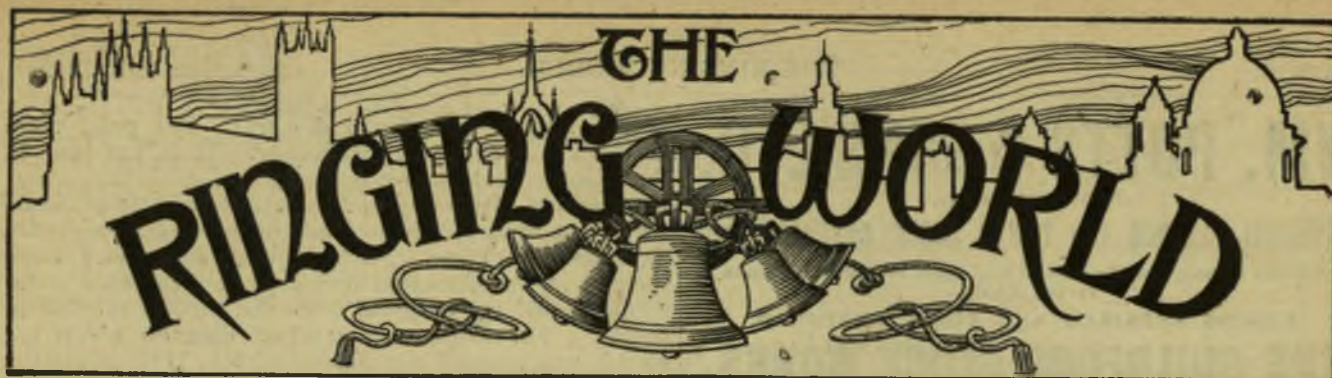




No. 1,643. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

At the recent annual meeting of the Society of Cumberland Youths, held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the members were reminded that the society is rapidly approaching its two hundredth anniversary and the time is coming when ways and means to celebrate it will have to be considered. We are glad the matter is in hand thus early, and we do not doubt a festival can and will be arranged comparable to the tercentenary festival of the rival and now friendly Society of College Youths.

Two hundred years is a long time even in the history of the Exercise, and the story of the Cumberland Youths covers most of the period when peal ringing was the aim of a ringer's ambition and the standard of his progress. Taking the period as a whole few companies have so much achievement to boast of as they have, and among the societies which sprang up in the distant past and have endured to the present only the College Youths and the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham can be compared to them.

The Cumberlands have had a chequered career and their fortunes have varied considerably, though they have never touched such extremes as have the College Youths. On the one hand they have never occupied such a position of pre-eminence, both socially and as practical ringers, as their rivals, and, on the other hand, they have never fallen so low or been so near extinction as the others were when they had reached their two hundredth anniversary. The names on their membership roll will compare favourably with those of any other company, and even the College Youths cannot boast a better list than that which includes George Partrick, George Gross and his son, John Reeves, William Shipway, Henry Haley, John Cox, George Newson, Henry Dains and many more.

It would be incorrect to say that the Society of Cumberland Youths holds to-day the same prominent position in the Exercise it once did. For that there is more than one reason. The rise of the great territorial associations and the development of the art among the country bands have transferred the leadership of the Exercise from London to the provinces, and it is no longer possible for one or two companies like the College Youths, the Cumberlands and the Norwich Scholars to dominate ringing and lord it over their fellow ringers as they once did.

Yet as worthy representatives of the past ages, and as the band responsible for the ringing at one of the principal London churches, the Cumberlands hold a definite and important position in the Exercise, and their approaching bicentenary is sure to receive the support

(Continued on page 422.)

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among ringers generally it deserves. One point there is which may be worth mentioning. There has been in the past a great deal of guessing and conjecture about the origin of the society and its early story. It would be well if the society appointed one or more of its members to investigate these legends and see how much truth there is in them, so that inaccurate and fantastic statements should not be made when the time of celebration comes. For instance, the actual date on which the society was founded was September 6th, 1747, not in the year 1745; the story of the personal connection of the Duke of Cumberland cannot have had any basis in actual fact, and it is not in the least likely that the society was 'previous to 1745 known as the London Scholars.'

RICHARD WHITTINGTON. CITIZEN AND MAYOR OF LONDON.

Most people know Whittington—'Dick' Whittington—as a pantomime hero, the owner of a cat, and a person who sat on Highgate Hill and listened to Bow Bells. To ringers his name is more usually associated with a musical change, and, vaguely, with the foundation of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

All this is mostly legend and fairy tale; yet there actually was a Richard Whittington, and in his time he was a very important person in the City of London.

Whittington was the son of Sir William Whittington, a Gloucestershire landowner. He settled in London, where in due course he became a mercer and a very wealthy merchant. He was alderman in 1393 and sheriff in 1393-4. In 1397 when the office of mayor became vacant through death, he was appointed for the remainder of the term, and he was elected in 1398, 1406 and 1419. He is said to have been Member of Parliament for the City, but that is doubtful. Through his great wealth he was brought into contact with King Henry IV. and his son Henry V., to whom he lent money for their wars.

Whittington had no children and he devoted a good deal of his fortune to the benefit of his fellow citizens. He helped to found an important library at Christ Church, Newgate Street, and he founded and endowed a hospital or almshouse for thirteen poor men, as well as a college in connection with the Church of St. Michael, Paternoster Royal. The college was suppressed in the reign of Edward VI., but the almshouse still survives though removed from its original site. Whittington died in March, 1422.

The story about the poor boy and his cat, and his sitting on Highgate Hill listening to Bow Bells and their message to return to wealth and prosperity, is a fairy tale which seems to have originated in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by someone adapting for the theatre a story which is traditional in several countries, and borrowing Whittington's name for it. It was not known before 1605.

