THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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THE AUSTRALIAN EXERCISE.

The letter we published a short while since from Mr. Alan R. Pink should be read and studied carefully by all who are interested in the ringers of Australia and the prospects of change ringing in the Dominion. Mr. Pink, in the course of his duties as an officer in one of the crack ships of the Royal Navy, has spent some time in Australia, and took full opportunity to visit the belfries there, to enjoy the hospitality of the local men, to give them the benefit of his help, and to study the problems which face those who are doing what they can to maintain and extend the art in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, and other centres.

To one familiar with the conditions here at home, the state of ringing in these places must almost inevitably seem rather unsatisfactory and in need of improvement; and, provided the peculiar circumstances and difficulties are fully recognised, the criticism is not unfair, nor will it be resented by the men on the spot. The present flourishing condition of the English Exercise has not been attained without very many long years of devotion and labour, of mistakes and failures, as well as of successes. It is not in every belfry in England, nor in the majority of them, that there is a change ringing band of good average quality, and since the proportion of bells here is so much greater than in Australia, it would be futile to expect there should be in that country any bands comparable to the best here. Yet there seems no reason why the things which have made for success at home should not be successful in Australia.

Among the causes which have maintained and strengthened the Exercise in this country not the least are co-operation and good leadership; and these are the things Mr. Pink, in so many words, suggests the Australian Exercise most needs. He advises the formation of an association for all Australasia, and the employment of qualified instructors and conductors.

That co-operation among ringers is a good thing there cannot be the slightest doubt—the whole history of the Exercise for many years proves it. At the first thought the formation of an Australasian Association would seem the essential preliminary step to be taken, but we here in this country are in no position to give advice on the matter. Two difficulties are pretty obvious. One is the vast distances which separate the towers and which might easily make any real co-operation unworkable. The other is a question of organisation. In England

(Continued on page 514.)

the great majority of the towers and bells belong to the Church of England, so that it is possible to organise an association or guild on a diocesan basis. The Central Council itself is the council of Church bell ringers. This is no small part of the strength of the Exercise here. But in Australia, while many of the bells and ringers belong to the Anglicans, others, including some important ones, belong to the Roman Catholics. This need not, and probably does not, hinder co-operation, but it most likely would prevent the formation of a formally organised association to include all the belfries in the country. This is definitely a matter which only the Australians themselves are qualified to judge.

That no great success in any belfry is likely in the absence of an able and enthusiastic leader is also pretty obvious. If only one really competent and enthusiastic man who is endowed with the necessary tact, were to settle in the country, he might do much. But there are many difficulties to be overcome. The man must have some sufficient financial guarantee covering a reasonable number of years to make it worth his while. Whether such a guarantee is possible, and what form it should take, are questions which only those on the spot could satisfactorily answer. Mr. Pink suggests that the Central Council should undertake to maintain a whole time professional instructor. It would be a generous action if it were possible, but we fear that the difficulties would prove insurmountable.

TEN BELL PEAL.

READING, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wednesday, December 12, 1945, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

WALTER F. JUDGE	...Treble	EDGAR HUMFREY	6
MRS. D. CATHERALL	2	CHARLES H. PULLEN	7
MISS P. HART	3	H. GEORGE FOXELL	8
THOMAS N. LANAGHAN	4	WILLIAM HIBBERT	9
RICHARD T. HIBBERT	5	WILLIAM H. RAMPTON	...Tenor

Composed by G. HOLIFIELD. Conducted by W. F. JUDGE.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LIVERPOOL.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 8, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, GARSTON,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HEYWOOD'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ARTHUR LINTOTT	...Treble	PERCIVAL W. CAVE	5
GEORGE HESKETH	2	JOHN E. SPICE	6
GEORGE R. NEWTON	3	FRANK VARTY	7
THOMAS W. HESKETH	4	FREDERICK S. ALMOND	...Tenor

Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE, NORFOLK.
On Sunday, December 9, 1945, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 8¼ cwt.

HERBERT C. BOGGIS	...Treble	JOHN ALDIS, SEN.	5
LIONEL A. LESTER	2	CECIL POYNTZ	6
SELIM GOODSWEN	3	REGINALD H. DRANE	7
ROBERT A. WARMAN	4	GEORGE POYNTZ	...Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GEORGE POYNTZ.
First peal in the method as conductor.

GAINSBOROUGH, LINCS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tuesday, December 11, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 19½ cwt.

MRS. J. BRAY	...Treble	JOSEPH DIXON	5
GEORGE W. MOODY	2	JACK BRAY	6
*G. LESLIE A. LUNN	3	FRANK LORD	7
CHARLES H. BAKER	4	GEORGE E. FEIRN	...Tenor

Composed by E. H. LEWIS. Conducted by G. E. FEIRN.
* First peal of Little Bob.

GREAT BARDFIELD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, December 13, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

JOSEPH JENNINGS	...Treble	*WILLIAM PIPER	5
REGINALD A. RIPPINGALE	2	*THOMAS BIRD	6
GEORGE SAUNDERS	3	ROBERT YOUNG	7
DOUGLAS JENNINGS	4	ERNEST W. PYE	...Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD Conducted by ERNEST W. PYE.
* First peal in the method.

PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 25½ cwt.

HAROLD A. NOBES	...Treble	JOSIAH E. HARRIS	5
FREDERICK A. BURNETT	2	ERNEST E. WHITMORE	6
*ROBERT E. TURNER	3	JOHN H. HUNT	7
*WALTER C. ROSE	4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT	...Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by F. W. BURNETT
* First peal in the method.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 8¼ cwt.

G. KENNETH WILLIAMSON	...Treble	WILLIAM H. VIGGERS	5
CHARLES W. DENYER	2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT	6
RONALD C. NOON	3	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT	7
RAYMOND A. CLIST	4	GEORGE GILBERT	...Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 23½ cwt.

