THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,711. Vol. XXXIX FRIDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1944. [Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.] Price 3d.

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THE ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

If ringing is to be done in such a way that it can give satisfaction to the band and pleasure to the outside public, it is essential that each man should hear clearly and distinctly his own bell, and also all the bells as a complete ring. This will seem to many readers so obvious as to be not much more than a platitude, but it is a matter which has not received nearly so much attention as it should have done. There are far too many belfries where the bells are too noisy, or where they cannot be heard sufficiently, or where the sound is unequal or is spoilt by other and alien noises.

That a noisy belfry is uncomfortable and unpleasing needs no labouring. There are many rings of bells, good and musical when heard outside, which inside are harsh and disagreeable because of some defect in the structure of the belfry. How can a ringer in such a case get the satisfaction which he desires from the music and rhythm of the changes, and which is one of the greatest attractions of his art?

On the other hand, there are belfries where the sound of the bells is little more than just audible, and, though this defect does not usually repel a ringer so much as excessive noise, the effect on the quality of his work is much more marked. A man cannot ring and strike tolerably well unless he can hear clearly and distinctly his own bell and the others. If he is a skilled ringer and a good striker who has had experience of all sorts of belfries, he will quite likely hear, and hear distinctly, bells which are almost inaudible, but he must have gained his skill in places where the hearing is good. It is almost invariably the case that a band or a man who has learnt ringing in a belfry where the hearing is defective, or has for long practised in one, is faulty in striking and lacking in the knowledge and appreciation of what good striking should and can be. The classic example of this is the old Painswick band of the last century, who, notwithstanding their fine and outstanding feats, had but a poor reputation among the ringers of England. It is much better for a band if there is too much noise in their belfry than too little.

Another defect is the rattle of ropes in guides and pullies; and yet another when one or more bells sound much louder than the others. All these things take away from the pleasure of ringing, and because they hinder good striking take away from the outsiders' pleasure of hearing.

(Continued on page 2.)

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These defects are common enough, and generally ringers do their best to put up with them because they think they cannot be helped. They get used to them and to a large extent ignore them. Ignoring them, they not seldom ignore also the bad habits they foster.

It is unfortunately true that in very many instances any improvement is beyond the power of the ringers. New towers, where the ringing chamber is directly beneath the bell chamber, and when brick and concrete are used in the construction, can hardly fail to be too noisy. The bell chamber floor may be covered with sawdust, but that has little effect, for the sound comes through the rope holes.

When the bells are hung in two tiers the upper ones often sound too faintly in the belfry; when the ringing is done from the ground with two or three floors between bells and ringers, the hearing often is imperfect. The position of staircase and trapdoors, shoots for clock weights, and suchlike, may affect the even sounding of the peal.

Some of these things are practically incurable. They are due to ignorance and indifference on the part of architects and will not be eradicated until the profession has learnt that a steeple may have to be a house for hanging bells in and not merely an external ornament.

Some of the defects are curable, but only by the expenditure of money and the services of qualified advisers and workmen. At a time like this no such improvements can be thought of. All that can be done is to bring to the attention of the responsible persons the necessity when any repairs and alterations are being carried out, when for instance any damage caused by air raids is being made good.

But there are many small things ringers can do themselves. They can test the effect of opening or closing doors on staircases, of adjusting trapdoors, of putting down sacking or sawdust under some of the bells, of oiling pullies, devising means to stop the rattle of the ropes, and other small things. Chiefly they should not ignore the handicap they suffer from, but recognise it and do their best to see that it does not affect their striking.

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The query in the last article about the chiming of Great Paul by two men was well founded. In 1884 I got leave to go up at 1 o'clock. The levers were beams of wood fastened across each end of the stock, projecting equally on both sides of the bells, but to each of them on one side of it were hung two ropes, so that four men did the chiming.

As a photograph cut from some periodical shows, she has since that been rehung, very much tucked up in an iron stock of horseshoe shape, and you can now hear from outside that she is swung high enough to clapper on both sides. My picture shows no levers nor wheel, and the gudgeons are at the level of the waist. W. C. B.

THE PEAL AT LEICESTER

The peal of Stedman Triples at Leicester, reported on another page, was rung as a compliment to Mr. Thomas Taylor, the ringer of the tenor on the eve of his 85th birthday. He has been a ringer at the church for 60 years, and, though he never aspired to be an inside man, he has been an excellent tenor man and has covered many fine peals of Triples, Caters and Cinques. His first peal was in 1901. Later at an informal gathering a cheque was presented to Mr. Taylor, who still acts as steeplekeeper. Those taking part in the peal represented an average of just over 30 years' service as ringers at the Cathedral.

The peal was the first peal of Triples on the bells and in the present tower. One was rung in the old tower in 1837.

NORTH MYMMS.—For Christmas morning service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Nash 1, C. Nash 2, T. J. Lock 3, C. F. Sayer 4, A. W. Coles (conductor) 5, C. Nash 6, J. C. Mellor 7, W. Tyler 8.

TEN BELL PEAL.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Western Branch)

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt.

*Ernest Wilson	*Treble*	*Dennis R. Sayers	6
George E. Large	2	*Raymond C. Sayers ...	7
Sidney T. Holt	3	*Ralph W. Sayers	8
Reginald Woodyatt ...	4	Charles J. Camm	9
Allen Morgan	5	Frrderick G. Yates ...	*Tenor*

Composed by Joseph Pigott. Conducted by George E. Large.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal on the ten, the trebles of which were added just prior to the ban on ringing in 1940.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(Leicester Cathedral Society.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1943, in Three Hours,
At the Cathedral Church of St. Martin,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Dexter's Variation. Tenor 10 cwt.

Harold J. Poole	*Treble*	Percy L. Harrison	5
Louis E. Allen...	2	Shirley Burton	6
Harold G. Jenney	3	Harry Broughton	7
L/Seaman C. W. Rawson	4	Thomas Taylor	*Tenor*

Conducted by Harold J. Poole.

Rung on the middle octave.

CRAYFORD, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St Paulinus,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 12¾ cwt.

Edwin Barnett	*Treble*	Frederick J. Cullum ...	5
James Bennett...	2	Frederick A. Colby... ...	6
*William L. B. Leese ...	3	Herbert A. Holden ...	7
John E. Spice	4	Philip A. Corby	*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. Roberts. Conducted by P. A. Corby.

* First peal in the method on tower bells.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Southern Branch.)

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 10½ cwt.

Ralph Harris	*Treble*	Joseph D. Johnson	5
Joseph E. Newman	2	*Harold Streets	6
John Hall	3	Geoffrey J. Hemming ...	7
Frank Sadler	4	Arthur J. Taylor	*Tenor*

Conducted by Joseph D Johnson.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as the branch quarterly peal.

