

THE RINGING WORLD

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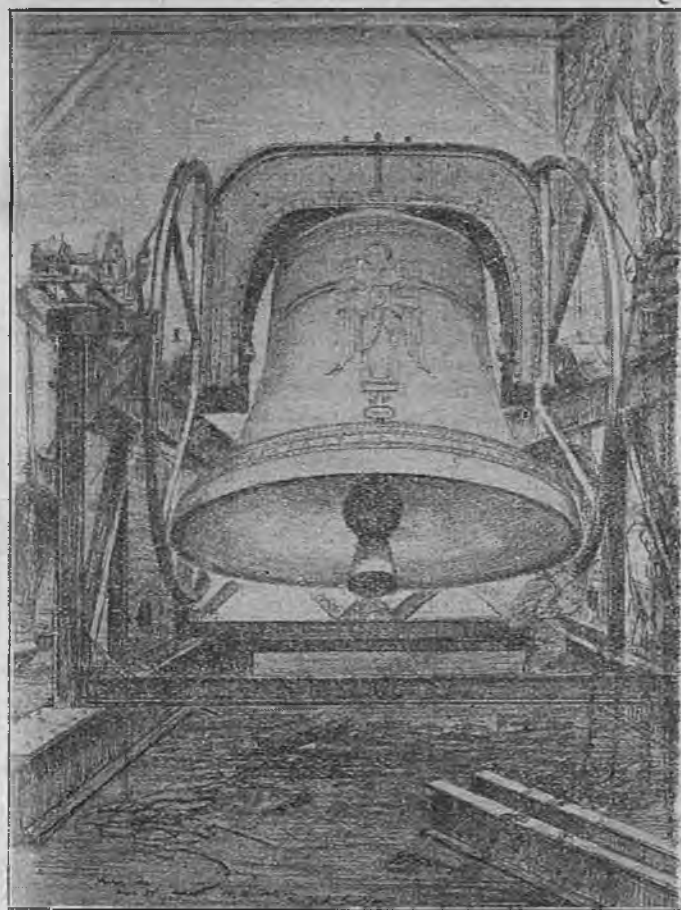
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APPRECIATION.

One of the most striking things about our ringing organisations is the amount of work which many of the officials put in out of sheer love of the art and a desire to do all in their power to promote it. There are men holding office to-day who have been carrying on their task without fee or reward for more than a quarter of a century. Neither the apathy of the majority of the ringers nor their disinclination to shoulder either work or responsibility, deters these bulwarks of the Exercise from giving up their time and labour in the interests of ringing and of the organisations which they have done so much to foster. These men are the backbone of the Exercise. It is they who labour that others may benefit; they who plan that others may enjoy the result of their energy and their enterprise. But with all the seeming indifference of ringers, there are occasions when the rank and file readily show that beneath the surface there is wholehearted appreciation of what has been done on their behalf. Such an opportunity has just occurred at Birmingham, where Mr. A. Paddon Smith has retired from the secretaryship of St. Martin's Guild after filling the office with efficiency and distinction for exactly twenty years, precisely the period, curiously enough, that the post was occupied by his predecessor.

Twenty years is a long time for anyone to give in voluntary service to any cause and, although the duties may not always be exacting, the office of secretary to a large ringing Guild, especially one like St. Martin's, which organises an annual gathering that is something in the nature of a national event, involves an amount of labour which none but those who have undertaken it can fully realise. Mr. Paddon Smith has severed his connection with office to the great regret of the members, who have not been slow to mark their appreciation of all he has done for them. The presentation made to him at the Johnson Commemoration Dinner on Saturday was a tangible recognition of that ungrudging labour, which has in no small measure contributed to the building up of the St. Martin's Guild to the position it holds to-day among the foremost ringing societies in the country. St. Martin's Society was for long of purely parochial, or, at best, of limited urban importance. But it had great traditions in the annals of ringing and gradually attracted to its ranks the leading exponents of the art throughout the country, who were led to visit Birmingham on account of the part which it played in the Exercise. Then came the formation of the diocese of Birmingham, and St. Martin's Society seized its opportunity for expansion. The twenty years during which Mr.

(Continued on page 146.)

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Smith has had a guiding hand upon the reins have seen a development which could hardly have been dreamt of when his predecessor was elected to office, exactly forty years ago, and the incident of Saturday last, which in a sense marked the conclusion of another stage in the history of the old society, must have given as much pleasure to the members as it did to the recipient of the tokens of their esteem and appreciation.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF MELTON SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

C. HENRY WEBB	Treble	J. FREDERICK MILNER ...	6
SHIRLEY BURTON	2	PERCY HARRISON	7
ALFRED BALLARD, JUN. ...	3	JOSEPH S. CARTER	8
REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ...	4	ERNEST MORRIS	9
HAROLD J. POOLE	5	FREDERICK H. DEXTER ...	Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

The first peal in the method, and rung without previous practice.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM ATTERBURY	Treble	HARRY MARLOW	6
FRED WILFORD	2	* WILLIAM PARKER	7
TOM TEBBUTT	3	WILLIAM ROGERS	8
SIDNEY J. LAWRENCE	4	FRED HOPPER	9
JOHN T. HENSMAN	5	ARTHUR TOMPKINS	Tenor

Composed by JOHN ROGERS.

Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters, also first peal on ten bells. The ringer of tenor hails from Finedon, the rest are local.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 3, 1929, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

MISS FLORRIE WYMAN	Treble	REGINALD V. JOHNSON ...	5
NELSON ELLIOTT	2	BERNARD WELLS	6
GEORGE OLLIVER	3	CECIL NICE	7
KENNETH SNELLING	4	OLIVER SIPPETTS	Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 25, 1929, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

A PEAL OF PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

RONALD BULLEN	Treble	GEORGE H. CROSS	5
MISS FREDA ORR	2	JOHN T. KENTISH	6
* EDWIN F. PIKE	3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ...	7
* WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ...	4	JAMES E. DAVIS	Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by JAMES E. DAVIS.

* First peal in the method. First in the method in the City of London.

SHEFFIELD, YORKS.—On Saturday, February 23rd, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples for practice in 45 mins.: H. Thorpe 1, J. Thorpe (conductor) 2, R. Harrison 3, E. Derby 4, J. Smithson 5, W. Stubley 6, E. Thorpe 7, R. Harrison, jun., 8.

UPPER CLAPTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, February 27, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM A. CAVE Treble	WILLIAM R. MADGWICK 5
GEORGE R. PYE 2	GEORGE H. CROSS 6
*MRS. R. J. WILKINS 3	JAMES BENNETT 7
ERNEST J. BUTLER 4	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

* First peal in the method.

PAISLEY, SCOTLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE U.F. CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt. in E flat.

MISS A. I. WHITSON Treble	H. MANN 5
EDWIN H. LEWIS 2	A. E. WREAKS 6
R. J. G. THOM 3	W. C. S. HEATHCOTE 7
C. CLEVELAND ELLIS 4	STEPHEN H. WOOD Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

This is the 3rd peal on the bells, and the first in the method. It is also the first of Bob Major in West of Scotland and the first peal in the West of Scotland by a band resident in the country. Messrs. Wreaks, Thom, Mann and Wood and Miss Whitson were elected members in the belfry. Ringers of treble, 4th, 5th and 7th are from Edinburgh, 3rd and 6th from Paisley, 2nd from Wishaw, and tenor from Glasgow.

MARDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

*TOM SAUNDERS Treble	HARRY BAKER 5
MRS. H. BAKER 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH 6
CHARLES H. SONE 3	ALBERT RELEE 7
WILLIAM WENBAN 4	THOMAS E. SONE Tenor

Composed by E. C. GOBEY. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

* 50th peal.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILTYD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

CHARLES H. PERRY Treble	*JOHN PHILLIPS 5
FRANK J. BAILEY, SEN. 2	ALBERT J. PITMAN 6
JOHN W. JONES 3	ERNEST STITCH 7
GEORGE POPNELL 4	ERNEST COOMBS Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by ERNEST COOMBS.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. The ringer of the treble has now rung each bell in the tower so a peal.

DRIFHLINGTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr.

JOS*PH BROADLEY Treble	*SAM GIBSON 5
HEMINGWAY DRANSFIELD 2	*HARRY MARSDEN 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 3	HERBERT DRANSFIELD 7
*HAROLD SENIOR 4	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. This composition contains the 4th, 5th and 6th the extent in 6th's place; the 5th and 6th the extent in 5th's, without the 2nd in 6th's place.

WEST WYCOMBE, BEDS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BEDS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM WELLING Treble	JESSE ELDRIDGE 5
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 2	ARTHUR MARTIN 6
WILLIAM HENLEY 3	GEORGE MARTIN 7
THOMAS S. GOODCHILD 4	WILLIAM COLES Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE MARTIN.

The above was substituted for London Surprise Major in the absence of the treble man. Mr. Coles, stepkeeper, kindly made the team up and rang well.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

ERNEST S. BAILEY Treble	JAMES M. BAILEY 5
*REGINALD C. KERSEY 2	GEORGE WILSON 6
LEONARD P. BAILEY 3	CHARLES F. BAILEY 7
ALFRED KEEBLE 4	JAMES G. RUMSEY Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHAS. F. BAILEY

* First peal in the method.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 25 cwt.

WILLIAM E. BASON Treble	GEORGE MAYERS 5
*CHARLES LOVETT 2	WILLIAM B. DUNCAN 6
WILLIAM J. WASEY 3	GEORGE BAILEY 7
JOHN C. DICKEN 4	JAMES F. DUFFIELD Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM E. BASON.

* First peal in the method.

OXENHOPE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

VERNEY BAIRSTOW Treble	WILLIE PROCTOR 5
*JOHN WINDLE 2	ROBERT W. JENNISON, JUN. 6
WILLIAM AMBLER 3	ARTHUR BAIRSTOW 7
*WILLIE FOSTER 4	MILLIGAN HARRISON Tenor

Composed by J. PLATT.

Conducted by A. BAIRSTOW.

* First peal of Oxford. Ringer of 3rd from Queensbury, 6th from Keighley, the rest from Denholme.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

GEORGE A. FLEMING Treble	*ALBERT FLEMING 5
GEORGE BENNETT 2	LESLIE G. BRETT 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 4	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

* First peal in the method on an inside bell.

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DAVID MAXON, Rope Works, Grantham

SIX BELL PEALS.

OTTERSHAW, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 25, 1929, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten different callings.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

STEPHEN SLEET Treble	HUBERT J. CHAFFEY 4
DAVID SLEET 2	HERBERT HANCOCK 5
MISS MOLLY THOMPSON ... 3	FREDERICK WALLACE Tenor

Conducted by H. J. CHAFFEY.

