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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1942.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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CO-OPERATION.

There is an old proverb which tells us that we should cut our garment according to our cloth, and it is advice we shall do well to pay heed to when the time for ringing comes once more. In other words, we should have some fairly clear idea of what means are at our disposal before we make plans about what we hope and intend to do.

Bells cannot be rung without ringers. They cannot be rung even moderately well without competent ringers; and so in calculating the possibilities of restarting the art in any tower, all recruits and learners must, for a time at any rate, be left out of consideration. But where are the competent ringers to come from? It takes six trained men to ring six bells well; five and a novice will not do; and the four best men in the land, though they will form a nucleus of a good band, are by themselves helpless.

There will, we fear, be many bands in that condition. It will, we hope, be a condition which will pass, and in some cases will pass fairly quickly; but while it lasts, be it for long or for short, it must be met.

But how? One of the best plans seems to be for bands to co-operate closely one with another. We do not mean the co-operation which consists of attending joint meetings and practices, or the occasional visits to neighbouring belfries. Something closer than that is called for, and when distance will permit (as it will in towns where there are more than one ring of bells) it would be well if there were an actual amalgamation of companies so that instead of two depleted bands vainly trying to carry on the ringing at two separate towers, one fairly competent band could serve alternately both churches.

A plan like this seems simple and almost obvious, but it would need a good deal of self-sacrifice and the giving up temporarily of some cherished ideals. Many ringers are attached to one particular church. They look on their band as part of the parochial organisation, and they would be just as reluctant to leave their own belfry for another, as an average chorister would be to leave his choir. Their first duty, they would feel, would be to their own church.

Such feelings are understandable and praiseworthy, but it is necessary to take the larger view, and in abnormal times ordinary considerations should not always prevail.

If bands give help to others, they will receive help in like measure, and the result of the combined effort will

(Continued on page 498.)

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be much more than the sum of the individual efforts. It will be far better, not merely from the point of view of the ringers themselves, but from that of the churches they serve, if the bells in any one tower are rung well once a fortnight, or once a month, than that they should be rung badly or indifferently every week. Every effort should be made to keep beginners away from the ropes on Sundays, at any rate until they have attained a reasonable amount of proficiency. It will not be an easy or an agreeable thing to do, for all ringers like to give every encouragement to learners and to offer them every opportunity of practising. But the one important thing we must keep in mind is the absolute necessity of seeing that the ringing after these years of silence is as good as it can be. The Exercise will be on its trial and, in many cases, especially in residential districts, a spell of bad ringing may easily result in the bells being silenced for years. That has happened in the past. It is far more likely to happen in the future.

The problem will, of course, be less acute in some places than in others, and in some fortunate, isolated towers will hardly exist at all. But, generally speaking, we feel certain it is the hardest problem which will confront the Exercise, and we make no apology for returning to it again and again.

HANDBELL PEALS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

*COLIN J. CORNWALL ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6

Conducted by MISS M. R. CROSS.

* First peal and first attempt. First member of Radley College Society to ring a peal.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 46, ACACIA AVENUE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 13.

GEORGE M. KILBY ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

*KENNETH ARTHUR ... 3-4 | †EDWARD G. COWARD ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First handbell peal. † First handbell peal of Triples.

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELDON DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. P. MARKHAM.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in G.

*PERCY MARKHAM ... 1-2 | CYRIL WANDER ... 3-4

*GERALD SHORT ... 5-6

Conducted by CYRIL WANDER.

* First peal 'in hand.' First peal 'in hand' by a local band.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, November 1st, at Severalls Hospital, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent, 1,264 changes of Bob Major in 40 minutes: G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, A. Andrews 3-4, J. W. Keeble (composer and conductor) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8.

**SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Tuesday, October 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT GLYN GAETH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON	1-2	*MRS. R. RICHARDSON	... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON	... 3-4	A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN	... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal in hand on an inside pair. First peal by the 'entire' family.

**LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

On Wednesday, October 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS L. K. BOWLING	... 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON	... 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON	... 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	7-8

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

**BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)**

On Friday, October 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

GERALD BROMLEY	... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... 5-5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	... 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

**OXFORD.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*ROSALIND M. WRONG (Lady Margaret Hall)	... 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (S. John's)	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE (New Coll.)	3-4	†WILFRID F. MOREYON (St. John's)	... 7-8

Composed by M. J. MORRIS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on eight bells. † First attempt for a handbell peal.

**LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in F.

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS	... 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	... 3-4	J. FREDERICK MILNER	... 7-8
ERNEST MORRIS			9-10

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Arranged for J. F. Milner, of Southwell Minster, as his first peal of Stedman 'in hand.'

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

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

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

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

THE MUSIC OF CHANGE RINGING.—An expert band of ringers secures perfect precision in the striking. This, together with the full tone of the bell in the whole swing, the ever changing notes, the continuity, and the mingling sounds, constitutes the indescribable charm of good change ringing. In many ways the succession of sounds has no real musical significance, but the indefinite rhythmic tonal progression is fascinating.—W. W. Starmer, in Groves' 'Dictionary of Music.'

**FABIAN STEDMAN
AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.**

(Continued from page 489.)

Dr. Burney was in error in thinking that the 'Tintinnalogia' suggested the Five Bell Consorte to John Jenkins. That piece was published in 1662, six years before Duckworth's book appeared, and indeed Jenkins got his knowledge of ringing at first hand. He was one of the last to hold office in the Society of Cheap-side Scholars, and when that company broke up in 1662, he joined the College Youths and held the office of steward in 1669. Ten years later he was elected master, but he could not have served, for he was now an old man and had retired to Norfolk, where he died.

John Jenkins was born at Maidstone in 1592, and is said to have been the earliest English composer of instrumental music. He was attached to the court of King Charles the First, and during the Commonwealth lived in the houses of some country gentlemen, chiefly with Sir Hamon L'Estrange at Hunstanton, and with Lord North at Kirtling. Roger North says of him, 'I was instituted by that eminent master of his time, Mr. Jenkins. He was a person of much easier temper than any of his faculty. He was neither conceited nor morose, but much of a gentleman, and had a good sort of wit.' In another place he calls him 'a little man with a great heart.'

Anthony Wood, who also had studied with him, says 'he was the mirror and wonder of the age for music.'