ADDERBURY, OXON.
THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 31, 1943, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

William Leese (Oxford)	*Treble*	Rev A. G. G. Thurlow (Cambridge)	5
Miss M. Cross (Reading)	2	R. Gordon Cross (Reading)	6
*Rev M. C. C. Melville (Birmingham)	3	Frank Haynes (Cambridge)	7
John E. Spice (Oxford)...	4	Rev Elliott Wigg (Oxford)	*Tenor*

Composed by J. Hunt. Conducted by John E. Spice.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. The first tower-bell peal for the association.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

Miss Marie R. Cross ...	*Treble*	Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow...	5
*William C. Porter ...	2	R. Gordon Cross	6
Rev. M. C. C. Melville	3	J. Howard R. Freeborn...	7
*Neil Allnatt	4	Walter F. Judge	*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. Washbrook. Conducted by Walter F. Judge

* First peal in the method.

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

On Saturday, January 1, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
At the Church of Bishop Ryder,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Johnson's Variation of Middleton's. Tenor 13½ cwt.

Ernest T. Allaway... ...	*Treble*	William C. Dowding ...	5
Henry H. Fearn	2	Frank W. Perrens	6
George E. Fearn	3	Nelson Elliott, R.A.F....	7
Daniel T. Matkin	4	Frank E. Pervin...	*Tenor*

Conducted by Frank W. Perrens.

HANDBELL PEALS.

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

On Saturday, December 18, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
At the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Herbert C. Spencer... ...	1-2	Frank E. Pervin...	5-6
Frank W. Perrens	3-4	Albert Walker...	7-8

George E. Fearn ... 9-10

Composed by J. E. Groves. Conducted by Frank W. Perrens.

LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 28, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
In the Belfry of St. Martin's Cathedral,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

Alfred Ballard	1-2	Ernest Morris...	7-8
Miss Jill Poole	3-4	Harold J Poole	9-10
Percy L. Harrison... ...	5-6	Josiah Morris	11-12

Composed by John Carter. Conducted by Harold J. Poole.

LEEDS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 29, 1943, in Two Hours and One Minute,
At 57, The Headrow,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Miss L. Kathleen Bowling	1-2	William Barton...	5-6
Christopher W. Woolley	3-4	Percy J. Johnson	7-8

Composed by George Lewis. Conducted by William Barton.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 30, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At 116, Alma Road,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty six-scores, ten callings, and one Morris' 240.

John V Davis	1-2	Arthur V. Davis	3-4
		*Percy W. Brayshaw ...	5-6

Conducted by Arthur V. Davis.

* First peal, aged 14 years.

HARLOW COMMON. — On Sunday, December 26th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Lewis Whitby 1, Fred Whitby 2, Ben Copping 3, Vincent Tipton 4, Robert Springham 5, Lewis Cordell 6, Stanley Clark 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 570.)

As we have pointed out, the energy used by a man in ringing a bell is derived from his own weight, and the means by which he applies that energy is the 'rope,' which consists partly of the portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the man's hands, and partly of the man's arms and body.

The action of applying the energy consists partly of lowering the hands by bending the arms at the elbows and shoulders, and partly of dropping the weight of the body by bending at the waist and the knees. If the man is holding the rope correctly and standing correctly, both these actions will have an immediate effect.

The first action—that of lowering the hands—is done by muscular contraction, and here the muscularly strong man has a great advantage. His reserve of potential energy for ringing the bell is no greater than that of the weaker man of the same weight; but he can use it to better advantage; for potential energy remains only potential unless it can be applied. We can find a good illustration of this in the ordinary church clocks. If we ask a ringer what is the force which drives the clock in his steeple, he will answer 'the weights'—and he will be right. No other energy is used to make the clock go than gravity acting on the weights, but by themselves the weights can do nothing; they have first to be put into the proper position—in fact, the clock must be wound up. That takes a considerable amount of energy; it is essential for the going of the clock, but does not in itself help to drive it.

In a very similar way the muscular strength used by the man does not actually supply the energy required to ring a bell, but does make the energy supplied by the man's weight available.

In the other action, that of lowering the body, the man's weight is more directly brought to bear on the rope. There is less muscular action and consequently less fatigue. But only by lowering the hands can the weight of the body be brought to bear quickly on the rope, and this must always be the first movement, the other being used to a greater or less extent to supplement and assist it.

Two important points follow from all this. The first is that, unless the man grasps his sally at the highest convenient point before he makes his pull, he cannot use the energy he possesses to the best advantage. For if his arms are already bent at elbow and shoulder the extent to which they can be bent further is much restricted, and therefore his ability to apply his weight to the rope is much reduced. The second point is that, unless the man stands properly, he cannot, by bending at waist and knees, at once bring his weight on to the rope. Correct handling is not merely a question of graceful style and action, it is a question of applying the energy the man possesses in the best and most economical manner and so as to produce the best results.

It will not do to say that the reserve of energy possessed by any man is much more than is sufficient to ring average bells with modern hanging, and that therefore a certain amount of waste due to faulty handling and stance is of no importance; for to be able to ring and strike a bell properly, or even tolerably, a man must not only be able to exert enough energy, but he must be able to exert it at exactly the right time, and he must not exert more than a minimum above what is necessary.

Two things, then, are of vital importance. One is the strength of pull a man applies to the rope, and the other is the point of time at which he applies it. Unless he has complete control of these two things, the man cannot call himself a competent ringer. They are quite distinct, and they serve distinct ends; accuracy in one will not compensate for faultiness in the other.

So far as the ringer is concerned the point at which the bell speaks is decided by the time at which he makes his pull—by that and by nothing else—and therefore if the man is to be a good striker it is essential that he should know exactly when to make his pull. Perhaps the word 'know' is not the really correct one. Let us say that the man should *feel* what is the minutely correct time to pull. We exclude from the ranks of really competent ringers all those who have no other standard of striking than that their sally should follow the preceding one at a definite visual interval. Something better than that is needed if a man is to be anything like a decent striker except by accident.

There are two points connected with the bell itself which must be noted. The first is that the speed at which the bell swings is decided by gravity conditioned by the way the bell is hung and the state of the bearings. The ringer himself has no control and cannot affect the bell's speed in any way. We are writing from a practical point of view. We are not prepared to dispute with a man who should maintain that the more or less amount of energy added by the ringer's pull must in theory affect the rate at which the bell travels. We put aside the case of very light bells hung in ball bearings. We are quite sure from practical experience and observation that an ordinary bell when rung up always travels at the same speed, and that the difference in the rate of striking is decided by nothing except the length of the arc in which the bell moves. The ringer cannot control the speed of the bell; he can control the length of the arc in which it swings.

