

No. 787. Vol. XXI.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16th, 1926.

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

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GILLETT AND JOHNSTON

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The Recast Ring of 10 (Tenor 28 cwt.) for
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL, Nov., 1925

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AWAKENING INTEREST.

It is not only interesting, but encouraging, although only what it ought to be, to find that several associations at the annual meetings on Easter Monday discussed topics concerning the Exercise generally, as well as matters of purely domestic policy. Questions which are to come before the Central Council at the Ipswich meeting were debated at several meetings, and in this evidence of a wider interest in ringing affairs one may see an indication of the extension of the average ringer's horizon. Hitherto, with few exceptions, association meetings have been confined to association concerns, and, even if individuals have realised that they are part of a much larger body than their own territorial or diocesan unit, they have seldom shown any desire to talk of matters outside the affairs of their local organisation. They have not apparently fully appreciated the fact that they are members of a country-wide brotherhood and followers of an art the welfare of which throughout the land is largely a matter of their own concern.

When, however, we find important county and diocesan associations discussing subjects of general importance to the whole body of the Exercise it is a gratifying sign of a growing realisation of the share which all ringers ought to take in fostering the growth of the art and furthering the spirit of fraternity of which we so often boast. It matters little in what direction members of an association demonstrate their interest—whether it be in Simpson-tuning, in method nomenclature, in cheaper travelling facilities, or any other question—so long as they show that they have a conception beyond purely parochial ringing politics, it is all to the good. To say, as is sometimes said, that the introduction of these outside matters interferes with the opportunities of ringing on these occasions is not always true, but even if it were it is surely not the least important part of an 'annual meeting' that business should be discussed, and it will generally be found that these topics of more than local application prove also of more than ordinary interest to the average ringer when he hears them debated.

We feel quite certain that the subjects discussed at Chester, Bury St. Edmunds, Painswick and Worcester—to mention only a few of the places where general affairs were talked over—were of as much interest to the average member as the more or less routine business, and as these topics, or most of them, will occupy the attention of the Central Council at Ipswich, members of this body are provided with pointers to the feeling of the rank and file, while among the latter we may look for some real interest in the Council's doings. On the other hand, the

(Continued on page 242.)

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Council, as a body, will profit from the fact that the associations have been reviewing some of the questions which are to come before them, and added weight will be given to their decisions if it is realised that the Exercise as a whole is not only interested, but ready to express its views. The Easter meetings this year, therefore, have been valuable in showing some measure of awakening interest among ringers.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
(ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, BEDDINGTON.)

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE GATERS, 5004 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. in E flat.

FRANK JENNINGS Treble	GEORGE JENNINGS 6
LEONARD BANCE 2	JAMES W. TRAPPIST 7
JOHN F. GALYER 3	FRANK E. DARBY 8
ALFRED J. TRAPPIST 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 9
ALFRED ARNOLD 5	JOHN AVERY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

All are Sunday Service ringers at the above church.

SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 40 cwt.

ARTHUR KNIGHTS Treble	*BERNARD DITCHER 6
*GEORGE LEWIS 2	*J. EDWARD CAWSE 7
JOHN HOLMAN 3	*JOHN H. BROTHWELL 8
JOHN FLINT 4	*PERCIVAL A. KNIGHTS 9
*ARTHUR CRAVEN 5	*JOHN THORPE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN THORPE.

* First peal of Cambridge Royal. First peal of Surprise Royal on the bells, and rung at the first attempt. The conductor's 150th peal. Rung as a compliment to Miss Margaret Williams, B.A., niece of the composer, on the occasion of her marriage to the Rev. H. Thackray.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
At THE CAMPANILE BELL TOWER,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 31½ cwt. in C sharp.

FREDERICK J. JOHNSON Treble	*JOHN HALL 6
HERBERT JORDAN 2	*ROBERT G. KNOWLES 7
*JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3	HARRY MIDDLETON 8
*SIDNEY T. HOLT 4	*OLIVER ATTWOOD 9
JAMES HEMMING 5	*CHARLES CANN Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER

Conducted by J. HEMMING.

* First peal of Bob Royal on tower bells. † First peal of Bob Royal. ‡ First peal of Royal (owing to the illness of one of the band, Mr. Attwood filled the vacancy at a few hours' notice). First peal of Bob Royal on tower bells as conductor. This was the quarterly peal for the branch.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours & Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THORSTANS' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

WALTER STAFF Treble	SAMUEL HOLT 5
JAMES H. KERSHAW 2	JAMES H. LEES 6
*ARTHUR BOTTOMLEY 3	*WILLIAM HORAN 7
THOMAS K. DRIVER 4	GEORGE STAFF Tenor

Conducted by JAMES H. LEES.

* First peal in the method.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours & One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. in F.

FREDERICK BORRETT Treble	GEORGE GOWER 5
WALTER BARRETT 2	CHARLES CLARKE 6
WILLIAM ELDRIDGE 3	RUSSELL RICHES 7
JAMES ELDRIDGE 4	ERNEST WHITING Tenor

Composed by J. LOCKWOOD.

Conducted by F. BORRETT.

Rung in honour of weddings of Mr. C. T. P. Brice's eldest daughter and Mr. Alfred Smith's third daughter.

TAVISTOCK, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EUSTACIUS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM LAVERS Treble	JOSEPH WOODLEY 5
ERNEST W. MARSH 2	WILLIAM G. HISCOTT 6
REGINALD BEER 3	*CHARLES R. LILLEY 7
ALFRED T. WESTCOTT 4	WILLIAM RICHARDS Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST W. MARSH.

* 500th peal. First peal on the bells, which were recently recast and rehung by Messrs. Taylor. Both the tone and 'go' of the bells are excellent.

WRAYSBURY, BUCKS.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S ONE-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*GEORGE J. BERRY Treble	ARTHUR CROSS 5
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 2	WILLIAM WELLING 6
†JAMES H. LUCAS 3	FRANK CORKE 7
MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS 4	*CHARLES A. NICHOLLS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM WELLING.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal of Triples, and made a member previous to starting.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

MISS RUBY HAWKSWORTH ... Treble	HARRY KILBY 5
ISAAC G. SHADE 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 6
GEORGE R. PYE 3	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 7
GEORGE M. KILBY 4	CECIL V. EBBERTSON Tenor

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON. Conducted by GEORGE R. PYE

This peal was rung as a farewell to Cecil V. Ebbertson, who is leaving Willesden for Norfolk, much to the regret of his many friends.

EARLS COLNE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

GEORGE WIFFEN Treble	JAMES FLEUTY 5
ARTHUR SAUNDERS 2	WILLIAM KEEBLE 6
FRANK CLAYDON 3	LESLIE G. BRETT 7
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 4	WALTER ARNOLD Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE

L. C. Wightman was elected a life member before starting for the peal.

COLCHESTER, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD Treble	JAMES FLEUTY 5
LESLIE G. BRETT 2	WALTER ARNOLD 6
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 3	WILLIAM KEEBLE 7
FRANK CLAYDON 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE

DORCHESTER, OXON.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours & Twenty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 512 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM H. J. HOLIFIELD Treble	*HARRY TOLLEY 5
MRS. ALBERT E. LOCK 2	JACK HONEY 6
*RICHARD CHAUDNY 3	PERCY DYKE 7
ALBERT E. LOCK 4	GORDON CADDWELL Tenor

Composed by J. FLEMING.

Conducted by GORDON CADDWELL.

* First peal in the method.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

JOHN H. B. HESSE Treble	*RAYMOND PHILPOT 5
CHARLES N. BURDOCK 2	C.Q.M.S. G. GILBERT, R.E. 6
JOHN T. SCOTT 3	GEORGE W. STEERE 7
*JOHN A. COLE 4	ALFRED H. POLLING Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

Rung as a farewell compliment to C.Q.M.S. Gilbert, who will shortly be leaving the district on his retirement from the Army. * 50th peal.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF BISHOP RYDER.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

G. LINDOFF'S TWELVE-PART, No. 4. Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb

JAMES GEORGE Treble	CHARLES DRAPER 5
JOHN H. SWINFELD 2	*JOSEPH PEMBERTON 6
MAURICE SWINFELD 3	JAMES PAGETT 7
RICHARD C. BELTON 4	BERNARD W. WITCHELL Tenor

Conducted by M. SWINFELD.

The band wish to thank Mr. James George for his hospitality after the peal. * Proposed a member before starting.

MINIATURE BELLS

have raised money for many "Bell Funds." Let them raise it for yours. Inquiries to: John P. Fidler, 9, Bear Leach Road, Hazel Grove, Cheshire.

STANSTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HERBERT W. WATTS Treble	T. REGINALD DENNIS ... 5
ERNEST G. HIBBINS 2	THOMAS WATTS 6
GEORGE JORDAN 3	WILLIAM T. PRIOR 7
WALTER PRIOR 4	*WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in the method as conductor.

PLYMPTON, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAURICE.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

With 6-4-8 covering.

E. ROWSE Treble	W. TURNER 5
W. LAVERS 2	A. WONNACOTT 6
E. WEBB 3	W. A. WONNACOTT 7
W. OSBORNE 4	B. WEBBER Tenor

Conducted by W. A. WONNACOTT.

