THE RINGING WORLD

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

'RINGING AND LIFE.'

In the challenging and almost provocative articles now appearing in our pages Mr. F. E. Haynes asks in so many words the question: Are the present popularity of change ringing, the great number of recruits that are coming to the belfries, and the widespread interest taken in our art, good things for the Exercise? It is a question to which, for many of our readers, there will be but one answer. Of course, they will say, they are good things. Did not ringers for years complain that they were neglected, misrepresented, and misunderstood? Was not the difficulty of finding recruits a major problem of every belfry? Were not people only two or three years ago discussing what was the best form of propaganda to interest outsiders in the art? Now that things are so altered ought we not to be thankful and make the most of them?

Mr. Haynes is not so sure. He sees a great danger of standards being lowered and the ultimate result not gain but loss. He would rather see fewer ringers and better ringing than more ringers and bad ringing.

It is the old problem which throughout the ages has always faced persons engaged in any art. Which is the better—to aim at the very highest, though by so doing you appeal only to a very select few, or to widen your appeal and seek to influence the majority, even though you leave the highest out of your reach? Artists and poets, scholars and men of science, have argued these things and will continue to argue them. Not a few have put forward answers, and not a few have professed to have made a deliberate choice; but the truth almost always is that the matter is decided not by the man himself, but by his make-up and the circumstances in which he lives.

So it is with the ringing Exercise. During the centuries its fortunes have varied greatly and the ideals and character of ringers have much changed. And it has always been so, not because of any deliberate intention on the part of men, but because of outside social conditions common to the whole of the people. The present popularity of ringing is not due to any merit of the ringers, nor could they by any effort of their own have created it. Whether it is anything more than a passing fancy remains to be seen. That there is deep down in the English nature a love of the sound of church bells we need not doubt for a moment, but it has not usually shown itself (at least not for some centuries) in a desire to take part in any actual ringing.

(Continued on page 186.)

We must accept the facts and make the best of them. That there are to-day vast opportunities and that great good may result is quite certain. Not all, or even the majority, of the present recruits will make good, but there should be a very substantial gain. Nevertheless, it is as well to heed the warning given by Mr. Haynes. While we should make the utmost of this opportunity of broadening the Exercise, we must not forget that the highest is still for the few who have earned the right to it. What is specially needed is that those who rank as competent ringers should maintain and raise their own standards and should guard against any tendency to accept lower standards because the higher is for the time being out of their reach. No standard is worth anything unless it is just out of reach. Change ringing is a mistress who has much to offer to those who serve her faithfully, but she does not bestow her favours indiscriminately. The man who would get the best out of the art must be content to put the best he has into his work, and he must never be satisfied with the way he rings, for however good he is, he is always capable of being better.

FUNERAL OF FLIGHT-SERGT. A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN.

The church at Surfleet was crowded on April 24th, when F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman was laid to rest in the churchyard.

The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Clark. The hymns, 'Lead, kindly light' and 'Peace, perfect peace,' and the 23rd Psalm were sung. Six flight-sergeants, under the command of F.-Lieut. Austin, acted as bearers, and after the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Mrs. A. J. B. Wayman 1-2, Mrs. R. Richardson 3-4, Rupert Richardson 5-6, Harold J. Poole 7-8.

The chief mourners were Mrs. A. J. B. Wayman (widow), Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman (parents), Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson (parents-in-law) and L.A.C. R. L. Wayman (brother).

The many floral tributes included wreaths from the officers and airmen of No. 286 Squadron, the boys of 'B' Flight, the Sergeants' Mess.

F.-Sgt. Wayman, who would have been 25 on April 25th, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Teddington. He was called up with the Militia in 1939, a few months before the war, and was in the Queen's Royal Regiment. As a soldier he fought in the battle of France, and was in the evacuation of Dunkirk in May, 1940. A year later he transferred to the R.A.F. He qualified as a fighter pilot and took part in many operations.

On September 4th, 1943, he married Miss Enid M. Richardson, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, and, like his wife and her parents, was a very keen ringer.

F.-Sgt. Wayman rang his first peal on June 3rd, 1939, when he rang the tenor to a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. T. W. Taffender, at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Altogether he had rung 12 peals, one of which he had conducted.

