

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 386. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUM 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. BUCK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

'RECONSTRUCTION.'

In another column a correspondent expresses surprise that at their last meeting the Central Council did not consider the question of 'reconstruction' after the war. The reason is that probably no one thought about it; or, if they did, decided not to trouble over it. Nevertheless, the matter is one that deserves attention. Ringing, like everything else which may be classed in the same category, has been sadly deranged by the events of the last four years. Thousands have gone from the belfries; many, alas! never to return. Large numbers, absent for years, will have lost touch, especially where but moderate interest was previously displayed. It is true that in a considerable number of instances the most commendable efforts have been made to fill the gaps created by those who have gone, but these form only a minority of the cases where the bands have been depleted, for time and opportunity have prevented the instruction of new hands in hundreds of towers. When the war comes to an end, therefore, there will be much to be done to raise ringing to its old standard—not the standard which is denoted by large numbers of peals, but which is shown by the number of competent ringers which can be found in their places for the service ringing on Sundays and by the quality of the methods that are rung.

There may be some who fancy that we have only to wait till peace is declared, and all the men who are spared to come back will at once flock again to the belfries. We all hope so, but events are scarcely likely to justify this view. Those to whom ringing was a pursuit of great attractiveness will, of course, come back to the towers when they get home again; but it must not be forgotten that there are others whose lukewarm interest will have evaporated by long absence, and it will require no small effort to get hold of these men again, especially in places where the enthusiasm generally has fallen away.

How long it may be before the war ends none can say, but this question of reconstruction is one which associations might well bear in mind. The best and quickest methods of getting the ringers back to the towers, of raising the standard of ringing, and of re-instilling the old enthusiasm, is as much a matter for the organised societies as it is for the individual towers, and just as they lay themselves out to rebuild, so will they, as associations, prosper. A lead from the Central Council might have been useful; without it the associations must set out on their own initiative, and the present period is the time for laying plans. If the end of the war does not come as soon as we hope, the schemes will be none the worse for being held over a while; but having got them, they will be ready for immediate use when the boys really do come home.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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.

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Smethwick.

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

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and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

HANDBELL PEAL.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Saturday, August 3, 1918, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5075 CHANCES;

Tenor 18 size in G.

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 JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by FRANK SMITH.

Rung as a compliment to the conductor and Mrs. Smith upon the 20th anniversary of their wedding day.

Mr. B. Foskett had arranged to act as umpire, but was unfortunately prevented at the last minute by illness.

CYCLING TRIP IN QUANTOCK LAND.

VISIT TO SOMERSET VILLAGES.

On Sunday, June 30th, in delightful weather, a number of ringers spent a very pleasant afternoon visiting some of the village towers lying at the foot of the famous Quantock Hills, in Somerset. The party started from Halse, and included the local men, Messrs. W. Crews, W. Clapp, G. Hancock, and Messrs. A. Tout, A. C. Harvey Milverton; F. Polo, Fitzhead; H. V. Young, G. Jones, Chipstable, on their way to Lydeard St. Lawrence, the first stopping place. The party passed through Ash Priors, where lived (1550) the noted bell founder, R. Simpson, who cast the tenors of Bradford-on-Ton and Talaton, which are reputed to be the best toned bells in Somerset and Devon. Here the visitors were joined by Mr. W. Sealey, of Bishops Lydeard. During the half an hour's ringing on the peal of five (with tenor about 18 cwt.), some of the ringers had the experience of having heard and of ringing changes with the tenor turned in for the first time.—The Vicar (the Rev. T. L. Hughes) thanked the party for coming, and expressed the hope that they would soon pay another visit to Lydeard St. Lawrence. After inspecting the fine old church, the journey was resumed for Crowcombe, situate right at the foot of the Quantocks. Mr. J. Bailey (steeple-keeper) was waiting, and after a few words of welcome by the Rev. H. C. Young, the bells were set going to Grandsire Doubles. The bells are a ring of six, with a fine-toned tenor of 19 cwt., and as they were in good going condition, some good ringing was enjoyed, in spite of their being hung in reverse order.

The next stopping place was Stogumber, a mere distance of three or four miles, but a cruel bit of road, uphill and down dale, with the surface covered with grit and loose stones, which caused several punctures, and some delay. Soon after starting, a trip occurred to one of the party. Apparently he attempted to 'bob' at the wrong place, and, as a result, he was laid low in the dust, which necessitated stopping at the Railway Hotel for repairs to rider and steed. Arriving at 5 o'clock, half an hour was allowed for refreshments before commencing to ring for evening service. At 5.30 the party were met by Mr. J. Sully, who is well known locally as a bell hanger, as well as a change ringer. He had everything ready, and in a few minutes the bells were sending forth the good old tune of Grandsire Doubles, so well loved by those village ringers. On leaving the tower, the Rev. E. A. Couch shook hands with each ringer, and expressed a few words of thanks.

