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FRIDAY, APRIL 29th, 1927.

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THE CLERGY'S AID.

The annual report presented to the Hertford County Association by Mr. G. W. Cartmel, the hon. secretary, is always an interesting document, and contains much more than the dry bones of a past year's record. The report which he read to the members at St. Albans on Easter Monday contained food for thought, and was a contribution to the vexed question of maintaining the strength of bands of ringers. He suggests that probationers should be got from among the communicants of the Church. It would be well for the Exercise if this could always be done. Up to the present there are comparatively few churches where this is the sole recruiting ground, and probably the Exercise would not be as strong as it is to day had dependence been entirely placed upon this source for filling up the ranks. At the same time it unquestionably offers the ideal, even if, at present, it is not an entirely practical solution of existing difficulties.

There is a steady advance in the regard which not only the clergy, but churchfolk generally have for ringers, and the ranks of the Exercise are gradually being filled with a larger percentage of men and women who come into it from the desire to render a service to the Church as well as from an interest in bells. At the moment, however, it is probably the latter, rather than the former which is the greater inducement. In view of the changed conditions under which ringing is now carried on, the Exercise, we think, would benefit if the principle adopted were to make ringers out of Churchmen rather than Churchmen out of ringers. Not only would this remove any vestige that may remain of the old reproach that ringers do not attend church, but it would, or at least ought to, fill the belfries with a type of ringer who would regard his responsibilities from the highest standpoint, and bands would not suffer, as they do to-day, from the irregular attendance of the indifferent ones. The more ringers can be educated to realise that punctuality and regularity are the most essential of all qualifications, the better it will be for ringing in general. Mr. Cartmel's suggestion is the one best calculated to bring about the desired ends, but without a closer co-operation of the clergy this ideal is far off attainment.

There are many clergy keen and interested in their ringers, even if they are not ringers themselves, but there are a far greater number who display little or no concern in the belfry or the ringing of the bells. They are indifferent to how many bells are rung, or, indeed, whether they be 'rung' at all. They would be up in arms if the choir were late, or three parts of them were absent, and would probably make individual inquiry into the reason; but for the bells

(Continued on page 258.)

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—well, no matter. Here then, it seems to us, is largely the crux of the question. A greater number of the clergy must be brought to see the importance of the ringers' office, for it is to them we must look if bands of ringers are to be recruited from among the communicants. It is they who must show their churchfolk that the belfry, as well as the choir stalls, needs its full complement; that the bells as well as the organ have their part in connection with the services of the Church, and that the ringers' office is no less important or responsible than that of the choir. It is in the churches where the clergy are indifferent that slackness among ringers is most noticeable, and neither Churchmen nor outsiders can be expected to be brimming over with enthusiasm where no lead is given. If the clergy tackled the problem aright there would be little difficulty in recruiting communicants for the belfry, but until they do bands will have to be formed from any available source.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 34½ cwt.

ARTHUR J. NEALE Treble	WILLIAM J. NUDDS 7
GEORGE R. PYE 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 8
CHARLES T. COLES 3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN 9
HERBERT E. ADDSLEY 4	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD ... 10
*JOHN HOLMAN 5	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD 11
EDWIN F. PIKE 6	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

* First peal of Cambridge Maximus.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.
THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 16, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, LOWER THAMES STREET, CITY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 6025 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

ARTHUR J. NEALE Treble	ALBERT PRIOR 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	AMOS W. CLARK 7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 3	GEORGE A. CARD 8
WILLIAM H. THORBALD 4	JEFFERY R. GAMMON 9
ALBERT J. SKELT 5	*LESTER A. GRAY Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

* First peal on ten bells.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

ALFRED J. TURNER Treble	ARTHUR T. VERRELLS 6
ALBERT D. STONE 2	FRANK BENNETT 7
LOUIS ATTWATER 3	FRANK I. HAIRS 8
ALFRED KING 4	JOHN DEARLOVE 9
EDWARD C. MERRITT 5	KEITH HART Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by KEITH HART.

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WREXHAM, DENBIGHSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 6
*HARRY F. HOLDING 2	ALBERT J. HUGHES 7
*WILLIAM JONES... .. 3	*SAMUEL JONES, JUN... .. 8
*HAROLD EDWARDS 4	*JAMES SWINDLEY 9
*GEORGE R. JONES 5	*JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

* First peal of Bob Royal. Rung as a wedding peal for Miss Davies and Mr. J. W. Clarke, secretary of the Chester branch of the Guild, the band wishing them every happiness.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 28½ cwt.

JOHN H. SWINFELD Treble	ERNEST W. BEADSMORE ... 6
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	HENRY FLETCHER 7
MAURICE SWINFELD 3	E. HARRY STONELEY 8
JOSEPH BAILEY 4	ARTHUR BRAINES... .. 9
CHARLES DRAPER 5	GEORGE F. NEWMAN Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by M. SWINFELD.

First peal in the method on the bells. Mr. G. E. Large was elected a member previous to the peal.

EWERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH, SLEAFORD DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. in D.

*HERBERT S. HINKINS ... Treble	WALTER H. WOOD 6
F. SERGT. FRED A. HOLDEN 2	WILLIAM DICKENSON ... 7
ARTHUR MACKEARS 3	GEORGE SMITH 8
REGINALD SCOTT 4	ARTHUR DIXON 9
†HENRY SQUIRES... .. 5	*JACK WILSON Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by FRED A. HOLDEN

* First peal. † First peal on ten bells. It is worthy of note that it was the treble man's first touch on ten bells. Rung to commemorate St. George's Day, the patron saint of 'Merrie England.'

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR RECORD.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Ten Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A-BECKET,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 17824 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. in E.

ERNEST CUTSFORTH ... Treble	EDWARD JENKINS... .. 5
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 2	TITUS BARLOW 6
PETER LAFLIN 3	GABRIEL LINDOFF 7
JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW ... 4	ARTHUR E. PEGLAR Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

Umpire: MR. HARRY CHAPMAN.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN, CLAPHAM PARK, S.W.,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

THOMAS H. BENNEY ... Treble	ALBERT E. DARNELL 5
CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... 2	WILLIAM S. LANGDON... .. 6
*CHARLES J. CHOERT ... 3	JOSEPH S. HAWKINS 7
ERNEST BRETT 4	HERBERT LANGDON Tenor

Conducted by J. S. HAWKINS.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

*WILLIAM JENNER ... Treble	ALBERT HOEDEN 5
ROBERT T. LAMBERT... .. 2	FREDK. J. LAMBERT, JUN. ... 6
PHILIP S. THOMPSON... .. 3	REG. E. LAMBERT 7
HAROLD S. HOEDEN 4	ALBERT E. EDWARDS Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by A. E. EDWARDS.

* First peal of Major.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 14 cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	WILLIAM STANFORD 5
C. ERNEST SMITH 2	*ALFRED J. BULL 6
GEORGE ELLIS 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	JOHN COOK Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* 100th peal and first in the method.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED J. BULL ... Treble	WALTER CHARMAN 5
JOHN COOK 2	GEORGE ELLIS 6
PETER CHARMAN 3	WILLIAM STANFORD 7
*C. ERNEST SMITH 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS... .. Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal in the method.

TRURO, CORNWALL.

THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 33 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

*JOHN SEDGLEY ... Treble	CHARLES R. LILLEY 5
WILLIAM H. SOUTHEARD... 2	WILLIAM RICHARDS 6
JAMES E. LILLEY 3	JOSEPH WOODLEY... .. 7
PHILIP J. HITCHENS... .. 4	HAROLD BENNETT Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Triples. J. E. Lilley was elected a member previous to starting. Rung to celebrate the jubilee of the diocese.

KENWYN, TRURO, CORNWALL.

THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUBY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr.

*CHRISTOPHER THOMAS ... Treble	PETER A. HARFOOT 5
*WILLIAM WOOD... .. 2	ARTHUR S. ROBERTS 6
*JOHN WOOD 3	WILLIAM RICHARDS 7
CHARLES R. LILLEY... .. 4	JOSEPH WOODLEY Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal.

GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

Tenor 25 cwt.

HARRY F. HOLDING ... Treble	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. 5
ROBERT SPERRING 2	GEORGE R. JONES 6
ALBERT J. HUGHES 3	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 7
HAROLD EDWARDS 4	JAMES H. RIDING... .. Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

WIVELISCOMBE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 20 cwt.

PERCY MERSON Treble	DAVID G. TAYLOR 5
*EDGAR BARRINGTON 2	WILLIAM H. LLOYD 6
ALFRED J. WYATT 3	JAMES HUNT 7
*ARTHUR E. GREEDY 4	*ALFRED STONE Tenor

Conducted by JAMES HUNT.

* First peal on eight bells, and belong to the local band. Rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Merson. Sincere thanks are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Barrington for a most excellent tea provided after the peal.

LLANBADARN FAWR, CARDIGANSHIRE.

LLANFAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Padarn,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt. (approx.).

CYRIL MATTHEWS Treble	JOSEPH E. SYKES 5
JOHN W. JONES 2	ERNEST STITCH 6
CHARLES H. PERRY 3	ALBERT J. PITMAN 7
WALTER J. NERTON 4	JOHN WETHERSBY Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. PITMAN.