Of a lively and cheerful disposition, he had warmed his way into the hearts of all who knew him and many a tear was shed when they heard of his tragic end.

After the funeral a peal of Bob Major was rung, as a token of respect, on the bells of St. Lawrence's Church.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SHIPBOURNE.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Shipbourne on April 22nd, at which members attended from Leigh, Penshurst, Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst Wadhurst, East Peckham, Paddock Wood, Bromley Common, Sundridge, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, and the local band.

Tea was served in the Vicarage, and the Rev. G. H. Hewitt took the chair at the business meeting. Sundridge was selected for the next meeting on June 3rd. Votes of thanks were accorded to those who provided the tea, to the Vicar and the organist.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT AUGHTON.

A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Aughton on April 15th, at which there were present over 50 members. The vice-president, Mr. J. Ridyard, presided at the business meeting, and Sefton was chosen for the next meeting of the Liverpool Branch, and Southport for the next meeting of the Wigan Branch. Another joint meeting will be held at Rainford in August.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sun., April 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK W. PERRENS	1-2	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE	5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN	3-4	*ERNEST STONE	7-8

Composed by W. HUDSON. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* First peal of Treble Bob in hand. First peal of Treble Bob in hand as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., April 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
G. STEDMAN MORRIS	3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE	9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON	5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS	11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Rung to the memory of F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN SYMONS.

The death is announced of Dr. John Symons, of Penzance, who passed away on March 13th at the age of 89.

Dr. Symons, who was mainly instrumental in founding the Truro Diocesan Guild, was for 33 years its Ringing Master and for 13 years its president, and before that he was associated with the band at St. Mary's, Penzance, the first to practise change ringing in Cornwall. As far back as 1883 he called the first peal rung in the county, one of Grandsire Triples. The sole survivor of the band, Mr. George Sellers, reached his 100th birthday in the week that Dr. Symons died.

Dr. Symons rang several other peals of Grandsire Triples, but his opportunities for peal ringing were very few. When the band at St. Mary's broke up owing to the bells having become unsafe to ring, he joined the company at Gulval, where at the time there were six bells. He took a firm stand against prize ringing and was always a keen advocate of change ringing. Dr. Symons' daughter, Miss Eileen Symons is a member of the Gulval band.

On the Saturday after Dr. Symons' death a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by William Wood (Gulval) 1, W. Saunders (Camborne) 2, E. Saunders (Camborne) 3, Mrs. A. S. Roberts (Carbis Bay) 4, P. J. Hitchens (Gulval) 5, E. V. Williams (Redruth) 6, Rev. A. S. Roberts (conductor) 7, P. R. C. Williams (Redruth) 8.

The funeral was private, and followed cremation at Plymouth. It was attended by members of the family only.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MEARS ASHBY.

A meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Mears Ashby on April 22nd, when 19 churches were represented and about 70 visitors sat down to tea, provided by friends from Mears Ashby and Wilby.

The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, and references were made to the recent death of the branch president (the Rev. J. H. Marlow, of Bozeat).

The Rev. W. R. Flex (Great Doddington) was elected branch president, and Mr. E. P. Allen (Irthlingborough) an honorary member. Messrs. L. Harlott, J. Harlott, J. Pinney, L. Johnson (Ecton), N. Line and J. Hepburn (Bozeat), R. Minney (Yardley Hastings) and J. Mabbutt (Mears Ashby) were elected ringing members.

It was decided to try to arrange the next meeting at Easton Maudit.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT HAVANT.

A meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Havant on April 22nd, was attended by 20 members from Alverstoke, Titchfield, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Fareham, Petersfield and North Stoneham. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was at the Bear Hotel. At the business meeting the Vicar of Havant, the Rev. Duke Baker, and the Vicar of St. Mary's, Portsea, the Rev. W. Smith, were elected honorary members, and Mr. Macey, of St. Mary's, Portsea, a ringing member.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hambledon, with Alverstoke as an alternative, on July 22nd.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., April 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 10 cwt.

