THE RINGING WORLD

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SINGLE!

THIS call is now heard frequently in peals and touches so that we accept it as a matter of course. Has this always been so? The evidence suggests that it most certainly has not, at least in peals. The fundamental significance of the 'in and out of course' of the changes was appreciated from quite early days, and hence the necessity for the use of at least two singles to obtain the extent of doubles. It is in relation to the use of singles in ringing on higher numbers of bells that the attitude of early composers often appears to have been rather strange.

In pure triples methods (e.g., Grandsire and Stedman but not Plain Bob) the rows are alternately odd and even. This suggested to many composers that the extent should be obtainable using bobs alone, and indeed, only one sort of bob. Considerable effort was devoted to the solution of this problem, and although its impossibility was suspected it was not until the discovery of the Q-Set Law by W. H. Thomson ('A Note on Grandsire Triples,' 1886) that this was proved. More recently, Professor R. A. Rankine, using Group Theory, has confirmed the correctness of this result. The position with respect to Stedman Triples is still uncertain. We know that a 'twin-bob' peal has to have singles, but no more comprehensive proof has yet been published. This does not mean that the Q-Set Law is not universally applicable but that the absence of a fixed 'hunt' bell in Stedman makes its application to the method particularly difficult. This curiously fluid character of the method has its compensations. Some years ago Dr. G. W. Slack obtained a regular two-part peal with two singles half-way and end, a type of composition which is not possible in Grandsire.

Whereas it can be surmised that the initial reluctance of composers to use more than the minimum number of singles in triples composition derived from theoretical considerations, their continued neglect on eight and more bells is far less comprehensible. Judging by the Central Council's Collections, for instance, the majority of five thousands of Major and Caters produced up to the beginning of this century contained bobs only. This was in spite of a comment by Shipway that if singles were used in peals of Grandsire Caters the fifth and sixth could be kept exclusively behind the ninth in the tittums and the music thus greatly improved. This reasoning applies, with equal validity, to many other methods.

The 1903 edition of 'Stedman,' in the Snowdon series, includes a table of starting and homing courses for Stedman Caters compiled by A. B. Carpenter. None of these turning courses contain singles and, as might be expected from this, no 'out of course' course ends are considered. Comparing this list with the countless variations used by John Carter and others in recent years, many of which involve singles, we may well smile at W. Snowdon's remark at the head of the chapter that the table 'will in all probability be found exceedingly useful.' In the following line the assertion that the table 'contains all the course ends with the treble fixed in second's place' ought to provoke a marginal note in red pencil. The table actually covers sixteen pages; it is a matter for speculation how many it would have covered had Dr. Carpenter admitted the use of singles.

Present day composers are far more aware of the utility of singles and have few, if any, inhibitions or reservations about their employment. The longest length of Cambridge Surprise Major so far obtained (13,280 by R. F. B. Speed) uses singles. It may be recalled that, somewhat surprisingly, there is a precedent for this. The longest length of Treble Bob Major with the tenors together (9,120, composed by James Lockwood and rung in 1876) was brought round by a single (actually an 'in-course' single).

Purists might, perhaps, argue that this ever-increasing use of singles is, in many cases, merely taking the easy way out, although it is generally acepted. Peal compositions have been obtained in several methods using singles alone, and we may yet find a band ringing a peal of Grandsire Triples containing no bobs. A. W. T. CLEAVER.

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TWELVE BELL PEALS

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
AND
THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 3 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5280 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS
Tenor 26 cwt.

BERNARD F. L. GROVES	*Treble*	ALAN A. POTTS	7
FRED DUNKERLEY	2	JOHN WORTH	8
BASIL JONES	3	ROBERT B. SMITH	9
FRANK OSBALDISTON	4	EDWARD JENKINS	10
C. KENNETH LEWIS	5	PETER LAFLIN	11
WILLIAM H. DOWSE	6	BRIAN HARRIS	*Tenor*

Composed by FREDK. DENCH. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 3 Hours and 34 Minutes,
AT THE BELL TOWER,
A PEAL OF 5016 PLAIN BOB MAXIMUS
Tenor 36 cwt. in C sharp.

GEOFFREY J. HEMMING	*Treble*	‡DEREK PRICE	7
*REV. ALBERT WEBB	2	†DENNIS R. MORRIS	8
†SHIRLEY M. PARSONS	3	THOMAS W. LEWIS	9
†‡IVOR GOULTER	4	†‡CYRIL A. WRATTEN	10
†MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH	5	‡R. ROGER SAVORY	11
†R. GEORGE MORRIS	6	†GERALD C. HEMMING	*Tenor*

Composed by R. ROGER SAVORY. Conducted by GEOFFREY J. HEMMING.
* First peal of Maximus 'inside.' † Completes Minor to Maximus in the method. ‡ First of Maximus. 50th peal together by treble and 9.
A farewell peal to the Rev. Albert Webb, who is leaving Cleeve Prior for the parish of Holy Innocents, Kidderminster; and in appreciation of his friendship and enthusiasm.

TEN BELL PEAL

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.
THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
On Sat., March 7, 1959, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 24 cwt.

A. R. HEPPENSTALL (Sel.)	*Treble*	H. NEILL (St. Cath.'s)	6
J. SCHOFIELD (King's)	2	J. R. TAYLOR (St. Cath.'s)	7
SUSAN JACKSON (Girton)	3	W. T. COOK (Jesus)	8
F. E. ROBERTS (Selwyn)	4	J. H. FIELDEN (St. Cath.'s)	9
R. J. W. HOUSDEN (Selwyn)	5	C. M. P. JOHNSON (Sel.)	*Tenor*

Composed by W. PYE. Conducted by C. M. P. JOHNSON.
500th peal for the Guild.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 7, 1959, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5008 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.

RUSSELL S. MORRISS	*Treble*	JOHN M. JELLEY	5
ERNEST MORRIS	2	BRIAN S. CHAPMAN	6
JOHN B. BENNETT	3	ERNEST J. JELLEY	7
GEOFFREY M. BREWIN	4	WILLIAM THORNLEY	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM THORNLEY.
Rung to mark the birth of Steven Alan Sharpe, the first grandchild of the conductor.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., March 12, 1959, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 14¼ cwt.

LESLIE BOUMPHREY	*Treble*	C. KENNETH LEWIS	5
BERNARD F. L. GROVES	2	JOHN WORTH	6
ERNEST BENNETT	3	ROBERT SMITH	7
BASIL JONES	4	PETER LAFLIN	*Tenor*

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.
Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mrs. Eva Fernley, buried the previous day.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., March 16, 1959, in 2 Hours and 13 Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.

DIANA J. PERRINS	*Treble*	GORDON A. HALLS	5
DEREK P. JONES	2	JOHN A. ACRES	6
*MRS. G. A. HALLS	3	JOSEPH W. COTTON	7
†RICHARD J. CLIFTON	4	G. RONALD EDWARDS	*Tenor*

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN. Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.
* 100th peal. † First in the method 'inside.' The composition is believed to be rung for the first time.

PULHAM MARKET, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., March 17, 1959, in 3 Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
Hubbard's Ten-part. Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

ERNEST WHITING	*Treble*	HARRY FULLER	5
*ALBERT G. HARRISON	2	†LEONARD J. MINNS	6
E. AUSTIN HEAD	3	L. EDWARD ETHERIDGE	7
*WILFRED G. SAUNDERS	4	†ARTHUR C. W. ROOPE	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.
* First peal of Triples in the method. † First of Triples.
Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mr. A. R. Todd, churchwarden for 40 years and an honorary member of the Norwich Association.

CONISBROUGH, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5024 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 13¾ cwt.

MARION ARCHER	*Treble*	*LEONARD GOODALL	5
HOWARD SCOTT	2	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY	6
CYRIL RUSBY	3	*JAMES A. D. WOOLFORD	7
IAN M. HOLLAND	4	H. DAVID HOLLAND	*Tenor*

Composed by R. F. B. SPEED. Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.
* First peal in the method.

GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Dexter's No. 1 variation. Tenor 10½ cwt.

MRS. P. J. STANIFORTH	*Treble*	S. ANTHONY JESSON	5
PETER J. STANIFORTH	2	*HARRY BROUGHTON	6
BRIAN G. WARWICK	3	JOSEPH WM. COTTON	7
SHIRLEY BURTON	4	GEORGE BROUGHTON	*Tenor*

Conducted by MRS. P. J. STANIFORTH.
* Final peal.
Rung to the affectionate memory of Phyllis Poole, who passed away March 20th, 1958.

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HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, COUNTY DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

MRS. J. A. AINSWORTH	*Treble*	ROLAND PARK	5
MRS. K. LAWSON	2	KENNETH ARTHUR	6
J. ALAN AINSWORTH	3	DENIS A. BAYLES	7
W. NORMAN PARK	4	KENNETH LAWSON	*Tenor*

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by KENNETH LAWSON.

PENISTONE, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Sheffield and District Society.)
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Middleton's. Tenor 14½ cwt.

MRS. N. CHADDOCK	*Treble*	PHILIP HUDSON	5
ALFRED SMITH	2	JOHN J. L. GILBERT	6
*IAN TILLING	3	JOHN N. D. CHADDOCK	7
NORMAN SMITH	4	NORMAN CHADDOCK	*Tenor*

Conducted by NORMAN CHADDOCK.
* First peal of Surprise.

SHRIVENHAM, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5216 BRAUNSTONE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt. 1 lb. in F.

*ROBERT A. REEVES	*Treble*	*ERNEST J. MUNDAY	5
*CHRISTINE M. WOODWARD	2	DONALD H. NIBLETT	6
*ALBERT DISERENS	3	*FRANK A. BARRETT	7
CHARLES COLES	4	ALAN R. PINK	*Tenor*

Composed by ERNEST W. TIPLER. Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.
* First peal in the method. First in the method on the bells.
Rung as a welcome to the Rev. R. F. W. Durrant, instituted and inducted to the benefice of Shrivenham-with-Watchfield on March 13th.

WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 3 Hours and 18 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND,
A PEAL OF 5088 ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 6 lb.

*ROGER KING	*Treble*	F. HECTOR BENNETT	5
*JOHN S. DEAN	2	EDWARD V. RODENHURST	6
*JOHN F. HUGHES	3	JOHN W. GRIFFITHS	7
*GEOFFREY PARTING	4	PERCY SWINDLEY	*Tenor*

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by JOHN W. GRIFFITHS.
* First peal in the method.
Rung to mark the 21st year as Rector of Whitchurch of the Rev. J. H. Hall, M.A.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., March 24, 1959, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Day's Six-part. Tenor 17¼ cwt. in E.

CYRIL F. SUTCLIFFE	*Treble*	STANLEY ANDERTON	5
JOHN FROOME	2	PETER CROOK	6
ELAINE A. RICHARDSON	3	GORDON W. LIMMER	7
JAMES W. METCALFE	4	JOHN F. WOOD	*Tenor*

Conducted by PETER CROOK.
A birthday compliment to Elaine A. Richardson; also to celebrate the birth of a daughter (Sharon) to the Rev. Mr. Higginson, formerly Vicar of St. Peter's, Smithills, and Mrs. Higginson.

SIX BELL PEALS

ADDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 28, 1959, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob, one of Double Oxford and two each of St. Clement's and Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lb.

*DOUGLAS W. WOODCOCK	*Treble*	*PETER J. MILTON	4
*JOHN C. PERRIN	2	*COLIN F. MCGILL	5
*ANDREW M. MACVE	3	RALPH BIRD	*Tenor*

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.
* First peal in four methods. First in four methods on the bells.
Rung by the local band to mark the second anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 14, 1959, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

*DIANNE J. WALLACE	*Treble*	R. JAMES COOK	4
†DOREEN F. CROWE	2	H. MICHAEL WILLIAMSON	5
ROBERT W. HINDE	3	WILLIAM T. COOK	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM T. COOK.
* First peal. First of Minor and first 'inside.'

LANGLEYBURY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., March 18, 1959, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL.
A PEAL OF 5040 ALNWICK SURPRISE MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 21 lb. in A.

*DAVID J. TAYLOR	*Treble*	*RAYMOND G. SMITH	4
*†WILLIAM WENBAN	2	KENNETH R. DUNSTAN	5
*ROBIN G. LEALE	3	†JOHN R. MAYNE	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.
* First peal in the method. † 100th peal together.

FAIRFIELD, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., March 19, 1959, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being seven extents in eight methods: (1) London Scholars' Pleasure Treble Bob; (2) Spliced 216 Capel, 264 Kingston and 240 Sandal Treble Bob; (3) Kent Treble Bob; (4) Oxford Treble Bob; (5) Spliced 120 Double Plain Bob and 600 Plain Bob; (6) and (7) Plain Bob; ten changes of method. Tenor 12 cwt. 10 lb. in F sharp.

*J. DAVID ADAMS	*Treble*	ALEX RICHARDSON	4
†STUART ELLISON	2	JOHN R. KENNETT	5
R. BRENT WHERRY	3	BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN R. KENNETT.
* First peal in eight methods. † First in eight methods 'inside.' First in eight methods as conductor.

