

# THE RINGING WORLD

No. 383. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, JULY 19th, 1918.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 2d.

## GILLET & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

1st Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MESSRS. GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918  
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BEEK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## MODERN WORK

### THE 'LEAD ENDS' CONTROVERSY.

The article in this column last week, showing how differently expert minds view some of the fundamental questions relating to change ringing, was written before we received Mr. J. A. Trollope's reply to the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' pamphlet, which will be found elsewhere in this issue. This reply was bound to come, if the Legitimate Methods Committee were not going to sit down under Mr. Davies' onslaught and admit themselves something worse than knaves or fools. Mr. Trollope is indignant—and many, we believe, will think it not without justification—at the treatment the Committee receive in the pamphlet, which the Hon. Secretary of the Council has issued (in his private capacity, of course) to the Exercise. Whether or not ringers agree with the findings of the Legitimate Methods Committee—accepted by the Council many years ago now—no one, we should have thought, would have doubted the honesty of purpose in their endeavour to get to the bottom of a highly complicated and abstruse problem.

The whole question turns on the point whether or not a method, to be 'legitimate,' must have what are known as the Bob Major lead ends. Without arguing the pros and cons of the technical side of this difficult matter—and those who say it is not an abstruse subject have never got to the bottom of it—we think Mr. Davies has been unkind, to say the least, in his manner of dealing with the Committee, and unless the Council intend to throw overboard the Committee and their accepted Report, it is obvious the matter cannot rest where it is. With such a scathing criticism of the Report, which is now and for years has been, not only the Committee's but the Council's 'Decision,' something will have to be done to inform the Exercise who is right and who is wrong. If the Council say Mr. Davies is right, and the Committee have been proven wrong, they must withdraw their report and issue an amended one, for the responsibility is with the Council, who have set their seal upon the Committee's findings. If the Council hold the Committee are right, then they should say frankly that Mr. Davies is mistaken. One or the other they must do, or else acknowledge themselves incapable of discharging the functions which they claim as their particular sphere. Mr. Davies in his enthusiasm to upset the Committee's findings, places himself, it seems to us, rather upon the horns of a dilemma. Either his views must be thrown over by the Council, or he undermines the whole position of the Council to settle questions with which, above all, it claims to be the fittest body to deal. The Report and Mr. Davies' pamphlet cannot be allowed to stand side by side. One or the other must go, and, if it is the former, will the Exercise be prepared to accept rulings on a subject like this from the Council in the future?

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Chelmsford

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I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield

Vicars C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

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BIRMINGHAM**

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## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.  
THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.  
(Late St. James Society.)

On Saturday, July 6, 1918, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;**

Tenor 21 cwt. E flat.

GEORGE R. FARDON ... Treble	W. ROBERT GRIMWOOD ... 5
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	ALFRED W. DARLINGTON ... 6
LOUIS ATTWATER ... 3	WILLIAM S. SMITH ... 7
ALFRED B. PECK ... 4	REUBEN SANDERS ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

Rung to celebrate the Silver Wedding of their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary, and on the 49th anniversary of the opening of the church and dedication of the new ring of 8 bells. First peal of Surprise on the bells.

DEPTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 9, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;**

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 21 cwt.

JOSEPH LAW ... Treble	ERNEST B. CROWDER ... 5
FREDERICK W. RICHARDSON ... 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES ... 6
ISAAC G. SHADE ... 3	WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES ... 7
WILLOUGHBY E. MAULDEN ... 4	THOMAS HAMLYN ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE H. DAYNES.

Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late Vicar of Deptford, the Rev. Arthur Hart.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

HOLBETON, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

(HOLBETON PAROCHIAL BAND.)

On Monday, July 8, 1918, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,  
AT THE VICARAGE.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;**

Seven 720's each called differently.

*W. BROWN ... Treble	REV. E. S. POWELL ... 3-4
*W. TRIGGER ... 2	B. J. E. MILLER ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. E. S. POWELL.

\* First peal.

First peal on handbells by all, and First handbell peal in Devon by a band of residents in the county.

Witness: MISS J. E. COURSE.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Monday, July 8, 1918, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,  
IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH.