An immediate start then had to be made to get to Bagborough, the last stopping place to ring immediately after evening service. When the roll was called here at 7.45, two members were missing, but these 'came in at the death,' as the natives of this stag hunting district would term it. Here, as at the last two places, is a peal of six of about the same weight and tone, and after 35 minutes the day's ringing was brought to a close, it having been greatly enjoyed by all, in spite of hilly, dusty roads, heat and rationing. Nothing more ambitious than Grandsire Doubles was attempted, the object being, not to practise various methods for the benefit of the ringers, but to set going bells that would otherwise have remained silent, and it is hoped another trip will soon be arranged.

HORNCHURCH.—Essex Association. — On Sunday, May 26th, for evensong, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1280 changes), in 50 mins.: E. Rainbird 1, G. R. Pye (conductor) 2, E. J. Butler 3, Gunner L. A. Pye 4, Staff-Sergt. A. Pye 5, H. Dawkins 6, W. Watson 7, J. Dale 8. This quarter-peal was rung as a welcome home to Lieut. H. Dale, son of the Rector of Hornchurch, who until recently was a prisoner of war in Germany, but who has succeeded in making his escape, and arrived home the previous week. Lieut. Dale, together with his mother, visited the tower, and thanked the ringers, who, in turn, heartily congratulated him on his return.

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'ROUSING THE COUNCIL.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir.—Your article on 'Rousing the Council' tempts me to say that I think the Central Council of the future may perhaps find that it owes something to your efforts at this stage to get it to wake up. To my mind there is no doubt that the Council was slowly drifting into uselessness, and when it reached that stage it would inevitably have expired. You, sir, are doing your best to galvanise it into new life, and, while some of the old members may resent it, I think their views are mistaken, if they want the Council to live after they have gone. If one may judge from what the hon. secretary said at the last meeting, it has been due mainly to the efforts of one or two of the original members that the Council has been able to find the few topics for discussion that have hitherto appeared on the agenda, so that when, as in course of time they must, these old members disappear from the scene, there will be no one interested enough left to carry on. If anything can be done to widen the interest now, all may be well for the Council; but let the policy of 'drift' get the upper-hand, and 'Ichabod' may soon be written over the portals.

While writing, may I just say I am surprised to find the Council have done nothing to help, even in an advisory way, in the important matter of 'reconstruction' after the war. This will be a very real question, if the Exercise is rapidly to gain its former strength and position, and might very well have been discussed at the Council's last meeting. Now another year must slip away, and even if it is then considered, still another year—according to precedent—will elapse before the Council will feel itself able to act.—Yours, etc., ANON.

DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I call the attention of all incumbents and churchwardens who possess a chiming apparatus in their bellries, to the urgent necessity of having some definite and printed regulations as to its use? A most unfortunate accident occurred lately in the Winchester Archdeaconry. The bells had been left 'up' between the morning and afternoon services. By some means or other, the chiming apparatus had not been thrown out of gear. The consequence was that a valuable old bell, cast in A.D. 1582, was hopelessly cracked, and must be recast. In these times, when most of the older and more experienced ringers are serving their country, many willing but inexperienced lads have taken their places, and sometimes it may happen that the foreman or steeplekeeper is absent. The authorities in charge of all peals, should (1) make some fixed rules that either the bells should be rung, or the chiming apparatus used at certain services; (2) issue an order to the ringers that the bells are never to be kept 'up' between services, but always lowered. The custom of keeping bells 'up' is both dangerous and lazy, and is entirely unnecessary.—I am, yours, etc., CHARLES D. MATTHEWS,

Titchfield Vicarage Hants.

Master of the Guild.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

This meeting was held at Bristol on July 27th. About 50 members put in an appearance some time during the day, and the majority of them attended the meeting, which was held in St. Philip's and St. Jacob's Parish School. The bells of St. Philip's were available from 2 till 3.30, when a service was held in the church.—The Rev. Michael E. Thorold gave an excellent address, and in its course touched upon some very interesting and historic events which the bells had heralded to the people. He said that we all looked forward to the time when all ringers would be ringing the bells of peace. After the service, the members adjourned to the schoolroom for the meeting. The Rev. Thorold was elected as chairman, in the absence of the Master (Mr. John Austin).