The second thing thing to note is that the bell always speaks at a definite point in its upward swing and at a time when it is entirely beyond the control of the ringer. That point cannot be hastened by extra pulling when the bell starts its downward swing, nor by checking during its upward swing. Some people think it can, and we have heard it argued that, not only the time of speaking, but the intensity of the blow can be affected by hard pulling and hard checking. We are quite sure that view is wrong. The only thing the ringer can control is the exact time at which the bell starts its downward swing and on that he should concentrate his attention.

But a moment's thought will show that, though this point of time must be an absolutely definite one for the ringer, it is not a fixed one. The definitely fixed point is the one at which the clapper makes contact with the bell, and to reach it at the exact instant the bell, when it is travelling in a large arc, must start earlier than when it is travelling in a shorter arc, and the ringer must be able to adjust the time of his pull to the difference.

We begin to realise now what very minute portions of time are involved in good striking. This has been pointed out before. In the preface to the last edition of Henry Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' published in 1876, there is a note (which we may perhaps attribute to the

suggestion of Jasper Snowdon, who helped the author), 'It is almost incredible what extremely small portions of time are forced upon the observations in change ringing. Assuming a quarter of a second to elapse between the striking of any two bells (which supposition is very near the truth), it will appear that an error of a quarter of that space, too quick or too slow, would be distinctly felt and heard by an experienced ringer, and hence the sixteenth part of a second becomes an appreciable quantity.' Add what we said just before and we get some idea of the degree of accuracy and delicacy of handling and pulling which is needed in really good ringing. In fact, in the very best striking (which is as rare as it is delightful to listen to) there comes a stage when it is not so much a question of measurable intervals of time as of expression; just as it is in the case of good instrumental music.

Such excellence cannot be taught; it can only be acquired by the man or the band which strives earnestly for the highest and after long practice. It requires complete co-ordination of arms, and eyes, and ears; and one essential is that the bell shall be so handled that it responds instantly to what is passing through the ringer's brain, in the same way that the ivory keys do to what is passing through the brain of the pianist.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. G. P. HAWKINS

The death is announced of Mr. G. P. Hawkins, of Hawley, who in the days of the old Winchester Diocesan Guild was well known in Hampshire as ringer, conductor and composer. He was a pupil of Mr. Frank Bennett and among his peals was the first in which Mr. Alfred Pulling took part, one at Yateley in which all the ringers were men born in the parish and baptised in the font round which they rang, and the first peals on Yorktown and Yateley bells. He and his brother did much to advance ringing in North Hants.

ST. MARY MATFELON, WHITECHAPEL.

THE STORY OF A PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The last paragraph of your article on this church says, 'Whitechapel bells were difficult to ring owing to the sway of the tower,' etc. I can well vouch for this, having on one occasion had the pleasure of ringing the tenor to a peal.

Before taking my present position at St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, I was for many years employed by a firm of leather merchants, and on several occasions journeyed to London on business, one of the calls being in Whitechapel Road, about opposite to St. Mary's Church. Mr. C. T. Coles once fixed up a peal for me there on a Thursday evening, it being one of the very few churches the late W. Pye had not up to then rung a peal in. On ascending the tower various members of the band tried their ropes, and I noticed none took the 7th or tenor. Asking if any special ringer wanted the tenor and receiving a negative reply, I tried it. It was just right length and I set it first pull, so decided to ring it. Thinking it a simple job to ring it behind a peal of Stedman Triples, I never even rolled my sleeves up, nor took off my collar, which was a stiff starched one.

W. Pye came in very late and his first remark was, 'Whose on tenor?' to which Mr. Coles said, 'Ernest.' He did not make any further comment, but took the 7th and away we started. All went well for a short spell when—down went 7th and I followed (a train had gone by underground and tried to take the church with it!) After several spells like this I noticed a watch hanging on the wall, and every now and then it swung like a pendulum. As the peal progressed, sweat began to pour off me, and the periodic lurches of the tower as trains went by began to tell on my strength.

At the third quarter-peal end, Mr. Coles, who was ringing treble and conducting, said to me, 'Are you all right, Ernest?' I did not answer—just nodded—grimly determined to do or die. I simply must not let Leicester down. Every course I watched the 7th in slow, in quick, and thought—that's one less. In the very last course I felt that if the tower shifted again I should collapse, and—lo and behold—it did, but leaning on the rope (I had no strength left in my arms) I made one last desperate effort and we got the peal. My stiff-starched collar was like a wet rag, and so was my shirt—my condition was indescribable.

It was a standing joke for years after, and although Mr. Coles promised to fix me a peal at Whitechapel any time I liked—needless to say, I never took on again.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
'The Ringing World,'
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Double Norwich at Crayford was rung on the twenty-sixth anniversary of Mr. F. J. Cullum's first peal. He rang the same bell on both occasions.

The peal of Reverse Bob Royal, rung at Sittingbourne on December 23rd, was the first in the method on ten bells and on handbells. Tower-bell peals of Reverse Bob Royal were rung in the eighteenth century, the first by the College Youths at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1761.

SILVER BELL FOR 'ARK ROYAL'

THE FIRST LORD AT CROYDON.

Presented by officers and men of the old 'Ark Royal,' a silver bell weighing over two hundredweights was cast on December 17th by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston for the new 'Ark' in the presence of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander.

Accompanied by his wife, senior naval officers, the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon (Councillor and Mrs. A. L. Boddington), Sir Herbert Williams, the Town Clerk (Mr. E. Taberner) and Dr. and Mrs. Newnham, the First Lord toured the factory, chatting to the workers and signing autographs.

As he entered the main workshop he was saluted by a guard of honour, composed of officers and ratings who had served on the old 'Ark Royal.'

The approximate cost of the bell will be £600, which will be provided by canteen funds. Made of sterling silver, the bell will be engraved with the 'Ark Royal' badge and will probably have a list of the ship's former commanders and the actions in which she has fought inscribed on it.

The party were entertained to lunch in the works canteen by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril F. Johnston.

After lunch, the First Lord went back to the workshops and the machinery was stopped while he spoke to the workers.

At the beginning of the war, the political parties in the country had to combine 'for the plain primeval reason of saving our necks,' he said. We should be incredibly foolish if we did not take advantage of the lesson 'strength in unity' to combat the peace-time problems of unemployment, poverty and ignorance.

'We must have a nation as willing to get together and fight these things as it was to save its neck when the enemy was about to land.'

The story of the gallantry and daring of the officers and crew of the old 'Ark' was an inspiration to all.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHILDWALL.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Childwall on December 11th, ringers were present from West Derby, St. Luke's and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, Woolton, Huyton, St. Helens and the local company.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. M. Hunter, conducted the service and gave an address. A full choir of men and boys led the singing. Tea was provided by some of the ringers and their wives. Apologies were received from Messrs. R. W. Cave and J. Ridyard. Mr. G. H. Hurst, of St. Helens, was elected a ringing member, and Mr. J. Tomsett's election prior to a peal was ratified. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at St. Francis Xavier's on January 15th if suitable arrangements can be made. The Rev. D. P. Roberts thanked the Vicar, the organist, the choir and the ladies.