Charles Hutchinson	*Treble*	William E. Simpson	5
Margaret Munton	2	William Dawson	6
Charles Geary	3	William Lancaster	7
Thos. Groombridge, jun.	4	*Fred A. Salter	*Tenor*

Composed by A. Knights. Conducted by T. Groombridge, jun.
* 200th peal.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., April 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Lawrence,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

Stanley E. Bennett	*Treble*	Charles C. Rawding	5
John W. Carter	2	W. Allan Richardson	6
Arthur J. Farr	3	Cyril Burrell	7
John Curry	4	John G. Ames	*Tenor*

Composed by Henry Hubbard. Conducted by John G. Ames.
Rung with the bells open (by request) as a token of love and esteem to F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman, who was interred in Surfleet churchyard on that date.

BEXLEY, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Washbrook's Variation. Tenor 8 cwt.

*Alan Hall	*Treble*	Herbert A. Holden	5
John Wheadon	2	James E. Bailey	6
†Dennis L. Hall	3	Frederick J. Cullum	7
*Robert Wake	4	Herbert E. Audsley	*Tenor*

Conducted by Frederick J. Cullum.
* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.

FARNHAM ROYAL, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12¼ cwt.

John M. Gayford	*Treble*	George Gilbert	5
Tony Price	2	William Henley	6
William Welling	3	Norman V. Harding	7
C. Alfred Levett	4	Frank H. Hicks	*Tenor*

Composed by J. Holt.
Non-conducted and silent.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Thurstans' Four-part. Tenor 23¼ cwt.

Miss Marie R. Cross	*Treble*	Neil Allnatt	5
William C. Porter	2	William Judge	6
Herbert H. Alexander	3	Walter F. Judge	7
John F. Judge	4	William H. Thorne	*Tenor*

Conducted by William Judge.

ASHOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,
A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

Walter Allwood	*Treble*	*Vernon Bottomley	5
George H. Paulson	2	G. Gordon Graham	6
Herbert E. Taylor	3	Joseph Saxton	7
A. Benjamin Cooper	4	John E. Turley	*Tenor*

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff. Conducted by John E. Turley.
* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KIMBOLTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., April 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
At the Church of St. James,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being five six-scores of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 35 six-scores of Grandsire and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement. Tenor 10 cwt.

*Frederick R. Harris	*Treble*	*L. T. Mainwaring	4
†John D. Rock	2	Leslie Evans	5
*Ronald H. Mewies	3	Frederick A. Jaine	*Tenor*

Conducted by Leslie Evans.
* First peal in two methods. † First peal and first attempt, aged 14 years.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Preston Branch.)
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.

E. R. Martin	*Treble*	William Sharples	4
John Jackson	2	William Illsley	5
F. G. Bradley	3	J. H. Gartside	*Tenor*

Conducted by E. R. Martin.
Rung half-muffled to the memory of John Richard Taylor.

SPONDON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Werburgh,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two 720's Oxford Treble Bob, two Kent Treble Bob and three Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

Wm. Thornley, sen.	*Treble*	William Lancaster	4
Jack W. Glew	2	Jack Bailey	5
*Victor E. Taylor	3	Alfred Mould	*Tenor*

Conducted by Jack Bailey.
* First peal of Minor.

STAVERTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Seven 720's. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

Mrs. Powell	*Treble*	George Hancock	4
*Miss Maud Clarke	2	Rev. E. S. Powell	5
*Douglas C. Birkenshaw	3	Frederick Hancock	*Tenor*

Conducted by Rev. E. S. Powell.
* First peal and first attempt.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Will all Secretaries of Associations who have not already sent the names and addresses of their representatives, please do so without further delay, and also remit any affiliation fees outstanding.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Sec.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards has been promoted to the rank of Masonic Past Assistant Grand Chaplain.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Twenty-five ringers were present at the annual meeting of the Scottish Association at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, on April 22nd. Touches of Plain Bob and Kent Major and Stedman, Grandsire and Erin Triples were rung, and after the service in St. Cuthbert's Memorial Chapel the ringers were entertained to tea by the St. Cuthbert's Society.