The treasurer was asked to read the balance sheet, but owing to Rule 3 (Local Branch rules) not being adhered to, it was decided that he be postponed till the committee meeting later on.—The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. F. K. Howell) read a letter from Mr. Austin, wishing to be relieved of his office. After reading it, he said how well the association had been served in the past with one of the clergy at the helm, and had much pleasure in proposing the Rev. Michael Thorold as Master. This was received with enthusiastic cheers, and the Rector thanked the members for the honour, and hoped to do his best for the association. Mr. E. Guise was elected hon. secretary, and Mr. F. H. Howell was re-elected hon. treasurer. There was some discussion on the memorial to the late Rev. H. A. Cockey, but owing to the absence of the secretary it was impossible to give any details. If, however, there should be any of the Rev. Cockey's friends who wish to subscribe they should communicate with the secretary, Mr. G. Condie, 15, Westbourn Road, Easton, Bristol.—A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for the use of the bells, and for arranging the service and the tea. Ringing was then continued at St. Philip's and also at St. Nicholas'.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, the usual monthly meeting of the Rochdale branch was held at Glodwick Parish Church, the members present being from Glodwick, Middleton, Milnrow, Newhey, and Oldham.

Touques of Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. As the ringing had to cease at 7.30, on account of a service, it was decided to commence the business meeting at that time instead of six o'clock. The meeting was presided over by Mr. S. Stott (of Oldham), and after the minutes of the last meeting had been confirmed, it was decided that the next meeting should be held on Saturday, August 31st, at Whitworth.

Mr. S. Stott was then appointed President of the local branch for the ensuing two years; he will also be a member of the Lancashire Association Committee during his term of office.

The next business for consideration was the nomination from the branch of a president, general secretary and treasurer for the Association for the next twelve months.

The three present officials—Rev. H. J. Elsee, Mr. W. H. Shaker and Mr. H. W. Jackson were re-nominated.

Mr. S. Stott was also nominated as vice-president of the Association for twelve months.

The meeting concluded with the usual vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens for the use of the tower and bells, and the local ringers for having everything in readiness; also to Mr. Stott for presiding.

After the service was over, about half an hour's ringing took place for the benefit of three young lady learners of the Glodwick band.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A very poorly attended meeting of the Lewisham District was held at Conford, on Saturday, July 20th; but as it was possible for the district secretary to walk two miles and be present, a few more might have strained a point to be there. At 5 p.m., when the Vicar came to take the service, there were three from Erith, two locals, and the district secretary. This was abandoned. The back six were raised, and Grandsire Doubles rung. One then turned up from Cheshunt, followed by one from Swindon. Just before 6 p.m. five came from Beckenham, and one from Bromley (these had been detained by a wedding). A capital 504 Stedman Triples was then rung, followed by two courses of Bob Major. The business meeting followed in the belfry. Mr. W. Smith in the chair. One member was elected, and two elections in the towers confirmed. St. John's, Deptford, was selected for the October meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar concluded the meeting, and a touch of Grandsire Triples the ringing.

ANOTHER BROMLEY RINGER KILLED IN ACTION.

The Bromley Youths, the band at SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley, deplore the loss of another of their ringers killed in action, Bombr. E. G. Filtness, of the R.F.A., Welsh Brigade, joined the forces in 1915, and went to Palestine in June, 1917, and met his death at a forward observation post in July of this year. He was home on special leave in March to get married, and much sympathy is felt for his young wife and his parents.

The bells were rung half-muffled on Sunday, July 28th, when 504 of Grandsire Triples was rung, and on Tuesday, the 30th, 504 of Stedman Triples was rung, both conducted by G. Dupling.

Bombr. Filtness, who was 23 years of age in June last, was a most promising ringer, being one of a few to whom the art of change ringing came quite easily.

Starting to learn at the age of 16, he made rapid progress, and before he was 19 he was composing and conducting touches of Stedman and Double Norwich from any bells, and conducted a peal of Bob Major just about his 19th birthday.

He, of course, was a member of the Kent County Association, who thus loses one of their most promising members.

LOSS TO LEWES RINGERS.**DEATH OF FORMER CHURCHWARDEN.**

The ringers of St. John the Baptist's Church, Southover, Lewes, have lost a good friend, by the death, which occurred with tragic suddenness on the 1st inst., of Mr. John Richard Lusted, who until last year served the church for a long period as people's warden. As a vice-president of the Southover Bell Ringers' Guild he showed much practical interest in the affairs of the belfry. On more than one occasion, in the old days, when funds were difficult to raise, Mr. Lusted, who had a remarkable knack of raising money for parochial purposes, collected the necessary sum for new ropes, and anything he could do to further the interests of the ringers he did with a willing heart. For years he filled the vice-chair at the ringers' annual dinner, and always joined in their summer outings. He was well known to many visiting ringers, whom he was always ready to welcome. In the parish, too, he will be much missed, and great sympathy has been expressed with the widow and family in their sudden and grievous loss. Mr. Lusted was 62 years of age.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the 6th inst., amid many manifestations of esteem and regret.