First peal and first attempt by all except the conductor, also first peal of Doubles by the conductor. All are local service ringers. The band only started change ringing on the formation of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

LYMPSTONE, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

(EXETER BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 26, 1929, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720's of Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently.

Tenor 12 cwt.

REV. E. S. POWELL Treble	*JOHN M. SKINNER 4
MRS. POWELL 2	*JOHN R. HAYMAN 5
THOMAS LAVER 3	FRANK J. DAVEY Tenor

Conducted by REV. E. S. POWELL.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells.

ARDINGLY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 27, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

CECIL NICE Treble	ALFRED J. BULL 4
KENNETH SNELLING 2	*NELSON ELLIOTT 5
*REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal in seven methods. † 50th peal. First peal in seven methods on the bells.

RINGSTEAD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.

*GEORGE JEFFS, JUN. Treble	LESLIE GROOM 4
†JAMES M. NICKERSON 2	FRANK KIRK 5
*CYRIL WILSON 3	AMOS SMART Tenor

Conducted by AMOS SMART.

* First peal in seven methods. † 70th peal. This peal was rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Nickerson (February 28th) and Messrs. Nickerson and Kirk (March 2nd).

WORDSLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb.

WILLIAM H. COOPER Treble	*CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 4
JOHN BASS 2	ROBERT MATTHEWS 5
HAROLD V. COOPER 3	*THOMAS HEMMING Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal in seven methods.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, York, Durham, Cambridge, Beverley and Surfleet.

Tenor 7 cwt. in A flat.

ROBERT HOWARD Treble	FRANK HARPER 4
MISS KITTY WILLERS 2	ALBERT E. AUSTIN 5
JOHN W. WARD 3	EDWARD H. FINCH Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

CHICHELEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Woodbine, two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, one extent of Oxford Bob and one of Plain Bob.

HERBERT L. HARLOW Treble	PERCY BONNETT 4
JOHN POTTER 2	ERNEST FREEMAN 5
FRANK TYSON 3	LEONARD TURNER Tenor

Conducted by LEONARD TURNER.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor's wife, also to the treble ringer's eldest son. The band take this opportunity of thanking the Rector of Chicheley for the use of the bells.

ALLIANCE MINOR.

On handbells at 52, Lammas Park Road, Ealing, 720 Spliced Perivale Alliance and Little Bob Minor has been rung by J. Armiger Trollope 1-2, Ernest C. S. Turner 3-4, Wilfred G. Wilson (conductor) 5-8. This is the first 720 ever rung in the method.

PERIVALE ALLIANCE.

123456

214365

241356

423165

243615

426351

462315

643251

463521

645312

654321

563412

653142

561324

516342

153624

156342

SALISBURY PLAIN.

(Tune, 'The Farmer's Boy.')

As o'er 'The Plain' I wend my way,

To take the Tenor Bell,

The dark brown earth, well strewn with flint,

Yields up a goodly smell.

The covey whirrs away on wing,

And 'puss' leaps up and flees.

The peewhite pipe their mewing cry

As they swing-to in the breeze—the breeze.

As they swing-to in the breeze.

The only music that I hear,

Born on the fitful wind,

Is 'Grandsire' mingling with the lark,

A mile or so behind.

No rasping Klaxon's shriek doth break

God's peace on earth this morn,

For Satan's surely bound to-day,

And nought but peace is born—is born,

And nought but peace is born.

Hark! Netheravon raise their bells,

So we must speed our ways.

The plunging 'sallies' soon shall mark

The music of God's praise.

And the ring of six their voices mix

With a world that's good to-day.

Thus this dear, dear land shall ever stand

The grey set pearl it ever lay,

The pearl it ever lay.

'CASCABLE.'

JOHN BRIANT.

THE MEMORIAL TO THE HERTFORD BELL FOUNDER.

The centenary of the death of John Briant, the noted Hertford church bell founder and turret clockmaker, was celebrated at Hertford, on Wednesday, February 27th, the anniversary of his death. Briant was a native of Suffolk, and came to Hertford when 30 years of age, set up a bell foundry in Parliament Row, and for 45 years was famous throughout England as a church bellfounder and turret clockmaker. We are indebted to the 'Herts Mercury' for the following report of the proceedings:—

The centenary celebration took the form of a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Hertford, where, through the instrumentality of the East Herts Archaeological Society, a tablet has been erected by public subscription, and fixed on the south-east pillar of the tower. This tablet was unveiled during the service by the Mayor of Hertford, Sir Lionel Faudel-Phillips, Bart., in the presence of a representative gathering of bellringers and archaeologists from London and all parts of Hertfordshire.

The tablet is composed of bell metal, and bears the following inscription:—

'I'm satisfied with the station of life that God has placed me in. I've enjoyed more real pleasure in my favourite pursuits than the wealth of India could afford.'—John Briant.

JOHN BRIANT.

Bellfounder and Turret Clock Maker, of Parliament Row, Hertford, passed to his rest 27th February, 1829, in his 81st year.

To perpetuate the memory of an honest man and famous craftsman this tablet was erected 27th February, 1929.'

Mr. Herbert C. Andrews, the hon. secretary of the East Herts Archaeological Society, at the conclusion of the service, stated that two years ago it came to the knowledge of the society that one of Hertford's humble, though most worthy citizens had never received the recognition that was due to him, viz., John Briant, famous throughout England as a bell founder and clockmaker. As a result of a suggestion then made they were assembled that afternoon to unveil a tablet which had been erected to his memory.

