THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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.

TWO RULES.

The Society of Cumberland Youths has a rule which says that 'any member who shall join the Society of College Youths shall thereupon cease to be a member of this society'; and the Society of College Youths has an almost identically worded rule. These two rules are always acted upon, but every now and then someone raises his voice to denounce what he calls an objectionable anachronism, and, just as often, others maintain the necessity of keeping to the old traditions which distinguish these two societies from the ordinary ringing guilds. Last week a correspondent went so far as to say that the existence of these rules made the toast of 'The Kindred Societies' so much humbug.

We need not pay much attention to the advocates on either side. For, if these rules had been so very objectionable, we may be quite sure they would have been altered or evaded long ago. Actually the relations between the College Youths and the Cumberlands are no different from those between the College Youths and any other society, and no harm or inconvenience is caused to anyone except in those rare cases where a man, who has been more or less a nominal member of one body, desires for some reason to become more or less a nominal member of the other. On the other hand, those who think that the retention of the rules is in any way a maintenance of the old traditions are singularly mistaken.

The rules themselves are not particularly old; they date from about the middle of the last century. The spirit of which they originally were an expression was traditional and was common, not merely to these two societies, but to ringers generally. It represented a phase in the development of the Exercise which had its uses, and in its time probably was necessary to the life and wellbeing of change ringing.

Ringing is a team job. It cannot be performed unless a certain number of men agree to co-operate and work together for a common aim. Hence the best ringers formed themselves into societies governed by rules to ensure that the general good should prevail. These societies were small bodies, each comprising no more than practically one band, and so long as all the members worked together harmoniously the society prospered. But it was always liable to trouble through disagreements and through the restlessness of ambitious members who were tempted to seek among other ringers advantages they thought they could not get at home, and

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so at times let their fellows down. Thus it became necessary for each society to forbid its members to associate with or join other bands, and a spirit of exclusiveness was common to all. It was really an instinct of self preservation. It was natural and necessary, though it could be and was carried to extremes. The Cumberlands' rule book says the rule was for 'the purpose of keeping up a friendly rivalry and thus promoting the art of change ringing.' The exclusive spirit did keep up a rivalry, and in so doing did promote the art of change ringing, but the friendliness was usually absent.

In London, so long as there were several societies, all roughly equal in status and skill, the old conditions worked quite well. Quarrels and migrations of leading men from one body to another there were in plenty, but the art generally was in a flourishing state. However, there grew up a tendency for one or two societies to swallow up the others, until at the beginning of the nineteenth century only two were left—the Cumberlands and the College Youths. It was good for neither and both were getting into a decrepit state. The younger and more energetic men found it convenient to meet together and ring peals under the names of societies which were formed for the purpose and usually did not last longer than its fulfilment. The old societies would not recognise them, and could not, or dare not, exercise any discipline over their young members. The usefulness of the rule was gone, but the College Youths clung to it so far as the Cumberlands were concerned, and the Cumberlands clung to it so far as the College Youths were concerned, and later on each formally added it to its narrowed scope to their formal code.

There is nothing in these rules that either society has anything particular to be proud of, and nothing of practical or sentimental value would be lost if they were dropped; but, at any rate, they do no harm and are not worth the indignation a few people are disposed to expend on them.

And it should not be forgotten that besides and above several objectionable things in the old traditional exclusiveness, there was this feeling: that a ringer's loyalty is due to his own band and his own friends, and his personal interests ought to come second.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5085 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN... ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... ... 7-8

JOHN THOMAS 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MISS JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE... ... 7-8

CHARLES W. ROBERTS... ... 9-10

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

A birthday compliment to Mr. James George.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, PENN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

ARTHUR V. PEARSON... ...*Treble*	HERBERT KNIGHT 5
*ALBERT D. COLLINS 2	JOHN LLOYD 6
FRANK W. PERRENS 3	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 7
HOWARD HOWELL 4	THOMAS HEMMING ... ...*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN JAGGER. Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.

* First peal in the method with a bob bell. First peal in method on the bells.

LISCARD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*ALEX J. WEBSTER ... ...*Treble*	JOHN A. WEBSTER 5
DAVID HUGHES 2	THOMAS W. HESKETH... ... 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON... ... 3	LESTER L. GRAY 7
*FREDERICK S. ALMOND ... 4	FRANK VARTY ... ...*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal of Major.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

*SIDNEY G. PECK... ... ...*Treble*	†HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 5
ERNEST MORRIS... 2	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD... 6
JOHN R. SMITH 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT 7
SIDNEY O. CHENEY 4	HAROLD J. POOLE ... ...*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal. † First in the method. A birthday compliment to Mr. James George. Rung on the Stelfox eight.