BLUNSDON, WILTSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 31 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,
A PEAL OF 5040 SPLICED DOUBLES
Being 100 individual plain course methods in 42 spliced extents, viz.: (1) Perivale, Lockinge Alliance, Lathbury, Twyford and Littleton Little Bob; (2) Laleham Little Bob, Dorney, Bisham and Barham Alliance; (3) Coulsdon, Langley, Marsworth Alliance, Greenford and Laleham Little Bob; (4) Amersham Alliance and Greenford Little Bob; (5) Astleham Alliance, Ashford, Twyford and Greenford Little Bob; (6) Shepperton Alliance, Stanwell, Kempton and Hanworth Little Bob; (7) Chalvey Alliance, Clewer, Spital and Dedworth Little Bob; (8) Horton Alliance, Hampton, Ickenham and Northolt Little Bob; (9) St. Simon's and Merton S.C.; (10) Rev. Shipway's Pl., Rev. Plain Bob, Canterbury Pl., St. Bartholomew, Rev. All Saints', St. Sebastian; (11) St. Martin's and Slapton S.C.; (12) Coxwell Pl., Rev. Bob, St. Botolph and Stedman S.C.; (13) St. Osmund and Rugby S.C.; (14) Rev. St. Simon's, Union, Uffington and Rev. St. Nicholas; (15) Rev. St. Martin's, St. Faith's S.C., Stowe Place and Rev. Winchendon Place; (16) Rev. St. Osmund, St. Julian, Datchet and Rev. St. Remigius; (17) St. Simon's and Slapton; (18) St. Alphege and Rev. New; (19) St. Andrew and Rev. Huntspill; (20) St. Gregory and Rev. St. Vedast; (21) St. Simon's and Rugby S.C.; (22) Shipway's Place and Tandridge; (23) Rev. Canterbury Pl. and Dorton; (24) Plain Bob and Boxford; (25) Shipway's Place and Colnbrook; (26) Rev. Canterbury and Ravenningham; (27) Plain Bob and Candlesby; (28) Westminster II, Ockham, Broughton and Chesham; (29) Blackburn and Broughton; (30) St. Hilary and Chesham; (31) Westminster II, Knapton, Lyng and Intwood; (32) New Bob and Chipstead; (33) Huntspill and Oakley; (34) St. Vedast and Itchingfield; (35) New Bob and Forncett; (36) Huntspill and Ellingham; (37) St. Vedast and Bedingham; (38) St. Nicholas and Hascombe; (39) Winchendon and Thornborough; (40) St. Remigius and Longford; (41) St. Nicholas, Fundenhall, Haddiscoe and Harpley; (42) Braywood, Welford, Longworth, Merton, Slapton and Rugby; with 325 changes of method. Tenor 5 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. in B flat.

CHARLES G. JONES	*Treble*	ANTHONY R. PEAKE	4
*ERIC SUTTON	2	VICTOR GRIFFIN	5
RAYMOND C. WESTNEY	3	MRS. A. R. PEAKE	*Tenor*

Conducted by ANTHONY R. PEAKE.
* First peal of Spliced Doubles. The most Doubles methods yet rung to a peal, and the greatest number of methods to a peal by all the band, on the bells, and for the Association.
Rung as a welcome to the Rev. C. G. Jones, whose induction took place on March 2nd, 1959.

DITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., March 20, 1959, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 SURFLEET SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven variations of extents. Tenor 12 cwt. 96 lb. in F sharp.

CECIL V. EBBERSON	*Treble*	GEORGE SAYER	4
TREVOR N. J. BAILEY	2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT	5
ARTHUR G. BASON	3	NOLAN GOLDEN	*Tenor*

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.
First peal in the method by all, and for the Association.

TIMBERLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being seven extents in 23 methods: (1) Braintree, Humber, Charlwood, Neasden, St. Albans and Wragby Delight; (2) Marple, Taxal, Newdigate, Old Oxford, College Bob IV and Willesden Delight; (3) Capel, Sandal, London Scholars', Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob; (4) Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise and Norbury Treble Bob; (5) Cambridge Surprise; (6) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' and Kingston Treble Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt. in F sharp.

G. LEONARD THOMPSON	*Treble*	LOUIS WILLDERS	4
PETER A. SHARP	2	RONALD APPLEWHITE	5
JOHN F. PEARSON	3	JACK L. MILLHOUSE	*Tenor*

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.
First peal in 23 Treble Bob Minor methods on the bells, and by all the band.

WHIXLEY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
On Sat., March 21, 1959, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being three extents of Plain Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob and two of Kent Treble Bob, each extent called differently. Tenor 5¼ cwt.

PETER M. DAWSON	*Treble*	WILFRED LEE	4
B. GILLIAN SCHOFIELD	2	*ROGER J. LUMLEY	5
JOAN M. DAWSON	3	JOHN RHODES	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN RHODES.
* First peal. First as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 7, 1959, in 1 Hour and 41 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In seven methods, being 720 each of Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, St. Nicholas', Winchendon Place, Plain Bob, St. Simon's and St. Martin's.

ALAN SHEPPARD 1—2 | EDWARD M. BRADLEY 3—4
KENNETH B. SISSONS 5—6
Conducted by KENNETH B. SISSONS.

LEVERSTOCK GREEN, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., March 8, 1959, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
IN THE SCHOOL,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB ROYAL

Tenor size 22 in C.

GERALD PENNEY 1—2 | WALTER AYRE 5—6
*THOMAS J. SOUTHAM 3—4 | STANLEY HUCKLE 7—8
MICHAEL D. FROST 9—10
Arranged and Conducted by WALTER AYRE.
* First peal of Royal 'in hand.'
A birthday compliment to Gerald Penney.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., March 8, 1959, in 1 Hour and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In ten methods, being 360 each of St. Simon's, St. Martin's, St. Osmund's, St. Nicholas', Winchendon Place and St. Remigius', and 720 each of Reverse St. Bartholomew, Grandsire, Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury Pleasure.

MRS. J. R. RENDER 1—2 | ALAN SHEPPARD 3—4
KENNETH B. SISSONS 5—6
Conducted by KENNETH B. SISSONS.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., March 19, 1959, in 2 Hours and 22 Minutes,
AT 166, HARLINGTON ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK C. PRICE 1—2 | JOHN R. MAYNE 5—6
JOAN BERESFORD 3—4 | JOHN HILL 7—8
Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., March 23, 1959, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,
AT NO. 29,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB ROYAL

Tenor size 15 in C.

*SHIRLEY M. PARSONS 1—2 | DAVID J. MARSHALL 5—6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3—4 | JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 7—8
*†CYRIL A. WRATTEN 9—10
Composed by M. J. MORRIS. Conducted by DAVID J. MARSHALL.
* First peal on ten handbells. † Completes Plain Bob 'family.'
Witness: MRS. D. J. MARSHALL.

ICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., March 23, 1959, in 2 Hours and 27 Minutes,
AT 23, TAVISTOCK ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5184 KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Killamarsh variation. Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK C. PRICE 1—2 | JOHN R. MAYNE 5—6
JOAN BERESFORD 3—4 | JOHN HILL 7—8
Composed by MAURICE HODGSON. Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.
First peal of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob 'in hand' by all the band.

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QUARTER PEALS

ADDINGTON, SURREY.—On Feb. 15th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: R. C. D. Fletcher 1, D. W. Woodcock 2, R. Bird 3, P. J. Milton 4, J. C. Perrin 5, C. F. McGill (cond.) 6.

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—On March 15th, 1,260 Doubles: R. A. Eggleton 1, W. B. Pitcher 2, C. H. Bagot (cond.) 3, B. R. Cox 4, H. F. Cox 5, J. W. Higgins (first quarter) 6. For an ordination service.

AYLESTONE, LEICS.—On March 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Powdrill 1, Patricia Wardle 2, P. Martin 3, A. J. Poynor 4, H. G. Bray 5, T. Roper 6, R. Morris (cond.) 7, Rev. P. Blackman 8. Rung to welcome the Provost of Leicester for Evensong.

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, LINCS.—On Feb. 25th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: F. E. M. Elliott (first quarter) 1, N. Bell 2, A. Coupland (first quarter) 3, S. Neave 4, W. A. Crowder 5, M. W. Crowder (cond.) 6. Also on March 4th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: W. A. Crowder 1, P. Farrow (first quarter) 2, N. Bell 3, S. Bromfield 4, S. Neave 5, M. W. Crowder (cond.) 6. Also on March 11th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: S. Bromfield 1, J. A. Crowder (first quarter) 2, S. Neave 3, N. Bell 4, M. W. Crowder 5, W. A. Crowder (cond.) 6. Also on March 18th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: S. Bromfield 1, Mrs. W. A. Crowder (first quarter) 2, N. Bell 3, W. A. Crowder 4, S. Neave 5, M. W. Crowder (cond.) 6. Rung for Lenten services.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On March 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Audrey Green (first quarter) 1, H. Wingrove (cond.) 2, R. Broadley 3, Ann Shiels 4, J. Harrison 5, J. Meads 6, A. Bridges 7, S. Hatfield 8. For Evensong.

BOOTLE, LANCS.—On March 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: T. Knowles (first quarter) 1, R. W. Atkins (first quarter) 2, T. M. Fitzgerald (first quarter) 3, R. Ingham 4, F. H. Hayes (cond.) 5, C. Knowles 6, For morning service.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTS.—1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire): F. W. Box 1, G. Gunstone 2, R. Purnell (cond.) 3, G. Parsons 4, P. Gaisford 5, E. Wicks 6.

CALVERLEY, YORKS.—On March 22nd, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: S. Keighley 1, Ruth H. Appleby 2, Joan M. Dawson 3, J. Rhodes 4, R. J. Lumley 5, W. Lee 6, P. M. Dawson (cond.) 7, R. Waddington 8. For evening service.

CAPEL, SURREY.—On March 18th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: R. Tullett 1, W. J. Weller (first quarter) 2, A. Harman (cond.) 3, Mrs. H. Penfold 4, Miss B. Sheldon 5, P. Ede 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam George Coldman, a ringer at St. Martin's Church, Dorking.

CHALFONT ST. PETER, BUCKS.—On Feb. 15th, 1,440 Minor (720 Kent Treble Bob, 720 Plain Bob): M. G. Swift 1, Mrs. E. G. Swift 2, Miss E. L. Badcock (first as cond.) 3, C. J. Shepherd 4, P. G. Badcock 5, E. G. Swift 6. For Evensong. Also on March 11th, 1,440 Treble Bob Minor (720 Oxford, 720 Kent): C. J. Shepherd 1, Mrs. E. G. Swift 2, Miss E. L. Badcock 3, E. G. Swift 4, J. E. Camp (first of Treble Bob as cond.) 5, M. G. Swift 6.

CHERITON, KENT.—On March 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: M. J. Martin (25th in the method) 1, Miss M. V. Godderidge 2, Miss M. L. Bryant (first 'inside') 3, A. P. S. Berry (25th quarter) 4, A. Jackson (cond.) 5, R. C. A. Turner 6.

DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM.—At St. Cuthbert's Church, on March 18th, 1,344 Plain Bob Major: Miss D. M. Killingley 1, Miss P. Dowse 2, Miss B. Cooke 3, Mrs. T. Cooke 4, T. Cooke (cond.) 5, W. E. Mashiter 6, G. R. Parker 7, F. Hodgson 8. For Confirmation service.

DICKLEBURGH, NORFOLK.—On March 20th, 1,320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. Whiting (cond.) 1, A. G. Harrison 2, E. A. Head 3, C. R. Catchpole 4, L. J. Minns 5, L. E. Etheridge 6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. A. O. Dent on his 98th birthday.

EAST COKER, SOMERSET.—On March 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. E. Looker 1, F. Welsh 2, J. Cornelius 3, J. E. Monckton 4, G. Gaylard 5, A. W. Dyre 6, H. J. Gaylard (cond.) 7, J. W. Drew 8.

ELTHAM, KENT.—On March 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original): Celia Lawrance 1, R. Clarke 2, Brenda Slark (cond.) 3, E. J. Coode 4, K. Small 5, F. J. Hurrell 6, J. Sims 7, P. Clarke 8. First quarter to be rung by an entirely local band since being made an 8-bell tower in 1924. For Evensong.

EUSTON, SUFFOLK.—On March 23rd, 1,280 Plain Bob Doubles: Mrs. H. Ivings 1, Miss D. M. Reeve 2, J. Paul (cond.) 3, J. E. Ivings 4, H. Ivings 5. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Joseph Hartley Archer.

GATESHEAD, CO. DURHAM.—On March 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Robson 1, Mrs. C. N. Lea 2, C. N. Lea 3, N. I. Wright (first in method 'inside') 4, K. Arthur (cond.) 5, E. N. Harrison 6, G. S. Deas 7, R. F. Telford 8. For Confirmation service conducted by the Rt. Rev. M. Armstrong, Bishop of Jarrow.

GORLESTON-ON-SEA, NORFOLK.—On March 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Parkes 1, A. Fulcher 2, A. W. Bird 3, P. G. W. Newstead 4, E. R. Goate 5, W. B. Duncan 6, W. A. Theobald (cond.) 7, S. Sharland 8. First in method for 2, 3 and 4. For Evensong.

