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THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The decision to hold this year a meeting of the Central Council will be generally approved and welcomed by the Exercise. It was not reached without full consideration and the weighing of many things which tell for and against it. On the one hand the objections and the difficulties which up to now have prevented a war-time meeting are not lessened. In some respects they are worse. Travelling facilities are small and inconvenient. Members have for the most part their time fully occupied in other urgent business. And it is very difficult in these days to secure a suitable room. The decision not to bring the Council together during the last four years of war was a wise and a patriotic one.

The time, however, has now come when the interests of the Exercise call for some action. Throughout the country the art of change ringing is reviving after its long eclipse, and all the indications are that, as soon as peace and more normal times come back, there will be great activity. The duty of the Council will be to lead and guide the activity, and it is essential that it shall first straighten out its own affairs and make its own position quite regular. It will not be for the good of the Exercise if ringers get into the habit of saying or thinking, 'We did very well without the Council during the war, and we can do very well without it afterwards.'

In one respect the Council's position is somewhat anomalous. It was elected for three years, and held its first meeting in 1939 at Westminster. Since then four Whitsuntides have gone by, and nominally the Council, with its officials and organisation, has lapsed. It is a position which has not occurred before; for though in 1916 and 1917, during the last war, no meetings were held, the Council met in 1918, which would have normally been the first session of a new Council. The position to-day need cause no difficulty, for the Standing Committee passed a resolution creating a moratorium, and so, in effect, the years in which the Council did not meet are treated as if they did not exist. It will be well, however, for the Council as a whole to confirm this.

During the war much of the ordinary work and activity of the Council has been suspended for reasons which are obvious, and we do not suppose that there will be any wish or attempt to revive them until the war is ended. The various committees will need some time in which to gather up the threads of their work, and it is hardly likely that they will be willing to submit reports

(Continued on page 78.)

at the next meeting or that the Council will expect them to do so.

What will, most likely, mainly occupy the attention of the meeting will be to hear what the three members have to say who recently acquired 'The Ringing World' on behalf of the Council. Some final action by the Council is obviously called for in this matter, and this is really the justification for holding the meeting.

The Council will meet on Whit Monday. This is a departure from custom, for the meetings are normally on Whit Tuesday. In ordinary times that certainly is the most convenient for the majority of members, but this year it is felt that it would not be desirable to meet on a working day. It will be a business meeting, and the usual social side of the gathering will be absent.

Difficulty was experienced in securing a suitable place of meeting, but this has been overcome by the kindness of the Dean of Westminster, who has granted the use of the Jerusalem Chamber in the Abbey. It is one of the most famous and historic rooms in England, and, though it is rather small for a full meeting, it will, it is pretty certain, prove amply sufficient for the number of those who are able to attend in May next.

One further point calls for mention. This country and the world generally are on the eve of tremendous events. Long expected and long prepared for, the invasion of Europe cannot be delayed beyond this spring. When it does come it must cause, for a time at least, a complete dislocation of all civilian traffic, both on road and rail. Everything will have to stand aside for the military needs, and it will be the duty of everybody to keep out of the way as far as possible. We shall be told when the time comes and need not try to anticipate it. Ringers generally can go forward as usual in making their arrangements, but they should not forget that they are all subject to this important and overruling proviso.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,280				1,280			
23456	W	R		23456	W	R	
45236	1	1		43526	2	1	
32546	2	2		45236	1	2	
54326	1	1		25346	2	1	
23456	2	2		23456	1	2	
1,280				1,280			
23456	M	B	W R	23456	M	B	W R
35426	1	—		36452	1	—	2
24536	1	—	2	26354	—	—	1
25346	—	—	1 2	62453	—	—	1 2
23456	1	—	2 2	23456	2	—	1 2
1,280				1,280			
23456	M	B	W R	23456	M	B	W R
32654	—	—	1 2	32654	2	—	2
24653	2	—	1 2	33246	—	—	2
52436	—	—	2	52436	1	—	2 2
23456	—	—		23456	1	—	

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ILMINSTER.

The annual meeting of the Crewkerne Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Ilminster on Feb. 5th.

The chairman, the Rev. G. G. Hickman, presided. He referred to the deaths of Mr. D. G. Taylor, late branch secretary, and Mr. G. Sibily, both of whom belonged to the Ilminster band. Mr. Hickman was re-elected president, and Mr. J. T. Locke was elected branch secretary. Mr. T. H. Taffender was appointed Ringing Master for the time being.

Ringers were present from Taunton, Ilminster, Ditchat, Drayton, Hardington, Surfleet, St. Paul's, London, Burslemombe, Kingstone, Barrington and Milverton.

TEN BELL PEAL.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE. THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES; Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... Treble	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 6
FREDERICK, SEAGER ... 2	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 7
CHRISTOPHER WOOLLEY 3	WILLIAM BARTON ... 8
J. WILLIAM CUNDALL ... 4	JOHN AMBLER ... 9
*GEORGE ROBINSON ... 5	FRED HODGSON ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (275). Conducted by L. W. G. MORRIS.
* 100th peal for the Yorkshire Association. The conductor has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal. Rung half-muffled as a tribute to George Titterton, a member of the Bradford company from 1894 until his death on January 22nd at the age of 88.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; DAY'S SIX-PART.

EDWARD B. WEBSTER ... Treble	JAMES W. KAY ... 5
LESLIE OWEN ... 2	ALBERT GREENHALGH ... 6
MRS. G. ANNIE PAINE ... 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. ... 7
EVEREST FORD ... 4	OWEN OLIVE ... Tenor

Conducted by MRS. G. ANNIE PAINE.
Rung for the 80th birthday of Mr. R. Newton, formerly of Manchester.

CHARLTON KINGS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.	Tenor 20 cwt.
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... Treble	ARTHUR H. REED ... 5
WALTER YEEND ... 2	WALTER C. ROSE ... 6
WILLIAM DYER ... 3	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 7
*GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 4	*FREDERICK SIMMONDS ... Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., Feb. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 4 cwt. 3 qr.

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... Treble	WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) ... 5
*MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... 2	†WILLIAM F. GIBBONS (Keble) ... 6
†MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 3	HARRY MILES (St. Catherine's) ... 7
BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 4	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG (Keble) ... Tenor

Composed by C. MARTIN (C.C.C. 117). Conducted by J. E. SPICE.
* First peal on tower bells. † First peal of Bob Major on tower bells. ‡ First attempt for a tower-bell peal. The first tower-bell peal of Major for the society.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. (Hinckley District.)