First peal on the bells since being rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank about five years ago. Ringers of 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th belong to Aberavon, Glam., J. W. Jones to Newport, Mon., C. H. Perry to Bridgend. J. E. Sykes is from Marsden, Yorks.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A TRANSPOSITION OF REV. E. B. JAMES' TEN-PART. Tenor 22 cwt.

JOHN ISON Treble	SAMUEL WHITE 5
GEORGE THOMPSON 2	PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM 6
*LANCE PERRIN 3	FRED COTTON 7
CHARLES PAYNE 4	BERT RIDGWAY Tenor

Conducted by F. COTTON.

* First peal.

ALMONDSBURY, GLOS.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in E flat.

STANLEY POOLE Treble	REV. R. H. WHITFORD 5
MRS. R. J. WILKINS 2	GEORGE E. CAPEWELL 6
STEPHEN H. WOOD 3	JOSEPH GOULD 7
*ERNEST PALMER 4	E. GEORGE TREW Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

* First peal of Major. This composition contains the extent of combinations of 4-5-6 in 5-6, and has the 6th 20 times wrong.

FINEDON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	*HARRY RICHARDSON 5
JOHN R. MAIN 2	HARRY PETTIT 6
*GEORGE CLAPHAM 3	GEORGE BASFORD 7
CHARLES R. BELTON 4	THOMAS ABBOTT Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Stedman. This peal was arranged for Mr. W. P. Whitehead, of Leicester, and Mr. C. R. Belton, of Barwell, who were elected members of the Guild before starting for the peal.

MALVERN LINK, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, April 19, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Matthias,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ROBERT G. KNOWLES ... Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD 5
WILLIAM NIBLETT 2	CHARLES CAMM 6
ERNEST E. BARBER 3	SIDNEY T. HOLT 7
WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 4	ALBERT RICHINGS Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(CHELTENHAM BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, April 20, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

ALEC. RUCK Treble	WALTER YEEND 5
HAROLD HALFORD 2	WILLIAM HALE 6
JOSEPH J. CAUSON 3	GEORGE H. WALTERS 7
WALTER ROSE 4	JOHN J. BALLINGER Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by GEORGE H. WALTERS.

First peal in the method by the ringers of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, and first peal as conductor.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 21, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Edmund,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 18 cwt.

ERNEST SIBLEY Treble	WILLIAM R. PARKER 5
*JAMES MARR 2	JOSEPH C. DEAN 6
TOM TEBBUTT 3	JACK DOVE 7
BERTIE O. SODEN 4	THOMAS H. WISE Tenor

Conducted by J. DOVE.

* First peal in the method. First peal as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the third.

STAINDROP, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 21, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

H. SHIPP Treble	R. H. SHIPP 5
J. W. SHIPP 2	T. SPENCER 6
L. BROWN 3	R. B. ROBINSON 7
T. ADDISON 4	T. SPENCER, JUN. Tenor

Conducted by R. B. ROBINSON.

First peal by all except 2nd and 7th ringers. Rung with 6 and 8 covering, as a compliment to the Vicar of Staindrop, the Rev. H. S. C. Spurrer, on the occasion of his marriage to Miss D. F. Fife.

BREWOOD, STAFFORD.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, April 21, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

ROBERT PICKERING ... Treble	ALBERT G. HUNT 5
GEORGE WARNER 2	*EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 6
HERBERT KNIGHT 3	JOHN PERRY 7
EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... 4	†THOMAS WHITEHOUSE ... Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

* 150th peal. † First peal. Rung on the 26th anniversary of the induction of Rev. Prebendary Dunkley as Vicar of Brewood, as a birthday compliment to Miss Mollie Perry on the attainment of her 21st birthday, and in honour of the wedding of the Rev. D. T. Sykes, M.A., Vicar of Dauston, Stafford, to Miss A. D. Dean, which happy event took place at St. Giles' Church, Willenhall, on the previous Tuesday.

DENHOLME, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 14½ cwt.

*CLIFFORD ELLISON Treble	ALBERT PICKLES 5
VERNEY BAIRSTOW 2	JOE GREENWOOD 6
† WILLIE PROCTOR 3	THOMAS SENIOR 7
ARTHUR BAIRSTOW 4	WILLIAM AMBLER Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE FLEMING Treble	GEORGE FINCH 5
GEORGE MEE 2	GEORGE ABLITT 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	GEORGE FARNISH 7
GEORGE BENNETT 4	GEORGE SYMONDS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by GEORGE SYMONDS.

Rung on St. George's Day. These eight Georges travelled 136 miles by road to accomplish this peal.

TODDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 22 cwt. in E.

CYRIL HERBERT Treble	ERNEST HERBERT 5
* EDMUND J. HOBBS 2	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 6
MISS EVELYN STEEL 3	WILLIAM STAPLETON 7
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 4	HORACE H. SMITH Tenor

Composed by A. E. THOMPSON. Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN.

* 100th peal on tower bells. Rung in honour of St. George's Day. First peal of Major on the bells. The last peal rung here was Stedman, on April 1st, 1907, conducted by Rev. F. E. Robinson.

LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(St. Mary's Society.)

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE WYCLIFFE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Day's Six-Part. Tenor 14½ cwt.

A. JOHN TIMSON Treble	FREDERICK G. HERBERT 5
ARCHIBALD J. ROSS 2	ERNEST W. TIPLER 6
* ARTHUR E. BARLOW 3	WALTER WILLIAMS 7
RICHARD J. JACKSON 4	FREDERICK PERRY Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST W. TIPLER.

* First peal and first attempt. First attempt for an entirely local peal. Rung to celebrate the silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. Williams and St. George's Day. The ringers wish to thank the Rector for the use of the bells and Mr. and Mrs. Williams for entertaining them to tea after the peal.

STONY STRATFORD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Parker's Twelve-Part. Tenor 12½ cwt.

PERCY AMOS Treble	ERNEST C. LAMBERT 5
HARRY SEAR 2	JAMES MARR 6
THOMAS WISE 3	HARRY PETTIT 7
ERNEST MORRIS 4	ARTHUR TOMPKINS Tenor

Transposed and Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

Rung to celebrate St. George's Day. Ringers of treble, 3rd and 6th hail from Northampton, 2nd from Blotchley, 5th local, 7th from Wellingborough, tenor from Finedon, the conductor from Leicester. The above is the 23rd county in which Mr. Morris has rung a peal.

KING'S LANGLEY, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr.

JOSEPH GRANEY Treble	ALFRED J. ROGERS 5
MISS ROSA S. COOK 2	ERNEST J. ROWE 6
* JOHN W. LANE 3	REGINALD S. COOK 7
ALBERT E. DOLLIMORE 4	JAMES HAYWARD Tenor

Conducted by R. S. Cook.

* First peal of Triples away from treble. All are members of King's Langley band and Sunday service ringers.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES HUNT Treble	* WILLIAM G. GIGG 5
* WILLIAM UNDERHILL 2	DAVID G. TAYLOR 6
ALFRED J. WYATT 3	PERCY MERSON 7
WILLIAM H. COLES 4	† STANLEY JARMAN Tenor

Conducted by PERCY MERSON.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal. Rung to commemorate the festival of our patron saint, St. George.

MYTHOLMROYD, YORKSHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 23, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM CARTER Treble	JAMES INGHAM 5
MISS ROSE A. BELL 2	THOMAS K. DRIVER 6
WALTER STAFF 3	WILLIAM H. MARSLAND 7
REV. ROBERT MARLE 4	WILLIAM HORAN Tenor

Composed by THOMAS B. WORSLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM HORAN

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

WIDFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 2, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 9 cwt.

A. WREN Treble	L. LADLEY 4
J. SUCKLING 2	T. W. COOK 5
MISS NELLIE CHITTY 3	A. REDDINGTON Tenor

Conducted by T. W. COOK.

Rung in honour of the birth of a son to the Rev. F. J. and Mrs. Hollis, the first child born at Widford Rectory for 90 years.

ERMINGTON, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, April 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 42 six-scores.

* LEWIS BAKER Treble	WILLIAM G. LAVERS 4
* FRANK PACKER 2	WILLIAM A. WONNACOTT 5
† BERTRAM WEBBER 3	ALFRED WONNACOTT Tenor

Conducted by W. A. WONNACOTT.

* First peal. † First peal with a bob bell. The ringer of the treble was elected a member of the Guild previous to starting.

THE LATE MR. W. H. DYSON.

At Sible Hedingham, Essex, on Thursday, April 21st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung with bells half-muffled in memory of the late Mr. W. H. Dyson, secretary of the Northern District of the Essex Association: E. Bareham 1, L. Wiseman (conductor) 2, F. Wiseman 3, H. Cooper 4, B. Pettitt 5, O. Broyd 6, C. Barker 7, W. Cross 8.

OLD BRAMPTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Morning Exercise, Tulip, Gladstone Delight, College Exercise, London Scholars' Pleasure and Sandal Exercise. Tenor 13½ cwt.

WALTER ALLWOOD Treble	ARTHUR PANTHER 4
HERBERT CHAMBERLIN 2	ROBERT J. RICKETTS 5
ARTHUR GILL 3	ALBERT NASH Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT NASH.

First peal on the bells, which were augmented to six by Taylor and Co. three years ago. They are a nice ring but noisy. Rung on the 13th anniversary of H. Chamberlin's wedding.