HARWELL, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 16½ cwt.

ALBAN R. POYNTZ ... ...*Treble*	WILLIAM C. PORTER 5
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
EDGAR HUMFREY... 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 7
WALTER F. JUDGE 4	HARRY WHITE ... ...*Tenor*

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

HORWICH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAY'S SIX-PART. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK W. BROWNLOW*Treble*	EVEREST FORD 5
BRYAN STAVELEY 2	ALBERT GREENHALGH ... 6
*MRS. MARY KENYON... ... 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. ... 7
LAWRENCE WOOD 4	*ERNEST FARNWORTH... ...*Tenor*

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal.

SOUTH ANSTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb in G.

*JOHN E. TURLEY ... ...*Treble*	*F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 5
J. EDWARD CAWSER... ... 2	*G. GORDON GRAHAM... ... 6
*JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 3	*HARRY MORGAN... 7
ARNOLD HILL 4	*ERNEST A. THORPE ... ...*Tenor*

Composed by WILLIAM BARTON. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSER

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM GUNSON ...	...*Treble*	*ARTHUR TOMLINSON... ...	5
WILLIAM TAYLOR	2	*TOM WATSON	6
WILLIAM HUNTER	3	CPL. C. CROSSTHWAITE ...	7
*FRED HAWORTH	4	E. ROGER MARTIN ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by C. CROSSTHAWAITE.

* First peal of Major.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8lb. in D.

GEORGE UPSHALL ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE L. GROVER	5
FREDERICK OLDROYD... ...	2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ...	6
ARTHUR H. SMITH	3	ALFRED H. PULLING... ...	7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON... ...	4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT	...*Tenor*

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HOBART, TASMANIA.

THE HOLY TRINITY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

A. R. WILSON	...*Treble*	M. TAYLOR	4
P. BROUGHTON	2	B. MCELWELL	5
S. SMITH	3	J NEWELL	...*Tenor*

Conducted by S W. SMITH.

Rung half-muffled for Lady Clark, wife of Sir Ernest Clark, Governor of Tasmania.

CLAY CROSS, DERBYSHIRE.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, November 25 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*MISS F. M. PRICE ...	...*Treble*	*J. W. PRICE	4
*MISS M. HUDSON	2	*D. BIRRUMSHAW...	5
*MRS. M. HATTON	3	W. SWAIN	...*Tenor*

Conducted by W. SWAIN.

* First peal.

HALSALL, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford Bob, two of Plain Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob, one of Oxford Treble Bob and one of Cambridge Surprise.

Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY SERJEANT, JUN.	...*Treble*	WILFRED CORE	4
ARTHUR MAWDESLEY... ...	2	THOMAS HESKETH	5
GEORGE R. NEWTON... ...	3	JOSEPH RIDYARD	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Monday, November 27, 1944 in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Kent Treble Bob and four of Plain Bob.

Tenor 6¼ cwt.

*VINCENT A. HEMMING	...*Treble*	GEORGE E. FEARN	4
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ...	2	EDWARD T. LLOYD	5
ARTHUR D. COOK	3	RICHARD J. B. HADDEN	...*Tenor*

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

* First peal. First peal on tower bells as conductor. Rung for Mr. James George's birthday.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HATFIELD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ETHELDREDA,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 23¾ cwt.

ERIC B. HARTLEY ...	...*Treble*	†EDWIN JENNINGS	6
WALTER AYRE	2	*HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	7
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ...	3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ...	8
FRANCIS KIRK	4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ...	9
*ERIC A. DENCH	5	ALBERT LAWRENCE ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by H. G CASHMORE.

* First peal of Stedman Caters on tower bells. † 300th peal.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TENTERDEN.

A meeting of the Ashford District of the Kent County Association was held at Tenterden on December 2nd, at which 26 members were present from Ashford, Appledore, Benenden, Canterbury, Frittenden, Headcorn, Willesborough, Sturry and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. W. W. Carmichael. Tea was at Goldsmith's Restaurant, and was followed by the business meeting, the Vicar presiding. One new member was elected. Headcorn was selected as place of next meeting. The methods rung were Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major.

MEETING AT PENSHURST.

A meeting of the Kent County Association, held at Penshurst on December 2nd, was attended by members from Hawkhurst, Lamberhurst, Leigh, Shipbourne, East Peckham, Tunbridge Wells and the local tower.

After service, conducted by the Rector, tea was served in the Green Cafe and was followed by the business meeting, the Rector taking the chair. Westerham was selected for the next meeting in February.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION,

MEETING AT KEWSTOKE.

A meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at Kewstoke on November 25th, was attended by about 25 members from Banwell, Cheddar, Weston-super-Mare, Wick St. Lawrence, Badgworth, Worle, Churchill and the local tower. The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob Doubles, and Plain Bob, Oxford Bob and Double Court Minor.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was not about my first peal that we met to ring at Kelvedon. It is just a hundred years since my father started to learn to ring, and I thought I should like to go over to Kelvedon and have a ring. As you know, it is not every ringer that can say he has lived a hundred years after his father started to ring and be able to ring on the same old bells.

D. H. ELLIOTT.

Groton Place, Boxford.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT EXETER.

The annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers was held at St. Thomas', Exeter, on December 2nd, and was attended by ringers and friends from St. David's, Heavitree, Honiton Clyst, Brampford Speke, Ede, Tedburn St. Mary, Teignmouth, Plymouth, Lyme Regis and the local band.

After the service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. C. L. Price, assisted by Prebendary E. V. Cox, tea, provided by ladies connected with the local band, was served, and some fifty members and friends were present. Mr. E. J. Ryall presided, and the secretary, Mr. W. H. Howe, presented the annual report and balance sheet. There had been encouraging progress, young ringers were being trained, members of the Forces had joined in the practices at the Cathedral, and many neighbouring towers had been visited. The Instruction Fund had a balance of £29, and the General Fund £13.

Mr. A. W. Searle was elected chairman, Mr. W. H. Howe secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. Pook, Biffin and Corry representatives to the General Committee. Mr. Biffin continues as Ringing Master. Mr. E. J. Ryall was thanked for his services as chairman since 1938. Three new members were elected and one certificate was presented. The next meeting was fixed for February 3rd at Ede. Mr. Biffin raised the question of the annual meeting of the Guild, and Prebendary Cox replied that arrangements were in hand and it would be held on Whit Monday as usual.

Courses in Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung on the Cathedral bells after the meeting.

'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.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

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

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

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

As will be seen from the advertisement on the back page, Central Council publications can now be supplied on application to the Hon. Librarian.

The Bob Royal at Enfield on November 29th was Mr. Eric A. Dench's fiftieth peal. Forty-five were rung on handbells and four on tower bells.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I desire, through 'The Ringing World,' to thank all friends who sent me such kindly letters and telegrams of congratulation for my 91st birthday. The communications are too numerous to acknowledge individually. JAMES GEORGE.

9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Major Freeborne's last letter, the weights given in my list were, of course, intended to be taken as representative of present-day practice. I fear that it is impossible to prepare a scale made up from experience of actual weights of old bells, such as Major Freeborn suggests, for there are such wide variations. For instance, on referring to a book containing weights of old peals I find the following:—

Diameter of Bell.	Note.	Weight.
3ft. 6¼in.	F sharp	12¾ cwt.
3ft. 6½in.	F sharp	14½ cwt.
3ft. 4½in.	G	11 cwt.
3ft. 3in.	G	11 cwt.
2ft. 9in.	B	8 cwt.
2ft. 9in.	B	6½ cwt.
2ft. 5½in.	D	6¾ cwt.
2ft. 5¼in.	D	5¼ cwt.

The above are all cannon-headed bells.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

DEATH OF MR. H. E. WEST.

The death is announced of Mr. H. E. West, of Doulting, Somerset, who passed away on Sunday, November 26th, at the age of 74 years. He had been a ringer at Doulting for 54 years and captain of the band for about 40 years.

The funeral was on December 1st. Ringers were present from Doulting, Shepton Mallet, Croscombe, Dinder and Leigh-on-Mendip, and Mr. E. H. Nash, the hon. secretary, represented the Frome and Midsomer Norton Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association. After the service muffled touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

THE PROPOSED DECENTRALISATION.

Following a resolution passed at a meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association, a special meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, Leicester, on November 25th, to ascertain what support there is for the proposal to form a new guild for the Leicester Diocese. Mr. George Walker, chairman of the Leicester District, presided and was supported by Mr. J. Fidler.

Mr. Harold J. Poole reported that he had sent a circular letter to 130 incumbents of churches in the diocese where there were five or more bells. Sixty replies had been received, from which it was found that there were 571 ringers attached to those churches, 356 of whom were members of the Midland Counties Association. Of those who were not able to attend the meeting 171 had signified their support for a new Guild, 42 had indicated they would not support it, 90 were in H.M. Forces and could not reply.