WILLIAM M. STONE	...Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON	5
VALHALLA V. H. HILL	2	WALTER H. DOBBIE	6
ALFRED H. PULLING	3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE	7
HAROLD A. MAY	4	WILLIAM T. BEESON	...Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

EPSOM, SURREY.
THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt.

FRANCES A. EDGAR	...Treble	BETTY SPICE	5
*RICHARD S. B. SPEED	2	ALBERT M. HOUGHTON	6
PHILIP M. J. GRAY	3	DENIS N. LAYTON	7
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	4	PAUL K. WILLIAMSON	...Tenor

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by BETTY SPICE.
* First peal of Major.

METHERINGHAM, LINCS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 7¼ cwt.

FREDERICK W. STOKES	*Treble*	JOHN WALDEN	5
CHARLES MCGUINESS	2	*WALTER TOMLINSON	6
*JOHN FREEMAN	3	H. LESLIE PASK	7
EDWARD J. BRAGG	4	JOHN A. FREEMAN	*Tenor*

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.
* First peal in the method.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND THOMAS OF CANTERBURY.
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
Tenor 25½ cwt.

REV. J. E. F. TREDENNICK	*Treble*	THOMAS E. SPIGHT	5
F. CHARLES GOODMAN	2	GEORGE SAYER	6
PHILIP W. J. FRYER	3	HENRY TOOKE	7
NOLAN GOLDEN	4	WILLIAM CLOVER	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

DORCHESTER, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 17½ cwt.

ALBAN R. POYNTZ	*Treble*	WILLIAM C. PORTER	5
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS	2	CHARLES F. ANDREWS	6
ALBERT DISERENS	3	RICHARD A. POST	7
*JAMES HIGGINS	4	WALTER F. JUDGE	*Tenor*

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.
* First peal of Surprise away from the treble.

KEIGHLEY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

WILLIAM AMBLER	*Treble*	ALLAN RUSHWORTH	5
*JOHN I. ROBERTSHAW	2	VERNEY BAIRSTOW	6
ALFRED ASHTON	3	ERNEST H. SIMPSON	7
HERBERT HELLIWELL	4	ARTHUR BAIRSTOW	*Tenor*

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by ARTHUR BAIRSTOW.
* First peal of Major.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, LAMBETH,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16¾ cwt.

WALTER SPARROW	*Treble*	H. W. ROGERS	5
ALAN F. THIRST	2	G. WILLIAM MORRIS	6
FRANCIS D. BISHOP	3	RICHARD E. PRICE	7
WILLIAM J. PAICE	4	TONY PRICE	*Tenor*

Composed by J. E BURTON. Conducted by F. D. BISHOP.
First peal as conductor.

SIX BELL PEALS.

PEBMARSH, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 8, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Seven different extents.

*CHARLES WOODGATE	*Treble*	MISS JOYCE WOODGATE	4
*MRS. C. WOODGATE	2	*CHARLES POPE	5
ARTHUR C. RIPPINGALE	3	CHARLES WEAVERS	*Tenor*

Conducted by CHARLES WEAVERS.
* First peal. First peal as conductor.

CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wednesday, December 12, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford Bob and two of Plain Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt.

PERCY A. SMITH	*Treble*	WILFRED YOUNG	4
ARTHUR J. ABRAMS	2	WILLIAM SEEKINGS	5
STANLEY MURPHY	3	FRANK WARRINGTON	*Tenor*

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

KINGSTONE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Friday, December 14, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

RALPH E. W. WENBAN	*Treble*	RAY J. CARLTON	4
MICHAEL P. MORETON	2	GEOFFREY DODDS	5
GEORGE DAVIS	3	CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. CROSSTHWAITE.

DARLINGTON.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 15, 1945 in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being seven complete 720's in fifteen methods: (1) Cambridge, Surfleet, Hexham, Beverley, Berwick; (2) Chester and Munden; (3) Alnwick; (4) Bourne and Netherseale; (5) Carlisle; (6) York and Durham; (7) London and Wells. Tenor 7½ cwt.

WILLIAM OLIVER	*Treble*	GEORGE W. PARK	4
GEORGE F. NEWTON	2	W. NORMAN PARK	5
RICHARD BUSBY	3	ROLAND PARK	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.
The most methods yet rung in a peal for the association.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Saturday, December 8, 1945 in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
IN THE VESTRY OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

FRANK W. PERRENS	1-2	FRANK E. HAYNES	5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN	3-4	ALBERT WALKER	7 8

Composed by W. GARRARD. Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

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A RINGER IN THE COTSWOLDS.

By James F. Harvey.

(Continued from page 501.)

Massingham, in 'The Cotswold Country,' says of Elkstone Church that it is 'the grandest and also the grimmest of these churches of the Churn valley, and its stalwart tower crowns the higher wolds. Like Crewkerne tower, Elkstone's has its aerial band, but the musicians of the latter had been fingering and blowing their instruments three centuries before those of the former. Nowhere is the figure work of the corbels more fantastic and ribald and Freudian than at Elkstone. Yet Christ in majesty stops him who enters beneath the tympanum of the south door, and the interior is lit by an amber light that routs all the demons. It is the churches, rather than the literature (Chaucer excepted), which reveal not merely the intensity but the astounding complexity and variety of the mediæval imagination.'

The inner south doorway with its wonderful tympanum, its rich moulding of beak-heads and beaded chevrons, is one of the most notable features of the Cotswolds, if not indeed of Gloucestershire. The early Perpendicular tower is a handsome structure of three lofty stages, with embattled parapet and projecting corner gargoyles, said to have been built during the reign of Richard II. Of the four bells, two are by Edward Neale, of Burford, dated 1657, and one by Abraham Rudhall, 1719; the second bell, originally from the Burford Foundry, was recast in 1882. The registers date from 1592, and contain many curious entries, mainly the work of a former Rector, William Prior (1682 to 1725). Some are so quaint as to bear quotation:—

1687. Shortly before Christmas I inspected the figure of Saturn recently painted in our church, and asked the churchwardens to have the figure destroyed. On meeting with refusal, with my knife (in the sole presence of my son), I defaced the image—head, legs and everything.

