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GILLET & JOHNSTON Ltd. CROYDON

Founders of the
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BRITISH EMPIRE

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A SCHOOL OF RINGING.

Some months ago a correspondent, writing in our columns, advocated a scheme by which a summer school would be held each year at some convenient place, and selected and competent instructors would lecture on the theory of change ringing and the problems of composition. It was an attractive idea, and was received with a good deal of approval, but we fancy that there were very few, even among those who agreed most heartily, who did not realise on second thoughts that it is quite beyond the borders of practicability. There would need to be an efficient organisation to arrange the meeting in a suitable place, and to ensure that the requisite funds were forthcoming. There would need to be professors who were not only competent but able and willing to give the necessary time. And there would need to be the right sort of students.

None of these would be likely to be available. The men who possess the necessary knowledge, together with the ability to impart it by lectures to others, are very few; and those who would be tempted to sacrifice their summer holiday to do so are fewer still. No doubt there would be a fair number of ringers who would attend a course of lectures if it were near their homes, or could easily be taken in the course of a holiday in some attractive part of the country. But what a mixed and heterogeneous lot they would be! Suppose that the professor had decided to lecture on the Composition of Twin-Bob Peals of Stedman Triples; the poor man, when he faced his audience, would not know whether to treat them as conversant with the more elementary parts of the science, and so run the risk of being unintelligible to most of his hearers, or to waste the greater part of his time explaining what could better be learned with patience from the recognised text books, and so boring those of his pupils whom he would be most anxious to benefit.

No; a summer school of ringing would not be workable, and any attempt to form one would hardly survive more than two or three lectures. But this week Mr. B. D. Price suggests an alternative which certainly would have a better chance of success. He proposes the formation of corresponding groups of selected persons. One man would write a thesis on some subject and send it to the next, who would add his comments and criticisms, and then pass it to the third. So it would go round and, as it went, it would impart knowledge and stimulate thought.

(Continued on page 94.)

The idea is not a new one, even in the ringing Exercise. It is the idea which, in the early days of the Central Council, led to the formation of those committees which were appointed to deal with such theoretical questions as the proper form of bobs and singles, the legitimacy of methods, and the like. It had a thorough trial and its efficacy can be judged. Was it a success? On the whole we may say it served its purpose well enough, but only because a large proportion of the men took little or no interest in the proceedings. Argument and the clash of opposing ideas are among the best ways of reaching the truth in such things as the science of ringing, but only if the disputants are able to argue logically (which few people are) and have some common agreed upon ground to start from. Otherwise, all that results is a battle of words and ideas.

The best way of all is for two friends of equal ability and with a common interest to correspond by letter. If they approach a problem from different angles, so much the better, so long as they are equally desirous of reaching the truth and not merely of gaining a verbal victory. The man who is able to indulge in such a contest is a fortunate person, but for most men knowledge of theoretic change ringing must be sought along a solitary path with no other guides than the standard text books and the work of the men who have gone before him.

TEN BELL PEAL.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

*MISS P. FLETCHER Treble	E. DENNIS POOLE 6
WILLIAM SAUNDERS 2	WALTER LAGO 7
JOSEPH L. STANIER 3	WILLIAM J. CHESTER 8
ROBERT EVANS 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 9
G. LEONARD HEWITT 5	*JOHN G. GIPSON Tenor

Composed by G. HAYWARD. Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal on ten bells.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

180				180		
2314567				2314567		
3461275	2	Make Bob		3425167	1	Out Quick
1543726	3	1st Half Turn		3451267	1	Make Bob
5214367	2	Last Whole Turn		4165372	2	1st Whole Turn
5243167	1	Out Slow		5214736	3	Last Whole Turn
2351467	1	Make Bob		2351467	2	Make Bob
2316574	1	Plain Six		2316574	1	In Quick
180				180		
2314567				2314567		
3461275	2	Make Bob		3461275	2	Make Bob
1543726	3	1st Half Turn		4132675	1	In Slow
5263174	3	Out Slow		1752463	3	Last Half Turn
2351674	1	Make Bob		2371645	3	Make Bob
2316574	1	In Quick		2314567	1	Plain Six
180				180		
2314567				2314567		
3461275	2	Make Bob		3425167	1	Out Quick
4132675	1	In Slow		3451267	1	Make Bob
1743256	2	1st Half Turn		4132567	1	In Slow
1732456	1	Last Half Turn		1643275	2	1st Half Turn
7253164	2	Out Slow		1632475	1	Last Half Turn
2371564	1	Make Bob		6273154	2	Out Slow
2315764	1	In Quick		2361754	1	Make Bob

All twice repeated. Treble is the observation.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WESTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

HAROLD A. NOBES Treble	JOHN W. BEST 5
PATRICK PAGE 2	TOM PAGE 6
*WILLIAM A. THEOBALD 3	JOHN H. HUNT 7
†STANLEY E. COOK 4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by FREDK. W. BURNETT.

* First peal. † First peal inside.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH
SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 25, 1945, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

G. WILLIAM MORRIS Treble	*CAPT. H. W. ROGERS 5
*MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS 2	ARTHUR HARDING 6
*ALAN F. THIRST 3	NORMAN V. HARDING 7
FRANCIS D. BISHOP 4	FRANK H. HICKS Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN V. HARDING.

* First peal of Bob Major.

KIRTLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 25, 1945, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANOSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	FREDK. A. H. WILKINS 5
E. S. JOHN HATCHER 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER 6
*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3	WILLIAM JUDGE 7
†THOMAS H. S. SMITH 4	CHRISTOPHER LAMBOURN Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 27, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 4½ cwt.

*THOMAS H. S. SMITH Treble	WALTER F. JUDGE 5
MARIE R. CROSS 2	WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS 6
WILLIAM C. PORTER 3	VICTOR J. F. BENNETT 7
WILLIAM JUDGE 4	*FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 1, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITMAN'S FOUR-PART, No. 13.

Tenor 13 cwt.