THE GIRALDA BELLS, SEVILLE.

To the Editor.

RINGING AT TOLEDO.

Dear Sir,—Having some years ago visited the Cathedral of Toledo, where I ascended the tower and saw the bells, I should say that the conditions there are somewhat similar to those at the Giralda, and that the statements made regarding the performances there are somewhat fanciful.

At Toledo there are eight bells, suspended in the arches, two on each side, the largest probably weighing about a couple of tons, but there is apparently no relation between them as regards weight or note, the tones, so far as one could tell, being most discordant. In the centre of the tower is a large bell, 'Campana Gorda de Toledo,' probably weighing about 15 tons. This was cast to the order of Archbishop Don Luis de Borbon in 1753, and was duly baptised with great ceremony, being given the name of San Eugenio. The clapper is a most ornate piece of work, having no ball in the usual sense of the term, but being swelled out at the end, and most elaborately engraved. It now lies on the floor under the bell—my information being that the bell cracked at the first blow of the clapper—there is certainly a large piece out of it now—and the bell when struck emits a dull discordant roar.

As regards the ringing of the bells, now also stopped at Toledo, and the antics of the so-called ringers, my impression was that the bells are accurately counterbalanced, by what appear to be rather elaborate castings, rather in the nature of a flattened crown, on the opposite side of the headstock; and assuming that the bearings were efficient, there should be no greater difficulty in rotating a medium-sized bell, by means of a rope and a drum, than there would be in rotating, say, a flywheel, in the same manner. In fact, I have seen many smallish bells in the towers of churches or convents rotating quite fast, with the clappers falling from side to side as the bells go over and making a horrible noise. As far as I could ascertain, the ringing is usually done by means of a fairly long iron lever, to which the rope is attached. By pulling sufficiently hard on this, the momentum of the bell is increased until it goes right over, possibly more than once, the rope then coiling round the headstock, and with the bell still in motion it should not be impossible, by pulling hard on the rope, to get it going the opposite way, though not I should think by a small boy, and certainly an impossible feat with an 18 ton bell.

As regards the performance of swinging out with the bell, I rather think that what usually happened was that as the bell gained sufficient momentum to carry it over, the performer seized the counterbalance, leaped on to it, and was carried out and over the ground below, and in again, in one revolution—obviously a very dangerous performance, and now stopped.

Referring again to the question of counterbalancing, I have in my possession a photo of the tower of the Royal Monastery at Ona, which shows quite clearly three bells, two in the normal position and one lying exactly in the horizontal position, and I have myself seen bells left in this position, which shows that they are exactly counterbalanced, and should, therefore, be capable of being rotated without much difficulty.

J. E. LEWIS COCKEY.

Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing.

EVIDENCE FROM AN ILLUSTRATION.

Dear Sir,—There appear to be contradictory ideas about the manner of the bellringing at Seville. In my scrapbook I have a picture, taken, I believe, from Arthur Mee's children's pictorial newspaper of some years ago.

It is taken from a bellroom window, and pictures two others on that side of the tower. These window openings look about 15 to 18 feet tall, and 5 or 6 feet wide, and have no louvres. They appear to be at a height of between 200 and 300 feet, and the bullring, or a sports arena, can be seen in the near distance. The walls appear to be very thick, and the bells are hung between the window walls, and appear to be thick bells of 30 cwt. or more.

The ball of the clapper is diamond shaped, and instead of a clapper flight a stout ring has been forged, about 6 inches diameter, and the iron about 1½ inches thick.

To this ring are entwined straps or rope, forming two short loops, and the ringers have their hands through the loops, and clenched around ropes, thus locking loops on their wrists. The picture depicts the ringers flying backwards out of the tower, attached to the clapper, and the bells are apparently nearly stock high. The men are young and athletic (as they would need to be, and not subject to sea-sickness) and have a silk handkerchief round their head, a short multi-buttoned shell jacket, tight knee breeches, stockings (apparently silk) and low shoes.

No wheels or half-wheels are visible, and the stock or bearings cannot be seen, and the bell appears to be 18 inches beyond face of tower when stock high, with, of course, the ringer tailing away into space. There appears to be room, under the bell, for the ringer to clear the sill of window opening, when in crouching position, and doubtless they use it as a fulcrum to get the bell into full swing.

M. F. R. HIBBERT.

36, Herne Road, Bushey.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite expected that someone would write and question the footnote to the peal at Crayford on November 27th by drawing attention to those peals in the Kent County Association reports with an 'A' to their serial number, without taking any account of peals subsequently found to be false, for which no adjustment in the serial numbers has ever been made. When this has been done it will be seen that we were quite justified in stating what we believed the peal to be.

Mr. Richardson's statement that some peals in the peal books do not appear in the reports, and vice versa, is one, in fairness to the late Canon Helmore, he should either substantiate or withdraw. It is 34 years since the Kent County Association decided to discontinue keeping a peal book and to bind copies of the reports instead for record purposes.

With regard to the last paragraph in Mr. Richardson's letter, I doubt whether there is an eight-bell tower in Kent at which the association have not rung a peal at some time or other. The only possible one is Sandwich. A fairly recent eight at Tunbridge Wells is, I believe, hung dead.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

THE KENT ASSOCIATION RECORD.

Dear Sir,—As I was responsible for the footnote to the peal at Crayford, perhaps I can explain to Mr. Richardson how the estimate was arrived at.

The last peal in the latest report is quoted No. 4956. I quite agree that this makes no allowance for peals omitted in one report and published as, say, 1000a in the next, but at the same time no adjustment of serial numbers has ever been made for false peals. By balancing the former against those of the latter which have been notified, I came to the conclusion that the above peal, serial No. 4999, was, in fact, the 5,000th. If, as Mr. Richardson says, the peal book and reports do not agree, then the proviso 'believed to be' is even more justified, but it is rather a reflection on the officials responsible for the production of the reports if the printed record is not accurate. Of course, if Mr. Richardson, or anyone else for that matter, can produce documentary evidence that the peal was not the 5,000th, we shall be most happy to withdraw the claim.

As for his other query, the report shows an eight at St. Luke's, Tunbridge Wells; this is the only one in Kent where no peal has been rung.