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5038 CHANCES;**

WILBY J. HAZELL ... 1-2	FRANK SMITH ... 5-6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3-4	ARTHUR J. NEALE ... 7-8
HUGH T. SCARLETT ... 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

Umpire: MR. BENJAMIN FOSKETT.

Believed to be the first Peal of Grandsire Caters in hand by the Society, and rung at the first attempt.

## MIDLAND DISTRICT LADIES GUILD.

On Saturday, July 8th, the Midland District Ladies' Guild held practice meetings at Clent. The weather was perfect, and the pleasant walk of about three miles from the railway station was very much enjoyed by the visitors. About thirty ringers and friends turned up, and some good practice was put in, touches of Double Norwich, Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Oxford Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, etc., being brought round. The bells, a light musical ring of eight, were kept going until about eight o'clock. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Luke's Church, Blakenhall, on August 10th.

## BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AT TAUNTON.

The annual meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers was held in the St. Mary's Church Room, Taunton, on Saturday afternoon, July 6th. The Master, the Rev. C. C. Parker, Rector of Corston, near Bristol, presided over a good attendance, and in his report for the year ending June 1st he said it was difficult for all Associations such as theirs to make progress in these times. They had much reason, therefore, to be thankful for the steady continuance of support which they had received during the past year. The number of new members was most encouraging, and they were pleased to welcome a further addition of lady ringers. He was sorry to see that they had not a balance to their credit this year, but that was due to decreased contributions from the local secretaries' balances. The Central Association had called attention to the declining custom of rising and falling the bells, and had expressed the hope that this custom might be restored. It had been a great pleasure and privilege to him (the Master) to welcome the Association at Corston, and he desired to thank those members who made the meeting so great a success. The four meetings of the year were held at Yeovil, Corston, Curry Rivel, and Weston-super-Mare. The following new members had been admitted: Hon. members, 3; performing members, 82; non-resident life members, 3; non-resident members, 13; unattached members, 4. Sixteen of the new members were ladies. The list of members who had joined the colours had been lengthened by the addition of 21 names. Three peals had been rung during the year, viz., one peal of doubles at Langport, ditto at Easton-in-Gordano, and one lapped on handbells at Milverton by Mr. A. Tont. Their secretary deserved their grateful thanks for all he had done and was doing for the Association. He hoped, in conclusion, that with God's help the Association would prosper in the coming year and increase its sphere of usefulness.

The Master then read a list of members who have fallen in the war, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. E. Burgess, of Taunton) presented the balance-sheet, which showed a credit balance of £78 10s. 11d. The balance brought forward from the previous year was £80 13s. 9d.

The Chairman, commenting on the balance sheet, said it reflected great credit on the Association to have done so well during another year of war, when so many of their members were serving with the colours. Thanks were due to Mr. D. G. Taylor for kindly auditing the accounts.

The report and accounts were received and approved, and the usual honorarium of ten guineas was voted to the secretary. — The Vice-Presidents of the Association, the Archdeacons of Bath, Wells and Taunton, were re-elected.

The re-election of the Master was proposed by Mr. D. G. Taylor, of Ilminster, who spoke in terms of warm appreciation of Mr. Parker's work and interest on behalf of the Association. — Mr. Walter Coombes (Ilminster) seconded, and the motion was carried with applause, the Rev. C. C. Parker suitably responding, and mentioning the fact that he had been Master of the Guild for over ten years.

Mr. A. E. Coles, of Bridgwater, proposed the re-election of Mr. E. E. Burgess as hon. secretary and treasurer, remarking that they appreciated his services very highly. He had served the Association faithfully and well during the past twelve years. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously. — Mr. Burgess, having returned thanks, Mr. D. G. Taylor was re-elected hon. auditor.

The Chairman expressed the hope that the Association might be able to compile a complete list of members who had served in the Army or Navy during the war. There were nearly 400 ringers on service.

Glastonbury, Martock, and Milverton were selected as the places for the quarterly meetings, and Bath for the next annual meeting.

Mr. J. Maddock (Taunton) gave a report of the conference of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, which he attended in London as a delegate of the Association. He mentioned, among other things, the Council's proposal to raise a fund of £10,000 to help in the restoration of church bells in Belgium after the war. — The Chairman thanked Mr. Maddock for his report, and for attending the conference.