Sir Lionel Faudel-Phillips, having unveiled the tablet, said: It is a great pleasure to me to come here to unveil the tablet erected to the honour of that great bellfounder and turret clockmaker, John Briant, of Hertford, who died one hundred years ago to-day, and whose mortal remains lie in the churchyard of All Saints', adjoining this beautiful edifice. John Briant was a great craftsman; a man of whom Hertfordshire might well be proud. His work is known all over the country; his voice speaks regularly to us from many towers and turrets, far and wide. Like many other master craftsmen, he died a complete failure, financially, in the Marlborough Almshouses at St. Albans, a very striking testimony to his own words in which he said: 'I'm satisfied with the station of life that God has placed me in. I've enjoyed more real pleasure in my favourite pursuits than the wealth of India could afford.' Many who hear the beautiful results of John Briant's genius throughout the whole country will agree that it is a right and proper thing that this tablet, which I have had the honour to unveil to-day, should be erected as a perpetual memorial to his name and fame.

In the absence of the Archdeacon of St. Albans, who was unable to be present through illness, the dedicatory prayers were then pronounced by the Rural Dean of Hertford, the Rev. N. T. Gardner, Rector of St. Andrew's, commencing with the words: 'We dedicate this tablet to the Glory of God and in memory of his servant, John Briant.'

The service was conducted by the Vicar of All Saints', the Rev. T. Landolph Smith, and the lesson was read by Mr. Herbert Andrews.

The Mayor was accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr. Alfred Baker) and Alderman W. H. Brewster as officially representing the Corporation, but owing to death and illness many other members were prevented from attending.

Before and after the service the members of the Hertford Society of College Youths rang touches on All Saints' bells, which were half-muffled, and again in the evening they rang on St. Andrew's Church bells, which were made by John Briant. Two of the old bells at All Saints' before the church was burnt down in 1891 were also made by him, and were used in the casting of the new peal.

John Briant's tombstone in All Saints' Churchyard has been restored and renovated at the expense of the East Herts Archaeological Society, and after the service on Wednesday four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths came from London for the celebration, with Mr. E. Alexander Young, and rang a course of Grand-sire Triples, standing around the tomb. The ringers were: F. W. Richardson, Brockley, 1-2; W. H. Lawrence, Great Munden, 3-4; C. F. Winney, St. Paul's Cathedral, 5-6; and G. Croft, Hitchin, 7-8. Mr. J. A. Dart was also present.

The Vicar of All Saints', in the course of an address at the end of the service, paid a tribute to the memory of John Briant, who, he said, died a poor man, but not poor in achievement and reputation. He admired the contented mind and heart of such a man as well as his independent spirit, and they did well to honour his memory in the way they were doing that day. They could all learn a lesson of great happiness from this humble man's career and achievement.

The visitors afterwards partook of tea together at the Dimsdale Arms Hotel, and at an informal meeting of the members of the East Herts Archaeological Society, Sir Lionel Faudel-Phillips, Bart., was made a member along with several other visitors. Sir Lionel, in thanking Mr. Andrews for carrying out the arrangements for the centenary celebration, said it was a great pleasure to be present, because he was a great lover of all things beautiful. It was a great satisfaction to do honour to such a man as John Briant, who made things that were good and beautiful as well as useful. 'I am almost a worshipper of clocks,' said Sir Lionel. 'I have 75 clocks, and keep them all going, and they have been a fascinating study to me all my life. It is a pleasure, therefore, to honour, as we are doing to-day, a man who was a great clockmaker, as well as a famous bell founder.'

Mr. H. C. Andrews responded to a vote of thanks to him, and then gave an interesting and instructive address on the life and work of John Briant, with a list of the bells and clocks made by him, the places where they are erected, their dates, and the inscriptions upon them. Of John Briant's 422 known bells, 101 are in Hertfordshire, 46 in Bucks, 43 in Essex, 39 in Northants, 36 in Oxon, 31 in Leicestershire, 22 in Warwickshire, 22 in Cambs, 19 in Shropshire, 18 in Lincolnshire, 14 in Beds, 12 in Suffolk, 8 in Devon, 4 in Ireland, 3 in Middlesex, 2 in Staffordshire, and one each in Kent and Worcestershire. Briant's clocks are to be found at Blenheim Palace, Belvoir Castle, Hatfield House, Hatfield Woodside, Woodhall Park, Panshanger, Watton Church, Balls Park (Hertford), Wallham Abbey, Bishop's Stortford, the Shire Hall, St. Andrew's Church, and Kingsmead School, Hertford.

The Vicar of Christ Church, Warc (the Rev. Frank Hobson) proposed, and Mr. E. Alex. Young seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Andrews and the Archaeological Society for giving them all an opportunity of honouring a great man.

Mr. Eeles, secretary of the Central Council of the Church of England for the Care of Churches, supported the vote of thanks, and said that the society he represented was deeply interested in the safeguarding of English church bells, and all the glorious traditions associated with church bellringing. Here in England we had developed, he said, something that no one else had ever developed in any other part of the world. Whatever might be said in favour of the carillon system of ringing mechanically a multitude of bells, or of the huge single bells of the Continent, it was characteristic of the English that they were the only people who had developed change ringing on church bells, a tradition of which both the country and the Church of England might well be proud. It rested with the Church authorities and churchpeople generally to jealously guard those splendid peals of bells.

The lettering of the tablet is founded on an inscription on Trojan Column at Rome. The design of the bell was supplied by Meas and Stainbank. The tablet was made by the Warham Guild, Margaret Street, Oxford Circus.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Fareham, and altogether about 40 were present from Alverstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth (St. Thomas' and St. Mary's), Swanmore, Titchfield and Wickham, with visitors from King's Sonborne, Southampton and Ryde.

