THE RINGING WORLD

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

The members of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, assembled recently at Caerleon, "unanimously agreed that peal ringing should be discouraged, except for very special local or national occasions until the end of the war,' and in doing so they undoubtedly expressed an opinion held to-day very widely in the Exercise.

This, broadly speaking, means that no peals should be rung for the reason and purpose that the vast majority of peals always have been rung, namely, because peal ringers like ringing them. It is worth while to consider for a minute what is the reason for this opinion and how far it is justified.

Now it certainly is the fact that there are many men who is normal times are quite willing and anxious to take part in peals, but who feel that in war time it is hardly the correct thing to do. They are fully entitled to that opinion, and so long as it is applied to their own conduct, need give no reason for it, either to themselves or to others. But when they go further and attempt to discourage peal ringing in general, they must face the question fairly: What is there in peal ringing which especially makes it undesirable in these days?

It is not an easy question to answer. So far as the general public is concerned there is no difference between peal ringing and any other ringing. A peal certainly takes about three hours, but that need not necessarily be a greater strain on the public than the intermittent ringing at a meeting, which may, and usually does, extend over the afternoon and most of the evening. Nor can any general rule be laid down for all towers. There are places where an hour's ringing can cause annoyance, and there are places where peal ringing not only causes no annoyance but is actually welcomed and enjoyed. Every case must be judged on its own merits.

Perhaps at the back of this opposition to peal ringing there is, quite unconsciously, something of the feeling which always has existed in the Exercise, that peal ringing is nothing but a pastime for a few ringers who selfishly indulge themselves at the expense of the public and their fellow ringers. The time and opportunities devoted to peal ringing would be far better spent in teaching beginners.

That, we think, is quite a mistaken idea. There can be selfishness in peal ringing just as there can be in anything else, but peal ringing is not necessarily selfish because it entails a certain amount of selection and a

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certain amount of exclusion. Nor is the teaching of beginners the only thing a ringer need concern himself with. Is it just as necessary to maintain and raise the standards of ringing among those who are already trained.

Peal ringing has done more than anything else to improve the quality of ringing and sustain interest in the art. It gives the public the best opportunity of hearing bells rung as they should be. And it is essential to the life of the Exercise. All ringers need not be peal ringers; but unless there were some peal ringers, all ringers would suffer.

It is a common proof that those men who are the most active as peal ringers are usually the most regular as service ringers, and the most willing to help others. They form the backbone of the Exercise and we cannot do without them. Whether a man feels justified in taking part in a peal in present circumstances, is a matter for himself to decide; but unless it can be shown that there is something peculiar to peal ringing which is undesirable at present, none of us has any right to judge other men in the matter.

CHURCH BELLS IN MALTA.

According to 'The Times,' the church bells of Malta, ringing almost as in peace time, give a tangible and heartening sign of the progress of the war in the Mediterranean and its recession from the island. After the Tunisian triumph there was a relaxation of the ban on church bells. Now within a few days of the end of enemy resistance in Sicily, the bells are ringing again, as the Government have been quick to remove the ban.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

A QUESTION OF PITCH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your articles on 'The Tuning of Bells' are most interesting. Bells are wonderful machines, and no doubt the casting of a perfect bell, like the 11th in Exeter Cathedral, is something of an accident. This is an old bell.

In the local tower we have a fine peal restored by Gillett and Johnston in 1937. The tenor weighs 16 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb., and on the official notice posted in the belfry the note is F. The organist tested this note and compared it with the organ, which he considers to be in true pitch, and found it to be E very slightly sharp. The other bells respond to this scale. May I ask if this be the scale of the 'strike' notes of the bells or do founders tune their bells to another musical scale where C is not 256 or C 512? FREDK. C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton.

THE RAILWAY WHISTLE.