After the Restoration John Jenkins and John Lilly were appointed musicians in ordinary to Charles the Second, at a salary of £40 a year. Jenkins was a prolific composer of light music. All his earliest and most lively works are lost and forgotten and he lived long enough to see himself outrun and antiquated; but some of his catches and the Five Bell Consorte (the full title of which is The Lady Katherine Audley's Bells) were printed. Dr. Burney thought enough of it to give it in his history, and it has been reproduced by Dr. J. J. Raven in his 'Bells of England,' and by Mr. Ernest Morris in his 'History and Art of Change Ringing.'

Dr. Burney's statement that Mersennus in his 'Harmonie Universelle' had enumerated and reduced to musical notation the 'changes of the hexachord' made me wonder whether there was any rudimentary system of producing changes given in that French writer's book, but I could find nothing, nor even trace what Burney was referring to.

The 'Tintinnalogia,' though small, was not a cheap book. It was leather bound and a considerable number of copies would have to be sold to make it a financial success. For the bulk of his customers Stedman would rely on his friends among the College Youths and the Esquire Youths, and as soon as the book came out he wrote to the leading provincial bands, and in some cases made personal visits to sell it and incidentally to promote the spread of change ringing. On Whit Monday, May 11th, 1668, he wrote to the bellringers of Leicester introducing the book, and explaining to them the desirability of establishing a society of scholars for setting forth the arts and mysteries of change ringing, not only for the edifying of their minds, but also for their enjoyment and the healthful exercise of their bodies, and he expressed his desire, with Almighty God permitting, to

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN

(Continued from previous page.)

visit their city at a time appointed, when he hoped for the pleasure of their goodwill and company.

It was not until the September of the following year that he actually visited Leicester, but when he did, the ringers received him right royally. It was fair time and there were many strangers in the town. First the gentlemen ringers entertained their guest to 'swete musick' at the different churches, especially at St. Margaret's, where a heavy ring of six had lately been hung. Then, on the Saturday, the young ringers entertained him at St. Mary's, and that same evening there was a supper and a social meeting at Maister Baker's, ye Angell, where both the gentlemen and the young ringers entertained him. The sum of £1 16s. 8d. was 'spent for meates, wines, beere, tobacco, and pipes, etc.' On Sunday, after morning service at St. Martin's Church, Mr. Stedman entertained them all at his inn near the High Cross, and afterwards in the great chamber or gallery he gave a lecture on change ringing. His audience consisted of the gentlemen and young ringers, with many others, clergy and gentlemen, who were mightily pleased with it, and it was near seven o'clock in the evening before they departed to their homes.

At ten o'clock the next day Stedman left the town, and his hosts, gentlemen and youths, accompanied him a mile 'beyond ye conduit spring hill, and so gave him their farewell in his journey towards Harbrow.'

No doubt these pleasant scenes were repeated at other large towns, though no record has come down to us. Most likely at Nottingham, an early centre of the art whence Stedman drew material for his second book; probably at Norwich and Ipswich, the two chief towns of the Eastern Counties, where change ringing flourished long before the close of the century. But no visit was paid to Oxford, which is rather a pity, for Anthony Wood would certainly have known of it and we should have had an interesting account of Stedman and his work in the diary. But no doubt Duckworth's influence was sufficient to push the sale of the 'Tintinnalogia' among Oxford ringers, and it is not likely that they needed a Cambridge man to tell them how to ring.

Richard Duckworth lived to be an old man. Though his name does not appear on the title page of the 'Tintinnalogia,' there was no secret among his contemporaries that he was the author. As we have seen, both Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne mentioned it in their writings, and later in the century Lord Chancellor Bathurst, in a conversation with Nollekens, the sculptor, referred to 'a curious little book, I think by Richard Duckworth, entitled "Tintinnalogia," and the conversation was recorded by J. T. Smith in his life of Nollekens, published in the early years of the nineteenth century. Many years later the then rector of Steeple Aston, writing to 'Notes and Queries,' remarked that the only one of his predecessors who had done anything particular was a man named Richard Duckworth, who had written a book on bellringing, entitled 'Tintinnalogia.' But by that time ringers had become firmly convinced of Stedman's authorship, and Ellacombe, in a reply, said there was not the slightest doubt he had written the book. Finally, the 'Dictionary of National Biography' gives a short account of Duckworth on the grounds that he was

the author. He, in fact, is the only man noticed by that great work just because he was a ringer.

Apparently the 'Tintinnalogia' sold well, for in 1671 a second edition was called for. This was the edition Anthony Wood knew of. It was a replica of the first edition except that it was 'printed for F.S. and are to be sold by Thomas Archert at his shop under the Dial of St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, 1671.'

In the year 1677 an edition was published of a book called 'A Rich Cabinet, with Variety of Inventions,' 'unlock'd and opened for the Recreation of Ingenious Spirits at their vacant Hours.' The original author was J. White, 'a lover of artificial conclusions.' The book has no literary value, and its nature is sufficiently indicated by its title. It evidently was popular among a certain class of people, for no fewer than seven editions were published between 1651 and 1715. The 1677 edition is interesting to us because it contains a chapter on ringing. The title page is similar to that of the earlier editions, and then is added—'Likewise directions for ringing the most useful peals that belong to that Art. Collected by J.W., a lover of artificial conclusions. The fifth edition, with many additions. London. Printed for William Whitwood at the sign of the Golden Bell in Duck Lane, near Smithfield, 1677.'

Who White was I do not know. Probably after the first edition he had nothing more to do with the book. Whitwood, to whom he sold the copyright, issued reprints as they were required, and the chapter on ringing was the work of a hack writer who knew nothing about the art.

For it is a most unblushing piece of piracy. The writer heads his chapter—'Exact Rules for Ringing all sorts of Plain Changes and Cross Peals, with easie Directions for everything which necessarily belongs to the Compleat Art of Ringing.' He then proceeds to copy out some of the first part of the 'Tintinnalogia.' Duckworth is followed closely, but an attempt is made to disguise the theft by slightly altering the wording.

Duckworth wrote—'On six Bells there are Seven-hundred and twenty Changes to be made; but there are Peals of Six-score and Twelve-score Changes to be rang on them. The Six-score Changes are to be made by observing a whole hunt and half hunt, which are to be hunted in the same course as in the Six-score on five bells, and the Extreame Changes to be made by the same rule as they were on five bells.'