First peal for all except the ringers of the 2nd and 7th. First peal with a hob bell by the ringer of the 2nd. First peal as conductor. Also believed to be the first peal ever rung by residents of Plympton.

FULBOURN, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. VIGOR AND ALL SAINTS.

PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

YORK GREEN Treble	T. REGINALD DENNIS ... 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	ERNEST G. HIBBINS ... 6
*CHARLES PATTEN 3	A. GEORGE RIVERS 7
WILFRID H. J. HOOTON ... 4	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Double Norwich on the bells.

TITCHMARSH, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(THRAFASTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 3 qr. 22 lb.

†GEORGE JEFFS, SEN. ... Treble	DANIEL REDHEAD 5
*JAMES M. NICKERSON ... 2	†THOMAS WILSON 6
*FRED STUBBS 3	FRANK KIRK 7
†GEORGE JEFFS, JUN. ... 4	†LESLIE GROOM Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by LESLIE GROOM.

*Sixtieth peal. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal in the method away from the treble.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

F. H. DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	ALBERT COPPOCK 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	THOMAS ATKINS 6
EDWARD C. GOBBY 3	ALBAN DISNEY 7
J. CHARLES DICKEN 4	PERCY PRICE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

The band wish to thank Mr. Thos. Atkins for obliging at a minute's notice. A birthday compliment to P. Price and A. Coppock. Rung on the 44th anniversary of the formation of the above association, April 10th. 1882.

BROXBOURNE, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*ARTHUR RADLEY Treble	GEORGE RADLEY 5
CHARLES V. HARE 2	WILBY J. HAZELL 6
WALTER J. BOWDEN 3	JOHN T. KENTISH 7
MISS EDITH K. PARKER ... 4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by Miss E. K. PARKER.

* First peal. Rung as a farewell to Preb. Eardley Wilmott, Vicar, who is leaving the parish.

BILLINGSHURST, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

ARTHUR J. BARTLETT ... Treble	FRANK BENNETT 5
JAMES BORDFIELD 2	WILLIAM STANFORD 6
RAYMOND WOOD 3	JOHN COOK 7
MAURICE SMITHER 4	JOHN H. B. HESSE ... Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN.

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 11 lb. in E.

ERNEST CUTSFORTH ... Treble	EDWARD JENKINS 5
*ALFRED BARNES 2	TITUS BARLOW 6
JOHN E. BIBBY 3	THOMAS B. WORSHLEY ... 7
*TOM WILDE 4	ALLAN F. BAILEY ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

* First peal of Surprise. First peal of Surprise in the tower.

MALPAS, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt. (approx.) in F.

THOMAS BUTLER, SEN. ... Treble	WILLIAM S. HIGGINSON ... 5
WILLIAM B. KYNASTON ... 2	HARRY OVERTON 6
*RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 3	THOMAS R. BUTLER 7
EDWARD V. RODENHURST 4	WILLIAM HIGGINSON, SEN. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS R. BUTLER.

* 100th peal. This is the first peal of Stedman on the bells.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

JOHN BEAMS Treble	JOHN A. COLE 5
OLIVER SIPPETTS 2	C. Q. M. S. G. GILBERT, R.E. 6
WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
GEORGE W. STEERE 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING

First peal in the method for the above association.

BOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND HELENA.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

WILFRED H. J. HOOTON ... Treble	T. REGINALD DENNIS ... 5
MISS CATHERINE FIELDS ... 2	HERBERT FIELDS 6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3	ERNEST G. HIBBINS 7
*ALBERT E. AUSTIN 4	A. GEORGE RIVERS ... Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN.

Conducted by ERNEST G. HIBBINS.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

LYDD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ROMNEY MARSH & DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PISTOW'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

CHARLES W. PLAYER Treble	ARCHIBALD C. KAY 5
HIGHWOOD T. HUMPHRIES... 2	CHARLES TRIBE 6
ROBERT EDWARDS 3	HARRY PARKES 7
CHARLES W. FRANKLIN ... 4	HENRY C. CASTLE Tenor

Conducted by HARRY PARKES.

This is the first peal on this new ring of eight by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. The conductor's 100th peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KEMPSTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 3, 1926, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Kingston, London, Scholars' Pleasure, College Exercise, Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent.

H. BEARD, JUN. Treble	H. W. GUYTON 4
WM. STOCK 2	C. W. CLARKE 5
WM. SHARP 3	P. INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

* 100th peal for the association.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER, SALOP.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with 10 different callings.

C. COLLINSON Treble	GEO. RANGLES 4
T. H. SMALLWOOD 2	W. R. NASH 5
W. J. BENIAMS 3	A. NASON Tenor

Conducted by W. J. BENIAMS.

* First peal in the method. First peal as conductor. First peal on the bells since they were rehung. The ringers of the 1st and 4th hail from Bromfield; the 3rd, 5th and 6th from Ludlow; and the 2nd from Knighton.

STEEPLE ASHTON, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 19 cwt. in E flat.

JAMES BILBY Treble	JESSE FRANCIS 4
RONALD G. BECK 2	WILLIAM R. BAXTER 5
WILLIAM WEST 3	CHARLES F. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by C. F. ANDREWS.

* First peal of Minor. The thanks of the band are due to Mr. and Mrs. W. West for their kind hospitality after the peal.

ULVERSTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS & LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford, three 720's of Kent and two 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 13½ cwt.

HAROLD HARDY Treble	THOMAS F. HEWERTSON ... 4
THOMAS B. NEWTON 2	CHARLES E. WEBB 5
FURNESS WOODEND 3	WILLIAM ROBINSON Tenor

Conducted by W. ROBINSON.

First peal on the bells. The band wish to express their thanks to the Rector (the Rev. J. Stuart Rimmer), who kindly provided tea after the peal.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of York, two 720's of London, and three 720's of Cambridge.

CHARLES JENNINGS Treble	ROBERT HOWARD 4
MISS KITTY WILLERS 2	ALBERT E. AUSTIN 5
WILLIAM A. TACK 3	WILFRID H. J. HOOTON Tenor

Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

The conductor's 200th peal.

RUSHTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford and Bob Minor. Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lb.

MISS KITTY MOORE Treble	JOHN KING 4
MISS SYLVIA THURSFIELD ... 2	JOHN R. MAIN 5
HARRY BAXTER 3	ROBERT G. BLACK Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First peal in seven methods.

LIMPSFIELD CHART, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of one 720 of Cambridge Surprise, two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 10½ cwt. in G sharp.

FREDERICK G. WOODISS ... Treble	DANIEL COOPER 4
FRANK E. DARBY 2	ALFRED J. BULL 5
LEONARD A. TIDY 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* First peal in more than two methods.

ASPLEY GUISE, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Norbury and Kingston, College Exercise, London Scholars' Pleasure, Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford.

EDMUND J. HOBBS Treble	CHAS. W. CLARKE 4
WM. SHARP 2	WM. STOCK 5
H. W. GUYTON 3	P. INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by CHAS. W. CLARKE.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. H. H. Smith, a well-known and respected member of the association.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

IN TRINITY COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. A. H. F. BOUGHBY ... 1-2	C. W. WOOLLEY, 5-6
W. H. J. HOOTON 3-4	WALTER AYRE 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 3, CRESSING WAY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 16.

FRANK CLAYDON 1-2	WILLIAM KEEBLE 5-6
LEWIS W. WIFFEN 3-4	GEORGE WIFFEN 7-8

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE
Umpire: W. ARNOLD.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING AT PAINSWICK.

The annual meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association took place at Painswick, Gloucestershire, on Easter Monday, when there was a large gathering of members. Two 32-seater charabancs had been requisitioned to convey the Bristol branch members, and the first of these reached Painswick at 11 a.m., when the management committee meeting was held in the Vicarage Rooms.

At 12.15, service took place in the church, by which time the members had increased to about 120. The Vicar (the Rev. C. H. Veroy) gave a very interesting address, in the course of which he referred to the history of the famous Painswick bells. After the service, luncheon was partaken of at the Falcon Hotel, and the general meeting followed in the Town Hall, where several volumes of peal books were on view. Mr. Albert Wright (Painswick), Master of the Association, presided, supported by Mr. W. Lansdown (hon. treasurer), and Mr. E. Guise (hon. secretary).

The Master reported progress in various branches, which was particularly gratifying, and expressed the hope that others would show some improvement in 1926. He alluded to the loss the association had sustained by the death of Mr. Walter Wood, late chairman of the Gloucester branch, and to the recent death of Mr. William Short, of St. James's Guild, Bristol. He also referred to the activities of the association during 1925 in connection with cheaper railway travelling for ringers.

Mr. W. Lansdown presented the balance sheet, pointing out that, although the profits upon the year's work were about £8 less than 1925, this was easily accounted for by the fact that heavier expenditure had been caused by additional travelling expenses to Central Council meetings.—It was generally considered that the financial position of the association was very satisfactory.

An addition was made to Rule III., whereby branch hon. secretaries are now officially appointed members of the management committee.

The following resolution was unanimously carried, and ordered to be sent to the Central Council: 'That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association earnestly request the Central Council to continue to press the Railway Clearing Board for cheaper travelling facilities to be granted to ringers.'—This was proposed by Mr. E. Guise, and seconded by Mr. J. Austin, who remarked that this concession should have been made long ago.