Mr. Poole, speaking in favour of a new guild, said that the Leicester District was much too big to be effectively served, and the time had come when new districts should be formed around Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough. New districts would mean extra representation on the Central Committee, and as the present Central Committee consisted of 36 members any addition would make it almost unworkable. What applied to new districts around Leicester no doubt applied to the Nottingham and Derby Districts. Mr. Ernest Morris, the general hon. secretary, had definitely decided to resign. The position had become almost a full-time job, and it would be extremely difficult to find anyone so enthusiastic and hard working as Mr. Morris had been, and the solution was to divide the territory into smaller areas and so reduce the individual work.

Mr. Ernest Morris said he had definitely decided to give up the job. No one knew better than he what a big task it was, and although he was greatly attached to the association, having rung more peals for it than anyone else, he thought the time had come to divide the area into smaller guilds and so reduce the work of the secretary. He was wholeheartedly in favour of a new guild for Leicester.

During the tea interval the Bishop of Leicester and the Provost of Leicester visited the ringers. The Bishop spoke in terms of appreciation of the work of ringers in the diocese. He said that in this mechanical age efforts had been made to introduce in some instances a mechanical aid to replace bellringers and reproduce the sound of bells from records. 'We do not want this,' he said. Good men in the belfry are far better than machines. If a new guild was to be formed for the diocese it must be of the best.

Mr. J. Fidler fully supported the formation of a new guild. The words, 'Midland Counties Association,' meant nothing to the clergy, but if an organisation was formed with the word 'diocesan' attached to it, the clergy would take much more notice of it. He suggested that an effort should be made at once to form a new guild so that when those serving in the Forces returned they would find something better than they left.

Mr. H. G. Jenney and Mr. A. J. Harris spoke in favour of a new guild. The former said he hoped that if the Midland Counties Association did divide into separate guilds a joint meeting of all might be thought of in order that old acquaintances might meet again.

A vote of those present was taken, and the result was 112 in favour of a new guild, two in favour subject to a condition, and two against. This showed that with those unable to attend the meeting, 283 persons had indicated support for a new guild.

Mr. J. Fidler proposed and Mr. Jenney seconded that a representative committee be formed to consider the foundation of a new guild and report to a further meeting. The following were elected to the committee: Messrs. H. J. Poole, J. Fidler, A. E. Rowley, R. F. Elkington, E. Morris, G. Walker, H. Cook, J. S. Carter, G. A. Newton, E. W. Beadsmore and H. W. Perkins. The committee were asked to co-opt a representative from the Market Harborough District.

Mr. Jenney proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Harold J. Poole for the trouble he had taken, and Mr. G. Walker proposed thanks to the Cathedral lady ringers and ringers' wives for the tea.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I shall probably not be alone in experiencing considerable surprise at your footnote to my letter, although I do not doubt its veracity.

There is, however, quite definitely some rule or custom which prohibits membership of both societies concurrently—and in point of fact only this year I was refused a place in a peal band with some old ringing friends solely on the ground that the other nine were College Youths and I a Cumberland.

The inference to be drawn from your footnote is that any rule there may be to this effect appertains to the Cumberlands, and as a member of this society I am making the obvious enquiries and the remedy lies in my own hands.

I could, however, wish that both your leader and your postscript were more explicit, for you have still not explained to which 'still enforced rule' you referred in your leader, nor do you offer any support for the contention that the rivalry promoted the interests of change ringing, even at a price. R. H. DOVE.

ISAAC J. B. LATES.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1895.)

Mr. Lates (I. J. B.) was a native of Walsall, his father being a professor of music and organist of the Parish Church of St. Matthew. Both father and mother were victims of the terrible cholera plague, and were, I believe, buried on the same day.

He was an upholsterer by trade, having, so I have understood, learned that business at Oxford, in which city his earlier peals were rung. He was of a rather spare habit, about 5ft. 5in. in height, a bit of a dandy in dress and very gentlemanly in manners.

He had an impediment in his speech which I cannot well describe. It was not a stammer, but was as if his tongue was too long and got in the way of the words he wanted to say.

As a ringer he was not very remarkable and his manner of handling a bell peculiar and somewhat awkward. While ringing he stood very erect, with his legs close together, seeming to pull entirely from his elbows and with little or no movement from his body. Consequently the bell he rang had to go well.

He rang and conducted several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob on eight and ten bells, but I am not aware that he took part in any peals of Stedman. There can be no doubt that he had great ability as a composer. He was the first to produce a peal of Stedman Triples with only two extremes, and Doubles, and from 1842 till 1846 it was rung many times. Many excellent peals of Stedman Caters by him were rung and the earliest that I knew of was with the 5th or 6th behind the 9th, and the treble in 2nds place throughout was composed by him and rung in December, 1844. In Treble Bob Major his 5,024 stands unsurpassed, and in short there are good peals of his in each of the standard methods, seeing he always aimed at excellence.