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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 these occasions they have gained the Second Prize also

MEDIAEVAL BELLS.

WHAT THEIR INSCRIPTIONS TEACH US.

As already briefly announced, the President of the Central Council (the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey) recently read a paper on the subject of 'Mediaeval inscriptions on Church Bells' before the Royal Archaeological Institute. The main purpose of the paper was twofold: (I.) to point out some ways in which inscriptions help us to determine the dates of the bells on which they are found; (II.) to enunciate some principles for criticising, elucidating, and (where necessary) amending inscriptions. With regard to (I.), the President of the Council pointed out that very few English mediaeval bells—only about a score before 1500—have their dates stamped upon them. The earliest known so far is at Claughton, in Lancashire 1296; the next at Cold Ashby, in Northamptonshire, 1317. We have to go on more than 80 years before we find, still existing, another dated English bell. Occasionally, but rarely, the name of its donor on the bell guides us to the approximate date. A good example of this is supplied by Mr. Cocks: a bell at Caversfield, Bucks, has an inscription to the effect that it is one of a ring given by Hugh Gargat and Sibilla, his wife. In a document of 1219 Sibilla is described as the widow of Hugh Gargat; so the bell is earlier than 1219.

Names of founders are much more common than names of donors on bells. Careful investigation has in most cases discovered the periods when foundries were working. For instance, amongst early founders, the Wymbishes, of London, and John Godynge, of Lynn, were at work about 1300. These names remind us that, though Latin was the almost universal language of bell inscriptions, Norman-French and English are also found: thus—

Michael de Wymbis me fecit: (Latin).

Ricard de Wymbis me fist: (French).

Joh[n] me yeyt: (English).

(To 'yet' is to cast a bell; hence the name 'bell-yetter' for a founder.)

Two charming English inscriptions may be quoted:

In God is al[l] quoth Gabriel.

I Katery[n]e, Goddes derlyng, (God's darling.)

To thee, Mari, shall I syng.

Makers' marks are very frequent on bells; and these, by being identified with foundries, assist us in dating bells.

A few bells bear the heads of a king and queen. The head of Edward III. was used first by John Rufford, who was appointed Royal Bell Founder in 1367. There is reason to think that the head of Henry VI. was used first by John Danyell about 1460.

The style and shape of the letters in inscriptions are different at different periods. They may be divided into three great types: (1) Roman, which is found on 13th century bells, like those at Caversfield, Marton, Chaldon and Claughton; (2) Lombardic or Gothic, from about 1300 to 1425; (3) Black-letter, from the beginning of the 15th century. As we might expect, the styles overlap and mingle to some extent. To turn to the subject matter of the inscriptions themselves, the earliest inscriptions (though, as we have seen, sometimes giving a date or a donor's or founder's name) most often give the dedication of the bell. Thus at Chaldon:

Campana beati Pauli: at Marton.

Campana Sancti Johannis Evangeliste: at Cold Ashby.

Maria vocor: at Caversfield.

In honorem Dei et Sancti Laurencii. Sometimes simply Jesus.

From the middle of the 14th century two forms of inscription became very predominant: (1) The 'Ora pro nobis,' after a saint's name; (2) the rhymed 'Leonine' hexameter verse. The origin of both of these can be traced back earlier: for instance, we find on a bell before 1291 Sancte Petre ora pro Petro Exoniensi Episcopo.

And rhyming verses occur earlier still. But it is only after 1350 that they became common.

The paper went on to speak about (II.) the structure and elucidation of Leonine inscriptions. To anyone accustomed to classical poetry they seem at first detestable. Dr. Raven declares: 'Bad grammar, false quantities, and impossibilities in scansion abound, to say nothing of other defects. But these verses had rules of their own—two principles especially, which may be formulated thus: (1) Any syllable anywhere may be long or short, as required; (2) the rhyme must be always perfect to the eye.

Remembering these principles, and the use of abbreviations, we are able in almost every case to arrive at correct readings and satisfactory meanings. Several Leonine verses were examined by the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey; and even so harsh a line as

Fidelis mie[n]suris nomen campana Michaelis

was shown to be as amenable to rule as the simple and easy

Virgo coronata duc nos ad regna beata.

Corrections were offered of some verses where mistakes appear to have crept in.