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.	Tenor 14½ cwt.
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... Treble	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 5
JAMES DRAYCOTT ... 2	LEONARD TREVOR ... 6
CYRIL ISON ... 3	FRANK TROTMAN ... 7
*CHARLES PAYNE ... 4	WILLIAM BRIGGS ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.
* First peal of Stedman Triples. † First peal as conductor and first attempt.

SIX BELL PEALS.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Jan. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR C. NASON ... Treble	HUBERT JONES ... 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS ... 2	E. HENRY MEREDITH ... 5
JAMES HUGHES ... 3	THOMAS P. BARLOW ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. BENIAMS.

Rung for the 21st birthday of Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. A. C. Nason.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Feb. 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... Treble	JOHN H. FOSTER ... 4
STEPHEN LAWRENSEN ... 2	*RALPH TAYLOR ... 5
SGT. R. WILSON, R.A.F. 3	*GNR. H. E. G. JEANES ... Tenor

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal.

COPPULL, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob and five of Plain Bob.
Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

FRED RIGBY ... Treble	DAVID CARPENTER ... 4
RICHARD BLAKEY ... 2	ALAN CARPENTER ... 5
ROGER LEIGH ... 3	J. H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Conducted by F. RIGBY.

HANDBELL PEALS.

THORNTON HEATH, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Feb. 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT 17, HAMILTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 17.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10	

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

This peal has the extent of the 6th in fittums and handstroke in alternate course ends.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

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HANDLING A BELL.

RIGHT OR LEFT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in your article, 'Handling a Bell,' and I am quite convinced that if they were published in book form after the war it would serve a good purpose.

When I commence teaching a recruit my first question is to ask him if he is right handed or left. If he is right, I teach him to hold the tail end in his right hand, or if he is left to hold it in his left, as I have nearly always found that they make better strikers this way. I have got into hot water more than once over this, but no one could ever convince me I was wrong.

B. T. JEANES.

Bridgewater.

HOLDING THE ROPE.

Dear Sir,—Surely you do not and cannot mean that a learner should be taught to raise and fall a bell without taking up any coils. This I consider (as I see it) to be contradictory to your previous instructions, in which you say (and I fully agree) that a ringer should stand so and so, hands close together at both hand and back strokes, head only to be moved (not body), make a graceful bow when required to create further energy.

But now to be told that a ringer should raise or fall in practically the same manner as he is told to ring—this, to me, is simply asking for trouble, and is certainly not in harmony with previous lessons. I hesitate to think what may happen at a small tower, where rope space is limited, when raising or falling is taking place, ropes flying around in confusion. The probability is of a ringer endeavouring to catch hold of someone else's rope, and, as I see it, the failure of having any control of his or her bell, and perhaps some learners in.

I well remember a few years ago a very well-known ringer, who had rung and conducted more peals than I can expect to ring, and who has, I regret to say, since passed over. He was asked to join us in falling the bells, which he did, lowering the tenor without taking up any coils whatever. Did the rope fall in a straight perpendicular path? I definitely think not. Far from it.

You say that when a ringer is occupied with three or four coils the work is not equally divided between the two hands. I fail to see why this should be so, for a good ringer can and does use practically the same energy with his left hand as his right hand. This balancing of weight cannot be obtained when a man is not using any coils and on a slack rope.

You say it is the usual thing that when raising a bell (15 to 20 cwt.) it will rise easily enough until it double clappers. May I suggest (although I am open to correction) this would depend on three things, the go of the bell, if raised in peal, and on the length of the bell? If the bell be 'long waisted,' as we term it, it would appear that the hardest work comes before it double clappers and not after, as the maximum amount of energy must be applied at the earliest possible moment, and as the bell gathers momentum less energy is required to get the bell on the balance or setting in position. No doubt some will disagree with this, but I am speaking as I have found it.

E. W. BIFFIN.

St. Thomas, Exeter.

[Mr. Biffin has, we think, missed our point. If the pulling is done in the correct manner, it is quite easy to raise a bell holding the tail end in much the same fashion as it is held in ringing without the rope flying about in any way. It is possible without holding the tail end at all, though we do not recommend that plan. The advantages are that both hands are free to do their work. We said that the learner should be taught to raise without being bothered by the tail end. It is the instructor's job to look after that until the novice knows how and when to pull. We said nothing, whatever about ceasing where the conditions are different from raising, and the fact that a man who had rung many peals was incompetent proves no more than that he was incompetent. Mr. Biffin's final point does not affect our argument in any way.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NORWICH.**

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on February 5th, at which about 36 members attended from Bergh Apton, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norton Subcourse, Ranworth, Wroxham and Wymondham. Ringing included methods up to Cambridge.

Preaching at the service, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (general secretary) said it was a matter for congratulation that these bells, silent for several years, had been got into use again at a time when so many activities are being given up. The number of beginners who have come forward in Norwich recently is also a healthy sign. They include a member of the American Forces, and it would be interesting to know how many other members of the American Forces are taking up ringing in other parts of the country.

Tea was provided by the Sisters at Ber House. It was decided to hold the annual meeting on Easter Monday, with ringing at Mancroft and one other church in the afternoon.

PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Abridged from an article which appeared in 'The New England Historical and Genealogical Register,' of Boston, U.S.A., for April, 1904.)

In the year 1788, Paul Revere, patriot and versatile craftsman of keen artistic sense, established a furnace for heavy castings at his foundry in Boston, where, within a few years, he undertook the production of church bells. This business was successfully prosecuted until his death in 1818, at the age of eighty-nine years, during which period more than two hundred bells were turned out. The original foundry having been damaged extensively by the memorable gale of October 9th, 1804, which carried away the steeple of Christ Church and the roof of the tower of King's Chapel, the work of casting was transferred to Revere's estate in Canton, still in the possession of his descendants.

Early in the eighteenth century bell founding had attained a high degree of perfection; long practical experience had led to the adoption of a uniform design or pattern, corresponding nearly in contour to the quadrant of an ellipse, the mathematical curve which harmonises with the law of acoustics. In theory an instrument moulded in this shape should emit a series of sounds called the tonic, or fundamental, its third and fifth, its octave above, called nominal, and its octave below, called hum-note. In practice, however, founders had learned the advantage of shortening the bell, and thus sharpening or raising the hum-note in order to prevent the over-powering of the sub-notes by its prolonged drone or nasal twang, which in the Spanish bells, designed of greater height, affects the ear so unpleasantly.