Mr. J. J. Jones (Newport) made an appreciative reference to the successful efforts of the master in getting a new set of eight bells at Corston, and he thought the Association should accord him its best thanks. He had the pleasure of taking part in the opening of these bells, and congratulated Mr. Parker upon obtaining them for his church.

The Chairman replied that it was a great pleasure to him to know that the bells were appreciated, and he thanked Mr. Jones for his kind remarks. He also wished to express the thanks of the Association to the Rev. Canon Corfield for the use of St. Mary's bells, and for arranging a special service for that evening; also to the Vicar of St. James's for the use of his bells, and the Vicar and churchwardens of Wilton for a similar privilege. — A vote of thanks to these clergy was heartily accorded, and the Rev. P. J. J. Fear (Vicar of St. James's) responded. He said the church towers of Taunton and their bells were a source of great pride and joy to the people of the town and district. One of the bells in St. James's tower was dated 1610, and another 1626, and these two bells had been rung by generation after generation of faithful men for weddings, funerals, and great public

events. What they all longed and prayed for was all the bells in all the towers would ere long ring out the tidings of peace (applause).

A sympathetic reference to the death of Preb. Hayes Robinson, of Burnham, an honorary member of the Association, was made by the chairman, and the meeting was then closed with prayer.

The towers represented were Taunton St. Mary's, St. James's, and Wilton. Bridgwater, Burnham, Weston-super-Mare, Glastonbury, Moorlinch, Minehead, Chipstable, Chedzoy, North Curry, Ilminster, Martock, Portishead, Wells, and Bristol.

Tea was served in St. Mary's School Room, and subsequently a service was held in the church, at which the Rev. Canon Corfield gave an able address. During the day there was some fine change ringing on the bells of St. Mary's, St. James's, and Wilton, and the cheering music made many think of the coming of peace.

## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

BY 'BOB MAJOR.'

My fingers have been itching for weeks to scratch a few lines to my friends, but the deliberations of that august body, yept the Central Council, have kept me in the background. After three years the Council made a raid, as it were, and all I could do was to wait with patience in my dugout. But there were not many bombs dropped, and, from what I have read, there were not even any anti-aircraft guns brought into operation, much less any aerial fighting. In fact (to change the metaphor) everything seems to have gone as merrily as the proverbial marriage bell. It is astonishing how soothing is the atmosphere of the Church House. The most riotous sense of opposition seems to be quelled within those peaceful walls. Else, how is it that outside one hears all sorts of—well, unfriendly things said about the Council, while inside affairs go on in the old sweet way, and patting each other's back is a favourite occupation?

But there, I am not in the Council, and very little of their business makes any difference to my ringing, so it is not for me to complain. As a friend of mine said the other day, if they haven't done much good lately, they haven't done any harm. But all the same I do wish they would 'do something'. In these days you have to 'go on or go under,' and that is what I am afraid the Council will have to do. Once upon a time I suggested a few things which the Council might do for us ringers, but I suppose they were not practicable—somehow or other I never am practicable, and, it is hinted to me, that for that reason my favourite association think of putting me on the Council at the next opportunity. If I do put up for election after the war, some of the planks in my platform will be:—

Pensions for weary ringers.

Prizes for those who ring least peals.

Soft cushions for ringers' pews, and the

Publication of treatises on Methodless Methods; Leadless Lead

Ends; Bobless Bobs; and the way to be happy with Singles

(Grandsire variety).

It seems to me that this last item ought to provide scope for the energies of our much maligned experts.

And what a pother there is going to be over these lead ends! I can see the making of a nice little skirmish on this subject, and everyone will be wanting to buy the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' pamphlet, which gives the Central Council's Committee such a drubbing. I am not Mr. Davies' advertising agent, but you can get his pamphlet for a shilling if you send to him at Deane Rectory, Overton, Hants. Ever since the world began—began, that is, from a ringer's point of view, over 200 years ago—there have been different sorts of lead ends, and no one seems able yet to tell us which are right and which are wrong, or whether they are all right or all wrong. Old Stedman, wily old man, upset the applecart when he invented something which had not got Bob Major lead ends (I don't know whether Bob Major had ever been heard of then, but that's a detail), and it's that as much as anything that seems to make the Legitimate Methods Committee's bed a thorny one. At any rate, it has helped Mr. Davies to stick in a few prickles, on which those who try to help out the committee will be very liable to scratch themselves. But then those who go to the assistance of the Council's secretary must be wary. There's many a trap which may lead to trouble. For my part, however, I'm satisfied with the methods as I find them. Stedman is no harder to ring because it hasn't got Bob Major lead ends, and London Surprise is no easier because it has got 'em.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY.