'White' copied this as follows—'Now let us come to the Changes on Six Bells which are found by Ringing Artists to be seven hundred and twenty, and there are peals of Six-score and Twelve-score Changes to be rung on them. The Six-score Changes are to be rung by observing a Whole Hunt and a half Hunt, which you must hunt after the same manner as you hunt the six-score Changes on five bells. And the extreame Changes to be made by the same Rule as is afore exprest.'

Slight as is the verbal alteration, it is enough to spoil the passage. The substitution of the word 'and' for Duckworth's 'but' shows that the writer did not understand what he was copying; to talk of hunting the changes is nonsense; and the cleancut economical style of the 'Tintinnalogia' is lost in unmeaning verbosity. Throughout the language of the 'Tintinnalogia' is altered in the same way, and the result has a value, for it shows by contrast how excellent Duckworth's style really is.

After having copied about forty pages of the 'Tintinnalogia,' which included all that by 1677 had become obsolete and of no practical value, 'White' gets tired of his job, or perhaps he had filled up as many pages as Whitworth had paid him for. He then goes on—'Having given you these short yet easie Directions for all sorts of plain and single Changes, I should proceed to Cross Peals, as Doubles and Singles on four Bells, the Twelve-score Long Hunts or the Esquire's Twelve-score, Doubles and Singles on Five Bells, Tendring's Six-score on five Bells, Paradox on five Bells, London Pleasure on five bells, What you Please, Doubles and Singles on five Bells, New Doubles, Old Doubles, Grandsire Bob, and several other Peals which will take up too much time, wherefore I shall refer the Reader to his own and others' practise for further information.'

The thing is a fraud, for having professed to give directions for everything which necessarily belongs to ringing, and also how to hang bells, he tries to fob off his reader with some out of date stuff and a list of the methods in the 'Tintinnalogia.' As for the hanging of bells he never got any further than Duckworth's title page.

The chapter appears only in the edition of 1677, but in 1698 a book was published under the name of 'Tintinnalogia' by G. Conyers which apparently was pirated from this pirated book. It is practically a reprint of 'White's' chapter on ringing, and has also directions for making artificial fireworks and for gardening. There is added 'an excellent receipt to make a valuable Liquor agreeable to all Constitutions.'

The worthlessness of the book as a text book on ring-

ing is shown not only by the fact that when it was published it was long since out of date, but also by the claim that 'perhaps the like had never been done before'—a pretty cool claim for a book which was a barefaced copy of a book which was itself a barefaced copy. It is said to have been written by 'J.W. and other members of that Society,' but, of course, there was no such person. The original J. White had long since disappeared; so far as there was any author at all, he was one of the hack writers employed by the printer, and it is not at all likely that he knew anything about ringing. The reference to 'that Society' is only a meaningless echo of the dedication of the 'Tintinnalogia' to the Society of College Youths. White's 'Tintinnalogia' is now a rare book. A perfect copy, which once belonged to Osborn, is in the British Museum, a copy not quite perfect is in W. C. Pearson's collection, and another in the Central Council library.

(To be continued.)

HAPPY REUNION AT HUGHENDEN.

An enjoyable practice was held at Hughenden on Saturday, October 24th, when a number of ringers met to welcome, and ring with, Mr. Roland Biggs, home on leave from Ireland.

Numerous touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Royal were rung, Mrs. R. Biggs also taking part in the ringing.

During the evening, the Rev. S. A. C. Dickins, who was recently inducted to the living of St. Michael and All Angels', Hughenden, came to meet the ringers. He took a keen interest in the ringing, and expressed a desire to take up the art.

On Saturday, October 10th, at the above church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes, was rung in 47 minutes by Harry Wingrove 1-2, Walter Lee 3-4, Dorothy Fletcher 5-6, Frederick Biggs 7-8. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. S. A. C. Dickins on his appointment to the living.

It was Mr. Biggs' first quarter-peal on handbells, Mr. Wingrove's first in the method as conductor, and the first in the method on handbells by the two others.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■■■■■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends of Mr. James Parker, of Edmonton, and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Parker is suffering from a somewhat severe illness. Mrs. Parker, who celebrated her 80th birthday a fortnight ago, is well known among ringers.

Congratulations to Mr. William H. Barber, who reached his 67th birthday last Wednesday.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Elson, who are celebrating their golden wedding.

The noble ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung for the first time on November 1st, 1878.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael, Coslany, on November 1st, 1831, 'which by reason of the intricacy of the composition might be properly called a performance of first rate eminence, and with respect to the superiority of striking it was no less worthy of notice.'

What seems to have been the first peal of Plain Bob Caters was rung on November 2nd, 1751, at Leeds in Kent by James Barham's band. The unusual number of changes, 6,480, is accounted for by the fact that the composition evidently was Annable's peal of Bob Major or one of the variations of it which at the time were popular.

On November 2nd, 1891, at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. C. L. Routledge called the first peal of Woodbine Treble Bob Major. Mr. William Story rang the fourth.

Eight years ago this week the Australian tourists were in Tasmania. They rang Kent Treble Bob on November 3rd and Bob Major on November 6th, both at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart. Mr. George Martin called one and Mr. Rupert Richardson the other.

William Pye called the first and only peal in three Spliced Surprise Major methods at Pinner on November 3rd, 1930.

The first peal on the heavy ring at Wells Cathedral was rung on November 4th, 1891, and on the same date in 1932 the first peal of Helmingham Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

On November 5th, 1821, the Huddersfield company rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Triples. 'The peal was gone through in a most magnificent style. Likewise 5,152 changes of Superlative Surprise at the first attempt, making a total of 10,192 changes in five hours and fifty-six minutes.' Benjamin Thackrah composed and called the peals and they were the first in both methods.

Twenty years later on the same date the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Triples was rung at Liversedge.

The first peal of Surrey Surprise Major was rung at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on November 5th, 1930, and the first peal of Verulam Surprise Major at Bushey on November 5th, 1938.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN JAGGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. John Jagger, who passed away peacefully last Friday at the age of 81 after a long illness. In his young days Mr. Jagger was a member of the famous company at Burton-on-Trent, which was the earliest of the modern bands who have made the practice of Surprise Major ringing a regular feature of Sunday and peal ringing. The funeral was last Tuesday.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE S. ROWE.