This defection from the chord does not, as might be expected, convey a sense of discord; on the contrary, by the deflection of the modified note into a separate plane, as ingeniously suggested by Canon Simpson, the more tuneful fundamentals and nominals are rendered prominent, especially when the bells are struck in rapid succession, each making a complete revolution at each blow. At the same time, the ear is delighted by the frequent resolution of these discords into concords which must take place if a ring of bells is correctly attuned.

It is this sequence of striking harmonic effects which constitutes the ground plan of scientific change ringing wherein melody is relegated to the background. This principle of advanced music, always appreciated by the English ringing guilds, has been expanded in the art of counterpoint, in which, under certain conditions, discords are admitted with beautiful effect; and the application of this same theory of harmonics has imparted brilliancy and endurance to many of the best classical compositions.

It is desirable to explain that these harmonic effects are not produced by the system of chiming as commonly practised in America, in accordance with which psalm

tunes are slowly hammered out by means of an electrical or other mechanical makeshift, the bells being rigidly bolted mouth downwards to an immovable beam. It is only in change ringing, when the bells are moved with velocity upon the principle of the pendulum rather than that of the cart wheel, and each managed by a separate ringer, that the carrying power and harmonic blending of the sound waves are fully developed. This fascinating art, at one time cultivated in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, became lost and virtually forgotten in this country after the Revolution.

As to the component parts of bell metal, the proper proportion of copper to tin (about 13 to 4) necessary to ensure the maximum resonance consistent with safe brittleness was well known to founders of the seventeenth century, although the law of atomic weights or chemical equivalents had not then been discovered. A knowledge of these fundamental laws, however, was not alone adequate to secure the production of a superior instrument; and if many of Revere's early bells must be allowed to be of inferior quality, this would be the natural result of his want of practical experience and early training; for without such qualifications he could hardly have evolved the various empirical rules and delicate processes by which the English founders had learned to mould that homogeneous, tenacious and elastic amalgam essential to the production of perfect vibration.

For instance, it would appear that in fusing his metals he did not at first appreciate the importance of maintaining a comparatively low temperature, in order to throw off in the form of dross certain impurities which are reduced by greater heat and thus retained within the amalgam to the detriment of its sound-producing qualities. Nor could he have appreciated what has since been demonstrated, viz., the marked difference which exists in the brittleness and sonorous properties of both copper and tin from individual mines. Moreover, none of his bells show traces of any attempt to correct errors of tone by grinding, now accomplished by machinery.

Before this venture of Revere's, the art of bell founding was practically unknown in America, though a few bells had been cast in the Colonies, notably the second Liberty bell, made by Pass and Snow, in 1753, for the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania and weighing 2,089 lb. (18 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb.). And yet the first New England colonists had brought from the 'Ringing Island' a love for the sound of musical bells, and their churches were supplied with bells of a light calibre imported from England.

While many of the delicate details essential to the creation of a musical bell were therefore unknown to Revere, no better models could have been found than those at his command in the towers and steeples of Boston and vicinity. With the sweet-toned ring of Christ Church, distant but a few hundred feet from his foundry, he had long been familiar, having been one of the ringers at that tower; and within the radius of half a mile were

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It was doubtless with a consciousness of deficiencies in methods that in 1804 John Warren Revere, who four years before had become associated with his father in business, visited England and the Continent in order to acquire all available information pertaining to the manufacture of brass and copper. After his return it is certain that finer castings were produced, until in 1816 a heavy bell was made for King's Chapel, which for homogeneous casting, power, grandeur, and mellowness of tone can hardly be surpassed. Its minor chord, or harmonious discord, gives it a distinct identity, and the writer recalls that often on a quiet night, when the bells of the city were being rung for fire, its ponderous boom could be distinguished above all others. As shown, however, by the late H. P. Munroe, who was endowed with a phenomenal perception for delicate musical sounds, this bell could form no part of a ring or chime, since by the resolution of its harmonics by the consonant vibration of other bells attuned to the same key the most dissonant doleful combinations would result.

(To be continued.)

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DUNSTABLE.

The annual meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, February 12th, and was well attended, ringers being present from Luton, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and the local tower.

Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise Major and Superlative were rung. A short business meeting was held in the belfry before tea. Ringers made their own arrangements for tea and afterwards returned to the belfry, where the bells were kept going until 7.15 p.m.

DEATH OF ALFRED J. TURNER.

Alfred J. Turner, of Lewes, whose death we recently reported, rang in all 387 peals. They included five of Cambridge Surprise Royal, one of Double Norwich Royal, eleven of Treble Bob Royal, and sixteen of Plain Bob Royal. Of Caters he rang 34 Stedman and 20 Grandsire.

His Major peals consisted of 41 in the four Standard Surprise methods (mainly on the treble), Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Plain Bob and Grandsire. The seven bell peals numbered 143, mostly Stedman and Grandsire, but also including Plain Bob and Union. Three peals were Minor and one Grandsire Doubles.

Mr. Turner called three peals of Grandsire Triples, and one of each Plain Bob Major and Royal.

Mr. Turner taught John S. Goldsmith to handle a bell.

ST. PATRICK'S, HOCKLEY HEATH.

The Church of St. Patrick, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire, erected in 1861, is of red brick in 'Victorian Gothic' style, consisting of aisled nave, chancel and western tower. It stands almost isolated in the fields.

The bells, five in number, were cast by John Warner and Sons when the church was built. In 1937 they were tuned, rehung on ball bearings and part new fittings and the frame strengthened by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon.

Although they have been in the tower over eighty years, the peal rung on February 12th by five members of the St. Martin's Guild was the first on them.

A MINIATURE BELL TOWER.

At Balscote Home Farm, near Banbury (Oxon), is a belfry, built over the washhouse, in which are five handbells, hung for ringing, the weight of the tenor being 12 lb.

The tower and bells were originally at Warmington, but when Mr. Jarvis, the owner, moved to Balscote he rebuilt his tower at his new home. The ringing chamber is on the ground floor in the washhouse, and access to the bell chamber is through an orthodox trap-door.

Mr. Jarvis has shown great ingenuity in the hanging of the bells. The frame and fittings are strongly constructed of wood, with the exception of the wheels, which are made from the rims of bicycle wheels, attached to the headstocks by means of wooden spokes. Each bell is weighted with old iron to bring its effectual weight to half a hundredweight. The ropes must necessarily be very light, and plough lines are used for this purpose with sallies worked into them.

Handling in peal is tricky, but not difficult, and last August, after a few ineffectual attempts, the first 120 of Doubles was rung on the bells by a band of visitors.