GREAT HOLLAND, ESSEX.—On March 21st, 1,344 London Surprise Major: I. Cooper 1, F. B. Lufkin (cond.) 2, Miss E. Cansdale 3, B. Fairhead 4, A. R. Andrews 5, U. W. Wildney 6, R. Duesbury 7, H. Millatt 8.

HALESOWEN, WORCS.—On March 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Greenhall 1, R. Chance 2, B. E. Woodall 3, L. Clissett (cond.) 4, J. H. Cox 5, T. Greenhall 6, H. Shilvock 7, A. H. Harris 8. For evening service, and as a welcome to the new Rector (the Rev. J. C. Williams, B.A.).

HORSELL, SURREY.—On March 20th, 1,260 Doubles (240 Reverse Canterbury, 240 Reverse St. Bartholomew, 240 Old, 240 April Day, 120 Plain Bob, 180 Grandsire): Miss H. Pugh 1, Miss P. Drury 2, D. Wright 3, Miss B. Loveland 4, J. Martin (cond.) 5, B. Priestley 6. First in six methods by all.

HURSTPIERPOINT, SUSSEX.—On March 22nd, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles (with 4, 6, 8 covering): M. Wooldridge (first quarter on a working bell) 1, Joyce D. Walsh (first in method) 2, Mary Carnoghan 3, G. Mansbridge 4, H. W. Brown 5, Angela Hood (first quarter) 6, S. W. Brown (cond.) 1, D. Robinson 8. A compliment to Gwynneth Brown and Derek Payne, Aldrington ringers, on their engagement.

KING'S LANGLEY, HERTS.—On March 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: K. Waples 1, Miss G. Graney 2, B. M. Barker 3, D. J. Goodman 4, R. W. Picton (cond.) 5, R. J. Picton 6, W. Ayre 7, R. Wallis 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mrs. Ada Cox.

LONG SUTTON, SOMERSET.—On March 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. Clarke 1, P. Cox 2, D. Kent 3, E. T. P. Field (cond.) 4, M. Stone 5. A wedding and 20th birthday compliment to Margaret, only daughter of the conductor, who, earlier in the day at St. Mary's (R.C.) Church, Glastonbury, was married to Douglas Solle.

NEWINGTON-NEXT-FOLKESTONE, KENT.—On March 20th, 1,260 Doubles (240 each of Reverse Canterbury, New Grandsire, Reverse St. Bartholomew, Plain Bob and 300 Grandsire): Miss M. L. Bryant 1, W. C. Chandler 2, A. P. S. Berry 3, M. J. Martin (cond.) 4, A. Jackson 5, R. C. A. Turner 6. First in five methods for all the band.

NORTH BRADLEY, WILTS.—On March 13th, 1,260 Plain Bob Major: M. Phillips 1, A. Bartlett (first of Major) 2, A. Knight 3, J. Case 4, P. Harding 5, F. Slatford (cond.) 6, E. Hitchins 7, L. Hitchins 8.

NORTH WEALD, ESSEX.—On March 17th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: M. McQuistan 1, Anne Hancock 2, Wendy Bowak 3, L. Cordell 4, R. Bridges 5, W. Wedlock (cond.) 6.

OAKS-IN-CHARNWOOD, LEICS.—On March 22nd, 1,296 Minor (720 Beverley, 576 Cambridge Surprise): E. Tebbut 1, H. Haynes 2, C. W. Hall 3, F. Chambers 4, J. W. Bowley 5, R. Beniston (cond.) 6. Rung prior to the annual Palm Sunday Area Scout Parade.

QUEENBOROUGH, KENT.—On March 19th, 1,260 Doubles (360 St. Bartholomew, 420 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): Mrs. Croal 1, P. Wilkinson 2, W. A. Wood (cond.) 3, S. Rayfield 4, H. Blacketh 5, Miss S. Kimmings (first quarter) 6.

PITSFORD, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 21st, 1,300 Plain Bob Doubles: J. Bentley 1, P. Giles (cond.) 2, J. Felce 3, E. Frost 4, M. Bennett 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam the Rev. C. B. Groves Broadhurst (Rector) interred this day.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX.—On March 15th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: A. Reeve 1, G. Sandwell 2, W. Ellis 3, F. May 4, E. Blower 5, R. Tomlin 6, M. Hallett 7, A. House (cond.) 8. For Evensong.

RUARDEAN, GLOS.—On Feb. 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. K. Smith 1, Mrs. D. Stafford 2, L. H. Jones (cond.) 3, A. Halling 4, E. W. Meek 5, H. Meek 6. In memoriam S. A. Scott.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—On March 8th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: B. A. Cornell 1, Clare B. Chambers (first in method) 2, G. Dodds 3, W. J. Arnold 4, W. Little 5, J. E. Ewer 6, G. Penney (cond.) 7, M. D. Frost 8. A birthday compliment to 1, 2 and 7.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On March 12th, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: Janet L. Adamson 1, E. S. T. Farr 2, D. K. Walters 3, N. D. Robinson 4, Pamela M. Jervis 5, B. T. Lister 6, A. J. Glass 7, J. R. A. Muller (first on 10 bells) 8, Wm. Birmingham (cond.) 9, D. Livingstone (first on 10 bells) 10. Rung half-muffled as a tribute to Thomas John Fowler (Cookham), for 25 years beloved ringing master of the East Berks and South Bucks branch.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.—On March 15th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. E. Lester 1, C. Snowden 2, R. F. Taylor 3, R. Rose 4, L. Wright 5, H. A. Mitson 6, E. A. Cracknell 7, O. G. Barnard (cond.) 8. First of Kent Major by 3, 5 and 6. For Evensong.

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.—On March 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Ambrose 1, C. Bower 2, W. Scott 3, R. Seabrook 4, J. H. Brett 5, S. J. Twitchett 6, E. Hynard (cond.) 7, T. Bird 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Charles W. F. Clarke, late of Sudbury company, who died March 15th.

WADHURST, SUSSEX.—On March 15th, 1,260 Bob Doubles: Mrs. E. Bassett 1, Miss J. Bassett 2, C. A. Bassett 3, L. W. Giles 4, C. Pilbeam (first as cond.) 5, A. Hemsley 6. For Evensong, and in memory of Maurice Watts, a ringer at this church for 56 years.

WALTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY.—On March 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Alderton 1, N. Bagworth 2, Mrs. N. Bagworth 3, Mrs. F. E. Collins 4, P. Alderton 5, P. Fuller (first on eight) 6, F. E. Collins (cond.) 7, G. Pridham (first quarter) 8.

WELLAND, WORCS.—On Feb. 17th, 1,260 Minor (720 Oxford Bob, 540 Plain Bob): Rev. C. J. Kay 1, D. Price 2, F. Lawrence 3, E. D. Wilson 4, J. Clements (cond.) 5, L. Dovey 6.

CONTEST RINGING IN NORTH OF ENGLAND

By NOEL F. MOXON

(Continued from page 208)

FATHER AND SONS

In October, 1832, at Mirfield, the winners of a contest were Benjamin Thackrah and sons, an unusual combination, and although Benjamin had two ringing sons it is doubtful if he was the father of the remaining ringers. Benjamin was a Dewsbury ringer, and died on February 20th, 1851, aged 76. He assisted in winning 24 prizes on six and eight bells, and rang 50 peals. The opening of a new ring of bells at Meltham, near Huddersfield, was marked in April of 1836 by a contest, in which 14 sets of ringers entered for the various prizes. The final placings were Almondbury Old Set, £8; Saddleworth, £6; Kirkheaton, £4; Mirfield, £2.

Darton staged a contest on August 14th, 1837, with 12 teams competing, each ringing three extents of 720 changes, and the ringers from the little church of High Hoyland carried off the prize of £4.

There appears to have been little difficulty in securing large sums of money for prizes at this time, and one can well appreciate the keenness shown by the competitors when a sum of £8 was at stake, for one ringer's share, about 25s., would amount to over a week's wage. In August, 1836, Huddersfield ringers challenged Kirkheaton ringers to ring three Treble peals for any sum from £50 to £500! Huddersfield ringers must have had the backing of prosperous business people to be able to issue such a challenge; unfortunately no information regarding the outcome is available. A contest was held at Huddersfield on October 28th, 1839, when 'the principal streets were literally crowded with attentive listeners': ten teams took part, with Manchester and Halifax taking away the main prizes.

AN HONOURABLE ADIEU

Challenge contests were still popular, for in 1842 six ringers of Barnsley challenged six ringers of Darfield, the venue being Wragby, apparently a favourite tower for such matches, the test piece being 5,040 changes in seven methods. Barnsley were the victors, possibly gaining consolation for the indignities suffered by their predecessors of half-a-century earlier. Barnsley went to the nearby village of Silkstone on March 3rd, 1851, to take part in a three 'peal' contest: Dewsbury took away the first prize, Barnsley second, Kirkheaton third, Holmfirth fourth. Marsden, a Dewsbury ringer, a man of 71 years, having been a winner at 40 ringing contests, dressed his hat in ribbons and bade an honourable adieu to the ropes. Barnsley eventually were successful in an open contest, when at Ecclesfield in 1858 they received the first prize of £7. Their conductor was Thomas Dawn, innkeeper of the Hole in the Wall; he died in 1866, being a ringer for 30 years. Barnsley ringers, in common with many others, rarely attended the church services, and the Rector bitterly accused them of running down to the Turf for refreshment immediately after ringing, and demanded that this practice should cease. The ringers agreed to mend their ways, and ever afterwards they *walked* down to the Turf!

In keeping with the usual practice, a contest was held when 'A beautiful peal of six bells was opened at Harworth on March 10th, 1846, . . . the melodious sounds producing a feeling of joy and satisfaction to the inhabitants of this densely-populated neighbourhood'; the first prize was awarded to Holmfirth and the second to Mirfield. When Batley Church received a new ring of six bells, cast by Messrs. Mears in 1852, the customary contest was held to celebrate the opening with 13 sets of ringers from the neighbouring churches taking part. Four prizes, of £8, £4, £2 and £1 were offered, and the final placings were Holmfirth, Mirfield, Shipley and Kirkheaton. The 'Leeds Mercury' stated that the decision of the judge, Mr. James Firth, of Liversedge, gave general satisfaction.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JUDGES

Such unanimity was not always the case, as can be learned from a contest held at Earlsheaton in July, 1853, when ten teams each rang 2,528 changes of Major. A surprise victory was scored by Dewsbury with 829 faults, whilst the favourites, Liversedge, were placed third with 986 faults. Dewsbury, who were not fancied for a prize, received a purse of £12, being loudly praised in the 'Leeds Intelligencer' for their fine ringing. However, the newspaper the following week published a letter from the Liversedge ringers alleging that the members of the Earlsheaton team had visited the judges' room on various occasions with refreshments, although it had previously been agreed that the room should be private. It was further alleged that should the Dewsbury and Elland teams complete the test piece they should be awarded first and second prizes, leaving the other teams only two prizes for which to compete.

A reply from the Earlsheaton ringers was promptly forthcoming, describing the 'allegations as a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end,' and followed the denial with a good deal of unnecessary abuse which the editor refused to print. He also refused to print any more correspondence on the subject but accepted as an advertisement a further letter from Liversedge, repeating their allegations and describing the awarding of the prizes as the 'most infamous and roguish transaction that was ever witnessed in all their lives.'

NEWSPAPER PROTEST

Discontent was also shown when Ilkley bells were opened in 1846, this being a 6-bell contest. Eight teams competed and the Tong company received first prize, much to the disgust of the Holmfirth ringers, who in the following week published a letter in the 'Leeds Mercury' complaining bitterly of unfair treatment by the judges, and asserting that 'every ringer in the town declared that the Holmfirth ringing was far superior to that of any other party. Naturally the following week a letter was published from Geo. Robinson and Christopher Giles (or Iles), two of the judges involved, declaring that 'no unfairness was manifested towards the Holmfirth ringers.'

Barnsley again staged a contest in July, 1861, which occupied three days, the test piece being three extents of Minor. Fourteen teams entered but four withdrew, leaving the following who were finally placed by the judges: Ecclesfield 1,253, Kirkheaton 1,547, Saddleworth 1,620, Almondbury 1,832, Cawthorne 2,226, Silkstone 2,335, Calverley 3,713; Wath, sen., false peal; Wath, jun., rung out; Kilnwick, rung out. The prizes were £7, £5, £3 and £1 10s., and 10s. was given to Calverley, the team which had come the greatest distance without obtaining a prize. As can be seen from the large number of faults, the ringing was not so good as was expected.

In the same year a contest was held at Cawthorne, where the three old bells had recently been augmented to six, and no less than fifteen teams competed for prizes of £6, £4 10s., £3 and £1 10s. The successful teams were Almondbury, Barnsley, Saddleworth and Silkstone; others included Kirkburton Senior and Junior, Armitage Bridge and Shipley.

(Much of the foregoing information is the result of the efforts of Mr. David Cubitt, of Wakefield, who has transcribed reams of data from old newspapers, and I am most grateful for his assistance.)