ERIC B. HARTLEY Treble	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5
HENRY HODGETTS 2	WILLIAM WENBAN 6
FRANCIS KIRK 3	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 7
PERCY PARSLow 4	JOHN E. ROOTES Tenor

Conducted by MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

This composition contains four exact quarter-peals, the 7th being undisturbed throughout.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

A practice meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Debenham on February 24th and was attended by about 25 members. Ringing commenced at 3.45 and continued until 8.45 with but very short intervals. Methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Friday, March 2, 1945, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

JOHN DEEM... .. Treble	JOHN L. S. GLANVILL ... 5
*FRED G. DIMOND 2	EDWARD SPRAGUE 6
BRIAN F. PIDGEON 3	*WILLIAM HAYMAN 7
MARINE ALBERT MORLEY... 4	MARINE JACK BROWN ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JACK BROWN.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Major on the bells.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 2, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

JOHN P. FIDLER Treble	JOHN R. SMITH 5
COLIN HARRISON... .. 2	SHIRLEY BURTON... .. 6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT 7
JILL POOLE 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... Tenor

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

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*CHARLES MARSHALL... .. Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
*MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6
*HARRY G. WAYNE 3	*HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 7
*JOHN R. SMITH 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major.

RATBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt, 3 qr. 11 lb.

*WILFRED E. GEARY... .. Treble	J. HAROLD SPENCER... .. 5
ERNEST MORRIS... .. 2	WILLIAM SMITH... .. 6
JOSIAH MORRIS 3	G. STEDMAN MORRIS... .. 7
ARTHUR CATTELL 4	*GORDON A. OLLIFFE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE STEDMAN MORRIS.

* First peal.

CRESWELL, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE L. CHAMBERS ... Treble	WALTER ALLWOOD 5
G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. 2	A. BENJAMIN COOPER 6
*DENNIS COOPER... .. 3	LESLIE W. BACON 7
STANLEY SLANEY 4	JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY

* First peal.

BISHOP AUCKLAND, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

ROBERT JEFF Treble	*GEORGE F. NEWTON... .. 5
*WILLIAM OLIVER 2	JAMES T. TITT 6
SAMUEL BRYANT 3	ROLAND PARK 7
GEORGE W. PEVESEL ... 4	W. NORMAN PARK Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

SUCKLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 24, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM RANFORD Treble	DENIS R. MORRIS 4
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 5
ALLEN MORGAN 3	GEORGE AMBLER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

HEIGHINGTON, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

JAMES T. TITT Treble	ROBERT T. SIMPSON 4
WILLIAM OLIVER 2	ROLAND PARK 5
RICHARD BUSBY 3	W. NORMAN PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of the Rev. W. J. H. McLean, for 28 years Vicar of Heighington, and Mr. William Story, J.P., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a member of this association for 66 years and a past president.

ACTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different extents.

C.S.M. EDWARD HOWE ... Treble	*FREDERICK S. SUTTON ... 4
FRANK OLLIER 2	STANLEY SUTTON 5
JOHN E. BROUGH 3	*JOHN YOUNG Tenor

Conducted by J. E. BROUGH.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	†ARTHUR JONES 4
*DEREK R. JUDD 2	FREDERICK A. FINCH... .. 5
*JEFFERY C. BIRT 3	†ARTHUR HARDING Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 25, 1945, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

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

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

HALE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 27, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 6, STANWAY DRIVE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*DAVID VINCENT 1-2	*ALAN J. BROWN 5-6
MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 3-4	JOHN WORTH 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by J. WORTH.

* First peal in hand.

THE ART OF PRICKING CHANGES.

Every ringer should try to understand the art of pricking changes, and especially so at the time when he is just beginning to understand something of the rudiments of change ringing; for there are few things which will help him more to attain proficiency in the belfry than a study of methods on paper and by himself; and there are few things which are more necessary to the competent ringer, especially if he is a conductor, than to be able to work out the exact positions of the bells at any given point in a touch or a peal.

To prick changes is not merely to copy accurately the figures, which represent the bells, from a reliable source. The art consists in being able to write out correctly and quickly the figures which represent the plain course of any method, even the most complex, about which the writer knows a few essential facts; and further to be able to write down any changes which may occur at any particular point in a touch or a peal, provided he knows, in addition, the calling of the touch or peal in the way that even the least skilful conductor is supposed to know it.

In the ringing in the tower, one change is produced from the preceding one by transposing the positions of one or more pairs of adjacent bells. That actually was how changes were first of all consciously produced. The ideas in the minds of the ringers are not now quite the same; but, so far as pricking is concerned, the old idea is just as much alive as ever, and the man who pricks changes to-day is in exactly the same position as the man who controlled the ringing in the belfry three centuries ago, except that he has a vastly larger range of methods to deal with.

All change ringing is ultimately based on plain hunting, and the first thing to do is to learn the rules for pricking plain hunting bells. We must start with the figures which represent the bells in a definite sequence, and just as in the belfry we always take rounds as the starting row, so when we are pricking, we usually start with the figures in their natural order—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. This is merely a matter of convenience.

Any sequence of figures representing bells is called a row, and in theory there is no limit to the number of figures we may have in our initial row. In the steeple we are, for very practical reasons, limited, usually, to six or eight bells, and we never have more than ten or twelve. When we are pricking changes on paper, we are not so restricted, and we can, if we like, work with very large numbers; but there is seldom any need or reason for doing so. There is, however, one vital difference between the initial rows, whether they are large or small. Some consist of an even number of figures, and the rest consist of an odd number of figures. The difference between an odd and an even number, and its importance, in the ordinary things of everyday life are obvious to all. It is not less important in change ringing, and is far reaching in its effects.

We set down, first of all, a row consisting of an even number of figures—123456. This is made up of three pairs of adjacent figures, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6. We transpose the positions of the figures in each of these pairs and we get 214365, which we write under our initial row. We have still three pairs of adjacent figures, but if we were to transpose them, we should come back to where we started from.

So what we do is to reproduce the first and last figures in the same positions, and to transpose each of the remaining two pairs of figures—1 and 4, and 3 and 6.

We have now three pairs we can transpose, 2 and 4, 1 and 6, and 3 and 5, which will give us 426153; and then once again we find we are compelled to transpose two pairs only. So we go on, first transposing all three pairs, and then the two middle pairs, until, when we have pricked twice as many rows as there are figures in our initial row, we find we have come back to where we started from, and if we go on pricking, we shall merely reproduce what we have already got.

A set of rows of this kind is called a Round Block, and Round Blocks play a very important part in the science of change ringing.

But our initial row might have contained an odd number of figures, and that would mean a somewhat different way of working. We begin with (shall we say?) 12345. Now here we have two pairs of adjacent bells, and one extra one. Obviously we cannot include all five in our first transposition. So what we do is to transpose the figures in the first two pairs, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and reproduce the last and odd figure, 5, in its original position. We still have two pairs and an odd figure, but now we reproduce the leading figure in the same position and transpose the four other figures in pairs.