1702. January 17th was baptised Richard, the sonne of John Shill and Alice his wife. (I then whispered John that if he continued so great a stranger at Elston Church I would no more baptise at his house.)

1704. December 6th was buried the stinking residue of William Gwylliams.

1707. June 19th was buried the bastard daughter of Mary Gwylliams, widow, when I read in the church the seventh chapter of Proverbs. (I read the seventh chapter later and found it very much to the point.)

1724. October 28th was married Joseph Shill and Mary Pool. (For future reference: he gave me what he gave to the sexton, a single miserable shilling.)

The little villages of Cowley and Coberley lie beside the Churn close to the Cheltenham-Cirencester road, from which they are invisible, and some three miles from Birdlip. From Elkstone one approaches them through High Cross and down the long hill to the little lane, easily passed unnoticed, by the river side. Here the stream emerges from the manor park, where it has been widened into fish ponds and ornamental waters. The manor house is in the Italian style, so deprecated by Massingham, and is now used as a college for young ladies.

The church is within a few yards of the house. It was originally possessed by the Abbey of St. Mary's at Pershore. It has suffered much from the hands of the restorers, the tower alone having escaped, a small and early structure capped by a richly designed belfry of Perpendicular date. The bells are six in number, five dating from the time of Queen Anne, according to Rudder, the gift of Henry Bret, formerly Squire of Cowley, who 'was passionately fond of ringing and continually travelling about the country with a company of ringers, at a vast expense, dissipated a plentiful fortune.' (Daubeny.)

The ringing chamber is on the ground, and I found there a set of handbells in good order, but the bell ropes were knotted up and obviously only in use for chiming. The treble was cast in 1857 by Mears, and the weight of the tenor is 7¾ cwt. I was told there were no ringers, and the close proximity of the manor house would make the training of a young band a rather disturbing experience for the inmates.

Coberley lies a mile or so further up the valley. I crossed the fields to the old mill, giving a wide berth to a bull. Not long before when crossing fields and turning the corner of a hedge, I had come face to face with a regular old grandfather bull. He seemed as surprised to see me as I was to see him, and he hesitated; I didn't. Fortunately there was a five-barred gate handy, and I nipped over that like a ten-year-old. He looked a good deal more attractive from the other side.

From the mill one carries on by the river side to the church, the entrance to which is rather unusual. It passes through an archway under a house. One would conclude that this must at one time have been the vicarage, but whether it was so in times past it isn't so now.

The church has been, within recent times, so rebuilt that of the original structure nothing remains beyond the Decorated chapel, the Perpendicular porch and tower and an unusually interesting series of monumental effigies. Of the bells, one is by Edward Neale, of Burford (1661), and prior to 1870 there remained an early 14th century 'Eleanor' bell, but this interesting relic of early mediæval campanology, being cracked, was consigned to the melting pot by vandalic 'restorers.' On the south the churchyard is bounded by a high wall containing Elizabethan doorways, part of an embattled enclosure around the former manor house. Charles I. slept in the house on two occasions, first after the siege of Gloucester and again while pursuing Essex, July, 1644. The village is remarkable in possessing yet another Caroline memory, Charles II. having passed the night at the old rectory house, disguised as a groom, on his flight from Boscobel.

From Coberley I walked back to the turning to Cowley along the road to 'Ciren.' These main roads soon tire the walker, and I regretted that I hadn't returned by the lanes through Cowley. Had I done so I should have missed the lift to High Cross by the kindly Vicar of Elkstone.

From High Cross my way was along the wolds dividing the Frome and the Churn valleys. It was a beautiful evening and the farmers were rejoicing in a rising barometer. The views were glorious. To the north, some ten miles away, rose the heights of Cleeve Cloud; on my left lay the valley of the Churn, and to the right the lovely little dale of one of its tributaries, while far to the south, beyond the Thames valley, stretched the blue line of the downs. It was a scene of beauty and of peace. Altogether, it had been a satisfying day, and the delights of nature were well rounded off after supper with those of Bach and Beethoven.

From Cirencester I set out one day up the Whiteway (not the Whiteways of the cranks), leaving Baunton and Perrott's Brook down in the Churn valley to my left. This

is the nearest way to Chedworth and the Roman villa. The name had rather attracted me, but it proved to be uninteresting, and I was glad to drop down into the valley at North Cerney.

Later reconstructions have rendered the origin of North Cerney church difficult to read, but the foundation was possibly Saxon. The external south wall of the nave is roughcast—at latest the wall is Norman, from which period also date the western half of the chancel and the lower part of the tower. Quite towards the end of the 12th century the present belfry stage was added. In the Perpendicular period an external stair-turret was added to the south-west angle of the tower. The 'saddle-back' or gabled roof of the tower is a comparatively recent addition. Of the six bells, five hail from the famous Gloucester Foundry, four being the work of Abraham (1714) and one of John Rudhall (1820).

Close by the south transept is an incised manticore, a most rare feature, which is repeated in a slightly different form on the masonry turret. Manticores are, according to legend, 'a most strange sort of creatures, which have the body of a lion, red hair, a face and ears like a man's, three rows of teeth . . . a sting in their tails like a scorpion, and a very melodious noise" (Rabelais). Their traditional diet is suggested by Skelton (*c.* 1529): 'The Mantycors of the Montagues might fede them on thy Braynes.'

From North Cerney there is a delightful walk up the valley by the river side. The school was closed for the holidays, and the folk were enjoying a picnic while the children bathed in the stream. But for the droning of planes the war might have been a thousand years away. Butterflies were flitting across the fields and the hedges; lovely Peacocks and Red Admirals, gorgeous works of art, that beautiful but pestiferous demon, the White Cabbage and others I didn't know. One dainty little fellow quite took my fancy. His colour was a delicate lavender self with a white line all round the edge of the wings—a perfect little gem.