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The official Journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
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'The Ringing World.'

In connection with the Henry Johnson luncheon, Birmingham Cath-
edral bells will be available for visitors at 12 noon. St. Martin's bells
will be available immediately after the luncheon.

MR. WILLIAM KEEBLE.

GIFT OF PEAL BOOKS.

Mr. William Keeble, whose many friends will be sorry to learn is
in very poor health, has offered his peal books, which contain the
record of well over 800 peals, to the Society of Royal Cumberland
Youths for safe keeping and future reference. The offer has been
gladly accepted and the books will be formally presented to the society
by Mr. W. H. Fussell at the first favourable opportunity.

A LETTER FROM INDIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We would like you to know how much we appreciate the
good old 'Ringing World' out here. It takes a long time to reach
us, but we read it from cover to cover when it does arrive. The
articles by Mr. Morris and the others are very interesting indeed.
The most annoying thing, though, is that we sometimes fail to get
our copy, due no doubt to our friends the enemy.

H. WOOLASTON, Midland Counties Association.
H. R. BOYNE, Norwich Diocesan Association.

FUNERAL OF MR. FREDERICK G. SYMONDS.

The funeral of Mr. F. G. Symonds, who, as already reported, died
suddenly on February 10th, took place at Southgate Cemetery on the
following Wednesday.

The ringers present included Mr. J. Hawkins, representing the
Ancient Society of College Youths; Messrs. G. H. Cross and G. W.
Steere, Master and secretary of the Royal Cumberland Youths; Mr.
and Mrs. C. J. Matthews, Messrs. A. Hardy and T. Bevan, from St.
Martin-in-the-Fields; and Messrs. J. Armstrong, W. Bowden, M.
Fenson, A. R. Glasscock, J. Miller, H. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. N.
Tomlinson and David Wright, members of the Southgate company.

Mr. Stedman Symonds and Mr. Morris T. Symonds, brother and
nephew of the deceased respectively, and members of the well-known
Lavenham band were also there.

Among the many wreaths were those from Lady Heun-Collins, his
colleagues at the Law Courts, the Cumberland Youths, ringers at
Lavenham and Southgate, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Nash.

At the conclusion of the service a course of Grandsire Triples was
rung over the grave by Messrs. G. H. Cross 1-2, G. W. Steere 3-4, J.
Armstrong 5-6, W. Bowden 7-8.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY SMALE.

The death is announced of Mr. Harry Smale, of Broadstone, Dorset,
which occurred after a short illness. The funeral was at St. James'
Church, Poole, on February 5th, and was conducted by the Rector.
Before the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and after the
reading of the lesson a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on
handbells. The burial was at Broadstone Cemetery. Rounds on hand-
bells were rung after the committal.

Mr. Smale was a native of Harlow, Essex. During the time he
lived in East Dorset he was a regular and valued member of the
band at St. James', Poole.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

THE COUNCIL'S 'IDEAL TOWER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is well known that the Council's 'ideal' tower is at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, and if this is the tower to which Mr. Corby refers he might like to know that there are two floors between the ringers and the bells and not one, as he states in his letter.

'K.C.A.' is not correct in his dates, and, moreover, appears to have misunderstood Mr. Roper's letter.

The tower was completed in 1930, the first bell (now the present sixth) installed in 1932 and the following year the Vicar had a floor laid in the webs of the foundation girders which had been provided with the first bell. The octave was completed in 1935.

I see from notes which I made in 1933 that the clock weights are suspended from inside the bell chamber, and that they fall to the floor below the ringers' room, and if the weights have not been encased at least in the bell chamber and ringing room the bells will be unnecessarily loud, and in any case there is ample space between the ringing chamber and the bell chamber for still further floors to be inserted if found necessary, and it should not be impossible to reduce the sound of the bells inside the tower to the pleasant proportions obtaining outside.

R. H. DOVE.

Leeds.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the articles on acoustics in towers, and I have been hoping someone would come along with a case where only some of the bells are heard away from the tower.

We have a case in Cornwall where only five bells out of eight can be heard properly a short distance from the tower. In 1939 two new bells were added to a ring of six, the old treble was lowered and the two new trebles hung under the other five. A month after the opening I was asked by the church council and ringers to visit the tower in the hope that I could give them some advice.

While the bells were rung I was taken to different parts of the parish to hear the effect. It was certainly disappointing, and one person said we could hear six at one time; now we can only hear five. Inside the tower the bells sound perfect, but the people in the parish are very disappointed. I realised at the time that nothing could be done during the war, but I should be grateful if anyone has some advice to offer so that as soon as possible after the war something could be done to improve this nice ring of eight.

It may interest some ringers to know that in 1910 when Truro Cathedral bells were first rung the tower must have been one of the worst for acoustics, inside and out. It was almost impossible to hear calls made in the belfry, but after a few months the Dean and Chapter had a wood floor put under the bells, 2in. thick and covered with felt. The floor being fastened to the girders carrying the bells, this proved to be just the right thing.

In 1931 four ringers did the steeplekeeping and put the salary towards improvements to the belfry. In 1932 they offered £20 to the Dean and Chapter towards the cost of boarding up the louvres. This was soon done and the people living near the tower were very pleased. Through lack of experience we did not have the job done properly, everything was made a fixture whereas we could easily have had them to open above the bells as we have 13ft. of louvres above the bells when they are up. On occasions when we have rung for something special like victory bells we would have liked to have opened the louvres. We have been disappointed when told by people in some parts of Truro that they did not hear our bells. To end, may I ask which is most important, the sound outside or inside the tower?

W. H. SOUTHEARD.

Bodmin Road, Truro.

MR. CORBY REPLIES.

Dear Sir,—It is most gratifying that my letter should, in part, have prompted such constructive contributions from gentlemen who have made a life study of belfries and their appointment.

It would appear that lack of funds is the difficulty most frequently encountered, and no doubt the responsible authorities sometimes insist upon mispending the funds they have. It would seem that there are many useless augmentations, the cost of which would be better devoted to improving the existing belfry conditions.

I imagine that Mr. Roper's first, second and fourth points would hardly apply in a tower having a band of keen change ringers, but naturally one can believe anything in the case of towers where 'Churchyard Bob' or set changes or any other prostration of the ringers' art reign supreme.

As both Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Roper rightly point out, it is the duty of all of us to do all we can to urge church authorities to do the right thing. It is to be hoped that by closer co-operation in the future the associations, the Central Council, the bell firms and ringers generally will be able to avoid a repetition of past failures. That a peal of bells and the belfry housing them, if not an eternal monument, are a very lasting one, has its disadvantages and responsibilities as well as its compensations.