LLANGYNWYD MAESTEG.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Easter Monday, April 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CYMWYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

* DAVID G. WILLIAMS Treble	GWYN LEWIS 4
WALLACE DOBBINS 2	GEORGE LEWIS 5
JOHN T. WILLIAMS 3	GWYNFRYD N. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN T. WILLIAMS.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. This is the first peal rung on these bells. The band wish to thank the Vicar and curate for the use of the bells, which were first rung in the year 1730, and are still going well.

HEADINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD CITY AND DISTRICT BRANCH, OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, April 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

in the Kent and Oxford Variations.

WILLIAM FINCH Treble	FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 4
FRANK BECKITT 2	HARRY TOLLEY 5
CHARLES COLES 3	WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS ... Tenor

Conducted by W. H. B. WILKINS.

This is the first peal on the bells. Rung in honour of the silver wedding of Mr. F. Beckitt. After the peal, the band were kindly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Beckitt, to whom they extended their hearty congratulations.

KILMERSDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, April 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Double Court and two 720's each of Single Court, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 21 cwt.

FRED A. COWARD Treble	REGINALD F. BECK 4
ERIC WADMAN 2	RONALD G. BECK 5
WILLIAM C. SHUTE 3	JOSEPH T. DYKE Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

Rung on the fourth anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Coward.

DALLINGTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 19, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

With ten different callings.

KENNETH CATER Treble	GEORGE PARKER 3
ROWLAND ADAMS 2	THOMAS WISE 4
ISAAC BENNETT 3 Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WISE.

Rung after meeting short for Minor.

WEDDING BELLS.

At St. Mary's Church, Stafford, arrangements were made to attempt a peal of Bob Major on April 19th in honour of the wedding of the Rev. D. T. Sykes, Vicar of Dunston, but at the last moment one of the band was unavoidably held up. When the band was made up, time would only allow a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,376 changes), which was rung in 50 minutes: T. F. Hayle (first quarter of Major) 1, W. H. Jones 2, B. Garbutt 3, B. A. J. Yeates (first of Major with a bob bell) 4, R. J. Warrilow 5, J. Warrilow 6, A. H. Taylor 7, J. J. Taylor (conductor) 8.

STORY OF THE TRIUMPH AT HEPTONSTALL.

THE RECORD LENGTH OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

As briefly indicated in our last issue, and as now recorded in our peal column, the record length of Treble Bob Major was successfully brought round on the 'Taylor' octave of the Church of St. Thomas-a-Beckett, Heptonstall, on Easter Monday.

It was originally intended to attempt this peal at Whitworth, near Rochdale, but a visit there for a peal attempt some weeks previously convinced all concerned that it would be exceedingly risky to start for a long peal there, and Heptonstall was suggested as an alternative. Application was made, and brought a reply from Mr. L. Greenwood, the secretary of the local band, that the Vicar was rather staggered at the thought of eleven hours' ringing and the strain upon the bells. He (the Vicar) deemed it a matter for the Church Council. Their consent was, however, in due course obtained, influenced, probably, by the presence on the Council of some of the local band. Further correspondence took place on various matters, the chief anxiety being ropes. Messrs. Taylor and Co. were asked if they would lend a set of ropes. While they could not see their way clear to do this, they offered to repair the local ropes. Time was getting short, and Mr. Harry Chapman and the conductor (Mr. E. Jenkins) paid a visit to Heptonstall, which convinced them that the local ropes were useless for such a long job. However, Messrs. Sam Wood and Ben Thorp stepped into the breach. St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, were 'on the dole,' and they could have the ropes from the tower, so that was settled.

The next step was the band. Sam Wood (the hero of many long peals) had notified some weeks previously that he could not stand in. A long and serious illness had left him quite unfit for such a task, while Mr. H. Chapman was also out of action owing to a bad knee, which had been 'out of course' for some weeks. However, eight good men and true were willing to say 'aye' to eleven hours, and all seemed well. Six days before the attempt, word came through Mr. J. E. Bibby was ill with that popular malady, 'flu.' Most peculiar, how it tackles long pealers. 'Shades of Leeds!' However, Joe was willing to stand in, and once more all was O.K.

Manchester was the meeting place on Easter Sunday evening for five of the band, and Pendleton the venue for service ringing. The 7.40 express from Victoria Station was required to make third's and up to Hebden Bridge, stopping at Rochdale to take on board the three of the 'Wanderers' Association, and the record of Oxford at Debenham in 1892 was recalled by the presence of Mr. P. Laffin, a native of that place, and Mr. G. Lindoff, an original member of the band that made an attempt for the 16,608 at Leiston. The past was resurrected, and tales of Suffolk and its many fine ringers brought the party to their destination, all too soon for the raconteurs. The visitors were met by Messrs. L. Greenwood and F. Robertshaw, not forgetting the dog. The two miles' walk up hill was successfully negotiated, though Arthur said he had come for a long peal, and that nothing had been said about a long climb. A brief chat with the local men and then to headquarters. Supper was prolonged by an interesting argument between he of Debenham and the figure wizard. 'When did a course-end become a course-head?' Perhaps they will settle it at their next meeting.

'Up with the lark' was the order, and right well was it obeyed, all doing justice to a real Yorkshire breakfast. At 7.30, the ringers were at the church waiting for a short service to finish, and then the tower bells were raised and ropes adjusted, including the careful fixing of the sleeve-valves of 7 and 8. At this juncture, the Vicar put in an appearance. A brief service was held, a hearty handshake and cordial wishes for a successful attempt were expressed. Further minor preparations were made, Arthur fishing out a pair of slippers for personal comfort. These are not the pair of 'Brum' fame; unfortunately, one was lost on that historic occasion—too many ones, perhaps. Peter also sported a pair of slippers, but they were terribly overlapped. At last, all were ready, and the bells were sent on their long journey at 8.21.

Perfect timing was noticeable right from the first lead, the tenors being rung (as W. H. B. once remarked) like a pair of handbells. The same perfect heat was observed all day. Only once were the band disturbed. The big 'un's rope stuck fast, but the next upward swing of the bell jerked it free. Arthur gave it a pull which would surely have broken Grandison's stay, but it put the bell in its correct place, and all breathed freely again.

And so to the end, when that ever-welcome cry extended by the conductor to 'That is all you'll get to-day.'

Some of the band were very shy of the crowd outside waiting to shake them by the hand. Perhaps it was the presence of famous lady ringers. Who knows? The umpire's verdict was exceedingly good: 'The finest peal I have ever listened to.' Cups of tea were provided most thoughtfully by Mrs. Robertshaw, and the ringers thought of her as a most wonderful woman to anticipate their wants so understandingly.

The band are under a great debt of gratitude of Messrs. L. Greenwood and F. Robertshaw and other members of the local band, who worked like Trojans, overhauling the bells and doing everything that was possible. Appreciation is also due to Mr. Harry Chapman, who helped tremendously with advice and acts, born of long experience of men and matters. Indeed it was most gratifying to find in this so-called modern time men who, at the critical moment, can rise to the occasion just as did their fathers and forefathers before them.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT DERRY.**

In a few sentences the annual meeting of the above can be described: 'A glorious day, beautiful weather, splendid ringing arrangements, a divine service with an inspiring sermon, a successful meeting, and a delightful concert to wind up.'

Commencing early in the day, the bells of St. Andrew's (ten), St. Peter's (eight), St. Luke's (eight), and St. Alkmund's (eight) were kept going to all sorts of methods to suit the beginners and the accomplished ringers, and visitors arrived from all parts of the association's activities, including Burton, Chesterfield, Hinckley, Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham and the local branch, and friends from Birmingham, Coventry, Sheffield and other places. A committee meeting was held at 3 p.m. in All Saints' Schools, presided over by the president, at which 25 committee men attended.

Service at 4 p.m. took place in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Canon Ham), and the Rev. H. Boorman (Vicar of St. Luke's) gave a most inspiring address. A collection for the bell repair fund amounted to £2 9s. 6d. An excellent meat tea was served in All Saints' Schools, to which about 120 sat down.

The general meeting immediately followed, presided over by the president (Alderman R. B. Chambers, B.A., J.P.), supported by Mrs. Chambers, the Rev. Canon Ham, the Rev. H. Boorman, Rev. H. E. Worthington, Mr. J. Griffin, the hon. secretary (Mr. E. Morris), and hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Willson).

The president referred to the activities of the association during 1926, especially to the work done by grants from the bell repair fund. The peals rung included several historic ones, and he especially noted the one conducted by the hon. secretary at the private church of Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold, since which the earl had become a patron of the association. The president also referred to the work of the hon. secretary and seven district secretaries, and stated that the general committee had recommended honorariums to each of £10 and £2 respectively, now that the funds were in such a sound condition. This was ratified by the meeting.

New members elected since the last quarterly meeting, viz., 8 ordinary, 1 life, and 3 honorary, were duly confirmed.

The report and balance sheet was passed on the proposition of Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. C. H. Webb.—Mr. W. E. White, of Cotgrave, spoke as to certain phrases in the report, and after a lengthy discussion, in which the president, Mr. Coppock and Mr. Willson spoke, an amicable agreement was eventually reached.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Alderman R. B. Chambers, J.P.; hon. secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris; hon. treasurer, Mr. William Willson.