Mr. W. A. Cave, strongly supporting the resolution, said that what they wanted was that ringers should be able to travel anywhere, any day, at reduced costs. He remarked that, had the Central Council worked as hard in days gone by as they had quite recently done in connection with the Simpson-tuning principle, ringers would have had this facility long ago (applause).

SIMPSON-TUNING.

Mr. J. Jefferies proposed: 'That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, at their annual meeting held at Painswick on April 5th, 1926, unanimously agree that historic bells should not be tuned by the Canon Simpson principle, even though it is necessary for them to be recast, but that the Canon Simpson principle may be used upon modern bells only.'

This was seconded by Mr. J. Austin, and supported by Mr. W. A. Cave, who remarked that it would be sacrilegious to use the principle on the bells of Bishop Sutton, and upon many other beautiful old bells of this country. If the advocates of Simpson-tuning wanted to use their principle they should do it on new bells, but the old ones should not be touched.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the next annual meeting at Stow-on-the-Wold on Whit Monday, 1927, and that the management committee meeting should be held at Lydney at least one month before.

The hon. secretary was given permission to have 200 copies of the Central Council's instructions upon the use and care of bells printed (with the printing all on one side), and issued to every tower in the association area.

Mr. Edwards, of Cirencester, moved that the arrangements for the association's jubilee meeting in 1928 be handed to the Bristol United Ringing Guilds, and that they report their scheme to the management committee.—Mr. Austin favoured a special committee being appointed there and then.

After a short discussion it was proposed that the jubilee meeting be held in Bristol on Whit Monday, 1928, and that the Bristol United Ringing Guilds be asked to make the arrangements, and to report their scheme to the management committee.—This was seconded, and unanimously carried.

The sum of £3 3s. was voted from the Belfry Repair Fund to the Abson Church Bell Relighting Fund.

The whole of the officials were re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. Canon White, of Bourton-on-the-Water, as a member of the Executive and Management Committees.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of Painswick for his

kindness in granting the use of the bells, and for arranging the service. Mr. A. Wright was also thanked for the assistance rendered to make a successful meeting.—This was proposed by Mr. A. Cave, who, in the course of this proposition, referred to the lack of enterprise on the part of the British Broadcasting Company in not having made arrangements for such bells as those at Painswick to be broadcast. Famous old bells associated with famous old ringers should have been broadcast in preference to some of the bells, such as peals of five and six, that had received priority in the B.B.C.'s programme.

Votes of condolence were passed to Mrs. Walter Wood, of Barnwood, and to Mrs. Short and her son, of Bristol.

This concluded the meeting, and as there was some spare time before tea, the bells were soon in changes again.

Stroud bells were available during the evening, and good use of them was made.

Apologies for absence were received from the Bishop of Bristol, and the Bishop of Gloucester, the Archdeacons of Bristol, Swindon, and Cheltenham, Vice-presidents Revs. M. E. Thorold, T. C. Fowler, Penington and Paterson, and Mr. F. K. Howell.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. ANNUAL MEETING AT CHESTER.

The annual festival of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Chester on Easter Monday, and was well attended by ringers from all parts of the Diocese.

At the Guild service in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Chester, who referred to the great strides the art of ringing had made within the last decade, especially in Cheshire. He emphasised the wonderful way in which church bells preach the gospel of Christ to all who hear them. Bells had a beauty of their own, and their exquisite tone was a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. 'Blessed are the pure in heart,' said his lordship, and went on to show how that text seemed to fit the music of the bells. By their gospel, preached whenever they were rung, bells helped materially to aid the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven. Singleness of heart should always be the aim of ringers, and as long as they kept their hearts single they could not fail to do good work. The beauty of the tenor and the exquisite tinkle of the treble can often, with the power of the Holy Spirit, convert an erring heart to the truths of the Catholic religion. Let the ringers of the diocese go forth and continue their good work. God be with them!

At the business meeting, which had preceded the service, the Rev. C. A. Clements was re-elected Master of the Guild, and Mr. E. W. Elwell was again made secretary. The Rev. A. T. Beeston, whose absence through temporary ill-health, was much regretted, was again elected treasurer. Certain changes in the way in which the investments of the Guild are held were deemed advisable, consequent upon the passing of the new Law of Property Act, and were accordingly made.

The formal business of passing the accounts and adoption of the report then took place, and this was followed by a complete revision of the rules of the Guild.

The payment of a grant of £5 towards the rehanging of the bells of Holy Trinity, Stalybridge, was confirmed.

On the invitation of the Master, Grappenhall was accepted as the place for the next annual meeting, and the date was fixed as the last Saturday in July.

A short discussion took place on the revised report of the Nomenclature Committee of the Central Council, and instructions were given to the representatives of the Guild, to be carried out at Ipswich. It was decided that only those points in the report which contravened the ancient rights of ringers should be opposed.

After lunch in the Refectory, the ringers visited various towers in the neighbourhood, and their bells were kept going until a late hour.

YORKSHIRE TREASURER'S BEREAVEMENT

Mr. J. Cotterell, the well-known hon. treasurer of the Yorkshire Association, has suffered a severe loss by the death of his wife, who passed away on April 3rd.

The interment took place at Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford, on April 7th, the Yorkshire Association being represented by the president (the Rev. C. O. Marshall), and several well known members. An attempt for a half-muffled peal of Treble Bob Royal at Bradford Cathedral on Saturday, April 10th, came to grief, after two hours' good ringing.

The deceased lady was well known among Yorkshire ringers, being much esteemed by a wide circle of friends, and great sympathy is expressed for Mr. Cotterell in his bereavement.

A HALF-PEAL.

At Stow-on-the-Wold, on April 9th, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples (Holt's), in 1 hour and 33 minutes: S. Pethrick 1, E. Pardon (conductor) 2, H. Hill 3, R. Hicks 4, B. Phillips 5, C. Robins 6, F. Davis 7, W. Richings 8. First half-peal as conductor, and first half by ringers of 1, 3, 4, 6, 8. The tenor is 30 cwt., and the age of the ringer of this bell is 72 years.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**WIGAN AND PRESTON BRANCHES' JOINT MEETING.**

A very successful joint meeting of the Wigan and Preston branches was held at Wigan Parish Church on Saturday, April 10th. Ringers were present from no less than five branches, and over twenty towers, among those present being the association president (Canon H. J. Elson), the ringing secretary (Mr. A. Tomlinson, of Blackburn), Mr. H. Chapman (Pendleton), and a good muster of the Wigan and Preston members.

There was no business meeting, the idea being to try and create more interest among some of the local ringers in the Wigan branch. It is to be hoped that the meeting will bear fruit in that direction in the future. Judging from the numbers present, and the distance some of them had travelled, it would seem that Wigan is a very good centre for a meeting, or perhaps it was owing to the very limited opportunities there have been for some time of having a pull on these bells, which are a heavy peal, with a tenor of 28 cwt., in the key of C, according to the peal tablets in the tower.

The bells were kept going for the best part of the afternoon and evening in the various methods, from Plain Bob to Double Norwich, and although the ringing was not quite up to the best standard, it was very fair considering that a large proportion of the ringers present were unused to ringing bells much over 15 cwt.

The joint secretaries take this opportunity of thanking (on behalf of the members who were present) the local authorities for the use of the bells, and also the ringers for having all in readiness.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

The meeting of the Gainsborough District, held at Corringham on Saturday, April 10th, was fairly well attended, members being present from Gainsborough, Stow and Ashby, in addition to the local ringers.

The bells were raised at 3 p.m., and the following methods rung during the afternoon and evening: Grandsire and Stedman Double, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Minor; also some very useful ringing for the learners.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. Thornton), and tea was served in the Schoolroom. This was followed by the business meeting, the Rev. Canon Morris presiding.

The tower was then again visited, and further ringing took place until about 7 p.m.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**VISIT TO KNARESBOROUGH.**

A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Knaresborough on Easter Monday. By the kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. Ogle) and churchwardens, the fine peal of eight bells in the Parish Church were available for ringing throughout the day. As is usual, when ringing meetings are held in country districts, when splendid weather graces them, the visitors to Knaresborough greatly exceeded the number of applications sent in for tea, the result being that many had to seek accommodation in the town.

The day's proceedings commenced with ringing in various methods, with a meeting of the general committee in the Church House at 2.30 p.m. The general meeting an hour later was also held in the Church House, the president (the Rev. C. C. Marshall) presiding. He was supported by the principal officers of the association and a large gathering of members. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Cotterell, Mr. F. Willey, Mr. F. Clark and Mr. J. Broadley. It was decided, on the motion of Mr. H. N. Imeson, seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall, that the September meeting be held at Selby, if it can be conveniently arranged.

Mr. F. Smith, of Knaresborough, was elected as a new member.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens of Knaresborough was responded to by the Vicar, who extended a cordial welcome to the association, and expressed a wish that the town of Knaresborough should soon have a further visit.—A vote of thanks to the local company for their kind arrangements was moved by Mr. J. Lawson, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, and responded to by Mr. F. Smith, who took the opportunity of urging visitors to Knaresborough to consider the wisdom of making application for tea in writing prior to the meeting day.