In any case, Whittington could never have heard the chime which bears his name, for there were not six bells at Bow Church in his time. William Copland, who gave the great bell, 'which,' says Stow, 'made the fifth in the ring,' was churchwarden in 1515.

Nor had Whittington, or his college anything to do with the Society of College Youths or its name. The college was not an educational establishment like Eton or Winchester, but a collegiate church, and there were no youths attached to it. It was dissolved 89 years before the Society of College Youths was founded.

Whittington is often referred to as Sir Richard, but there is no evidence that he ever was knighted.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL. *To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—You refer to the peal of Stedman Cinques rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1905. It was claimed, as you say, as the first in Lancashire. This claim was at the time disputed by my friend, the late Mr. William Davies.

About 10 years ago, when writing on this matter, I asked, 'On what grounds were the peals of Stedman Cinques rung at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, in 1828 and 1863 disqualified?' There was no response from anyone. These peals are recorded on boards in St. Nicholas' tower and it would be interesting to know whether they were false in their composition or by reason of their being rung in such quick time. It is very remarkable that each peal was rung in 3 hours 25 minutes, but that does not say they were incompletely rung. Two men rang the 11th on the first occasion, and one man, Thomas Lyon, on the second. This same ringer rang the same bell to a peal of Grandsire Cinques in March, 1862, in 3 hours 22 minutes.

It was evidently the custom of these old worthies to ring quick peals, and although we may not approve of their racing speed, there is no convincing reason for these performances being condemned as untrue.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphil Road, Liverpool 17.

HANDBELL PEALS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 5, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 14 in D.

*BRENDA M. WILKS 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4
MARIE R. CROSS 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal, and at the age of 14.

FELKIRK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

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

Composed by JOHN REEVES.

Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Arranged and rung in memory of Albert Nash, one of the founders of the Barnsley and District Society, and a stalwart member of the Yorkshire Association, who died on August 3rd last.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W.1,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. E. A. BARNETT 1-2	EDWIN H. LEWIS 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN.

Conducted by E. H. LEWIS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

(ALLESLEY AND KERESLEY SOCIETIES.)

On Saturday, September 12, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 68, BROWNSHILL GREEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-voices with different callings. Tenor size 12 in F.

*ERNEST STONE 1-2	C. HENRY WEBB 3-4
JOHN W. TAYLOR 5-6	

Conducted by C. H. WEBB.

* First handbell peal. Rung with handbells fully muffled as a tribute to the memory of two sons of the Rector of Allesley, who gave their lives in the great fight for freedom: Philip Winsor, Royal Warwicks, Flanders, May 27th, 1940, aged 22 years; Fred Winsor, R.A.F., July 7th, 1941, aged 21 years.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT UPPER STREET,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*GEORGE A. FLEMING 1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 5-6
*HOBART E. SMITH 3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN 7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by WILLIAM J. G. BROWN.

Witness—Albert A. Fleming.

* First peal in the method 'in hand.'

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

L. W. BULLOCK 1-2	J. BULLOCK 3-4
T. H. BULLOCK 5-6	

Rung silent and non-conducted.

Umpire—T. J. Chaplin, of the Royal Cumberland Youths.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WHITING.

HELMINGHAM COMPANY'S LOSS.

The Helmingham Company have sustained a great loss by the death of their captain, Mr. George Whiting, who passed away on Friday, September 4th, and was buried at Helmingham Church on September 8th.

Among those present at the funeral were Messrs. C. Fisher, of Ufford, C. Arbon, of Monewdon, and five of the local band. Messrs. George Bennett, George Pryke, W. Weedon and T. W. Last acted as bearers and rang the whole pull and stand a few times over the open grave.

Mr. Whiting, who had been parish clerk and sexton at Helmingham for 28 years, was 57 years old, and had been a ringer for more than 40 years. He was an excellent conductor in all methods. He had not kept a record of his peals, but they numbered about 200. Compared with some men's lists, this is not a lot, but they were in at least 55 methods, 46 of them of Surprise Major. He conducted peals in 11 Surprise Major methods, six of them the first ever rung. They were Woodbridge, Orwell, Huntingdon, Cornwall, Otley and Lavenham. He leaves a widow, five sons and three daughters, two of the sons being members of the Helmingham company.

'We shall always have,' writes Mr. T. W. Last, 'an affectionate memory of a good comrade, and a marvellous ringer considering that one arm was almost useless to him, but his bell was always in its place. Now his life's peal is ended. The great Conductor has called him home.'

DEATH OF MR. F. J. SMITH.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick J. Smith, of Ipswich, who passed away suddenly on Thursday, September 3rd. He was cycling home to dinner with a friend when he collapsed.

The funeral service at Ipswich Cemetery was on September 7th and was conducted by the Rev. — Oyster, curate of St. John's. The St. Mary-le-Tower Society was represented by Messrs. W. P. Garrett and G. E. Symonds, and sent a wreath as a tribute of esteem.

Mr. Smith, who was 52 years old, formerly belonged to the Loiston and Aldeburgh companies, and joined the St. Mary-le-Tower band about six years ago. He had rung 98 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association and 113 for the Suffolk Guild. They included Double Norwich Court Bob and Superlative, New and Old Cambridge, Rochester, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Maximus.

CHISWICK RINGER MISSING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir, — Many London ringers will regret to hear that Mr. Norman H. Manning has been reported missing in the Middle East. Mr. Manning was a member of the St. Nicholas', Chiswick, band that taught themselves change ringing. At the outbreak of war he was secretary of the South-West District of the London County Association and had rung about 40 peals, from Minor to Maximus. He was an enthusiastic ringer and devoted a great deal of his energy in helping beginners. It is to be hoped that the worst that has befallen him is to be a prisoner of war.

F. D. BISHOP.

36, Sussex Avenue, Isleworth.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS*By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE*

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—The Times.

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

'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

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THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 413.)