At St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, on Thursday, July 4th, in connection with the celebration, and in honour of Independence Day, was rung a date touch of 1918 changes Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. and 25 mins, on the back eight: W. Fisher, E. Counce, G. R. Newton (composer and conductor), H. H. Barker, J. Martin, G. Fisher, W. Davies, and J. Eiton.

LITTLEBOURNE, ST. VINCENT'S.—July 4th was celebrated on the village church bells of St. Vincent's, many brilliant touches being rung, including 720 by the following: Mr. E. Wood (Wickhambreau) 1, Mr. P. J. Cobbold 2, Mr. E. Rye 3, Mr. W. Savage 4, Mr. H. Bramble 5, Mr. A. Johnson 6th (all of Littlebourne).



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*At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.*

## 'LEAD ENDS.'

MR. J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE'S REPLY TO MR. DAVIES' PAMPHLET.

I have received out here in France a copy of a pamphlet on Lead Ends, by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, which is mainly a criticism of the 'Report on Legitimate Methods.' As I was a member of the committee responsible for that report, and, indeed, drafted it, I should like to say a few words about it.

The committee was appointed by the Central Council 20 years ago, and since at least two of the original members (Mr. Law James and myself) have been re-elected by every Council, presumably we were sufficiently qualified for our task. The problem was, as it seemed to us, to take the facts as they stand, and to investigate them without bias and without prejudice. I do not in the least claim for our findings any infallibility or immunity from criticism, but I do claim for the committee honesty, thoroughness, and singleness of purpose. Yet to read Mr. Davies' pamphlet one would suppose that we had made up our mind, by under-handed methods, to trick the Exercise, to foist a 'fallacy,' and a 'mischievous fad' on it, 'to debar ringers from many methods of beauty and utility,' and so forth. And apparently we might have succeeded, if Mr. Davies had not 'exposed the manner' of this mean plot. What on earth had we to gain, or how could we profit in any way by playing such a trick? And what right has Mr. Davies or anyone else to say that we did our work otherwise than honestly, and with the object of reaching the truth?

He repeats, not for the first time, the charge that the report states things without proof or explanation, and makes of it a thing discreditable to the committee. It has been stated many times that the report is a summary of results of argument, and nothing more. It does not profess to prove or explain. But explanations and proofs existed in abundance at the time the report was first presented, though mainly in the shape of controversial letters. They are quite numerous now, a large part printed, a still larger part in MSS. All these were and are at Mr. Davies' disposal as he himself knows. Why, then, does he go on repeating things like this: 'As a matter of fact, the committee has not attempted, so far as I can find, to argue the question at all?'

I need not go through his criticisms because they are all due to the fact that he has not grasped the important truth which the committee has tried to indicate by the terms 'Principal' and 'Coursing Order.' The truth does exist, and it is the same truth which lies behind Mr. Thompson's explanations of 'q sets.' No doubt the committee's attempt to explain is faulty, but I am quite sure that if Mr. Davies, clever man as he is, would for once drop the role of hostile critic, and try and see the thing and work it out for himself, he would recognise that the method report is not the 'fallacious and mischievous' thing he supposes, but an honest attempt to state in plain words what is the natural law that governs the structure of all methods. And he would find that the existence of Union or Sparkbrook does not in any way disprove it, and that the wording is capable of being slightly altered, so that all his reasonable objections could be met, without in the least altering the main structure and intention of the report.

I will give a sample of Mr. Davies' style of controversy. He claims in his preface that his motion was passed by the Council 'by a large majority.' As a matter of fact, the Council never expressed an opinion on it at all, nor voted on it. It referred the matter to the committee unanimously, as the easiest way of getting rid of a subject which had bored the members to death.