There are some who would have us believe that colour and form in nature serve a purely utilitarian purpose. No doubt that is the reason for some of it, but it leaves the beauty of the flower unexplained. It is the honey, not the beauty, which attracts the bee. The loveliness of a flower would seem to exist for the sheer joy of it, and, if that be so, there is no reason in the case of the butterfly, or even of the bird, to reduce it enfirely to protection and sex appeal. The life of the cosmos, it seems to me, expresses itself in many ways other than those of mere utility, and beauty is by no means the least of them. I like to think that the builder of the body of my dainty little lavender had a joy in his work comparable, in his degree, with that of a Rubens or a Mozart, for life through all the kingdoms of nature is one.

(To be continued.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The last meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Leicester on December 8th, when about 80 members attended from Anstey, Aylestone, Belgrave, Billesdon, Birstall, Evington, Groby, Knighton, Leicester (St. Margaret's, the Cathedral and St. John's), Sileby, Somerby, Syston, Thurmaston, Wigston Magna and South Wigston, with visitors from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Corby and Rugby.

The ringing was at St. Margaret's, St. John's and Belgrave, and tea at the Rex Cafe was followed by the final business meeting of the district, over which Mr. G. T. N. Walker, the local chairman, presided. He and the hon. secretary, Mr. H. W. Perkins, were congratulated on the progress made by the district during their terms of office.

Later in the evening a social gathering took place at the Hind Hotel, where the entertainment consisted of songs and handbell change ringing and tune ringing.

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

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

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P., 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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All orders for delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post and the remittance for same should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, and not to the Editor.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays all Notices for our issue dated December 28th must be received by first post on Saturday, December 22nd.

Readers whose subscriptions expire on December 31st, 1945, should forward their renewal order, together with remittance, to Mr. G. W. Fletcher not later than Friday, December 28th.

Mr. Charles J. North, who some years ago was well known among London ringers, has been seriously ill for nearly two years, but after a second major operation has now reached the convalescent stage.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

First, may your ringing give you joy,
And those outside may not annoy.
So mind you strike your very best,
Then leave the bells to do the rest.
When standing in to ring a touch,
The method matters not so much
As mind, and eyes, and ears, and hands,
With them are made the best of bands.
This Christmas ply your ancient art,
Forgetting not, before you start,
By bells the message may be given,
That angel hosts brought once from heaven.

T. P. HARRIS.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,248

23456	M	B	W	R
52364	2		2	2
34625	2	—	2	2
23456	2		2	2

1,248

23456	M	B	W	R
43526	1	—		1
45236			1	2
25346			2	1
23456			1	2

1,248

23456	M	B	W	R
54326	1	—		2
34256			2	1
52436			2	2
23456	1	—		

1,248

23456	M	B	W	R
54632	2	—	2	
35426		—		2
45236			2	1
23456			1	1

AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My shop, H.M.S. 'Duke of York,' came back to Sydney after doing what proved to be a triumphal tour to Guam, Tokyo Bay (where we were present at the surrender ceremony), Okinawa, Hong Kong (again being in time for a surrender ceremony), and Manila. We started out with the fullest intention of blasting the Jap in his own country, but fortunately this proved to be unnecessary.

We had only been away just over two months, but my welcome was as big as ever, and practices had gone on enthusiastically aided and abetted by Messrs. Williams and Connock. Alfred Williams' skill with handbells is particularly useful in method teaching, and one after another of our Sydney friends entertained us all at their homes, each separate visit always accompanied by handbells.

Having five days' leave allotted me, I made the most of it by visiting Melbourne, a lovely city, where again the ringers put themselves out to make me welcome. Mr. A. A. Savage, who was the secretary of St. Paul's Cathedral company during the time of the Australian tour, gave me a most hearty welcome, and I can well believe all the complimentary things said about him and Mrs. Savage in 'A Great Adventure.' James L. Murray, although now aged 84 years, still retains a very keen interest and did his best to get together a good band for service ringing at the Cathedral. We were, however, just one short for Grandsire Triples on the back eight of this fine ring of 12, but courses of Triples and Caters on handbells afterwards pleased everyone. I carried with me messages of goodwill from the Richardson family, and I can assure all those who took part in that tour of 1934 that their memory is still green and they are thought of with affection. The present secretary is Mr. H. G. Ross, of 13, Sutherland Street, Brunswick N.10, Melbourne.

I gather that the band of ringers at St. Paul's is not quite so strong at the moment owing to the recent death of two of the older members, but there are enthusiastic beginners to take their place, and all should be well in time. The eight bells in St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral are seldom rung these days.

At Hobart there is at present a band capable of ringing Grandsire Doubles, but they have been hit by the war taking away some of their ringers. However, there is promising material coming along and plenty of enthusiasm for change ringing, so Triples should only be a matter of time. The bells, a ring of eight by Mears and Stainbank, tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 1 lb., were first rung on December 1st, 1847. The 'go' is excellent, a witness to loving care bestowed upon them, as indeed is the tidy ringing chamber, the walls of which are covered with peal boards, photographs, etc

In 1936 the tower of St. David's Cathedral was completed, and the 13 bells, cast by Taylors, of Loughborough, in 1935, were dedicated. Only the back eight, with a tenor of 15 cwt., are hung for ringing. There is no band of ringers here at present, the bells being chimed by means of the fitted apparatus.

It is my great good luck that the fortunes of war have taken me to almost all the places in the Antipodes where the 1934 tourists rang, and it is to their credit that they made such use of their opportunities that their influence still remains. I think I am right in saying that every peal they rang out here is recorded on a board.

ALAN R. PINK.

H.M.S. 'Duke of York.'