A good deal has been urged at various times in defence of the old ringers. It has been said that they were really not nearly so black as they have been painted, that they had many virtues, and that their failings, such as they were, were those of the class of society to which they belonged. There is much truth in all that. It would be manifestly unfair to judge any body of men because their standards were no higher than those of their fellows. No doubt it would have been a fine thing if the eighteenth-century ringers had been a shining example of sobriety and good churchmanship to their generation, but under the circumstances that was not to be looked for. The gravamen of the charge against them was that in a drunken age they were conspicuous for drunkenness.

Now it must be remembered that these men, naturally and on account of the conditions which had grown up, were sociable, convivial and clubable persons. They assembled at a tavern when they met to ring, and they adjourned to the tavern when they left the belfry. There they kept their property, and there they held their meetings. They had no lack of opportunity or inducement to drink. Mr. R. A. Daniell urged in their favour that in London at any rate there was no drinking in belfries, and Shipway in the passage quoted above said much the same thing. But then there was no need for the London men to be at the bother of carrying drink into the belfry—the tavern was quite handy enough both before and after they rang. Country ringers, when the church was some distance, did carry their gallon bottle of beer into the belfry, and the number of ringers' jugs which still exist in different places shows that the custom was quite common all over the country. But, granted that they did, we may ask whether, after all, it was such a serious matter. To drink beer in a belfry may be an offence against good order and decorum—that depends largely on the standards of the times—there certainly is nothing morally wrong about it. We should not condemn a man who ate some biscuits in a belfry; why then condemn men who drank half a pint of beer? for a gallon does not go far among six or a dozen ringers. The truth is that there are people, and once there were many people, who hold that beer or any form of alcoholic drink is an evil thing in itself.

In the rules of the Society of Union Scholars which were drawn up about 1713 it was 'ordained that at all weekly meetings each member should expend sixpence, and if the reckoning amount to more the stewards shall pay it.' Sixpence in those days would buy a large quantity of drink. We can make a fair estimate from the fact that during the years 1706 to 1730 mutton was 2½d. a pound, and during the years 1740 to 1760 beef was the same price. Beer was proportionately cheap, and, as I have already mentioned, gin sellers advertised that a man could get drunk for a penny and dead drunk for two-pence. But there was a good deal of exaggeration in that.

It is clear that in the eighteenth century there was a good deal of drinking among ringers, and it is clear, too, that, though ringing was not responsible for it, the conditions under which it was practised did encourage drinking. But it does not follow because a man got drunk now

and then in company that he was a drunkard; and it certainly is no occasion of reproach, either then or now, against a body of men that they used taverns for their meeting places and social gatherings.

Public opinion of the time saw little to find fault with in a man taking a drop too much, and the subject would have scant interest for us if it were not for the effect it had on the Exercise in the following century. When the nation began to wake up to the evils of intemperance, reformation naturally began with the middle classes of society. The masses lagged behind. The ringers were all of the masses, and they, far more than most people, clung to their old habits and opinions. The result was that the gap between their standards and those of church-people widened, and a state of affairs which was tolerated in the eighteenth century became a scandal in the nineteenth. There is no need to judge the later ringers hardly; it is true of evil things as of good that what one man sows another reaps. The problem of drunkenness among ringers belongs to the story of the nineteenth century rather than to that of the eighteenth.

The majority of the men whose names we come across in the history of eighteenth century ringing were of decent class. They belonged to much the same orders as present day ringers and were decidedly superior to the ringers of the nineteenth century. The leading London societies were small bodies and were enabled to keep their membership select. In the earlier times the College Youths, the Eastern Scholars, and the London Scholars contained the best of the metropolitan ringers. Possibly the Union Scholars, the City Scholars, and one or two other companies, were composed of a very similar class of men. Later on the two Societies of College Youths were very particular as to whom they admitted. The Cumberland Youths, apparently, were not quite so exclusive.

Outside these companies there were many ringers of lower class who did most of the very considerable amount of paid ringing that there was. They come very little into the history of the time, but it is likely that the low opinions outsiders formed of the Exercise was chiefly due to them.

The organisation of the Exercise had come down from the seventeenth century. The various societies were small and exclusive bodies which existed solely for the practice of change ringing as a secular sport, and as social clubs. It is hardly possible to estimate the number of active members at any particular time, but it could never have been large. Until the rise of the Cumberland Society of College Youths was the most numerous company in London. From 1637 to 1700 they elected (according to the name book) two hundred and forty-three members, an average of less than four a year. From 1700 to 1754 they elected three hundred and ninety-seven members, an average of rather more than seven a year. After 1754 we have no certain means of knowing the number of members elected, but it is probable that, neither in the 'ancient' society nor in the 'junior' society was the average greater. A certain proportion of these members were country ringers, and some were honorary members whose connection with the society was confined to the annual feast; and after making allowances for these, it is clear that the members elected were only just sufficient to fill the vacancies caused by

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

deaths and retirements. The society consisted of one band only, and the number of those who were peal ringers was quite small.

Other societies (except the Cumberlands) were still smaller. Between 1714 and 1757 the Union Scholars, who started with a membership of eight only, elected one hundred and eighty-two members, an average of rather more than four a year. Between 1733 and 1763 the Eastern Scholars elected one hundred and forty members, about the same average. Between 1753 and 1783 the London Youths elected eighty-six members, an average of less than three a year.