Sir,—I have only just read the article of bell tuning in last week's 'Ringing World.' I doubt whether the case of the railway whistle on page 364, column 2, is really an illusion. The explanation of the phenomenon is that as the source of the whistle is approaching at a rapid rate, the vibrations which cause the sound reach your ear at shorter and shorter intervals, and so the note is sharpened. When the train has passed, the speed has a contrary effect, and the vibrations reach your ear at longer and longer intervals, and accordingly the note is flattened. There can be no such effect from a bell, as it is at a fixed distance from you. W. C. B.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT REIGATE.

The Southern District of the Surrey Association held a meeting on August 14th at Reigate, when between 50 and 60 ringers and friends were present. Ringing took place during the afternoon, and service in church was conducted by the Rev. G. N. Hill, the address being given by the Rev. K. G. Hoare, Vicar of Betchworth.

After tea an interesting talk was given by Mr. A. A. Hughes on 'English Church Bells and Bellringing.'

Mr. Maurice Northover expressed the thanks of the members to the Vicar of Reigate, and to Mr. Eric Gretton for his services at the organ.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Thursday, August 19th, at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, H. L. Cooke 3, Miss D. R. Fletcher (Beaconsfield) 4, A. Painter 5, H. Lewis 6, W. H. Hayward 7, Pte. F. J. Lewis, Dorset Regt. 8. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Mr. H. Chuter, organist at the above church for 33 years.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OXHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES ...	...*Treble*	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT...	5
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ...	2	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ...	6
*FRANCIS KIRK	3	*EDWIN JENNINGS	7
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

* 50th peal together.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S No. 8. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

ALFRED H. PULLING ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE E. CLODE	5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE	2	HERBERT T. ROOKE	6
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ...	3	WILLIAM T. BERSON	7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ...	4	COLIN HOPPER	...*Tenor*

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Sapper H. T. Rooke is from Worksop, Notts.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BERE REGIS, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 22, 1943, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor 18½ cwt.

HAROLD E. WHITE ...	...*Treble*	D. W. CHARLES CHANT ...	4
LIONEL H. PINK	2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE	5
*TPR. V. BOTTOMLEY, R.A.C.	3	SGT. P. H. TOCOCK, R.A.C.	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells. Rung as a tribute to the late Mr. G. Farr, who was a ringer at this church for 46 years.

DISLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, viz.: 720 each of Capel, Sandal, London Scholars', Kingston, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8¾ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK ...	...*Treble*	LT. J. ANTHONY BAUMONT	4
JOHN WORTH	2	ALAN J. BROWN	5
THOMAS TAYLOR	3	JAMES A. MILNER ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Arranged for Lieut. J. A. Baumont, who was on leave.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 28, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE...	1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE...	5-6
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ...	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
		*MRS. C. W. POWELL ...	9-10

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

* First peal on ten bells. Rung to mark the third anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Powell, of Lyme Regis, Dorset.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, August 22nd, at All Saints' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss K. Brooks 1, Francis D. Bishop 2, Squire Croft 3, Sidney H. Godfrey 4, Lieut. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E. 5, R.S.M. Albert Ford, I.C. 6, Ernest Morris 7, *Dennis Chamberlain 8. * First quarter-peal.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 377.)

We continue with Thomas C. Lewis' 'protest' against modern developments in tone.

He has been explaining that the only two important tones in a bell are the strike-note and the hum-note, and he maintains that these should not be in octaves, as one would naturally suppose, but the hum-note should be a major seventh below, but flattened to the extent of about a quarter of a semitone. 'Long experience has led founders to perceive that this flattened major seventh best steadies the bell sounds, and seems in some way to absorb discordances.' He goes on:—

The music master may possibly know many things in questions of sound, yet not be practical. It is of no use bringing his theories and logic to the bells; the bells make their own theory and decide the practical utilities that should attach to their use. Thus there are still distinctions to be observed. A peal of church bells having eight notes, the treble might be E and the tenor E, and the whole of these bells would be satisfactory, each bell with its hum-note related to it as described. Now higher than this treble E the hum-note makes itself as powerfully noticeable as the tap-tone, and it is at this point quite obvious that smaller bells should hum their octaves, and in this way content the ear. For supposing further that a peal is one of ten and that the F sharp and G sharp are introduced completing the series, then these bells having tap-tone and hum-note of equal telling power, it would be impossible for them to sound otherwise than out of tune if their flattened major sevenths were present in strength; and this is where so many difficulties arise in this country in small bells in ringing peals, because the distinctions which should be observed at different parts of the scale have not been understood or the effects appreciated.