The news of the death of Mrs. J. Cotterell, the wife of the greatly respected treasurer of the association, came as a great shock to the meeting, and the following resolution, moved by the president, and seconded by the hon. general secretary, was carried by the members rising in silence: 'This meeting desires to place on record its great sorrow at the news of the death of Mrs. Cotterell, and wishes to convey to Mr. Cotterell the very sincere sympathy of all present.'

An excellent tea was afterwards served to some sixty members at Cooper's Cafe, and more ringing, chats of former boat races, hunting for eggs, etc., brought to an end a most delightful and pleasant meeting.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

**Foundry
Established
A.D. 1670**
(12th year
of reign of
Elizabeth).

**Bellfounders and
Bellhangers,**

**32 & 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
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ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

for

Recasting, Retuning and Rehanging.

**HANDBELLS
in Sets of any number.**

BELL ROPES. MUFFLES. &

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Some 70 members attended the annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at Fulham on Saturday. A report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue. 'Notes by the Way' are unavoidably held over this week.

Mr. L. G. Brett rang in two peals of London Surprise Major on Easter Monday, one at Earls Colne, and the other at Colchester, and during the day cycled 80 miles. He had to leave home at 4 a.m., and he started on his return journey at 8 p.m. Actually he spent 13 hours in cycling and ringing! Would that all ringers had the same energy and enthusiasm!

The peal of eight at Alton, Hants, which have been recast, will be opened on May 1st.

Twenty-five years ago next Sunday, Mr. W. Matthew's twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for the first time. This was at Prestbury Church, Cheshire, for evening service.

The 10,400 Double Norwich Major, at Epsom, on Easter Monday, was certainly the longest length rung by Mr. Jack Lee, of Streatham, but it is interesting to record that he had rung 10,176 Treble Bob Major at Foxearth in Essex, as far back as March, 1888. This was called by C. Sillito. Mr. Lee is now 62 years old. Twelve months ago he lay between life and death in a South London Hospital, but is now game for an even longer length than that on Easter Monday. Two only survive of the Foxearth peal band.

There will be a great 'do' at Coalbrookdale this week-end, when the augmented and restored peal will be opened. Ringers are expected from all parts of the West and Midlands, and they will find a hearty welcome.

Mr. George Baker, of Brighton, is just recovering from a serious operation at the nursing home at 33, St. Michael's Place, whither he was rushed on Easter Monday evening. It is the sequel to an appendix operation he went through in 1922, and his many friends will wish him a speedy return to health.

Mr. John S. Collings, for 29 years a ringer at Paignton belfry, Devon, has been the recipient from the ringers of a framed photograph of the church, suitably inscribed, and a silver spoon, on the occasion of the silver wedding which he and his wife celebrated on April 8th.

The peal of Forward Maximus at Ipswich was the third on tower bells, and not the second. Two peals have been rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, the first on January 13th, 1903, and the second on June 6th, 1905.

Ringings on three peals of bells, in addition to the chiming at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, was broadcast on Sunday, viz., Chester Cathedral; St. Mary's, Swansea; and St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh. In the current issue of the 'Radio Times' is a photograph of some of the ringers taken in Bow belfry; conspicuous among them being the Master of the College Youths (Mr. Bob Newton) and Mr. Challis Winney. St. Philip's Cathedral bells, Birmingham, are to be broadcast on Sunday at 8 p.m. We are getting on!

Fifteen years ago to-morrow the present Treble Bob Maximus record was set up at Ashton-under-Lyne, when 12,240 of Kent was rung in 8 hours 39 minutes.

Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Heywood.

On April 16th, 1737, 12,006 Grandsire Caters was rung at Painswick, in 7 hours 55 minutes—a great performance for those early days of ringing.

The 22nd is the anniversary of the 15,227 in the same method rung at Cheltenham in 1889 in 9 hours 43 minutes, and the same day is the anniversary of the existing 'longest length,' the 21,363 Stedman Caters at Appleton, in 12 hours and 25 minutes, rung on Easter Monday, 1922.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Council will be held on May the 25th (Whit Tuesday) next, at Ipswich. Full particulars of the meeting will be published later. Notice of any motion should be sent before April 24th.

Will secretaries please note that the annual subscription is now due, and, together with the names and addresses of representatives, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Alexr. Young, 155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

TURNER'S HILL PEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent's last letter, as he still refuses to make any specific charge I have nothing further to add to my previous letter.

We are in possession of 'Listener's' name and grievance, which will be mentioned, together with such qualifications as he may possess, when the question is brought up for discussion at the meeting of the Central Division to be held at Cuckfield on Saturday next, 17th inst.—Yours, etc.,
KEITH HART.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. CLERICAL SECRETARY'S ADVICE AND WARNING.

In glorious weather, everybody looking cheerful in the sunshine, the annual meeting of the Worcestershire Association was held at Worcester on Easter Monday. The bells of the city churches were early going, in methods from Grandsire Doubles to Bristol Surprise Major, and futile attempts were made on the Cathedral twelve for Stedman Cinques. An extra half-hour was granted by the Dean and Chapter, which did not add to the success or pleasure of the ringing. Now that the £5,000 expenditure on the organ is practically wiped out, the association would like to hear of the next item on the programme being a determined effort to make the bells ringable without strained muscles, wet shirts, and grumbling.

At 2.30, the president, Dr. W. Moore Ede (Dean) heartily welcomed a very full gathering. He was supported by the Rev. J. F. Hastings and Mr. J. R. Newman (clerical and lay honorary secretaries respectively), Mr. R. Matthews (Master), the Rev. J. Willis (Rector of Deford), and others. The report and balance sheet were also accepted. The former contained advice, warning, and a healthy financial position. It was stated that there was possibly a small minority who affected to consider church bells a nuisance in towns; but the vast majority of Englishmen loved the bells and their associations, and ringers were, in most places, a highly respected class of men. 'If our art is to be attacked,' continued the report, 'it will find a host of keen defenders, but, most of all, we must defend it ourselves by reasonableness in ringing and especially by excellence in ringing. If bells are too noisy outside the tower, there are sure and inexpensive methods of lessening the noise of the metal and allowing only the music to be heard; and we feel sure Church authorities would readily have the work done, of partly shuttering up the louvre windows, if the advantage were pointed out to them by the ringers of a noisy peal of bells. And then the ringing itself; let us avoid the fast, hurried striking, the absence of a clear lead at handstroke, the careless rising and falling, which are not uncommon in some towers; let us give the enemy little real cause of complaint, and he will find he has enough rope to hang himself! Bells are the most public voice of the church, heard by all, a reminder of religion in the very air itself; it would be a real spiritual loss to the nation, as well as a musical and sentimental one, if bell ringing—good bell ringing—were silenced.'

The Dean inquired who proposed the Bill, and what constituency he represented.

The Rev. J. F. Hastings said he wrote on the subject, seeing that it was likely that a Bill would be brought forward. Letters appeared in newspapers stating that bell ringing was a nuisance sometimes. He hoped that ringers would be incited to improve in their ringing. He had not put a cap on anybody's head, but, wherever it fitted, he hoped the cap would be put on. If bell ringing could be improved in the ways mentioned, he was certain that there could not be any public opinion behind the proposal to stop bell ringing.

The warning contained in the report referred to the lamented death of Major Hudson at Bishop's Wearmouth, caused by moving among bells when set up, and members were urged to take note of the danger. The balance sheet showed the financial worth of the association to be the highest since its inception in 1882. Membership, both honorary and performing, was well maintained. The Belfry Repairs Fund voted £5 to both Offenham and Hanley Castle restorations. The report also demonstrated two ideas from the fertile brain of that most unostentatious ringer, Mr. T. J. Salter: a 'Peals Analysis and Points Table,' a stimulus to individual bands, in which the honours went to: 1 Wollaston, 296 points; 2 Brierley Hill, 292 points; 3 Halesowen, 292 points (26 ran); an 'In Memoriam' table showing the date of death of ringers from 1885—1925, with the number of peals each had rung from the association.

It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held at Worcester, on Easter Monday, 1927 (D.V.); and that Mr. Sydney T. Holt arrange and conduct the annual peal.

Mr. J. R. Newman then put forward correspondence with the Worcestershire Archaeological Society. A very lengthy discussion followed, the Dean, Mr. J. Arniger Trollope (London), Alderman J. S. Pritchett, the Rev. J. Willis (secretary of the society), and others, taking part.

Alderman Pritchett said he was sure, if an act of vandalism was attempted with bells and towers, they would have a strong friend in the Archaeological Society, to whom they could appeal for help.

After it had been decided to co-operate with the society, Ald. Pritchett kindly offered to pay the fees for this year and next, which was accepted. This step is only an initial one, and it is hoped it will develop and prove an invaluable asset on matters connected with churches, towers and bells.

The question of Minor method naming was also briefly discussed.—On Mr. Salter's suggestion no vote was taken.

A further question was also discussed on the appointment of a competent person to accompany the Archdeacon on his visitation, it being recognised that Archdeacons generally do not report on towers and bells as other parts of the church.

Then followed the re-election of all officers excepting the Master, Mr. Robert Matthews, who expressed a desire to retire, and proposed Mr. J. D. Johnson, of Evesham, who was elected. Mr. Matthews said he would like to see the position refilled annually. This, he said, would be a goal for young aspirants to aim at.