The death is announced of Mr. George S. Rowe, one of the older members of the band at Debenham, Suffolk, where he had lived all his life. Mr. Rowe had been in failing health for a year or more, but was able to get about until Tuesday, October 13th, when he had a seizure and passed away on the 18th without regaining consciousness. He was 69 years of age and had rung about 80 peals, most of which were for the old Norwich Diocesan Association.

He did not ring many peals in his later years, but attended service ringing until the ban was imposed. He was a good striker and could handle a heavy bell very well.

The funeral at Debenham on Wednesday, the 21st, was attended by members of various public bodies with which Mr. Rowe had been connected. He leaves a widow and ten children, all of whom are married.

Mr. Rowe was in business as a tailor, at first in partnership with Mr. Curtis, and for the last 20 years on his own account. In 1904 he became a member of Debenham Parish Council, and in April, 1926, was elected chairman. He became a member of the old Bosmere and Claydon Rural Council, and continued to represent the parish when the Gipping Rural Council was formed.

In 1911 he undertook the secretaryship of the Debenham Athletic Sports Club, which rose to a high place in the athletic world. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Suffolk County A.A.A. and was one of the official judges of that body. A Trustee of the Star of Suffolk Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters and also of the Framlingham District, he was at one time District Chief Ranger. He was also a keen member of the Hartismere Lodge of Freemasons, passing the office of Master, and, in the wider sphere of Provincial work he was a P. Prov. Grand Standard Bearer. In addition, he was a governor of the local school, a trustee and governor of the Wentworth-Gurney Charity.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

THEN AND NOW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although it may be true to describe ringing as a sport of the 17th and 18th centuries, very few ringers will agree that it is a 20th century sport.

Modern sport covers a very wide variety of pursuits, including racing, boxing, tennis, soccer and rugger, and, on the indoor side, billiards, darts, etc. All of them are highly competitive and most of them more or less commercialised.

It can hardly be said that either of the above factors are common to ringing. About nine out of every ten peals are rung purely for the satisfaction of the band concerned and there is happily no commercial element in ringing.

The passing of years has brought about great changes in the attitude of the people to most things, and sport is no exception. Most sports of a couple of centuries ago have disappeared completely or have been modified very considerably to suit modern ideas. In their original form many of them would be looked on with horror at the present time.

Ringing has changed very little and certainly has not disappeared, and surely we have some justification for believing that one of the reasons for its survival is that it has moved to a higher level, where it is not necessary to have a highly competitive or pecuniary motive to make it worth while.

Surely it is up to us to try to maintain and improve this 'elevation in status' and not insist that we are still sporting men of the 17th and 18th centuries. J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.

THE WORD SPORT.

Sir,—Those who object to the use of the word 'sport' as applied to change ringing had better refer to their dictionaries: they will find a variety of meanings and not a few perfectly applicable. In the biological world the word is used to denote a variation in species from a normal. F. A. YORKE.

27, North Bailey, Durham.

WHEN IS RINGING CHURCH WORK?

Sir,—No one so far seems to have raised what appears to me to be the two main questions on this subject—under what conditions and when is ringing a 'sport' and when is it church work?

There are those who would argue and claim that if you ring a 'touch' before a divine service it is 'church work,' but if you ring a peal it is sport. With these people I cannot quite see 'eye to eye,' for in my humble judgment there can be no hard and fast rule on this point, indeed I know of no rule either with any association or ecclesiastical authorities which stipulates a certain number of changes as 'church work' and another certain number as 'sport'; therefore, we come next to the conditions under which that number of changes (be it long or short) is rung. Many times when bells have been rung on a weekday I have heard passers-by and people living in the immediate neighbourhood ask, 'What are the bells ringing for?' Some I have known to go out of their way to find out whether there is a service on, whether there is a wedding ceremony and so on. If they find that there is something of the kind they go away with a contented mind, and to the 'man-in-the-street' ringing under such conditions is looked upon as a piece of church work. Sunday is the one day to him when he looks to hearing the bells the most, and the thought of ringers ringing for sport is practically disbanded from his mind.

Anything in the nature of long touches or peals should as far as possible, therefore, be confined to Sundays, or if on a weekday to occasions of weddings, special divine services, etc., in order to avoid such ringing being classified as sport. The man-in-the-street to a very large degree (and by that I include churchpeople themselves) who is not a ringer is the final judge on this issue, and it is his sympathy which we must win, and whose support to a large extent we are dependent upon for the upkeep of our bells in order to keep our art in existence.

Finally, there comes the question—what about practising to perfect oneself? Is that 'church work' or is it 'sport'? In this connection, as far as weekday ringing is concerned, it might be said that both terms can apply, but, broadly speaking, much more use might be made of handbell practice, and district meetings where a divine service is included at which the public could be invited to attend and see things for themselves by the simple announcement of the service by the incumbent on the Sunday previous—after all, parsons never mind going out of their way to announce a service of some other guild or union, so why object to announcing one of ringers? Much of the abuse from the outside public under such circumstances would then never arise. P. AMOS.

Northampton.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

A PEAL AT WEST BROMWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A paragraph in 'Belfry Gossip' a few weeks ago, referring to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung at West Bromwich on September 15th, 1847, composed and conducted by Samuel Marsh, caused me to look among some old papers that used to belong to my grandfather, Paul Cashmore, when I came across the following account of the first peal rung on eight bells in that tower, just 100 years ago, and which I thought might be of interest:—

On Tuesday, November 8, 1942, the All Saints' Society of Change Ringers, West Bromwich, Rang upon the Bells of the Parish Church, a True and Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, Containing 5,040 Changes, Being the first true and complete Peal yet rang upon the above Bells since their augmentation to a Peal of Eight in July last. The above Peal was completed in a Masterly Style, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes, and consisted of 194 Bobs, and 46 Singles, and was conducted by Mr. Samuel Marsh. The Band as stationed: Sampson Marsh, Treble; Paul Cashmore, 2nd; Edward Marsh, 3rd; John Harris, 4th; Joseph Bourne, 5th; Samuel Marsh, 6th; John Noak, 7th; John Green, Tenor.

The record is printed on quarto size paper, now yellow with age, and no fewer than ten different sizes and styles of type were used in its make-up.

Paul Cashmore was my maternal grandfather, and the three Marshes were great-uncles.