In some ways these old societies remind us of the small Greek states of classic times. While to outsiders their attitude was one of scarcely veiled hostility, internally their constitution was entirely democratic. All the members were, at least in theory, equal; all had equal rights; and all had an equal share in the government of the society. The officials were chosen by a general meeting, and they held office for one year only. As a rule they were appointed according to seniority, the master being selected from those who had already served as stewards. Once a man had been master he was not considered eligible for a second term of office. There was no written law to that effect, but it certainly was the general custom, and no doubt had been inherited from the old guilds. There was a close parallel between the rules and customs governing the election of the master and those governing the election of the Lord Mayor. From the time of the foundation of the Society

of College Youths in 1637 until 1754, when the records cease, there are only two rather doubtful instances of a man holding the office a second time. John Brereton was master in 1660 and possibly also in 1661. There may have been no election in the latter year owing to political changes. Peter Bradshaw, who was master in 1694, was re-elected in 1723. Probably in that year there was a crisis in the society's affairs, and he was brought in again to tide over a difficulty.

The authority of the master was very great. Besides presiding at the social and business meetings, he had, at least nominally, command in the belfry. It was the custom in the early days of the seventeenth century for a society to hold regular monthly and quarterly meetings of varying importance. At these meetings the officers took charge in turn according to seniority. A hundred and fifty years later we find much the same thing in the rules of the Cumberlands' Society; and it is a fair inference that it was for long the general custom of the London Exercise. 'The Master, Treasurer, or Stewards,' so runs the rule, 'shall have the ordering of all the month's peals, the Master first, the Treasurer next, and then the Stewards, everyone in order; and all the quarter's peals are at the Master's disposal.'

The officer in charge was supreme. It was his right and his duty to tell everyone when he had to ring and where he had to ring, and against his orders there was in law no appeal. 'The Master or Treasurer, or any other Member in their absence that knows best, shall set every Man to his Bell; and he or they that shall refuse to ring that Bell he or they are set to, he or they shall forfeit 4d.'

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. James George's many friends will be glad to know that his health is now much better. He has left the infirmary and is now living at Summerhill Homes, Summerhill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who reaches his 91st birthday to-day, and to Mr. William H. Fussell, who was 81 last Wednesday.

The ages of L. W. Bullock and T. H. Bullock, who rang in the non-conducted peal of Minor on Sunday, are 12½ and 15½ years respectively. We think they must be the youngest persons who have rung a non-conducted peal.

The number of handbell peals this year has already exceeded the total for 1941 and is just on double for that of 1940. It is an excellent sign and shows that interest in change ringing is still alive.

Charles Middleton, the composer of the well-known peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, died at Norwich on September 14th, 1886.

On the same date in 1933 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Bosmere Surprise Major, and in 1934 the Australian tour began.

On September 15th, 1847, at All Saints', West Bromwich, Samuel Marsh called a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, his own composition, in 14 courses with the 5th and 6th the extent each way. Marsh was a good composer, but the peal seems to have been the same as or a variation of one by I. J. B. Lates.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Raunds Surprise Major at Bushey on September 15th, 1938.

The first peal by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham, one of Bob Major, was rung at St. Philip's, now the Cathedral, on September 16th, 1755.

On the same date in 1912 the first peal of Little Bob Royal was rung on the now destroyed bells of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, by the Cambridge University Guild.

The extent of London Surprise Major using bobs at M, W and R only is 6,720 changes, but if bobs at In and Fifths are used 11,328 changes are obtainable, and this length was rung at Drayton on September 17th by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, conducted by James W. Washbrook.

On the same date in 1932 the Leiston band rang the first peal of Essex Surprise Major.

The first peal of Court Bob Triples was rung at Wernham in Sussex on September 18th, 1836, and the first peal of Aston Major at Handsworth on September 18th, 1909.

On August 15th, 1908, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower. The band included William and George R. Pye and Bertram Prewett.

On the same date in 1925 the Midland Counties Association rang the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung. One was Grand-sire Triples and two Grandsire Caters.

MR. THOMAS H. REEVES.

On Saturday last at the Masonic Rooms, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Bro. Thomas H. Reeves was installed Worshipful Master of the Arts and Crafts Lodge No. 4134. Among the large number present were ringing colleagues in Worshipful Bro. J. W. Pemberton, Bro. E. T. Allaway and Bro. Frank Perrins.

MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Will you please allow me through your columns to express my appreciation to Mr. C. K. Lewis for his great help to us during his stay in Preston? He spent just over two years amongst us, and his unbounded enthusiasm enabled our younger members to master the intricacies of handbell ringing. Though our band is now scattered far and wide, I am sure all will remember with gratitude the help given by C. K. Lewis.

E. R. MARTIN.

88, Hartington Road, Preston.

MR. F. E. WILSON'S LOSS.

The many ringing friends of Mr. Frederick E. Wilson, of Leicester, will regret to hear of his sudden bereavement. Mrs. Wilson was confined in the City Hospital and gave birth to a baby which only lived for a short time. She was progressing favourably and was due to come home on August 28th. On August 24th a message was delivered to Mr. Wilson asking for his immediate attendance at the hospital, but before he arrived there his wife had passed away as the result of a sudden heart attack. Sympathy of his ringing friends will go out to Mr. Wilson in his very sudden and tragic loss.

THE PRINCIPLE THING.—In all Ringing the principle Thing to be observed, is a true and exact Compass, which in Music is called Time, otherwise the Ringing becomes very unpleasant and disturbing to the Hearer, and may be compared to the nauseous Music of a Country Fiddler playing before a Company of Boors and Peasants. It is a smooth and exact Compass that makes the Ringing diverting and pleasing, as true Time makes the Harmony in Music.—J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Winchester on August 29th, when nearly 60 ringers attended from all the districts as well as many visitors, including Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin, of Beddington.

The Master (Mr. G. Williams) was in the chair, and was supported by the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and members of the Executive Committee. Apologies for absence were received from many members and from the hon. treasurer, whose wife was ill.

In their annual report the officers thanked the district secretaries for their work in getting in subscriptions and so making the Guild's financial position a sound one.