Four delegates for the Central Council were needed for the ensuing three years, and five were nominated. Mr. Coppock withdrew his candidature, and the following were then duly elected: Alderman Chambers, Mr. Pryce Taylor, Mr. William Willson, and Mr. F. W. Bailey.

The towers suggested for next meetings by the committee were ratified, viz., June, Earl Shilton; September, North Wingfield; January, 1928, Market Harborough; and next annual meeting, Nottingham.

The President read a letter from Miss Heywood (sister of the late Sir A. P. Heywood), in which she appealed for a memorial bell to be given to a new church at Pendleton, Manchester. It was suggested that a personal appeal be drafted and issued to all towers, and not to draw on the bell repair fund.

Votes of thanks to the local clergy for the use of bells, the local committee for arrangements, and the ladies for catering, were duly passed. After more tower-bell ringing, a smoking concert was held in the King's Cafe, and, in the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. J. F. Smallwood took the chair, piloting an excellent programme of handbell selections and other items along to the keen approval of all present. The Littleover handbell band (under Mr. E. E. Bradley, an hon. member) gave splendid selections, and during the evening courses of Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples were brought round. Vocal solos and duets were contributed by Miss F. Poyser, Mrs. J. Mellor, Mr. B. Staines and Mr. J. Dunning. Several of the songs were appropriate in that they referred to ringers or bells. Thus ended a most enjoyable and successful day, due entirely to the untiring efforts of the president, who spent much time and energy in making arrangements with the local committee and other individuals, to ensure a real good day's round of activities.

A number of 1925 reports may still be obtained from the general honorary secretary, and the new 1926 reports are now ready.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

The 20th annual meeting was held in Birmingham on April 23rd, at Bishop Ryder's. About 25 members attended, and, after ringing at Bishop Ryder's Church, tea was partaken of in the schoolroom, the arrangements having been kindly made by Mrs. James George.

At the meeting that followed, Mr. H. Argyle, in the absence of the president, took the chair. The officers of the Guild were all re-elected, with Mr. J. W. Pemberton in place of Mr. B. Wittchell, deceased.

Mr. H. Argyle and Mr. F. W. Perrens were elected to represent the Guild on the Central Council.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. George for the trouble he had gone to in arranging the meeting, and to Canon Badger for the use of the bells.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

After their record peal of Treble Bob at Heptonstall, on Easter Monday, all the band are fit and well, and already one hears rumours of another 'long 'un.' Shades of Loughborough and Appleton!

Members of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, will extend their sincere sympathy to Mr. A. Paddon Smith, the general secretary, whose homecoming from India has been sadly clouded by the death of his father, Mr. Sidney Smith, who passed away on April 19th. Mr. Smith, sen., who had himself been a ringer, was a familiar figure at the Johnson Commemoration Dinner every year.

In the Gloucester and Bristol dioceses there are over 200 peals of bells. Those known are 4 peals of 12, 9 peals of 10, 47 peals of 8, 112 peals of 6, and 27 peals of 5.

Truro Cathedral's fine bells were heard by wireless listeners on Sunday evening, when they were heard before a special broadcast service in connection with the jubilee of the re-created See.

The first peal of which there is any authentic record was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on May 2nd, 1715—a peal of Bob Triples.

One hundred and ten years ago next Thursday, a peal of 12,312 Grandsire Caters was rung at Painswick in 7 hrs. 44 mins. Snowdon's Grandsire recalls the interesting fact that of the men who rang in this peal all but one reached an advanced age. From treble to tenor, they lived to be 89, 95, 87, 78, 80, 84, 80, 71, 70 and 85 respectively.

The first peal in the county of Dorset was rung just forty years ago. This was Grandsire Triples at Bridport, on May 5th, 1887.

Copies of the group photograph, taken at Norwich on the occasion of the Norfolk Guild's Jubilee meeting, can be obtained from Mr. G. Swain, 27, St. Giles Street, Norwich. The price is 3s. 6d. mounted and 2s. 6d. unmounted.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies is, we are pleased to say, progressing well, and hopes to be out of the London Nursing Home, where he underwent an operation, in about a fortnight.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Members are reminded that, by arrangements made between the hon. secretary and the Railway Clearing House, railway tickets, at a single fare and a third for the return journey, will be available for representatives and their friends travelling to London in connection with the Whitsuntide meeting. Application for vouchers must be made early to the hon. secretary. Unless at least 200 in all avail themselves of this privilege, the facilities will not be extended to members in future years, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to bring the number up to this total.

LLANDAFF & MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Usk on Saturday, April 23rd. The attendance was very much larger than was expected, and, as the Vicar humorously put it, caused a hitch in the kitchen. The towers of both dioceses were well represented. The bells, a delightful new peal by Taylor and Co., were raised early in the afternoon and rung until 4.30, when service was held in the church, the Vicar (Rev. Edward Morgan) officiating. His address, one well out of the common, was much appreciated.

Tea followed in the schoolroom, and seating accommodation was found with difficulty. However, all went well, and a bountiful meal was enjoyed.

Then followed the business meeting, the Vicar presiding. Restorations were reported upon by the hon. secretary (Mr. J. W. Jones), who stated that a new treble bell had been placed by Messrs. Taylor and Co. to the existing ring of five at Penhow, which now had a very musical and good-going ring of six.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Penhow, which follows the Glamorgan meeting at Aberdare.

A large number of new members were elected, including the whole of the Usk ringers to the number of fourteen.

The usual vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness and hospitality brought the meeting to a close. A visit was then made to the Priory grounds and gardens, which had been kindly sanctioned by Mr. Rickards, and was much enjoyed. Ringing was afterwards indulged in until late in the evening, and the meeting proved a huge success.

(Concluded from next page.)

fortunate enough to be present. Words fail to express the jollity of the whole affair. Mr. Clifford Ball distinguished himself even more on the 'Golden Cross' piano than on Coventry's chime of fourteen, and Mr. Wilfred Kimberley never tired of singing beautiful songs in tones as sweet as those of the bells. Mr. Cyril F. Johnston and Mr. Harry Withers, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Ball, contributed some good, lively tunes on Mr. Johnston's 'drawing-room' carillon, and Mr. Elliot and Mr. T. Miller added to the evening's entertainment with songs. The thanks of those who were present are heartily extended to all who contributed to such an enjoyable evening, and to Mr. York, who so kindly placed the room at their disposal and attended to the cravings of the 'inner self.' 'The jolliest and most enjoyable ringers' social I have ever attended,' was the remark of more than one 'old hand,' and the thanks of all are due to Mr. F. W. Perrens, of Coventry, for the arrangements made for the visitors' pleasure.

DEDICATION OF COVENTRY CATHEDRAL BELLS.

RINGERS DELIGHTED WITH TONE OF THE NEW CHIME.

On Easter Eve, April 16th, the bells of Coventry Cathedral were dedicated by the Archdeacon of Warwick, the Ven. H. C. A. Back (late president of the Warwickshire Guild).

Bells were first hung at the Cathedral in 1429. In 1488, the Great Bell—called the Jesus bell—was hung. It is believed that there were six bells at that time. In 1607, the third and fourth bells were found to be cracked, and were recast. Sixty-seven years later, the six bells were recast into eight by Bagley, of Chacombe, Northants. In 1774, Pack and Chapman recast the eight bells into a peal of ten. Twenty-five years afterwards number six was recast by Mears, of London, and in 1805 the tenor was cracked, and recast by Bryan, of Hertford. The ten bells have now been recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, and four new ones added; but the weights of the ten recast bells are ringing weights, so that, in the event of Coventry's Cathedral ever having a tower which would stand a ringing peal, she has her ring of ten, while in the meantime many tunes can be played in two-part harmony on the chime of fourteen. The tenor bell weighs 34 cwt. (note D flat), and the total weight of the bells is approximately 8 tons.

The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:

No. 1.—'Ring out the old, ring in the new.'

No. 2.—'Ring out the false, ring in the true.'

No. 3.—'Although I am both light and small, I will be heard above you all. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 4.—'If you have a judicious ear, you'll own my voice is sweet and clear. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 5.—'Such wondrous power to Music's given, it elevates the Soul to Heaven. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 6.—'Whilst thus we join in cheerful sound, may love and loyalty abound. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 7.—'Ring in the valiant man and free.'

No. 8.—'To honour both of God and King our voices shall in consort ring. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 9.—'Musick is medicine to the mind. Thomas Mears of London Fecit 1799.'

No. 10.—'Ring in the Christ that is to be.'

No. 11.—'Ye ringers all that prize your health and happiness. Be sober merry wise and you'll the same possess. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 12.—'Ye people all who hear me ring, Be faithful to your God and King. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 13.—'In wedlock bands all ye who join with hands your hearts unite. So shall our tuneful tongues combine to laud the nuptial rite. Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1774.'

No. 14.—'I am and have been call'd the common bell, To ring when fire breaks out to tell. Stephen Corbet Act. C. Warden 1805. John Briant Hertford Fecit An. Dom. MDCCCV. Gloria Deo in Excelsis.'

(On each bell.—'Recast, or cast, by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1927.')

AN ELECTRIC 'CARILLONNEUR.'