MATCH RINGING

For the next period, the latter half of the 19th century, I am indebted to Mr. Allan Robinson, of Mirfield, who looks back to the old days when they were keen on ringing, as they had two or three sets of ringers in a tower, and if you missed a bob you were out! In the early '80s it was all 'match ringing,' and up to 1893 money prizes were always offered. The sum of £20 in prizes was put up at a contest at Batley on May 26th, 1860. Judging from the large number of faults (the winners scored over 1,000) this would be a 6-bell contest with three 720's as the test piece, with 12 teams taking part. Six teams shared the prize money, which was allocated as follows: Almondbury, Calverley, Wath, Saddleworth, Dewsbury and Kirkheaton, with the newly-formed team at Cawthorne coming in last.

EIGHTEEN TEAMS

There appeared to be no scarcity of money in Dewsbury, for on April 2nd and 3rd, 1866, an 8-bell contest was organised, offering six prizes totalling £33 for a half peal of Major, the figures of which were given by the organisers. Enthusiasm was high at this period for at a contest at St. Peter's, Horbury, on September 28th and 29th, 1875, 18 teams competed, and it is noteworthy to find that three teams came from Kirkburton—No. 1 and No. 2 and Kirkburton Church ringers; what the state of affairs was in this village we cannot attempt to describe. Saddleworth, who now were quite a power in the prize-ringing field, were represented by two teams, as were New Mill. The winners were Kirkburton No. 1, North of England, Almondbury, Saddleworth Seniors, New Mill and Mirfield Tin Bobin Set.

A set of rules with competing teams was printed for the occasion by the Horbury Society of Change Ringers. No. 9 rule states: 'If any conductor, that goes into the steeple along with any set, speaks or rises from his seat, after the bells begin to ring, 50 faults shall be put down to the set he belongs.' No. 12 rule states: 'No person or persons will be allowed to go within the boundary walls round the church, except on business or by leave from the secretary or steepleman.' The committee certainly took every precaution to ensure no jiggery-pokery was possible. In addition to the North of England United, a team calling themselves All England competed but were unplaced.

Batley ringers staged a contest on June 5th and 6th in 1876 requiring each team to ring two

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720's each differing in name and change. The printed rules were identical with the Horbury Society and form the basis of rules used today. Thirteen teams competed but five rang out, leaving eight sets to battle for the six prizes, and here class began to tell because the first three places were taken by United North of England, Yorkshire United and All England, followed by Calverley, Horbury and Mirfield. These two-day contests usually raised the problem of lodgings, and it often became difficult to accommodate all the ringers, one such case being at Saddleworth, where Tom Stead, of Kirkheaton, failed to find a bed for the night unless he slept with the judge. This Tom refused to do, preferring to walk the streets all through the night! Prize money still proved easy to obtain, for Liversedge on Whit Monday and Tuesday, 1891, offered 30 guineas in five prizes. Dewsbury, who always put up a good show, took away the first prize.

A new name now appears amongst the competitors, Friezland from the Lancashire border, who were to be a force in contest ringing for many years; this team annexed the first prize of £8 at Kirkheaton in 1893.

According to Mr. Robinson, prize ringing began to tail off in 1893, but the custom died hard as Huddersfield St. Peter's staged an 8-bell contest in 1899, offering 27 guineas in prizes. The test piece was 2,048 changes of Kent T.B. Major, and the winners were Almondbury, Dewsbury, Earlsheaton and Lindley.

HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

In 1893 the Heavy Woollen District Association was formed, and organised two contests each year, one on six bells and one on eight bells; a silver challenge cup was purchased, to be held by the winners for one year, the members of the team receiving timepieces, medals, or watchguards, usually provided by the home tower.

The cup holders in the last century were Dewsbury, 1894–1896–1897–1898, with Liversedge, 1895, and Earlsheaton in 1899. New Mill won the cup in 1900, this contest being held at Holmfirth. No details of further contests are available until 1906, when Mr. H. Dransfield, of Earlsheaton, gives a report of a H.W. contest at Batley when his team, who were competing for the first time, were awarded the second prize, receiving six electro-plated tea pots; the winners, Almondbury, took the cup and six marble timepieces.

Some time later an 8-bell contest followed at Lindley, and only Dewsbury entered, so a mixed band was formed to ensure the contest being held. Dewsbury won, and having apparently won the cup in three successive years for the second time they claimed the trophy. This action caused much dissension and probably led to the break-up of the Heavy Woollen Association. The cup is now preserved in the Crow Nest Park Museum, Dewsbury, perhaps a satisfactory end to its career, as many such trophies have unfortunately disappeared altogether.

PREFERRED THE MANTEL SHELF!

Mr. John W. Moxon, of Sandal, related to me of a contest for the H.W. cup held at Kirkheaton in 1896, which he attended with his father. His uncle, Jack Blackburn was ringing that Whit Tuesday with Batley Carr, and being confident of winning the first prize, a marble clock, cleared a place on the mantel shelf before he left home. Unfortunately, Batley Carr were drawn last, and after spending a long day awaiting their turn, broken by numerous visits to the local inn, the team were rather unsteady. Mr. Moxon recalls the crowd listening to the perfect ringing of Batley Carr who had the contest practically won, when three leads from the end there was a fatal slip and the band 'rung out.'

At the time when interest in the Heavy Woollen Association began to wane the Halifax and District Association was formed, the headquarters being at the Ring of Bells at Halifax. The object of the Association, according to the rules, was 'the encouragement of Scientific Change Ringing and Good Striking amongst its members by the means of Competitions or otherwise.' A silver cup, value £9 17s., was purchased on December 16th, 1904, the money being raised by subscriptions from 14 neighbouring towers. The present secretary, Mr. A. Farrand, gives details of the first recorded contest, which was held at Halifax Parish Church on January 12th, 1907. Test pieces were 640 Kent T.B. Major or 676 Grandsire Triples, and out of four companies, Brighouse won with 252 faults.

Eight- and 6-bell contests were held alternately from then until 1933, when only two teams entered; ever since, all contests have been for six bells. According to Mr. Farrand, 126 contests have been organised by the Association up to the present time and 42 different teams have competed. Previous to 1918 Earlsheaton were the most successful tower, with 14 wins, and during one remarkable spell took the cup seven times in succession.

(To be continued.)

CAMBRIDGE.—On Mar. 8th, 1,311 Stedman Cinques: H. Neill (cond.) 1, D. J. Roaf 2, J. H. Pailing 3, A. R. Heppenstall 4, P. H. Langton 5, R. Elliott 6, J. Pilkington 7, E. C. Hibbins 8, J. R. Taylor 9, H. F. Brown 10, J. W. R. Quinney 11, J. Schofield 12. Rung on the last Sunday of University term as a farewell to the Vicar (the Rev. Mervyn Stockwood), who takes up his appointment as Bishop of Southwark at Easter.

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. W. B. Pitcher, secretary of St. Peter's Cathedral Society, Adelaide, South Australia, writes: '. . . Incidentally, we have noticed certain remarks in "The Ringing World" where both Sydney and Melbourne hold out various enticements to the ringing immigrant. But Adelaide can offer the heaviest bell in the Southern Hemisphere and the second heaviest eight in the world. We give pride of place only to Sherborne; and our tenor is *Great* Frederick —41 cwt.'

Cambridge University Guild's 500th peal was rung at Saffron Walden on March 7th.

His many friends will be sorry to hear that Mr. A. Charles Morris has been in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, for the past four weeks. A speedy recovery and a quick return to ringing is his friends' sincere wish.

While the peal attempt at Great Holland, Essex, broke down and the band had to be content with a quarter peal, there was a compensation in the excellent tea provided by the Rector. He is looking forward to a meeting being held at his church at an early date.

Regarding the peal at Llanelly (page 184), claimed as the first peal on the bells for 25 years, Mr. Patrick Cannon writes: 'I had the pleasure of calling a peal of Bob Minor here on February 6th, 1946, while stationed at the Royal Signals Depot, Abergavenny. The rest of the band came from Ebbw Vale.'

A farewell peal was rung at Farnworth, Lancs, on March 21st, to Mr. Gordon W. Limmer, of Burnham Beeches, and Miss Elaine A. Richardson, of Brigg, Lincolnshire, who during the past few months have been staying in Bolton on professional duties or courses. Mr. Limmer has rung five peals and Miss Richardson three, and both have been an asset to the District. They returned to their respective homes before Easter.

Mr. Harry Broughton, of Leicester, has rung his final peal, which was a memorial peal to Mrs. Phyllis Poole. Some years ago he had a bad attack of cerebral hæmorrhage. He has now been informed by his doctor that while he made a remarkable recovery a recurrence of the trouble might come at any time. Peal ringing was one of the things he had to give up, but he could not resist the temptation to ring in the peal to the memory of a beloved friend.

On April 5th the morning service at Finchley Parish Church, Middlesex, is being televised by A.T.V., and just prior to the service the bells are going to be heard.

Congratulations to 16-year-old John Rhodes, an enthusiastic member of the Calverley band, who conducted his first peal at Whixley on March 21st. In his short ringing career (slightly over two years) he has had 13 peal attempts and rung 12 peals. The only failure was the first attempt.

Mr. E. J. Brown has retired from the captaincy of Brant Broughton, Lincoln, ringers. An inexperienced band was formed here in 1957. The band's first quarter peal was achieved in February, 1958, and first peal last February. The new captain is Mr. C. (Phil) Pitchford. Practice nights are the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The bells of St. Mary's, Ely, will shortly be heard on the air in Canada. At a recent practice a representative of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation made tape-recordings of the bells and also of a practice in progress. The ringers were all scholars of local schools, who are under the tuition of Mr. John Pickett, a service ringer for over 50 years. Mr. Pickett was in 1910 a ringer at St. Michael's, Aldershot, with Mr. Geo. Gilbert. His present Vicar, the Rev. J. R. Rowsell, was also a former Aldershot vicar.

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GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

NEW CATHEDRAL BELLS

THERE was a larger attendance than usual at the Guildford Diocesan Guild annual meeting, held at Guildford on March 21st. Ringing took place at Holy Trinity, St. Nicolas', St. Mary's, Stoke and Shalford churches. The singing at the Guild service, held in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, was led by a robed choir of ringers, and the organ was played by Miss Janet Cleeve, a local ringer.

The Provost (Very Rev. Walter Boulton) conducted the service. In his address the Provost said: 'You have a distinct ministry in belonging to the Church of God—a ministry which is an art. Almost anybody can take a church service, but it is a very difficult art to ring bells properly and you have to give a great deal of time to the cultivation of that art. It is only people with a sense of vocation who stick the course and become first-class men in the art.

'Most ringers are practising Christians and recognise that their work in the belfry is part of the Church's work. I hope that every ringer as he performs his duty in the church is reminding himself that it is to the glory of God and for the good of Christ's Church. It is only when we do things to the glory of God that they are worth while. The lovely bells peal out not because they are useful in calling people to church—that could be done by loudspeakers—but because it is to the glory of God.'

A company of 156 sat down to tea in Harvey's Restaurant, and the Provost presided at the business meeting which followed, supported by the Master (Mr. C. W. Denyer) and the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. S. T. A. Russell).

RESTORATIONS

The executive committee's report, presented by the Master, stated that bell restoration work had been carried out at Wonersh, where two new treble had been added and the bells rehung. Farnham's bells were at the foundry for recasting and rehanging, and would be dedicated in the middle of the year. The ring at Ashtead had had a peal-and-meeting ban imposed owing to clapper holes and the condition of the frame. A fine ring of six in a new frame had been put in at Binsted, and although in the area of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild this was mainly through the efforts of the Farnham District.

All towers received the review of Sunday Service Ringing form circulated by the Central Council, and 85 per cent. of the forms had been returned. It seems from these forms that the Guild is operating successfully in most towers, and in the few exceptions, the pockets of inactivity will receive attention during the period ahead.

The membership of the Guild was 555 ringing and 101 honorary. Ringing members were Chertsey District 89, Farnham District 148, Guildford District 109, Leatherhead District 129, life and unattached 80.

CANON COLERIDGE'S BOOKS

The report of the librarian (Mr. A. C. Hazelden) stated that the total number of books in the library, not including bound volumes of periodicals, was 260. A series of books and papers, many formerly owned by the late Canon G. F. Coleridge, together with those belonging to the late Major H. J. Cann (nephew of Canon Coleridge), had been passed on to the Master (Mr. C. W. Denyer) by Mrs. Cann and were now in the library. The collection included valuable books by the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, and Mr. Hazelden said there was a strong reason to believe that they were at one time Mr. Ellacombe's personal property. They wanted somebody with a knowledge of heraldry to identify the coat-of-arms.

The peal recorder's report stated that 22 peals were rung during 1958, one more than the previous year. These were rung by 91 different ringers, of whom 22 were ladies. The peals were rung in 17 different towers with 13 conductors. Mr. P. G. Smart conducted his first peal and there were eight first-pealers, of whom seven were ladies.

IN MEMORIAM PEALS

Major Bragg (peal recorder) said he was very sorry to see that a peal rung in memory of someone was also described as the fastest peal on the bells. He did not think that personal pride should go into a footnote of an in memoriam peal.