'There is no peal recorder's report for 1941,' they went on to say, 'as all the active work of the Guild is at a standstill, but we would especially like to congratulate our Christchurch district on the great progress made in handbell ringing in the Bournemouth area, under the enthusiasm of Mr. A. V. Davis and his colleagues, when the fruit of their labours we hope will be shown very fully in our report for the current year. Another happy event has taken place, we hear, in the Christchurch district by the re-entry of Mr. E. C. Elliott to the Lymington band, and we wish them as reorganised all success when peace comes again, and may it come soon.'

The loss of Didden and St. Mary's and Holy Rood bells at Southampton will be a great blow to the Southampton district for a long time to come.

The accounts and balance sheets were adopted as printed. They showed a balance in hand at the end of 1941 of £251 16s., compared with £237 8s. at the end of 1940.

Although it was decided at the last annual meeting not to publish annual reports during the war, the principal officers considered that since separate leaflets would be required for statements, etc., to the Guild, it would be more economical to have them in a small booklet form. The meeting agreed and rescinded the previous resolution and authorised future publication in a condensed form.

It was announced that a contribution of £10 had been made to the Goldsmith Fund, and this was heartily endorsed.

Mr. W. Melville raised the question of the future of 'The Ringing World.' It was generally felt that if the paper had to cease publication it would be a severe blow to the Exercise, and if it went down the Guild would go down with it. It was unanimously agreed that the Guild's financial commitments on this question should be left entirely to the sub-committee to handle.

All the Guild's officers were re-elected en bloc—Master (Mr. G. Williams), hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter), peals recorder (Mr. R. Reed) and hon. auditor (Mr. G. Smith).

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Winchester, the date being left to the secretary to arrange.

The long and valued services of Mr. G. Preston (Christchurch), who had served the Guild consistently for the past 38 years, were duly recognised when he was unanimously elected a life member.

At the conclusion of the meeting an impromptu tea was partaken of, after which members attended a special evensong at the Cathedral.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**JOINT MEETING AT STRATFORD ST. MARY.**

A joint meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association and the Suffolk Guild took place on Saturday, September 12th, at Stratford St. Mary, when 19 ringers attended from Dedham, Mistley, Halstead, Clacton-on-Sea, Rushmere, Thorington, Wivesham, Ipswich, Barking, Colchester, Langham, Leytonstone and Stratford St. Mary.

The service in church took the form of a memorial service to three departed ringers, Messrs. W. J. Nevard, F. J. Smith and G. Whiting. Miss H. G. Snowdon played before the service Spohr's 'Blest are the departed,' and the hymns were 'Lead us, Heavenly Father,' 'Lead, kindly light' and 'The King of Love my Shepherd is.'

The Rector gave a very warm welcome to both associations. Tea was partaken in the Church Hall, followed by the business meeting, at which, in the absence of the Master (Mr. G. Waterman), Mr. C. J. Sedgley took the chair and referred to the lives of the three departed ringers. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas', Colchester, at an early date in January.

Mr. R. W. Stannard brought greetings from the College Youths, and the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, the lay reader, the organist and blower and to all who had helped in any way to make the meeting a success. Capt. Ruglys replied.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT MANCHESTER.**

The meeting of the Manchester Branch of the Lancashire Association at the Town Hall on September 12th, although not a large one, was gathered from far and wide, and included a number of young ringers, a very encouraging sign. The handbell ringing included some Bob Major by a band whose average age was 14 years and 3 months. There were some lively discussions at the meeting, which suggests that the flag is at least being again unfurled.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.**MR. BARTON REPLIES.****To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—I am afraid that 'Senex' has overlooked the chief point in my letter, which was prompted by the renewed discussion on umpires for handbell peals.

I had no intention of raising such a controversial matter as the constitution of a true peal (your leader of September 4th deals with that question most effectively), nor was it my intention to be so presumptuous as to set a standard by which the truth of a peal should be governed. I am not 'shifting the difficulty from one place to another' as 'Senex' suggests. The difficulty, to my mind, is static; it lies in the fact that, try as we may, short of propounding the ideal that all peals must be 'true and complete, without a bell out of course or changes alike' we are unable to set a definite standard which will cover all circumstances in peal ringing. Perfection is desirable, it may be attainable; but, to what extent is it practicable?

'Senex' asks me to define the qualifications of a competent umpire; I think the last paragraph of my previous letter will answer that.

However, the point is not what an umpire should be or what he should do, but whether it is necessary that he should be there at all. Following on that, if it is considered necessary to have an umpire for handbell peals, why not for tower bell peals also?

'A College Youth' in his letter states that all handbell ringers (the italics are mine) should consider it their duty to procure an umpire; again, why handbell ringers only? Is there some human frailty or vice in the make-up of the handbell ringer or conductor from which the tower bell ringer is free? The reasons which 'A College Youth' gives to justify his contentions are not very convincing, but, and this is important, they are equally applicable to handbells and tower bells.

To return to 'Senex's' letter, he states that he does not think much of our rule. I hasten to assure him that I do not claim it to be ideal. I, too, am aware of its shortcomings, especially if it is carried to the extent which he mentions, but may I point out that a conductor need not wait until the offending bells get to lead before he corrects them.

I cannot say that I am impressed by his comparison of the Double Norwich single and the Bob Major single; surely, any conductor who knows the effect a call has on the coursing order will know if the bells have failed to make a single correctly in Double Norwich long before they get to lead. If, on the other hand, he cannot check the coursing order or doesn't know the effect a call will have, it won't make much difference whether the method is Double Norwich or Bob Major, his chances of correcting the bells are equally remote.

I have no idea who 'Senex' is (why do some writers use fancy pseudonyms instead of the names bestowed on them by birth and parental choice?), but I shall be interested, and I think others will too, to read any suggestions he cares to put forward which may improve the quality of peal ringing.

But, Mr. Editor, all this is beside the point. What we are concerned with at the moment is the occasional clamour for umpires for handbell peals. Can we have a convincing reason why they should be treated differently to tower bell peals in the way of supervision? Until some good reason is given, and generally accepted, it is absolutely inconsistent to suggest that one should be fettered whilst the other goes free.

W. BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.

Dear Sir,—Talking about handbell peals, it is worth telling this tale about the late Mr. John Souter, of Diss, who died just ten years ago. He and Jimmy Motts and William Ireland and some of the Ipswich band were trying to ring a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, and they had rung a long time with first-class striking and no trips when Mr. Souter put his bells down. They asked him why he did it, and he replied, 'When we ring the peal we will ring a true one.' His bells should have made places together in 3-4, but before he noticed it he dodged them. If all handbell ringers were as particular as this there would be no need for umpires.

'EAST ANGLIAN.'

WHAT AUTHORITY?

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the letters on this matter and have come to the conclusion that umpires for handbell peals are unnecessary. If a band cannot properly ring a peal either on tower or handbells it should not proceed.

As no umpire is required for a tower-bell peal, why should one be considered essential for handbells, and, if so, what authority would he (or she) have?

W. J. G. BROWN.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

HALESWORTH.—On Sunday evening, September 6th, for evensong at St. Mary's Church, on handbells, four courses of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. C. D. Andrews 1-2, A. H. Took 3-4, F. C. Lambert 5-6, C. D. Andrews (Enfield) 7-8. Also on September 9th in the vestry, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. Andrews 1-2, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 3-4, C. D. Andrews 5-6.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 417.)

The Magdalen chimes, Oxford, first erected in 1713, are quite unique, and fascinating to many on account of their indefinite rhythmic progress. Considering their beauty, it is extraordinary they are not more frequently used. They are copied, however, at Speldhurst, Kent:—

- 1st quarter, 21.
- 2nd quarter, 2184.
- 3rd quarter, 435—637.
- 4th quarter, 435—647—21.

Hour on 8. I have noted these as for an octave.

These chimes at Magdalen College tower were reconstructed in 1908 by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, of Derby. The Guildford chimes were composed by George Wilkins, organist of S. Nicolas' Church, Guildford. He was a pupil of Hopkins, and wrote a number of services, anthems, and some excellent hymn tunes. The chimes were originally set up in Holy Trinity Church in 1843. First copied at Chard, Somerset, for a time they were called 'chard chimes.' They have also been erected at Bournville, Irthlingborough, Macclesfield, Northleach, Stretton and elsewhere. For an eight-bell quarter chime they are among the best yet written. They go:—

- 1st quarter, 1—654.
- 2nd quarter, 641275346.
- 3rd quarter, 1436574635421.
- 4th quarter, 8461234653746—
54123468124374 (hour) 8.

Regarding the Tennyson or Carfax chimes, the following is quoted from the 'Oxford Times' of July 23rd, 1898:—

'Sir John Stainer has kindly given us some interesting details with regards the new chimes to be used for the clock. Some years ago the Rev. Dr. Merriman, Vicar of Freshwater, wrote to Sir John to the effect that a new clock was about to be erected in his parish church, and he wished to avoid adopting the hackneyed Westminster chimes. Sir John Stainer promptly wrote a set of chimes and sent them to his friend at Freshwater on the stipulation that they were to be put in without comment, and kept going for a year or two to see if the parishioners liked them. "The people are attached to them, and would not part with them for worlds" was the verdict some years later, and when Sir John Stainer was asked by Mr. Jackson to write a set for the six bells at Carfax tower, he replied that he could not improve on the set he had written for Dr. Merriman, and which had, moreover, satisfactorily undergone the test of use. Thus it comes about that the chimes used at Carfax are the same as those which have given so much pleasure to the Freshwater folks. In consequence of the connection between Freshwater and Lord Tennyson, Dr. Merriman had named the chimes after the great poet, but now they have been brought to Oxford, and as they were composed by the Oxford Professor of Music, Sir John Stainer wishes them to be known in future as the "Carfax Chimes."'

Whoever was responsible for the above account was evidently unaware of the true facts respecting these chimes. Sir John Stainer did not write them. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of Derby, submitted several sets of five-bell chimes for his approval, to be erected at

Freshwater, Isle of Wight, for his friend, Dr. Merriman, the rector there.

He chose the set below, but suggested the hour chime should be in G, using the second group of the third quarter, but altering none of the notes. Here are his own words in reference to this:—

'I think the five-bell chime (No. 3 of the sets you sent me) will be charming if you make them end on G instead of A at the close of the hour chime, thus:—

21543 instead of 14352.

If you can arrange this, I think you will have a charming set of chimes, and, as far as I know, unique.' Here is the complete set (copyright by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons) set in figures as for a ring of six:—

- 1st quarter, 14352.
- 2nd quarter, { 32415.
34512.
- 3rd quarter, { 13245.
21543.
14352.
- 4th quarter, { 32415.
34512.
13245.
21543 (hour) 6.

The alteration suggested by Sir John Stainer was thus made, and in his next letter he wrote:—

'I like the chimes as you now send them very much.

I am sending a copy of them by this post to Dr. Merriman.' (August 5th, 1895.)

These chimes are also at Uppingham and at Maralin, Ireland. It will be noted that the tenor bell is used for the hour and not in the quarters. This chime—like the Cambridge chime—has the 'double revolution in an hour' scheme.

Norwich Cathedral chimes have already been given by a correspondent, but for the continuity of these articles I will repeat. The bells are five in a minor key, which is unusual, and the present chimes were composed by the Rev. E. S. Medley, Precentor of the Cathedral (1874-1877), who was awarded the prize offered by Dean Gouldburn for the best set of chimes to suit the bells. They were set going on the new clock in 1876 and are most effective, and, in this particular style, as good as possible to write on the available notes:—

- 1st quarter, 12345 (Nisi Dominus).
- 2nd quarter, { 54123
25345 } (In Exitu Israel).
- 3rd quarter, { 54315
31243
54235 } (Sursum Corda).
- 4th quarter, { 14325
43241
51234
23451 } (Gloria Patri).