My mother, Paul Cashmore's youngest and only surviving daughter, now in her 88th year, still enjoys reasonably good health.

The eight bells on which this peal was rung were recast in 1917 by Taylors, of Loughborough.

A. PADDON SMITH,

Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.

Donnor, 16, Wellington Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, October 24th, and members were present from Huyton, Bebington, Oxtown, Childwall, Great Crosby, Oughton, Edge Hill, St. Luke's, Liverpool, and the local company.

Handbells were rung in the vestry both before service and after tea. In addition to a touch of 504 Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Stedman and Grandsire Caters were brought round. The Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves, the Rector, conducted the service in the west vestry and presided at the meeting. The Rev. Leslie Evans, curate of St. Nicholas', and the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Vicar of St. Catherine's, Edge Hill, were also present.

Mr. J. W. Evans, of Oxtown, was elected a non-resident life member of the association, and after a discussion as to where and when the next meeting should be held, the Rector very kindly invited the members to St. Nicholas', and November 21st was the date chosen.

The Rev. D. P. Roberts voiced the thanks of the company to the Rector for his kind hospitality and cordial welcome. The Rector, in reply, said what pleasure he had derived from the visit and how pleased he was to entertain members of the association. He promised to convey to the ladies warm thanks for their efforts in arranging the tea.

The presence of Lieut. Purdom, of Erith, Mr. Sam Jones, of Chester, and Mr. John Brown, of Aughton, who is now serving with the Royal Marines, gave great pleasure to the company.

RINGERS' EPITAPHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a supplement to Mr. Ernest Morris' records of ringers' jugs and pitchers, a collection of ringers' epitaphs would, as Mr. Sedgley says, be 'interesting.'

In Horringer, otherwise Horningheath, churchyard is a headstone to the late Harry Turner, some time licensee of the Rose and Crown, Bury St. Edmunds, as follows:

'Whene'er the sweet church bell
Peals over hill and dell,
May Jesus Christ be praised.'

Being the first three lines of the second verse of the hymn, 'When morning gilds the skies,' by E. Caswall, Ancient and Modern, No. 303.

GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, RADLEY.

A ringing society was formed at St. Peter's College, Radley, during 1939, its prime object being to ring for college services at the Parish Church. Until the ban stress was laid on the correct handling and striking of a bell and not on change ringing. After the ban the boys began to ring handbells before the college services and still continue to do so. Besides service ringing the society has taken part in college dramatic productions and carol services. At the present time all the members can ring Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples.

The president of the society is Canon J. L. C. Dart, who was British Chaplain in Paris until the fall of France, and B. K. Barber, of Morgan's, is the secretary.

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

A LAW ACTION ABOUT BIG BEN.

Once or twice lately in our account of Lord Grimthorpe we have referred to an action against him for libel, in which he was condemned to pay £200 damages and costs. It was brought by Robert Stainbank, who at the time owned the Whitechapel Foundry, and as the names of many of the men involved are well known to ringers, and as the action turned largely on the casting of Big Ben and the cause of it being cracked, the evidence will still be read with a great deal of interest.

We have already told something about the defendant, Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, and have given some of his opinions about bells. Robert Stainbank, the plaintiff, was a native of Nottingham, and was in business in a large way as a timber merchant. At one time he contemplated buying 'The Daily Telegraph' when the fortunes of that paper were at an ebb, but instead in 1861 he entered into partnership with George Mears, the last of the family to control the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Stainbank died on January 24th, 1883, and was buried at Boston in Lincolnshire.

LETTERS TO 'THE TIMES.'

The libel complained of consisted of some passages in letters to 'The Times' in the year 1878, when the proposals for a new ring of bells for St. Paul's were being discussed, and among them were the following:—

'Though I do not profess to write about dominants and minor thirds, or to guess how a Belgian bellfounder would probably begin to re-tune this peal, I have no hesitation in saying that no modern Belgian bells which have come over here and heard in public are superior or equal to the best English ones, though they are superior to such as used to be made by the English firm which had a practical monopoly of the business until about 20 years ago. Of course, I agree with Mr. Haweis about the present condition of Big Ben of Westminster, which is a disgrace to the nation, as it was to its foundries, and as their York bell was still more, and as the clock bells of St. Paul's were to their predecessors, and Tom of Oxford to its maker, which is the worst of all the great ones.'

Bells without number, which moreover were never cast for it with a properly adapted crown, have been ringing for years and centuries with bolts through their crowns to hold in the clappers when the bells have been turned in the stock, before I introduced the now common practice (except I believe at the oldest and worst of the foundries in England) of having the clapper bolt independent of the bell.'

The plaintiff alleged that the publication of these statements had seriously damaged him in his business. The defendant admitted having published the letters, but denied they were published of the plaintiff in his trade or business, the plaintiff at the time of the founding of the bell not being a member of the firm who founded it—viz., Messrs. Charles and George Mears. He further contended that the words complained of, in so far as they referred to the firm of C. and G. Mears and to the casting of the bell, were fair comment on a matter of public interest and were true in substance and fact.

The action was tried on June 27th, 1881, and the following six days in the old Lord's Justice's Court before Mr. Baron Huddleston and a special jury.

DISTINGUISHED COUNSEL.

Both sides were represented by leading counsel. Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., Mr. W. G. Harrison, Q.C., and Mr. Hilbery appeared for the plaintiff. Sir John Holker, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Francis Jeune appeared for the defence.

Sir John Walter Huddleston, the judge, who was born in 1815 and died in 1890, was the last of the Barons of the Exchequer, the title borne by the judges of one of the divisions into which the judicature for centuries was divided.

Charles Russell, who afterwards became Sir Charles, and, later, Baron Russell of Killowen and Lord Chief Justice of England, was generally acknowledged to be the leading advocate of his time and one of the most successful cross-examiners in the history of the Bar. Judging from the reports (a not very conclusive test), his great gifts do not seem to have been much in evidence in *Stainbank v. Beckett*. He appears to have been a little afraid of the great reputation of the defendant, and to have aimed at securing a verdict rather than at getting heavy damages.

Sir John Holker had been Solicitor General and Attorney General, and afterwards was appointed a Lord Justice.

Francis Henry Jeune, the son of a Bishop of Peterborough, was a distinguished ecclesiastical lawyer and chancellor of several dioceses. He afterwards made a great reputation as the first Judge of the Divorce Court and was created Baron St. Helier.