Bells above the E mentioned or, if in a carillon, may be extended to C, all with their two tones an octave apart. So also the compass may be carried higher to the smallest bells, possibly with good effect.

Some so-called 'tube chimes' made of steel tubes have been engineered into churches by amateurs who develop a liking for prettiness in church matters, but no true judge can consider such chimes of any worth as representing bell-tone, and any criticism would be wasted upon them.

My protest as regard church bells is chiefly directed against excessive thickness, and I feel that, beyond what I have said, it is difficult further to describe bell-tone as it should be, and as it is in the best ancient examples.

As bell founding is with me a thing of the past, I may mention without appearance of advertisement that I have cast several sets of bells in perfect tune, by which I mean they have not been touched after casting; the largest was a set of eight for the Church of St. Andrew, Wells Street, London, the tenor being twenty-one hundredweight.

In my method of setting out bells I had no difficulty whatever in governing the hum-tone in connection with the upper note as to whether it should be a major seventh flattened or the octave, it being entirely determined by the width of the upper part of the bell in relation to the lower or great diameter.

The octave at Kingsbury, which constitutes Lewis' strongest evidence of the soundness of his views, is certainly a very fine ring. Whether it proves all that he contends for, or whether other rings, both old style and new style, are not still finer is, of course, a matter for individual opinion. The only other bells by Lewis we can at present call to mind are the back six at Fulney, near Spalding, in Lincolnshire. What they are like we cannot say, for it is many years since we heard them.

It will be noticed that Lewis, like so many other people, read the past in the light of the present, and attributed to the old founders opinions and intentions which it is pretty certain they never deliberately and consciously held. They were satisfied with the hum-notes their bells produced, but there is no reason to suppose that they aimed at making them flattened major sevenths.

Whether this flattened major seventh does have the effect Lewis attributes to it we do not know in the least; but we think many men will recognise what he calls 'the unsteady sounds, confused and wavering' which some bells have. It would need perhaps pretty strong evidence to convince one that this is due to the hum-note being a true octave below the fundamental.

(To be continued.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PENSHURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Penshurst on August 28th, was attended by ringers from Bromley Common, Sundridge, Tunstall, Tonbridge, Leigh, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Leytonstone, Beddington, Tewkesbury Abbey, Thorne (Yorks), Wadhurst and the local band.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. P. H. Turnbull, who welcomed the association, and reminded them that they were the first people to have a privilege restored which had been banned owing to the war. The public were grateful that a ready response had been found among the ringers, and he urged all present to do their utmost to keep the bells going.

Twenty-one members sat down to tea at The Green Tea Rooms. The business meeting was held at the Rectory, the Rector being in the chair. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. T. Saunders, the district secretary, Mr. A. Battin undertook the secretarial duties. Reports were received from the district representatives on the business at the committee meeting at Maidstone, and the business of the annual meeting of the association was discussed.

It was agreed that an effort should be made to ring at Tonbridge Parish Church for Sunday service on the second and fourth Sundays in each month. This was one way of expressing appreciation of the use of the tower for a combined practice on Friday evenings.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Tonbridge in October, on either the third or fourth Saturday.

Mr. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for opening the Rectory for the meeting. The Rector said he was glad to give permission for the bells to be rung, and he invited the association or any party to come at any time. Votes of thanks were accorded to the organist and to Mr. G. Edwards, the local secretary, for the arrangements.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal rung at Kinson on August 14th and reported in our last issue was the first entirely by ladies and the first by the Ladies' Guild.