During the afternoon the Guild service was held, which was choral, and was conducted by the Vicar. An excellent address was given by the Vicar of Portsea, the Ven. Geoffrey C. L. Lunt.

The tea and business meeting were held in the Parish Hall, the Vicar of Fareham presiding in the absence of the Vicar of Portsea, who had to return early to Portsmouth.

The balance sheet, which was presented by the auditor, showed receipts amounting to £22 2s. 6d., and expenditure 45 18s. 4d., leaving the district in credit by £16 4s. 2d.

All the officers were re-elected, as follows: Chairman, Mr. R. J. Stone; hon. secretary, Mr. F. W. Rogers; auditor, Mr. H. G. Reynolds; representatives on the Central Committee, Messrs. F. A. Burnett and R. J. Stone.

The Vicar of Portsea was elected an honorary member, and the following as ringing members: The Rev. A. Cory and Messrs. D. Faulkner and S. Churcher (Fareham), H. White, jun. (Alverstoke), and F. C. Love (Titchfield).

It was decided, subject to consent, to hold the next district meeting at Havant on April 27th.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicars of Fareham and Titchfield for the use of the bells, to the Vicar of Portsea for addressing the members, and to the organist and choir who had helped to make the service so enjoyable.—In reply, the Rev. A. Cory said how pleased they were to welcome the Guild to Fareham, especially as he was a ringer himself. He hoped that in the near future the scheme for the completion of the tower and the restoration of the bells would be accomplished, so that at Fareham they might have a first-class band of ringers.

After the meeting some of the members returned to the tower for further ringing, whilst others visited Titchfield to ring on the peal of six bells there. In the course of the day the ringing ranged from Grand-sire Triples to Surprise Minor and Major.

WHAT SHALL CONSTITUTE A PEAL?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. Powell's letter in your issue of February 15th, 1929, giving notice of his intention of ringing a certain arrangement of 5,040 rows of Grandsire Triples, I question his statement that 'it is, in fact, exactly similar in all respects to any individual 720 in Mr. Bankes James' arrangement.' No one questions the truth of the first 719 rows of any individual 720 in Mr. Bankes James' peal; it is the 720th row that all the fuss is about. Now, my point is that we can get from the 719th row back to rounds (assuming that the 720 started from rounds) by either making a plain lead change or a bob change, and I submit that this is essentially different from Mr. Powell's idea of ending his peal of Grandsire Triples with the row 2164735.

I wish to make it clear that I am not using this argument in favour of the contention that Mr. James' peal of Cambridge Minor complies with the Central Council's rules, but simply as a means of pointing out the difference between the two cases.

In any case, Mr. Powell cannot expect his performance (if successful) to be accepted by the Central Council as a true peal in face of the 'conditions required for peals' (see page 15 of Rules and Decisions of the Council, 2nd edition, 1927, which, to the best of my knowledge, has not been superseded), which begins: 'On all numbers of bells a true peal shall in all cases start from and end with rounds.' This is perfectly definite, and, to my mind, leaves Mr. Powell no loophole of escape.

With regard to the much-debated question of 720's of Minor, it seems to me that the whole matter hinges on whether we consider rounds as the first row of the 720 or the last. If we admit that rounds is counted as the first row, we are well on the way to admitting Mr. James' Cambridge Minor as a true peal. It does at least come round at the end. [Of course, some of the 720's would not start with 123456, but with 142356 and 134256, but if we admit a 720 starting with 123456, and ending at handstroke in the 124365, we might as well admit one starting with 134256 and ending with 132465.]

Now the point is, are we prepared to admit that rounds is counted as the first row and need not appear at the end? Is the Central Council, as representing the Exercise as a whole, prepared to admit this? On all numbers of bells greater than six the 'conditions required for peals,' which I have quoted above, provides a perfectly definite answer in the negative. 'A peal must start from and end with rounds.' I would draw particular attention to the word 'from'; a peal starts from, not with rounds.

It may be argued with reason, though not with finality, that this applies also to 720's of Minor and 120's of Doubles, as the word 'peal' was often used to mean 'extent' in the case of five and six bells. I suggest that when this condition was laid down it was meant to apply not only to 'peals' but to 'touches' generally, though this is merely conjecture and cannot be used as proof one way or the other.

Now, Mr. Law James, in his letter in your issue of February 22nd, 1929, falls into a not uncommon, but none the less grievous, error of argument. He sets out boldly by stating what he wants to prove, and then draws various conclusions, making no attempt whatever to substantiate his statements. This is no proof at all. Mr. James says: '... We get 123456, which is not part of the first 720 but the first row of the 2nd 720.' and again, later on, 'This ... brings us back to the first 123456, which is not the last row of the peal but only the first row repeated.'

On what authority does Mr. James make these statements, and how does he reconcile the second of them with the above extract from the Central Council's Rules and Decisions, which, I think, will bear repetition, 'A peal shall in all cases start from and end with rounds'?—Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN H. WOOD.

21, Peel Street, Partick, Glasgow.

'A TANGLE.'

Sir,—My remarks in your issue of February 22nd were not intended to be offensive in any way, but were written in the same spirit as Mr. James concluded his letter in your issue of February 15th.