The accounts showed a balance in hand of £37 11s. 11d. on the General Fund, £133 5s. 2d. on the Benevolent Fund and £115 4s. 3d. on the New Cathedral Bell Fund.

Mr. A. H. Pulling urged the Guild to build up the New Cathedral Bell Fund. Fifty years ago they used to look forward annually to visiting Winchester and ringing on the Cathedral bells. In 50 years' time ringers would be looking forward to visiting Guildford Cathedral and ringing on the bells there. He thought they should vote more money to the Cathedral Bell Fund and less to the Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent Fund did good, but now with a benevolent Government it was unnecessary.

Mr. G. S. Joyce asked the Provost if he was able to give any information regarding the Cathedral bells.

The Provost said the most optimistic thing they could hope for was to find a benefactor of the tower. The present building would be consecrated on May 31st next year. A possible date for the bells was five years' time.

Officers declared elected for 1959 were: Mr. C. W. Denyer, Master; Mr. S. T. A. Russell, hon. secretary and treasurer; Miss W. R. Hide, assistant hon. secretary; Mr. G. H. Brown, hon. auditor; Mr. F. Oakshott, liaison officer with the Surrey Association.

The meeting decided to fix the date of the Guild annual meeting as the second Saturday in March, that the names of all paid-up members be printed in the Guild annual report, and that the Guild annual dinner be held on October 10th. The election of Miss Angela Martin, of Bramshott, previous to a peal attempt, was ratified.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

At the request of a majority of members present at Calverley on October 18th, a ringing meeting was held at Meltham on March 7th. Towers represented were Batley, Cawthorne, Calverley, Friezland, Huddersfield, Lightcliffe, Shelley, Silkstone, Stainland and the local company.

Ringing to a variety of methods was continuous from 3 to 8 p.m., except for a break for the business meeting, held in the tower, with Mr. F. Webster, of Meltham, as chairman.

The meeting stood and observed one minute's silence in respect of the death of Mr. Harry Nutt. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the Meltham company for the use of the tower and bells was proposed and passed. The secretary announced that the next meeting would be on April 18th at Earlsheaton.

A resolution was proposed and seconded to hold only two contests per year, but the secretary held that the resolution would involve a change of rules, and could only be submitted to the annual meeting.

Mr. H. Mann proposed, and the meeting fully agreed, that a mark of appreciation be recorded in the minutes re the work done for the Association by the late Harry Nutt.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION

Bristol City Branch At Dinner

Defying superstition, 45 members and friends of the Bristol City Branch held their annual dinner on Friday, March 13th, at the Ship Inn, Redcliffe. The customary toasts to the Queen and the Church were proposed by the Branch chairman (Mr. F. Hansford), who expressed his regrets that the Precentor of Bristol Cathedral was unable to be present.

Mr. S. G. Riches (general treasurer) proposed the toast to 'The City Branch,' and congratulated members on their present choice of officers. He spoke on several diverse subjects, including the great distances at which the bells of St. Thomas' could be heard, and how we should consider arousing the interest of the general public in Bristol in matters appertaining to bell-ringing. He expressed his hope that the bells of the blitzed Church of St. Nicholas would one day be recast and rehung to take their former place as one of the finest rings of ten in the country. In conclusion, he reminded members of the aims of the Association in cultivating Sunday service ringing and promoting the art of change-ringing.

Mrs. Joan Gray, in reply endorsed what Mr. Riches had said about the Branch officers, and in particular she paid tribute to the secretary (Mr. A. V. Bennett) for the hard work he put in as instructor at the St. John's School of Ringing. She stressed the happy relationship which existed between the University Society and city ringers, but pointed out that it was necessary to devise means of attracting new recruits in order to keep the towers fully manned when the University was not in session. The reasons why recruits were lost had been listed in some of the replies to the Central Council survey. She suggested that the time had come for the Gloucester and Bristol Association to take a lead from the Bath and Wells and endeavour to establish stronger links with the clergy.

Entertainment was provided by the Southville Handbell Ringers, under Mr. E. F. Hancock, who played several well-known airs and lapped a well-struck course of Little Bob Major. Grandsire Triples were rung 'in hand' by P. M. J. Gray 1-2, R. G. Hooper 3-4, A. M. Tyler 5-6, Joan Gray 7-8. R. J. B.

Swindon Branch

Snow usually falls for the spring quarterly meeting of the Swindon Branch, but 1959 proved the exception, and the meeting was held at Stratton St. Margaret in comparatively good weather on March 14th. Ringing was followed by the usual service, conducted by the Vicar (Rev. R. G. Wolsey), and the young lady ringers of Stratton provided an excellent tea in the Church Room.

The Master of the Association (Mr. W. H. Trueman) presided at the business meeting in the absence of the chairman (Dr. H. Craig), who was engaged on a Civil Defence exercise. Several new members were elected, and it was proposed that quarterly meetings should be held at Wanborough, Brinkworth and Bishopstone. Mr. T. Moulden, of Stratton, the oldest member of the Branch, was nominated as a life member of the Association. The syllabus of the course at Dillington House was read, but unfortunately the date clashes with the Association A.G.M. at Cheltenham.

Further ringing followed, methods up to Cambridge Major being rung. In addition to Branch members, ringers attended from Bradford-on-Avon and Malmesbury. W. B. K.

A YORKSHIRE JOINT MEETING

Although a little disappointing in terms of attendance, the joint meeting of the Leeds and District Society and Yorkshire Association (Western District), held at Christ Church, Armley, on March 21st, was in all other respects most successful and enjoyable. The bells were raised at the appointed time of 3 p.m., and apart from intervals—firstly to replace a broken rope and secondly for the tea and business meetings—were used to full advantage until 8.30 p.m. The new vice-president of the Western District was well and truly 'christened' when, having led the bells down in peal and called for the customary Queens change to be chimed in conclusion, the treble rope came coiling down upon his head!

The tea was a credit to the organisers and heartily enjoyed by all. It was pleasing to note that the number of teas ordered was well matched by the number of persons sitting down. An appropriate vote of thanks was accorded to the local company and ladies.

The Leeds and District Society business meeting was held first, and it was here that the secretary (Mr. J. M. Thorley) took his leave, retiring from office a month in advance owing to his removal from the district. The president (Mr. I. Slack) thanked Mr. Thorley for the capable way in which he had handled the job of secretary, and wished him well in his new surroundings. Mr. D. Thorp, of 6, St. Stephen's Road, Calverley, Pudsey, was elected to take over the secretaryship until the annual meeting, which is to be held at Leeds Parish Church on May 2nd, the usual last Saturday in April not being available.

Nominations were invited for the various offices, and were received as follows: President, Mr. T. W. Strangeway; vice-presidents, Messrs. L. Drake, J. W. Gibson and C. F. Sutcliffe; secretary, Mr. D. Thorp; Ringing Master, Mr. I. Slack, and auditors Messrs. A. I. Johnson and H. Lofthouse.

SIX NEW MEMBERS FROM IDLE

The Western District meeting followed, and the vice-president (Mr. W. Barton) began by expressing pleasure at seeing Mr. A. J. Coldrick, of Armley, present. Although 82 years of age and prevented from ringing by a physical infirmity he looked extremely well—may he continue to live a long and happy life.

Six new members were elected, all from Idle. The local company there are to be congratulated on this excellent sign of progress. By majority vote it was decided to hold the next meeting at Gargrave on June 20th, provided that the necessary arrangements can be made. This will be the annual District meeting, at which the following officers are due to retire: Hon. District secretary, Mr. A. E. Marsh; committee—Messrs. J. Ambler, P. Birkett and H. Lofthouse. Nominations should be sent to the hon. District secretary.

The vice-president announced the terms of certain propositions which had been discussed at the meeting of the general committee the previous week and subsequently referred to a sub-committee for consideration. A lively discussion ensued, during the course of which several useful opinions were expressed. A collection for the bell repair fund realised £1 1s. 7d.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Western Branch

Forty members, representing 14 towers, attended the annual meeting of the Western Branch, held at Gressenhall on February 28th. Among those present were the president (Mr. Nolan Golden) and the general secretary (Mr. W. Lowe).

After ringing to suit all tastes and capabilities, the service was conducted by the Rev. A. A. Eden, Rector of North Elmham, the address was given by the chairman (Rev. R. G. Dobson) and the lesson read by the president.

Tea was served in the School by friends and relations of the local band. The chairman, in opening the business meeting, thanked all officers and members for their work during the past year. Eleven new members were enrolled.

The following officers were re-elected: Rev. R. G. Dobson, chairman; C. V. E. Ebberson, Ringing Master; C. F. Tovell, secretary.

It was agreed that an interim meeting should be held at Bircham on April 11th. The next quarterly meeting will be at Gaywood on May 30th, and a joint interim meeting with the Northern Branch on June 27th at Dereham. An invitation was issued to members to a ringing day at Wymondham on July 18th.

ST. DAVID'S DIOCESAN GUILD

Because of the bad weather, the attendance was small at the quarterly meeting of St. David's Diocesan Guild, held at St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, on March 14th. The Vicar conducted the service and presided at the meeting. A welcome tea was provided by the Church and served by members of the Mothers' Union, to whom, and also the Vicar, a hearty vote of thanks was passed.

At the meeting a tribute of respect was paid to two members who had passed on since the last meeting. The usual touch on handbells was given by four members. The meeting approved a grant of £10 to St. David's towards the cost of the sound-proofing project.

Proceedings were briefer than usual to enable members to have a final ring before finishing at 7 p.m. This limitation was necessitated because of a rehearsal of the service to be broadcast the following morning.

C. H. H.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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Personal.—C. T. 2s. 6d., F. C. Pugh 1s., Nailsea outing 3s.

Peals.—Newington-next-Folkestone 1s. 6d., Cheriton, Kent 1s. 6d., Chalfont St. Peter 1s. 6d., Blunsdon 6s.

Quarter Peals.—Stowmarket 4s., North Bradley 4s., North Weald 3s., Walton-on-Thames 4s., Welland 2s. 6d., Gateshead 4s., Bootle 3s., East Coker 2s., Long Sutton 2s. 6d., Queenborough 3s., Gorleston-on-Sea 5s., Bradford-on-Avon 1s. 6d.

LONDON WEEK-END

Being invited by Wilfred Williams and John Chilcott to ring in an attempt for Stedman Cinques at Southwark Cathedral on March 14th, we arrived in Paddington very appropriately on the Cathedral's Express just before noon. A conducted tour through the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey and a trip downriver occupied the time previous to the 6 p.m. start. A good peal was duly rung on these mellow, well-balanced bells. One notable feature of this peal was John Chilcott's ringing of the tenor: he looked as cool, calm and collected at the end as he did at the start (nice work, John). During light refreshments afterwards it was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with Tom Francis, who had listened to the last part of the peal.

On Sunday, after another sightseeing tour, we went to St. Paul's to hear the ringing for service. We arrived outside in time to hear the bells go off into changes, and the St. Paul's band lived up to their reputation by treating us to some really fine Stedman Cinques. During a short convivial with the St. Paul's band, it was again a pleasure to renew acquaintance with Alfred B. Peck and Jack A. Waugh after over 30 years. From St. Paul's we visited the Old Bailey and afterwards St. Clement Danes', where the wonderful restoration has to be seen to be believed. We arrived at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in time for Evensong, where we saw the inspiring spectacle of a packed-to-capacity congregation.

Monday commenced with a visit to the Whitechapel Foundry, where we were cordially received by Mr. A. A. Hughes and shown round the foundry. We had the pleasure of trying out the new 12 for St. Mary-le-Bow. A notable feature was the rows of brilliant and shining handbells being made for export to the U.S.A.

The Tower of London, Covent Garden (where the smell of fruit and vegetables reminded us of home and the Vale of Evesham), the Opera House and the Albert Hall were visited en route to Paddington to board the Cathedral's Express for the two hours' run to Evesham. Ringing was not yet finished as we ran into Fred Wilkins, and enjoyed the pleasure of his company to Oxford, when quite a few peals were rung and lost!

To Wilfred Williams and John Chilcott we say 'Thank you' for the ringing arrangements you made for us on this enjoyable and memorable London weekend.