Correspondents are reminded that it is necessary always to send their names and addresses with letters, whether they are intended to be published or not.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, who reached his 84th birthday last Sunday.

The first peal of Clarendon Surprise Major was rung at Norbury, Cheshire, on August 30th, 1926.

The first ten-bell peal in Scotland, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on August 31st, 1886.

The record handbell peal, 19,738 changes of Stedman Caters, was rung at Guildford on August 31st, 1912.

On the same date in 1918, Bertram Prewett was killed on active service in France.

The first peal of Beaconsfield Surprise Major was rung at Beaconsfield on August 31st, 1935.

William Pye called the first peal of Londonderry Surprise Major at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on September 2nd, 1927.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE FREDERICK DICKENS.

The death is announced of Mr. George Frederick Dickens, who passed away peacefully during his sleep on Monday, August 23rd, at the age of 74 years.

The funeral service at Sutton Parish Church on August 26th was conducted by the Rector, who referred to the sincere and quiet services Mr. Dickens had rendered to the church.

Among the ringers present were Messrs. A. P. Smith (Master of the Guild), A. Walker (vice-president), T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), F. W. Perrens, W. Anker and J. W. Pemberton. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside in the local cemetery by T. H. Reeves 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, A. Walker 5-6, A. P. Smith 7-8.

Mr. Dickens was one of three brothers who joined the St. Martin's Guild over 50 years ago. He was associated with the late Henry Johnson, and by his death the small band of those who actually rang with Henry Johnson is reduced.

He resided at Sutton Coldfield for many years, but was employed as a silversmith in the city of Birmingham, and was a regular attendant at St. Martin's Church at the weekly practices and took part in many peals there. He also rang in a peal at Handsworth Parish Church in 1890, when the ring of six was augmented to eight. He was a Sunday service ringer at Sutton Parish Church and was a sidesman there for 30 years.

JOINT MEETING AT EARL SHILTON.

At a joint meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association and the Warwickshire Guild, held at Earl Shilton on August 21st, over 60 ringers attended from Arley, Barwell, Broughton Astley, Burbage, Claybrooke, Coventry, Croft, Desford, Hinckley, Kersley, Kirby Mallory, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, Sapcote, Wolvey and the local band. Mr. A. Ballard, who was on a short leave from H.M. Forces, managed to look in for a ring.

The ringing reached a high standard, and the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and Bristol Surprise.

Tea was served in the schools by wives and friends of the ringers and the arrangements were perfect, although only 28 names had been sent in and over 50 sat down.

Mr. H. Bird, who presided, said it was gratifying to see such a large number present to welcome the recently appointed Vicar, the Rev. E. E. C. Jones, and Mrs. Jones. Mr. F. Pervin supported and commented upon the high standard of hospitality shown.

The Vicar expressed his great pleasure at meeting the ringers and spoke of the joy the sound the bells gave. He was very fortunate in coming to a parish with a fine peal of bells and to live among such an enthusiastic body of ringers. He hoped that they would meet very often. Mr. George Newton, captain of the local band, supported the Vicar and said it would always be a pleasure to arrange a ringing meeting.

Grandsire and Stedman Caters and various tunes were rung on the handbells. Mr. C. H. Webb proposed and Mr. D. H. Argyle seconded a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the ringers for having the bells ready and to the ladies for arranging the tea.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Maidwell on August 28th. Service in church was conducted by the Rector, after which tea was served at Maidwell Hall, by invitation of Mr. O. E. P. Wyatt. An excellent repast, provided by Mrs. Dixon, was followed by the business meeting. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to all those who had ensured an enjoyable gathering. Ringing was available before the service and after tea.

ST. MARY COSLANY.

SOME REMINISCENCES.

Mr. Ernest Morris' account of St. Mary Coslany conjures up many memories of fifty or sixty years ago. The building, though not among the more important of Norwich's forty ancient churches, has a character and interest of its own, and is still worth a visit.