And now I turn to his answers to my questions. In answering the first one, and in order to convince your readers that his brother's arrangement of Cambridge is true, he gets himself into a tangle. He says that 123456 is the first row and 124365 the last row of the 1st 720. After describing the other five, he ends with 'the 7th the same as the 4th.' It is quite clear that he has taken the original WRW as the 1st 720, as none of the others will fill the bill. If Mr. James will look at the peal again he will find that 142356, not 134256, is the reputed lead-head of the 4th 720, and ends with one of the Q sets hobbled. Does he want your readers to believe that 132465 is the last row in the peal, or must the bob operate and bring up 123456, which is the 217th change of the last 720? If so, I think he has set himself a very hard task to convince the majority of your readers.

(Continued in next column.)

BRISTOL RINGERS AND CENTRAL COUNCIL.

PROPOSAL NOT TO AFFILIATE.

A proposal that the Gloucester and Bristol Association should cease to be affiliated to the Central Council was made to the monthly meeting of the Bristol Branch held at St. Peter's, Bristol, on February 23rd, when about 50 members attended.

During the afternoon the bells were rung to all the popular methods, and the service was taken by the Vicar, who also gave a very interesting address. Tea followed in the Parish Room, after which a short business meeting was held, at which six performing members were elected.

The Chairman said that it had been suggested to him that if the secretary could obtain a charabanc for the convenience of members attending the annual meeting at Chippenham, it would be of great assistance. He put it to the meeting, and it was decided that the secretary should, if possible, obtain one.

Mr. Guise, one of the association's representatives on the Central Council, gave notice of a proposition to alter rule No. 1 by the deletion of the words, 'and shall be affiliated to the Central Council.' He said the constitution of the Central Council rules was not that of a true representation of ringers throughout England, and that the associations had no voice in their rulings except in such cases where the representatives chosen thought alike with their associations. The question of diplomas for ringers was definitely referred to the associations, and the representatives, upon obtaining instruction from their associations, were told by the president of the Central Council last year that they were to vote as members of the Council and not as delegates. He said, further, that as hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, he accepted the office of representative, and now that he was conversant with the rules of the Central Council, he felt that he could no longer act in this capacity, as the word meant nothing of value to the association. He pointed out that the rules of the Council stated that no member should vote until the association he represented had paid the fee of 2s. 6d., and upon this rule being carried out a further rule stated that the representative would be a member of the Council and not necessarily a representative of his association.

Mr. J. Gould said he heartily agreed with what Mr. Guise had said, and would give him all his support.

This finished the business, and Mr. Gould, thanking all for their presence, vacated the platform in favour of the chairman of the Bristol United Guilds, whose annual meeting followed immediately.

NEW RING OF EIGHT IN STAFFS.

DEDICATION OF TWO NEW TREBLES AT ROLLESTON-ON-DOVE.

The forty odd ringers who turned up at Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffs, on Saturday, February 23rd, were well rewarded for their journey by hearing a very fine peal of eight just completed by the two beautiful trebles which Messrs. Taylor and Co. have added to the already good ring of six, three of which bells were cast at the Loughborough foundry in 1908.

The dedication was performed by the Rev. H. E. Worthington, Rector of Netherseal, the Rev. Wm. Bagnall, Rector of Rolleston, the Vicar of Tutbury assisting. There was a large congregation present, including ringers from Burton-on-Trent, Cheadle, Ilkeston, Lichfield, Loughborough, Uttoxeter, and neighbouring towers of Rolleston.

After the dedication of the two new bells, some 'clockwork' rounds were rung for two minutes by a mixed band of ringers, one of whom was Mr. W. W. Worthington, of Maple Hayes, Lichfield, the donor of the second bell.

Tea was generously provided by the churchwarden in the Parish Room, after which the ringers returned to the tower, some well-tapped Double Norwich Major revealing how well the trebles could be heard when the tenor was 'turned in.'

The newly-augmented peal has been hung in a new framework in two tiers, and the disposition of the bells must have been very thoughtfully worked out, for there is a splendid evenness of tone from treble to tenor, both in the ringing chamber and outside the tower.

(Continued from previous column.)

With regard to the answer to the second question, I am not much enamoured with it. It is really no answer at all. I quite admit that to keep 5.6 the right way is the best, but to obtain this result by splitting up 720's into incomplete 720's with rows that repeat is not a step in the right direction. Mr. James knows as well as anyone that it is possible to obtain complete 720's of London with a minimum number of 5.6's at hand spread over two or three leads, and which 80 per cent. of the ringers would never notice. It is by far the best way.

Upwards of 25 years ago I tried every combination possible to obtain 720's with 5.6 right, but as they did not conform to the rule, 'true and complete,' they were never published.—Yours faithfully,

C. SEVERN.

Killamush.

BISHOP DEDICATES PEAL BOARDS.

On Saturday, March 2nd, in the Parish Church at Wicken, three oak peal boards were dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Norman Lang. One of the peal boards was dedicated in honour of the Rev. H. Nelson Ward, M.A., and the peal recorded thereon was rung as a peal of thanksgiving for the services he had rendered to the church and parish.

The second peal board was dedicated in honour of the Rev. Canon Carroll, M.A., and this peal was rung as a welcome on his coming to this church and parish.

The third peal board recorded two peals by the combined ringers of Stony Stratford and Wicken. These peals were rung as a token of the good fellowship between the two belfries, and to show how much they can help each other to advance in change ringing. In the prayer of dedication of the board, mention was made of a former leader of the Wicken ringers, Joseph Reid, who passed away in 1921.