G. J. and G. C. HEMMING.

BRISTOL QUARTER PEALS

BRISTOL.—At St. Michael's Church, on Mar. 1st, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Doreen Gibbons 1, B. J. Wylde 2, M. J. Austin 3, R. Blackler 4, P. J. Bird (first of Surprise as cond.) 5, D. Heighton 6. First of Surprise for 1, 3 and 4. Also on Mar. 8th, 1,260 Doubles (60 Stedman, 720 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): B. J. Wylde 1, J. C. Baldwin 2, Jane Cook (first as cond.) 3, M. J. Austin 4, R. Blackler 5, M. Taylor 6. First in three Doubles methods by all. Both by U.B.S.C.R. for Evensong. Also on Mar. 15th, at the Church of St. Michael-on-the-Mount-Without, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Angela Grainger (cond.) 1, Elizabeth M. Jackson 2, M. T. Rothwell 3, M. J. Austin 4, R. Blackler 5, D. Heighton 6. For Evensong.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES AND RINGING

Dear Sir,—As a student at present at Salisbury Theological College, I was very interested to read of the ringing activities of the students at Cuddesdon, and would wish to congratulate them on their progress. At Salisbury we have formed a Guild as well, and since last October we have held regular Wednesday afternoon practices at St. Paul's Church, Salisbury and Britford, through the kindness of the incumbents and with the much-appreciated co-operation of Mr. Manns and Mr. Lewis, the Ringing Masters at these churches. Like Cuddesdon, we have every afternoon free, and study in the evenings, and thus cannot join the local towers for practice. Of our 42 students, 25 can ring or are learning to ring, and many of the others are intending to start once the rigours of G.O.E. are past and done with. So far, our ringing has been limited to call-changes and Grandsire Doubles with the help of one visitor, but after Easter we should be able to make a start on Grandsire Doubles with an all-college team.

Obviously, we cannot expect to turn out first-class Surprise Maximus ringers with the little time available and with limited help, but I am hoping that we shall at least be able to teach a little about ringing, how a tower should be run, and how an incumbent should co-operate with his ringers and try to understand their art.

And this brings me to the real point of this letter. All too often, it has been my experience in dealings with clergy all over the country, they are, on the whole, ignorant of what goes on in their towers. How many have ever seen their bells, or really appreciate that they are alone responsible for these expensive musical instruments? How many have even an inkling of the work and effort needed to raise and maintain a regular loyal Sunday service band? How many of them ever think of visiting their towers on practice nights and Sundays to say the Belfry Prayer, and to have a friendly word of encouragement with their ringers? In my experience, the answer to each and every one of these questions is 'Surprisingly few.'

What is the solution? I doubt if there is any easy answer to that question: the local Diocesan Associations have done and are doing much to encourage parish priests to take an interest in ringing, but I feel that this encouragement would bear more fruit if given earlier—in the clergy-nursery—the theological colleges (parsons are not brought into the world by ecclesiastical storks, neither are they found under burning gooseberry bushes). May I suggest that the Diocesan Associations, under the guidance of the Central Council if necessary, should approach the Principals of the theological colleges within their territory, and ask that permission be granted for qualified persons to visit the colleges to give lectures on the subject?

In all colleges there are opportunities during the year for visiting lecturers to advance the claims of the Mothers' Union, the R.S.C.M., and so forth; I do not think that two extra lectures a year would be too crushing a burden to impose. Two lectures are suggested: one to be given by an incumbent who has a good, keen band of churchmen (dealing with the law relating to the tower, his own relationship with his ringers and what he expects from them, how he encourages them, and so on), and the other to be given by a Ringing Master who has charge of a tower where there is a good, loyal and regular band of church bell ringers (and here may I insert a plea for the type of ringing instructor who has proved himself by practical work and results over a period of years, not—please not — one of the plentiful supply of theory-pedlars who have an abundance of bright but unworkable ideas, and who have never produced other ringers themselves).

I do not suggest that this plan, if carried out, would be a cure-all for the problems of difficult relationships which crop up from time to time between ringers and their clergy—one does occasionally find the type of parson who is determined to be the head of his parish, with infallible knowledge on all matters; and on the other hand, ringers who cannot be persuaded to take part in the services for which they ring must not be surprised if they find themselves replaced by others who are churchmen first and ringers second. But I do believe that if handled properly it would bring abundant blessings on the Exercise in years to come, and would help to encourage the recruiting of ringers to meet the shortage which is evident in all parts of the country and which is desperate in some.

I shall be delighted to discuss the matter with any person who cares to write to me.—Yours sincerely,

ROGER O. FRY.

19, The Close,
Salisbury.

COLLECTION OF MINOR METHODS

Dear Sir,—In the Minutes of the Central Council meeting, held last year at Whitsuntide, is a reference to the proposed publication of the Minor Methods Collection which, it is stated, would appear in several months. Nearly 12 months have passed, and still there is no sign of the book. I think a statement from the committee concerned is long overdue.

If the script has not yet reached the hands of the printer, I suggest that the names of 'irregular' treble bob methods are included to avoid possible confusion caused by one method being known by more than one name.

I am sure Mr. H. Chant will be pleased to furnish names and details of the methods which should be included.—Yours faithfully,

N. F. MOXON.

Barnsley.

VOTING IN GUILDFORD GUILD

Dear Sir,—May I respectfully point out that your footnote to the letter from John Vernon is not strictly correct and may lead to misunderstanding.

The rules of the Guildford Diocesan Guild *do* permit junior members to vote, but at *District level only*. They are not allowed to nominate Guild or District officers. This compromise was reached in 1957, after some considerable discussion in 1956, when juniors were entirely deprived.

So far as the Chertsey District are concerned, this has worked well.—Yours truly,

ROY COLLINS.

Chobham.

SPLICED CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE PEALS

Dear Sir,—With reference to the correspondence concerning the false arrangement of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative, my sole reason for this letter is to establish the truth of the Rotherfield peal, conducted by Bill Rogers on January 18th, 1951.

Strange as it may seem, Bill has been saved from calling the false arrangement on two occasions. He is a very lucky fellow.

In his first letter to 'The Ringing World' he mentions the episode which took place in the belfry at Marshfield, Gloucester, just before the peal was attempted. This was almost a repeat performance of that which took place eight years ago at Rotherfield, prior to the peal being rung.

I was aware of the falseness at that time. I took part in the peal, and can vouch for the truth of the composition rung. I do not keep a detailed list of my peals rung, but have a vague recollection that the peal was submitted to the 'R.W.' incorrectly—Bill was probably still in a 'flat spin' when he sent it up. I have, incidentally, written to him reminding him, and said I would write to the 'R.W.', which is the reason why no notice of withdrawing the peal has been published.

I would like to add here that I intend no reflections upon Bill Rogers. I have not seen him now for over two years; if I had, perhaps this unfortunate episode might never have occurred.

As a matter of interest, I would like to add that I was not aware until I read his letter in the 'R.W.' that he had nearly been caught out a second time, but for the timely intervention of Stephen Ivin.

I realise that I have little to substantiate my statement that the peal was true, as apparently nobody else clearly remembers. I have, however, over the intervening years, called the true variation four or five times, as back numbers of the 'R.W.' or K.C.A. annual reports will confirm, and I hope this will dispel any doubts as to my integrity in this matter.

For years I have been under the impression that the falseness of the arrangement was well known; I had no reason to doubt this until July, 1957. Whilst on tour in Sussex I happened to mention it, and was surprised to find that none of the company were aware of it. Shortly after this, Stephen Ivin wrote to the 'R.W.' explaining the falseness of the arrangement. Well done, Stephen!

Just how many of us did know, I wonder?—Yours faithfully,

MARK S. LANCEFIELD.

Willesborough.

THAT EXTRA CWT.

Dear Sir,—Yes, Mr. Hall, the cwt. that fell off Burnham tenor between January 31st and February 14th made all the difference in the Superlative. As the Stedman report was sent in by me (the tenor ringer), I can only assume that my figures were so bad that the Editor could not distinguish my 2 from a 3. Correct weight: 12 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in F sharp. Taylors, 1949.—Yours, etc.,

GEORGE GILBERT.

Burnham.

TOWER CLOCKS

NEW INSTALLATIONS OF ALL TYPES
REPAIRS AND CONVERSIONS OF
HAND WOUND TO ELECTRIC WINDING

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LEICESTER SCHOLARS' RECORDS

Dear Sir,—When going through the old Leicester Scholars' books for history records check-up, I came across the enclosed quaint 'Ringers' Song' and 'Rules,' which I feel sure will be of interest to many of our present ringers who may not have seen these before. I have copied exactly from the original as to spelling and notation.—Yours sincerely,

Leicester. ERNEST MORRIS.

Ye Sons of yore that dearly Love the Musick of the Bell
I pray draw near and you shall Hear how it is to Ring them well
You must have Strength and Health with it its fit you this Should Know
And Being now a proper Set Lets to the Tower go,
Lets to the Tower go. . . .

Now we are to the Tower come in Rising take great Care
So that you mind your Bells each one & rise them close and clear
Most Bravely Done they finely Run and Pleasantly they sound
12345678 they are up and do go round.

There is one thing for to Set us right which i will make appear
You Must not Trust all to your Sight but Likewise to your ear
This being Done they'l finely Run I Verry well Do Know
12345678 and so they round do go.

Now we have got them up at Set all Man'd with Proper Strength
See that all Things they are now fit and the Ropes of Proper Length
All being Right pray hold them Tight and Ring them well allso
21354768 And so we off Do go.

There is one thing you Must Understand in Leading Give Due Scope
you must Lead Clear Boys at Hand and Close at the Back Rope
tis this will keep your Compafs good I verry well Do Know
23145678 and so they on Do go.

We have them in the Tittom Course as Planely you may hear
the Backward Bells must be Rund Close and fore Bells must be clear
Most finely Done they Nicely Run in Concord they Do Roll
13572468 for to Enchant the Soul

The Backward Bells are now in Course as Planely you may hear
By whitch my Boys we may Suppose the End is Drawing near
Most bravely Done they finely Run thers None can us Excell
15263748 was Struck Booth true and well

We have them now in the Plain Course all hasting home with Speed
Without a bob they must of Course Come Round at the Next Lead
The Bob Omit I think not fit by which our Peal is Crowned
12345678 and so they Do Come Round

Now we have Finished our Peal and Struck them true and well
In Order for to fall them each man Mind his Bell
Its finely Done they Bravely Run all fall in Proper time
12345678 and finish with a Chime.

Orders agreed on by the Society of Change Ringers and Subscribed to by the Church Wardens of Kineal [? this word is very indistinct—E.M.] for the Better Regulation and Encouraging the Art of Change Ringing.

From Easter Sunday untill New Mayor Day,
At ten the Ringers shall appear allway.
The afternoon by halfpast two again
this Rule unalter'd ever shall Remain.
From New May'ers Day till ten shall be the hour
for forenoon's service as expres'd before;
the afternoon's from thence must alter'd be
Untill the Clock commence the hour of three.
Who e'er till Bells are rais'd is absent hence
the forfeit for the fault is just one pence,
If he Neglects till service it be o'er
For ev'ry Peal he forfeits twopence more.
He who the Whole Day does himself absent
Without one, two or more he gains consent
one shilling forfiet he must pay as fee
For the use and service of Society.
on Parish Day the Ringers shall appear
When they the tolling of the Bells do hear
all absentees for every peal thats past
In twopence fine most surely will be cast,
and 'tis agreed, that on such Parrish Days
the Sevenths Bells warning shall the absent Raise
Within one quarter of an hour if not
No more's allowed an Equal fine his Lot.
Whoe'er Presumes a Bell to pull off here
Without consent, or does get drunk and Swear
Sixpence for each offence he sure shall stake
E'er he his pease with us for it shall make.
Likewise he fourpence pays besides all that
Who here appears with either spurs or hat,
the Youth who to the Ringing Arts inclin'd
Shall ever with us here right welcome find
If he with us the jolly Boy Reverss
Who sometimes soothes and mitigates our cares
No miser ever with us can claim a part
Nor Be Companion in our Noble Art
Which mustuers health of life the chiefest Bliss
With which compar'd the world a bauble is,
he who to pay these forfeits is not free
If Yearly Ringer or his Deputy
It is Resolv'd the same from Wages due
Shall be Deducted with exactnefs true,
And further more if any one beside
Refuse by these our Orders to abide
From out the Belfrey shall be expell'd
And as an Alien evermore be held.

JUNIORS' RIGHTS

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. J. Vernon, asks for opinions on the junior vote.

I was extremely surprised to hear that any Guild member should doubt the integrity of younger members by trying to abolish their right to vote over matters which concern them. In my experience they are quite able to appreciate matters put to the vote.

In this area, we of the younger generation are encouraged to take an active interest in the business of our Guilds and Associations, with the result that four local Guilds and Associations have a large number of officers under the age of 25. Because at an early age we were made to feel that we and the Guild belong to each other, by being allowed to have some say in Guild matters, we have become loyal members.

It is not the fault of juniors if they are numerically stronger at meetings than their elders, thereby being able to outvote them. We should *all* be happy to see young people taking sufficient interest in associations of ringers (or any other associations) to make the voting a fair representation of all age groups.

I emphatically support Mr. Vernon's views. Let's have democracy in this not-so-trivial matter.—Yours sincerely,

Tunbridge Wells. ERIC J. BRUNGER.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

Dear Sir,—Rule 18 of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild rules states that a booking fee of sixpence per ringer is due from all ringers taking part in tower bell and handbell peals rung for the Guild, and the conductor of the peal is responsible for collecting and forwarding these fees to the Peal Recorder.

These fees have not been paid in respect of the following list of peals, published in 'The Ringing World' as having been rung for the Guild; and at an executive committee meeting held at Southampton on March 21st it was unanimously agreed that unless the fees be paid before April 30th the peals in question will not be recognised by the Guild or included in the Guild records or reports.