A TEXT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The text referred to by Mr. Edwin Barnett is from the fourteenth chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians: 'There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.' The writer had just penned his magnificent poem on charity and goes on to urge his readers to 'follow after charity and desire spiritual gifts.' Now one of the spiritual gifts much prized in the early Church was 'speaking with tongues.' That, said St. Paul in so many words, is an excellent thing for the man himself, but it is no good to other people unless the man speaks in such language that others can understand him. There are many ways in which an able preacher can use this thought in a sermon addressed to ringers.

'X.'

THE BELGIAN CARILLONS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I can reassure you as to the present existence of the carillons of Malines and Bruges, about which you are in doubt in your article, 'The Church Bells of Europe.' I saw the bells at Malines and there was certainly nothing wrong with them six months ago. (I even managed to ring half a course of Bob Minor before the official bellringer objected!) The carillon at Bruges sounded perfectly all right, though I did not get the opportunity to see the bells.

I visited the Cowley Fathers at Panch Hand, Poona, on Dec. 2nd, and had a look at the bells there. They have a peal of eight (tenor 25 cwt.) by Taylors, which were cast in 1893. The bells have not been rung since about 1896, as the tower began to crack soon after the bells were hung in it. I am sorry to say that the bells are clocked nowadays.

WILFRID F. MORETON.

Poona, India.

HENRY BRET.

Henry Bret, who is referred to by Mr. James F. Harvey in his article this week, came of an old Warwickshire family who were settled at Bret's Hall in the parish of Ansley from the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry IV. His father, also named Henry, was a wealthy Gloucestershire landowner who had taken the royal side in the Civil War, and in consequence had his property sequestrated and been forced to redeem it by a fine of £873 15s. 8d. His death put his son in possession of several good estates. The manor of Cowley was held on lease from Westminster Abbey by the family, and here the younger Henry built himself 'a neat house near the church.' That was his favourite residence, but at Sandywell he had a 'new built house with pleasant gardens,' and a deer park; and at Down Hatherley a 'handsome house and good estate.'

Henry Bret was passionately fond of bellringing. He gave five bells to Cowley Church, and was often in London to meet the College Youths, whose society he joined in 1687. He held the office of steward in 1695 and of master in 1701. At home he got together a band of ringers and with them he used to go about the country visiting different towers to practise the art. It was said in after years that these journeys were 'conducted at vast expense,' and in the end 'dissipated his plentiful fortune.' This tale is told both by Samuel Rudder in his 'History of Gloucestershire' (A.D. 1779) and by Thomas Dudley Fosbrooke in his 'History' (A.D. 1807), but it is hard to believe. How a man could have spent an excessive amount of money on country bellringing in the 17th and 18th centuries is not easy to see. In 1712, when Sir Robert Atkyns wrote his 'History of Gloucestershire,' Bret was still living and was referred to as a prosperous and important landowner. It may be that when he died his estate was found to be embarrassed, and the cause attributed by his neighbours to what they thought was his eccentric hobby.

Some years later the same thing was said about Theodore Eccleston and with as little amount of truth. One writer expanded the legend to cover a whole class of men: 'Gentlemen,' he wrote, 'have been known to expend their fortunes in this scientific amusement, and to the mania for it probably many of our parish churches owe their bells.'

Henry Bret's son, Col. Henry Brett, was a well-known man in London in the next generation, and was an associate of Addison, Steele and other literary persons. He was a graduate of Baliol College and a student at the Middle Temple.

HANDSTROKE LEADS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The answer to the third question quoted by Mr. Jeanes in his letter in your issue of November 30th should not be allowed to pass without comment. It is not necessary to ring bells closer together at backstroke to obtain a pause for the open handstroke lead, but the interval between backstroke and handstroke should in the case of each bell in eight-bell ringing be one-eighth longer than the interval between handstroke and backstroke. This is largely made automatic by the weight of the rope.

Some explanation may be required. I cannot at the moment give more than approximate figures in an example. My calculations on the subject are parked, pending some information from the War Office as to when they are likely to let me go home.

Consider a bell of one ton. With an average length of draught, the rope would weigh about 5lb. and would in the handstroke position be about 10ft. lower than in the backstroke position. So that when the bell is pulled off at handstroke, the bell has to give up fifty foot-pounds of energy to lift the rope, and a similar amount of energy is given back to the bell by the rope in its fall at backstroke.

If the ringer is pulling at each stroke just hard enough to overcome friction and air resistance and providing the energy which is dissipated in sound and movement of the tower, the effect is as follows at different speeds of ringing:—

Position of bell in degrees from the vertical.

Handstroke.	Backstroke.
Deg.	Deg.
0	10
5	11
10	14
15	18
20	22¼
25	27

When the bell is anywhere near the balance the effect on the time of the blows must be considerable, as the angular velocity of the bell is small when nearing the vertical position.

In any case, the effect of the weight of the rope is equivalent to an extra pull by the ringer at backstroke of 25lb. through 2ft.

This suggests another question.

Q.—Why, in towers with a short draught of rope, would lead cores in the ropes help the striking?

A.—Because it would open the lead.

I wish all ringers everywhere a very happy Christmas.

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard.

MAKERS OF LONDON BELLS.

[The following consists of some extracts from one of the chapters in my unpublished 'History of London Ringers and Ringing.' It was not written as a complete and connected account of London bell-founders and inevitably suffers from being taken out of its context.—J. A. Trollope.]

The end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries were a period of great activity both in church building and in bell founding, which was followed by as marked a slump. This was inevitable. Periods of intellectual and spiritual upheaval are not times when men are much concerned about church building. During the Reformation years many men were chiefly concerned to enrich themselves out of the spoils of the suppressed abbeys; others were sincerely anxious for the purity of religion and the simplification of public worship; while those who still clung to the older beliefs and ritual were fighting a losing battle. But even if there had been no Reformation there would have been little church building during most of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. England had already got as many churches as she needed. The population both in numbers and location was stationary, and those large and magnificent Perpendicular churches which are still the glory of our land had been but recently erected, not only in London and the larger towns, but also in the villages of the more prosperous parts of the country. We may regret the loss of the abbey churches, but actually they were not required for the religious needs of the general people, nor were they ever so used.