P. A. CORBY.

Sutton, Ely.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

WEST COUNTRY RINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was a pleasure to read the letter by Mr. Coles in your issue of February 18th and to find a Londoner praising our 'West Country' bells.

There are, as he says, many fine peals in the West and he mentions some of them.

The peal at Ash Priors is mentioned as 'the prettiest peal of six.' In his opinion it may be, but opinions differ and I do not think any one man can say which is the best or the prettiest.

I would like to mention the light musical peal of six at Nether Stowey, Somerset, which I think is one of the finest in the West to listen to, but, again, this is only my opinion.

I have rung there for several years when on leave at my old home, and those bells sound better than anything I have heard when listening to them from the south-east corner of the churchyard or on the Bridgwater road. They sound equally nice in the belfry. They go well, but are not easy to ring, there being a very long draught. They were recast by Taylor in 1914, hung by a local man (Sully, of Stogumber) on plain bearings, and nothing has been done since except the regular and careful application of spanner and oil can by Mr. Redding, to whom I am deeply indebted for teaching me to ring West Country call changes.

During the last few months when on duty in the West Country, I have been able to ring at various places, including Tiverton, which Mr. Coles mentions. That peal of eight is the nicest I have rung on, easy to ring, a large well laid out belfry, the bells sounding equally pleasant both inside and out.

I went up top to see the bells in motion and from an engineering point of view that job takes a lot of beating. The bell chamber was spotlessly clean.

There is a fairly good peal of eight at Torrington, but the method of ringing and the attitude of the ringers rather spoils any attempt.

The ropes are all much too long and the ringers put their arms through the loop at the tail. (I had to ring with three coils round my hand.) The bells are raised in peal, no pause but straight on with the fastest call changes I have ever heard, then lower in peal. The ringers then walk out of the church, and because I stayed for the service (which I like to do after ringing and incidentally think every ringer should do likewise) I was looked on with amazement. Their system appeared very odd to me, and the captain, who has been there over 50 years, said, 'Come again if you've a mind to, I'll make a ringer of 'ee yet.'

May I conclude with a word of thanks to the various captains of towers I have visited in the large area covered by the Southern Command. The welcome invariably given is very much appreciated by us Service men away-from home and unable to ring in towers we like best.

H. J. CANN, Major, Royal Corps of Signals.

DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW.

Dear Sir,—I have been interested in the correspondence in your columns regarding the qualities of rings of bells. It is quite true that no hard and fast rule can be laid down as to what constitutes a good peal, as there are many things to take into consideration, such as tone, situation, time of hearing, etc., and also no general standard can be arrived at, as what would be good to one would arouse no enthusiasm in another.

Some people like a resounding note even to the point of shrillness, while others, myself included, prefer them mellow. A point of agreement is shared, however, by most, where a peal has undoubted good qualities, and in such a case it can be regarded as some sort of standard, although not comprehensive. Such a peal would be found to have certain definite characteristics, viz., they will be of a reasonable weight; they will be complete, i.e., each bell will contain the good qualities of all, the smaller bells being of reasonable size and boldness of tone and not, say, overshadowed by four sonorous back bells. (Quite a few so-called good peals have somewhat mediocre front bells rounded off by back bells of undoubted quality, which, being a good finish to rounds, have misled many indiscriminating listeners to vote the whole peal good.)

Now, I am sure that environment, situation of the church and even bells in that church, opportunity and time of listening, as well as recommendations of disparagement received before making acquaintance with them play an important part in a person's judgment.

To illustrate. The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley (now, unfortunately, in ruins), had a nice-toned peal of eight. Pleasant to listen to in tower, church or churchyard and in the adjacent recreation ground, yet in the town, a hundred yards distant, they sounded like a pack of howling dogs. So, a ringer hearing them for the first time from the town would never have a good word for them, while another, listening in the churchyard, would vote them a good peal, as they undoubtedly were.

Before and after settling in Shropshire I had heard of the merits of the ten at Coalbrookdale. I had seen photographs of the valley and church taken from the surrounding heights. Surely in such a pleasant spot there would be a good peal of bells? There is. A really well-balanced, mellow, pleasant toned peal. (I know others in Kent

(Continued on page 85.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 53.)

The magnificent church of St. Mary, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is cruciform in plan with central tower. It is a stately embattled tower with pinnacles and dwarf spire, the stage next above the church roof being 13th century work enriched with much dog-tooth ornament. The top stage is late Perpendicular with groups of four windows, of which the outer two are blind. These groups are identical in design with those at Loughborough and both may have been suggested by that of St. Mary's, Nottingham. A part of the stair turret is probably late Norman work. Both the nave and transepts are embattled with crocketed pinnacles at the ends, and have a fine continuous clerestory comprising twelve large windows on each side of the nave, and six on either side of the transepts, giving a cathedral-like effect.

The tower contains a ring of ten bells with tenor 25½ cwt., and the approach here is direct by spiral stairway from the north transept floor. As early as 1553 there were 'V great bells in the stepyll with ye sance bell,' and from that time onwards the churchwardens' accounts provide interesting notes on repairs and additions to the ring. In 1557 they paid 'iijd for a galland of ale to ye Reyngars when ye bycchype was here.' The great bell of the ring of five appears to have been recast in 1656, and in 1728 they were made six. Various bells were recast, and in 1802 two added, making eight. In 1894 two further bells were added and all rehung in a frame for the ten. In 1878 a carillon machine was fitted by Gillett and Bland and played a series of tunes each day of the week.

The earliest peal I have been able to trace here was on June 1st, 1830, when Leicester ringers rang 5,040 Grand-sire Triples in 3 hours 22 minutes. The first peal on the ten was 5,008 Stedman Caters by Loughborough ringers conducted by the late John W. Taylor. A variety of other peals of Triples, Caters and Royal have been rung, but only one of Major—Double Norwich—conducted by the late C. H. Fowler, rung muffled to the memory of the Duke of Fife on February 3rd, 1912, in 3 hours 35 minutes. It was in this tower that the present writer rang his first as conductor at the age of 18—in 1908—Holt's ten-part of Grandsire Triples.