Lates was especially clever as a listener to ringing and while so engaged would make imaginary figures with the forefinger of his right hand on the palm of his left. He would make the bobs as they were called and say what the next course end should be, so that very soon he would have the whole plan of a peal before him by simply listening. His memory, too, was wonderful in these matters, as he would go home and commit to paper anything that particularly struck him. This gift of his was well understood, as he gave numerous proofs of it from time to time, by the best men of the Exercise.

One of his peculiarities of his time used to be somewhat of a puzzle to us and still remains a puzzle to me. Every now and again he used to surprise us by bringing to us an account of some peal, either Triples or Major, that had been rung at the village of Christleton, Cheshire. In the band there were several brothers named Mayers and a Mr. J. Poter, who conducted, and Lates used to describe them as 'devilish clever fellows who could ring anything.'

Several of his peals of Stedman Triples were said to be rung there (Christleton), and that when they were far more difficult to conduct than now. When my uncle was practising for his Treble Bob Triples, Lates, by listening and chatting about it, discovered how it was worked, composed a peal of it and got it rung at Christleton, Cheshire. Afterwards a peal of Double Norwich of his was reported to be rung there. This sort of thing caused Lates to be disliked. My uncle was very much annoyed about the Treble Bob Triples, and after speaking pretty freely to Lates about it, let the matter fall through.

At Michaelmas Fair several of the Christleton ringers came to Birmingham, when we considered them no better ringers than ourselves, or, in fact, hardly so good. In after years, when the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon wrote to that place for information concerning their performances, he could get none. He was particularly anxious about a peal of Double Norwich Major said to have been rung there in 1846 and wrote several letters on the subject. To one he had reply that they knew nothing about it, and at last got no reply at all.

When stricken down in his last illness he sent for Chattel and gave him his MS. books and papers. Later when Chattel was going to his home at Harborne he gave them to Mr. J. Perks, who in his turn gave them to Mr. H. Bastable. They were in my possession for some time, and while looking them over found the peal of Double Norwich beforementioned marked as having been rung at Christleton in 1846. On making this discovery I took them to Mr. H. Johnson so that he might examine the peal, and he did so, but could not make it out to his satisfaction. There are four singles in the peal, two made in the usual way and two in four five. These MS. books and papers were in Johnson's hands for a little time, and when I received them from him I addressed him somewhat as follows: 'Well, Harry, you have seen what he has left behind him, and now tell me what you think of it all.' I often think of him as he put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the face and said, 'John, he was a clever fellow.' And so, no doubt, he was, and had he with the other composers that Birmingham could boast, when at their best, worked together in harmony instead of trying to over-reach each other, what might have been accomplished.

The struggle between Lates and Thurstans is now a matter of history, rendered so by the writings of the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon.

Johnson had Thurstans' peal in his possession some time before it was rung, and Lates having heard a great part of it, it is difficult to say what would have happened if it had not been completed. When Johnson came out of the tower after the ringing, the first man he met was Lates, and he addressed Johnson somewhat in this way, 'Why—Harry, what peal have you been ringing? The bells came round with a single.' 'I know they did,' said Harry. 'It is one of Tom's with two common singles, and now you can have it.' Those who knew Lates could form a pretty good opinion of what he would say after that.

Lates was always very courteous and gentlemanly in his manners and always spoke grammatically, although he had a few expressions he used to throw out when unusually elated or surprised. He died March 22nd, 1858, in the 60th year of his age and was buried in St. Philip's churchyard on the north side of the tower. The stone erected to his memory is now laid flat, but may still be seen near the palisades.

On Easter Tuesday, 1845, a band was picked for a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Philip's, and I was to have stood in. I was on my way to the church in good time for the meeting, but as I entered the 'Row' to my surprise I heard the bells in changes. Later on I found out that a travelling ringer named Graham, Old Dick, had visited Chattel that day, and, learning that a peal was on, persuaded Chattel to start the peal half an hour earlier and so give him a chance, and ousting me, I suppose, as being the youngest of the band. Chattel favoured the arrangement. I was a bit nettled and as I walked about the churchyard I met Johnson and presently Lates came up to us. After a chat Lates began to figure with the finger on his hand and he suddenly turned to Johnson and said, 'Harry, what the devil is he up to? The sixth has gone away.' I forget Johnson's reply, but by and by the bells were right again, and Lates rubbed his hands and chuckled over the fun to come later on. When the peal was finished and the men came down from the tower, Lates addressed Chattel somehow thus: 'I say, Billy, what were you up to, so and so, when the 6th was behind the 9th?' 'Oh,' said Chattel, 'Old Dick and the sixth changed courses.' 'Well, how did you manage?' 'Why the worst of it was I called a bob before I noticed it, but I planted Old Dick at once. I knew what the next course end should be and before that came up I managed to get them all in their proper places.' Lates very much enjoyed this and said he would go somewhere 'if Billy was not a clever fellow.' But Johnson took a different view on the matter, and I was glad I was not in the peal.