The installation also includes the bellfounders' latest type of electro-pneumatic operating mechanism, combined with their standard paper band type of automatic tune-player. A simple starting switch has been added to the existing tower clock, and this can be set to put the machinery in motion at any hour of the day. A self-contained power plant, operated by a small electric motor, produces compressed air, and low voltage electric current, the compressed air for operating the pistons which pull the wires to the clappers, and the electric current for operating the air valves as dictated by the perforations in the endless paper band. Entirely automatic in its action, the machine starts, plays through a certain number of tunes, and stops itself; it plays its music crisply and accurately, and it is capable of performing much more rapid passages than was possible on the old type of hammer lifting and releasing machines. As the paper bands can be changed easily, a large repertoire of tunes is possible. In this case, to begin with, different tunes will be played daily for a fortnight, as follows: Sunday, (1) Easter Hymn, (2) Austria ('Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him'); Monday, (1) 'Home, sweet home,' (2) 'Men of Harlech'; Tuesday, (1) 'The Minstrel Boy,' (2) 'O rest in the Lord'; Wednesday, (1) 'The Heavens are telling,' (2) 'Oft in the stilly night'; Thursday, (1) 'Ye Banks and Braes,' (2) 'With Verdure Clad'; Friday, (1) The Passion Chorus ('Oh, Sacred Head, surrounded'), (2) 'Lead, kindly Light' (Lux benigna); Saturday, (1) 'The Last Rose of Summer,' (2) 'Abide with me.'

The existing clock used to chime the 'Ting Tang' quarters on the old bells. These have now been discarded, and the firm's standard electric clock now chimes the full Westminster quarters on four of the new bells. The mechanism for this is also motor operated, and the old-fashioned weights dispensed with. A sturdy worm-gear motor-driven unit, released by the old tower clock, raises and releases the outside hammer with power and precision, and when the blows are struck, stops itself until released for the next quarter-hour.

Although the Coventry Cathedral bells are only hung 'dead,' a large number of change ringers took the first opportunity of hearing their beautiful notes issue from one of the most magnificent steeples in the world. Among those present were Messrs. C. F. Johnston

(Croydon), A. Walker, H. Withers, P. O. Lafin, S. Grove and T. Miller (Birmingham), J. F. Smallwood and A. H. Ward (Derby), R. Pickering (Wolverhampton), together with many members of the Warwickshire Guild from Coventry and the surrounding districts.

The dedication ceremony was performed in the presence of a very large congregation, and the Archdeacon gave a most interesting address, in the course of which he pointed out that, owing to the Cathedral tower and spire not being designed to carry the weight of these heavy bells swinging in full peal, they would not be able to ring out in their fullest tone, in the grand, ever-varying succession of order known as change ringing. Was it, he asked, within the bounds of possibility that, after one generous donor had recast the bells, others combining together might come forward and build a tower, so that the bells might once more ring out in full peal in that old English style?

A CAMPANILE WANTED.

After the service, people congregated in little groups around the Cathedral to hear a selection of tunes ably rendered by Mr. Clifford Ball and Mr. Harry Withers, the latter also giving a few much-appreciated selections of change ringing. Everyone, ringers included, gave unstinted praise to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston for the beautiful peal



produced, and the more the ringers heard of them, the more they thought of what was often said about the old ten: 'How I should like to hear them peal.' The efforts of Mr. Cyril F. Johnston in his endeavours to get the bells hung for ringing have been much appreciated, but what a great pity it is that so large a percentage of the beauty of such a sweet-toned peal of bells should be lost, possibly for ever. Or will the Cathedral authorities strike while the iron is hot and make a start towards collecting funds for the erection of a campanile?

The ringers present were kindly entertained to tea in St. Mary's Hall, one of the oldest and most notable of Coventry's historic buildings. Colonel W. F. Wyley extended a hearty welcome to the ringers in the name of the churchwardens of the Cathedral, and Mr. J. F. Smallwood expressed thanks on behalf of the ringers. Mr. Hesian and his two assistants delighted the company with some tunes on the handbells, and a course of Stedman Cinques in hand was rung by F. E. Pervin, F. W. Perrins, P. O. Lafin, F. J. Smallwood, A. Walker and T. Miller.

In the evening, a party of about seventy ringers and their wives met in an upper room booked for the purpose at the 'Golden Cross,' and the social hours spent there will certainly be long remembered by those

(Continued on previous page.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SECRETARY'S SUGGESTION FOR PROBATIONERS.

'It would be well if all probationers admitted to our towers were selected only from active communicants of the Church—men and women who realised that in this was their offering.'

Mr. G. W. Cartmel, the hon. secretary of the Hertford County Association, made this suggestion at the annual meeting of the association, which was held at the Abbey Institute, St. Albans, on Easter Monday, when there was a very good attendance of ringers. The meeting was preceded by a service at St. Albans Abbey, and a tea at the Institute.

Enlarging upon his suggestion, Mr. Cartmel said: 'Where this is not carried out, the stability of the band is endangered. Its cohesion is only a matter of enthusiasm, which sometimes acts strangely. As you know, we live in days of rampant criticism, which is sometimes very cynical, and it is often those to whom religion has no charm who point the finger of scorn to ringers who habitually absent themselves from worship, after calling others by a beautiful touch. But the conductor's example is better than precept, if upon the lines of my suggestion.'

The Dean of St. Albans (the Very Rev. E. L. Henderson), who was unable, owing to a service, to remain throughout the meeting, said he was delighted to see the ringers again, as, for one thing, it was always said that when they came to St. Albans they brought fine weather with them (laughter). The ringers were doing very real work in the diocese, and he hoped they would continue. 'May your work be blessed, and may you be able to go on with it for a long time,' he added.

After Mr. Ben Jarman, the president of the association, who occupied the chair, had heartily welcomed all the ringers, the following new ringing members were elected: Mr. H. E. Austen (Bengeo), Mr. Edward Quick (St. Stephen's, St. Albans), Mr. F. Hawkins and Mr. F. W. Allaway (Stannore), Mr. Herbert Hocklesby (Redbourn), Mr. Colin Neale (St. Michael's, St. Albans), and Mr. G. Stanford and Mr. G. Lindsell (St. Albans Abbey).

Submitting his annual report, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. P. Debenham), who was received with applause, remarked that it appeared that St. Albans had taken the leading part during the year. Some of the other divisions might do a little more in the way of membership. At Easter last year, there was a credit balance of £13 3s. 2d., and this Easter the balance in hand was £13 15s. 7d. The total receipts for the twelve months, including the balance from last year, were £51 4s. 6d. The year's expenditure was £37 8s. 11d., of which £16 18s. 6d. was for printing and stationery. The reserve fund amounted to £19 18s., and the association also held £15 15s. 9d. in War Stock.—On the motion of Mr. Cartmel, seconded by Mr. H. E. C. Goodenough, the balance sheet was unanimously adopted, and Mr. Debenham warmly thanked for his services.

REPUTATION WELL SUSTAINED.

On rising to give his report, which is always a welcome feature of the proceedings, Mr. Cartmel was loudly applauded, and he proceeded to give a detailed account of the year's working. He mentioned that it was the forty-second year of the association and the twenty-fourth time he had given the report (cheers). Proceeding, Mr. Cartmel said:

'Our methods of procedure have not materially differed from preceding years. We have found that the work is best forwarded by means of the district meeting, supplemented, when possible, by a service and address, the latter reminding us that our work is not mere selfish pleasure, but is a real part of our service of praise and thanksgiving. May this ever be the ideal in view for every one of us.'

'The methods rung have been varied, and the reputation of the association was well sustained. Two peals, one of Original Triples and the other of New Gloucester Surprise Major, have been rung for the first time by any association, which is certainly a record. The peal of Original Triples is due to the enterprise of Mr. Maurice Hibbert, who each year endeavours to record something worthy of comment (applause). For the second peal we offer our congratulations to the Edmonton hand, and to the initiative of Mr. James Parker, who is still going strong, keeping pace with Anno Domini. Another feature has been the ringing of a peal of Superlative upon handbells by the Oxhey band (applause). A footnote to the peal in "The Ringing World" says "This is thought to be a unique performance, owing to the fact that it is the first peal of any kind by the ringer of 1-2. It is the first peal on handbells by the ringer of 3-4, and it is 17 years since the ringers of 5-6 and 7-8 rang a peal in the method on handbells." This peal has also added prestige to our association. During the year 27 peals have been rung on tower bells and one on handbells. The peal at Great Gaddesden was the first peal of Stedman Doubles by the whole band, and enabled Mr. C. W. Roberts to complete his ringing of peals from Stedman Doubles to Stedman Cinques. We congratulate also the Redbourn band, who joined our ranks last Easter, in four of their members ringing their first peal upon their own bells, probably the first local men to do so. We compliment also the Wiford band upon their successful peal.'

'We have to record the passing away of two of our oldest members, the Rev. Canon Papillon and Mr. Thomas Conley. To the older generation, Canon Papillon was well known, first as secretary of the Essex Association, and upon taking up residence in St. Albans he identified himself with us by becoming president of our association in 1914. Canon Martin Reed, who identified himself with us for many

years, has also been called to higher service. Mr. Thomas Conley, of St. Albans, was a well-known figure at our Easter festival. His connection with the St. Peter's Society for the long period of 75 years was certainly exceptional. Royston also mourn the loss of Mr. W. Day, who met his death through an accident.'

GIFTS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S LIBRARY.