With regard to Mr. Dennis Bayles' very interesting and courteous letter, I personally was aware that the Norwich Association had already scored over 5,000, but my father evidently overlooked this. While it in no way detracts from the merit of that achievement, Mr. Bayles will no doubt admit that the fact that for a good many years the association included both Norfolk and Suffolk in its area must have added considerably to its peals. For example, a letter in 'The Ringing World' of May 26th, 1939, quotes the totals for 1909-1914 as 136, 151, 181, 265, 291 and 156, an average of nearly 200 a year, a figure almost impossible of attainment in one county alone. Also I believe the Norwich Association was formed before the Kent County, whose first peal was on October 31st, 1881.

Finally, to change the subject, may I congratulate the band who rang the first 'all-Service' handbell peal of this war, and especially the conductor, Cpl. Cyril Brett-Smith, who, as well as being a fellow member of the R.A.F., was for several years before the war a valued member of the Crayford band.

E. A. BARNETT.

THE CROYDON FOUNDRY.

The Mayor of Croydon presents a challenge cup to workers who have the highest savings figure for each of three monthly periods. The workers at Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's bell foundry have held the lead for four months, so in addition to the challenge cup they received a small silver replica which will become their permanent possession.

Since the start of their Savings Group, Gillett and Johnston's employes have raised £12,600. In the past year they have nearly trebled the sum saved in the first two years. Membership is over 94 per cent. and savings average 7.14 per cent. of wages. During the four monthly periods which won them the challenge cup they saved £3,141.

The Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, the Town Clerk and other prominent members of the town, congratulated the workers on their savings efforts. The replica cup, he said, would be permanently in their possession as a memento of the part they played in ensuring that our fighting men had the weapons necessary to win the war. The Mayor and his party were entertained to lunch by Mr. Cyril Johnston and Mrs. Johnston.

THE LATE MR E F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. A. C. Hazelden's letter in last week's 'Ringing World,' the Australian tourists met and rang with the late Mr. E. F. Behan on quite a number of occasions during their visit to Melbourne in 1934.

RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Surfleet.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 559.)

At Howden, Yorkshire, there was a Saxon church before the Norman era. This was in the hands of the Crown, and William I. gave it to the Bishop of Durham and his successors. The Bishop gave it to his Prior and Convent, who erected a church in the Norman style. In 1228 this church, being out of date, it was determined to erect a new church in the Early English style, which was finished about 1250. During 1267 the parish was divided into five equal prebends or canonries, and thus the church became a Minster. The nave, as we now see it, was commenced about 1280 and completed 1310: the best front followed. The Sanctuary was then completed in essential details in 1330. The Chapter House was built shortly after 1380 and the little chantry chapel to St. Cuthbert in 1404, as also the middle stage of the tower, the upper portion being added a century later. This is a central tower with horizontal parapet, begun by Walter Skirlaugh, Bishop of Durham 1346 to 1406.

With Howden tower may be compared three other central towers in the North of England—that of York Minster (1400-23): that of Durham (probably begun c. 1470): and that of Holy Trinity, Hull (finished about 1520). Of these, York Minster tower is the simplest in design, consisting merely of a simple tall lantern: the Howden and Durham towers have a tall lantern surmounted by a lower one: at Hull this disposition is inverted. As shown above, the upper stage of Howden tower is of considerably later date than the lower one.

Disaster overtook this fine old building in 1929, when a fire practically destroyed the magnificent tower with its ring of eight bells, and the chancel beneath. The damage done was very great, not only to the church itself and the ornaments, but to the masonry of the tower. Huge cracks in the battlements down to the broken and burnt-out windows on the sides of the tower. The bells crashed into the chancel below, and the roof of the tower collapsed. Over £32,000 was spent on reconstructing the essential portions of this magnificent church. The tower was restored, and in 1932 a new ring of eight bells dedicated. These were hung 40 feet lower in the tower than the former ring, and are now on the level of the sills of the very lofty Decorated windows which are one of the outstanding features of the tower, and the ringers are accommodated on a floor about 20 feet below. The bells are by J. Taylor and Co., with a tenor just over 22 cwt., and all the original inscriptions have been reproduced on the new bells.

The tower is 135 feet high. To approach the ringing chambers one enters a small door outside in the street, thence to the roof by spiral stairway. Traverse the roof to a rather low doorway and down a short ladder of six or eight steps into the ringers' room. The east side of the church is now in ruins, having been destroyed by the army of Cromwell when on the way to Wressal Castle: on the south side is the Chapter House, an octagonal building, erected by Bishop Skirlaugh, and is inferior only in dimensions to the Chapter House at York.

A tower that stands in the centre of a church without transepts, and which is often illustrated in architectural works, is that at Iffley, near, and now included in, the city of Oxford. St. Mary's Church is an ancient edifice of stone exhibiting some of the purest and most perfect specimens of enriched Norman work extant. The Norman portion is supposed to have been erected either by Robert-de-Cheney, Bishop of Lincoln, 1135/47, or by Juliana-de-St. Renigio, who gave it, between 1175/95 to the priory, and whose father, Robert, held an estate in Iffley.

The massive embattled tower in the centre contains six bells, of which the first two date from 1785; third, cast 1592, was recast in 1869; fourth is inscribed 'Praise ye Lorde'; fifth and sixth were cast in 1642. There is also a priest's bell dated 1709. The tower arches spring from piers with cushioned capitals, and shafts of black marble at the angles; the arches themselves are recessed and elaborately carved with flowers and zigzag work.

A very similar tower to Iffley is that at Langford in the same county. The tower, between chancel and nave, is of very early Norman work, and the lower stage is of Saxon date, vaulted, and the tower has a ring of five bells. The south porch has two very interesting sculptures of the Crucifixion—one on the south face over the entrance and the other on the east side. Both are enclosed in recessed cruciform panels.

One of the oldest and finest parish churches in North Lancashire is that of St. Mary, Cartmel. It was formerly a priory and endowed by William Mareshal, Earl of Pembroke, in 1188. It is recorded that the monks were bidden in a beatific vision to erect their church on a site between two streams, one running north, the other running south. After many wanderings they discovered in Cartmel what they sought, and built their church. It is now an embattled cruciform building in Transitional Norman and Early English, with additions in Perpendicular styles, and consists of choir and presbytery of three bays with aisles; nave of three bays with aisles; transepts; south porch and a singularly low central tower with an upper stage of later date and also embattled, set diagonally upon it, and made to serve as a belfry. It now contains a ring of six bells.

Two centuries after the foundation of the priory the want of a bell was perceived, and the Canons bethought themselves of the following expedient for the purpose. They constructed four cross arches within the upper courses of the lantern, springing from the middle point of each side, and closing the entire angle between that and the contiguous wall, a bell tower of proportionate height, which stands, a square inscribed within a square, diagonally to its base. The monks of Cartmel Priory were Augustines, and it was founded just 61 years later than Furness Abbey, i.e., 1127.