Three new members were elected and the election of eight others confirmed. It was stated that 22 members were serving with H.M. Forces, two of whom are prisoners of war. Letters of appreciation were read from serving members for gifts sent at Christmas, and one young member, now a prisoner of war, had asked his parents to send books on change ringing so he will be ready to take a rope on his return. The present office bearers were re-elected, viz.: Prof. R. O. Street, Glasgow, president; Mr. W. H. Pickett, Glasgow, Ringing Master; Mr. C. R. Raine, R.A.F., Edinburgh, hon. secretary and treasurer; and Mr. E. A. Stafford, Glasgow, deputy hon. secretary. A collection for the Red Cross amounted to £1 5s.

St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, and St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, are the only towers in Scotland where regular Sunday service ringing and weekly practices are being held.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on April 15th, and 40 ringers were present, representing 15 towers and soldier friends from Tewkesbury Abbey and Exeter.

At the business meeting, held in the belfry, the president, the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird was re-elected. The vice-presidents were re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. A. Miles, Withyham, and the Rev. D. L. Secretan, Balcombe. Mr. T. Sone was elected vice-chairman, and Mr. B. Collison added to the committee.

The committee's report and balance sheet were adopted.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BUGBROOKE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Bugbrooke on April 29th, with a good attendance of members. The Guild service was conducted by the incumbent, the Rev. R. B. Disney, who welcomed the Guild. At the business meeting, which followed tea arranged by Mr. F. Browning, three new members were elected. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. H. Ashby.

The bells and those of the adjoining parish of Kislingbury were available from 3 p.m. and in the evening.

MR. THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

FUNERAL AT BOLTON.

The funeral of Mr. Thomas B. Worsley, whose death we announced last week, took place on Thursday, April 27th, at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. W. Worsley, assisted by the Rev. F. F. Rigby, president of the Lancashire Association. There was a large congregation, which included nearly forty ringers, among them being Mr. W. H. Shuker, the general secretary of the Lancashire Association, Mr. George R. Newton, of Liverpool, Mr. William Dickenson, of Southport, Mr. A. Tomlinson, of Blackpool, and others from Manchester, Prestwick, Westhoughton and Walkden. Nearly every tower in the Bolton district was represented.

Before the service a touch of Grandsire Triples and the whole pull and stand were rung muffled, Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave on handbells by Miss Annie Potter, Mr. John Potter, Mr. Peter Crook, sen., and Mr. G. R. Newton, and further muffled ringing on the tower bells followed.



Mr. Worsley was born in the parish of Deane on September 30th, 1886, and was, therefore, in his 58th year. He learnt his ringing at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, a six-bell tower, and shortly afterwards joined the band in the belfry of his native parish. It was at Deane he rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on February 20th 1911; and there, too he rang his first as conductor. This was on April 13th, 1913, and also was Grandsire Triples.

He joined the Lancashire Association in 1909 and at various times held several offices—member of the general committee from 1916 to 1930, secretary of the Bolton Branch 1915 to 1919, vice-president of the association 1933 to 1935, and representative on the Central Council from 1935 to the time of his death. He was a member of the Peals Collection Committee. He was also a member of a committee appointed by the Lancashire Association to revise the society's handbook.

Mr. Worsley had a distinguished career as a peal ringer. He took part in 287 peals for the Lancashire Association and many for other societies. Among the more outstanding of his performances were the 17,824 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Heptonstall on April 18th, 1927, to which he rang the second. This remains the record for Treble Bob Major, the 18,240 of Kent at Mottram (in which Mr. Worsley also took part) afterwards turning out to be false in the composition.

On January 29th, Mr. Worsley rang the second to another record length, 11,232 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Bolton. Both peals were called by Mr. Edward Jenkins.

Yet another fine performance was the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929. Mr. Worsley again rang the second. He was one of the band which failed at Heptonstall after ten hours ringing in an attempt to beat the record for Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and he was the first Lancashire man to ring a peal of Spliced Surprise Major in the four standard methods. He had previously taken part in a peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise by the Lancashire Association.