WELDING BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. Denis A. Bayles' letter in your issue of November 24th, he is under a wrong impression. The bells of Acle Church, Norfolk, which we restored in 1933, were not welded.

Mr. Bayles is also mistaken in the date of the old 4th bell. This is 1654—not 1604.

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SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WESTBURY.

The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held on December 2nd at Westbury. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Bob Major. The Vicar, the Rev. J. P. Hinton, conducted service in the church, Miss Newton being at the organ. Fifty-eight members were the guests of the tower to tea in the Parish Room, after which Mr. E. F. White presided over the business meeting, at which all the officers of the branch were re-elected.

The towers represented were Westbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge, North Bradley, Warminster, Keevil, Steeple Ashton, Holt, Longbridge Deverell, Bratton, Bishops Cannings, Devizes St. John and St. Mary, and Southbroom. Visitors came from Bristol, Salisbury, Wishford, Bath and Batheaston.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ASHTEAD.

A meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild was held at Ashtead on November 25th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Cooper, and tea, to which 37 sat down, was served at the Peace Memorial Hall, the business meeting following. Three new ringing and two compounding members were elected, and the retiring district officers were renominated for election in 1945.

A letter from the general secretary regarding the payment for a new peal book was read, and it was decided that the members should think it over and give their opinions at the annual district meeting.

A good variety of methods to suit all capabilities were rung.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT POWICK.

There was a large gathering of members at a meeting of the Worcestershire Association, held at Powick on November 25th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. W. Rowe, and tea and business were in the Village Hall. Mr. C. Camm, the Branch Master, Mr. E. F. Cubberley, the hon. secretary, and Mr. W. Ranford were re-elected. The Rev. D. W. Rowe was elected an honorary member, and Messrs. H. E. Raxter, F. Hemming, W. Sparkes and W. Bourne, of Dodderhill, and the Rev. H. L. Davies, of Upton, performing members. A report was given of the recent broadcast of the Cathedral bells in the Bridge-Building series of the B.B.C. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at All Saints', Worcester.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A controversy has developed around the question of peal ringing in war time, and the letter of 'B,' while submitting an understandable argument for the bereaved, savours very much of the pre-war arguments advanced by the Anti-Noise League.

All of us have the deepest sympathy with the bereaved. But, thank God, our men and women at home are made of the same fibre that has carried our armies to victory. They carry their sorrows bravely and endeavour to live in the same spirit as those who made the supreme sacrifice in performing the daily tasks of life with courage and fortitude. As Christian people we all realise that death is not the end. It is a parting for a season, and there is that confidence and belief in reunion in the life to come when opportunities for fuller service, which might also include bellringing to the glory of God, will be available.

I was talking this very question over with one of the veterans of our Exercise—and may he be spared to ring many more peals. He told me that he had already purchased his grave in a position that the full beauty of his beloved bells could be heard in all their glory. Now I do not share his view of associating the terrestrial with the celestial. Such factors of earthly dimensions will be non-existent, and as distance has already been overcome by the advance of science, so in the life to come it will be far more incomprehensive.

A few evenings ago I was listening to a peal rung on our beloved bells. With me was a Polish soldier, who was entranced with the majestic glory of our bells and the almost perfect striking. The bells brought back to him memories of his own country. 'We have bells in Poland,' he told me, 'but I have never heard ringing like this before.'

The majority of people love the sound of bells. Last Sunday I was listening to an admirable sermon by a Nonconformist Divine delivered to the relatives of those serving overseas. His subject was the coming Christmas. 'What our boys overseas will be thinking about on Christmas Day,' he said, 'will be their own folks at home and the hearing of the Christmas bells.' There is nothing so characteristically English as bells rung with the full beauty of perfect timing and rhythm.

Now I am one of those who have been guilty of peal ringing in war time. I am not ashamed of it; I do not regard my conduct as unpatriotic. Personally, I have benefited both mentally and physically from the peals which would not have been possible by the ringing of a quarter-peal. On no occasion have I heard in my own town an adverse comment on my peal ringing activities in war time. The contrary has been my experience, and a number of people who are non-ringers have expressed their pleasure at hearing bells again. The main thing in war time is to lead as near as possible a normal life. And, above all, let us not neglect our ringing for Sunday services, which is an act of worship and performed solely to the glory of God.