Of the bells the 5th and tenor are by John Scott, of Wigan, 1661; fourth 1729; third 1726; and two trebles by J. Taylor and Co. 1932. The tower is entered by the roof of the nave from a newel stairway near the transept windows. All the bells are rung from boxes on account of the unevenness of the belfry floor. The ancient belfry rules read:—

'If you come here to ring a bell,
With hand and ear you must ring well.
Should you your bell to overthrow,
12 pence to pay before you go.
If we for you the changes ring,
You must to us a shilling bring.
& 6 pence, too, without demur
If you appear in hat or spur.
& if above you choose to go,
You 6 pence pay or stay below.'

ST. MARY'S, WOOLWICH.

The inventories made of the goods and ornaments of the Church of St. Mary, Woolwich, in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, record that there were 'iij bells of brass mettell suted, hanging in the Steple there,' and also 'j little Saints bell of brasse hanging in the said steple.' According to the report of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, the tower still contains a fourteenth-century bell. It is inscribed, 'Willelmus Prene me fecit in honorem Sanctae Trinitates.' Prene was a Rector of Woolwich, who died in 1404.

The present church was built between the years 1733 and 1740. It was included among the fifty churches which were to be provided for by Act of Parliament in Queen Anne's reign. Three thousand pounds were granted for the purpose. The plain square brick tower contains a ring of eight bells, with a tenor of 13 cwt., cast by Thomas Mears at Whitechapel in 1821.

The first peal on the bells was one of Grandsire Triples on November 18th, 1821, by a society who had revived the name of the Eastern Scholars, but had no connection or link with the old society of that name which had lapsed many years before. Henry Symondson called the peal, and the fifth was rung by Henry Banister. The latter was a ringer at the church, and took part in many peals there. He was the father of one of the most famous families in the history of ringing, and with his six sons rang in 1852 a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The third son, William, was the clever member of the family, and it was mainly due to him that for a time the band at Woolwich was one of the best in the country. They rang Grandsire Triples in 1847, Kent Treble Bob Major, Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 1848, and Superlative and London Surprise Major in 1849. This record surpassed that of every other company in the nineteenth century before 1880, and was not equalled until the rise of the Benington company under Leonard Proctor.

William Banister held an appointment in the Royal Dockyard, and was afterwards transferred to Devonport, where he greatly assisted the early attempts to introduce change ringing into the belfries of the West Country. He was the author of a text book on change ringing, first published in 1874, which went through two editions. It was closely modelled on Henry Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' and was of its kind quite a good book.

William Banister lived to a very great age and attended the meeting of the Central Council in 1913. He died on January 31st, 1917, at the age of 92. After he left Woolwich the local band did little to distinguish themselves in change ringing.

HANDBELLS AT NATIVITY PLAY

On Sunday, December 19th, at the village church of St. John, Sutton-at-Hone, handbells were rung during the course of a Nativity play presented by the village Church Guild.

The church has a peal of three bells and the producer of the play was at loss to know how to provide the 'peals of bells' called for in the script. The Dartford ringers were appealed to, and Messrs. A. G. Hall, N. Chaddock, J. E. Bailey and Mrs. J. E. Bailey rang Grandsire Trioles, Queens and Whittingtons before and after the service and during the play.

This is the first time change ringing has been introduced to the village and very favourable comments were forthcoming.

REIGATE.—On January 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Gear 1, Mrs. Shelton 2, A. Bashford 3, W. Claydon 4, G. Oliver 5, A. T. Shelton 6, G. F. Hoad (conductor) 7, H. A. Hoad 8.

'THE VIRGIN'S CHIME.'

'This Christmas, after a lapse of several years, the ancient custom, known locally as the Virgin's Chime, was revived at the beautiful Church of St. Michael the Archangel in the Yorkshire dale village of Kirkby Malhandel. A few minutes before midnight the ringers enter the bell chamber in the tower and sound the bells by grasping the clappers in their hands.

Probably the custom dates back to pre-Reformation times, and the bells were originally chimed thus before the Midnight Mass at Christmas.'—'The Church Times.'

The habit of ascribing every out-of-the-way ringing custom to a survival of pre-Reformation liturgical uses should be mistrusted.

WEDDING OF MR C. H. HOVERD.

On December 18th, at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford, Mr. C. H. Hoverd was married to Corporal Margaret Rose Fincham, A.T.S., whose home is at Rye, Sussex.

The Vicar, Canon C. Eiliott Mitchell, officiated and paid a tribute to the services Mr. Hoverd has rendered as ringer during the past 15 years.

The bride, who was attended by two bridesmaids, was given away by her father. Mr. H. E. Audsley was best man. The tower bells were rung as the bride and bridegroom left the church under an archway of handbells.

The reception was at Sutton Hall and handbells were rung to Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

Ringers taking part in the ringing during the afternoon were E. Barnett, Alan and Denis Hall, Mrs. T. Fenner and R. Hoverd (sister and brother of the bridegroom), J. Wheadon, R. A. Jenkins, Sgt. N. Chaddock, R.E.M.E., Mrs. J. E. Bailey and J. E. Bailey. A peal could not be arranged and a quarter-peal on Sunday was lost just before the end.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED MARTIN.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Martin, of Leicester, who passed away on December 18th at the age of 86.

Mr. Martin had been connected with Leicester Cathedral all his life, first as a chorister and then as ringer and towerkeeper. In 1883 he followed his father in the latter office, and held it for 40 years, during which the transition was made from chiming and stoney to high class change ringing.

Mr Martin, who joined the Midland Counties Association in 1891, rang 53 peals, comprising Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Stedman Triples and Caters. He did not aspire to the higher methods, but was a good striker and quite safe in what he did ring.

The funeral was on Wednesday, December 22nd, at the Gilroes Cemetery, Leicester, and after the burial a course of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells by H. J. Poole 1-2, E. Morris 3-4, P. L. Harrison 5-6, and J. Morris 7-8. Messrs. T. Taylor and J. Harris were also present and a floral tribute was sent by the Cathedral ringers.

DEATH OF MR. W E OAKLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. William E. Oakley, of Watford, at the age of 65. For some years he had not taken a very active part in ringing, but formerly he was Master of the Watford Society, to which office he was appointed after the bells were recast in 1919. He learned to ring at Bushey in the early nineties. He was a good ringer in most of the standard methods and an excellent striker.

The funeral at Bushey on December 16th was attended by members of the Watford and Bushey bands.

JOINT MEETING AT DONCASTER.

A joint meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association with the Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies was held at the Parish Church, Doncaster, on Saturday, December 18th, when members were present from Arksey, Barnby Don, Campsall, Conisborough, Felkirk, Rotherham, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sprotborough and the local company.