Mr. Russell, opening the plaintiff's case, after regretting that he had to appear against so distinguished a member of his own profession, said that the defendant had interested himself in clocks and bells and especially in the clock and bells of Westminster. More than 20 years before, the strictures he passed on the founders of the bell had led to an action for libel by the late George Mears, and now that he was dead, the defamatory statements were repeated and reiterated without regard for charity or common generosity. Mr. Stainbank joined the firm of Mears in 1861, in whose name it had

been carried on since 1782. It was, in fact, started in 1570 and was the oldest in the kingdom.

A firm of that character had a continued identity. When a peal of bells was ordered they went out with the name of Mears upon them. If at any subsequent time they wanted repair, they were sent to Mears' foundry, which was now the plaintiff's.

After the first Big Ben was condemned a contract was made with the firm of Mears for the second bell. The defendant designed it, and it was to be made to the approval of the defendant and the Rev. W. Taylor. The bell was cast on April 18th, 1858. It had an indent in its surface, which, by order of the Government officials, was filled up. Soon after, it developed a crack upon the side of the soundbow opposite to that struck by the hammer, at the point where two currents of vibration attained their greatest force. The hammer used, with which the firm had nothing to do, was one of 7 cwt., and it was the opinion of some experts that the too great weight of the hammer was the cause of the crack. However, the 7 cwt. hammer was removed, and one of 4 cwt. was substituted and had been in use for more than 20 years.

On the discovery of the crack, the defendant was attacked and defended himself in the newspapers. When Messrs. Mears brought an action against him for libel, the defendant justified, but afterwards withdrew his plea of justification, and the case was withdrawn from the jury upon the terms of the defendant retracting all charges made by him against Mr. Mears, and paying all costs incurred.

An inquiry was instituted into the state of the bell, and as a result the hammer was reduced in weight and the bell swung round so that the crack should not be opposite to the hammer. Years went by, and in 1878 a new controversy arose. In a letter to 'The Times' in 1878 the phrase 'the oldest and worst foundry in England' undoubtedly referred to the plaintiff's foundry, as he believed would be admitted by the defendant himself in the witness box.

HOW THE BELL WAS CAST.

The first witness was Mr. John Mears. He said he had been manager under his brother, but had not had anything to do with the foundry for many years. He described the casting of Big Ben. The proportions of the metals were according to contract, 22 of copper to 7 of tin. The metal was first run into ingots and submitted to the defendant. Melting was done in three furnaces by a wood fire, and the molten metal was run into one reservoir. The metal was the best obtainable, and the defendant had said that the bell had a freer tone than the old one.

Cross-examined by Sir John Holker, the witness said he had never heard of any holes being stopped up. If there were any they would have been noticed when the bell was hung.

When the Court assembled on the second day counsel for the plaintiff intimated that he proposed to call evidence of the construction of Big Ben, of the nature of the cracks and cavities which had been found on the surface, and of the causes of these defects. Sir John Holker objected to the relevance of this evidence, but after a prolonged discussion did not press his objection.

Edward Thomas Loeby, clock and watch maker of Leicester, said he had seen Big Ben before the cracks were discovered, and had closely examined it afterwards. He took casts of the holes or cavities upon the surface, which he now produced. The cracks were discovered by covering the bell with acid: when the bell was struck a stream of air bubbles showed themselves along the line of the cracks. There were three cracks of 6in., 7½in. and 18in. in length respectively. They would not have been noticed but by wetting the bell. The hammer formerly struck opposite the 7½in. crack. Bells are never of uniform thickness all round; there is a variance of one-twentieth of an inch at least, and in comparison of that variance these small holes were of no importance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jeune, witness admitted that he had a controversy with the defendant in 1851. The defendant was chairman of the horological jury at the Exhibition of 1851, very much to the regret of the exhibitors in that section. He gave satisfaction to nobody.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE METAL.

Mr. John Imray, consulting engineer and founder, said the proportion of 22 of copper to 7 of tin would make a hard brittle bell-metal, and in the course of setting, the tin being the lighter metal, would be found in greater quantity upon the upper surfaces, especially upon the upper surfaces of the sound bow. He examined the bell in 1859 and again in April, 1881. As far as he could see the cracks were unchanged since 1859. He considered the casting an excellent one.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jeune: It was physically impossible that the metal in this case should have been otherwise than porous, unless the metal cracked.

Jabez James, civil and mechanical engineer, said he was the contractor for raising Big Ben to the tower. He saw the bell when it was cast and, considering its size, thought it was an excellent casting. At the same time, he thought the proportions of copper and tin were dangerous and told the defendant so.

Henry Hart, foreman to Mr. James, considered the casting a good one. He was told to bronze the bell with nitric acid.

Several witnesses testified to the excellence of the bells cast to their orders at the Whitechapel Foundry. Among them was the Rev. Francis E. Robinson.

(Continued on next page.)

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

(Continued from previous page.)

Matthew A. Wood, examined by Mr. Russell, said he had rung at St. Paul's, Bow Church, St. Michael's and All Hallows', London, and also at Yarmouth, St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, St. Peter's, Norwich, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, and had assisted at the opening of many peals of bells, many of them coming from the Whitechapel Foundry. He had also rung on Warners' bells, Taylors' bells and others; he decidedly gave Mears' bells the preference, big or little.

Cross-examined, witness said he thought the words 'oldest and worst' were intended to apply to the Whitechapel Foundry. He had no doubt that Mears' was the best foundry, not the worst. Some of the others were 'not in it' at all. They might make one good bell, but casting a peal was another matter.

Mr. Jeune: Mears' are much the best?—Yes.
Of Warners' and Taylors', which is the better of the two?—Warners'.

Messrs. Taylors' are the worst?—I did not say that. You asked me which was the better of the two.

James Dwight, of the College Youths, gave similar evidence. William Read, solicitor, of North Shields, and president of the Durham Association of Change Ringers, examined by Mr. Russell, said he had examined a great many peals of bells throughout the country. Several in the north were supplied or augmented by the Whitechapel Foundry and they had given the greatest satisfaction. In his opinion the bells coming from that firm had a distinctness of tone which no others possessed.

THE PLAINTIFF'S EVIDENCE.