'W.'

Dear Sir,—The pros and cons of this matter have been discussed at length in many letters, but it appears to me that to some extent ringers may be said to have failed in their duty as operators of a national mode of expression.

How many peals were rung in honour of the victories in North Africa, the liberation of Paris and Brussels or for the great Russian achievements? Yet from time immemorial English bells pealed out upon such glorious news.

Are ringers all over the country arranging for peals of thankfulness against the time when the last of the occupied countries shall have been liberated? I think not, but why should not a day of ringing be organised as an act of praise and thanksgiving in the same way and in the same spirit that the nation responds to the King's calls for days of prayer?

T. E. LOXTON.

Aldermaston, Berks.

Dear Sir,—Might I further trouble you, as an 'anti-pealer,' to allow me to answer the question asked by Mr. P. A. Corby as to what is the difference between a peal and a meeting to the ears of the public?

I doubt whether the ears of the public would detect any difference between one or the other, but I think Mr. Corby misses a very important point by asking that question in just that particular form.

Surely there is a very great difference in the conditions of a peal and those of a meeting.

I think I may safely assume that when Mr. Corby starts for a peal, he, or whoever is conducting, ensures a greater degree of privacy by locking the door if this is possible, and, in normal times, rightly so. In these days, if anyone wanted the bells stopped, would Mr. Corby tell me how anyone could go about it? This is, I feel sure, the main point against peal ringing in war time.

In the case of a meeting, of course, no such condition is present, and if the bells were in need of silencing for a specific reason, then they could be, by the simple expedient of going into the churchyard and telling some of those people standing outside listening.

I would here like to make the point that if Mr. Corby or Mr. Clift must ring peals at the present time, then the least they can do is to see that someone in authority can gain access to them 'just in case.'

Finally, can Mr. Corby explain just how he considers an opposition to peal ringing in war time 'hibernation.' Surely that suggests to me that the only form of ringing in which Mr. Corby has any interest is peal ringing and that anything else doesn't count. I feel quite sure that your correspondent 'B' (whose letter, I thought, put the anti-pealers' case excellently well), along with myself, don't look upon our views as constituting 'hibernation.' We would rather call it 'consideration,' which is what peal ringers appear to lack.

RICHARD A. POST.

Llanelly.

Dear Sir,—There are four considerations to make about peal ringing in war time. First, there is the ringer who has always found peal ringing a pleasure and has gone about it with enthusiaam and great interest. Secondly, there is the member of the general public who enjoys hearing the bells. Thirdly, there is the ex-peal ringgr who has lost all interest, and, lastly, the member of the general public who dislikes hearing the bells.

In the first case, no really interested ringer would condemn peal ringing whatever the reason, neither would the member of the general public who enjoys bell music. The latter because the music of the bells is sure to remind him of the better things of this life and the next. Then the ringer who has lost interest has probably done so because of a little difference of opinion between his belfry colleagues and himself, of which he is reminded every time he hears the bells—a case of personal prejudice. Lastly, the person who dislikes bell music probably has no reason at all for so doing. I'm glad to say that I have met only one such person—many years ago—and his reason was pure selfishness and a bad temper. As Messrs. Pulling and Corby have said, 'Which is more preferable, a two hours' badly struck combined practice, of which there are many each week, or a three hours' well-struck peal?'

Regarding Mr. Denis A. Bayles' letter advocating a summer school for the theoretical side of the Exercise, I wholeheartedly agree with him and would like to go a step farther and suggest that some practical work be included as well.

Also, the letter from Mr. C. A. Levett is well worthy of note. It is high time that the ringing associations and guilds adjusted their rules in order to enable some of the young blood to try their hand at managing the many offices demanded by the association.

FRANK C. W KNIGHT.

Farnham, Surrey.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HOLLOWAY.—On Sunday, November 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Akers 1, R. Newman 2, A. Warren 3, R. Charge 4, E. Pratchett 5, G. Charge 6, A. Turner (conductor) 7, H. W. Barnard (first quarter-peal) 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On November 14th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss P. Holmes (first 720 Bob Minor) 1, H. Hodgetts 2, G. C. Tarr 3, J. Gleaver 4, L. R. Tarr 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6.—On November 27th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: L. R. Tarr (first 720 Bob Minor on handbells) 1-2, H. Hodgetts 3-4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5-6.

