church and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans. There were many mourners and friends present, including the widow, his son and his five daughters. The following six ringers acted as bearers: S. Briggs (Eastwood), D. Smith and H. Chant (Felkirk), E. Brookes (Hoylandswaine), W. Green and G. Lord (Wath). Other ringers who attended were C. Bell and S. Woodcock, of Darfield; A. Nash, Rotherham; F. C. Wilson, Rawmarsh; J. W. Moxon, Sandal; R. Ricketts, L. Steele and J. Nicholls, of Wath.

The interment was at Wath Cemetery and afterwards a course of Bob Major was rung at the graveside by Daniel Smith 1-2, Albert Nash 3-4, Harold Chant 5-6, Sidney Briggs 7-8. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the members of the Barnsley and District Society.

## SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

### MEETING AT WALSALL.

The spring meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at Walsall on Saturday, April 18th. A smaller number of members than usual was in attendance, but the spirit of the meeting was none the less. As it was thought inadvisable by the local authorities to have the use of the tower bells for silent practice, handbell ringing had to suffice. Although this was not of a particularly high standard, some good practice was put in. A short service was held in church, conducted by the Rev. H. J. Carpenter, Vicar, who also delivered a nice address. Cups of tea were served in the Brotherhood Institute by Mrs. W. Walker and her lady helpers.

At the general meeting which followed, an apology for absence was received from the Vicar, who had very urgent parochial business to attend to. After several members had expressed their views re the proposed National Association, it was generally agreed that the suggestion be not supported.

The date for the annual meeting was provisionally fixed for June 27th. Three places were suggested—Cannock, Penn and Tettenhall. It was eventually left with the officials to make the best arrangements possible.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address and conducting the service, and to the ladies who attended at the tea tables, concluded the business. More handbell ringing was indulged in until the time arrived for departure.

# THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

## MR. PRICE REPLIES TO DEBATE.

The discussion on Mr. Price's motion (a) is continued.

Mr. R. G. SPEARS (Kingsbury): I have read with interest the various suggestions put forward concerning the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, and I am forced to ask, is there any possibility at all of this taking place? There are two vital questions to be answered: (a) Will we be allowed to go back to the towers and ring the bells with impunity?, and (b) if so, who is to do the ringing?

With regard to (a) there is a fifty-fifty chance that the answer will be 'No!' and I don't doubt that the Anti-Noise League will do all in their power to make it 'No!' They will say, and will be quite right, that the lack of ringing has caused no apparent decrease in churchgoing, and, therefore, they can serve no earthly use. Now, who is in the position to express our feelings and fight our case? Obviously, very little notice will be taken of somebody who states that he represents a Council representing 40 odd associations which represent so many other ringers. If, however, he were in the position to say that he was the secretary of the 'National Association of Church Bellringers,' he would undoubtedly command some attention. This, in my opinion, is one good reason for a National Association; there are many others, of course, but I think that the details of its formation had best be discussed at another time.

Now, taking point (b) there will only be the individuals who have been well and truly bitten by the 'ringing bug,' at some time or another. Therefore, taking for granted that we be allowed to return to the ropes, these people will be the wherewithal which the future of ringing will depend. On these few falls the task of keeping alive local interest and, above all, keeping in with the local clergy; these views, if I remember rightly, are, more or less, those of Mr. Corby.

In conclusion, then, the rehabilitation of ringing, as I see it, depends upon: (a) Our interests as a whole being guarded by some central body. (b) Contact being maintained with the clergy and interest kept alive by the local ringers. I, therefore, suggest that a National Association be formed as soon as possible and, in the meantime, association secretaries be instructed to enquire into the activities or inactivities of local bands. They could invite reports from groups which have been able to keep together and endeavour to instigate some interest into bands that have become defunct.