It was much the same with the bells. By the end of the first quarter of the sixteenth century the Church of England had as many bells in her towers as were needed for the most elaborate ritual. For the Mass, there were saunce and sacring bells. For knells and funerals, there was the great bell for important people and lesser bells for lesser people. For processions and vigils and saints' days, there were in almost every steeple bells to be rung in peal—threes and fours in ordinary churches and fives in the wealthier and more important. Beyond five, the ambition of parishes did not extend; both for musical and liturgical purposes the number was sufficient; and, but for one thing, it is probable it would never have been increased.

But about this time bellringing had become a popular pastime. Exactly how early this happened we have no means of knowing, but we may conclude that it was one of the causes which saved the bells from spoliation in Edward the Sixth's reign, and we know definitely that it was the main reason for the increase of the number in a ring during the next two hundred years.

The slump in bell founding began before the suppression of the monasteries or the changes in religion, and lasted until Elizabeth had been a few years on the throne, roughly from 1525 to 1566; but bell founding was a craft and mystery whose rules were handed down through the generations from master to apprentice by verbal and practical instruction, and during that time it can hardly have ceased altogether or it would have become a lost art. Founders, of course, made other things than bells, and no doubt they kept their strickles to be used whenever they were needed. Men who as apprentices had learnt how to cast a bell had lived through the slack period and had not altogether forgotten what they had learnt when the better times came. But probably there was a good deal of experimenting and bad workmanship, and this may partly be the reason why Valentine Trevor 'falsely and deceitfully' made the bells for St. Margaret's, Westminster, and Lawrence Wright's work more than once failed to give satisfaction.

The revival of bell founding began as soon as the settlement of religion in Elizabeth's reign had shown that there was to be no more fear of the looting of parish bells for the purposes of national revenue, and it lasted without a break until the beginning of the Civil War in 1642. These were the years when bellringing was perhaps the pastime of a greater number of people than at any other time. After the introduction of change ringing it gradually became much more difficult in technique, and so more and more confined to a smaller number of enthusiastic devotees.

In 1602 the number of church bells known to have been cast in England, whether to augment rings or to replace broken bells, was 71. In 1607 it reached 113, and in 1610 107. From 1612 to 1640 it was less than one hundred in only three years, and in two years, 1624 and 1636, it exceeded 150.

The most prominent founder in London during Elizabeth's reign was Robert Mot, who started the famous Whitechapel Foundry in or shortly before 1570, and who for a quarter of a century did most of the casting for London churches. Two of his bells remain at Westminster Abbey, and he also cast the tenor there. Four of the six at St. Andrew's, Undershaft, are his, and so are the sanctus bell at St. Andrew's, Holborn, and the one bell at St. Stephen's, Walbrook. Both of these latter have, I believe, survived, not only the Great Fire of 1666 but also the air raids of the recent war. My information, however, is by no means complete.

Mot recast the tenor at St. Michael's, Cornhill (the famous Rus) and other bells at St. Botolph's, Aldgate, St. Christopher Stocks, St. Martin's, Ludgate, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and many city churches, besides numerous bells in other parts of England.

But his most notable ring (if we can trust the evidence) was eight bells for St. Andrew's, Holborn, with a tenor weighing 28 cwt. There is in the British Museum a MS. letter dated June 8th, 1852, written by Christopher Sachs, who was at the time employed at the Cripplegate bell foundry. In it he says that he 'was shown a curious old book written in very quaint character on vellum, in which is an account of the cost, etc., of a peal of eight bells cast in 1578, the tenor 28 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb., and a list of those who subscribed for them and the building of the church.' I have never come across any other reference to this book, which apparently disappeared long ago, but the date on Mot's sanctus bell is the same as the year the octave is said to have been cast, and there certainly was a ring of eight in the steeple before the present bells.

These bells at St. Andrew's were the first octave in London and one of the first, if not the very first, hung for ringing in the country.

In his early days, Robert Mot did work for the Government, and it was quite in keeping with Elizabeth's usual parsimony that he was kept waiting for his money. In November, 1597, he petitioned Lord Burghley for the payment of £10 10s. due to him, and in the same year for £5 5s. On June 7th in the next year he renewed his petition for £10 10s. 'Your said poor orator is greatly

impoverished and come to decay and is likely every day to be arrested for such debts as he oweth.' About the same time he joined with Royland Rayleton and Richard Mason in a petition for a total sum of £47 8s. due to the three. Perhaps we ought not to take literally the statement that Mot was 'greatly impoverished and come to decay'; in such a petition he was bound to make his case as strong as possible.

It is likely that Mot had acquired the stamps, and strickles, and other founder's implements which had belonged to the family of Brasyer, who in the fifteenth century cast bells at Norwich. The last of the family died in 1513, and by his will he directed that his "workhouse' should be occupied 'by oon of the conyngest men of my occupacion that hath been my Prentice' on a renewable lease for a year and a day until his executors could sell the 'bell muldis and croks and oder instruments.' The crooks or strickles were, of course, the means by which the shape of the bell was handed down from generation to generation, and as Mot used on some of his bells the Brasyer's shields and letter stamps he was an important link between the mediæval founders and those of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His inscriptions are usually in black letter, but they often contain nothing more interesting than Robertus Mot me fecit, and the date. The inscriptions of the later London founders, both in lettering and wording are commonplace and uninteresting, and in the nineteenth century they reached the level of the sanitary inspection covers in the streets.

Robert Mot died in 1608 and was buried on April 1st at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel. He was succeeded by Joseph Carter, who apparently came from Reading, and a year or two later by William Carter. William left £1 to 'his servant Thomas Bartlet,' who followed him in the business, and then for close on a century (1619 to 1702) the Bartlet family, Thomas, Anthony and James, controlled the foundry.