So we go on—first transposing the first four figures, and then the last four figures, until, after twice as many changes as there are figures in our initial row, we come back to the point from which we started.

123456	12345
214365	21435
241635	24153
426153	42513
462513	45231
645231	54321
654321	53412
563412	35142
536142	31524
351624	13254
315264	12345
132546	
123456	

These examples illustrate the art of pricking changes on even and odd numbers of figures respectively. When we examine these two round blocks (which are termed Hunting Courses), we find that each bell (represented by a figure) has a straight cyclical path through the other bells. This path is plain hunting, and one path follows another on strictly parallel lines. The second follows the treble, the fourth follows the second, the sixth follows the fourth, the fifth follows the sixth, the third follows the fifth, the treble follows the third. This order, 1, 2, 4, 6, 5, 3, 1, 2, etc., which is cyclical, is the Coursing Order of the bells, and Coursing Order is a very important thing, both in the science of change ringing and in the actual practice of the belfry. The term is sometimes used more loosely, but though it may be properly applied to a part of the bells and not, as here, to all of them, it should always have the essential meaning we have given it.

Plain hunting and Coursing Order form the basis of all change ringing; but, so long as we keep to plain hunting and the same Coursing Order, we do not get very far. We must vary the plain hunting and change the Coursing Order. This we do by varying the pairs of bells we transpose and the rules by which this varying is done make all the difference between method and method.

The rule for Plain Bob is that all the bells plain hunt until the Treble returns to the front. So far, then, we prick the changes by the rules given above. But when the Treble strikes the second blow of its whole pull on the front, instead of transposing the remaining bells in pairs we reproduce the bell in Seconds in the same position, and then transpose the remainder in pairs. Instead of—

132546

we write

132546

123456

135264

This gives us a new row and a fresh Coursing Order, which will serve until the Treble again returns to the lead. We should notice that though the Treble now occupies a different position in the Coursing Order, all the other bells retain the same Coursing Order among themselves.

The rule of Grandsire is that all the bells plain hunt until the Treble has completed its whole pull on the lead, but at the next change, though we transpose the first pair of figures, we reproduce the third figure in the same position, and then transpose the rest in pairs. Instead of—

15243

15243

12534 we write 12534

21354

21543

As with Plain Bob, we get a fresh row and a new Coursing Order. The row 12345 represents a change when the Treble has just completed its whole pull on the front, and therefore the first row pricked from rounds must be 21354.

When any bell occupies the same position in a row as it occupied in the preceding row, it is said to Make a Place. As we have seen, the places made when the bell is leading or lying behind are a part of plain hunting, and do not cause an alteration of Coursing Order. It is usual, therefore, to confine the term Place Making to those made in the interior of the change, but there is no definite rule on the matter nor any need for one.

Now, just as we can freely and easily prick the rows of such simple methods as Plain Bob and Grandsire by knowing where and when the places must be made so we can prick just as easily any method, even the most complicated, if we know where the places should come. We need know nothing whatever about the work of the method. All we need to know to write out Double Norwich, for instance, is this—Fourths place in the second change, Thirds and Fifths places in the fourth change and Sixths place in the sixth change. Elsewhere plain hunting, and the second half lead to balance the first half lead.

CRAYFORD COLLEGE MAJOR

To the Editor

Sir.—Your remark that the above method was so named partly because the first peal of it was rung at Crayford is not quite correct. The first peal was actually rung at St. John's, Deptford, in 1919, and the method was published simply as College Major. The addition of 'Crayford' was made, presumably by the Methods Committee, when the Central Council collection of Plain Major and Cater methods was brought out. It is stated in that book that Crayford was the place of the first peal, and doubtless it was from this that your error arose.

E. A. BARNETT.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
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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.

The increasing circulation of 'The Ringing World' has now exhausted the extra supply of paper recently allowed us, and new orders for delivery by post can only be accepted subject to vacancies occurring in the present list of subscribers, either from death or some other cause. Orders sent to Mr. George W. Fletcher will be dealt with in strict rotation as quickly as opportunity offers.

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

The peal of Bob Royal at Oxford on February 25th, reported in our last issue, was rung at Lady Margaret Hall.

A SCHOOL OF RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bayles' suggestion of holding a summer school of ringing is very interesting, and such an institution would prove of great benefit to those concerned. Unfortunately, the few that are interested in composition and theory are so widely separated that there is little opportunity for an exchange of ideas at present. The function of a summer school would not be so much to teach ringers theory as to stimulate interest and initiative. The ideal would be a conclave for a week (I think a longer period impracticable) at some centre during the summer. Probably a town such as Oxford, Bristol or Birmingham would be most suitable, having many rings of bells, and possible accommodation and lecture rooms during the university vacation. It is essential in my opinion to include a proportion of ringing and social activities during such a course.

There is, however, another scheme that has occurred to me, with other advantages. Groups of theorists, advanced or otherwise, would correspond through a circular letter. About six ringers would correspond from member to member in an arranged order, each member expounding any discoveries and problems of his own, and answering and commenting on the others' works. One snag is the human failing of 'shelving' correspondence. I would welcome enthusiasts for a trial run of this idea. If they will write to me at the address below I will endeavour to arrange a circuit.

Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

B. D. PRICE.

FIVE-BELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Where are 'those bored ringers in five-bell towers who have consumed every available Doubles method in the past' that Mr. B. D. Price mentions?

Till recent years the Norwich Association record of 21 Doubles methods, rung at Cretingham and conducted by David G. Wightman on April 30th, 1883, remained unequalled, and though a band before the war did set itself the aim of ringing 42 extents in so many methods, there seems to be no indication that five-bell ringers are bored or that they have rung all there is to be rung.

The truth is that nowadays a five-bell ringer is not exclusively so for long. If he is at all interested in ringing the lure of higher methods is strong. Nevertheless, there is much to be done on five bells. Grandsire can with extremes, and again with other bells besides the treble the whole hunt, dissipate the boredom of those purists who imagine that any ringing on less than eight bells is unworthy of the exercise of their extraordinary mental powers.

And methods like that which Mr. Price prints have been known to the Exercise for over two hundred years: 'Success' is the name of such a one and has the merit of single changes every twelfth change only. However, it is pleasant to know that the five-bell ringer is not forgotten, and doubtless he remembers with gratitude the recent efforts with Erin made on his behalf.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM SAMPSON.