### CLIQUES CONDEMNED.

Mr. R. G. BELL (Watford): I heartily disagree with Mr. Trollope regarding cliques. I think they are an abomination in any walk of life. If, as he says, they have done a lot of good for ringing, I maintain that they have also done a lot of harm. Mr. Trollope surely knows (or cannot he see far enough?) that there are many ringers (good as well as bad) who just haven't got time to belong to a clique, even if they wanted to, as there are other interests in a normal life besides ringing, also there are some ringers who ring for the love of the art and the fellowship of the belfry, and are not a bit concerned with the ritual of beer drinking in a smelly pub afterwards. If Mr. Trollope would rather belong to a clique than a well-ordered parochial organisation with some keen local pride about it, to say nothing of 'the Vicar's patronage and all the rest of it,' I would say that, despite his 50 years' experience, he still has a lot to learn.

### MR. KIPPIN'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. C. H. KIPPIN: I cannot see the point in Mr. Coles' remarks. If the Surrey Association chooses to criticise a motion at its meeting it has a perfect right to do so, as we still cling to the idea that we are democratic. In any case, as this was not the motion being criticised, Mr. Coles' remarks were, to my mind, quite irrelevant and should not have been accepted by you, Mr. Chairman, as part of the discussion on this motion. The possibility of a National Association has never been explored, and it seems to me that the proposed committee has an excellent opportunity of ascertaining whether such an association could be put into being for the benefit of the Exercise and submitting its findings accordingly. To try and veto the committee from even exploring its advantages or otherwise appears to me typically narrow-minded, and discloses the rut that some ringers are in.

Despite Mr. Coles' taunt as to why have I not tabled a motion on the National Association, he must know perfectly well that motion (b) has been framed for one purpose only, and that is to confirm that the present system has been and should be all right in the future. As I favour the National Association because the present system is not all right, it must be perfectly obvious to him that a motion on these lines, after the adoption of motion (b), would be farcical and smothered before it was born.

If you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Coles want me to withdraw this amendment and propose a fresh resolution, it will be necessary for the proposer and seconder of motion (b) to withdraw their motion. I do not anticipate they will do that and I therefore press for this amendment.

My advice for what it is worth is: We want the committee to explore the post-war reconstruction of ringing. Well, let them do it—not with hampering conditions—but from *every* angle for the benefit of the Exercise in the future.

Mr. A. H. SMITH (Leatherhead): As Mr. Coles has raised objection to the voting on the subject of a National Association at the Surrey meeting, I should like to point out that the brief mention of the discussion in the report of the meeting gives rather a misleading view on the matter. Seeing that motion (b), if unopposed, would be a definite step against a National Association, I asked, if it was not, for those interested, to vote against the motion, and the reply was that support for an amendment would be more appropriate.

The CHAIRMAN: As you will observe, Mr. Kippin still desires this proposed committee to consider the possibilities of a National Association as 'the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing after the war'—to quote the terms of the original motion. To save time and cost in the voting, therefore, I am going to rule that this addition to the motion shall be treated as a 'rider,' which can be separately voted upon at the same time as the motion. If it is dealt with as an amendment there would have to be a separate vote upon it before the motion was put, because it does not follow that those who would vote for the motion without the amendment would vote for it with the amendment attached. If, however, they can vote for the two things independently, the answer one way or the other will be clear cut. The method of voting will be clearly set out after the proposer of the motion has had the opportunity of replying. One other thing arises from Mr. Kippin's remarks, which really raise a point of order, and that is his suggestion that if he withdrew his amendment it would be necessary that motion (b) should be withdrawn also. I thought I made it plain that as motion (b) and the question of a National Association are so interlocked, if Mr. Kippin submitted a concrete proposal the two motions could be discussed together. It must not be overlooked that there is at present no proposal for a National Association before the Conference, and until such a motion is tabled no direct vote on it can be taken.

I will now ask Mr. J. P. Price to reply to the debate on his motion.

### MR. PRICE REPLIES.

Mr. J. P. PRICE: I am very pleased with the way my motion has been received by the Conference. Almost every speaker has supported it and that leaves me very little to reply to. For, as my friend and seconder, Mr. Leslie Bunce, pointed out, all our motion does is to recommend the appointment of a small committee to consider and report on the best means of getting ringing going again when peace comes. What they should consider and what they should decide is not at present our concern, though they will, I am sure, take notice of the valuable suggestions that have been made.