The church of St. Laurence, Ludlow, Salop, is a spacious cruciform building in Early English and later styles, with a noble lofty central tower 136 feet high. The latter is remarkable for its height and good outline. The buttresses are octagonal, continued above the parapet, and finished each with a small central pinnacle. The parapet is battlemented, incised with an arcade pattern, and supports a medium pinnacle on each face. The windows (or window forms) are large and peculiar; in the top stage very tall, in the middle stage of moderate height. The top windows are blind except for a very small portion of their upper half: on each side of the perforated portions in the window form is a pedestal bearing a statue. The arcades of all the windows are of very flat four centred form. During 1889 to 1891 the tower was completely restored under the direction of Sir A. W. Blomfield.

There is in the tower a ring of eight, tenor 22½ cwt., and a Sanctus. The ring are all by Abr. Rudhall,

of Gloucester, 1732, except the treble, which was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1890, who at the same time rehung the bells.

Mr. Walters, in his 'Church Bells of Shropshire,' gives copious notes on these bells, and many interesting extracts from churchwardens' accounts from as early as 1471. One item as late as 1624 is interesting, 'Item paid to William Baker for Draweing the artickles for the Castinge of the two bells and makeinge of six three-quarter wheeles and stocks and hangeinge of them for Draweing and fayer writinge of them & for making two bonds and two acquittances for the same . . . 5s. 6d.'

Ludlow has long been noted for its chimes and from 1795 they have played a series of tunes daily. In 1808 they were repaired, and altered in 1883. When the tower was restored a new chime machine was installed by Leeson, of Coleshill, near Birmingham. It is interesting to note there are 165 steps up to the ringing chamber, and when you get there you are practically in darkness, as there are no windows. There is a circular lead light let in the floor, through which the ringers can look down into the body of the church. As there is scarcely any light obtained from this source, artificial light must be always employed when ringing is in progress. On at least two occasions the office of Mayor of this ancient borough has been held by ringers from this church.

St. Mary's Church, Ashford, Kent, is a cruciform building mainly Perpendicular, with central tower containing 10 bells, a clock with two dials and carillon chimes. The tower follows more or less in plan that of Canterbury Cathedral, but is otherwise in contrast by its peculiar paucity of detail. It is, nevertheless, a success chiefly by reason of the size and judicious placing of its windows. The spirelets have been repaired and apparently reduced in size.

Of the bells, the tenor is 24 cwt. and by Thomas Mears in 1796. The next five bells are all by Joseph Hatch, except the 6th, which is by William Hatch and date from 1620 to 1651. The 3rd and 4th are by Lester and Pack, 1762, and two trebles by Gillett and Co. According to the 'Church Bells of Kent' the two latter bells do not, strictly speaking, form part of the ring, being used for the chimes only. The selection of tunes, one for each day of the week, is not very happy. In 1898 the 8th bell was recast by J. Taylor and Co. and all rehung.

Milton Abbey, Dorset, is dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Sampson and St. Branwalader, and was founded here A.D. 937 by King Athelstan. It was constituted an Abbey in King Edgar's time A.D. 964. The original church was burned down to the ground in 1309, and partially rebuilt 1392 to 1417. Later additions were made at various times until the Dissolution in 1539. It was restored in 1865 under the direction of Sir George G. Scott.

Its central tower is a fine composition of Early Perpendicular character, with pierced windows very deeply recessed and well moulded. Rectangular buttresses are placed both beside and between the windows, all the buttresses arising from the solid wall below, beyond the surface of which they do not project. Above the spring of the window arches the buttresses are continued, much reduced in size, as pilasters ending in pinnacles above the parapet. There are thus two pinnacles near each

corner, but not at it, and one in the middle of each side, an arrangement which is paralleled in other Dorset and South Somerset examples. The parapet is straight, perforated with quatrefoils. The stair turret projects at the south-east corner, and to approach the belfry one first ascends a stairway at the north-east corner of the south transept, thence along the transept roof to the central tower.

With regard to the spoliation of the ancient bells of Milton Abbey, in the 'Church Bells of Dorset' (by the late Canon Raven), the following note appears:—'Towards the end of the 18th century, Joseph Damer, Lord Milton (lord of the manor), decided to pull down the old town of Milton. Mr. Harrison, a resident solicitor, put a difficulty in his lordship's way by refusing to sell his lease, although he was offered three times its value. So the water crept around his premises. Mr. Harrison then entered an action against Lord Milton for flooding his house, and the lawyer won his case. A few days afterwards his lordship went to London, and on his way to Blandford he heard the bells of the Abbey Church ringing. This he interpreted as a sign of parochial joy at his defeat and departure; and nothing would satisfy him but the sale of the offending bells. The bells were really ringing to commemorate Guy Fawkes Day; it was the 5th of November. But the bells had to go, for Lord Milton, the autocrat, had spoken; and his friend, the Dean of Norwich, had said that 'bell ringing caused much idleness and drinking.' The great tenor bell, weighing 35 cwt., was sold to Bath Abbey; two other bells were given to St. James' Church, Milton (one of which was cracked by a carpenter striking it with a hammer, at a wedding, just before it was hung); but what became of the Abbey bells is not known. There is a record, however, that when the parishioners saw their old bells carted away, they stood at their house doors weeping.' The old bells were five in number.

At the present time the Abbey tower contains a light peal of eight, tenor about 10 cwt. The front three cast by Llewellyns and James, 1909, and the back five by Warner and Sons, 1861.

The old tenor, sold to Bath Abbey, is not in existence now, having been twice recast since it was sold.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS

(Continued from page 83.)

and the Eastern Counties as good, of course.) Now in a neighbouring town is a peal of eight. The church is uninteresting to look at, the bells seemed an ordinary, fair-toned peal to me. A young enthusiast, with a passion for bells cast by a certain founder, does not see anything outstanding about Coalbrookdale reiterating that these neighbouring eight are as good, and would sound so if they were in Coalbrookdale church. As an experiment, during ringing one night I closed my eyes and imagined myself at Coalbrookdale, and I can assure you that the bells of the neighbouring town improved in tone beyond belief and I feel I like them a lot better than on my first few visits.

Which just shows you. Or does it?

CYRIL BRETT-SMITH.

TIVERTON BELLS.

Dear Sir,—The best ring of bells I have heard as regards sweetness of music is the Tiverton peal and I have heard a few peals.

The Rev. F. E. Robinson, who rang a peal of Double Norwich on October 15th, 1892, said Tiverton was a fine ring.

A peal of Stedman Triples in this belfry by a good band would be worth listening to, as this method has been termed in Mr. E. Morris' book 'mellow' and 'harmonious.'