News has been received of the death of Mr. William Sampson, for many years a ringer at Vancouver, British Columbia. He was formerly one of the Fulham band. The funeral on January 20th was attended by nearly all the local band, and handbells were rung over the grave by A. C. Limpus 1-2, J. Pitman 3-4, R. Pitman 5-6, and J. Watts 7-8. Mr. Sampson was in his 77th year.

BOMBARDIER FRED JEFFS.

News has been received that Bdr. Fred Jeffs, R.A., has been killed in action on the Burma front. He did most of his ringing at Linslade and Leighton Buzzard. After his marriage he resided at Boxmoor, when he took part in the ringing at Apsley and Hemel Hempstead.

Of a very genial disposition, he and his wife, 'Rose,' were welcome visitors at the meetings of the associations in the district. Much sympathy is extended to his widow, Mrs. R. Jeffs, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jeffs, of Linslade. He was 33 years of age and leaves no family.

MR. SYDNEY R. ROPER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Sydney R. Roper, which occurred on Wednesday, February 21st, at his home in Mount Park Avenue, South Croydon. Mr. Roper had been in failing health for the past two and a half years, but the end came somewhat unexpectedly at the last by heart failure.

His passing, at the comparatively early age of 62, removes one of the best known figures in the bell world. For 35 years he had been on the staff of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., the world famous bell founders of Croydon, and for the greater part of that time had acted as one of the firm's outside representatives. His work had taken him to all parts of Great Britain and Ireland and there are few districts where he was not known. Wherever he went in the course of business Mr. Roper made a point of contacting the local band and became very popular everywhere as a reliable change ringer in nearly all methods. His technical knowledge of towers and bell hanging was considerable.

Mr. S. R. Roper was born at Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk and learnt to ring there as a boy. During one period he was associated with the late Gabriel Lindoff, who also came from the same county. For some time he was a member and hon. secretary of the Croydon Parish Church band, but during the latter part of his life his duties made it almost impossible for him to be connected directly with any particular tower. The death of his wife two years ago was a heavy blow from which he never really recovered. There were no children.

Mr. Roper will be greatly missed by his many ringing friends everywhere and particularly by his colleagues at Gillett and Johnston.

The internment was at Mitcham Road cemetery on Tuesday, February 27th, following a service in the Croydon Parish Church, at which the Bishop of Croydon officiated, assisted by the senior curate, the Rev. J. Freeman. The bells were rung muffled by the local band to Grandshire Caters as a tribute to his memory.

Amongst the large number of relatives who attended the funeral were Mr. C. L. Roper, Major J. Roper and Mr. Percy Roper, all brothers of the deceased, the two latter being ringers. Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Johnston, Miss Nora Johnston and members of the staff of Gillett and Johnston also followed to the graveside.

A VETERAN RINGER.

One of Gloucestershire's oldest ringers, Mr. A. W. Humphris, reached his eightieth birthday on February 26th. The Cheltenham Parish Church bells were rung in celebration of the event on the previous Saturday.

On the Monday evening, February 26th, at his home at Uckington Gardens, Mr. Humphris, in company with campanologist friends, spent a pleasant time. After supper a touch of Grandshire Triples was rung, but most of the evening was spent tune ringing. Among the company were Messrs. C. Martin, Wilfrid Williams, W. Rose and Arthur Read. The three first named took part in the recent broadcast from the Cheltenham Town Hall mentioned in our issue of February 16th.

Mr. Humphris commenced ringing at the age of 17 at Cheltenham Parish Church and has continued to practise the art ever since. One of the most notable occasions on which he rang was for Queen Victoria's Jubilee. He also took part in the celebrations for the return of peace after the last war, and his greatest wish now is to be able to ring for the peace which follows the present war.

Among Mr. Humphris' achievements were the peal of 13,054 changes of Stedman Caters, rung in 8 hours and 16 minutes at St. Mary's Church on Whit Monday, May 21st, 1888 (at that time the longest peal ever rung), and the peal of 15,227 changes of Grandshire Caters rung in 9 hours and 43 minutes on Easter Monday, April 9th, 1889. He and Canon G. F. Coleridge are the only two survivors of the band who rang the former peal, and he is the sole survivor of the Grandshire peal.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leading article you unburden yourself extensively on the Midland Counties Association proposals, but I fear that your have cast aside an earlier leading article, in which you stated (I am quoting from memory) that 'these matters are purely the business of the members,' when you launch out with destructive criticism, which is neither helpful nor founded on fact.

I refer to your last item, that of free membership of all three guilds on paid-up membership of one.

This would not, as you state, affect peal ringers only, but would place all members in the present association area who are interested enough to venture outside their own particular district, whether for peal ringing, meetings, practice or any other reason, in precisely the same position as they are in under the association to-day, and would, therefore, keep alive the spirit of the association after its division, which is the object of the proposal. The question of casual membership of peal ringers is a separate item which has agitated association officials on many occasions in many parts of the country, but this particular problem is a domestic one in the Midland Counties Association, and will be decided by members at the meeting convened for that purpose.

Sherwood, Nottingham.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DRAYCOTT.

A well-attended meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Draycott on Saturday, March 3rd, when 35 ringers were present from Bucknall, Cheadle (R.C. and C. of E.), Kingsley, Longton, Leek, Hanley, Draycott, Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The bells (8) in the fine old church were kept going during the afternoon and evening, when several young members were enabled to achieve their first touches in Plain Bob, Minor and Major, and Grandshire Doubles and Triples.

At a committee meeting in the afternoon it was learned with regret that the chairman, Mr. A. W. Lloyd, had tendered his resignation, as he had been posted to a responsible position at Leeds, which he is taking up on April 3rd.

The meeting was unanimous in wishing Mr. Lloyd success in his new sphere, and in their sorrow at his leaving the district, but hoped that they would at least have the pleasure of his company whenever he visited the district. Mr. A. W. Hall (Cheadle) proposed, and Mr. W. Carnwell (Kingsley) seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. R. S. Anderson be the succeeding chairman.

Following tea in the Schoolroom, the Rector, the Rev. A. Stanley, welcomed the ringers to Draycott, and Mr. A. W. Lloyd thanked the Rector and ringers and the local ladies for a most excellent tea, and in informing the members of his resignation, he introduced the new chairman, Mr. R. S. Anderson.

The Chairman then paid tribute to Mr. A. W. Lloyd for his good work for the association and the loss which would be suffered by them in his leaving. Mr. R. S. Anderson, on behalf of the members, wished Mr. Lloyd every success, and said that he would take with him to Leeds the very sincere good wishes of all. Mr. A. W. Lloyd was elected a life member of the association in recognition of the most faithful service to the association.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BIDDENHAM.