None of the Carter bells remains in any London steeple, but probably they did their share in the recasting and augmentation which was going on, and we have a record of a bell supplied by Joseph Carter to All Hallows', Staining, the church pulled down many years ago, of which the stumpy tower can now be seen in the waste ground which was once the City of London. William Carter and Thomas Bartlet cast the sanctus bell at Christ Church, Southgate.

The chief rivals to the Whitechapel Foundry in the first half of the seventeenth century were provincial founders. John Hodson, of Bishopsgate Street, began business as a carpenter and afterwards took to bell founding. He had a foreman named William Hull, and, as Hull's initials are on most of the early bells, it is likely that he was the real craftsman until Hodson had gained experience. Hull for a time was foreman to Michael Darbie. Hodson cast the third and tenor at Boreham in partnership with William Whitemore. That was in 1653, and they were among his earlier bells. Afterwards he worked in partnership with Christopher Hodson, who evidently was a relative, perhaps a son, perhaps a younger brother. Christopher set up his foundry at St. Mary Cray, in Kent, where he did a good deal of work. His heaviest bell was Great Tom of Oxford, which he cast on the spot.

Another man who may have cast some of the pre-Fire bells was Michael Darbie. Darbie is usually said to have been an East Anglian man, born at Kelsale, in Suffolk, but the evidence is poor. He is also said to have been the father of John Darbie, the bell founder of Ipswich, who cast many bells still hanging in Suffolk towers and in other places in the Eastern Counties, and who did work for St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, and St. Sepulchre's, Holborn; but the evidence depends entirely on similarity of name and the dates.

Michael Darbie is said to have had a foundry in Southwark, but to have done most of his work on itinerary. His plan was to travel the country with his implements and, when he came to a village where there was a cracked bell, he offered to recast it, and, if he got the order, did the job on the spot. Or he would suggest that a heavy three could be made into a lighter five or a heavy five into a lighter six. It was thus that he recast the bells at Merton College, Oxford. None of the old founders has got so bad a name as he. Anthony Wood was very caustic in his comments on the bells at Merton, and no doubt they were bad, for Christopher Hodson recast them a few years later. Darbie also recast the bells at New College and Great Tom at Christ Church. Dr. Raven called him 'a miserable artificer,' and says that 'his wretched bells are to be found in many districts, for one specimen of his casting appears to have been enough for a neighbourhood.' I am unable to express any opinion about the quality of Darbie's bells, though I have heard and rung on several of them, but he may not have altogether deserved Dr. Raven's strictures. The people at Oxford, at any rate, gave him a lot of work to do, and quite likely, if he was but an indifferent craftsman, personally he was an attractive and likeable man. I rather suspect he got many of his orders by promising more than he could perform. If the churchwardens would let him, he would break up their old bells and out of them make a new ring more in number and equal in tone and note to the old ones. And then, when the parish found that the new bells were not only lighter than the old ones, but sounded as if they were lighter, they were disappointed.

The following is an agreement made between Darbie and the churchwardens of Windsor Parish Church in the year 1673: 'Agreed with Mr. Darby, Bell founder of Southwarke, for £50 of which he hath received one Pound ffive shillings in pte. Conditionally that he make of the ffive Bells sixe good and tuneable Bells the ffive Hinde bells being equal in their noates with the 5 yt. are now in being and to make a new fframe ffor the treble to cast new Brasses for all the bells and to be at the chardge of taking them downe hanging them upp making good all the wheles defraying all chardges of Iron worke and carpenters worke and to secure them for a yeare and a day.'

By his will dated 1762, a man named Michael Darby left to the parish of All Hallows, Barking, the sum of £50 to provide gowns every Christmas for three poor men or women. This Michael Darby was churchwarden of All Hallows' in 1670. I have found nothing actually to identify him with the founder, but it seems more than likely. The dates agree and the eastern part of the City was traditionally the home of the bell founders.

(To be continued.)

CLERKENWELL.

On the left hand side of St. John's Street, which runs northward from Smithfield, stood the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem. Founded about the year 1100, it was the chief house of the Knights Hospitallers. Burnt by the rebels in the troublous times of Richard the Second, it was rebuilt, the church being furnished by Prior Thomas Docurey in 1504. The priory was suppressed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, but so long as that king lived the buildings were preserved and were used as a storehouse 'for the king's toils and tents for hunting and for the wars.' The great bell tower was 'a most curious piece of workmanship, graven, gilt, and enamelled, to the great beautifying of the city'; and, says Stow, 'passing all other that I have seen.' When the Duke of Somerset built his great house in the Strand, St. John's Priory was used as a quarry for material, and church and tower were undermined and blown up by gunpowder. The stone porch and the bell frame went to the church of All Hallows in Lombard Street, and so, but for a mischance, would the bells. The remains of the priory church, consisting of the crypt and part of the walls of the choir, are now included in the parish church of St. John.

St. James' Church stands on the site of what was a Benedictine nunnery. This was suppressed in Henry the Eighth's time and passed into private hands, but the church continued to be used for parochial services, and was leased from the owner by the parish. It was not until the seventeenth century that the parishioners bought the building outright.

About 1623 the steeple fell down, having stood time out of mind without reparation. The next year the parish was rated at eightpence in the pound to pay for rebuilding, but when the job was nearly finished, the tower again collapsed owing to faulty workmanship. It was again rebuilt, and stood until 1788, when an Act of Parliament was obtained to erect an entirely new church and the present building was begun.

In the year 1734, when William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the belfry, there were five bells. Some time later a treble was added, and in 1791 the lot were recast and made into a ring of eight by Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel. The new church was not consecrated till July 10th, 1792, but nearly a twelvemonth before that, on Monday, September 26th, 1791, the Cumberland Youths rang the first peal on the bells, 5,120 changes of Bob Major, conducted by William Jones, the principal author of the 'Clavis.'