It stood (and, of course, still stands) in what, for a city, is quite a large churchyard. On one side was an important street with many fine old eighteenth century houses, once the homes of rich city merchants, and still inhabited by well-to-do professional men. On the other was one of the famous slums of Norwich.

In those days Norwich knew what a slum really should be like. The houses were old, some from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and they kept their original amenities and sanitary arrangements. Horrible rookeries they were to live in, but picturesque, and a delight to an artistic eye. Even I, in later years, when I dabbled in art photography, have, as a visitor, spent many happy hours among the Norwich slums. Now they are all swept away. It will take centuries of decay and careful neglect before St. Mary's Plain looks something like its old self again. I shall not live to see it.

The church had then what the guide books called a lofty round tower. It was, I am firmly convinced, the model for the original milk bottles, before they were narrowed at the neck because people used them for preserving fruit. The bells were in the top storey, now pulled down, and the ropes hung down to the ground, but there was not much ringing there.

The belfry belonged to the Stags, the band in opposition to the Mancroft company, and they were rather a feeble folk then. Their most notable member was William Freeman, the last survivor of the famous Norwich Scholars, who had been a contemporary of Henry Hubbard, Tom Hurry, Charles Middleton and James Trueman; and who rang the seventh to the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. The other bells controlled by the Stags were the ten at St. Andrew's (where Freeman was parish clerk and steeplekeeper), the eight of St. Miles', and the six at St. Gregory's. They could ring Bob Minor quite well. And here let me say that there never was any stoney in Norwich. It was not until some years after I was a ringer that I first heard any of it, and then I had to go far afield.

The Stags faded away about this time, and that probably was the reason why I was able to get a ring at St. Mary's; for I did ring there—once at any rate, if not twice—and I never rang with the Stag band, though, of course, we had somehow or other to get on the right side of Old Brittain, the steeplekeeper, who was himself a Stag.

In build and frame Old Brittain was of a type common enough then, though not often seen nowadays. He was of medium height with broad shoulders and somewhat hunch-backed. He carried his head well forward, and he had an enormous nose. It was not a gross or fleshy nose. It was a magnificent beak like that of some fierce old bird of prey. I said that Brittain had the nose, but I am not sure it was not the other way round. John Burton used to say that if you were down St. Miles' and saw a nose coming along the street, you might be pretty certain that Old Brittain was somewhere behind it.

In those days every church in Norwich had its own parson and there was no amalgamation of benefices. Most of them were very poorly endowed and the income at St. Mary's was about £100 a year. It is hardly surprising that when the living fell vacant no one was willing to take it, and for some years the church was shut up and neglected. That was a godsend to the boys of the surrounding streets. The windows were many and large; the churchyard provided an inexhaustible supply of stones; and long after the last square inch of glass had disappeared from the mullions, it was the fashionable sport of the neighbourhood to hurl stones through the window openings. When I visited the church some time afterwards the whole place was ankle deep in stones.

Then someone in authority woke up. The church was restored. The top part of the steeple was pulled down (though it dated from pre-Reformation times) to make the tower look again as it was supposed it looked in Saxon times. And the bells were taken down and stood on the floor of the church. They are not, if my recollection serves, much of a peal, but two are pre-Reformation and the others of the seventeenth century. Now they hang dead in a modern church in the suburbs.

T.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MELBOURNE.

The monthly meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Melbourne on August 21st, when there was an attendance of at least thirty members. A welcome visitor was the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson (formerly curate at St. Andrew's, Derby), who acted as chairman at the short business meeting. Four new members were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ripley on September 18th, and an invitation was received to the Burton District's meeting on August 28th.

There was some very good ringing in the following methods: Stedman, Grandsire, Double Norwich, Bob Major and Duffield, as well as rounds and thirds for the benefit of the local lady ringers, who are to be congratulated on the way they handled their bells.

ROUND TOWERS.

By Ernest Morris.

(Continued from page 382.)