The meeting of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Biddenham on Saturday, March 3rd, was attended by 32 ringers from Bromham, Kempston, Bedford, Milton Ernest, Elstow, Maulden, Silsoe, Cardington, Turvey, Stagden, Tempsford and the local belfry.

A short service, conducted by the Rev. D. F. Carey, was followed by tea at the Village Hall, kindly prepared by Mrs. West. The Vicar presided at the business meeting, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Kempston on March 24th. Returning to the tower, the bells were kept going until 9 o'clock in the following methods: Grandshire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Double Oxford Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Kentish Delight, St. Albans Delight, Cambridge, London and York Surprise Minor, and rounds for the beginners.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRIDGEND.

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Bridgend on February 24th and was well attended by members from both dioceses. Service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Thomas Jones, and tea was provided by the ladies of the Sunday School. The hon. secretary reported that the Rev. Ivor Richards was in hospital, but was progressing as well as could be expected. He was asked on behalf of the association to send a letter of sympathy to his wife.

The hon. secretary gave notice that owing to increasing age he intended to give up the office at the next annual meeting at Cardiff on Easter Monday and would look upon it as a very great kindness if someone else was appointed.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR METHODS.

BY THE REV. K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

(Continued from page 61.)

Now we can prove the two groups for false courses, and actually this is not difficult. The principle is that since in each lead the treble is twice in the same place in 'in course' or 'out of course' rows, there is a possibility that in some course a row may repeat, e.g., it is possible for rounds to come up in the position of the 'in course' row 15378246 or for 21436587 to come up in the position of row 51732864. But these could not be found in the position of out of course rows 15372846 and 51738264 respectively. And so, by transposition, we find the lead which would give us this falseness.

By noting that 15378246 comes from 12345678, we find that 12345678 would come from the lead head 16372845 and the same for 21436587 by comparison with 51732864. Now if we examine this false lead for coursing order we find that it is 6785423. In this, no two bells are in Plain Bob coursing order. Thus, keeping the tenors together, there is no possibility of ringing this lead, and thus the rows of group 1 will be 'clear.' If we now reverse the process to find in what lead row 15378246 will come in the position of 12345678, and 51732864 in the position of 21436587, we shall find (quite obviously) that it will be in lead 15378246. The coursing order of this is 5726483, which also is 'clear.' And so our method can start and end quite safely with the rows given. It is also helpful to remember that if the first transposition gives clear proof, the reverse one also will, so that it need not be troubled with if clear proof methods are being sought.

To take another example, showing groups which are not clear, let us start with the 4 rows

12345678 in
21436587 in
12435678 out
21346587 out

Again these will be two 'in' and two 'out' of course rows as shown. Suppose we work to a different lead head this time—18674523, the last group will be

81764523 in
18675432 in
81674523 out
18765432 out
18674523

When we compare the rows for the false lead heads we find that the first is 18765342—coursing order 8632457. Now in this 3-2 and 2-4 are in Plain Bob coursing order, which means that in the course of which the lead 18765342 is a part, two leads will have the tenors together. By comparing with the Plain Bob lead heads and transposing, we shall find them to be 12436587 and 13254678. These leads are part of courses 14625378 and (of course) 13254678, or, as they are usually written 46253 and 32546. Similarly we can find the false courses in the reverse transposition. Therefore, this is not a very good start for our method. Again, we should find these 2 false courses appearing, whatever lead end we choose. Thus, if we are looking for a ringable method and certainly if we want a clear proof method, this way of starting off will have to be avoided. In such a way, we can, by trying the different possibilities of forming the first 4 rows, find which will give a 'good' start and which will not. An example of each has been given. The reader can investigate the others. Suffice it to say that the way in which Kent Treble Bob commences also gives the above 2 false courses, Superlative gives two others, whilst Cambridge and London give one each (24365).

And so we come to the second and seventh blocks. The method for dealing with these is exactly the same—trial and error will give us the 'clear proof' blocks. We shall find there are several possibilities and these will get greater still for the succeeding blocks. To begin with there are several ways of changing from the 4th to the 5th rows, i.e., there will be several ways in which the 2nd block can start. And then there will be several different but possible blocks. Taking our first illustration, the 4th row 21436587 could change to 24136578, 24153678, 24153867, 24153678, etc. Of course, the number of possibilities is limited if a Surprise or Treble Bob method is required or if it is thought wrong to allow more than two bells to remain in the same position. That depends on the composer. Continuing our first example, suppose we take the second of the above possibilities—24153678. The second block could then become (among many other possibilities):—

24153678 in
42516387 in
24156378 out
42513687 out
75213864 in
57128346 in
75218364 out
57123846 out

The corresponding seventh block would then be:—

Again we can 'prove' these blocks and we find false lead heads would be 15672843 and 15872346. Neither of these has bells in Plain Bob coursing order, so our blocks are 'clear' keeping the tenors together. So that gives us the second and seventh blocks. The reader can experiment with the number of possibilities of this block.

The whole process is repeated for the third and sixth blocks with again many possible ways of starting. Some idea of how the possible number of blocks will increase may be gathered from the fact that, starting with the same No. 1 block, 7 possible 2nd blocks and 23 3rd blocks (all clear proof) were produced without exhausting all the possibilities, e.g., none had back and hand places. One example of the third and sixth blocks is:—

	False lead heads	
	45231867 in	14372856
3rd block	54328176 in	
	54231867 out	
	45328176 out	
	72356148 in	15327846
6th block	27531684 in	
	27356148 out	
	72531684 out	

These are again 'clear proof.'

So we come to the middle and last blocks—four and five. These need slightly different treatment, since the corresponding pairs of bells have to 'meet' in the middle, i.e., when the treble is lying behind. We are, therefore, limited in scope to a certain extent. We may also note that the bell which is doing the same work in reverse in the second half of the lead as in the first half (3 in this case) must fall in either 1st, 3rd, 5th or 7th place, otherwise the other bells will not pair correctly unless we are going to allow four blows in one place. Thus, in our case, we have to bring 4 and 7 together in the last row of the 4th block, also 2 and 5, and 6 and 8. We have the same licence as to the starting row of the 4th block, of course. An example would be:—

	False lead heads	
	45238716 in	14573826
4th block	54327861 in	
	53428716 out	13274856
	35247861 out	
	32574681 in	17523846
5th block	23756418 in	
	27354681 out	13257846
	72536418 out	

'These are again 'clear proof.' These blocks also show that when, in the 4 rows, a group of bells plain hunts among themselves (as 4523 do in block 4), the number of false lead heads is doubled. If back and hand places are introduced, the number may be further increased.