At the time the Edwardian inventory was taken there were 'iiij in ye steple one saunce bell without a clapper and iij small sackeunge bells.' Osborn gives the inscriptions on some of the bells before the recasting by Thomas Mears.

William Dye Edward Love Churchwardens 1681 James Bartlet made me.

O PRESUL PIE NICHOLAE NOBIS MISERE WILLIAM FOWNDER ME FECIT.

William Carter made me 1615. George Trappes and Nicholas Day Churchwardens.



Thomas Bartlet made me 1621.

William Fownder was William Dawe, a fourteenth century London bellfounder, examples of whose work are still to be found in different parts of the country.

At one time there were four peal boards in the belfry, but they have disappeared for many years. One of the peals, Grandsire Triples in 1800, was rung by the Westminster Youths; the others were by the Cumberland Youths—Grandsire Triples in 1829, Double Norwich in 1840, and Stedman Triples in 1858.

In the nineteenth century St. James' Church gave its name to the St. James's Society, now known as the London County Association. It was not founded (as has so often been said) as a common meeting ground between College Youths and Cumberlands, but consisted almost entirely of the pupils and friends of James Hints, a prominent member of the Society of Cumberland Youths. For more than fifty years St. James' belfry was a regular meeting place of the Cumberland Youths.

In recent years the bells at St. James', Clerkenwell, were recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, and are now the only ring cast and tuned on modern principles in the centre of London, except the one at Lambeth.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE SELLERS, SEN.

The death took place at Penzance on December 9th of Mr. George Sellers, sen., at the age of 101. Mr. Sellers took part in the first peal ever rung in Cornwall, one of Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's, Penzance, in 1883. Because of his great age he had not rung for several years, but until just before the war he usually accompanied the Gulval ringers on their annual outing. Mr. Sellers joined the Great Western Railway at Paddington in 1862, and was appointed a passenger guard from Paddington to Penzance in 1875, and he took the last broad gauge train from Penzance to Paddington on May 20th, 1892.

The funeral was at St. John's, Penzance, and the Truro Diocesan Guild was represented by the Revs. C. H. S. Buckley (Vicar of Gulval) and A. S. Roberts (secretary, Penzance Branch) and Mr. William Wood (vice-president). The organist was Mr. George Sellers, jun., who has been organist at St. John's for more than fifty years.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BARKING.

A meeting of the South-Western Branch of the Essex Association was held at St. Margaret's, Barking, on December 15th, when about forty members from eighteen towers were present. The service was conducted by the Rev. Canon T. Bloomer, who in his address emphasised the good work ringers were doing in calling people to worship. The Church had a message for those who sought it.

A business meeting followed in the tower, presided over by Mr. J. Chalk, District Master. St. Mary's, Walthamstow, was chosen as the place of the annual general meeting. During the evening touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, London Surprise and call changes were rung.

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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.

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

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Warwick and Stratford District.—Whitnash (6), Dec. 22nd, 3 p.m. Bring food.—W. Collett.

OXFORD GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Stoke Poges (8), Saturday, Dec. 22nd, 5.30 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Ewell, Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business 5.30. Nomination of officers to J. E. Beams, 4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, by Dec. 24th.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Lullington (6), Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leicester District.—Leicester, Jan. 5th. Important business. Other arrangements next week.—H. W. Perkins, Gen. Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD SOCIETY.—Dronfield (8), Jan. 5th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. — H. O. Chaddock, 18, Seagrave Crescent, Sheffield 2.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Winchester District. — Annual, Winchester, Saturday, Jan. 5th.—W. G. Goodchild, 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

ELY ASSN.—Ely Branch.—Annual, Ely (8), Jan. 5th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, at 4.30, Ye Olde Tea Rooms.—R. H. Bullen, 39a, High Street, Ely.

IN MEMORIAM.

In affectionate memory of a very dear friend, Mr. James E. Davis (Jim), who passed on, Christmas Day, 1944. With very happy memories of Waterloo, St. Margaret's, Westminster, and week-end ringing excursions in Kent, which were enjoyed and appreciated by all those taking part.—Chas. J. North.

In loving memory of James E. Davis, who passed away Christmas Day, 1944.—Ellen E. Davis.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

MOULDERS urgently wanted, both floor (iron) and loam (bells). Also required, suitable young men to train as BELLHANGERS; ringers preferred but not essential. —Apply John Taylor and Co., Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

SITUATION WANTED.

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GREETINGS.

The Editor wishes all readers a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

Swansea and Brecon Guild. — Southern District. — Greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all members and ringing friends. — E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Assn. — The Master, Rev. Noel E. Hope, wishes all members and his friends a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

All best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to all our ringing friends, at home and overseas.—Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson and Mrs. A. J. B. Wayman, Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Mr. Frank C. W. Knight, of 24, Walpole Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17, extends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to his ringing friends and acquaintances.

Seasonal greetings and hearty good wishes to all old ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Hughes, 14, Robert Street, Hirael, Bangor, N.W.

To all ringing friends, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all my ringing friends. If any of them should ever be this way I should be delighted if they would give me a call.—Chas. J. North, Norton Cottage, West Street, Selsey, Sussex.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Coles, with Sheila and Malcolm, wish their ringing friends and their families a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year. — 61, Hayes End Drive, Hayes, Middlesex.

Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all my ringing friends.—Edgar R. Rapley, S.E.A.C.

To all friends, wishing you a very happy Christmas and 'good hunting' in the New Year.—J. Arthur Hoare, Swansea.

To all friends, sincere wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.—From Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles, Higham Park.

To 'The Ringing World' and all ringers, Christmas greetings.—From C. H. Webb, Coventry.

Harry Hoskins offers best wishes and greetings for Christmas and the New Year to ringing friends at home and overseas.

Best Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends.—From Mr. and Mrs. Fred Colclough, 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous New Year.—From Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

The best of wishes and sincere greetings to all ringing friends.—Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Happy Christmas to all friends at home and abroad and may all hopes be fulfilled in the New Year.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends.—From Walter A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

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