'Mr. J. O. Mitchell, whom many of you remember as a gifted ringer of St. Albans some years ago, has very generously presented the association with his library of ringing books and papers, which comprise 11 bound volumes of "Bell News," reprint of "Tintinnologia," 1895, reprint edition "Records of Early Handbell Peals, 1811-1876," the same in tabular form, three volumes of Snowdon's works, "Duffield," by Heywood, "Change Ringing," by Troyte, together with various society rules and ringing papers. We are deeply sensible of the kindness of our member, and desire to express to him our warmest thanks and appreciation of his kind gift. Mr. J. T. Hull continues to act as librarian, and for his services we thank him. Twenty-three books have been borrowed during the year, and all have been returned in good order.'

'I am sure you will like me to express in your name our deep debt of gratitude to our district secretaries for all they have done. The biggest shares in the success of our association is due to them, and I am sure that in the coming year you will heartily respond in attending, when possible, the meetings and services they arrange.'

'The peal book is entered up to Easter, 1926, and the number of peals to the credit of the association at that date is 1,063. The peals are written beautifully in the book, and we offer our compliments to Mr. W. H. Phillips.'

'We acknowledge with gratitude the kind support we continue to receive from our honorary members (both clerical and lay), and the ready assistance given by the various incumbents of the county, who by their sympathetic welcome help to make the various meetings so congenial. We thank also our chartered accountant, Mr. W. Mercer, for his part in kindly auditing the accounts.'

'What has been the result of the year's work? First, it has been one of progression in the art of ringing. In my early days there was only one tower where Surprise methods were rung. To-day, we have bands in every division, with capable conductors, and the majority of peals rung are in the higher methods. We have also plenty of beginners coming into stride, to wit, Redbourn, Watford, Apsley End, Baldock, Bushey Heath, Benington, and other places. There is a growing enthusiasm for change ringing throughout the land, and bell founders have their hands full of work. The immense gathering of ringers at Croydon the other day at the invitation of Mr. Cyril Johnston reveals the fact that this enthusiasm is contagious. It means work for the association—the training of beginners.'

'May you all go back to your respective towers refreshed and encouraged by the fellowship we have enjoyed, determined that you will give of your very best to your calling, and by your devoted and unselfish life not only encourage the art of ringing in your bellfries, but the standard of Christian life in your band. Finally, I would express my thanks to all those who have helped me in any way to carry out my duties as your secretary' (applause).

The Rev. George Edmonds, of St. Albans, moving that the report should be adopted, said they had an excellent secretary in Mr. Cartmel, and he had presented a very fine report.

The report was unanimously adopted.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

For the presidency, Mr. Jarman proposed Mr. Frank Smith, of Bushey. Mr. Maurice Hibbert seconded, and Mr. Cartmel supported the nomination, which was carried with acclamation.—Mr. Smith then took the chair and expressed his thanks for his election. He remarked that he would endeavour to visit all the towers in the course of his year of office.

Mr. Debenham was reappointed treasurer, on the proposition of Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham, seconded by the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake.—Replying, Mr. Debenham asked district secretaries to let him have their returns as early as possible.

Proposing the re-election of Mr. Cartmel as secretary, the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake said: 'We ask him to continue to be the best secretary of the best ringers' association in the country.'—Mr. Debenham seconded, and Mr. Cartmel was re-elected amid applause. In the course of his reply, he said he enjoyed the work, as he thought it was a piece of service to his church and his fellow men.

The Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake and Mr. W. Ayre were elected representatives on the Central Council. Mr. J. T. Hull was reappointed librarian, Mr. W. Mercer was reappointed auditor, and district secretaries were appointed thus: Northern Mr. G. T. Croft, Eastern Mr. W. H. Lawrence, St. Albans Mr. W. Nash, Watford Mr. C. H. Horton, Western Mr. W. Ayre.

It was agreed that Redbourn should be taken out of the St. Albans District and transferred to the Western Division, the reason being the travelling facilities available.

The Dean of St. Albans and the Vicars of St. Peter's, St. Stephen's and St. Michael's were thanked for allowing the bells of their churches to be used by the ringers.—Thanks were also accorded to the Rev. Henry Edwards, Vicar of Watford, who gave an address at the Abbey in the afternoon, and the ladies who helped to serve the teas.

'The message of the bells' was the subject upon which the Rev. Henry Edwards based his inspiring address.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

RECORD NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED.

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at Poplar on Saturday, when members gathered from a large number of towers in the area. The attendance was rather below the average, about 65 ringers being present. The fine peal of ten at the Parish Church of All Saints have recently been completely restored by Messrs. Taylor and Co., and during the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and a course of Cambridge Surprise Royal were rung on them. An enjoyable service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. C. Mayne), who gave an address, in the course of which he welcomed the association. It was a particularly happy coincidence, he said, that they should be there to ring the bells on that day, which was St. George's Day, and the anniversary of the birth and death of William Shakespeare. Having referred to the need of unity in our national and industrial life, he concluded by referring to the fact that the bells at that church were now restored, and expressing gratitude to the Middlesex Association for the help they were giving to set the local band on its feet again.

The business meeting was held after tea. The chair was taken by the president (Mr. F. A. Milne, J.P.), who was supported by the joint hon. secretaries (Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. W. H. Hollier).

THE REPORT.

In the report for the year 1926, it was stated: The most satisfactory result of the work of the association during the past year is the enrolment of an almost record number of new members, no less than 113 having joined our ranks during that period. Of these, a considerable number represent additions to the bands at several of our towers, a result which we are glad to think is in some measure due to the appeal in our last report. Three new towers have been affiliated to the association during the year, viz.: St. Mark's, Dalston, and St. John-the-Baptist's, Pinner, in the North and East district; and St. Martin's, Ruislip, in the South and West district. Instruction is being given at each of these towers; and we hope that the enthusiasm at present manifested will be maintained, and that the bands at these towers will become a credit to the association. New bands have also been formed at Christ Church, Ealing, and Harrow Weald, at the latter tower under the able guidance of Mr. G. R. Goodship, and good progress is being made. At St. John's, Hillingdon, Twickenham, and Hadley, there have also been good increases in the bands. To counter-balance these gains, we have to regret the loss of the St. James', Clorkenwell, band, which, owing to the very bad condition of the bells, has broken up. We have also to regret that the Feltham band has dropped away, owing to lack of enthusiasm, but in this case we hope that something may be done to re-form a once promising local society. There are a few other towers where the ringers may, with advantage to themselves and the association, make an endeavour to augment their ranks, and we would again urge upon our members the need of being continually on the lookout for young people in whom to instil an interest in our art. New members elected in the North and East district numbered 71, including two honorary members; whilst 42 were elected in the South and West district. After allowing for losses by deaths, resignations, etc., we finish the year with the highest total in the history of the association, viz., 826.

The report referred to the loss by death of Mr. Charles Parker and Mr. George Stevens (Northaw), Mr. I. G. Shade (who rang in 661 peals for the association), and Mr. W. Lawrence (Ealing), and went on to say: So far as the peals rung during the year are concerned, the total shows a slight decrease as compared with 1925. In all, 57 peals were accomplished, and, with the exception of one on handbells, these were rung in 30 different towers. The members taking part in the peals numbered 160, while 20 shared in the conducting. Three members rang their first peals, and 60 their first peals in a new method. The Southgate Society are to be congratulated on ringing the first peal of Cambridge Royal for the association by an entirely local band on April 17th, whilst a peal in three Cater methods was rung for the first time at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on December 11th, conducted by one of the joint honorary secretaries. Two other peals are worthy of special notice. Eight policemen rang a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on October 16th, this being the first peal in the method by members of the police force; whilst a peal of Bob Major, which was rung at Acton on December 9th, was accomplished by a band composed entirely of officers of the South and West district. This is the first time an 'officers' peal' has been rung by the association, and it is interesting to note that the whole of the officers of that district took part in the peal.

After referring to the various bell restorations carried out during the year, the report adds that it is sincerely hoped that the Isleworth bells will be augmented to ten during 1927. The fund which is being raised for this purpose now amounts to £116, but a considerable further sum is needed before the work can be started. The report concludes: The increasing number of our members who have so ably assisted us during the year by acting as voluntary instructors deserve our grateful thanks, as also do our honorary secretaries. We can best show our appreciation of the work done by the latter by a more frequent attendance at meetings. A well-attended meeting is a joy to the man who has taken pains to arrange it; a poorly-attended meeting is, on the other hand, a great disappointment to him. Let us all resolve to bear this in mind. The President moved the adoption of the report, and called atten-

tion to the fact that they had enrolled no fewer than 113 new members during the past year (applause). The total number was now 826, which was, he believed, a larger number than they had ever mustered in any former year. There was, however, still urgent need to secure new members in order to maintain the art. They all lamented the loss of their old friend, Mr. Isaac Shade, who was a member of their association for 28 years. They had to congratulate some of their lady members upon their performances, including Miss Hawksworth on her first peal of Double Norwich, Miss Phyllis Moss on her first of Stedman Caters, Miss Chapman on her first of Cambridge Royal, and Mrs. Hairs upon ringing a peal of Middlesex Surprise Royal. They particularly congratulated the Southgate band on ringing a peal of Cambridge Royal with their own band, and also the Master of their association, Mr. Pye, on having passed his 1,500th peal.—The report was seconded by Mr. Hollier and adopted.

A REDUCED INCOME.