In this way, a 'clear proof' method has been produced, which means, of course, 60 true courses, tenors together are possible (a little better than 25 of Cambridge). Remember that we can work towards any of the possible Plain Bob Lead Heads, so that the process can be repeated another six times. It will be found in practice, however, that only five of these will be possible since one of the lead ends will involve the bringing together, in the last row of the 4th block, the bells in the 1st and 8th places of the last row of the 3rd block, which will be found to be impossible, e.g., in our example, if we work towards the lead head 18674523, giving the lead end (the row before this) 18765432, 4 and 6 will have to be brought together, and this can't be done since 6 is bound to dodge with the treble in 7-8, and 4 can't be brought to 6th place in the 4 rows of the 4th block.

It only remains now to put the blocks together to see what the finished method looks like, and so to draw its diagram. Here are the figures of our example.

This method is actually a Delight (No. 29 of the writer's compositions). As will be seen, it has been made an 8th place method with 6th place-bob, i.e., instead of 15372846 as the end of the lead, 15372846. This avoids excess dodging in 7-8. As it originally stood, there would have been 7 fold dodging in 7-8. The composer should always be on the watch for this improvement.

To conclude this article, one or two points must be mentioned. The number of methods the reader may be able to produce depends to some extent on whether he goes beyond the usually accepted rules, e.g., in the 23 3rd blocks mentioned above, several had 7th place made (without the treble behind, of course). Again, 4 blows in one place may give 'clear proof' blocks. The purpose of the article was not to obey all the laws (although none have been broken in the example given), but rather to produce a 'clear proof' method. Plain Bob lead heads have been retained rather for convenience and to avoid extra work than for their own sake (although the fact that they do save work is a big point in favour of their retention!). Also certain obvious factors have been ignored—coursing order, music and so on. These can be brought in to decide the merit of the methods produced afterwards, if thought necessary. The purpose of the article is, to repeat again, the production of Treble Bob Major methods, and, having produced them, ringers can decide whether they are worth ringing or not.

12345678
21436587
12346578
21435687
21435678
42516387
24156378
42513687
45231867
54328176
54231867
45328176
45238716
54327861
53428716
35247861
32574681
23756418
27354681
72536418
72356148
27531684
27356148
72531684
75213864
57128346
75218364
57123846
15372846
51732864
15372846
13274856

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 70.)

At Bletchingley, Surrey, the eight bells are rung from the floor of the church, and the ringers stand among pews! The lower stage of the tower dates from the 11th century. The tower arch is Transitional 12th century. A lofty oak steeple was burnt down by lightning in 1606, when an old ring of bells was melted, but only the top of the tower was damaged. The present eight bells date from 1780, and were rehung in 1912 when five were recast. In 1553 there were 'Item yn the styple flower bells.'

At Friskney, near Wainfleet, Lincs, the ringing room is about six feet below ground level, and one has to go down steps into it. It gives one the appearance of standing in a well to ring, the walls around being green with damp. The church is an edifice in late Norman, Early English and Perpendicular styles. Of the 12th century church nothing remains but the lower part of the tower. This is at the west end, and is now embattled and contains a ring of six. Another tower where one goes down to the ringing room is at Broughton, Lancs. Here are six bells by Mears and Stainbank, 1884, tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 23 lb. in G, and to ring one has to descend five steps from the nave level. It is a great pity the three old bells were lost when the present six were installed. Of these, the first was a pre-Reformation bell with an invocation to St. Peter. Its shield bore the initials T. B.; identified with Thomas Bett, Mayor of Leicester (1524-1538), and also incorporated the swastika. The second was by Seller, of York, and the third by Paul Hutton, of Congleton, Cheshire.

The Church of St. John-the-Divine, Colston Bassett, Notts, has a fine ring of eight, tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb., augmented by J. Taylor and Co., 1902. Here the ascent to the ringing room is rather unusual. One enters through the vestry door and passes up a stone stairway (don't forget to 'duck' your head) into the organ loft. Passing round the organ, ascend a steep wooden stairway and so into the belfry. Here the writer once called a peal, and on another occasion after a peal of Cambridge our motor broke down, and consequently caused a midnight walk of some eleven miles to Nottingham. The Leicester sergeant-major has vivid—and lurid—recollections of this forced march.

At Cobham, Kent, the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin is a fine 15th century church with a west tower enclosed by westward prolongation of the aisles. This opens into the church by three tower arches—north, south and east. There are six bells, tenor 14½ cwt. in F, which are rung from the floor of the church, and so the ringers are exposed on three sides.

At Cavendish, Suffolk, there is a west tower of Early English date, with a ring of six all by Mears, dated 1779, except the tenor, which is by J. Warner and Sons, 1869. There is nothing curious about this upstairs belfry except that it has a white brick floor, which is rather unusual. At Crosthwaite, Keswick, Cumberland, the Church of St. Kentigern has a ring of eight bells, tenor 14 cwt. They are rung from the ground floor, but behind a glass screen composed of such clear glass that, although there is a screen, the ringers can see everything going on in the church whilst they themselves can also be seen. The choir stalls here are at the back of the church, and the

ringers who do not wish to stay to service have to slink out through some back-crack behind the organ case nearby, otherwise they themselves get installed in the choir. At Camerton, Somerset, there is a ring of six, tenor 9¾ cwt., but the latter is sadly out of tune. One of the ropes here comes down so close to the wall that it has had to be grooved out somewhat like the 'ringer's coffin' at Harborne, Birmingham. At Chislehurst, Kent, the north-west tower of St. Nicholas' Church has a ring of eight bells, all by John Warner and Sons, 1858. These replace a ring of six which were destroyed by fire the previous year. Here pews have to be moved to allow for the ringers to stand. Curtains are supplied but used to rarely be drawn, and ringing usually takes place in full view of the congregation. At Colemore, Hants, the Church of St. Peter ad Vincula has a ring of six, tenor 7 cwt. Formerly cruciform, the church has a short tower. Bells hang in two tiers, and the ropes fall among seats at the west end of the church. At Chigwell, Essex, is a light ring of six, tenor 9 cwt., in a tiny wooden tower and spire springing out of the nave roof. It is similar to Merton, Surrey (already referred to) but is a stage higher. The bells are rung from among timbers on the ground floor. They are an interesting set of bells, some from the lesser-known London founders who are otherwise little represented in Essex. The tenor, dated 1771, is by Thomas Swain, who is hardly a Londoner, as most of his work was done at Longford in West Middlesex. There is a field in this parish called 'Bell Rope Acre.' As early as 1552 there were 'iij Bells in the steeple waying by estimacion xxxti:c: & ij Rogacion Bells.'