Mr. Worsley won his greatest triumphs as a composer, and his work in that branch of the art will always keep his name in the story of the Exercise. His two best productions are probably the 17,824 of Treble Bob and the 11,232 of Superlative already mentioned. The former surpassed Mr. J. W. Parker's 17,280, and has itself we believe, been surpassed by a length as yet unrung, composed by Mr. A. J. Pitman. The other still remains the longest composition in the method. A peal of Cambridge Major has been rung a considerable number of times. It necessarily is to a large extent a variation of Middleton's composition, but in that very precarious method it is a greater problem to produce a variation with original features than it is to produce an entirely new peal in most methods. Mr. Worsley also composed peals of Treble Bob with original qualities, no easy thing to do in that much explored method.

Mr. Worsley was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Middlesex County Association and several other guilds.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Durham Surprise: G. E. Lawrence 1, S. B. Bailey 2, W. C. Corfield 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, C. S. Ryles (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.—Also 720 Ipswich Surprise: O. Williams 1, S. B. Bailey 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Corfield 4, C. S. Ryles (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from page 180.)

Yet another tendency of modern life that is being more and more widely reflected in ringing is the gradual invasion of what were once purely masculine strongholds by the members of what used to be known as the weaker sex. Here again, although in this paragraph the ice on which I skate may be very thin indeed, I question whether the gradual increase in the proportion of women ringers to men is really in the best interests of the Exercise. Obviously, if one is ringing the seventh at Blankchester to Stedman Cinques and directly facing one on the treble there is a perfectly entrancing vision in a very neat two-piece tailor-made with figure to match, then the belfry is a much pleasanter and brighter place than when old Bill So-and-so, with his perpetual scowl and rather soiled waistcoat, faces one. But is the attention of Number Seven as firmly fixed on his task as it should be? And is Miss Delightful, should she by any chance miss a dodge or make a misblow, greeted with the same salutary look or word of reprimand that would fall upon old Bill should he be similarly guilty?

In other words, I feel that the tendency to emphasise the social possibilities of bell-ringing, which is another result of the fear of extinction already mentioned that is felt by some, is a step in the wrong direction. Ringing demands serious concentration, and the atmosphere in the ringing-chamber should not be that of a garden party. There are, of course, women ringers who are the equal of men in every way, except perhaps in physical strength and endurance; there are several who may justly claim to be very valuable members of the Exercise; I myself was taught to ring—whisper it very gently—by a woman! There will, of course, always be some women ringers; but, although I hesitate to claim the name of misogynist, my observations lead me to the conclusion that they should be the exception rather than the rule.

Another characteristic of modern life is a desire for speed; 'No matter how we live, so that we live at a fast pace' would seem to be the motto of many. So, too, in ringing many seem to say, 'No matter how we ring, so that we ring quickly.' This question of speed in ringing is one that has often been discussed in these columns, and is one, I suppose, on which general agreement is impossible. Of one thing I am sure, however, that we must not force the pace merely to conceal weaknesses, as is frequently done to-day. A mistake or bad blow is not nearly so noticeable when the bells are 'rattling along' as it is when they boom forth with slow and measured tread.

The slower the ringing, then the longer is the interval between any two bells and the more difficult it is to attain perfect striking. Suppose you are ringing the fourth, and regard the space between the third and the fifth as your 'target'; then for perfect striking you have to hit the 'bulls-eye,' and cause your own bell to sound exactly between the two; but the larger your target, i.e., the slower you ring, then, paradoxically, the more difficult it is to hit the bulls-eye. From which, I wonder, do we get the greater satisfaction, from slow well-struck ringing, or from quick well-struck ringing? Here I must confess to doubts.

I have taken part in a peal of Cambridge Royal, on bells with a tenor of 17½ cwt., that occupied 3 hours and 5 minutes; on the same bells I have rung the ninth to a peal of Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 24 minutes. And yet, while admitting that any difference in the standard of striking might be in favour of the former, I should not care to say that the satisfaction derived was any greater. I have also rung a tenor of about 10½ cwt. to a peal of London Surprise in 2 hours 38 minutes, and a peal of Stedman Doubles, with a tenor of something over 7 cwt. in only 2 hours and 15 minutes. But was our pleasure and satisfaction any greater than it would have been, had we spent half an hour longer? I think it was, but for a reason which does not really reflect any great credit upon us—we felt that we had been rather clever, rather smarter than usual, in ringing so quickly without a trip of any kind, as far as my memory serves me. Perhaps we were rather clever, and perhaps we had shown ourselves to be rather smart; certainly, too, those who to-day can 'tap off' peals of Spliced Surprise at a rapid pace both on tower bells and in hand show themselves to be very smart and clever. But are such performances of any lasting value to the Exercise? Are they as well worth listening to as a peal of Double Norwich, occupying a generous three hours? Some will say that depends much upon the actual bells, and here I would add that I consider modern founders to be partly to blame.