Mr. C. T. Coles moved the adoption of the balance sheet, which showed that the Central Fund, which started with a balance in hand of £27 3s. 9d., received £22 12s. 8d. The expenditure had been £24 3s. 3d., leaving £25 13s. 2d. in hand. Mr. Coles pointed out that there had thus been a small loss on the year of £1 10s. 7d., but they had to bear in mind that the payments from the districts were now only 60 per cent. instead of 70 per cent., and that they had contributed £2 2s. to the Ladies' Guild towards the board recording their peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes'. When recommending last year that the proportion to the Central Fund should be reduced from 70 to 60 per cent., the committee estimated that they would just cover their expenses, and, without the special donation they had made, this would have been the case.—The balance sheet was adopted.

The whole of the Poplar band, with the Rector as an hon. member, were elected and the tower formally affiliated to the association. Mr. Coles pointed out that at one time Cubitt Town, St. George's-in-the-East and Poplar formed a little district of the association in East London, and he hoped that now Poplar, with its restored bells, had again become affiliated, they would remain for many years and become an important and successful part of the association. He appealed to any members who could do so to assist the Poplar band on their practice night.—Mr. B. H. Swinson, St. Albans, was elected a life member.

Mr. Milne was re-elected as president, and nominated Mr. C. S. Bird (South and West District) and Mr. W. Pickworth (North and East District) as vice-presidents.

Mr. William Pye was re-elected Master, Mr. Milne hon. treasurer, and Messrs. C. T. Coles and W. H. Hollier joint hon. secretaries, with grateful thanks for their past services.

The auditors, Messrs. J. E. Miller and W. Pickworth, were also re-elected and thanked, and the following were re-elected representatives of the association on the Central Council: Messrs. F. A. Milne, C. T. Coles, W. H. Hollier and R. Holloway.

It was resolved to allow the peal books to remain in the custody of the Acton tower for the ensuing year, the volumes of 'Bell News,' which formerly belonged to the late Mr. King and were left to the association by the will of the late Mr. Bertram Prewett, being placed also in this tower, with the peal books.

St. Mary's, Ealing, was selected for the next annual meeting.

Mr. C. T. Coles said he had received a letter from his brother, Mr. A. W. Coles, who was now in the London Hospital, where he had undergone a serious operation, asking to be remembered to his friends, and wishing them a successful meeting. He (Mr. C. T. Coles) was pleased to say the operation had been most successful, and his brother hoped to leave the hospital within a week.—The President asked the secretary, on behalf of the meeting, to convey their thanks to Mr. A. W. Coles for his good wishes, and to tell him how pleased they were to hear that he was so much better (applause).

MAJOR METHOD COLLECTION.

Mr. J. A. Trollope called attention to the recent publication by the Central Council of the Collection of Plain Major Methods. They were, he said, a method-ringing association, and their members would find this collection an interesting one. A great amount of work had been put into it, and even if they did not ring all the methods, the book was well worth their study. It was a good book for those who did not want to continue in a rut.—Mr. C. T. Coles supported Mr. Trollope's appeal, and pointed out that judging from experience many of the methods were interesting but not difficult to ring. Some of the methods had been rung to peals at Willesden, three of them at the first attempt and without previous practice. Many of the methods could be rung without Surprise knowledge, and those who had got to the Treble Bob or Double Norwich stage would find them a useful step towards something higher.

Mr. W. H. Hewett suggested that the association should arrange a twelve-bell practice occasionally, and after discussion it was decided to approach the Royal Cumberland Youths with a view to obtaining a practice at Shoreditch.

Mr. E. Barnett, sen., who was among those present, was congratulated on his recovery after a serious operation and pleasure expressed at seeing him again among the members. Pleasure was also expressed that Mr. T. Beadle, of Isleworth, who is in his 77th year, was now able, after his long illness, to do a little ringing again.

(Continued on next page.)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR RESTORATION OF CATHEDRAL BELLS.

In glorious weather the Worcestershire and Districts Association held their annual meeting at Worcester on Easter Monday. At an early hour in the morning bell music was floating over the city from most of the churches, and some good ringing was done in various methods from Doubles up to Bristol Surprise, whilst Cambridge Royal was successfully managed at St. Helen's. As usual, the ringing at the Cathedral was not of a very high order, as it is practically impossible to strike these bells well.

The business meeting took place in the afternoon in the Chapter House, the Dean, the Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, presiding, supported by the Master (Mr. J. D. Johnson), Archdeacon Peile, Rev. J. F. Hastings, and Mr. J. R. Newman, hon. secretary. A notable absentee was Mr. A. E. Parsons, who is slowly recovering from a serious illness. The president and members joined in good wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.

Most of the matters dealt with were of the usual routine character. The report and balance sheet were adopted.

The annual peal was left in the hands of the Ringing Master to arrange, and Worcester was again chosen for the next annual meeting.

The Central Council representatives elected were Messrs. T. J. Salter, R. G. Knowles and C. A. Binyon, whilst Messrs. Knowles, Matthews and Thomas were added to the lay vice-presidents, Archdeacon Peile filling a vacancy in the clerical vice-presidents. All the other officers were again re-elected.

A matter of great interest to the members was mentioned by the Dean, who stated that the Cathedral bells had been inspected with a view to having them put into good going order. A discussion then followed, and various suggestions were put forward as to what was best to be done to secure a satisfactory job, the general trend of opinion following the secretary's (Mr. J. R. Newman's) suggestion, that the bells should be taken out and recast into a lighter peal with a tenor of about 35 cwt., thus effecting a big saving in metal and a gain in efficiency; also that the frame should be overhauled and lowered. Mr. Newman assured the Dean that all the remarks by members were made in the spirit of helpfulness, it being the wish of everyone that their Cathedral should possess a peal that was second to none.

The Dean thanked the members for their suggestions, and remarked that it was apparent that more required to be done than had been anticipated. He, however, would carry the matter forward for examination, as they would like to feel that when they did proceed they were on the right lines.

The Rev. J. F. Hastings moved a vote of thanks to the Dean for presiding, and this closed the business.

After grouping for the camera, service in the Cathedral was well attended, part of the association service with an address by the Dean being combined with the evening service. The collection was in aid of the bell fund.

Tea, at which over 100 members and friends sat down, concluded a very satisfactory meeting, and members then commenced to scatter, some homewards and others for more ringing. J. P.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Concluded from previous page.)

On the motion of the President, thanks were expressed to the Rector of Poplar for the use of the bells and for his address, and to the Rev. I. Hardy (Cubitt Town), and the Rev. M. Davidson (Holy Trinity, Barking Road) for the use of the bells at their respective towers.

This concluded the business, and many of the members wended their way to Cubitt Town and Barking Road for further ringing. At the former church, during the afternoon and evening, Bristol and Cambridge Surprise, Bob Major and Double Norwich and Stedman Triples were rung, and, at the latter, Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Cambridge Minor and Spliced London and Wells Surprise.

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LADIES' GUILD.

NORTHERN DISTRICT'S SPLENDID MEETING.

A glorious day, and apparently unlimited kindness from the people in Gainsborough, rewarded those who had braved the difficulties of Bank Holiday travelling to attend the quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Ladies' Guild held at this town on Easter Monday. Over 70 members and friends were present from the surrounding district and from Rotherham, Bradford, Sheffield, Peterborough, Dore, Duffield, Newark, Worksop, etc.

The fine peal of eight at the Parish Church and the six at Lea were available from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. A service was held in the beautifully decorated Parish Church at four o'clock, when the Vicar, Canon Morris, gave a short address.

A delicious tea awaited those present in a neighbouring room presided over by Mr. F. F. Linley (treasurer of the Lincoln Guild) and his wife, and to which the lady ringers were most generously entertained by the local band.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mrs. Rupert Richardson, included the Vicar, choir and organist, Mr. and Mrs. Linley, the ladies and the local band.

Miss Phyllis Hare presided over the business meeting, at which 25 ladies were present and seven new members elected to the Guild.

The existing officers were re-elected until June, 1928, to give the newly-formed district time to settle down. Attention was drawn to the fact that the general meeting of the Guild was to be held at Northampton in July, and the next quarterly meeting of the district is fixed for July 9th, at Duffield.

EASTER RINGING.

BRIXHAM, DEVON.—A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung at the Parish Church on Easter Sunday afternoon, with five different callings: W. Hayden 1, S. Hazelwood 2, J. Collings 3, S. Martin 4, A. Taylor (conductor) 5, R. Gardner 6. This is the first quarter-peal by all the band, except the ringer of 3rd, who is from Paignton, the rest being local ringers.

CHELMSFORD.—At the Cathedral, on Easter Sunday, for morning service, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: F. J. Tolworthy 1, C. Gentry 2, R. C. Clark 3, A. Saltmarsh 4, W. Lincoln 5, A. Head 6, J. Wood 7, W. Cheater (Ringwood) 8, L. J. Clark (conductor) 9, G. Cooper 10.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, April 17th, at the Parish Church of St. Ebbe, two 720's of Treble Bob in the Oxford and Kent Variations for evening, by: F. Beckitt, H. Tolby, G. Collett, G. Stace, W. Brigham, C. Coles and W. H. B. Wilkins (conductor). Rung after meeting short for a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. The above are Sunday service ringers at this church.