The last point dealt with in the paper was the detection of errors and difficulties due to abbreviations. Letters were often omitted in mediaeval writings, amongst the commonest omissions being M and N and R preceded by a vowel (AR, ER, etc.). This fact was used to elucidate several bell inscriptions finishing up with 2 puzzling ones

(1) On a bell in Derbyshire:

Hic venio retro cum silis noie Petro.
The general sense is clear: a bell named Peter has been recast and returned to the tower. But what is 'silis'? Suggestions like 'similis,' 'sanctis,' give no reasonable explanation. But if we alter one letter, to 'siois,' we get what looks at first like nonsense (and so might easily be mistaken by the bell founder), but is really the regular abbreviation for 'simonis'—exactly as the next word 'noie' is for 'nomine,'—and the verse runs:

Here I come back with Simon's name, Peter.

(2) On a bell at St. Botolph's, Cambridge:

Sancte Apoline ora pro nobis.

No saint 'Apolinus' is known. Various guesses (including 'Apollonia,' who is feminine) have been made. But if we venture to supply AR (two letters often omitted) we get the name of a well-known saint, Apolinaris.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

A successful quarterly meeting of the above Guild was held at Berks. well on Saturday, July 20th, when over 30 members (including several lady ringers from Birmingham and Nuneaton) and friends were present from the following places: Allesley, Birmingham, Berkswell, Chilvers Coton, Coventry, Emscote, Erdington, Knowle, Nuneaton, Rugby, and Stoke Golding.

The bells, a good ring of six (tenor 16½ cwt.) were raised about three o'clock, and kept going to touches in various methods until 4.45, when a short service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector and President of the Guild, the Rev. H. O. A. Back.

Tea was partaken of at the Rectory, by the kind invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. Back, which was much appreciated by all.

The usual business meeting followed, at which the President (the Rev. H. O. A. Back) presided, supported by Mr. J. George (Ringing Master), J. H. White (hon. secretary), and Mr. H. Argyle (Central Council representative). It was suggested that a memorial be erected to the late secretary, Mr. G. H. Kettle, and it was decided to bring the matter forward at the next quarterly meeting, which will be held at Southam, in October.

Mr. H. Argyle congratulated Mr. George upon his election to the Central Council, to which Mr. George suitably responded. Four new members were elected.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. and Mrs. Back for their kindness. This concluded the business.

The tower was afterwards visited, and touches in various methods were rung until 9 p.m.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the North and East District was held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, on Saturday last, and proved very successful, just over 30 members attending.

Evening was said at 5.30 p.m., which the members attended; this was followed by tea, kindly arranged by some lady friends of the local society. The tea and business meeting were presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Siddons). All learned with regret that the District Ringing Master, Rifleman John Armstrong, was a prisoner of war in Germany, not wounded, but ill.

Mr. C. V. Ebberson, of Fakenham, Norfolk, was elected a member. For the place of the next meeting it was the unanimous wish that application be made to visit Edmonton.

The usual votes of thanks were accorded to those who had helped in carrying out the necessary arrangements.

At the conclusion of the business, a move was made to St. Mary's for the remainder of the evening.

The ringing throughout the day was generally good, and included Stedman Caters and Triples, Grandsire Triples, Double Norwich, London and Superlative, while the handbells, kindly provided by Mr. J. Raynor, were rung to Stedman Caters and Double Norwich.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Thrapston district was held at Aldwincle on Saturday, July 27th. Members were present from Raunds, Thrapston, Lowick, Tichmarsh, Ringstead, and the local band. A short service was held, conducted by the Rector. Tea was served in the Parish Room, about 20 sitting down, the Rector (the Rev. Canon Hodgson) presiding, supported by the Rev. W. St. George Coldwell, and the general secretary (Mr. F. Wilford). The following officers were elected: Rev. H. E. Fitzherbert, Thrapston, vice-president; Mr. F. Stubbs, secretary; Messrs. D. Redhead, E. Mayes, A. Bellamy, R. Dunkley, G. Jeffs, committee. The Rev. W. St. George Coldwell being elected for the Ringers' Memorial Committee, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Thrapston on Saturday, September 14th, and a practice at Great Addington on Saturday, August 24th. The Rector was elected an honorary member; also one ringing member from Islip was elected.—A hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, and for the excellent war-time tea was passed.—The Rector, replying, said how pleased he was to welcome them. After tea, the beautiful Rectory grounds were open for the visitors.

A VISIT TO THE WEALD OF KENT.

Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, having expressed a wish to ring for Sunday services in some churches in the Weald, arrangements were made by Mr. C. Tribe, the hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, to carry out the same on Sunday, July 21st. The first tower on the list was Staplehurst at 9 a.m. The bells were raised, and several touches of Grandsire Triples were brought round, and the bells lowered in peal. The band here represented eight different towers, viz., F. Sharp, London; J. H. Shepherd, Swindon; C. Sone, Linton; L. Honess, Biddenden; W. H. Lambert, Benenden; W. Kerry, Salehurst; J. Blake, Hawkhurst; and C. Tribe, Tenterden. Some more touches of Grandsire Triples were rung at Cranbrook for the afternoon service, and lowered the bells in peal. The Vicar (Canon Bell) paid us a visit in the belfry during the ringing, and thanked us very heartily for our services. On arriving at Goudhurst, the organist met us at the church, and conducted us to the top of the tower, where one of the most lovely views imaginable rewarded us for our climb; he also informed us that the Rector (Canon Raikes) had provided a tea for us at the Temperance Hotel opposite the church, and conducted us thither; and, needless to say, the tea was gratefully appreciated by us all. The tower was then visited, the bells raised, and several touches of Grandsire Triples brought round for the evening service, including a 504, conducted by C. Tribe, and the bells lowered in peal. The Rector visited us during the ringing, and said what a pleasure it was to hear his bells ringing again after such a long silence. Mr. Arthurs, of Sutton Valence, and Mr. Waghorn, of Hawkhurst, joined us at Cranbrook and Goudhurst, taking the place of Messrs. Sone and Sharp, and also Mr. O. Hodges, of Biddenden. Before separating we decided to repeat the visit on some future occasion.

'THE BELLS OF OATLANDS.'

Among the lady ringers at St. Mary's, Oatlands, Surrey, is to be found one who makes a hobby of writing poetry, and the following is from her pen recently:—

How sweet the bells of Oatlands sound!
To me, no sweeter bells around:
And every one delights to hear
The bells ring out their call to Prayer;
To ring them we so much rejoice,
For they might represent God's voice;
And more than that, Church bells to me
Appear as one's own life to be.
The lightest bell, that Treble mild
Might represent a little child;
And number 'Two' is also light
Which makes me think of childhood bright;
A little heavier is 'Three'
Of early youth reminding me,
And in comparing number 'Four'
With human life—the 'open flower':
As half-way through the peal is 'Five,'
So we at middle-age arrive;
And heavier 'Six' with deeper sound
Might signify one Homeward bound;
And deeper still, that Sacred 'Seven'
Doth sound as one prepared for Heaven;
The last—the Tenor—and so deep,
Tells for us when we 'fall asleep.'

VIOLET SNOW

5184 CANTERBURY PLEASURE MAJOR.

BY E. M. ATKINS.

23456	B M H
53246	x —
43526	x —
36452	x —
62345	x —
42635	x —
32465	x —
25346	x —
52634	x S
24563	x —
43256	x —
53426	x —
23546	x —
23654	x —
34265	x —
45326	x —
54632	x S
42563	x —
42356	x —

Twice repeated.

First rung on handbells at Enfield, conducted by the composer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The East Berks and S. Bucks Branch of the Guild continues to justify its existence, the members mustering in force on Saturday, July 27th, at Chalfont St. Peter, for a war-time half-day off. Proceedings began and ended with the pealing of the bells, a useful peal of six cast mostly at Whitechapel (tenor 9½ cwt. in A), which were utilised in the usual five and six-bell work from 3 till 9 p.m. The ladies were well represented, ten being present, and a six-score of Grandsire Doubles off their own bat was rung by the following: Cooper, McKrell, Feltham, Williams, Bateman and Parker.

Evening service, arranged for 5.30, was conducted by the Rev. C. S. A. Whittington, Vicar, and to this 38 brothers and sisters responded, and incidentally it should be noted that the bells were lowered in peal at 5.20, and a bell tolled for the service just as if the day was Sunday. Hymns No. 84, 48 and 97 were selected, the organist, Mr. Copus, leading the congregation. Before the prayers Mr. Whittington kindly welcomed the Guild to his church, and said: 'A good many times ringers have met here, but this, I believe, is the first time we have come together with prayers. The act of prayer every day is an observance, showing God we do feel our need of Him. In acknowledging God we recognise a fact the Glory of God, our religion is not merely obeying rules of tower and ringing.'

The Vicar also very kindly presided at the tea tables, and when apologising for his having to leave early, deputed his curate, the Rev. J. Fraser Amies, to carry on that duty, which he did most effectively, distributing Guild certificates as qualified change ringers to Misses E. Jones, B. McKrell and N. Williams, and to four of the local band as male probationers. Thanks to the united help of friends and patrons in the locality tea was found ample, satisfying and very enjoyable, and out of 40 members expected 38 put in an appearance: Mr. and Mrs. G. Twitchen, Messrs. W. J. Wilkins, W. Goodchild, and W. Horne (High Wycombe), Mr. J. H. Barnes and Son (Missenenden), Messrs. C. Hallam, C. Shreeve and G. T. Leader (Slough), H. F. Hunt (Windsor), G. H. Gutteridge (Ives), Parker, J. J. Kenley and Fussell (Farnham), F. J. Reeve (Tring), W. Hewitt (Camberwell), W. Lawrence (Ealing), E. Harding (Fulmer), E. M. Atkins (Isham), F. W. Perrins, R.A.F. (Sutton Coldfield), J. Blackmore (Beaconsfield), the Misses F. Gudgin and E. Fuller (Fulmer), Mr. W. Bateman (Stoke), Miss E. K. Parker (Edmonton), Miss E. Jones (Ealing).