S. B. Goslin, manager to Warners', described the process of casting. He said that the rising of the tin during the setting could be prevented by certain measures, but he would rather not say what those measures were. He thought Big Ben had not been properly cooled. He would have taken away the sand from the cope of the mould at an earlier stage.

Robert Stainbank said he joined the firm in 1861, but his name did not appear in the style of the firm until 1865. He had in his possession a continuous history of the firm since 1570. He frequently got letters addressed to him as Mears and Co. or C. and G. Mears, and was often personally addressed as Mr. Mears. The proportion of tin to copper in Big Ben was higher than he would have wished, but it was fixed by contract.

Cross-examined by Sir John Holker: He was especially aggrieved by these libels, because they were reiterations of statements made 20 years ago, and they were injurious to himself and the foundry of which he was the owner.

Sir John Holker addressed the jury on behalf of the defendant and referred to the casting of the two Big Bens and the old action for libel, *Mears v. Beckett*. It was not the case that his client had waited till Mr. Mears was dead before renewing the attack. He would ask the jury to say there was no proof of damage to the plaintiff.

Dr. Percy said he had at the request of the Government made several reports upon Big Ben. He had no practical experience, but expected there was great difficulty in obtaining homogeneity, especially in a large casting where some of the metal cooled before the rest.

Cross-examined: It was a common thing to fill up small holes on the surface of castings; that might be seen in the paws of the lions of the Nelson column.

SOME LOUGHBOROUGH BELLS.

John W. Taylor, bell founder, of Loughborough, said he had cast bells of 6½ tons without any difficulty, and was now preparing to cast one of 14 tons for St. Paul's. It was quite possible to cast a homogeneous bell. Porosity was very prejudicial to tone.

Cross-examined: He knew that the Manchester bell was cracked. That was due to the weight of the hammer, which was 4 cwt. There was no fault in the casting. It was possible to conceal holes unless they were suspected and scratched for.

Sir Edmund Beckett, the defendant, was examined by Mr. Jeune. He said he had great experience in bells, and was consulted about the first Big Ben. He was appointed with the Rev. Mr. Taylor to approve the present Big Ben when cast. Without their approval there was, according to the contract, to be no payment for the casting. Many experiments had been made by him and at the School of Mines to discover the best proportion of tin to copper. Portions of Tom of Lincoln and other old bells were analysed, and finally the proportion of 7 to 22 was fixed upon as likely to give sufficient softness to prevent cracking and sufficient hardness to ensure a sonorous tone. In the old bells there was more of tin in proportion. He was not

(Continued in next column.)

THE BAN ON RINGING.

However much we may regret the imposition of the ban, we shall do well to reconcile ourselves to the silence of our bells until the day of victory, and though we may feel that it was a mistake in the first instance, it would probably be as great a mistake to remove it now. It is, however, gratifying and a good sign to find indications that the general public does miss the sound of the bells. Recently the 'Kent Herald' devoted a leader to the subject, which is worth reproducing, though we may be sure the arguments have been fully considered by the authorities:—

Many people are asking, 'When shall we hear again the old familiar chimes of the church bells?'

We are all well aware that for patriotic reasons it is essential that we should do without a great many things, but that is not to say that we should deprive ourselves of certain amenities of life unless it is absolutely necessary. It is now over two years ago since it was decided that the church bells should be condemned to silence—in order that they might be rung as a warning should the enemy (which were then mustered in large numbers on the other side of the Channel) gain a footing on these shores. At that time an attempt at invasion seemed both certain and imminent, and hasty measures had to be introduced to warn the public when it occurred. Circumstances have undergone a radical change since that period. Our chief enemy is so heavily preoccupied in Russia that, while the danger of invasion has not entirely disappeared—and so must still be guarded against—it has become definitely less likely. Having regard to all the discussions which have taken place on the subject of the establishment of a Second Front, an invasion of the German-occupied countries on the Continent by British, Empire and American forces seems much more probable.

We know how easy it is to criticise arrangements which had to be improvised quickly, and which were inspired by the best possible motives. But reflection must, surely, have convinced us that the method of giving a warning to the populations by the ringing of church bells is both crude and inefficient. In these days, with the wireless installed practically in every home, an announcement can be made on the radio more speedily to reach any area in these islands which may be threatened. In the event of radio communication being disrupted, there are many more direct means which could be adopted and which are much less calculated to cause confusion and panic.

Without being unduly sentimental, the ringing of the bells in the churches of towns and villages did contribute to the pleasure of British life. It marked all manner of joyous occasions, both national and local, and they were a constant reminder of the place which religion occupies in the general scheme of things in this country. The signposts in many of our towns and cities are now being restored, and in numerous other directions we are getting back to our normal customs and practices.

We can let the bells again be heard without any detriment to the national effort. In these times of trial and tribulation, and of struggle against the powers of evil, they would bring to us a message of hope and inspiration.

THE BELLS OF EDINBURGH.—I have heard the chimes of Oxford playing their symphony in a golden autumn morning, and beautiful it was to hear. But in Edinburgh all manner of loud bells join, or rather disjoin, in one swelling brutal babblement of noise. Now one overtakes another, and now lags behind it; now five or six all strike on the pained tympanum at the same punctual instant of time, and make together a dismal chord of discord; and now for a second all seem to have conspired to hold their peace. Indeed there are not many uproars in this world more dismal than that of the Sabbath bells of Edinburgh.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

(Continued from previous column.)

present at the casting of Big Ben. When he saw the bell in November, 1859, the holes were visible. There were about 40 of them and the largest had been filled with zinc. He should have rejected the bell if he had seen the holes. He examined the bell at the foundry and at Westminster, and was satisfied with it, and especially with its tone. If he had known what was in Dr. Percy's report he would not have withdrawn his plea of justification in the former action. He did so under advice, not understanding the dodges of common-law pleadings.

After counsel's speeches on either side, Mr. Baron Huddleston summed up. The jury found that one letter was libellous and applied to the plaintiff, and that two other letters were libellous but did not apply to the plaintiff. Damages were assessed at £200 and judgment entered accordingly.

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THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 493.)

In the composition of seven-bell methods with a plain hunting treble and six working bells the last way to use singles is to do without them altogether. This is possible, although it is not possible in any other class of Triples methods, and we will now examine the reasons for it.

Let us turn back to the plain course of Bob Triples and look at the lead ends, handstroke and backstroke.