In practically all new or recast installations of bells this same tendency on the one hand to ease, and on the other to speed is to be observed. Our founders do not seem to worry about the sound of the bells very much: they work to a formula by which they know a ring of bells will be turned out which will not be unpleasant to the ear. But will anyone deny that there is only one quality that really makes bells worth listening to, and that is the grandeur and majesty that can only be obtained by sheer weight of metal.

During the ten years preceding the war ring after ring was coming from the foundries, each one exactly the same as its predecessor, each one an admirable instrument for that display of smartness or cleverness already mentioned, each quite pleasant to listen to, but only one or two capable of stirring the heart as a really fine ring of bells should do. There are, of course, exceptions; our founders naturally merely supply the demand made by us; there is also the question of expense, but I am convinced that, within a reasonable limit, generally heavier bells would ultimately make our ringing much more worth while. If the pre-war development in bell-founding is resumed after the war, there will shortly be no grounds for such a discussion as that recently published as to the best ring of bells; all bells will sound exactly the same.

Ringing is, in its essence, just as much a sport as cricket and football. Of recent years the same characteristics of modern life that are my main theme have exerted their influence on these two national games also. In football the laws have been deliberately altered, first, to make the scoring of goals more easy, secondly, to enable the game to be played at a faster pace. As a result the game has become at once a more 'popular' spectacle and also a more suitable medium for gambling; but many good judges agree that a football match to-day does not provide the exhibition of skill and strength which it did before the 'modern improvements' were in-

(Continued on next page.)

RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from previous page.)

troduced. In cricket, too, the people clamour for a quick rate of scoring, for Saturday afternoon excitement, for boundary after boundary with the fieldsmen standing helpless while the ball soars madly overhead to disappear into the neighbouring allotments. But a committee appointed to inquire into the prospects of post-war cricket have recommended that three-day matches remain, and that the eight-ball over (introduced to 'speed up' the game) be abolished. In other words, there is a desire that an effort be made to restore dignity, style and grandeur, qualities for whose retention in ringing, too, this essay makes a plea.

The views I have expressed may seem reactionary: to many they will appear perhaps absurd. But those who care to read between the lines will detect a genuine anxiety as to the future of our art, an honest doubt as to whether we are progressing on the right lines. This doubt and anxiety has arisen after a ringing life of twenty years only it is true, but one that has been exceptionally varied in its experience. Perhaps another pen more able than my own, wielded by someone of far greater experience, will bring an end to my perplexity. I should be glad to think so. Perhaps another twenty years will prove me to be entirely wrong when I say that bell-ringing, if it is to be really worth while, should remain a somewhat exclusive rather than a popular pastime, should be essentially confined to a comparatively few people who will restore to it the dignity and grandeur that it is in danger of losing.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on April 15th. As in former years, the service was combined with choral evensong at the Cathedral, at which an address was given by the Rev. M. W. Shewell, Vicar of St. Michael's. A collection for the benevolent fund realised £3.

Tea was at the Water End Barn, and at the business meeting which followed, the president, Mr. Harold G. Cashmore, occupied the chair. The balance sheet, which was read by Mr. W. Ayre in the absence of Mr. H. J. Loe, deputy treasurer, showed a credit balance of £15 2s. 4d. and a reserve fund of £47 7s. 11d.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel, the hon. secretary, in his report stated that four tower-bell peals had been rung, three at Bushey and one at Oxhey. Two of them were Superlative Surprise Major, one Bristol Surprise and one Spliced Surprise. All four were conducted by Mr. Cashmore. Five handbell peals had been rung, all at Bushey. They were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, and London and Bristol Surprise Major. Mr. Cashmore called two and Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner three.

Detailed reports from each of the district secretaries were given.