Messrs. F. Barrell, E. Burnham, C. Johnson and J. Stone (foreman), all members of the local company. Tea-time was prolonged by a number of details that required attention.

Mr. Lawrence proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Stone, Burnham, and Johnson, and to their wives and mothers respectively for arranging and serving the tea, and especially the clearing up, no light task. —Mr. J. J. Parker proposed a similar expression of the company's gratitude to the Vicar, the organist, the curate, and the tower foreman, for their united and willing share in making the visit a memorable one.

A course of Stedman Caters (double-handed) to welcome a Birmingham St. Martin's Youth was ably performed by: Ferrins, Edith Parker, Elsie Hairs, Atkins and Hewitt (tenor 22 size in C), the bells forming part of 2½ octaves, formerly used by the local time playing party.

Talking and chatting is not the prerogative of the fair sex where change ringing is concerned, for nothing can equal the quantity of language employed when two expert male composers start arguing the 'in and out of course.' A junior's definition of a 'lead end' recently overheard was said to occur when the bells 'fired out' during a touch.

W. H. F.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BRISTOL.—On April 21st, at St. Stephen's Church, Bristol, for evening service, a course of Cambridge Surprise Royal: H. Tucker 1, A. Reeves 2, H. Pring 3, C. Tompkins 4, R. Clarke 5, C. Gordon 6, H. M. Day 7, Wm. Knight 8, J. Burford 9, G. Condieck 10. First course of Royal by the ringer of the 7th.

ISLEWORTH.—At the Parish Church, for evening service, on Sunday, May 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): G. A. Ransom 1, A. Beckensale 2, A. Diserens 3, T. Beadle 4, Pte. J. Preston (Middlesex Reserves) 5, H. W. Lidbetter (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, P. Norton 8.—On Sunday, May 26th, for morning service, a 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Webb 1, G. A. Ransom (conductor) 2, A. Beckensale 3, E. Cole 4, T. Beadle 5, H. W. Lidbetter 6, Seaman G. Spencer, R.N., 7, A. Sheard 8. For a Confirmation service in the afternoon, 168 Stedman Triples.

STONY STRATFORD, BUCKS.—On May 12th, 720 Bob Minor: J. A. Giles 1, C. A. Valentine (conductor) 2, A. Clarke 3, W. W. Bonham 4, T. C. Tompkins 5, E. Yates 6.—On Whit-Sunday, for 10 a.m. Communion, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: A. Clarke 1, E. Yates 2, E. C. Lambert 3, T. C. Tompkins 4, W. T. Tucker (conductor) 5, C. A. Valentine 6. For evensong, 720 Cambridge Surprise: A. Clarke 1, C. A. Valentine 2, T. C. Tompkins 3, E. C. Lambert 4, W. T. Tucker 5, E. Yates (conductor) 6. Also 120 Stedman Doubles.

BOLTON.—On Sunday, May 12th, at the Saviour's Church, on the occasion of the anniversary sermons, for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 48 mins.: T. Barlow 1, F. Abbot 2, T. B. Worsley (conductor) 3, G. Pinecott 4, J. Welsby 5, W. Pennington 6, J. Potter 7, J. Edge 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor.

CALVERTON, BUCKS.—On Whit-Sunday, for morning service, 600 Grandsire Doubles: J. Tompkins 1, C. A. Valentine 2, J. Taylor 3, E. C. Lambert 4, W. T. Tucker (conductor) 5, J. Tompkins, senr., 6.

FASSENHAM, NORTHANTS.—On Whit-Sunday, for afternoon service, 480 Grandsire Doubles: A. Clarke 1, E. C. Lambert 2, H. Ridgway 3, W. T. Tucker (conductor) 4, C. A. Valentine 5. Also 120 Doubles. The above touches were arranged for W. T. Tucker, of Eastleigh, who was home on a visit at Stony Stratford.

WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.—Lancashire Association.—On Whit-Sunday, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 43 mins.: John Denner (first quarter-peal as conductor), S. Oakes, J. Welsby, Jas. Denner, Harry Allred, M. Berry, John Potter, R. Denner. Arranged for H. Allred (Tyldesley).