I am glad, too, that you, Mr. Chairman, have been able to get the promises of such representative and influential persons to serve on the committee.

Mr. T. Harris, of Shirehampton, told us that the committee is not necessary because we have already a Central Council. I thought it was understood that the Conference has come into being just because the Council with its greater authority and responsibility cannot function in these war days. Nobody thinks, I imagine, that the Conference and its committees would be a satisfactory substitute for the Central Council in normal times. But these are not normal times. Mr. Corby also seems to think that a committee is not necessary, but it should be pointed out that the committee will not take the place of any other body or stifle general discussion, but will sum up what appears to be the general opinion of the Exercise.

I suppose I ought to say something about Mr. Kippin's amendment. I am rather sorry to see that. I don't think it really can be called an amendment at all, because until my motion is adopted as it stands, Mr. Kippin's suggestion cannot come into being. I think I understand his point of view. He wants to discuss a National Association, and he fears that unless he gets in something first he will be baulked by the item on the agenda which is to come next. It is a question of tactics, but I think it is faulty tactics. For I think he may cut his own throat. Supposing his amendment is carried and the question of a National Association is referred to the new committee, will not that have the effect of putting all discussion on a National Association out of order? Can the Conference discuss and come to a decision on a question which it has referred to a committee before the committee has reported? Would that be fair or courteous to the committee? I don't think it would. But that is not my concern, and no doubt you, Mr. Chairman, will be able to find a way out of the difficulty.

The CHAIRMAN: I certainly do not intend to allow any fine point of order to burke discussion on any vital question. The rules of the Conference give me power to deal with such matters.

Mr. PRICE: So far as I am concerned, I do not care whether Mr. Kippin's amendment is carried or not. Either way will have little effect. For if the committee is instructed to consider a National Association that does not mean they must approve of it. I ask the Conference to pass my motion appointing a commitee, which will consist of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned and who have already agreed to serve.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Conference to vote on the motion. The issue is a perfectly clear one. You are not asked to express any opinion on any of the subjects which have been discussed, but only whether a committee should be appointed. The terms of Mr. Price's motion are as follows:—

(a) 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 that the committee shall consist of the following, all of whom have signified their willingness to serve:—

Representing the established associations: Mr. C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary of the Middlesex County Association and the London Diocesan Guild; the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. (Continued on page 209.)

## WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT WORCESTER.

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held in Worcester on Easter Monday, marked the 60th anniversary of its foundation. The business meeting was held in the College Hall at which the president, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester, presided, about forty members and several visitors being present.

It was reported that the annual peal had been rung on handbells at Evesham, being one of Grandsire Caters, which was conducted by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. D. Johnson.

The librarian, Mr. C. W. Cooper, reported that during the year there had again been a poor demand for books from the library. The report and balance sheet were adopted, the latter showing the highest balance on record.

At the request of the president, two items from the annual report were discussed—the use of bells under the Defence Regulations, and what was being done with regard to after the war reconstruction. Several members spoke on the first subject, describing what was being done in their own district, but as no one knew of any definite ruling on the order it was agreed that the matter should be arranged between the local defence authorities and the Church authorities.

The Master pointed out that the second subject was being discussed by the Ringers' Conference in 'The Ringing World,' and ringers had every opportunity of expressing their views there. Another item, perhaps the most important, included in the report, was also discussed. This was the support of 'The Ringing World.' Several members emphasised its invaluable worth to the Exercise, and it was unanimously agreed that some material aid should be given to its support by the association. The hope was expressed that other associations would do likewise.

sised its invaluable worth to the Exercise, and it was unanimously agreed that some material aid should be given to its support by the association. The hope was expressed that other associations would do likewise.

The election of officers followed. The Dean was re-elected president and the rest of the officers were re-elected en bloc. Worcester was again chosen (D.V.) for the next annual meeting. One new member was elected.

The Master and secretary were appointed to act as a sub-committee to deal with any emergency which should arise during the year, and, if requested, to state reason for any decision made by them at the next meeting.