J. MAURICE TURNER, Chairman, North-East Devon Guild.

A WOULD-BE DICTATOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Recently a letter appeared in a certain journal criticising our long-winded democratic methods of meetings, committees and all the rest of it, suggesting that results ought to be obtained in half the time. It immediately brought to my mind the question of democracy versus the dictatorship, and led me to the thought—where should I start if I was given the position of supreme dictator of the ringing exercise.

What a beautiful thought—give my orders, all my pet theories put into practice. But wait a minute. Ringing has just passed through its most critical period for centuries. It makes it a bit more difficult perhaps, but anyway there's no harm in having a try—no one else seems to have any very startling ideas about putting ringing back on its feet.

It would be an excellent place for a dictator to start. How should I get more ringers? Well on that well-worn topic there is not much new to be said, but I would turn over all propaganda to encouraging instructors and their young charges. The supreme place in the Exercise would be given to those men who could claim the most impressive record as instructors. The limelight would be turned on them, full candlepower, and on the results they achieved.

All the quarter-peals and peals would be given a prominent place in 'The Ringing World,' provided they had at least one first of some sort and the younger the better. There would be no encouragement for peal-hogs, all peals rung for the sake of peal ringing would be put under miscellaneous performances in much the same way as quarter-peals are at present—that is until such times as the Exercise could afford to ring peals as a bit of reward for its labours in building itself up.

Another decree I should issue immediately would be to see that all ringers in the Forces, without a ringing contact in civilian life, were contacted and kept interested as potential manpower when they are demobilised. Any association, or district of an association, not holding meetings would have to give a very good reason for not doing so, and whatever the reasons I should make determined efforts to start them off again. How many districts are reaping the benefit to-day for their efforts to keep going during the very dark days?

So much for putting ringing on its feet, and now another problem. Overlapping would have to be ironed out. All this business of Diocesan Guilds and County Associations or Guilds would have to end. It would have to be one or the other, and as dictator I should say keep to the county boundaries. Very few ringers think of their ringing except by its geographical connections, and we may as well fashion the Exercise along these lines, making the big ringing centres the nucleus of the ringing in the county in which they find themselves.

But what of London? That will give any dictator a headache. Why? Well, London ringing wants welding into one united whole, and it will take a very good man to achieve this end, without treading on the corns of its four societies. What a prospect if it could be done! Grand peals of bells of all numbers, many excellent ringers. Well, as a dictator I should make that an aim of mine and chance the consequences.

The London postal district would become the area of the London Society and all the present societies would retain their individuality, but be part of a united whole working together and not against each other.

Well, that would be a fairly good start for a dictator and should be enough to be going on with. Until I can perfect further plans maybe there are other potential dictators with ideas. I should like to hear them.

'ICEN.'

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on February 5th and was attended by nearly 50 members from a wide area.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, who also took the chair at the tea and business meeting.

Six honorary members and eight ringing members were elected. The accounts showed a satisfactory balance in hand, for since the lifting of the ban more subscriptions had been paid.

The district officers were re-elected, the Rev. L. Storey, of Dorking, taking the place of the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge as representative on the General Executive Committee. Miss Hilda Miles, of Claygate, was appointed assistant secretary.

It was agreed that the joint meeting with the Surrey Association should be held at Leatherhead on August Monday, and it was left to the Ringing Master and secretary to arrange other meetings as the occasion permitted. It was hoped that this year a more representative pilgrimage to the grave of J. S. Goldsmith would be possible.

The ringing was in a variety of methods from rounds to Cambridge Royal, an encouraging sign being the number of young ringers taking part. A good fall in peal finished off the day.

LIVERPOOL.—At the Church of St. Peter, Woolton, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. W. Hammond 1, A. Lintott 2, G. H. Hesketh 3, T. W. Gilmore 4, E. Boulmirey 5, G. R. Newton 6, P. W. Cave (conductor) 7, W. Robinson 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

DEVIZES.—On February 2nd, at St. James', 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Olive Hunt (first attempt) 1, A. T. Weeks 2, Peter Hunt 3, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 4, David Lye 5, F. Edwards 6.—On Sunday, February 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Olive Hunt 1, A. T. Weeks 2, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 3, P. J. F. Hunt 4, D. J. Lye 5, K. Abrahams 6. A welcome to the Rev. G. Hamilton Douglas as Vicar of St. Peter's, Devizes.

SUDEBURY, SUFFOLK.—On February 5th, at St. Gregory's, 448 Cambridge Surprise Major: H. Herbert 1, T. Bird 2, T. Chinery 3, C. Clarke 4, A. Haynes 5, L. Johnson 6, T. Howell 7, D. Elliott (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, February 6th, 1,264 Bob Major: G. Dixon 1, A. Fitch 2, T. Chinery 3, C. Clarke 4, A. Haynes 5, L. Johnson 6, S. Howell 7, D. Elliott (conductor) 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On February 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: H. Hayes 1, H. Hodgetts 2, W. Attwood (first quarter-peal with inside bell) 3, L. Tarr 4, J. Robson (conductor) 5, E. Rosson 6.—On February 8th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, J. Rosson 3, L. Tarr 4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5, W. Attwood 6. First quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 720 London Surprise Minor, C. H. Avlett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor (first in the method) 3, J. W. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

FARNHAM ROYAL.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. H. Fussell 1, F. Hicks 2, N. Harding 3, W. Henley 4, A. R. Gale (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, J. Barkus 6, A. Levitt 7, A. Alley (first quarter-peal) 8. Rung for the baptism of the conductor's youngest daughter.

HEREFORD.—At St. Bartholomew's, Holmer, on February 6th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: J. W. Downes 1, Miss J. Wheeler 2, F. E. Downes 3, Ivor Probert 4, A. E. Hurcombe 5, P. O. Salmon (conductor) 6.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Walter P. Whitehead 1, George Thompson 2, Edgar H. Vallance 3, Cyril Ison 4, Leonard Trevor 5, Bert Ridgway 6, Frank Trotman (first quarter-peal as conductor and first attempt) 7, P. O. Percy Moore 8.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, on Sunday, February 6th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. S. Owen 1, T. A. Easterby 2, F. S. Bacon 3, F. W. Richardson 4, G. H. Daynes 5, F. Shorter (conductor) 6, H. Clark 7, C. D. Letzer 8.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On February 11th, 1,264 Bob Major: Miss N. Wigington 1, J. Curry 2, G. Sewell 3, C. Rawding 4, J. Pepper 5, J. Ames 6, W. A. Richardson 7, C. R. Burrell (conductor) 8.