An address was given by the Bishop, who spoke of the good work that had been accomplished by Mr. Nelson Ward, and of the great interest he had taken in their bellringing, and also in their associations. Canon Carroll, he added, was carrying on the same work, and he hoped that he would be there for many years. The Bishop said that that service was to him a unique one. He had not assisted one exactly like it in all his twenty years' work in the diocese, and it was one in which he was very much pleased to take part. He said how fine a thing it was to ring a peal in honour of the work that one minister had done, and then to ring a peal of welcome to his successor. He also said how good it was to have ringers from other parishes at such a service as that, for each church should get outside and beyond its own parish, if they were to promote the spirit of friendliness and fellowship.

The peal boards were made by Mr. E. Shakeshaft and Mr. Aubrey Barbey.

After the service a tea was given in the school by Canon Carroll. The Bishop took the chair, supported by the Revs. R. Gore-Browne, R. Howes, F. H. Lawson, Mr. Andrew Gore-Brown, and Canon Carroll, the Hon. Mrs. Gore-Browne and the Misses Carroll. There were about fifty-five ringers and friends present.

After tea, the Rev. R. Howes proposed a vote of thanks to Canon Carroll for his hospitality, to which the Rector replied.

An exhibition of handbell ringing was finely given by Messrs. Lambert, H. Sear, A. J. Green, T. Roberts and F. Case. The ladies in charge of the tea were Miss Cannings, Mesdames Cashmore, Pitson Sorrell and Shakeshaft.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**DEVIZES BRANCH.**

The monthly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at Market Lavington on Saturday, March 2nd. After the service, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. A. Stourton, B.A.), who is a ringer, and a former chairman of the branch, a peal board was dedicated by the Vicar, recording a peal of Grandsire Doubles rung by the Market Lavington ringers (the Vicar himself being one of them) on February 15th, 1928.

Tea followed, to which 21 sat down, after which a short business meeting was held, Mr. C. D. Heginbotham presiding. The Chairman said he had that afternoon attended the annual committee meeting of the Guild at Salisbury, and the question of a form of service for the dedication of peal boards was discussed, and favourably received. Among the other business disposed of was the selection of Bridport, Dorset, for the annual meeting of the Guild, if it could be arranged there. The Chairman also stated that that day was the 62nd anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. Brownlee West. Mr. West was formerly secretary of the branch, and was one of the vice-presidents of the Guild. He asked Mr. Wicks, a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. West, to convey the congratulations and best wishes of the branch to Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee West.

The death of Mr. Cecil Hampton, formerly of Devizes, who was an enthusiastic ringer when living in the district, was reported, and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Mr. W. Parker, of Marden, was elected a ringing member of the Guild.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for conducting the service, to the organist and those who prepared the tea. He congratulated the ringers on their first peal.—The Vicar, in reply, said he was pleased to have the meeting at Market Lavington, and thanked those of the branch who had assisted in teaching the Market Lavington ringers, especially mentioning Mr. S. Hillier, of Devizes, who, he regretted, was not present on account of illness.

Ringers were present was Market Lavington, Devizes, St. John's and St. Mary's, St. James', Southbroom, Bratton, Bradford-on-Avon, Rowde, Holt, Melksham, Trowbridge and Eriestoke, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were rung during the afternoon and evening.

SHERBORNE, HANTS.—At St. John's Church, on February 9th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: G. C. Hammond 1, W. Hunt 2, C. Ostler 3, W. Ford 4, H. Balaam (conductor) 5, J. Chesterman 6.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Seventy years ago to-day a peal of 10,047 Stedman Caters was rung in 6 hrs. 16 mins. at Aston 'by a miscellaneous company.' 'The above peal,' says the record, 'was rung single-handed, and what eminently combines to enrich this performance is, it was rung at the first attempt, and is the greatest number of changes ever completed in this intricate system. It was composed for this occasion by Henry Johnson and ably conducted by John Perks.'

On March 8th, 1737, a peal of 12,603 Grandsire Caters was rung at Norwich in 8 hrs. 15 mins., and was the longest in the method up to that time. Indeed, it was a great performance, seeing how short a time before that the first ten-bell peal was rung.

The first peal of Treble Bob Maximus was rung at Southwark by the College Youths on March 12th, 1758.

The London Scholars, who afterwards became the Royal Cumberland Youths, rang the first peal on the twelve bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, on March 14th, 1727. It was a 6,006 Grandsire Cinqnes. The next day the College Youths went there, and rang a peal of 6,314 in the same method.

During the recent hard frost, Mr. E. Harry Stoneley, of Stoke Golding, the well-known Leicester and Hinckley District ringer, skated no less than 200 miles on the canal in six days. On one evening he did 23½ miles at a stretch. Mr. Stoneley is a great cyclist, and has cycled thousands of miles for ringing. He was one of the band which rang the record 12,696 Cambridge Surprise Major.

ST. GEORGE'S, SOUTHWARK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the announcement contained in 'The Ringing World' dated February 15th regarding the tower of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, which is now the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Guild. It was stated that only call changes had been rung here for many years.

This church formerly possessed a very able band of change ringers, but its activities had to be suspended during the war. The society lost several of its members in the war, but it was restarted with the introduction of a few recruits, of whom I was one, and subsequently met with a good measure of success in change ringing. On the arrival of the present Rector, however, things were made too uncomfortable for any self-respecting body, with the result that the members desired to sever their connection.