Hour on No. 5, and it should be noted that these are like the first five of a ring of six.

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT FELKIRK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with mixed feelings that I record this peal—certainly the best ringing that has been achieved by the present band—as it was under Mr. A. Nash's guidance that I rang and conducted my first handbell peals not so long ago. By his passing Southern Yorkshire has suffered a great loss, and the debt we owe to him can only be repaid by a continuance of the high standard of his great work.

HAROLD CHANT.

36, Briar Lane, Havercroft, Wakefield.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.**

(Continued from page 418.)

Some time ago the question was asked in 'The Ringing World': Is a peal of Grandsire Triples possible in ten equal parts with a common single at the half-way and end? It seems that it had been stated that such a peal actually existed. Mr. Bankes James, it will be remembered, said it was not possible and gave the reasons, and now we can explain the matter in the light of what we have said during these last three or four weeks.

A regular ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with two common singles is not possible, nor is any other peal, whether in regular parts or not, which has only two common singles separated by a half-peal.

Since we are to use common singles, the basis of the composition must be the 120 B Blocks, and between one single and another there must be either 60 complete B Blocks joined together into a round block by a series of complete Q Sets; or else there must be certain B Blocks and certain Q Sets which have one or more members in one half-peal and the rest in the other half-peal.

But, as we have seen, a round block consisting of an even number of complete B Blocks (in this case 60) is not possible.

If a Q Set is divided so that one or more members come before the single and the rest after, then part of the Q Set will be at handstroke and part at backstroke. That does not matter so long as the Q Set is bobbed; but the Q Sets which join together B Blocks are omits, and it follows that any incomplete Q Sets before the single would have to be completed by omitting the third's place after the treble had led instead of before. That, of course, is inadmissible.

Besides the plan of composing by joining together P Blocks or B Blocks by means of bobs and singles arranged in Q Sets, there is another plan which takes us back to the very beginnings of the art and science of change ringing. This is the plan of composing by means of Hunts. It is the plan by which the original Plain Changes were produced, it plays its part in many compositions, and an excellent example of it occurs in the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire Triples.

The general plan of Hunts is this—First of all you have the Whole Hunt (usually the treble) which has a path which takes it regularly through every position. Then you have the Half Hunt which falls regularly into every position relative to the Whole Hunt. Then you have the Quarter Hunt which falls regularly into every position relative to the Whole Hunt and the Half Hunt. Then you have the Half-quarter Hunt. And, finally, you have the three Extreme Bells which go the Sixes.

In the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire the bobs and singles are the means by which the paths of the Half, Quarter, Half-quarter, Hunts and Extreme Bells are re-

gulated. Strictly speaking, the method is plain hunting, and the third's places made after the treble has led share equally with those made before it has led (the bobs) in fixing the paths of the Hunts.

The treble is the Whole Hunt and has an uninterrupted plain hunting path.

The sixth is the Half Hunt; it completes its revolution in three leads.

1000060

1006000

1000600

1600000

1060000

1000006

1000060

The sixth you will observe has occupied every position, either at handstroke or at backstroke, and has come home at the finish.

In this block there is only one place where a bob can be omitted without upsetting the Half Hunt. This is when it is Before. When that is done every time, a five-course block is provided of which the following are the course-ends.

1000067

1007060

1070060

1700060

1000760

1000067

The seventh, the Quarter Hunt, has now completed its revolution.

But we cannot make further alterations in the number and positions of the bobs. If we did we should upset the Half and Quarter Hunts. So we must use singles to fix the path of the fifth, the Half-quarter Hunt. There are various ways of doing it and we produce 5-course blocks with the following part-ends:—

050067

005067

500067

000567

Next we must use singles on 234 to produce the part-ends:—

423567

342567

234567

and, finally, by making or omitting two singles on 2, 3, one in each half-peal, we complete the composition. The making or omitting of singles is independent of the bobs which are not affected.

(To be continued.)

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CHOIRBOYS AS RECRUITS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I noted a letter from 'A Churchman,' who states that he disagrees with me concerning choirboys as recruits, in this week's issue. Well, if he will turn to your leading article, which so ably sums up the problem, he will find most of his subject answered.

With reference to his disagreement with my previous letter, I have nothing to add to my suggestions except to say that 'the use of the belfry as a dumping ground for used-up choirboys' came from your correspondent.

However, I will make this statement for our friend to think over, i.e., 'The belfry is constantly being used for experiments.' Without this, our new methods, new compositions and arrangements, where would we be now? Of course it is a place of experiment for new ideas, from the time we first set foot in there until our last pull.

Perhaps 'A Churchman' would furnish his name and address as an experiment, as I am also a churchman. F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

SPORT OR CHURCH WORK?*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The recent references in articles published in 'The Ringing World' to ringing comparative with sport prompts me to ask the question, 'Does the ringing Exercise look upon their calling as a sport or work for the Church?' E. W. MARSH.

Grandison, Morelo Avenue, Crownhill, Plymouth.

MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—September 18th is the birthday of our old friend Robert H. Brundle, who was born in the year 1851 and will soon be in his 92nd year.

I called on him this morning and found him very well, his hearing and memory are wonderful, he loves to talk of bygone days, and stated it was November 7th, 1870, when he went to London to work.

He and George F. Margetson, late of Walthamstow, were choirboys in Ipswich at the same time.

Mr. Brundle rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on October 15th, 1938, being then in his 88th year, the oldest person to ring a peal on twelve bells.

We wish him all the best.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL.

Mr. Ernest Morris' peal, published in 'The Ringing World' recently, is a very interesting composition, but it can hardly be taken as a justification for the use of many singles. It has 22 of them and they can easily be cut down to six, or even (with a little re-arrangement) to two.