The Secretary then announced that Canon Wilson had paid him his subscription, and regretted it must be his last. He was a true, loyal and interested vice-president for very many years, and a staunch friend of the Cathedral Guild, always ready to help when help was needed.

The Dean feelingly spoke of Canon Wilson, who, in his 90th year, was nursing an invalid wife.—The usual votes of thanks were accorded the Dean and Chapter, and afterwards the service in the Cathedral was attended, at which an excellent address was given by the Rev. Willis. The lengthy discussions absorbed the greater part of the allotted time, which caused but brief consideration of other business, which surely deserved attention.

Nevertheless, the day was well spent, and everybody enjoyed it, the younger ones especially.

The opportunity is here taken of thanking that giant of ringers, Mr. Robert Matthews, for his services during the past two years, and indeed all the years.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. A RECORD YEAR.

Under ideal weather conditions, the annual meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Bedford on Easter Monday. Members from most of the towers affiliated attended during the day. Many visitors, too, were heartily welcomed, among the well-known ringers present being Messrs. R. Sanders, A. W. Coles, W. H. Hewitt, A. H. Winch, from the South, and Mr. F. Salmon (Halifax), from the North, as well as many Northants and Hertfordshire friends. The fine peal of ten at St. Paul's Church proved a great attraction, throughout the day some excellent ringing being heard in many methods, including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Royal, London, Bristol, Norfolk, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major, and Bob Major, so that all could be catered for. St. Peter's tower, too, was visited by many, and methods up to London Surprise Minor rung on the peal of six.

Luncheon was held at the Silver Grill, after which the business meeting took place, presided over by Canon W. W. C. Baker (president), supported by Mr. E. Ransome, Miss E. Steel and Mr. Cyril Herbert (vice-presidents).

In a brief resume, the President congratulated the members on scoring a record number of peals for the association in one year, viz., 42, the previous best being 41 in 1903. He paid a passing tribute to the late Mr. H. Thody, who had died during the year, Mr. Thody being one of the very few original members who had been faithful through the 43 years of the association's existence.

Canon Baker was re-elected president, on the proposition of Miss Steel. The vice-presidents were also re-elected, as were the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. A. E. Sharman), and hon. auditor (Mr. T. F. Tanqueray).

Bedford was selected for the next annual meeting, and Dunstable and Cardington were proposed for the summer festival. On being put to the vote, Cardington won by a big majority.

The president then brought forward the Nomenclature Committee's proposals, as printed in 'The Ringing World,' and asked the members' opinions upon them. An interesting discussion took place, but a proposal was made that the question should be left to the discretion of the Central Council representatives to vote as they thought fit on the matter.

The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks to all who had made the day so successful, and the members then dispersed, some to the towers for further ringing, others to the river, etc..

Ringing took place until a late hour, St. Paul's bells pealing forth Cambridge Major when the writer left for home at 7 p.m.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Pitman is wrong in saying that my peal is not the longest length of Treble Bob Major. Spliced Treble Bob is altogether different from a genuine Treble Bob composition.

I feel sure that every Treble Bob composer will agree that the 17,440 is the longest length of Treble Bob Major.

I believe it was the late Henry Johnson who produced the extent 40,320 changes of combined (Spliced) Kent and Oxford.—Yours faithfully,

E. TIMBRELL.

LADY SURPRISE RINGERS IN KENT.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. S. H. Green re the above, I beg to withdraw the claim, and apologise for not making a more exhaustive search beforehand. I might add that the claim was made on behalf of Miss Chapman and Miss Orr (not by them), and, although I searched the reports, I must have overlooked Miss Orlebar's accomplishment, the only previous record of a Lady Surprise ringer I noticed being the peal of Superlative at Gravesend on November 22nd, 1924, conducted by Miss E. K. Parker.—Yours faithfully,

Crayford.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

REDUCTION OF THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

The annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association took place at Burton-on-Trent. The weather was ideal, and a large crowd of visitors made themselves heard on the bells of St. Paul's (10), St. Modwen's (8), Winhill (6), in all the usual standard methods and many surprise. The committee met in St. Paul's Institute at 3 p.m., and, after the usual routine business, discussed applications for grants from the Bell Repair Fund from Great Bowden (Leicester district) and Sharnford (Hinckley district), and, after receiving the local committee's report, a grant was duly authorised in each case.

New rules were discussed, and the proposals mentioned in the general committee's report were accepted and authorised to be laid before all the members at the general meeting.

A short service was held in St. Paul's Church, at which a large body of ringers attended, and a most inspiring address was given by the Rector of Seals (the Rev. H. E. Worthington, M.A., R.D.). A collection for the Bell Repair Fund amounted to £3 6s. 10d.

Tea was served at 5 p.m. in the St. Paul's Institute, and 150 or more members and friends sat down to an excellent meal.

The general meeting followed, at which the president (Ald. R. B. Chambers, B.A., J.P.) took the chair, supported by Mrs. Chambers, the Rev. H. E. Worthington, Mr. W. W. Worthington Mr. J. Griffin, Mr. W. Willson (treasurer), Mr. E. Morris (hon. secretary). The report and balance sheet, which gave great satisfaction, were duly carried.

The general officers were then elected, viz.: President, Ald. Chambers; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. Willson; hon. secretary, Mr. E. Morris.

New members elected included 29 ringing, five honorary and four life, whilst extreme satisfaction was felt that the president had got the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Southwell and his Grace the Duke of Rutland to consent to be patrons, in place of their deceased predecessors.

NEW RULES ADOPTED.

The towns selected for the next general meetings of the association were: June, Belper; September, Beeston; January, 1927, Loughborough; and next annual meeting, Derby. The suggested grants from Bell Repair Fund were ratified, and finally the president read over the suggested new rules, and these were agreed to, and it was resolved that they be printed and distributed to all members.

The usual votes of thanks to the local committee for the excellent arrangements made, and also to the respective Vicars for the use of the bells, were unanimously passed. Thus ended a most successful meeting.

The annual report stated that during the year 1925 144 peals, including four on handbells, had been rung, compared with 130 in 1924, 143 in 1923, and 149 in 1922. It was pleasing to note the continued variety of methods, the list coming under 28 divisions. Surprise peals were spread over several districts. 'During the year,' continued the report, 'many new and interesting compositions have been rung by the "Wednesday" teams from Burton and Derby. A new addition to our records is the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal, this having been rung by the same band who rang a peal of Leicester Surprise Royal the same afternoon—a record performance. We also scored the first peal of Stedman and Grandsire Caters rung "spliced," and we record our first of Cambridge Surprise Minor. In the "Surprise" methods, Cambridge is the favourite, and during the year we record the extent from 6 to 12 bells in this method, viz.: Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus. It is regretted to note the falling off of handbell peals, only four (all Stedman) having been rung. Chief among the conductors were: W. P. Whitehead (22), H. J. Poole (18), M. Swinfield (17), E. Morris (14).

The year 1925 has been one of continued progress from every point of view. It does not constitute a record—nor indeed can it be expected that the M.C.A. will each successive year exceed the previous best, for the simple reason that the harvest has already been gathered—but the balance sheet shows that we are still making a surplus over expenditure, and thereby putting by for the proverbial "rainy day," which may come sooner or later. It is interesting at this stage of our career to show how the funds of the association have grown during the past seven years, the chief credit for which must be accorded our honorary president for his untiring zeal. When the present officials took office there was in hand in round figures, about £30, with numerous accounts outstanding. In 1920, the balance was £80. In 1921 it had risen to £124, in 1922, £132, 1923, £170, 1924, £230, while at the present time a sum approaching £290 including investments.

LOCAL AUTONOMY NOT REQUIRED.

'With such a surplus, it is natural that members would ask—"to what purpose?" Suggestions have been made to divert some of the surplus capital to local funds, and though there is something to be said for this, it is patent that each district would in such case have to be prepared to carry on independently of the parent body. At present the great majority have shown that they do not wish it. Should that time arrive, it is obvious that there would be no need of the parent body. Local autonomy is simple in a county association. It is not so easy in an area covering four counties, unless dissolution

is intended. Our surplus has grown from the splendid support of honorary members, without whose help there would be a deficit. Nevertheless, since the amount of ringing members' annual subscriptions was increased 50 per cent, to cover post-war expenses, it seems but rational, that having regard to our financial position, they be reduced to pre-war standard. In the code of new rules to be submitted to the annual meeting on Easter Monday for confirmation, there are two which carry relief. They are: "That entrance fees be reduced to 2/6, with annual subscriptions at 1/- (ringing members only)"; also "that the train fares of all committees be paid to general meetings of the association." As these reductions will benefit every member, although depleting our income, your committee, in thanking their patrons and hon. members for their staunch support, of which we are proud, trust that the same will be continued in the future as in the past. The membership roll was 232 patrons and hon. members, and 823 ringing members, a total of 1,055.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT THANET.

The forty-seventh annual general meeting of the Kent County Association took place on Easter Monday, under most favourable weather conditions, at St. Lawrence, Thanet. The attendance was rather better than in recent years, but nothing like what it used to be in the days before the war, when the membership was smaller, but the railway authorities held out better inducement in the matter of cheap fares, and there were not so many other attractions, or rather distractions.