Many of the members attended the service in the Cathedral, and later in the evening handbell ringing was indulged in, which included Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Plain and Treble Bob Major, and tunes.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held on Saturday at Leeds Parish Church. Handbells were available in the tower from 3 p.m., and the business meeting was held at 4.45 p.m. Mr. J. F. Harvey presided and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell and a visitor from Arksey, Sergt.-Pilot H. Scott R.A.F.

The nominations as proposed at the last meeting were confirmed, and the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing twelve months: President, Mr. J. F. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Barron, W H. Senior and T. W. Strangeway; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse.

The secretary's report and balance sheet was read out in detail, which showed that only six subscriptions less than the previous year had been received and that the society's net assets had again increased. Eleven meetings had been held during the year and ringing had been possible at all towers visited.

The visits to towers would be (if possible) as shown on the last published list, and the next meeting is due to be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 30th.

BELLRINGING.—Among other diversions and recreations practised by and delightful to the inhabitants of this island, none is more diverting, ingenious, harmless and healthful than the art of ringing, used and practised with discretion. And although it be esteemed by the generality of people to be a mean and mechanical exercise, yet were it duly weighed and considered by a judicious and impartial person, it would be found very artful and not to be attained to its highest perfection but by an ingenious and thoughtful undertaker.—'Campanalogia,' 1762.

WINNERSH, BERKS.—On April 18th at The Briars, Westfields Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. B. C. Castle 1-2, B. C. Castle 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. N. Lanaghan 7-8. First quarter-peal of Triples by ringer of 1-2 and first 'in hand' by 3-4.

## A TWO-PART PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES

BY DR. G. W. SLACK.

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Repeated.

Rung at Bushey on September 1st, 1938, by the Hertford County Association, conducted by M. F. R. Hibbert. Advt.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Earls Colne on Saturday week, at which 20 ringers attended from Feering, Kelvedon, Earls Colne, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Dunmow, Bocking and Braintree. The ringers availed themselves of the handbells kindly loaned by Mr. F. Claydon.

A service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Monks, who welcomed the ringers to Earls Colne. Mr. I. T. Chapman very ably accompanied the singing.

Tea was served at the Vicarage, by the kind invitation of the Vicar and Mrs. Monks, and was very kindly provided by Mr. F. Ridgwell.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, in the chair. It was unanimously agreed to hold the next meeting at Shalford, a place where in normal times it would be impossible to hold a meeting, but it was felt that it might create some interest.

A discussion on the proposed scheme of a National Association followed. The secretary (Miss Snowden), briefly outlining the idea as set out by the proposer in 'The Ringing World,' said she thought the main idea was to secure the future of 'The Ringing World,' and eagerness to put it on a sound footing, and that it was thought a National Association would solve the problem.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen said it was not the first time the idea of a National Association had been thought of. He thought the time was not yet ripe, but the question of 'The Ringing World' was a very serious one, and some means would have to be found for keeping it going.

Several members expressed disapproval of a National Association, but at the same time felt there was a very urgent need for something to be done about 'The Ringing World,' but not enough was known about the proposition to discuss properly the matter.

The Master moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. Monks, to Mr. F. Ridgwell for kindly providing the tea, and to Mr. Chapman for accompanying the service. Mr. L. W. Wiffen supported this vote of thanks.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

# MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

## MEETING AT CRANFORD.

The experiment, born of necessity, of holding the annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild at a church where, so far as is known, no ringers had ever met before was a decided success, not only as regards the attendance, but also in regard to the very pleasant conditions met with.

On Saturday last, about 30 members and friends met at Cranford, from Cranford itself, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Stephen's and St. Mary's), Enfield, Feltham, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Isleworth, Iver Heath, Kensington, Ruislip, Stamford Brook and Twickenham. A fine spring afternoon and beautiful surroundings soon compensated for the difficulties which some people found in reaching a rather out-of-the-way spot. Some made their way direct to the church and others to the Memorial Hall, and handbell ringing was carried out at both places from about 3 p.m.