12/7/58. 7 methods Minor at Upton Grey. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
28/9/58. Bristol Surprise Major at Hawkley. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
29/9/58. Bob Minor at Binstead. Conductor, C. W. Denyer.
2/10/58. 2 methods Doubles at Heckfield. Conductor, F. R. Scott.
8/10/58. Winchendon Place Bob Doubles at Abbot's Ann. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
8/10/58. 4 methods Minor at Lockerley. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
15/10/58. New Doubles at Silchester. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
16/10/58. Bob Minor at Sydmonton. Conductor, R. Bird.
20/10/58. Yorkshire Surprise Major at Liss. Conductor, R. G. Leale.
27/12/58. 6 methods Minor at Speen, Berks. Conductor, R. G. Leale.

It should be noted that unless Rule 18 has been complied with it is not in order for a peal report to be sent to 'The Ringing World' for publication under the heading of the Guild.

—Yours faithfully, D. T. MATKIN,
26, Wellington Road, Peal Recorder.
Bournemouth, Hants.

50 YEARS AGO

From 'The Bell News and Ringers' Record' of April 3rd, 1909.

Peals recorded.—Superlative 1, Double Norwich 3, Treble Bob Major 5, Stedman Triples 4, Grandsire Triples 6, Minor 4, Doubles 2. Total 25. Handbell peals.—Grandsire Caters 2, Forward Royal 1, Stedman Caters 1, Bob Major 1, Grandsire Triples 2. Total 7.

Peals of Doubles provide plenty of material for correspondents. We learn: 'Forty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles is regarded in some quarters as an awful infliction both upon ringers and parishioners. It has been hinted that the everlasting monotony of such a performance is mental danger. The terrific strain upon the faculties, combined with the awful monotony, must develop a tendency to brain softening.' Now we know.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On March 7th a very successful and happy gathering of over 60 members and friends attended a by-meeting of Rochester District at SS. Peter and Paul's, Shorne. This tower contains a handy ring of six (tenor 9¼ cwt.) which is rung from the ground floor. Good use was made of these bells both before and after the service and tea.

The Vicar (Rev. M. G. G. Taylor) conducted the service and Mr. C. Jarrett (Ringing Master) played the organ. Tea was held in the Village Hall, there being no business meeting

Mr. T. Barton thanked the Vicar and the ladies who had helped with the tea. For a change, handbells were rung to tunes until 6.30 p.m.; then tracks were made to the tower for further ringing, which ranged from rounds to Cambridge Minor.

ONE ROAD TO CAMBRIDGE

THE STORY OF A VILLAGE TOWER

WHENEVER a hiker lowers his pack to take a well-earned breather by the wayside, he thinks not only of the miles which lie behind but also of those unknown roads whose mysteries have still to be explored. As with a hiker, so with a ringer. There may be many milestones behind us, but any ringer worth his salt must often wonder what lies just around the corner or over the hill.

One 'never-to-be-forgotten' milestone in the life of many a ringer is the one which marks his arrival at Cambridge. And if a complete band arrive together, then the occasion is even more momentous.

When the ban on ringing was lifted in 1943, Saxilby had four bells and five ringers whose ability extended to chiming. Within a short time, however, the bells were being raised and lowered in the approved style, some new recruits had been found and, with the assistance of E. Collinson, from Harby, a start had been made on change-ringing. Of that band, John Blaikie (who was then tower captain), Martin Mann, John and John B. Nicholson are still members. David Crosby joined in June, 1946.

In June, 1947, two new trebles were added, the old bells were retuned and the whole set was rehung in a new steel frame. Taylors did the work. This was during the ministry of the late Rev. W. L. Mann, and the Sub-Dean of Lincoln (Canon A. M. Cook) dedicated the bells on April 19th.

Police Sergeant Fred Bishop happened along at this time, and took over as tower captain when John Blaikie reached military age. Mr. Bishop was the only member of the band who had rung changes on six bells, but some of the members were now making regular visits to the neighbouring 6-bell tower at Eagle. Here they were made very welcome and given opportunities to practise Doubles and Minor methods. By October they were ringing Bob Doubles in their own tower.

THE FIRST PEAL

In the meantime the first peal on the augmented ring of six had been recorded. This was on May 3rd, when Fred Bishop rang the treble for five members of the Frampton band—Rhoda Brown 2, Arthur Young 3, Albert Flatters 4, Wm. Wilkinson 5 and John Young (conductor) 6.

By the end of 1948 the local band were ringing Grandsire Doubles, St. Simon's Doubles and Plain Bob Minor. A number of new recruits were started from time to time. Some 'stuck'—most of them failed. Among those who did make the grade was the first lady member, Joan Leek, who started in July, 1948, and Harry Dove (March, 1949).

In December, 1948, the band scored its first quarter peal of Grandsire. The team on that occasion was David Crosby 1, John Nicholson 2, Fred Bishop 3, John Blaikie 4, John B. Nicholson (conductor) 5 and Ted Stroud 6. In April, 1949, the band was strengthened by the arrival in the parish of Bill Baker, who had been a regular ringer at St. Peter's, Lincoln, and shortly afterwards Single Court and St. Clement's were being rung.

But things did not always run smoothly, and all members of the band were shocked to hear—on November 8th, 1949—that Ted Stroud had been killed in a motor-cycling accident. A few weeks later Martin Mann was admitted for a lengthy spell in hospital, and in the following April Fred Bishop reached police force retiring age and left the parish. Once again, rounds, Queens and call-changes figured prominently in the Sunday service ringing. Bill Baker now took over at tower captain, and two recruits of this period who made the grade were Bill Cragg, who commenced in December, 1949, and Walter Cox (April, 1950).

A DIFFICULT PERIOD

Single Oxford was being rung in June, 1950, but members were still being lost. Joan Leek left the parish in June, 1950, to take up a nursing appointment, and Bill Cragg joined the Royal Navy in September, 1951. Mary Yardley started in June, 1952, but she was the last recruit of note until her sister Kathleen started in May, 1955.

The strength of the band was now down to nine, and enforced absenteeism through sickness and National Service resulted in 'No ringing' appearing in the records far more often than anyone wished. At other times only five bells were rung. Practices were kept going with difficulty and the only new method learned was Kent Treble Bob, which was being rung by early 1954.

Bill Baker had several bouts of sickness and eventually handed over the captaincy to Walter Cox in January, 1956. Either John Blaikie or Martin Mann would probably have been elected captain at this time, but they were both now living outside the parish, and their future as members of the band was probably thought to be more uncertain than time has proved it to be.

A group of new recruits started training on Easter Monday, 1956, and two of these—Shirley Guymer and Pamela Cox—are now established members, as is Mike Keyworth, who started in January, 1957.

'MOST NOTEWORTHY EFFORT'

John B. Nicholson was doing all the conducting at this time, but his most noteworthy effort was in June, 1956, when he conducted Mary Yardley to the altar. A quarter peal was tried on that occasion. The following year another quarter peal was tried. The baby brought us better luck!

Attempts at new methods met with little success, and the training of the new recruits was pushed on apace. Five members, however, scored their first peal on May 12th, 1956, when, with the very able assistance of George Feirn, two extents each of Plain Bob, Single Oxford and Single Court, and one extent of Kent were rung by David Crosby 1, Harry Dove 2, John B. Nicholson 3, John Blaikie 4, Walter Cox 5 and George Feirn (conductor) 6.

The next method to be really conquered was Double Oxford, and this was not until early 1958. The first touch of Stedman Doubles was scored in June of the same year, and the 1958/59 winter started with Cambridge just round the corner. But a start on the last stage of the journey was not made until the new year, and then, on January 29th, the first course by the band was rung by Mary Nicholson 1, Shirley Guymer 2, Pamela Cox 3, John Blaikie 4, Martin Mann 5 and Walter Cox 6. During the next few weeks courses were also rung by John B. Nicholson, Mike Keyworth and Harry Dove.

It has been a long road with many a twist and turn, and one thing is certain—no history is being made at Saxilby. No Wm. Sheppard of the future will entertain his readers with tales of the greatness or eccentricities of any of our members. Saxilby is but a tiny spot in the overall pattern of bell-ringing activities taking place in this country today. But, some of us think, it's not a bad spot! H. W. C.

DEDDINGTON, OXON.—On Sept 9th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles (with 7, 6, 8 covering): Yvonne M. Obbard 1, W. H. Minnear 2, W. E. Honour 3, W. Ivings 4, E. E. Pearson (cond.) 5, R. G. A. West 6, W. J. Cross 7, B. J. Sykes 8. First quarter 1 and 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mrs. A. S. Miller, widow of the late Mr. T. Miller.

OBITUARY

MR. CHARLES W. F. CLARKE

Following a long period of indisposition and infirmity, the death took place of Mr. Charles W. F. Clarke, of Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, on March 13th, at the age of 81.

He was the last of the company that did so much excellent work to advance ringing at Thorington, Essex, where, with his great friends the late Geo. Andrews and W. J. Nevard, he did most of his early ringing.

His pleasant, unassuming manner earned him many friends. He lived for a time at Assington before coming to Sudbury. A good ringer and striker, he was there obliged to hide his light under the proverbial bushel, where the company was under the capable and respected late D. H. Elliott. He was always willing to turn out, and ready to walk the three miles each way to and from Sudbury. Mr. Clarke had rung several peals far and near.

Of late, failing eyes prevented him from reading, and the writer had visited him frequently and read over items from 'The Ringing World,' and it has given me much pleasure to allow him to recall his many excursions of years ago and experiences.

He was laid to rest with his wife, who died nine years ago, amidst signs of great respect and sympathy. A truly lovable character, may he rest in peace.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled at All Saints', Sudbury, as a passing tribute. A. A. F.

MR. MAURICE WATTS

In our last issue we briefly recorded the passing, on March 9th, of Mr. Maurice Watts, of Wadhurst, who sang in the choir for 70 years and was tenor soloist for 50 years.

He learnt to ring at Wadhurst in 1888. As the result of a serious internal operation, the doctor forbade him to ring, but such was his determination and effortless handling of a bell that he carried on, and completed 56 years in the belfry.

In the Church he held many offices, including churchwarden. He was a successful business man and prominent in local government; in sport he was an excellent shot, and in his younger days a footballer, cricketer and bowls player.

Every organisation in the parish was represented at the funeral service on March 13th, and as the coffin left the church local ringers paid tribute with half-muffled Bob Doubles, the sound that he knew so well. Before Evensong the following Sunday, a quarter peal was rung to his memory. We shall always remember him standing with his head bowed, leading the old six down in peal, a job he could do to perfection. C. A. B.

MR. EDWARD PHILLIPS

A fine ringer who put service ringing first, Mr. Edward Phillips has died at his home in Bryncoch, near Neath, aged 74 years. For 60 years he rang at Cadoxton and was respected by all who knew him.

MR. G. N. PRICE

AN APPRECIATION

I should like to support all Mr. Hodgetts said about this very good ringer and teacher of many others. What I remember most about him was a peal attempt at Wymondham, near Norwich, on September 27th, 1913: 'G. N.' was conducting. After 20 minutes he said: 'Stand! Shall we ring something we can ring?' The little man next to 'G. N.' said: 'We have come here to ring Bristol.' 'Bristol it's going to be,' he replied, and Bristol it was—a good peal. He did a lot for the Exercise and young ringers. May he rest in peace.

F. SEAGER.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

Meetings: 3/6 (minimum) for 30 words, afterwards 1½d. a word. Each additional insertion half charge.

Other Notices: 4/- (minimum) for 36 words, afterwards 1½d. a word.

Displayed: 6/6 per single column inch.

MARRIAGE

SOLLÉ—FIELD.—On March 21st, 1959, at the R.C. Church of St. Mary, Glastonbury, Douglas Rex to Margaret Elizabeth Jean, only daughter of E. T. Paul Field. 4092

PERSONAL

MARRIAGE THRO' SOCIAL INTRODUCTIONS.—The only social service of its kind enjoying the warm approval of both Clergy and Press. It is completely confidential and operates throughout Great Britain. Interesting free brochure under plain sealed cover from The Bournemouth Bureau, 176, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. 2731

MISCELLANEOUS

SUSSEX PEAL TOUR

AUGUST 1st to 8th inclusive

Programme of towers, together with all information covering the Tour, will be forwarded to all participants.

As a final invitation, the organisers will be pleased to include any ringers, whether Sussex or otherwise, wishing to take part.

Methods:

Plain and Surprise, 8 and 10 bells.

Accommodation is an individual responsibility; however, endeavours in this field can be undertaken upon notification.