The proceedings were much the same as in previous years. A meeting of the Central Committee was held in the Church Vestry at 11.15 a.m., at which £5 was voted from the Belfry Repairs Fund towards the restoration of the bells at Harrietslam.

At the service which followed, the Association Form was used, the Vicar (the Rev. A. G. Wilcox) taking the prayers, and giving an appropriate address from the text, 2 Cor. vi. 1: 'Workers together with Him.' The lesson, Rom. xii., was read by Colonel Bamber, churchwarden. Mr. W. E. Pitman presided at the organ. Three hymns were sung—the Easter hymn, 'Unchanging God, Who Livest,' and 'Fight the good fight.' The collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to £2 6s. 2d.

The towers open for ringing were the same as those available in 1903, when a most enjoyable meeting was held at Margate on Whitsun Monday, a perfectly heavenly day, about the only really fine day for the whole of that dismally wet summer. St. Lawrence had only eight bells then, whereas now two trebles added make a fine peal of ten. St. Peter's (8), St. John's, Margate (8), Birchington (8), where there were only six in 1903, and Quex Park (12), give plenty of opportunity for members to 'have a pull.' But even so, it was rather disappointing to hear that some young ringers did not have a chance of trying their hand at any of the towers. Either there were too many at one tower at the same time, or not enough at another.

The dinner at the Ramsgate Commercial Hotel was at 1.30 p.m., by which time the members had managed to cover the half mile or so between the church and the hotel. The Mayor of Ramsgate (Alderman Coleman) presided, and was supported by the Vicar (the Rev. A. G. Wilcox), and churchwarden, Colonel Bamber, the hon. secretary (the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore), district secretaries, and members of the committee. The superior sex was represented by Mrs. Gatehouse, Mrs. Baker (Frittenden), Misses Chapman and Hardecastle (Balham), and Miss E. Chambers (Canterbury). Grace before and after meat was pronounced by the Vicar.

The toast of 'The King' was given by the Mayor, and was received in the usual fashion.—'The health of the Archbishop and Clergy' was proposed by Colonel Bamber, to which the Vicar responded.—'The health of the Mayor,' proposed by the Hon. Secretary, was received with acclamation.

The business meeting followed. The report and balance sheets showed the soundness of the association's position, both campanologically and financially. We are not afraid to hold large balances in our various funds, nor ashamed in the matter of ringing, though it could be wished that some bands gave more evidence of a desire to make progress.

The name of Lord Hardinge, of Penshurst, was added to the list of vice-presidents, and that of Mr. W. J. Beer (life member), of Gravesend, to the committee.

In the late afternoon a large number of members were attracted to Birchington where the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. Serres) had kindly provided tea for those who wrote accepting his invitation. He had expected only about thirty or forty, the usual number attending a district meeting, such as he had kindly entertained on more than one previous occasion. As it was, some of the party had to be sent to a local confectioner's, the Institute not being sufficiently large to take in all the company. No fitting opportunity occurred to propose a vote of thanks, but no doubt all would agree that the Vicar of Birchington and Mrs. Serres ought to be thanked twice over for the hospitality at the Institute and the 'overflow' tea at the confectioner's.

Thus a very pleasant termination was made to a thoroughly delightful day.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS, COVENTRY.

Mr. C. F. JOHNSTON'S REPLY TO CRITICS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Over 45 letters and articles have been published since June last on the above subject. As my firm has been entrusted with the work of recasting the bells and installing the new carillon machine to play Coventry's old airs, may I ask you to insert in your columns my comments on the correspondence which has taken place?

Obviously one could go on indefinitely—challenging criticism and replying to individuals. I have thought it better, however, to deal with the more important statements and theories that have appeared from week to week in your paper in connection with the Coventry bell scheme all in one letter, and to let it rest at that.

I have struggled for five years to restore St. Michael's bells as a ringing peal; and it was only after repeated and determined refusals of our many different schemes for this purpose that the retention of the peal as a chime as heretofore was decided upon finally.

Even after we had received the order, however, I set one of our best men to try and evolve a ringing scheme again, as my own attempts had failed. He, too, was unable to suggest anything acceptable. One or two plans for ringing which I submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee were not given anything but a brief hearing; in fact, were not considered seriously one way or the other by the members of this committee, for whom I had prepared drawings and a detailed description.

I then persuaded the authorities to call in Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A., one of our most brilliant architects, who would not have been afraid of a bold scheme, if there had been any reasonable chance of hanging the bells for ringing with success in the present tower. After a searching inspection he pronounced any proposal for ringing impracticable and dangerous.

In order, however, that the bells could be used as a ringing peal at any future date, the proportionate weights and dimensions of the recast bells are being arranged with a view to the remote chance of the heavy cost of a new tower, strong enough to withstand a ringing peal, being found ultimately.

There is no danger of ringing peals being supplanted by carillons. A carillon requires 23 bells at least, or 35 and more for preference; at Coventry, although the machine that will play on the bells automatically at set hours is known as a carillon machine, the bells will constitute a chime, being only 14 in number. The carillon industry is quite distinct from the ringing peal industry.

(July 17th, 1925).—Mr. E. A. Young says: 'In the opinion of the experts, both ancient and modern, these bells are amongst the finest in the country,' and quotes Shipway as having put Coventry bells on a par with St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich; York Minster, Painswick, Gloucester and Westbury. Westbury bells were recast recently, and York Minster bells are done, or being done, at the present moment for the same reasons as Coventry.

I have never yet condemned a bell that can be rectified without recasting, nor ever intend to; many instances of bells corrected satisfactorily, and with due regard to safety, can be quoted. The bells at Coventry have no claim to antiquity, seven of them having been recast as recently as 1774, and the other three more recently—all during one of the worst periods of British bell founding. There is, therefore, no question of vandalism.

I dispute entirely the statement that there is a howl with bells properly and carefully tuned on five-tone Simpson lines. This erroneous description results from a confusion in the minds of some ringers who have rung on bells tuned in this way in towers where there is no intervening room between ringers and bells, and where certain precautions to soften the sound have not been taken. This would apply to any bells. If there is a howl with bells at all, it is to be observed in bells with false harmonics, in which case hums and thirds—all out of tune in varying degrees in each bell—shriek and howl at the listener either in the belfry or on the stairs.

Scores and scores of ringing peals have been recast without the slightest suggestion at any time of replacement by a carillon. They have been recast because it is just as advisable to have tuneful and musical bells for ringing as for chime or carillon purposes. The harmonies in these old bells at Coventry vary widely in each bell throughout the peal, and it is obvious to anyone who has tested the bells accurately that they were tuned in the old-fashioned 'hit and miss' manner, and with no knowledge of harmonics or correct methods of tuning at all.

'Simpson-tuned' bells, though not noisier than 'the other kind,' are more resonant viz., their tone lasts for a greater period of time.

(W. E. Pittman, February 26th, 1926).—I hope all fair-minded people and ringers deeply interested in this matter will 'live' to attend the opening of the new chime (not carillon), and then give a fair and unbiased verdict on the result of the restoration.—Yours faithfully,

CYRIL F. JOHNSTON,

of Gillett and Johnston, Croydon.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE PEAL RECORD.

'FLU' ROBBED THE BAND OF A SPORTING CHANCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I trouble you for a little space to make a few remarks on the record attempt at Leeds? It is only fair to the rest of the band to say they never had a sporting chance. I do not suppose there was ever a long peal attempted with such a hopeless prospect. Twice before, the company was fixed up, and on both occasions well-known ringers fell with 'flu. A week before the peal, I had an attack, and was unable to move out of the house on the Sunday. None of my friends here expected me to attempt the peal, but, as all arrangements had been made, it was only fair to the band to make a start if possible. When we met at Quex Park on the Saturday we heard that another member of the company had also been a sufferer for a week; and, as one of the ringers remarked, the pair of us together would not make one ringer for a record. It certainly did not look very promising.

Actually the losing the peal was my fault, but it was a mistake which neither the company nor myself regret in the least. It may be unpleasant at the time, but on the other hand it may have saved us all a life-long regret. The other ringer whom the 'flu attacked belongs to a service where they are trained to stand until they drop, and we all believe he would have done so.

It may be interesting to 'Criticus' to know that the local people were more disappointed over the lost peal than anyone, and are all most keen on another attempt being made. One of the band remarked he would not mind the garden job, if there was any music when you put the spade in.—Yours,

A. H. PULLING.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSES CENTRAL COUNCIL TOPICS.

On Easter Monday, the Suffolk Guild held their annual meeting at Bury St. Edmunds. There was a service in the Cathedral, with a powerful sermon by the Rev. G. D. Castleden, Rector of Dennington. Speaking as a ringer himself, he showed how, through the new Easter life, they could make their work as ringers worth while, and part of their preparation for Heaven.

Afterwards the ringers, who, to the number of about fifty had assembled from all over the county, were entertained to tea by their president, Archdeacon Farmiloe, who afterwards presided over the meeting, supported by the Rev. Canon Goldsmith, and the Rev. G. D. Castleden, with the Rev. H. Drake (secretary).

It appeared that the accounts showed a balance in hand of over £12, even when the new certificates were paid for.

The report, presented by the committee, was adopted. This pointed out that the Guild could not function unless more district secretaries held regular meetings. It also referred to the deplorable destruction of the Coventry Cathedral bells; and a resolution was passed endorsing the efforts which the secretary had taken to try to save them, and thanking him for his action in the matter. The meeting was unanimous and enthusiastic on this matter.