Saxlingham-Nethergate, St. Mary-le-Virgin, now has a square tower, containing eight bells, but this has replaced the ancient round tower, the foundations of which were revealed when workmen were digging a trench for drainage purposes. In 1899 the old six bells were rehung and three recast. In 1901 two trebles were added by the Rev. R. W. Pitt, who also presented the organ.

Stockton, St. Michael's, is a small building, with thatched roof, and has a round west tower and short spire, containing five bells, tenor about 9 cwt. The treble is by T. Mears, 1821, the 4th by John Stephens, 1721, the 2nd from Norwich, 1620, the 3rd and tenor being pre-Reformation Brasyer bells.

Long Stratton, St. Mary's, round tower, with small spire, has a clock and six bells, the 4th of which was given by Sir John Sturmyn about 1340. It is inscribed, 'Thomas made me,' to which is added a Norman-French legend, which enables one to fix approximately the date of the bell. Sir John Sturmyn, who caused it to be made, was lord of the manor in 1327. The original five were rehung and a treble added in 1904. The lower part of the tower is a century or so older than the church. There is also a clock bell inscribed, ' +Sancta—Caterina.'

Tasburgh, St. Mary-the-Virgin, round tower dates from Saxon times. Of the old four bells, the third was dated 1598, and others 1613, 1631 and 1614. In 1900 J. Taylor and Co. recast the tenor and added a treble, making the ring to five, with a 9 cwt. tenor.

Watton, St. Mary's (originally dedicated to St. Giles), also has a round based tower with octagonal top. It now has a ring of six, augmented from the old three in 1899 by Mears and Stainbank. The tenor is 8 cwt. approximately. Woodton, All Saints', embattled round tower, with octagonal top, has a ring of six, the back five being by John Brend, 1641, and treble by Pack and Chapman, 1772. They were renovated and rehung in 1889.

Yaxham, St. Peter's, round west tower, the base of which is of pre-Norman date, has a ring of five, all by John Draper, 1621 to 1649. The 3rd was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1844.

Of the 41 Suffolk examples, 15 have but one bell; 5 have two bells; 11 have three bells; 2 have four bells; 4 have five bells; and 4 have six bells.

Of the two latter, which are of more interest to ringers, Barsham, Holy Trinity, has five bells. It is an ancient building with thatched roof, and a round Norman west tower. The ring was installed by Mears in 1893, and has a 7 cwt. tenor. Bramfield, St. Andrew, has a detached round tower some 20 feet away from the church, containing a minor five, i.e., the first five of a ring of six. The back three are of the 15th century, by Henry Jordan, of London, and the two trebles are by Wm. Brand and his wife, Alice, of Norwich, and dated 1621. They were rehung in 1890 by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye.

Brome or Broome, St. Mary, has a west tower round at the base with embattled octagonal top, and containing five bells. These bells are all by Thomas Newman and dated 1737. The upper part of the tower was rebuilt and the bells rehung in 1875 at the expense of Lady Caroline Kerrison.

Burgh, SS. Andrew and Botolph, is picturesquely set on top of a steep bank, part of a Roman encampment. It is a small but ancient building of rubble and brick, and its embattled tower has a ring of six bells. Of the old five the 4th is inscribed 'John Stephens, Bell Founder, of Norwich, made us 5. 1718.'

Hasketon, St. Andrew, has a Romanesque west tower, round at base, with octagonal belfry stage, containing a ring of six. Originally five by Miles Graye in 1628, the 2nd was recast by T. Mears in 1832. In 1899 a treble was added and 3rd and tenor recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The tenor is 9 cwt.

Theberton, St. Peter, is a thatched building with round embattled west tower containing five bells, all by Mears and Stainbank, 1875.

Weybread, St. Andrew, has a ring of six by Moore, Holmes and Mackenzie, who recast the old three and made the augmentation in 1879. Wissett, St. Andrew, has six bells in its round west tower.