Cheswardine, Salop, St. Swithin's Church has a ring of eight bells, tenor 11 cwt., renovated by J. Taylor and Co., 1929. They are rung from the ground floor. Originally six, the ropes fell three on one side, three on the other, and the congregation passed through the circle. As the church, however, possesses a south porch, on the augmentation to eight and formation of a new circle of ropes, the west door is not now used while actual ringing is in progress. The church was rebuilt with the exception of the tower from 1886/9. A pre-Reformation bell, which was removed from the belfry in 1750, is now in the north-east chapel. The tower dates from the 15th century, and on its west face are two niches. In the string course, enriched with bosses, are displayed the Stafford knot and Talbot dog, and on buttresses figures of a lion passant and griffin couchant.

Another tower where ringers descend is at St. Stephen's, Hackington, Canterbury, the belfry floor being lower than the nave. The ringers of the 4th and 5th stand on the steps. Here are eight bells, tenor 12 cwt., the back six by R. Catlin, 1746, and trebles by C. and G. Mears, 1844. St. Martin's, Salisbury, is a similar instance of a descent to ringers' floor.

At Crondall Church, Hants, the stability of the ancient Norman tower became a serious matter of urgency in 1642. In that year a new bell frame was put in it, and the bells rehung. In 1653 the old tower was re-leaded, but it was found that it was unsafe and in danger of collapse. In 1659 a new tower was built, and the bell frame, which had been erected in the old tower in 1642 with the bells, were transferred to the new. It still exists to-day, having been strengthened and overhauled in 1937. There

(Continued on next page.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Friday, February 16th, 1,264 Bob Major on handbells: *L. R. Tarr 1-2, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 3-4, H. Hodgetts 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. * First quarter-peal of Bob Major in hand.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.—On Sunday, February 18th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. Parker 1, Dr. Spencer Phillips 2, H. Devenish (first as conductor) 3, J. Green 4, H. Bradley 5, E. Clark 6, R. Thrift 7, A. L. Simmonds 8.

CRAYFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, February 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. K. B. Jones 1, H. E. Audsley 2, D. L. Hall 3, F. A. Coley 4, N. Summerhayes 5, A. G. Hall 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, W. Lemon 8.

NEWCHURCH, LANCS.—On Sunday, February 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Frank Reynolds 1, *William E. Thompson (conductor) 2, *Miss M. Elkins 3, William Hampson 4, Jack J. Yates 5, Joseph Leatherbarrow 6, Ernest Leatherbarrow 7, William Gould 8. * First quarter-peal of Triples.

LICHFIELD, STAFFS.—On Wednesday, February 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *L. Smith 1, A. Bowler 2, A. Bowler, sen. 3, G. E. Oliver (conductor) 4, W. Cope 5, *J. Allport 6. * First quarter-peal. Rung half-muffled for Mr. O. P. Middleton, member of the local band for 25 years.

MICHELDEVER.—On Thursday, February 22nd, 1,260 Bob Minor: Mrs. C. H. Kippin 1, R. Smith 2, W. Marks 3, B. Garrett 4, E. R. Warner 5, C. H. Kippin (conductor) 6. Rung to welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. D. M. H. Gill, M.A.

NORTHMOOR, OXON.—On February 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. Trinder 1, C. Bowsher 2, B. Costar 3, V. Clifton 4, H. Farmer (conductor) 5, B. Johnson 6.

BENFIELDSIDE.—On Sunday, February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: *M. R. Pinkney 1, J. Lishman 2, *P. Armstrong 3, C. T. Lamb 4, E. Hall 5, Cpl. T. W. Dodd (conductor) 6. * First 720.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Moss 1, Miss B. Moss 2, V. Cox 3, F. Knowles 4, S. Starey 5, A. S. Cooper 6.

DARLASTON.—On Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Knowles 1, A. Hubble 2, W. Parker 3, J. Gibbons 4, *J. Hingley 5, D. Hingley 6, A. Hingley (conductor) 7, †J. Buxton 8. * First quarter-peal away from tenor. † First quarter of Triples.

HOLLOWAY.—At St. Mary Magdalene's Church on Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Charge 1, R. Begrie 2, R. Newman (conductor) 3, H. Franks 4, W. Vince 5, G. Charge 6, A. Turner 7, A. Warren 8.

HASTINGS.—On Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Easton 1, T. Carlton 2, W. H. Joiner 3, S. C. Driver 4, S. G. Smith 5, G. Piper 6, J. Downing (conductor) 7, C. A. Levett 8.

BASFORD, NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Pinder 1, T. Groombridge, sen. 2, F. A. Salter 3, R. A. Ward 4, H. Seagrave 5, F. Bradley 6, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) 7, G. Baxter 8. Specially arranged for T. Groombridge, sen., on his becoming a great-grandfather.

MARHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: F. J. Farnham (first 720) 1, J. Buckenham 2, F. Matthews, sen. 3, E. Barker 4, A. Mason 5, W. Buckenham (conductor) 6.

ALVERSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.—On Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Landon 1, L. P. Cook 2, W. Theobald 3, S. Cook 4, J. Hunt 5, H. Nobes 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, F. Barron 8.

HALIFAX.—On February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: K. Hattersley 1, C. S. Jarrett, R.A.C. (first 720 inside) 2, R. Squires 3, A. Hatch, R.E. 4, V. A. Jarrett (conductor) 5, K. Scott (first 720) 6.

SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.—On Sunday, February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Ransom 1, L.A.C. E. Nobles 2, Rev. B. F. Sheppard (conductor) 3, E. Wakeling 4, C. Goodgear 5, W. Ransom 6.