The church, small but of great historic interest, on a Saxon foundation, has been described as among the most beautiful of the few ancient churches in the Diocese of London, and its rural setting and peaceful surroundings have an added charm when contrasted with the busy scenes and ultra-modern buildings on the Great West Road, the factories of Southall and other places nearby.

## AN INTERESTING CHURCH.

The Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child, met the ringers at the church, and along with numerous visitors took a great interest in the various courses and touches on the handbells, which were rung in the nave. A short service was held about 5 p.m., at which the Rector gave a warm welcome to the association on their first visit, which he hoped might be the prelude to later ones, and thanked members for the collection for the Bell Fund which was made at the service. He referred to the many historic and beautiful objects in the building, especially to the bells, one of which claimed to be the oldest in the London diocese, with the possible exception of one at Westminster Abbey. It had rung for the death of the Black Prince and for the Coronation of King George VI.

After the service the Rector conducted those present round the church giving a most interesting account of the monuments, and describing the restoration work, which is still being carried out. The tower was open, and those who wished were able to go up and inspect the bells which have just been been increased from three to four by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, to whom the Rector paid a tribute for their kindness and help. He stated that it is intended to have six at the earliest opportunity.

Of the old bells, the first, mentioned above, dates from the reign of Edward III., and is inscribed in Lombardic capitals, 'XTE PIE FLOS MARIE,' Christ most holy Flower of Mary. The second was cast by Brian Eldridge, and installed in the reign of King Charles I.; and the third in 1884. Members were a little loath to leave these pleasant surroundings for the Memorial Hall some distance away, but were rewarded when they did arrive with a tea excellent even by peace-time standards.

At the annual meeting which followed, presided over by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, business was mainly of a routine nature.

## THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The hon. secretary's report was read and accepted. Extracts are as follows:—

As in the preceding year, it had not been possible to hold many meetings, and only two had taken place—the annual at St. Stephen's, Ealing, on April 5th, 1941, attendance 30, and at Heston on September 27th, attendance 21.

Two new members had been elected, and no notification had been received of any deaths or other changes at any of the towers. No reports of any peals or quarter-peals had been received.

Subscriptions had come in very badly, and it seemed useless to waste money on stamps at 2½d. each on frequent appeals. It had to be left to the sense of decency of members to pay up and help to keep the association going through these difficult times. After the war those who have not paid will expect the same privileges and assistance as those who have loyally supported the association, and it does not seem quite fair.

The accounts showed a very poor result as regards subscriptions. In view of this, expenses had been kept down to a minimum, and meeting notices, etc., had been cut out to save paper and postage.

'In regard to future policy,' continued Mr. Cockey, 'I can only appeal to those members who are still actively interested in the society to do all in their power to keep things moving, so that we may be in a position to resume our activities immediately the ban on ringing is removed, and to assist each other, as it will almost certainly prove that many towers will be shorthanded, and some sort of co-operative effort may be necessary for a time. I would commend to members the discussions now proceeding in "The Ringing World" on after-war conditions, and would suggest to them that they should give careful consideration to the many points arising, and that they themselves should join in the discussions. In this connection I would also appeal for the greatest possible support for "The Ringing World," which is so gallantly carrying on under great difficulties. It is a vital link for the Exercise, and will be even more so after the war. One is very glad to note that the Editor, Mr. Goldsmith, is still progressing favour-

(Continued on next page.)

# MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

## JOINT MEETING AT TICKNALL.

A successful joint meeting of the Burton and Derby Districts of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ticknall on Saturday week, when, despite the continued ban on ringing, some 24 members and friends attended from Burton (St. Paul's), Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Melbourne, Measham, Spondon, Overseale, Netherseale and the local company.

Some members took the opportunity of ringing a few touches on the handbells before tea, which was partaken of in the Welfare Hall. The members brought their own eatables and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Marriott kindly provided cups of tea.

At the meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. Pope, and business was of the usual routine character. A pleasing feature was the election of the Rev. J. G. Pope and his churchwarden, Mr. C. C. Hill, as honorary members, and both spoke of the pleasure it gave them to become members.