The fine ring of eight was available from 2.30 p.m., and during the afternoon the Vicar, Canon Davidson, welcomed the ringers.

Tea was at an adjacent cafe, 25 members sitting down, and the business meeting was held in the Clergy House. In the absence of Mr. G. Lewis, vice-president, the chair was taken by Mr. H. S. Morley, and the secretarial duties were discharged by Mr. D. Smith, on behalf of Mr. S. F. Palmer, who was indisposed.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. George Clark, of Arksey, who is in hospital, and Mr. George Halksworth, of Scarborough, who had met with an accident.

Wath-on-Dearne was selected for the meeting in March.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and the local company was passed. Ringing included touches of Minor, Triples and Major in the standard methods, and full opportunity was given to beginners.

GROBY, LEICESTER.—On Monday, December 27th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Gardner 1, Derrick Dodson 2, T. Geary 3, W. Geary 4, Dennis Dodson 5, R. F. Elkington (conductor) 6. Ringers 1, 2 and 5 aged 14 years and is their longest length, having commenced ringing after the ban was lifted.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

BRAY, CO. WICKLOW.—On December 11th, 720 Grandsire Doubles with 7.6.8 covering: F. Edmondson 1, Mrs. F. E. Dukes 2, D. McGregor 3, F. Dukes 4, J. B. Tough 5, J. Fennell 6, G. McGregor 7, G. Fennell 8. Rung for the institution of the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell as Rector of Bray. Canon Campbell is president of the Irish Association.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS. — At the Parish Church on Sunday, December 5th, a 720 of Plain Bob in 26 minutes: Lieut. M. Routh, R.N. (first 720) 1, Rev. R. Routh 2, R. Buckland 3, J. Harrison 4, Miss D. Fletcher 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, December 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, H. Wingrove 5, R. Buckland 6, J. Harrison (conductor) 7, A. Routh 8.

WILLESDEN. — On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Mary's, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: *H. C. Collier 1, Mrs. E. Lankester 2, E. Lankester 3, *R. C. Kersey 4, G. Kilby (conductor) 5, H. Kilby 6. * First in the method.

HILLINGDON WEST.—On December 4th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Blondell 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, F. W. Goodfellow 3, Mrs. M. Baroom 4, P. E. Jones 5, T. Collins 6, F. Corke 7, S. Humphreys 8.

BRIGG, LINCOLNSHIRE.—At St. John's, on Sunday, December 12th, for evensong, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Gordon Wraith 1, William Middleton 2, Thomas Bell 3, Frederick Atkinson 4, Frank Bell 5, Nolan Golden, R.A.F. (conductor) 6.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On December 17th at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples; J. Simister 1, *W. Schofield 2, Rev. F. F. Rigby 3, A. Hodgson 4, *W. Hawke 5, P.C. R. Benson 6, W. W. Wolstencroft 7, *V. Turner 8. * First quarter-peal. A compliment to the conductor on his 69th birthday.

ROCHDALE.—On Saturday, December 11th, at St. Mary's, Balderstone, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Simeon K. Taylor 1, William O. Rowland 2, Fred Ormerod 3, Walter Staff 4, George Staff 5, Stephen L. Parry 6, Frank Appleton (conductor) 7, James Jones 8. Rung muffled as a token of respect to Mr. John Griffiths, who was a ringer at the above church for over 40 years.

BELGRAVE, LEICS.—On Thursday, December 9th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Morris 1, C. Marshall 2, E. R. Whitehead 3, A. Skinner 4, L. H. Whitehead 5, A. Debenham 6, E. Morris 7, J. Grant 8. Conducted by Ernest Morris. Rung after meeting too late for a peal.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—At St. Luke's on Saturday, December 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, I. Emery 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, G. F. James 4, G. H. Kite 5, S. Humphrey 6, J. Lyddiard 7, C. Cullen 8. Arranged and rung on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Dr. Yolland, churchwarden at St. Luke's since 1899.

WESTHOUGHTON.—On Sunday, December 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: William Smalley 1, Everest Ford 2, Mrs. Annie Paine 3, James W. Kay (conductor) 4, Bryan Stanley 5, Arthur Gibson 6, Peter Crook, sen. 7, Albert Greenhalgh 8.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, December 19th, for morning service, 672 Stedman Triples: H. Street 1, C. T. Coles (conductor) 2, H. Rumens 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Smith 5, L. E. Last 6, F. C. Maynard 7, F. C. Taylor 8.

LITTLE MUNDEN.—On the occasion of the induction of the new Rector, 720 Oxford Treble Bob for service, also 720 in the same method after service: W. Williams 1, B. Patmore 2, S. Head 3, A. Phillips 4, N. Patmore 5, E. Overall 6.

EALING.—At St. Stephen's Church on St. Stephen's Day, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. A. Trollope 1, J. E. Churchill 2, C. J. Tricker 3, A. Jones 4, J. E. L. Cockey 5, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, F. Miller 8.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.—On December 20th at St. Mary's, 1,320 Doubles (720 Grandsire and 600 Plain Bob): E. Roddam 1, S. Thompson 2, S. Thompson, sen. (conductor) 3, S. Proud 4, J. Jackson 5, S. Buckton 6. First quarter-peal by all except the conductor. A farewell to Ernest Roddam.

OXFORD.—On Christmas morning at Christ Church Cathedral, 1,047 Stedman Cinques: Miss V. Hill 1, N. Allnatt 2, Miss M. R. Cross 3, C. Coles 4, H. Gardiner 5, W. Blake 6, W. G. Collett 7, F. A. H. Wilkins 8, W. F. Judge(conductor) 9, V. J. Bennett 10, G. Caudwell 11, W. H. B. Wilkins 12.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On Christmas morning, 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1, *Miss M. Backler 2, J. W. Jennings 3, H. Backler 4, S. Twitchett 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6. * First 720.

SUDBURY.—On Christmas morning, at All Saints' Church, 224 Bob Major, a course of Superlative and a course of Stedman: F Gridley, H. Herbert, A. Haynes, C. Clark, H. Felton, L. Johnson, S. Howell, A. Fitch, D. Elliott.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, December 26th, for morning service at St. Leonard's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Pte. J. Powlesland (N. Cadbury, Som.) 1, E. L. Miles (conductor) 2, C. A. Button 3, R. Sanders 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, *Pte. W. Holmes (Edenham, Lincs) 6, J. W. Euston 7, W. Sparkes 8. * First quarter-peal of Triples.