CONGRESBURY.—On Saturday, February 12th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Major J. H. B. Hesse, *H. L. F. Derrick, G. Oliver, E. F. Hancock, P.-Lieut. Glenn (conductor), *E. F. Shearn, F. Skidmore, E. Fisher. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Rung for the coming of age of Miss Ruth Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Knight.

STROUD, GLOS.—On Saturday, February 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. J. Jordon 1, W. Staite 2, F. Cole 3, G. Goulding (conductor) 4, T. Pritchard 5, T. Price 6, W. Dean 7, C. Launder 8. A compliment to F. Cole, who attained his 80th birthday on February 9th and has been a ringer for over 60 years.

MANCHESTER.—On February 12th, at the Town Hall, 1,278 Grandsire Caters: S. Briggs (conductor) 1, A. Barnes 2, W. Robinson 3, W. W. Wolstencroft 4, F. Reynolds 5, F. Yates 6, W. Pye 7, B. Thorpe 8, F. R. Williams 9, R. Benson 10.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,264 Bob Major: A. Ball 1, *D. L. Hall 2, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 3, *V. J. Benning 4, H. A. Holden 5, H. Hoverd 6, A. G. Hall 7, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal of Major.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, January 29th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: Lieut. M. Routh (first 720) 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.—On Friday, February 18th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Lieut. M. Routh (first 720 inside) 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, Cadet Officer A. Routh tenor.—At 11, Aylesbury End, on January 17th, 1,280 Bob Major on handbells: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, Miss D. Fletcher 5-6, Miss K. Fletcher 7-8.—On February 8th, 1,280 Bob Major: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, Miss D. Fletcher 5-6, Lieut. M. Routh (first quarter-peal on handbells) 7-8.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BULWELL.

Twenty-five members attended the annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, which was held on February 5th at Bulwell. They represented Basford, Cotgrave, Daybrook, Greasley, Holmepierpont, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's), Sawley and the local belfry. Visitors were present from Trumpington and Crayford.

Tea in the Parish Hall was arranged by Mr. F. Smith, of the local company, and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., the district secretary, in his report, said that during the past year two peals of Bob Minor had been rung on handbells and two of Bob Major on tower bells. Service ringing and the teaching of recruits had been well attended to. The number of members could not be given, as particulars were not yet to hand, but was about that of the year 1940. Three members had passed away, E. Chasty, of Long Eaton, E. Foster, of Southwell, and M. H. Moseley, of Kelham College. The last was killed in action. The number of members who had lapsed during the ban was about made good by 28 who had joined or rejoined. Four towers had disappeared from the 1940 list, but three others were added. Monthly meetings had been held, the attendance averaging from 40 to 60 in the summer, and 12 to 20 during the black-out period.

Meetings were arranged for Daybrook on April 1st, and Sandiacre on May 6th. The secretary was instructed to approach the Derby District to see whether a joint meeting could be arranged in June. Two members were elected.

Mr. R. Narborough was reappointed district chairman, and Mr. T. Groombridge district secretary. It was decided to create a new office of Ringing Master and to appoint Mr. Groombridge for the coming year.

Mr. Groombridge urged local bands to bring their recruits for election as members as soon as they were qualified, and not to sacrifice good striking to the ambition of ringing more advanced methods. He asked the members to support 'The Ringing World.'

Thanks were given to the curate-in-charge and to Mr. F. Smith. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

Eight local towers were represented at a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Stratton St. Margaret on February 12th, and there were visitors present from Bromham, Beds, and Rochester and Ashford, Kent.

Thirty-three persons sat down to tea, which was provided by Mrs. Moulden, wife of the local captain, and other ladies.

On behalf of the local ringers, the Vicar, the Rev. E. R. Salter, presented Mr. George Lancaster with pipes and tobacco on his retiring from active ringing. Mr. Lancaster is 84 years of age and is in very good health except for failing sight, which has brought about his retirement.

Four members of the local band were elected members of the association, and Mr. Harry Parkes and Flight-Sergt. T. Cullingworth were elected life members.

The methods rung ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

EAST GRINSTAD GUILD.

MEETING AT WADHURST.

At a meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild held at Wadhurst on February 12th, twenty ringers were present from East Grinstead, Hartfield, Hawkhurst, Lamberhurst, Paddock Wood, Rotherfield, Thorne (Yorks), Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst and Uckfield.

Several Minor and Doubles methods were rung, some of the local band received instruction in hunting, and rounds were rung for beginners.

LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL, WILTS.—On February 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Mrs. A. D. Pearson 1, E. C. Marlow 2, E. F. White 3, *C. N. Pearson 4, W. A. Avery (conductor) 5, H. Trollope 6. *First quarter-peal.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Saturday, February 12th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Lewis Whitby 1, Vincent Tipton 2, Stanley Clark 3, Fred Whitby 4, Robert Springman 5, Lewis Cordell 6, James Aley (first quarter-peal) 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Harry Smale, formerly an esteemed member of the band, who was laid to rest at Broadstone, Dorset, on the previous Saturday.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck; 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Annual meeting at Banstead, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3.30. Service 5.15, followed by tea and meeting.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Headingley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Conisborough, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided at small charge.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Measham, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Slough, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Annual meeting, Burgess Hill, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names by March 1st.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting and unveiling of Memorial Tablet at Ilkeston on Saturday, March 4th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names to Mr. E. F. Gobey, 2, Shipstone Street, Ilkeston, by Wednesday, March 1st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. George's, Bolton, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Danbury on March 4th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by March 1st.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully paid up ringing members 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested as the number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at Westerleigh, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business to follow. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Diamond Jubilee, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Shenley, Sat., March 4th, 2.30. Service 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting. No tea. Lough-ton bells available.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Preston Branches.—Joint meeting at Coppull on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw and F. Rigby, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at All Saints', Wokingham, Saturday, March 4th, 6-9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30. Names for tea by March 1st.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Staverton (6 bells), Saturday, March 4th. Usual arrangements. Notify for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn and Rossendale Branches.—Joint meeting Helmsshore, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Draycott (8 bells), Saturday, March 4th. Notify Mr. T. Shelley, Cresswell Farm, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, for tea, before Feb. 29th.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

EAST DERBY AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Ringing meeting at South Norman-ton, on Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea provided.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Meeting at Kendal (10 bells), Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mr. L. Townley, 3, Charles Street, Kendal, by Feb. 28th.—N. M. Newby.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Number for tea by Tuesday, 7th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

STANTON-IN-THE-PEAK.—On February 5th, 720 Rob Minor: E. Paulson 1, R. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, V. Boltonley 4, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 5, H. E. Taylor 6.

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