It was left in the hands of the secretary to arrange the next meeting at Rollestone-on-Dove for the Burton District on June 6th or 13th.

Expressions of opinion were discussed on items now appearing in 'The Ringing World.' The Burton secretary, Mr. J. W. Cotton, thanked the Vicar for presiding, Mr. and Mrs. Marriott for preparing the cups of tea and Mr. W. Noble for defraying cost of the Welfare Hall. This was supported by Mr. J. H. Swinfield and Mr. W. Lancaster (Derby District secretary) and carried with applause.

The Vicar, replying, expressed his pleasure at having such a goodly gathering despite the unfortunate ban on tower-bell ringing, and said that never was the work of ringers more appreciated than now when the cheering voice of the bells was missed. He stressed the importance of keeping their organisations alive for the happy days to come when the victory peals would once more ring out.

After the meeting the tower was visited, and touches of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob were brought round on the silent bells.

# THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last was quite up to the standard of war-time gatherings. One new member was elected, Mr. Raymond Smith, of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, who is now serving in the R.A.F.

A very welcome visitor was Mrs. Nicoll, sole surviving daughter of the late Mr. Matthew Wood. The object of her visit was to present to the society the beautifully bound album presented to her late father in 1898. The album contains the names of the subscribers to the testimonial, and the title page reads: 'On Saturday, April 2nd, 1898, the following ringers presented Matthew A. Wood with this Album and a purse containing £25 as a small token of the regard and esteem in which he is held by them and in appreciation of the good work he has done in the past 52 years towards the promotion of the high standard of change ringing which he has continuously maintained.'

The Master thanked Mrs. Nicoll for the album and also for Mr. Wood's first peal book containing peals from 1845 onwards. Mrs. Nicoll suitably responded and said that as a ringer's daughter she was always interested in her father's peal, especially the long peal of Treble Bob at Bethnal Green.

In addition to the treasurer and secretary, the Master was supported by Messrs. C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, W. H. Pasmore, G. N. Price, F. E. Collins, H. G. Miles, R. Stannard, F. Shorter and L.-Cpl. Gower, of Basingstoke. Visitors were Mr. R. Leigh, Master of the Cambridge University Guild, and Mr. George Dawson and Mr. Edward Smith, of Leytonstone.

The next meeting will be on May 9th at Whitechapel Bell Foundry at 3 p.m.

# RINGERS' CONFERENCE—(continued from page 207)

Representing youth: Mr. E. A. Barnett (Crayford) and Mr. A. G. Tyler (Hon. Secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association).

Representing 'blitzed' districts: Mr. G. R. Newton, Liverpool; Mr. S. F. Palmer, Sheffield; Mr. R. F. Deal, London.

Mr. C. H. Kippin has moved as a rider that the following words should be added: 'special consideration be given to the idea of forming a National Association with this end in view.'

Everybody is asked and urged to vote, whether they have taken part in the discussion or not. Send a postcard to the Chairman, Ringers' Conference, the office of 'The Ringing World,' Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, and post it not later than Tuesday next. Mark the card as follows:—

**I wish to vote for (or against) Mr Price's motion**

**I wish to vote for (or against) Mr. Price's motion with the addition of Mr. Kippin's rider.**

**Name and address.**

I hope that everybody will take the trouble to vote, for the value and success of the Conference depend very largely on the amount of opinion that is expressed.

## COMPOSITION FOR THE AVERAGE READER

The simplest form of composition consists, as we have seen, in joining together an odd number of full Natural Courses by means of bobs arranged in Q Sets. As we study the science we shall speedily find out that this by no means covers everything there is in composition; nevertheless a large number of peals in all methods, especially when they are extents, are constructed in this way; and of those which include other things, the majority still largely consist of full Natural Courses joined by Q Sets.

This is so in methods like Bob Major and Double Norwich, in the Surprise Major methods, and in Stedman Caters and Cinques. In Grandsire Triples the general principle applies, but it is somewhat complicated in its actual application. In Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and in Bristol Surprise Major, full Natural Courses rarely come in a peal, and Q Sets of bobs rarer still. But they do come sometimes.