5,040				Continued			
23456	W	M	R	W	M	R	
42635	--	--		52634	--		
62534	--	--		62435	--		
54236	--	S		45236	--	S	
23546	--	--		34256	--		
52346	--	--		25346	--		
34526	--	--		42356	--		
53426	--	--		35426	--		
24536	--	S		24356	--	S	
52436	--	--		35246	--		
43526	--	--		43256	--		
54326	--	--		25436	--		
32546	--	--		32456	--		
53246	--	--		45326	--		
42536	--	S		23456	--	S	

The basis of the composition is the four 6-course blocks (two the reverses of the other two), and ultimately the twelve 2-course blocks which contain the 24 natural courses with the six at Home. The four courses with the sixth away from Home are merely padding. The three consecutive bobs at M which produce them can be made almost anywhere.

BERTRAM PREWETT.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I thank you for publishing the civilian photograph of the late Bertram Prewett, which will take an honoured place in my 'Ringing World' collection of brother ringers.

I still have a photo of him which he gave me when he was a rifleman in the London Rifle Brigade in the early days of 1916.

I also have a part of his last letter written to me from hospital only a day or two before the air raid, and perhaps it may not be generally known that he was there for dental treatment, and also application had been made for a commission, which he was hoping would soon come through.

With reference to Mr. Barnett's query asking if Prewett had rung a peal on every date in the year, I would like to say that I had the pleasure of taking part in a peal with him early in 1916 at Wrentham, Suffolk, and I can quite remember him saying outside the tower to my old friend, Francis Nauton, and myself that he had one or two dates to get in to finish the dates off, and I have a feeling that peal was his last.

Your article on 'Big Ben' is very interesting. Could we not have more about it?

May I ask you, sir, why the procedure of melting the metal twice before casting was adopted? And it would be nice to know the proportion of metals used. I am sure a good many ringers are interested in metallurgy, or am I asking a trade secret?

C. V. EBBERSON.

Chestnut Villa, Snettisham, King's Lynn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION MEETING AT LONG ASHTON.

A meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Long Ashton on September 5th and was attended by 26 members.

At the service in church the Vicar gave an address and stressed the great opportunities ringers had through their part in worship. At the business meeting Mr. Bennett was appointed chairman and Mr. W. S. Emery hon. secretary, until the annual meeting on December 2nd.

It was decided to send letters to members on active service, and thanks were given to the Vicar and to Mr. Yeo for making the visit a successful one.

After the meeting Grandsire and Stedman were rung on the electric silent apparatus, which creates an atmosphere akin to the normal sound.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Following is a composition of Spliced Surprise Major. London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, in two parts, which is the first, without three lead courses. Extended work in Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, and is interesting as regards the number of changes obtainable in latter three methods. A. J. PITMAN.

5,056, 5,120, 5,184 or 5,248 Spliced Surprise Major.

23456	M	B	W	H	Methods rung
23564	2	2	--	--	L B (C) B L
52364	--	--	--	--	C S C (C) L
43265	--	--	--	--	C S C (C) L
24365	--	3	--	--	C S C (C) B B L
32465	--	3	--	--	C S C (C) B B L
35264	--	--	--	--	C S B B B L
35642	--	--	--	--	C S S S or C S B B B B
24653	--	--	--	--	B B (C) B B
24536	--	--	--	--	S S S C or B B B B S C
54326	--	--	--	--	L B B B S C
35426	3	--	--	--	L B B (C) C S C
43526	3	--	--	--	L B B (C) C S C
52436	--	--	--	--	L (C) C S C
45236	--	--	--	--	L (C) C S C

For 5,056 repeat above, using only one of the extended courses containing the four consecutive leads of Bristol, for 5,120 use two and so on. (C) Cambridge or Superlative. Thus the 5,056 may be arranged to contain 768 London, 1,408 Bristol, 1,440 each Cambridge and Superlative.

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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.

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

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Brigg on Saturday, September 19th. Business meeting in the Church House at 4 p.m. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Handbells in the ringing chamber during afternoon and evening.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 19th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tower bells (10) for 'silent' practice, also handbells. Please bring sandwiches.—E. D. Poole, 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 19th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., and business meeting for election of officers, etc. Handbells and social evening to follow. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th. A reserved room available from 2 p.m. General committee meet at 3 p.m. General meeting at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the school at Wolvey, near Hinckley, on Saturday, September 19th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables. Good bus service from Coventry and Leicester.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting has been arranged at Hatfield on Sept. 19th. Handbells in church 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Salisbury Guest House.—R. Darvill, Hon. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—The society will meet for practice on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., commencing on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Visitors cordially welcomed.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells and, we hope, silent tower bells. The Vicar has offered to provide tea, so please send a p.c. to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead. No names, no tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, commencing at 6 p.m. All welcome. Suitable local train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Est. 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells in the Church House 3.30 p.m. Short business meeting 4.15. Guild service in church 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at the Star Inn, Stoney Stanton, on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells from 6 p.m. Midland or Brown's bus service.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Willoughby on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Usual arrangements. We will endeavour to get you a cup of tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Wigan on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Clapperless bells at Poolstock. Handbells at the Parish Church. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Winnard's Cafe, Market Place, at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan, before the 23rd. 6 p.m., meeting at National and Blue Coat Schools.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14; T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Tower bells (silent, 8) available from 3 p.m., also handbells. Tea at 5 p.m. for those who notify me by Sept. 23rd.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells in the Church Institute 3 p.m. Will all visitors please go direct to the Institute (20 yards from N.E. corner of churchyard)? Tea and meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Cannock on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. It is hoped to have the use of the bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Short service, with an address by the Rev. J. F. Foster, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided; please bring your own food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Please let me know names for tea by September 28th, and bring sugar, etc. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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