Before leaving Suffolk, it might be mentioned that the ancient parish church of Holy Trinity, Bungay, built in the 11th century, has its round tower adorned with shields bearing the arms of Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and son of Edward I., and the Montacute, Bigod, Beauchamp and other families. This round tower is believed to be the oldest in England, dating from King Canute (1030). Its single bell bears an invocation to 'Margareta.' A fine bell cast in 1566 apparently by John Brend, sen., was sold by the parish in 1755 for £82 7s. 6d. The present bell was bought second-hand in 1759. As already mentioned Wortham, St. Mary, has a circular tower, the largest of its kind in England and built some two centuries before the present church, but it is now in ruins. The single bell, by T. Osborn (1785) is placed in a wooden belfry at the west end.

Examples of round towers occur in Essex at Broomfield, Great Leighs, Lamarsh, South Ockendon, Bradfield Saling or Little Saling, and Pentlow.

Broomfield, St. Mary, has a circular 12th century tower 15 feet diameter, with a conical roof rising nto an octagonal spire. It has a ring of six by John Warner and Sons, erected in 1874-5 by H. C. Wells, of Broomfield Lodge. The tenor is 11 cwt. 18 lbs. in G.

Great Leighs, St. Mary, has a ring of five, all by Miles Graye, 1634, with a tenor 12 cwt. in G. This tower is 17 feet in diameter and also of the 12th century. There was formerly a wooden house here, called 'Bell-rope house,' the rent of which went towards providing bell ropes.

Pentlow, St. George, round tower of the 14th century, has a ring of five, tenor about 10 cwt. The treble is by John Thornton, 1711, and all others by Miles Graye, 1628-1665. The other Essex churches named have one bell each.

Other round towers occur in Cambridgeshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Northants. Such round towers as occur at Banbury, Oxon (10 bells) and Exeter, St. David (8 bells), both of which are illustrated in the late Rev. F. E. Robinson's "Among the Bells," incline to the Georgian or Renaissance style of architecture, to which I hope to refer later.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Dumper's Restaurant, Winchester, on August 21st, at 3.15 p.m., the executive having met earlier.

The Master, Mr. George Williams, presided, and members were present from Alresford, Alton, Bishopstoke, Blackmoor, Bournemouth (St. Peter's and St. John's), Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Deane, King's Somborne, Micheldever, Newport (Isle of Wight), Portsmouth, North Stoneham, Southampton, Twyford, Wonston and Winchester.

Apologies were received from Canon Goodman, the Rev. N. C. Woods, Major Stilwell and Messrs. F. W. Rogers, F. S. Bayley, R. A. Reed G. Smith and J. W. Faithfull.

Mr. Williams welcomed those present and said he was pleased to see so many.

Several letters had passed between the Dean of Winchester and the general secretary regarding the refusal to allow the members to ring the Cathedral bells that day. The committee recommended that no good purpose would be served by pursuing the matter.

The report and balance sheets for the year were presented, and, after several questions had been answered, were passed on the proposition of Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Stone.

The committee recommended that district secretaries should be left to do their best in their own districts. The Guild, as a whole, would do what it could to assist, but much depended on local circumstances.

Now that the ban has been lifted and some districts are able to hold meetings, the point arose as to whether the pre-war percentage payments from districts to general fund should be resumed. As the position varied considerably, it would probably be found that some districts might have a deficit balance. It was, therefore, considered by the committee best to carry on as at present until the next annual meeting, when the whole matter can be reviewed.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Preston, seconded by Mr. R. Brown, all the officers except the Recorder of Peals were re-elected. Mr. R. A. Reed wrote tendering his resignation as Recorder of Peals. Owing to military duties he was uncertain of his position in the future. Mr. Reed's resignation was accepted with regret, and the general hon. secretary was instructed to write and thank him for his services.

Mr A. V. Davis was elected Recorder of Peals on the proposition of Mr Andrews, seconded by Mr. Read.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Pullinger, seconded by Mr. Warner, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Winchester on the first Saturday in July, 1944, subject to the Cathedral bells being available for ringing. If not the meeting to be at Basingstoke.