The association's diamond jubilee falls on October 29th in this year and it was decided to celebrate it by a special meeting on October 28th. It will consist of a service, high tea and social gathering, with ringing. A committee, consisting of the president, secretary, assistant secretary and Messrs. R. Darvill, E. Jennings, A. Lawrence and H. J. Hazell, was appointed to make the arrangements.

The officers were all re-elected, with the addition of the deputy treasurer, Mr. H. J. Loe.

Ringing took place during the afternoon and evening at the ten-bell tower of St. Peter's and the six-bell towers of St. Michael's and St. Stephen's.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Husborne Crawley on April 22nd, was attended by ringers from Bedford, Dunstable, Woburn, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Maulden, Tempsford, Bromham, Newport Pagnell, Chicheley, Gayhurst and the local tower.

Eversholt was selected as the place of next meeting, and a short discussion was held on the affairs of the association. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. —A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Vital business affecting all towers.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5, 2s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting.—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. —Meeting at Shoreditch, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting, Hitchin, May 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. — A. C. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District. — Meeting at Rickmansworth, Saturday, May 6th, 3.30. Tea at Oasis Cafe 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Redenhall, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Yew Tree Tea Rooms, Redenhall, 5 p.m. —A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Annual meeting at Bridgwater, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea 5. — C. Evans, Hon. Sec., 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — Meeting at Dunmow, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Light tea provided. Names to Mr. H. W. Smith, 11, Causeway, Dunmow, by May 11th. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, May 13th. Bells 2-8 p.m. Service 4. Business 4.45. No tea arrangements, but several restaurants nearby. Bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 6-8 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. Meeting at Woodford, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Ashover on Saturday, May 13th, at 3 p.m. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Coleshill Parish Church, Warwickshire, on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION and ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at King's Lynn on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Note. —Lynn is in the restricted area. — W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch. — Meeting at Blunsdon on Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p. m .—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —Meeting at Sefton, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30. Service at 5. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Guildford on Saturday, May 13th. Cathedral 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Nicolas' 3 p.m. Service St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Ayres' Cafe (next St. Nicolas') 5 p.m. Ringing at St. Nicolas' after meeting until 8 p.m. Numbers for tea by May 9th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.— Meeting at Tarleton, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30. Names for tea by May 10th to Rev. L. N. Forse, The Rectory, Tarleton.—F. Rigby.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Lindfield, Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. P.C.'s to G. W. O. Huddart, The Froyles, Lindfield, Haywards Heath.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough Branch.—Meeting at Lilbourne, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Tea provided.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

GAMSTON, NOTTS. — Practice meeting, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) ready early. Own tea arrangements.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.— Annual meeting at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Old National Schools at 6 p.m. (1s. per head), followed by business. Names by May 10th.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch. — Practice meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Morecambe, on Saturday, May 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Henlow, May 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. L. H. Bywaters, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds, by May 10th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice meeting, Ufford, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Chas. E. Fisher.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Meeting at Storrington, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing till 8 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Great Glen, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Tea provided. Notify Mr. L. Allen, High Street, Great Glen, by May 10th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District. — Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Numbers for tea by 10th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Bicker, Saturday, May 20th, 2 p.m. Service 3.45, followed by tea and business. Names to Mr. G. Dawson, Bicker, by May 15th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Kenilworth, Saturday, May 20th, 3-8 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall 5 p.m., at moderate charge. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Parish Church, Croydon, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting, Sylverdale Hall. Names for tea to D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, by 16th inst. — C. de Ste C. Parks, Assist. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Chilham, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (8) from 2.30. No tea.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Somerton on Saturday, May 20th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. Division.—Meeting at Harlow Common, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by May 17th.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Burbage, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Meat tea (2s.), followed by very important business. Names for tea to Mr. F. K. Measures, 58, Lychgate Lane, Burbage, near Hinckley, by May 17th.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MARRIAGE.

ELLENGER—WILDING.—On Saturday, April 22nd, 1944, at St. Margaret's Church, Ipswich, Edward G. Ellenger (formerly a ringer at Maldon, Essex, and at Chelmsford Cathedral) to Joyce M. Wilding, of Ipswich. The bells were rung by St. Margaret's Company.

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