In describing the composition of a peal by joining Natural Courses together by means of Q Sets we likened it to the building of a wall from a heap of bricks we had got ready. It was quite a good illustration, but in actual practice we probably should not go to work just like that. We should probably first of all arrange our Natural Courses, or such of them as we wished to use, in a number of blocks, and then join together the blocks. In the long run it comes, of course, to the same thing, but we can see better what we are doing as we go along.

In theory all Natural Courses are equal, but if we wish to pay regard to the music of our peal we shall have to value some of them more than others. We shall try to include all that have the sixth at home at the course end, and we shall try to exclude as many as possible that have the second in sixth's place at the course end.

Now, there are twelve in-course courses with the sixth at home, and often a composer tries to get them all into his peal. Twelve is an even number, and therefore they cannot be put together first of all into one round block; they must be in at least two blocks.

So long as we do not move the sixth there are only two positions at which we can call bobs, the Wrong and the Home, and within these limits it is quite an easy thing to find out what can be done and what cannot be done. Composers discovered by experiment and experience long ago that there are only four ways in which the twelve Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be gathered into two round blocks. They are as follows:

| | 23456 | W. | R. | | 23456 | W. | R. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | 45236 | — | — | B1 | 52436 | — | |
| | 24536 | | — | | 43526 | — | — |
| | 52436 | | — | | 24536 | — | |
| | 43526 | — | — | | 53246 | — | — |
| | 54326 | | — | | 25346 | | — |
| | 35426 | | — | | 32546 | | — |
| | 42356 | — | — | | 54326 | — | — |
| | 34256 | | — | | 35426 | | — |
| | 23456 | | — | | 42356 | — | — |
| | | | | | 34256 | | — |
| | | | | | 23456 | | — |
| A2 | 53246 | | — | | | | |
| | 25346 | | — | | | | |
| | 32546 | | — | B2 | 45236 | | |

| | 23456 | W. | R. | | 23456 | W. | R. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C1 | 45236 | — | — | D1 | 45236 | — | — |
| | 24536 | | — | | 24536 | | — |
| | 53246 | — | — | | 53246 | — | — |
| | 25346 | | — | | 25346 | | — |
| | 32546 | | — | | 34256 | — | — |
| | 54326 | — | — | | 23456 | | — |
| | 35426 | | — | | | | |
| | 42356 | — | — | | | | |
| | 34256 | | — | D2 | 52436 | — | — |
| | 23456 | | — | | 35426 | — | |
| | | | | | 42356 | — | — |
| | | | | | 54326 | — | |
| C2 | 52436 | — | — | | 32546 | — | — |
| | 43526 | — | — | | 43526 | — | |

We can, of course, vary the way the twelve Natural Courses are divided between the two complementary blocks by beginning any block at a different course end, provided we keep the due relation between the complementary blocks.

When we further examine these blocks we shall find that A1, A2 and B1 are each entirely made up of full Natural Courses formed by Q Sets; but each of the other four, C1, C2, D1 and D2, has incomplete Natural Courses and Q Sets, though what is incomplete in C1 is completed in C2; and what is incomplete in D1 is completed in D2. That raises a point in compositon which we shall have to deal with later.

The four sets of blocks set out above are a very valuable part of the material for composing peals in many methods.

First of all we must notice that just in the same way the twelve Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be grouped into four alternative pairs of blocks, so the twelve Natural Courses with the fifth in sixth's place at the course end can be grouped into four similar pairs of blocks. And the twelve with the second, or the third, or the fourth, in sixth's place at the course end.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

ably after his recent serious illness, and I would again pay tribute to our vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, for his excellent work in assisting Mr. Goldsmith, and for the articles which he contributes, which are of great historical interest. The future is uncertain, but better times may come sooner than we expect, and when in God's good time we are given victory, we must see to it that our bells are instantly ready to ring out in joy and thankfulness.'

The accounts were presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner and showed a balance of £3 9s.

All the serving officers were asked to continue in office.