ROTHERFIELD.—On Sunday, February 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Bishop, jun. 1, A. R. Miles 2, R. Mitchell 3, A. Lewry 4, F. Hammond 5, E. Bishop, sen. 6, W. Rogers (conductor) 7, T. Keeley (first quarter-peal) 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On February 25th, 720 Norton Treble Bob Minor: O. Williams 1, W. Corfield 2, S. B. Bailey 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Waller 6.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.—On Sunday, February 25th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss F. Reed 1, Sergt.-Pilot H. E. Harding 2, Miss B. Bull 3, Miss B. King 4, C. H. Harding (conductor) 5, R. J. Houghton 6.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

are six bells. The new tower contains no stairway. Instead, the steps of the original tower are used and are connected with two of the floors by open galleries. The way from the ringing room on the first floor to the bells is across the lower gallery, up the steps of the old tower and across the upper gallery, thence by a long ladder to the bell chamber. The ground floor of the brick tower is used as a vestry, the door of which opens to the chancel.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT ASSN.—Ashford District.—Headcorn, Saturday, March 10th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN.—North and East District.—Annual, Southgate, Saturday, March 10th. Bells 3 p.m. District committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. No. 29 bus to Cherry Tree or tube to Southgate station.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Western Division.—Annual, Washington (6), Saturday, March 10th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.

HERTFORD ASSN.—Western District.—Berkhamstead, Saturday, March 10th, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, March 10th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Sleaford District.—Annual, Sleaford, Saturday, March 10th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea, Lion Hotel, 5 p.m.—G. V. S. Andrews, 12, North Parade, Sleaford.

OXFORD GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—March 10th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. F. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

BARNESLEY SOCIETY.—Shelley, near Huddersfield, March 10th, 3 p.m. For tea notify Mr. H. Holbrook, Ingle Dene, Westerly, Shelley, near Huddersfield.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnesley.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Quarterly, Wraxall, March 10th, 3 o'clock. Tea at Battle Axes 4.30.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

ESSEX ASSN.—South-Western Division.—Annual, Brentwood (8), March 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Meeting to follow.—Mrs. J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Practice, Daventry (8), Saturday, March 10th, 6 p.m.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting arranged for Coppull, Saturday, March 10th, is cancelled.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general committee meeting, Saturday, March 17th, at 3.15 p.m., at the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading, Berks.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual, Boston, Saturday, March 17th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Annual, Saturday, March 17th, St. John's, Redhill, 3.15 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business, Parochial Hall. Names to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill, by March 14th.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Tilsworth (6), Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m. No tea.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN.—Northern District.—Hitchin, Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by 15th.—H. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Church Lawton (8), Saturday, March 17th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by March 13th, to Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Loughborough District.—Hugglescote (8), Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea in the Schools 5 p.m. Bring own eatables.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Southern District.—Annual, Barnsley, March 17th, 2.30 p.m. Committee meeting in vestry 4.15 p.m. Tea at Hagenbach's Cafe 5 p.m. Names to Mr. Dan Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by 14th. Important business, Royal Hotel, 6 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

JOINT MEETING of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild and the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, Port Sunlight, on Saturday, March 17th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 4. Tea in Hulme Hall at 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. H. S. Bailey, 3, Quarry Road East, Bebington, Cheshire, not later than March 12th.—H. S. Brocklebank and G. R. Newton, Branch Secretaries.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Derby District.—Duffield (10), Saturday, March 17th, 2.30. Bring food; cups of tea, Bridge Inn, 5 p.m. Meeting belfry 6 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Leicester District.—South Wigston (8), March 17th. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting in schools. Names by 15th.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Chew Deanery.—Nailsea, Saturday, March 17th, 4 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual, Bridport, Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.15. Names for tea by the 12th.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Bedford District.—Kempston (6), Saturday, March 24th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. P. Inskip, 38, King Street, Kempston, Bedford.—L. H. Bowler, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Quarterly, Alderton, Saturday, March 24th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea provided, 1s. (no sugar). Names by March 21st to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual, St. Thomas', Dudley, Saturday, March 24th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business 5. Names to Mr. N. Leech, 14, Forest Street, Dudley.—F. Colclough, Hon. Sec.

KENT ASSN.—Canterbury Dis.—Faversham, Saturday, March 24th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 1s. 6d. per head, to those who inform Mr. F. C. Farnsworth, 16, Kings Road, Faversham, not later than March 22nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Wilton-on-Thames (8), Saturday, March 31st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea to W. Simmonds, 33, Burwood Close, Hersham, by Tuesday, 27th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSN.—Annual, Worcester, Easter Monday, April 2nd. General meeting 2.15 p.m. Committee meeting 11 a.m. Subscriptions and reports 11.30 to 12.30; all in College Hall. Evensong Cathedral 4.15. Tea (1s. 6d.) for those only who notify me before Tuesday, March 27th. Bells: Cathedral (12) 12 to 2 p.m., St. John's (8) morning, All Saints' (10) evening, St. Swithin's (6).—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Sec., Sedgberrow, Evesham.

ENGAGEMENT.

The Engagement is announced between John Pelloe, The Bishop's House, Ely, Cambridgeshire, and Kathleen Jeffery, widow of the late Richard Jeffery, of Trinity Hall, Fordham, and daughter of Mr. A. Bland, of Soham, Cambridgeshire.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ROXTON, BEDS.—On Monday, February 26th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: Miss M. Hull (first 720 away from tenor) 1, Cpl. J. Stubbs, R.A.F. 2, W. Hoiden 3, C. H. Harding (conductor) 4, R. J. Houghton 5.

BOLTON, LANCs.—On February 26th, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Harold Gorton 1, Walter Gorton 2, Mrs. G. Annie Paine 3, Mrs. Mary Kenyon 4, Capt. L. Piarre, R.E. 5, Everest Ford 6, Peter Crook, sen. (conductor) 7, William Smalley 8.

LIVERPOOL.—At All Saints', Childwall, on Tuesday, February 27th, 720 London Surprise Minor: *F. S. Almond 1, *R. Leigh 2, A. Lintott 3, G. R. Newton (conductor) 4, *T. W. Hesketh 5, *E. C. Birkett 6. *First 720 of London.

HURST, BERKS.—On Wednesday, February 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Wiggins 1, T. N. Lanaghan 2, *Mrs. B. C. Castle 3, Mrs. A. J. N. Rance 4, A. J. N. Rance 5, A. Diserens 6, B. C. Castle (conductor) 7, †E. Allum 8. *First quarter on tower bells. †First quarter. First quarter as conductor.

GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.—On Wednesday, February 28th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: N. Smith 1, Mrs. S. Hough (first 720 in the method) 2, J. Peters 3, J. Ashcroft (conductor) 4, S. Hough, jun. 5, C. Raddon 6.

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