The officers were then all re-elected, with the addition of Mr. Chas. Hy. Lomas, of Bury, to the committee.

The forthcoming meeting of the Central Council on Tuesday in Whitsun week was mentioned. This will bring delegates from all over England to Ipswich this year, and the arrangements made by the sub-committee were explained; and two of the subjects for decision by the Council were discussed. These were the proposed new names for certain ringing methods; and the suggestion that when a Rural Dean cannot examine the bell or bells of a church personally, he should always depute a skilled ringer to do so for him.

Both these proposals were quite in favour with the meeting, and the representatives were instructed to support them.

The usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

There was excellent ringing all day on the bells of the Cathedral and St. Mary's.

OLNEY RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred suddenly, at Emberton (Bucks) on Saturday, April 3rd, of Mr. Frederick William Booth, at the age of 48 years. For 26 years he had been a ringer at the Emberton Parish Church, and was for some years hon. secretary of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He had also fulfilled the duties of overseer of the parish, assistant overseer, parish constable, a member of the Olney and District Hospital Week Committee, Emberton Fishing Club Committee, and other offices.

At the funeral, on Wednesday afternoon, fellow bell ringers, Messrs. J. Lovell, E. S. Mynard, Ern. Mynard, Fred Mynard, acted as bearers. Other ringers were present from Olney, and after the service a muffled peal was rung; also on Sunday evening. The Rev. C. B. Hulton, himself a ringer, conducted the service. Deceased served in the Royal Engineers during the war.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

NEARING THE JUBILEE.

The annual meeting of the Norfolk Guild was held at Norwich on Easter Monday, when the bells of St. Peter Mancroft (12), St. John de Sepulchre (8) and St. Michael Coslany (8) were kindly placed at the disposal of the members. At 12.30 p.m. a shortened form of service was conducted by the president (the Dean of Norwich) in the Church of St. Peter Mancroft. The Vicar (Canon F. J. Meyrick) read the lesson, and gave the Blessing at the end of the service. An excellent address was given by the Dean, on the text: 'There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.' The organist of St. Peter Mancroft kindly presided at the organ, and the service was of a very bright and happy nature. At the conclusion of the service, a group photograph of the assembly was taken at the foot of the tower of St. Peter Mancroft.

Luncheon was served at Messrs. William Grix, Limited, Criterion Restaurant, the Dean of Norwich presiding. Supporting him were Canon F. J. Meyrick, the Rev. W. C. Pearson, the Rev. R. Bulstrode, Mr. C. E. Borrett, the hon. secretary (Mr. A. L. Coleman), and the following members of the committee: Messrs. W. B. Duncan, Denison Hayward, G. H. Cross, and representatives from all the Guild districts, with one exception. Last, but not least, there was the welcome presence of several brother members from Ipswich and Suffolk—a happy reminder of old times of the meeting together of Norfolk and Suffolk ringers. The total number present was 50.

The President proposed the toast of 'The King,' which was duly honoured.

The business meeting then took place. The president read the annual report for 1925, which showed a total membership of 786. Peals rung during the year 1925 numbered 61. A satisfactory feature of the report was the record of restoration and augmentations of rings of bells during the year, which had been more than usual.

The secretary and treasurer (Mr. A. L. Coleman) presented the balance sheet. He said the total income for the year, including a balance in hand of £4 5s. 10d., was £50 6s. 9d., the total expenditure was £46 13s., leaving a balance in hand of £3 13s. 9d., and that the reserve fund of the Guild was £178 9s. 6d.—On the motion of Canon F. J. Meyrick, seconded by Mr. C. E. Borrett, the report was adopted, and on the motion of Mr. Ben S. Thompson, seconded by Mr. C. E. Borrett, the balance sheet was adopted.

No change was made in the election of officers. The Dean of Norwich was re-elected president; Mr. Arthur L. Coleman secretary and treasurer; and Mr. G. P. Burton hon. auditor.

Mr. A. L. Coleman proposed, and Mr. C. E. Borrett seconded, the election of the following new members: Messrs. William Digby, William R. Catchpole, Henry John Richardson, Herbert Greenacre, Ernest A. Shipp, Arthur G. King, Herbert Hall, Percy Alfrey, Stanley W. Cooke, Frank V. Gant, Norman L. Dye; and they were duly elected.

It was resolved to hold the Whit Monday general meeting at Aylsham, and that on August Bank Holiday at Fakenham.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Charles S. Tuthill, tendering his resignation as district secretary of the Fakenham district. Mr. Coleman said that he had only received Mr. Tuthill's letter at the meeting, and had not received any nominations for the office.—It was resolved that the Fakenham district be requested to nominate a member for the office of district secretary, and forward such nomination for confirmation to the secretary (Mr. A. L. Coleman).

Votes of thanks were passed to Canon F. J. Meyrick for his kind permission for holding the service in St. Peter Mancroft Church and for the use of the bells, and also to the Rev. A. Henderson and the Rev. L. E. Waghorn for the use of their bells.

The President announced that at the next annual meeting, in April, 1927, they would be celebrating the Guild's jubilee, the Guild having been founded April 4th, 1877, and kindly invited the committee to meet at the Deanery in the near future to make special arrangements for celebrating that event.

The meeting then closed and the members adjourned to the belfries for more ringing. Touches during the day were rung in the standard methods of Triples, Major, Royal, Caters, and Cinques, the ringing being good, and well above the average. This concluded a most successful and enjoyable meeting—the best for several years past.

TO CYCLIST-RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It has been suggested in the columns of 'Cycling' that a peal be rung by members of the Cyclists' Touring Club. A tower has been obtained, and the attempt will be made on Saturday, May 8th. One more ringer is required to complete the band, and I should be grateful if any ringers who are interested, and are not already in the band, will communicate to me at 121, Stanard Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

—Yours, etc.,
FRED W. GOODFELLOW.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—(Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus', on the 29th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 20th; Southwark Cathedral on the 27th, all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

DEVON GUILD.—Special general meeting to be held in Exeter on Saturday, April 17th. Dedication of peal tablets in Cathedral belfry 2.15 p.m., doors closed 2.10 p.m. Meeting at Trade Hall, 8, Northernhay Place, 5 p.m. Tea 1/- each. Ringing at Cathedral and other Exeter towers. — T. Laver, Gen. Sec., 21, Cross Park, Heavitree, Exeter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. George's, Mossley, on Saturday, April 17th, as this is the most convenient date. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock, presided over by the Vicar. Trains from Manchester Exchange 1.52, 3.15, 4.10 p.m. Excursion fare 1/3 return. Will members make a special effort to be present?—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver St., Miles Platting, Manchester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. —A meeting will be held at Epping, St. John's (8 bells), on Saturday, April 17th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. A good attendance is requested.—E. Butler, Dis. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —The next branch meeting will be held at Padiham on Saturday, April 17th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—J. Watson, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual meeting of the Central Division will be held at Cuckfield on Saturday, April 17th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 (1s. per head). Business meeting to follow. Half rail fare (maximum 1s.).—A. D. Stone, 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at All Saints', Maidstone, on Saturday, April 17th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Divine service at 5 p.m. Tea at Palace Tea Rooms after service, to be followed by business meeting.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Einton, Maidstone.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Stafford on Saturday, April 17th. Bells available from 3. Service in church, with address by the Rev. I. O. Johnson, at 4.45. Tea (1s.) at 5.30.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.—The Lord Bishop of Hereford will (p.v.) dedicate the two new trebles at the official opening on Saturday afternoon, April 17th. All ringers will be most welcome, and special arrangements will be made for all ringers to have a pull. Complete bands, from Plain to Surprise methods, will be given every opportunity, so that the bells may be heard at their best during the afternoon and evening. There is exceptionally good train service from Shrewsbury and Wellington. Train leaves Coalbrookdale 8.15 Saturday evening. Midland bus runs to and from Wellington Saturday nights from Coalbrookdale 6.5, 8.45 and 10.55. Sun-