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 1 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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NOTICES

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Leighton Buzzard, on Saturday, May 7th. The bells (10) will be ready at 3 p.m. Everybody welcomed.—A. E. Sharman, Hon. Sec. 199, High Street, Dunstable.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Willoughby Rugby (6) on Saturday, May 7th. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me by Tuesday, May 3rd. Usual arrangements.—W. Moore, Braunston Road, Daventry.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Quarterly meeting of the Reading branch will be held on May 7th, at Ship-lake, Oxon. Ringing at 3 p.m. All visitors will be guests to tea with the Vicar at 4.45 p.m.—F. W. Hopgood, Hon. Sec., 75, Kensington Road, Reading.

NOTICES.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Whit Tuesday next, the 7th of June, at (by the courtesy of the Lord Mayor) the Mansion House, London, at 11 a.m. Full particulars will be published later.

Notices of motion should reach me not later than Saturday, the 7th of May next.—E. Alexr. Young, Hon. Sec., 155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Luton on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea arrangements will be made on the day. All ringers and friends welcome.—Wm. Nash, North Mymms, Hatfield.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton-on-Trent District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Dystan's, Repton, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Tea 5 o'clock, and short business meeting to follow. Buses leave Bargates, Burton, every quarter hour. A good attendance hoped for.—R. H. Dove, Dis. Sec., 128, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Compton Martin April 30th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business at 5 p.m.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Darley Dale on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (8) from 2 o'clock. All ringers are welcome.—Charles Draper, Local Sec., Town Street, Duffield.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Guild service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5.15 p.m., in Parish Hall, followed by business meeting at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec. and Treas., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Saxmundham District.—A district meeting will be held at Yoxford on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (6) at Parish Church, available 3 p.m. to 8.30, all ringers invited.—Geo. Wilson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 41, Valley Road, Leiston.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 30th. Evensong in the North-West Chapel of 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 Memorial Fund. Ringing at St. Peter-at-Gowts (6) and St. Botolph's (6) from 2.30 to 3, and 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.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary Cray, on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. A good attendance is desired.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Linton on Saturday, April 30th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting after service.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Boreham on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available 2.30. Tea and meeting to follow. This is to replace the meeting that was to have been held at Maldon on Easter Monday. Buses leave Chelmsford 2.30 p.m. and 3.20 p.m., and return from Boreham 7.15 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.—P. Timson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 80, Springfield Street, Chelmsford.

NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (Established 1672).—The adjourned annual meeting will be held at Basford on Saturday, April 30th. Tower open 4 to 8 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec., 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Bloxwich on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available from 3.0. Service in church, with an address by the Rev. J. C. Hamilton, Vicar at 4.45. Tea (1s.) at 5.30.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, April 30th. Bells (8) available 2.30. Short service in Church 4.30. Meeting in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Tea at Y.M.C.A. Cafe (1/- each) at 6 o'clock. Kindly send number requiring tea to Rev. F. Tennison, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, on Saturday, April 30th. Tower open at 3. Association service in Church at 5, conducted by the Vicar, Rev. O. F. R. Strickland, B.A. Invitation tea, followed by business meeting. Eastchurch bells (6) will also be available if sufficient notify me. Half rail fares up to 2s. will be paid to members at this meeting. It is hoped to make this visit to the 'island' a success, so all ringers are invited.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, April 30th, at St. Peter's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne. Bells available from 3.30, and the meeting to be held at 7 o'clock prompt.—F. Althorp, Hon. Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ledbury District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Eastnor on Saturday, April 30th. Bells available 3.30 p.m.—R. Thomas, Dis. Hon. Sec., The Plough, Coddington.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Braughing on April 30th, when the bells (just rehung) will be open for ringing during the afternoon and evening. Short service at 5. Tea at 5.30 at the Brown Bear (1s.). Business after. All are invited.—W. H. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., Little Munden.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meetings during May: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 1st, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 9th and the 23rd, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 17th, at 8; and St. John's, Wilton Road, Monday, the 30th, at 7.30.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Practice meeting at Hornsey, Monday, May 2nd. Bells from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Meeting at Pinner, May 14th.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at *Southwark Cathedral on May 3rd, St. Magnus on the 12th and 26th, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 17th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 19th, Southwark Cathedral on the 24th, *St. Giles', Cripplegate, on the 31st; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Chigwell on Saturday, May 7th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Will those intending to be present advise me as soon as possible. Chigwell Row bells will be available after tea.—E. J. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Aughton on Saturday, May 7th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. A good attendance requested.—James W. Grounds, Sec., 8, School Lane, Standish.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Cheddar on May 7th. Service at 5 o'clock. Tea and meeting to follow. Bells afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, Hon. Sec., 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A meeting will be held at Stockbridge on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) from 2.30; also King's Somborne (6). Tea at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please inform me by May 3rd?—W. T. Tucker, Dis. Sec., 71, High Street, Eastleigh.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Next meeting at Wortley on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (8) ready early. Will those requiring tea please advise Mr. W. A. Wooler, Sheffield Road, Wortley, not later than May 5th?—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford District.—A quarterly meeting of the district will be held at Fownhope on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) available. Service 5 p.m. Please notify me not later than May 3rd.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deanery Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wrington on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Divine service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, May 7th. Bells at liberty 3.30. Meeting at 7 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Balderstone, Rochdale, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Sudborough on Saturday, May 7th. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, May 4th. Business important.—J. Nickerson, Branch Sec., Halford Street, Thrapston.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Easton Maudit on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me not later than Tuesday, May 2nd?—F. Barber, Branch Sec., School House, Gordon Road, Wellingborough.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chipping Norton Deanery Branch.—The annual spring meeting will be held at Spelsbury on Saturday, May 7th.—J. Keyte, Hon. Sec., Charlbury, Oxon.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 7th, at Horton (near Leek). Knife and fork tea, 1s. 6d., at 5.30 p.m. Will all who intend to be present please inform Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, 12, Norton Street, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent, by Wednesday, May 4th?—C. S. Ryles, Hon. Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELL-RINGERS.—Bromyard District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Bromyard on Saturday, May 7th. Bells available 4 o'clock. Tea 5.30. Those requiring tea please notify me not later than May 4th.—A. Tomkins, Dis. Sec., Post Office, Bredenbury.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas', Helmsford, on Saturday, May 7th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting 6.30. Subscription due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 8, Oaklands Road, Edenfield.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at West Clandon on Saturday, May 7th. Bells (6) available at 3. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. A good attendance is desired.—E. Raddon, Hon. Dis. Sec., 15, Baillie Road, Guildford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston St. Mark's on Saturday, May 14th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea, as usual, to all who notify Mr. J. Eccleston, 8, Mafeking Road, Ashton-on-Ribble, not later than May 9th. The bells have recently been rehung by Mears and Stainbank.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

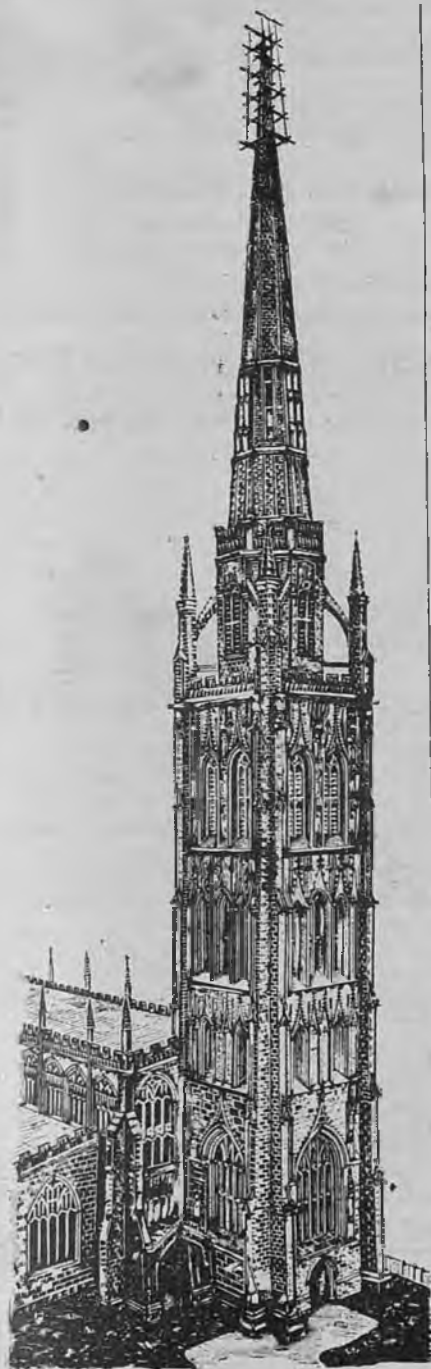
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, May 14th. Tower open at 3. Tea arranged as usual. Sunbury June 18th. All ringers welcome.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting will be held at Churchkirk on Saturday, May 14th. The bells (recently augmented and recast) will be available from 3 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. It is requested that all outstanding subscriptions be paid in at this meeting.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec., 48, Palmer Street, Blackburn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water on Whit Monday, June 6th. Motions for the agenda re alteration or additions to rules must reach me before May 9th. Further details of arrangements will be announced in these columns later. Management Committee meeting will be held at Lydney on Thursday, May 12th.—Edgar Guise, Gen. Hon. Sec., 39, Tankards Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

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