BARNES.—At St. Mary's Church, on May 19th, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples, in 43 mins.: W. Stevens 1, H. Barrett 2, M. Jacobs 3, Pte. J. Meadows 4, F. Skevington 5, H. Cook 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, H. Dyas 8.

ISHAM, NORTHANTS.—Central Northamptonshire Association.—The following are the first 720s by the four local lady ringers, and as such are worthy of record.—On Whit-Sunday, May 19th, 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, 720 Plain Bob: *Miss B. Everest 1, E. M. Atkins (conductor) 2, A. Blaxley 3, W. C. Lewis 4, G. A. Blaxley 5, D. Mallett 6.—On Feast Sunday, June 30th, 720 Plain Bob (for 8 a.m. service): Miss C. Hepburn 1, *Miss L. Geary 2, E. M. Atkins 3, A. Green 4, W. T. Wilson 5, J. B. Williamson (conductor) 6. Also after evensong, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss M. Hull 1, A. Green 2, W. T. Wilson 3, A. Blaxley 4, G. A. Blaxley 5, J. B. Williamson (conductor) 6. * First 720. It is noteworthy that the ladies only commenced ringing in December last, and great credit is due to their wonderful perseverance.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.—On Wednesday, May 22nd, 504 of Grandsire Triples: Walter Whittington 1, Miss N. Gillingham (conductor) 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, Mrs. R. Whittington 4, E. Goldstone 5, R. Whittington 6, W. Gillingham 7, J. Nisbet 8.—On Sunday, May 26th, after evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss A. Stokes 1, Mrs. Staley 2, Miss N. Gillingham 3, W. Watts 4, J. Nisbet 5, Miss E. M. Hole (conductor) 6, W. Gillingham 7, Miss H. Orchard (first quarter-peal) 8.

TWO PEALS OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

In 6 Parts,		In 3 Equal Parts containing 135 Calls.	
234567		234567	Continued
672453 2		532746 5	
S 276453 4		465273 2	S 627534 3
x 342576 1		324765 1	S 546327 1
653742 1		723546 5	S 375246 1
S 726453 1		527634 5	623475 1
347526 1		465327 1	S 456723 1
723465 3		274536 2	754362 5
547623 1		362457 2	237654 1
725436 3		253674 3	632475 5
537264 3		462753 1	546732 1
645723 2		254637 3	745263 5
376245 1		762354 1	567432 3
273564 5		367425 5	325746 2
362745 3		S 273654 3	463572 2
243657 3		S 642573 1	564237 5
762543 1		736254 2	435672 3
437256 2		237465 5	574326 3
624537 1		652743 2	285437 2
436275 3		376452 1	742365 1
524736 1		633724 3	347526 5
365472 2		756432 5	653247 1
243765 1		247356 1	256734 5
362457 3		752463 3	342675 2
573246 2			Repeat twice.
625473 1			
736542 2			
427653 2			
534762 2			
275634 1			
342567 2			

Repeat 5 times.

Commencing last 3 parts as from x.

Single for Bob 3rd and 6th Part Ends.

July 7th, 1918.

A. J. PITMAN.

NOTICES.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Deane on Saturday, August 10th. Bells ready at 4; meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Sec., 507, Wigan Road, Bolton.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society), Estab. 1824.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at the Church of All Saints, Isleworth. Tower open from 3 to 8 p.m., followed by a business meeting at the 'London Apprentice' near by. Ringers generally cordially invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—(Estab. 1755.)—Special notice.—The Rector of Birmingham and Mrs. Willink extend a hearty invitation to members of the Guild and their wives to spend an hour or two with them in the Rectory garden on Saturday, August 17th. Meeting at 4 o'clock. Light refreshments will be provided. Will those intending to be present please notify me not later than the 13th inst.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Worsley on Saturday, August 17th. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Meeting at 7 p.m.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, August 17th. Tower opened for ringing at 4 o'clock.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec. (*pro tem.*).

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Olveston on Saturday, August 17th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m.—W. Stafford, Branch Hon. Sec., 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, August 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting 6.30.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

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

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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.

HARPENDEN, HERTS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday afternoon, June 2nd, for men's service, a quarter-peal (1280 changes) of Stedman Triples, in 48 mins.: F. Hunt 1, W. Hilt (first quarter in method) 2, G. Newson 3, B. Jarman 4, T. Kendall 5, H. Wood 6, A. King (conductor) 7, C. Dellar 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor. The ringer of 1, 5, 6 and 7 belong to Luton Parish Church.

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Printed for the Proprietors by the WOODBRIDGE PRESS, LTD.,
Guildford, and Published by The ROLLS HOUSE PUBLISHING CO.,
LTD., Bream's Buildings London, E.C.