Again he quotes the report as follows: 'The working bells shall be in the same coursing order at each lead-head, and end in the plain course.' And then he proceeds to ridicule the statement. The truth is that no such clause stands in the report at all. The last comma is after the word 'end,' not after the word 'head,' and the sentence could alternatively be read: 'In the plain course the working bells shall be in the same coursing order at each lead head and end.' I do not know if Mr. Davies copied the mistake from 'Rules and Decisions.' I have no means of finding out up here in the line. But if he did the fault is still his, for I am quite sure that the sentence runs correctly in my handwriting in the original MSS. A reasonable critic would have seen at once that the altered statement is nonsense. He would have given the committee credit for being able at least to write sense, and seeing there was a mistake he would have tried to find out what the committee meant, and what they actually wrote. But Mr. Davies cannot resist the opportunity of getting in a cheap sneer at his opponents. It is rather significant that twice later (on page 18) he quotes the sentence correctly.

And he goes on to say that 'plain course is here used in a sense newly invented by the committee,' and to hint (things dark and under-handed from it. It is quite untrue. The term 'plain course' means here and everywhere where I have used it, exactly what every ringer means by it, nothing more and nothing less. The course of any method starting from rounds without bobs or singles. But are we not justified in being irritated by criticism such as this?

But the real defence of the Report lies not in showing the unfairness and hollowness of Mr. Davies' attacks, but in explaining the truth which it (imperfectly no doubt) seeks to state. My work with the

Method Committee is finished; but I shall certainly ask the Council to allow me to explain and justify what we have done, and especially the large share that I personally had in it. I say that, of course, with the qualification 'if I am able again to attend a meeting.' For out here one never knows what any hour may bring forth.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

B.E.F., France, June 27th, 1918.

### THEIR MAJESTIES' SILVER WEDDING.

ST. ANDREW'S, WICKHAMBREAUX.

The bells were kept going during the whole of the evening in honour of Their Majesties' silver wedding on Saturday, July 6th. Among the many touches was one of 720 by the following: Mr. W. Savage (Littlebourne) 1, Mr. P. J. Cobbold (Littlebourne) 2, Mr. Harrison Smith (Wickhambreaux) 3, Pte. Hope (South Notts Hussars) 4, Mr. at Bramble (Littlebourne) 5, Mr. A. Johnson (Littlebourne) 6.

### FRANCE'S DAY HONoured BY RINGERS.

A fitting tribute was paid to our gallant Ally, on Friday, 12th July, in honour of the noble sons of France, by ringing at mid-day on the fine-toned twelve of St. Giles', Cripplegate, E.C. The Tricolour was a pleasing feature floating bravely from the flagstaff high above the tower.

The expenses connected with the ringing were defrayed by the kindness of Second-Lieut. Eric H. S. Truscott, now serving with the 15th Suffolk in France, who is an esteemed member of the London County Association, and in spite of his arduous duties there, did not fail to show his gratitude and appreciation of France, and to the ringers taking part.

The very best thanks of those participating is hereby tendered to Lieut. Truscott, whom it is hoped will soon be able to lay aside the sword for the rope, also to the Vicar and churchwardens of St. Giles' for allowing the use of the bells.

ISHAM. — Central Northants Association. — On Sunday afternoon, July 14th at the Parish Church, was rung a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Minor (1260 changes), in 44 mins., by the following Miss Cecil Hepburn 1, Miss Lily Geary 2, Miss Beattie Everest 3, Arthur Green 4, E. M. Atkins (conductor) 5, W. T. Wilson 6. Longest length and first attempt for a quarter-peal by three ladies and A. Green. Rung in honour of the French Independence Day.

### ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A meeting of the above was held at Appledore, on Saturday, July 6th. The ladies created a record in the annals of the Guild by ringing the whole peal by themselves without any assistance from their male friends, and we doubt not that Appledore will be the tower to hold that record in the whole county of Kent. The male members accomplished a few touches of Grandsire Triples and Doubles. At the business meeting, Mr. G. Johnson, in the chair, three ladies were elected as members, making a total of nine belonging to the Guild. Marsham was elected as the place for the next meeting, on Saturday, July 27th, when we hope to meet the lady members in still stronger force.

### THE KETTERING DISTRICT.

A successful meeting of the Kettering District of the Central Northants Bell Ringers' Association was held on Saturday, June 29th, at Kettering, when over 30 members were present from the following bellfries: Kettering, Isham, Barton, Seagrave, Rothwell, Desborough, Burton Latimer, Cranford, Finedon, and Wellingborough, and the new lady members from Isham and Cranford. Various methods were rung during the afternoon and evening.