HALSTEAD.—On Saturday, November 18th, 1,008 Bob Major: H. Smith 1, F. Ridgwell 2, L. W. Wiffen 3, F. Claydon 4, Miss H. Snowden 5, G. Saunders 6, A. Wiffen 7, W. Arnold (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled for Canon T. H. Curling, late Vicar.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Doubles, being 120 each of St. Dunstan's and London Singles, 360 Antelope and 660 Grandsire: J. Dennett 1, D. King 2, Miss V. Mabberly 3, L. H. Pink (conductor) 4, M. A. Martin 5, L.A.C. D. Carey 6. First quarter-peal as conductor.

MAIDEN NEWTON, DORSET.—On Saturday, November 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *J. Pitman 1, †W. H. Toms 2, R. C. Trevett 3, †H. J. Ford 4, J. H. Hayne 5, *Rev. W. G. Squire 6. * First quarter-peal. † First quarter-peal inside.

GOODNESTONE, KENT.—On Saturday, November 25th, 720 Bob Minor: T. W. Robinson 1, C. Turner 2, Harrison Smith 3, F. Fairbeard 4, H. J. Saunders 5, R. Collins (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS. — On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Wragby Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

ACCRINGTON, LANCS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Bob Doubles: L. Walsh 1, C. M. P. Johnson (first quarter-peal) 2, S. A. Smith 3, R. Leigh 4, R. Blakey 5.

OVER, CAMBS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Bavin 1, A. W. T. Ginn 2, L. G. Thorpe 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, R. Smith 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Beverley Surprise Minor: C. Avlett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor 3, J. W. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

FULMER, BUCKS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Fuller 1, E. Harding 2, G. E. Swift 3, G. H. Gutteridge 4, F. T. Bolton 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss A. Miles (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss F. Wyman 2, A. Ringrose 3, A. J. Bull 4, G. Jennings 5, K. Snelling 6, O. Sippetts (conductor) 7, B. Slaughter 8.

CROSTHWAITE, KESWICK. — On Monday, November 27th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Wilson 1, Mrs. T. Hogarth (first in the method) 2, Mrs. T. Wilson 3, T. Hogarth (conductor) 4, J. Brownrigg 5, F. Grisdale 6, R. Grisdale 7.

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.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Greyhound 5 p.m. Beddington bells available 7-9 p.m.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horsham St. Faith, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Tea at Vicarage, 4.30. Business meeting to discuss future policy, including holding of branch meetings. Buses leave Norwich 1.35, 2.15, 3.40. Leave St. Faith 5.53 and 6.6.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District. — Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Tea 1s., and meeting 4.30 p.m. —J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Spingfield on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting after.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Heene, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business.—L Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at King's Langley, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Service ringing, All Saints', Poplar, Sunday, Dec. 10th, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names to Capt E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11, by Dec. 13th.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Weedon (6 bells), Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bring food. — W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale and Rossendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea in Co-op Cafe 5 p.m., 2s. 6d. Names to secretaries before Dec. 12th.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District. — Meeting at Diseworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea and business in School 5 p.m. Bring food. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — Saturday, Dec. 16th. Rededication of Chilvers Coton bells. Service in Parish Hall 3 p.m. Dedicatory prayers in church ruins 3.45 p.m. Ringing to follow. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 14th.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Thurmaston, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (6) 4 p.m. Tea and business, Schoolroom, 5 p.m. Ringing, Barkby bells (5) 3 p.m. Names by 13th to H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells of Cathedral, if available, 3-4 p.m. Alternatively, St. Peter's. Service, St. Peter's, 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, 5.15 p.m. Further ringing at St. Peter's. Names by Dec. 14th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery. — Annual meeting at Congresbury, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business in Vicarage 5 p.m. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. Luton District.—Meeting at Houghton Regis (6 bells), Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3.45 p.m.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Derby Cathedral, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, 5 p.m., in belfry. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

BIRTH.

COOPER.—On November 28th, 1944, at St. Mary's Maternity Hospital, Croydon, to Doris, wife of Daniel D. Cooper, a son (Phillip Daniel).

HARLOW COMMON.—On November 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Whitby 1, L. Whitby (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, R. Springham 3, L. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, W. Horsnell (first quarter-peal) 6, S. Clark (conductor) 7, J. Aley 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, December 3rd, at the Cathedral, 1,264 Bob Major: J. H. Hunt 1, P. Cook 2, S. E. Cook 3, J. D. Harris 4, H. Nobes 5, T. Page 6, F. W. Burnett 7, W. Tate (conductor) 8; also 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Nobes 1, T. Page 2, P. Page 3, J. H. Hunt 4, J. D. Harris 5, R. Stone 6, W. Tate 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8.

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