H. W. Woolven, 56, Cobden Road, Brighton, 7. 4094

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Combined annual report for 1956-57 available to non-members at under half price, 3s. post free. Lists of towers, correspondents, ringing times, complete Guild records, compositions, etc.—W. Butler, 17, Forest Road, Windsor. 4128

MEETINGS

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Business meeting at the Rising Sun, Carter Lane, E.C., Saturday, April 4th, 6 p.m. Ringing at Christ Church, Southgate, 3.30 to 5 p.m. Nearest station Southgate (Piccadilly line), thence by 29 bus to the Cherry Tree.—John Chilcott. 4066

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Derby, Saturday, April 4th. Committee 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. General meeting 6 p.m., St. Peter's. Ringing at Cathedral and St. Peter's, 3 to 4.15 and 7 to 8.30 p.m.—A. B. Cooper. 4074

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — N.W. District. — Meeting at Thaxted (8) on Saturday, April 4th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. 4059

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—75th annual general meeting at St. Albans on Saturday, April 4th. Service at St. Peter's, 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting at St. Peter's Institute to follow. Ringing at Hatfield (10), 10 to 11 a.m.; Harpenden (8), 10.30 to 11.30; St. Stephen's (6), 2 to 4.30; St. Michael's (8), 3 to 4.30; St. Peter's (10), 3 to 5 p.m.; Cathedral (12) and city churches in evening.—H. V. Frost, Hon. Gen. Sec. 4051

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Horsmonden on Saturday, April 4th. Please note change of tower for this meeting. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (2s.) 5.15 p.m. 4070

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Quarterly meeting, Saturday, April 4th, Sutton Coldfield. Bells (8) available 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by meeting.—G. E. Fearn, 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28. 'Phone: SPRingfield 1025. 4040

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Monthly meeting, Saturday, April 4th. Ringing at Harthill 3 to 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Ringing after tea at South Anston, 6.30 to 9 p.m.—J. Seager. 4119

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—A.G.M. at Southwell Minster, Saturday, April 4th. Bells available 2 p.m. Evensong 4.15. Tea in Trebeck Hall 5 p.m., with business meeting following.—J. W Raithby. 4042

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Ipswich, Saturday, April 4th. Bells available: St. Mary-le-Tower, 2 to 3.30 p.m. and 7.15 to 9 p.m.; St. Margaret's, 3 to 4 p.m. and 7.15 to 9 p.m.; St. Matthew's, 7.15 to 9 p.m. It is hoped to have St. Clement's during the afternoon. Service, St. Margaret's, 4. Tea, Ipswich Co-op, 5 p.m. Business meeting, Diocesan House, following tea. 4080

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Practice meeting, Bolney, Saturday, April 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. 4129

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Practice meeting at Sherborne St. John on Saturday, April 4th, 6 to 9 p.m. All welcome.—J. Chesterman, Hon. Dis. Sec. 4085

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Practice, Monday, April 6th, 7.30 p.m., St. Mary's, Lambeth Bridge. Joint meeting with Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, Saturday, April 11th. See separate notice. Everyone welcome. 4142

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION. — Practice meeting, St. Giles'-in-the-Fields (one minute from Tottenham Court Road tube station), Monday, April 6th, 7 p.m. 4096

BARNSLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wragby, near Wakefield, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea—please bring your own food.—J. W. Buxton. 4124

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—The Branch quarterly meeting will be held at Twerton (8) on Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. Lee, 3, New Road Buildings, Twerton, Bath. 4113

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Dunster Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stogumber. Please note! Saturday, April 11th, 3 p.m. Numbers for tea by 7th.—A. R. Tudball, West Close, Dunster. 4117

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Timsbury (6), Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow.—E. Chivers, Chilcompton. 4115

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Monthly meeting, Sutton-on-Hull, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 9th to Mr. C. R. Robinson, 22, Lime Tree Avenue, Sutton-on-Hull. 4099

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—Meeting at Poynton, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. For tea please advise before Tuesday, April 7th, Mr. I. Jenkins, 2, Bardell Crescent, Dickens Lane, Poynton.—C. K. Lewis. 4100

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—There will be a rally of all ringers in the diocese of Coventry at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon, on Saturday, April 11th. All bands taking part will be notified their ringing time. Service will be at 4.30 p.m. Address will be given by the Lord Bishop of Coventry. Tea will be in the Town Hall at 5.15 p.m., at which all bands taking part will be received by His Worship the Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon. Ringing after tea will be open to all.—J. L. Garner-Hayward. 4125

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting, Newton St. Cyres, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. 4133

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cambridge District.—Meeting at Fulbourn, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—E. W. Bullman. 4104

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD. — Saturday, April 11th, Danehill. Come and have a ring on the newest six in Sussex. Names by April 7th to Mr. A. Butcher, The Cottage, Christopher Fields, Danehill, Haywards Heath. — C. A. Bassett. 4114

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—S.W. District.—Quarterly meeting, Dagenham, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea, please, to Mr. L. Woods, 72, Broad Street, Dagenham. 4084

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Stroud Branch.—Meeting at Eastington (6), Saturday, April 11th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by April 7th.—S. T. Price, 12, Regent Street, Stonehouse, Glos. 4131

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Stow-on-Wold Branch. — Meeting at Bourton-on-the-Water, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. All welcome. Names for tea to F. Newton, Hon. Sec., 44, Bishops Drive, Bishop's Cleeve, Glos. 4118

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Wanborough (6) on Saturday, April 11th. Names for tea to Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon. Tel. 3936. 4109

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ross District.—Annual meeting, Ross (8), Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—J. J. Webb, 23, Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye. 4130

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Little Munden, Saturday, April 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea.—T. J. Southam, Dis. Sec. 4107

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting, Cliffe-at-Hoo, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to C. Chapman, Chicago House, Pond Hill, Cliffe, near Rochester.—P. Barton, Hon. Sec. 4087

LADIES' GUILD.—Midland District.—Annual meeting to be held at Hucknall, Notts, on Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than April 9th to Mr. B. Lewin, Cranford, Nottingham Road, Hucknall, Notts. Everyone welcome. 4086

LADIES' GUILD.—North Western District.—Joint meeting with Rochdale Branch, Lancashire Association, St. Luke's, Heywood, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Business 4.30. Tea (free of charge) 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 10th to Mrs. M. Mills, 8, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancs.—S. P. Wain, Dis. Sec. 4102

LADIES' GUILD.—Sussex District.—Meeting at Rotherfield, Saturday, April 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Miss K. Apps, Glendu, New Road, Rotherfield. Ladies, please support. Gentlemen cordially invited.—Daphne Lester, Hon. Sec. 4108

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting, Ulverston, Saturday, April 11th, 2.30 p.m. Names to N. M. Newby, 45, Oakwood Drive, Ulverston. 4135

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Preston Branch.—Meeting at Croston, Saturday, April 11th. Names for tea by Wednesday, 8th, to Mr. P. Ascroft, 19, Highfield Road, Croston, Preston. Buses from Preston 2.10, Chorley 2.15, also from Oswaldtwistle and Southport.—L. Walmsley. 4098

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Rochdale Branch) and LADIES' GUILD (North West District).—Joint meeting, Saturday, April 11th, at St. Luke's, Heywood. Bells 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. Names for tea (free) by Friday, April 10th, to G. S. Mills, 8, Manchester Road, Heywood. *No names no tea.* Buses 4 and 63 from Manchester, Cannon Street. Trains direct from Rochdale and Bolton.—Hudson, Sec. 4121

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting. Holbeach, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Wednesday previous to Mr. C. Johnson, 4, Albert Walk, Holbeach, Lincs. 4071

MARLESFORD, SUFFOLK.—Ringing meeting on recently restored and augmented bells (6), Saturday, April 11th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 8th to Mr. G. R. Finch, The Lodge, Marlesford Hall, Woodbridge. 4056

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at St. Andrew's, Church Lane, Kingsbury, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, for election of officers, etc., to follow. Buses 52 and 83 pass the church, or buses 16 and 46 to Blackbird Cross, or train to Wembley Park Station. Ringing 2.30 to 4 p.m.; also at Edgware (two minutes Edgware tube station) and Hendon (buses 83 and 143, alight bus garage, or five minutes Hendon Central Station).—T. J. Lock, Hon. Sec. 4097

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NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Interim meeting at Bircham on Saturday, April 11th. Bells (5) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Tovell, Bircham Post Office, King's Lynn. 4076

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch. — Quarterly meeting, Chieveley (6), Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 7th, to F. Tuffley, Kelston, Priors Court, Chieveley, Newbury. 4089

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting, Willoughby, Saturday, April 11th. Names for tea to me by previous Saturday.—F. W. Hancock, Church View, Willoughby, Rugby. 4120

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ketetring Branch.—Meeting at Isham (6), Saturday, April 11th. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday previous, please, to Mr. A. E. Garley, 14, Fairfield Road, Isham, Kettering.—S. R. Collins, Hon. Sec. 4112

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Quarterly meeting, North Bradley (8), Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service and tea. Names for tea.—E. J. Hitchins, 136, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wilts. 4101

SALISBURY GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Meeting, Symondsbury, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea, please.—Barrett, 120, Gerrards Green, Beaminster. 4095

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Notts District.—Meeting, East Drayton (6), on Saturday, April 11th. Please take own food—cups of tea are being arranged.—H. Denman. 4106

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS and LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting, Saturday, April 11th. St. John-at-Hackney, Mare Street, 3 to 5 p.m.; St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 6.30 p.m.—A. W. J. Butler, H. W. Rogers. 4136

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Epsom (Christ Church) on Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Notifications for tea by April 7th to Mr. F. Oakshott, Downsview, Lewins Road, Epsom.—W. F. Oatway, Hon. Gen. Sec. 4068

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice meeting, Wisborough Green, Saturday, April 11th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 7th, to E. W. Keys, Greystones, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Chichester. 4093

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover District.—Quarterly meeting, Amport, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. in Parish Room. Names for tea to Mr. E. C. Samways, Waterloo Farm, East Cholderton, Weyhill, near Andover. 4139

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Quarterly meeting, Bishop's Waltham, Saturday, April 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Mr. W. Linter, 4, Coppice Hill, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton. 4140

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.— Winchester District. —A quarterly meeting will be held at Preston Candover on Saturday, April 11th. Bells (6) available 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Village Hall 5 p.m. for those who notify by April 7th.—P. Dickinson, Riverbank Cottage, Cheriton, Alresford. 4137

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—Meeting, Easingwold (8), Saturday, April 11th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Thursday, 9th, to Mr. Edward Burton, 5, Long Street, Easingwold.—Edward Hudson, Hon. Sec. 4138

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—A.G.M. will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Nuneaton, Saturday, April 18th. Bells available from 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea in the Church Hall at 5 p.m., with business meeting following. Names for tea, please, by April 15th to Mr. W. Beebe, 80, Wheat Street, Nuneaton.—J. L. Garner-Hayward. 4126

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting and contest, Earlsheaton, Saturday, April 18th. For teas please notify by April 11th H. Dransfield, Ellenroyd, 18, Commercial Street, Earlsheaton.—A. Farrand, Sec. 4060

LINCOLN GUILD.—North Lindsey Branch.—Meeting, Grimsby (8), Saturday, April 18th. Service 7 p.m. Other arrangements as usual. Names for tea by April 14th to Mr. Kennington, 211, Robert Street, Grimsby. 4105

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting, Billingborough, Saturday, April 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by Monday, April 13th, to Mr. L. P. Wilson, 40, Grosvenor Road, Billingborough, Sleaford, Lincs.—F. G. Vickers, Hon. Sec. 4132

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—Meeting, Saturday, April 18th, Wymondham. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Vicarage Room 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, 15th, to Mr. H. Tooke, 11, Long Row, The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.—C. Bird, Branch Hon. Sec. 4103

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — South Oxon Branch.—Annual meeting, Benson, Saturday, April 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea by April 14th to H. Badger, 23, Stanway Road, Headington, Oxford. 4116

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Todmorden, Saturday, April 25th. Towers available: Todmorden, Christ Church (8), 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and after meeting until 9 p.m.; Todmorden, Unitarian Church (8), 10.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m., and after meeting until 9 p.m.; Todmorden, St. Paul's, Cross Stone (8), and Walsden, St. Peter's (8), 10.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. It would be desirable if local ringers could be in attendance to meet visitors. Service in Christ Church at 3.45 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. H. W. Hodgson. Tea 4.30 p.m. (3s. 9d. per head), in National School, Christ Church. Names, together with remittance, by Wednesday, April 22nd, to Mr. P. Scholfield, 3, Joshua Street, Todmorden. Tower secretaries are asked to make block orders for their towers to save postage. Meeting to follow at approximately 5.30 p.m. in the National School, Christ Church. 4110

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Worcester, Saturday, May 2nd. Ringing at Evesham, 11.30 to 12.30. Lunch, followed by business meeting, 1.15. Ringing: Cathedral, 3,15 to 4.45; All Saints', 5 to 6.15. Lunch (6s. 6d.) at the Hopmarket Hotel (near Foregate Street Station) will be reserved for those who notify by April 20th Mr. D. Beacham, The Old Manor, Twyning, near Tewkesbury, Glos, accommodation being limited.—John Chilcott. 4045

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Owing to unforeseen circumstances the annual festival will be held on Saturday, July 4th, instead of Saturday, July 18th, as originally advertised.—M. R. Cross. 4141

LATE NOTICE

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. — Meeting at Christ Church, Bootle, Saturday, April 11th. Bells at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names for tea by Wednesday, April 8th, to M. F. Hayes, 46, Stuart Road, Bootle 20, Lancs.—T. E. Radcliffe. 4143

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