Tea was partaken of at the Cross Keys Cafe, after which the annual business meeting was held. The Rev. E. J. Atkins, of Isham, was in the chair, supported by Messrs. J. Bruce Williamson, of Gerrard's Cross; E. M. Atkins, London; F. Wilford, general secretary, Northampton; and W. T. Wilson, district secretary.

The next quarterly meeting was fixed to be held at Barton Seagrave in September. Miss Eva Bird and Miss Violet Askew, of Cranford, were elected members of the association. The following officers were elected for the year: Vice-president, Rev. E. J. Atkins; district secretary, Mr. W. T. Wilson, Isham; committee, Messrs. E. J. Chapman, G. Lines (Central Committee), J. Saddington, S. Burdett, and A. Payne (District Committee).

A vote of thanks to the Rector of Kettering for the use of the bells brought the meeting to a close.

DEPTFORD, KENT. — At St. John's Church, on Monday, June 3rd, in honour of the King's birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: A. G. Bennington 1, T. A. Easterby 2, J. Law 3, F. W. Richardson 4, E. B. Crowder (conductor) 5, Pte. C. V. Ebberson 6, W. J. Jeffries 7, Arch Bennington 8. Also on Sunday, June 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal from Holt's Original, in 41 mins.: T. A. Easterby 1, F. W. Richardson 2, C. V. Ebberson 3, J. Law 4, W. J. Jeffries 5, A. G. Bennington 6, E. B. Crowder (conductor) 7, Arch Bennington 8.

### AMERICA'S LIBERTY BELL.

A few days ago in the 'Daily Mail,' Mr. John Harris, C.E., anti-quary, of Hemel Hempstead, gave the following history of America's Liberty Bell, hung in the State House, in Philadelphia:—

'1772: First cast in England. It was thought to be the work of Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel Road, London, now Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

'1773: It was cracked by some inexperienced ringer and recast in Philadelphia.

'1773: Cracked a second time the same year and recast.

'1776: Thursday, July 4th; it was rung at the Declaration of Independence.

'1777: It was taken down when the British captured Philadelphia in September and hidden.

'1778: June; the British troops quitted the city, and it was soon afterwards rehung.

'1835: It was cracked for the third time, as shown in the view in our issue of July 5th.

'1876: A new bell was put into its place in the cupola of the said State House, where I saw it on Thursday, August 31st.

'1885: It was taken to the New Orleans Exhibition, but afterwards returned to the museum. Its diameter is about 4ft. and it is 3in. thick at the soundbow. Its original note was about middle F of the old Handelian pitch.

'I should much like to get a perfect copy of all the inscription that runs round the bell. "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof" is only a portion of it.

To complete the story, Mr. Harris might have added the triumphal tour of the bell through the States when it was taken to the great exhibition at San Francisco, and was inspected by hundreds of thousands of people.

### BELLS IN FRANCE.

Writing from 'Somewhere in France,' Lieut. E. H. S. Truscott says: 'There is a church near here at which a couple of bells are jangled about twice a day. The French people have much more to put up with in this respect than the English, for in almost every parish either one or two, or sometimes three, bells are jangled several times a day though I will say they almost invariably ring their bells "on the swing," and do not merely toll them, which is always much more monotonous. We are lucky in England to have such musical peals, which in any case are not rung so often as the French bells, so we have nothing to grumble at. "Keep the old bells ringing" is the right motto. Make no mistake, bell ringing has many friends and cannot be throttled by a noisy minority, which will always exist as long as the world has being.

### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The postponed monthly meeting of the Rochdale branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Middleton on Saturday (July 6th). Owing to there being a band performance in the park, ringing did not commence until 5 p.m. The bells were then kept going until 8.45 p.m. in touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. Members were present from Middleton, Milnrow, Newhey, Heywood, Manchester and Didsbury. The business meeting was afterwards held, and was presided over by Mr. W. Brown (of Manchester), the minutes of the last meeting being confirmed. It was arranged that the next meeting should take place at Glodwick, on Saturday, August 3rd.—A cordial vote of thanks was then accorded the Rector and wardens for the use of the tower and bells; also to the local ringers for having everything in readiness, and to Mr. W. Brown for occupying the chair. At 8.45 all adjourned to the Ring o' Bells, where touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the handbells, these being greatly appreciated by the company.

### MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CHESTERFIELD. — On Sunday, June 9th, 331 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Wornham 1, F. Davies 2, F. Jacobs 3, A. Ward 4, C. Glenn, R.N., 5, G. Thompson 6, W. J. Thyng 7, A. Knights 8. Conducted by A. H. Ward. Also 485 Grandsire Caters: Miss E. Wornham (longest length of Caters) 1, G. Hollis 2, W. Nuttall 3, A. Knights 4, C. Glenn (conductor) 5, A. H. Ward 6, F. Davies 7, W. J. Thyng 8, G. Thompson 9, F. Jacobs 10; and a course of Superlative Surprise: F. Davies 1, W. J. Thyng 2, F. Jacobs 3, A. H. Ward 4, G. Hollis 5, C. Glenn 6, G. Thompson 7, A. Knights 8. On handbells, at 42, Foljambe Road, 378 Stehman Caters: A. H. Ward 1—2, C. Glenn (conductor) 3—4, W. J. Thyng 5—6, A. Knights 7—8, G. Hollis 9—10. Also 360 Little Bob Royal: G. Hollis 1—2, C. Glenn (conductor) 3—4, W. J. Thyng 5—6, A. Knights 7—8, A. H. Ward 9—10.

PLYMOUTH. — At St. Andrew's Church, on Sunday, June 2nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 50 mins.: A. Kentfield 1, Corpl. G. Parr 2, W. Rundle 3, Pte. W. Malins, of Rugby (conductor), 4, Leading Seaman F. Davey, R.N., of Norwich, 5, W. Richards 6, G. H. Myers 7, J. Woodley 8. This quarter-peal was specially arranged for Leading Seaman Davey, who was shortly leaving the district.

## NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

## ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The meeting members are invited by Mr. Young for a handbell practice at 277, Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, S.E., on Saturday next, July 20th, at 4 p.m. Car service 58 (by the door) or 66.

## WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—

Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Cobham on Saturday, July 20th. Bells (6) available from 3.5 and 6.30-9; service at 5; tea at 5.45, but members must bring their own rations, gd. will be allowed towards cost.—The Vicarage Gardens will be open to Members (by kind permission of the Vicar) during the afternoon.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.

—The next meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, July 20th. Bells available during the afternoon and evening; meeting at 7. The association Committee meet at the same place on the above date.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

## WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, July 20th. bells available from 3 p.m.; service 4.45, followed by business meeting.—J. H. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—

A District Meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, July 20th. Bells available from 3.30 to 9; business meeting in the Tower at 5 p.m. Owing to difficulties in catering no tea can be arranged. Will those intending to be present please note?—E. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—

By kind permission of the Rev. T. F. J. Mummery, the next quarterly meeting will be held at Eynsford, on Saturday, July 20th. Bells will be available at 4 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. Half railway fares up to but not exceeding 2s. paid to those attending.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool

Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Rainford on Saturday, July 20th. Bells ready at 2.30; service at 5; meeting at 5.30.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Secs.

## CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—

Northampton District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Great Brington on Saturday, July 20th. Bells ready at 3; service at 5; tea at 5.30, no food or sugar provided. Election of district officers for the ensuing year.—T. Law, District Sec., St. Peter's Cottages, Weston Favell.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—

The annual general meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 20th, at 3 o'clock.—Please note, the meeting will be at St. Giles' Parish Room, Woodstock Road (near St. Giles' Parish Church). Ringing will be arranged if possible.—R. T. Hibbert, Sec., Warren House Lodge, St. Peter's Avenue, Faversham.

## BATH &amp; WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—

Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Publow, Saturday, July 27th. Divine Service at 3.30; tea and business at 4.15. N.B.—No sugar provided.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., School House, Midsomer Norton.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—

East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—A Summer meeting will be held at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, on Saturday, July 27, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Ringing 3 o'clock, evensong 5.30, and tea 6 p.m. for those who notify the hon. sec. that they will be present.—W. H. Fussell, Farnburn Avenue, near Slough. The Annual Committee Meeting of the Diocesan Guild takes place at Oxford on Saturday, July 20th.

## GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN

ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Association will be held at St. Phillip and St. Jacob's (Bristol) Parish Hall on Saturday, July 27th. Business: Presentation of accounts and report and election of officers. Bells available at St. Phillip's Church at 2 o'clock; Service at 3.30, to be followed by business meeting and tea. Several other towers will be available for ringing. Will Branch Secretaries kindly notify me on or before July 20th how many of their members expect to be present?—F. K. Howell, Hon. Treasurer, Gloucester Road, Thornbury, Glos.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—

The next meeting of this Society will be held at Idle (near Bradford) on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.; the business meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Church Schools.—Wm. Gage, Hon. Sec., 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

## ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.—

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Flixton on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available from 4 p.m.; business meeting at 7. All ringers invited.

## ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—

The next meeting of the above will be held at Mersham on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore, Kent.

## BATH &amp; WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—

Chew Deanery Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available at 3 o'clock; Divine service 4.30; tea in the Church Hall at 5.30; business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. local Sec., Long Ashton.

## CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—

Thrapston District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Aldwinkle on Saturday, July 27th. Bells ready at 3; service at 4.30; tea at 5 o'clock. Election of officers.—S. Stubbs, District Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Raunds.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LON-

DON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; short service at 5.30, followed by tea and a business meeting. The tower of St. Mary's, Walthamstow, will be open in the evening from 7.30. All ringers welcome. Members are asked to forward any outstanding subscriptions for 1918.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, at Glodwick. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting at 6.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.



**SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.**—The August meeting will be held at Killamarsh on Saturday the 3rd. Six bells available afternoon and evening. For those who bring their own rations arrangements will be made to provide a cup of tea.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Bank Holiday, August 5th. The bells of seven towers in the town available throughout the day. Meeting at 2.30 p.m. sharp in St. Lawrence Parish Hall. Owing to food restrictions it is impossible to arrange for the customary luncheon. For full particulars see circulars sent to all masters of companies.—C. E. Borrett, Sec., 12, Grove Avenue, Norwich.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Colchester (St. Peter's) on Bank Holiday, August 5th. Bells ready at 2 o'clock. Further particulars next week.—B. Redgwell, District Sec., Rayne.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Central Division.—A meeting will be held at Henfield on August Bank Holiday. Tower open 12-1, 2-4 and after meeting; service at 4; tea at 5 in Parish Room, meeting to follow. Half Railway Fares. Tea 1/- each to those who let me know not later than Wednesday, July 31st.—A. D. Stone, Divisional Sec., 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

**FOR SALE.** SET OF 8 HANDBELLS in perfect condition, good as new; in lockup box; £4.—Hy. Brownlee West, 'Avalon,' Devizes.

**CABINET MAKERS, JOINERS, AND WOODWORKERS URGENTLY WANTED.** No one already on Government work need apply. (Ringers).—H. W. Abbott, Loughborough Cabinet Co., Loughborough.

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**PEAL BOOKS.**—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

#### BIRTH.

**HIBBERT.**—On Sunday, July 7th, 1918, at 16, Glencoe Road, Bushey, Herts, to Maurice F. R. and Annie Hibbert, a daughter.

#### DEATH.

**KIRTON.**—On Monday, June 24th, at their residence, Boreham, Essex, Mary, the beloved wife of Henry W. Kirton (Private, A.O.C.), aged 37. Interred in Brentwood Churchyard, June 28th. Deeply lamented.

**ISHAM.**—Central Northants Association.—On Whit-Sunday, May 19th, for evensong, 720 Plain Bob: \*Miss C. Hepburn 1, \*A. Blaxley 2, W. C. Lewis 3, W. T. Wilson 4, G. A. Blaxley (conductor) 5, W. Gilbert 6.—On Sunday, June 9th, for evensong, 720 Plain Bob: \*Miss B. Everett 1, E. M. Atkins (conductor) 2, A. Blaxley 3, W. C. Lewis 4, G. A. Blaxley 5, D. Mallett 6. \* First 720. The two ladies in the above started ringing in December last.

**ISLEWORTH.**—On Sunday, June 16th, at All Saints', for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triplex (Thurstons), in 47 mins. (1260 changes): G. R. Fardon (conductor) 1, F. Davis 2, J. N. Frossell 3, G. Lees 4, A. W. Darlington 5, C. F. Winny 6, J. Howes 7, A. Beckensale 8.

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