234567 even

325476 odd
352746 odd

537264 even
573624 even

756342 odd
765432 odd

674523 even
647253 even

462735 odd
426375 odd

243657 even
234567 even

Half of these rows are even and the other half odd, and since all the changes in the interior of the leads are triple changes, the rows will be alternately even and odd, or odd and even, according to the nature of the lead end. The plain course and every other natural course will produce an equal proportion of odd and even rows.

On the face of it that would seem sufficient to enable us to get the whole peal without singles, for the principal use of singles in composition is to produce the odd rows which, without their use, would be unattainable.

But we remember Grandsire Triples. The plain course of that method, and every P Block, and every B Block, produce odd and even rows in equal proportion, and yet singles are necessary to obtain a complete peal. Why should Bob Triples differ in this respect from Grandsire Triples?

The answer, in a word, is that in Bob Triples the natural course and the bob making are symmetrical about the path of the treble, but in Grandsire Triples they are not.

To take the matter in detail. When we examine the lead ends given above, the first thing we notice is that at any lead end both handstroke and backstroke are of the same nature; both are even or both are odd, and consequently every alternate lead end is of opposite nature. The result is that both the rows in which any one bell falls into the same position are of the same nature. For instance, the two rows with the seventh at home are both even. So are the two rows with the seventh in third's, and the two with the seventh in fourth's. But the two rows with the seventh in second's, the two with it in fifth's, and the two with it in sixth's, are all odd.

So long as we use the seventh as the fixed observation bell (that is so long as we compose by means of bobs at

Middle, Wrong, and Right only) this cannot be altered, and we cannot get the odd rows with the seventh in third's, fourth's, and at home; or the even rows with the seventh in second's, fifth's and sixth's, by bobs only. What we can do is to shift the relative position of the seventh, and we can do it by a very simple process. We bob a Q Set which involves the seventh.

234567 362547 425367

325476 635274 243576
352746 653724 234756

537264 B 567342 327465
573624 657432 372645

B 756342 564723 736254
576432 546273 763524

754623 452637 B 675342
745263 425367 765432

472536 674523
427356 647253

243765 462735
234675 426375

326457 243657
362547 234567

We have made three bobs on 5, 6, 7, and the result is to join together three independent natural courses into one round block. It is just as simple a process as the joining together three natural courses by three bobs at Right.

The three natural courses we have joined together are 36254, 42536 and 23456; and of them the first two are odd while the third is even.

This joining together natural courses of different nature has been done without in any way altering the natural succession of the rows. Actually every natural course in the method is both odd and even, and what we have done is to shift the relative position of the observation bell so that it comes home at an odd lead end instead of at an even lead end.

This block of three courses gives us an obvious basis for a peal. All we have to do is to select twenty-eight out-of-course natural courses and join them to 36254 and 42536; and twenty-nine in-course natural courses (or their equivalent) and join them to 23456.

But at once we find a difference between the two cases. When we are composing with full natural courses we can only add them two at a time. That is all right with the out-of-course courses, for we have twenty-eight to add. But we have twenty-nine in-course courses to add, and we cannot do that if we use full natural courses. We must therefore fall back on the plan we described in our issue of October 30th and use parts of natural courses supplemented by parts of the alternative natural courses. We can only do so when both lead and bob making are symmetrical about the path of the treble. Bob Triples, New Bob and Stansted Bob will give us peals without singles, but Waterloo Reverse Bob and Croydon Bob will not, unless we make the bob when the treble is lying its whole pull behind.

(To be continued.)

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next business meeting, with election of officers, will be to-morrow, Saturday, Nov. 7th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, after the annual luncheon.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley, on Saturday, November 7th, at 4 p.m. Handbells available.—The fifth annual dinner will be held at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Dec. 19th, at 7 p.m. Tickets 5s. each, may be obtained on application, with remittance, to Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, not later than November 28th.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the school 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, by Wednesday, Nov. 11th. Handbells during afternoon and evening.—T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, November 14th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 4 p.m. Business important. Election of officers. Bring your own refreshments, cups of tea provided. A good attendance is desirable.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Will all who want tea please let me know by Tuesday, November 10th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

South and West District.—Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14th, at St. Mary's, Acton. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. Short service at 4 p.m. Tea, as the guests of the Rector, followed by

business meeting in the Rectory, after the service. Names must be sent to the undersigned not later than November 11th. The Rector specially asks for a good attendance, and is notifying the local Press of the meeting, so that people may come and hear the ringing. Outstanding subscriptions will be welcomed, and any information of interest relating to towers in membership for 1942.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A practice will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, November 21st. Meet in the vestry 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by the meeting. Those requiring tea kindly let me know, and I will do my best to arrange for some. All ringers cordially invited.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LIQUID REFRESHMENT.

Mr. Edwards' quotation could be paralleled from many churchwarden's accounts. Here are two from St. Mary-at-Hill, London, the date 1510:—

Paid for wyne & peres at skrasis house at Aldgate for Mr. Jentyll, Mr. Russell, John Althorpe, & the clerkes of Synt Antonys to go and see whether Smythes bell wer Teunabill or nat—viijd.

Paid for wyne at the salutation at the bargeyne making for the frame of the belles—viijd.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the interesting articles on clock chimes which have recently been appearing in 'The Ringing World,' I wonder if any readers can give any information about the chimes of the beautiful old Priory Church of St. Mary, Lancaster. I was in the town a few days ago and heard these chimes, but was not able to stay long enough to note down the actual chimes played. I do not know how many bells the tower contains, but they sounded quite heavy and of magnificent tone.

PETER N. BOND, A.C./1, R.A.F.

NEWS OF MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have received an airgraph from Mr. C. K. Lewis, sent from a transit camp in South Africa. He is well, gets plenty of fruit and finds the people kindly and helpful. He said he had found the church with the ring of bells, and had had a pull at the tenor, and has started, with the aid of one of J. E. Spice's pupils, to teach one of the local ringers Bob Minor on handbells.

Mr. Lewis' many friends will be glad to know of his well being.
P. LAFLIN.

Stockport.

YESTERDAY?

Childrer, dear, was it yesterday
We heard the sweet bells over the bay?
In the caverns where we lay,
Through the surf and through the swell
The far-off sound of a silver bell?
When did music come this way?
Children dear, was it yesterday?

—Matthew Arnold.

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