Discussion re future meeting ensued, and suggestions for meetings at Uxbridge and Hayes were brought forward. Mr. W. H. Coles also stated that the Rector of Cranford hoped that another meeting could be held here during the summer, and in view of the success of the present meeting and of the fact that members would be more familiar with the district another time, it is hoped to arrange this later in the summer.

Considerable discussion arose on the position of 'The Ringing World' and of those responsible for its production, and the feeling was generally one of great sympathy and that every possible support should be given.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector of Cranford, to Mr. Chiltern and the lady helpers who had taken so much trouble over the tea arrangements, and to Mr. W. H. Coles for initiating the meeting and making such a pleasant gathering possible.

After the meeting further handbell ringing was indulged in till about 8 p.m., altogether three sets of handbells having been in use and some very good ringing accomplished.

WINCHESTER.—At 6, Cathedral View, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes, on handbells, in 41 minutes, in honour of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth's birthday: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice (conductor) 3-4-5-6.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD and the HINCKLEY DISTRICT OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse will be held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 6 p.m. Will Birmingham ringers please note?—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—The All Saints' band invite ringers to attend an open meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse at All Saints' Parish Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, May 9th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and further handbells in the Mission Hall, South Street. You will be very welcome, so do come along and bring your friends. Names for tea by Wednesday, May 6th, please. It will help so much with the catering.—(Mrs.) O. L. Rogers, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Malinslee, Saturday, May 9th, 3 p.m. Handbells and possibly 'silent' tower bell ringing. Local ringers and friends are hoping to provide tea. Good bus service from Wellington. Please make this meeting known to fellow ringers and come along.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec., 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 9th, at 3 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Handbells available. — F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at the Church, Harlow Common, on Saturday, May 9th. Silent ringing and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Business to follow. Kindly advise me for tea by Thursday, May 7th.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at St. Lawrence's Church, Brentford (High Street). Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4. Tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 p.m. Charge about 1/3 (not more). Business to follow. All requiring tea must advise Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13, by May 11th. Buses from Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush to Isleworth and Hanwell pass the church, about half-a-mile west of Kew Bridge.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. (Tea will be arranged only for those whose names are received by the general secretary not later than May 18th. This is definite.) Handbells available before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

### ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

#### DISAPPOINTING MEETING AT GREAT TEY.

A district meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday at Great Tey, 12 ringers attending from six towers, viz., Mistley, Thorington, Earls Colne, Halstead, Dedham and Great Tey.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. N. Grainger, who during an interesting address said he felt very strongly indeed that church bells as signals for invasion should ever have been chosen. The country needed their sound more now than ever to remind people that God still ruled on high. He thought the Central Council ought to protest again to the Home Secretary and suggest an alternative note on the sirens. 'Perhaps,' he said, 'the ban was a blessing in disguise, for too often people used to say, "Oh, those bells," but now thousands who have said that would love to hear their sweet voices once again and would appreciate them when the day comes.' The Vicar gave an account of the bells from as far back as 1550.

A good choir and congregation helped the singing of the hymns, whilst Mr Chapman from Halstead, a ringing pupil of Miss H. G. Snowden, presided at the organ. Mr. Chapman is totally blind, but his marvellous capabilities as an organist were admired by his listeners, and, as a ringing recruit, the North-Eastern Division wish him luck in his new sphere and hope to have the pleasure of meeting him on many more occasions.

Tea at the Village Hall was followed by the business meeting. The Master being unable to attend, Miss H. G. Snowden was asked to take the chair. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Lawford late in June or early in July. The secretary expressed his regret at such a poor meeting after what the local people had done. Mr. J. Dyer had removed six clappers, made arrangements for tea, fixed up with the Vicar for a service with full choir, and then 12 people turned up, three or them visitors. All because there was a 1½ mile walk from the bus. Surely it was enough to make any secretary fed up with trying to carry on. It needed a better spirit than that for ringing associations to be able to carry on if they were to restart after the war.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the meeting and the service and address, to Mr. Dyer for all he had done, and to the choir and organist. Mr. Chapman, said the Chairman, was now a local ringer, and as a professional organist it gave him much pleasure indeed to be able to attend the meetings.

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