BURTON HASTINGS, WARWICK.—On Sunday, December 19th, at St. Botolph's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: William Noon 1, *Mrs. Billington 2, †Leonard Trevor (conductor) 3, Joseph Taylor 4, Frank Trotman 5. * First quarter-peal. † First quarter-peal as conductor.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, December 19th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor with tenor covering: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, Rev. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, A. Routh tenor.—On Christmas morning, 720 Bob Minor: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison (conductor) 6, A. Routh tenor.—On Sunday, December 26th, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, W. Lee 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Christmas Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *J. Cleaver 1, *Miss T. Waldron 2, F. W. Brinklow 3, *E. Rosson 4, J. Rosson (conductor) 5, *W. Attwood 6. * First quarter-peal.—On December 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, W. Hodgetts 2, J. Cleaver 3, F. W. Brinklow 4, J. Rosson 5, E. Rosson 6.—On December 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: W. Attwood 1, Miss T. Waldron 2, *Rev. T. P. Hearn 3, E. Rosson 4, J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow 6. * First quarter-peal. The band was started last July under the tuition of Mr. F. W. Brinklow.

DONCASTER.—At St. George's Church on Christmas Day, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey (conductor) 1, W.O. Critchley 2, J. Holmes 3, E. Dalingwater 4, H. Wagstaffe 5, F. Newsome 6, J. McCluskey 7, P. J. Dawe 8.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTER.—On Christmas morning, at St. Thomas' Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Cox 1, A. Patrick 2, J. E. Clark 3, J. L. Willars 4, *Ord. Seaman R. Sharp 5, C. Marshall (conductor) 6, E. Jelley 7, F. Ford 8. * First quarter 'inside.'

LAUNTON, OXON.—On Christmas Day, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. W. Ancil 1, H. A. Massey 2, H. Gregory 3, R. Gregory 4, F. Sharpe (conductor) 5, E. Castle 6. First quarter-peal by all except the conductor.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—At St. Peter's Church, on St. Stephen's Day, 360 Bob Minor: Mrs. I. Hawkins, W. W. Wolstencroft, Miss Joan Houldsworth, R. Wimpenny, A. Houldsworth, W. Hawke.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Margaret's Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor (tenor covering): Charles Crapnell 1, — Ellenger 2, William Kinsey 3, Claude Woodward 4, George Moore 5, Frank Trotman (conductor) 6, Charles Woodcock tenor.

MANCHESTER.—On December 26th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Caters: Mary Walshaw 1, Harold Longdon 2, John Mullinneaux 3, Harold Hollinworth 4, George Pye 5, Arthur Ridyard (conductor) 6, Hugh Reynolds 7, Burly Walshaw 8, Richard Longden 9, John Wright 10. Rung for the wedding of Mr. Harold Hollinworth.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS.—On Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Minor, being 720 of Kent Treble Bob and 540 Bob Minor: E. R. Martin (conductor) 1, J. R. Taylor 2, K. Hall 3, J. Roskell 4, W. Loxham 5, J. Gornall 6, W. Taylor 7. Rung to mark the completion of 61 years as a service ringer by J. R. Taylor at the above church.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's Church on Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *W. J. Southam 1, A. Dale 2, E. J. Gale 3, S. Jones 4, C. F. Saver 5, F. J. Spicer 6, R. W. Darvill (conductor) 7, *T. J. Southam 8. * First quarter-peal.

GREAT TEY.—On Christmas Day for morning service, 720 Bob Minor, and for the evening service on Sunday, December 26th, 720 Bob Minor: B. Webb 1, H. Webb 2, T. Evans 3, G. Evans 4, S. Piper 5, J. W. Dyer (conductor) 6.

DEVIZES.—On Sunday December 26th, for evensong at St. James' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Joy Davis 1, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 2, Peter F. J. Hunt 3, A. T. Weeks 4, S. Grant 5, David Nye 6. First attempt by the ringers of the treble, third and tenor, who are 16 years old and have been ringing since last June.

WALTHAMSTOW. — On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Mary's Church for morning service, 960 Bob Major: H. Street, L. E. Last, E. E. Holman, J. C. Adams, H. Smith, H. Rumens, F. C. Maynard, C. T. Coles (conductor).

ELTHAM, KENT.—On Sunday, January 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wood 1, J. Hurrell 2, P. Spice 3, Miss H. Oakshett 4, G. F. James 5, F. J. Hurrell 6, J. E. Lyddiard (conductor) 7, H. Goodenough, R.A. (first quarter-peal) 8.

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NOTICES.

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

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

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Annual district meeting at Mistley, Saturday, January 8th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting and tea to follow probably at the Thorn Hotel. Bring food and a little tea. Good train and bus service via Manningtree.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at East Crompton, Saturday, January 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food. Subscriptions due; reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Annual meeting at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Trying to arrange tea.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Holy Trinity, Blackburn, Saturday, Jan. 8th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Annual meeting at Leicester, Jan. 8th. Ringing St. Margaret's (12 bells) 3 till 5 p.m., Cathedral (12 bells) 7 p.m. till 9 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., Victory Cafe, Carts Lane, followed by meeting at the Globe Hotel, opposite.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Ringing 2.30 and after meeting. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 6d.) and meeting at Tower Cafe 5 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Poolstock, Saturday, January 8th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual general meeting at Barnsley, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5.15. Business meeting Royal Hotel, 6 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Andrew's, Derby, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, election of officers. Own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lindfield, Saturday, January 15th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service and meeting to follow.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Annual district meeting at Fareham, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Own arrangements for tea.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Annual meeting at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Hatfield, Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Salisbury Guest House 5 p.m. Then more ringing.—R. W. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Eccles on Saturday, January 15th, at 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Warwick (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Porridge Pot Cafe 5 p.m., approximately 1s. 6d. Business in the Church Vestry after service.—D. E. Beamish, Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual district meeting at All Saints', Hertford (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th, at 2.30 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting, Colemans Hatch (8), Jan. 15th. Postcards for tea to Miss Divall, Colemans Hatch P.O.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

EAST RETFORD, NOTTS.—Practice meeting Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Tea obtainable at nearby cafes.—O. Street, 61, Cobwell Road, Retford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting at Christchurch on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service in Priory Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45 p.m. in Warren Cafe. Business meeting to follow. Notify by Thursday, Jan. 13th.—G. Preston, Christchurch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea provided and tower open after tea.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Annual district meeting at Great Baddow, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Names by Jan. 19th to Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans and District.—Ringing times, winter, Sundays: St. Peter's, 10.20 a.m., 5.50 p.m.; St. Michael's, 10.20 a.m.; St. Stephen's, 2nd and 4th Sundays, 3 p.m.; Barnet, 3 p.m.; Hatfield, 5.50 p.m.; Harpenden, 1st and 3rd Sundays, 5.45 p.m.; Kimpton, 10.30 a.m., 3 p.m.; Northaw, by arrangement; N. Mymms, 10.20 a.m.; Wheathampstead, 10.30 a.m. Practices: St. Peter's, Mondays, 8 to 9.15 p.m.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Sec.

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