day service, from Wellington 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. From Coalbrookdale, 12.45, 4.25, 6.25, 8.25 and 9.47 p.m. All the above connect at Wellington for Shrewsbury. Lodgings can be booked at Coalbrookdale if arrangements are made in good time. G.W. trains leave Coalbrookdale for Wellington on week days 6.20, 7.20 and 9 a.m.—All ringers who propose visiting Coalbrookdale should write to William Saunders, Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM (Established 1672). — A meeting will be held at Cotgrave on Saturday, April 17th. Tea will be provided at 1s. each. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Mells on Saturday, April 17th. Evensong 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. It is particularly requested that ringers intending to be present should notify me, as the tea is to be given by the Rector of Mells.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton, Bath.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (8) available. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. The new certificate will be on view.—John W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Ordsall, Retford (five minutes' walk from L.N.E. Station), on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall.—H. Haigh, Hon. Sec., 103, Gateford Road, Worksop.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Martin's, Stamford, on Saturday, April 17th. The bells of All Saints' will be available for one hour during the afternoon. Will members wishing to attend please make their own arrangements for tea, as there are several restaurants?—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Warwick on Saturday, April 17th. A short service will take place at St. Mary's at 4.30, followed by tea at the Dale Temperance Hotel and general meeting. The following towers will be available for ringing during afternoon and evening: St. Mary's, Warwick (10), St. Nicholas' (8), All Saints', Emscote (8).—J. A. Fenton, Gen. Hon. Sec., 42, Bennett Street, Rugby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Essex Division. — A meeting will be held at Great Tey on Saturday, April 17th. Eight bells. A short service will be held at 4.30 p.m. and tea at 5 p.m., 1s. each.—R. W. Stannard, Hon. Sec., 12, Ireton Road, Colchester.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Braughing on April 17th, when the bells will be available during the afternoon and evening. Tea at the Brown Bear at 5.15. Business after. All members and ringing friends will be made welcome. — W. H. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., Little Munden.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Bushey, Saturday, April 17th. Bells open 3.30. Tea (1/3 each) 5.30, business meeting after. Oxhey Church open during the evening. Cheap trains from Euston and Broad Street.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Witley, on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and short business meeting after.—E. Raddon, Hon. Dist. Sec., Hillcrest, 15, Baillie Road, Guildford.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Framlingham on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. each. Business meeting at 5.30. A good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Hon. Sec., Framlingham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division.—The Bells of St. Mary's, Dunmow, will be dedicated by the Bishop of Colchester on Sunday, April 18th, at 3 p.m. All ringers are cordially invited to attend, and ringing will continue after the service for the respective companies. Will those intending to be present please let me know so as to arrange for light refreshments, also seats in church?—H. W. Smith, 11, The Causeway, Dunmow.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Silverton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available at 2.30. Service 4.45. Tea at 5.15, 1s. each. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, April 20th.—M. Hanson, Hon. Sec., 2, The Avenue, Tiverton, Devon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton Branch.—District meeting at Overseal, April 17th (not April 24th, as previously decided). Requests for tea—1/- per head—to be sent to Mr. J. Cotton, 50, Gresley Wood Road Church Gresley, Burton-on-Trent, as soon as possible. All ringers welcome.—R. H. Dove, Hon. Sec., 128, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Congresbury, on April 24th. Service 5 o'clock, tea and meeting after. Those requiring tea please notify by the 22nd inst. Bells (8) afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, Burnham-on-Sea.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — General Meeting.—The next meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church, on Saturday, 24th April. Ringing from 3 to 4.45 p.m. and 5.30 to 9 p.m. Business meeting 7.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Cliffe-at-Hoo on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Association service in church at 5, conducted by the Rector of Cliffe (the Rev. A. T. Wallis). Tea will be provided, at a charge, at the 'Six Belis' to those who notify me on or before first post Wednesday, April 21st. Half rail fares up to 2s. will be paid to members attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Poulton, on Saturday, April 24th (postponed from 17th). Bells ready 2.30, business meeting 6 p.m.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Shaw, near Newbury, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., at 1s. each. All ringers welcome. Intending visitors please notify Mr. F. Owen, 1, Love Lane, Donnington, by Tuesday, April 20th, for tea.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Branch Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 24th. Even-song in the Ringers' Chapel at the Cathedral at 3.30, with an address by the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln (President of the Guild). A collection will be made on behalf of the Cathedral Bells Memorial Fund. Ringing at St. Peter-at-Gowt's (6) at St. Botolph's (6) from 2.30 to 3, and from 7 to 9. Washingborough bells (8) will also be available in the evening from 6 to 9. Tea at the Co-operative Hall, Silver Street, at 4.15, at 1s. 9d. per head. Members requiring tea must send their names to their branch secretary on or before Tuesday, April 20th. Visitors to advise Mr. G. Chester, 16, Carline Rd., Lincoln.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—C. W. Franklin, Hon. Sec., 18, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Twywell on Saturday, April 24th. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Those requiring tea let me know by Tuesday, April 20th.—J. Nickerson, Branch Sec., Halford Street, Thrapston.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Western District will be held at Consett on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available after 2 p.m. A good company desired.—H. Tyson, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Denby on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready 3 o'clock. All ringers are welcome.—Chas. Draper, 25, Western Road, Derby.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Sprothorough on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (6) ready early. Tea only provided for those who notify me before the 21st. A good meeting is desired.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Beaconsfield on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Guild service at 5 p.m. Tea in the Old Rectory 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6.15 p.m. Names for tea should be sent in not later than Monday, April 19th.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec., 'Cambridge,' Wexham, Slough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Thomas's, Helmshore, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock. A good muster of members are expected to be present. Subscriptions are now due.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at Charlwood on Saturday, April 24th. Six bells. Tower open 3 p.m. Short service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m., at 1s. each. All ringers welcome.—H. F. Ewins, Hon. Sec., 27, Eversfield Rd., Reigate.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting of the Bristol Branch of the above association will be held at Henbury, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea and meeting in the Boys' School, to be followed by service in the church at 6 p.m. Please notify me by April 20th.—P. C. Williams, Branch Hon. Sec. (pro tem.), 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The opening of the recast bells at St. Laurence, Alton, is fixed for Saturday, May 1st. Service at 3.30. All ringers invited. Tea provided for all those who notify me not later than Wednesday, April 28th.—W. Perry, Hon. Sec., 35, Ackender Road, Alton, Hants.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Hendon, on Saturday, May 1st. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Short service at 5. Tea on usual terms at 5.30; please let me know all who require same.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E. 17.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley, on Saturday, May 1st. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., with address by the Vicar. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea will be supplied by the Vicar, only to those who notify me of their intention to attend before Tuesday, April 27th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Blockley on Saturday, May 1st. Service at 5 p.m. Tea provided. Will all those intending to be present please let me know by the Tuesday previous? Bells (8) will be available.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Great Hampton, Evesham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Chiswick on Saturday, May 1st. Ringing from 3. Will arrange tea for 5.30. Ringing finishes at 8. Acton bells available from 8.20 to 9.30. All ringers welcome.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W. 4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. George's, Bolton, on Saturday, May 8th. Bells available 3 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual festival will be held at Trowbridge on Saturday, May 8th. Service at the Parish Church at 12.30 p.m. (Preacher: Canon E. P. Knubley), followed by luncheon and business meeting in St. James' Hall. Members requiring lunch must notify the Hon. Sec. not later than May 4th. Incumbents of the following churches have kindly placed their bells at the disposal of the Guild:—Ring of ten, Trowbridge; rings of eight, Bradford-on-Avon (Holy Trinity and Christ Church), Melksham, Warminster and Westbury; rings of six, Holt, Hilperton, Keevil, North Bradley, Seend and Steeple Ashton.—T. Hervey Beams, Assistant Hon. Sec., Bradpole, Bridport.

YORKS ASSOCIATION AND LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting of the above two associations will be held at All Souls', Haley Hill, Halifax, on Saturday, May 15th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m., and the bells of the Parish Church (12) will be available from 2 p.m. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, and all applications for same must reach Mr. F. Salmons, 8, Salisbury Place, Akroydon, Halifax, not later than first post Tuesday, May 11th.—W. H. Shuker and P. J. Johnson, Joint Hon. Secs.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Next meeting will be held at Darlington, on Saturday, April 24th. Ringers are asked to meet at St. Cuthbert's; bells (8) available from 2 p.m. St. John's (8) and Holy Trinity (6) will also be available. Tea, at 5 p.m., will be provided for all those who notify me by April 22nd.—A. Hunter, Hon. Dist. Sec., 22, Dickenson Street, Darlington.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Cecil V. Ebberson has removed to Market Place, Snettisham, Norfolk. Will secretaries please note?

PUBLICATIONS.

'AMONG THE BELLS.' — THE RINGING CAREER OF LATE REV. F. E. ROBINSON, M.A., Vicar of Drayton, Berks, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Part I. to XX may be had singly at 6d. net. Unbound numbers I to XX complete, 8s. 6d. Or the whole work bound in cloth for 10s. 6d. net. From MRS. ROBINSON, Fair Home, Wokingham.

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SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

FRINDSBURY.—At the Parish Church (All Saints'), for evening service, on April 11th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes), in 43 mins.: R. Paine 1, W. S. Beaumont 2, E. A. G. Allen 3, S. Jarrett 4, W. Stockley 5, W. Evans 6, T. Beaumont 7, C. Winsor (conductor) 8.

HEADINGLEY, YORKS.—On Sunday, April 11th, at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, for evening service, 1,280 changes Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 47 mins.: W. Green 1, Miss O. L. Lumley 2, H. Stanley Robinson 3, Joseph Bennett 4, Sidney Sadler 5, Geo. Robinson 6, Henry Lindsay 7, Percy J. Johnson (conductor) 8. Rung in honour of Mr. H. Lindsay's wedding day.

BRAINTREE.—On Sunday, April 11th, for evensong, at the Parish Church, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: W. H. Hammond 1, H. E. Hammond 2, C. H. Howard 3, W. Arnold 4, F. Claydon 5, G. Wiffen 6, L. W. Wiffen 7, W. Keeble (conductor) 8.

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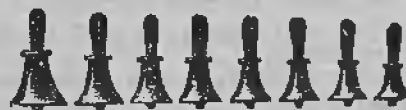
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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by The Rolls House, Publishing Co., Ltd. Brecon's Buildings, London, E.C.