Mr. A. W. Bishop and Miss E. Bishop, of Newport, Isle of Wight, were elected members

The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Rev. — Watson for allowing the use of St. Maurice's bells. Some good Minor and Doubles were rung there during the afternoon and evening. Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Grandsire Doubles were rung on handbells after tea.

The joint report of the Master, Secretary and Treasurer contained the following items: 'As will be seen from the balance sheet, the total income for the year has been £42 10s., made up as follows: 48 hon. members and 214 ordinary, £33 8s.; whilst donations, collection and interests brought in £9 2s., deducting working expenses as detailed in balance sheet of £26 18s. This sum includes £10 to "The Ringing World" Fund (by auditor's authority), leaving us a credit balance of £15 12s. on the year's working.

'During the year we have lost several members by death, viz., Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the talented Editor of "The Ringing World"; Mr. E. Harding, sen., who was a district secretary from 1914 to 1924, previously he had acted for several years as assistant to Mr. J. W. Whiting. We have also to report the deaths of Mr. G. H. Coombes, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Mr. E. Clapshaw, of Farnham, Surrey, two oldest members of our Guild. Mr. Coombes having reached within three weeks of his hundredth birthday, and Mr. Clapshaw at the age of 98 years and five months. Both of these aged members had been loyal Sunday service ringers through the whole of their long ringing careers.'

Thirteen peals were rung for the Guild in 1942, consisting of Grandsire Doubles 6, Grandsire Triples 6, and Plain Bob Minor 1.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.—On Saturday, August 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in memory of Mr. H. A. Edwards: V. Jones 1, F. Wheeler 2, L. Mace 3, C. Gardiner 4, H. Taylor (conductor) 5, F. Carter 6.

NOTICES.

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

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, September 4th, at 5 p.m. Bells 4 p.m. and after meeting. Make own arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West and North and East Districts.—Joint meeting at Ruislip, on Saturday, September 4th, at 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea may be provided in Church Room, Bury Street, followed by meeting, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells (8) available 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bus from Ruislip Church to Pinner every 20 minutes.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea in the Parish Church Hall, Moorgate, at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Helmingham, 3 p.m., Saturday, September 4th. Framsden bells (8) also available. Tea at Framsden Greyhound at 5 p.m.—T. W. Last, Helmingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Soberton on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Standish on Saturday, Sept. 4th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe 4.15, price 1s. 6d. approximately.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's (8 bells), Brunel Terrace, Elswick, Newcastle, on Tuesday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Important business.—Ernest Wallace, Vice-President.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

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YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock. Names to Miss J. Taylor, 165, Dunhill Road, Goole, by September 8th.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by September 6th.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting (with Bristol City practice) at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Names by September 8th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Moorside, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bring own food.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Shrivenham on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Hoylandswaine, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. H. Haigh, Guider Bottom, Hoylandswaine, near Sheffield, not later than Sept. 8th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A garden fete at Stoney Stanton on Sept. 11th will include handbell items by Earl Shilton tune ringers. Refreshments available. Tower bell ringing from 5 p.m. The Thurlaston meeting has been postponed.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Preston on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Advise early.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough Branch.—Meeting at East Haddon (6 bells) on Saturday, Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea provided.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Meeting of Southampton District at North Stoneham on Sept. 11th. Bells from 2.30. Service and tea at 4.45 p.m. only for those who notify by Sept. 8th. — G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District. — Meeting at Great Gaddesden on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Bring own food. Buses from Hemel Hempstead. —W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at East Ilsley Saturday, September 11th. Service 4.30 p.m., tea 5 p.m. Ringing before and after service. Names for tea to Mr. W. Hibberd, by September 8th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names not later than September 7th.—J. H. Crampion. Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30. Names for tea by Sept. 13th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., and tea to follow for those who notify me by the previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch. — Meeting at Haddenham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 10th. —F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m. Names for tea must reach Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, Wakefield, by Sept. 15th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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