Since that time, it is true, I believe, that no regular change ringing has taken place. I cannot help wondering whether the Rector still intends to make the stipulation that only those who attend the services shall be allowed to ring the bells, and, further, whether the Police Guild has agreed to observe this rule. Some, no doubt, would be inclined to sympathise with a church possessing a good ring of bells which are not often rung, but if the Rector's general attitude remains as it was I cannot prophesy a long and happy connection with any ordinary company of change ringers.—Yours faithfully,

19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

A. H. KEIGHLEY.

February 26th, 1929.

MINOR METHOD NAMES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of March 1st, page 138, are the official minutes of the Central Council meeting of June 5th, 1928. I read that this motion was carried unanimously: '... That No. 5, Treble Bob, be renamed "London Treble Bob"; No. 4, 4th's-place Delight, be renamed "Clarence"; No. 14, 3rd's-place Delight, "Barham"; No. 36, 3rd's-place Delight, "Windsor."'

In your issue of September 7th, 1928, there is a list of revised names, asking for correction. I read: '... No. 5, Treble Bob, "Rochester"; No. 4, 4th's Delight, "St. Werburg"; No. 36, 3rd's Delight, "Balmoral."'

What, please, is the explanation? If you cannot add your editorial note, perhaps Mr. Trollope would be kind enough to enlighten us.

I wonder if Mr. Trollope would be kind enough to take his list, as published on September 7th, 1928, and say, definitely, that all of the names stand, except numbers so-and-so, which are now so-and-so.

I think we six-bell ringers would like it to be definite; quite a number of us have the old 'Collection' which we should be glad to bring up to date. And we have waited a very long while!—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE L. JOYCE.

St. John's, Leytonstone.

THE OLD MANCHESTER RECORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Re the article published in your issue of the 22nd ult., and headed 'An old Manchester record,' I think that there must be a great error, either on the part of the writer of the same, or otherwise the printers, or composers, inasmuch, if you read carefully, you will note that the peal Kent Treble Bob Royal, consisting of 8,000 changes, is recorded as having been rung on February 23rd, 1830, whereas in another part of the matter it is stated that the bells were not augmented to a peal of ten until the year 1835, or five years later than the impossible peal on eight bells.

Manchester.

W. BROWN.

[The peal was described as 'Royal' in the old record.—Ed. "R.W."]

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

The forty-first gathering of ringers popularly known as the 'Johnson Dinner' took place in Birmingham on Saturday, and although the attendance suffered somewhat through the illness of many who would otherwise have been present, the Connaught Room of the Imperial Hotel was filled with a representative and happy company. In the afternoon the new bells at St. Martin's Church were tried by a number of visitors who thoroughly enjoyed the experience, while others went to the Cathedral where the 'pleasure' was tempered by the opportunity of ringing on a badly-going peal of poor bells. However, the belfries were the rallying point of the gathering, and a company of nearly 140 sat down to dinner later, under the chairmanship of the Rector of Birmingham (Canon T. Guy Rogers). He was supported by Alderman J. S. Pritchett (Presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild), Rev. W. Riley (Shirley), Lt.-Col. Danielsen (Edgbaston), Mr. J. J. Kendall (churchwarden of St. Martin's), Mr. W. R. Heaton, Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary of the Guild), Mr. A. Paddon Smith (vice-president) and Mrs. Paddon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes (London), Mr. E. A. Young (hon. secretary of the Central Council), Mr. J. Bullock (Master of the College Youths), Mr. A. Walker (Deputy Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), Mr. Clark, Mr. C. F. Johnston (Croydon). Among the visitors were Messrs. C. T. Coles (hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association), J. T. Dyke (hon. secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association), E. Guise (hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association), E. W. Elwell (hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild), J. Jagger (Old Hill), Capt. J. H. R. Frechorn (Croydon), Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood (Derby), Mr. and Mrs. F. Perrins (Coventry), Mr. and Mrs. Coppock and Miss I. Thompson (Nottingham), Messrs. C. Harrison and J. P. Fidler (Loughborough), F. E. Dawe (Woking), G. R. Pye (Romford), G. Dent (Harlow), W. H. Barber (Newcastle), H. W. Wilde (Chester), E. Bishop (Swindon), W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale), W. Thomas and W. Knight (Bristol), T. King (Bath), T. J. Salter (Kidderminster), W. Short (Clent), W. Elton (Walsall), S. R. Roper (Croydon), S. Palmer and W. Bugar (Sheffield), J. W. Pemberton (Erdington), etc. Among the officers of the Guild were Messrs. J. George and J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), E. Allaway, and there were members of the Guild from all the towers in and around Birmingham.

After dinner the toast of 'The King' was drunk, and Mr. T. H. Reeves then proposed 'Church and State.'

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

Mr. Reeves said that owing to little criticisms and the differences between the various ruling bodies of the Church, the average layman did not know quite where he stood. They had the challenge of the scientists which apparently knocked the very foundations of the faith of the Church away, but really did nothing of the sort. Science itself was constantly developing, and what was once accepted as true is proved by new knowledge to be false; whereas the foundations of the Church were in truth itself, and the developments of science only go to prove more and more how sure are the Church's foundation. As regards the State, there were many who would like to see the Church freed from any connection with the State, especially after the recent controversy. The union was to the Church a matter of secondary importance. She was a divine society founded on Christ Himself, having for its ends the salvation of souls, and should she be separated from the State might well fulfil all her functions to perfection. Not so with the State. Take away the uplifting influence of the Church, and he was afraid it would become more and more materialistic and selfish. He would say, in conclusion, let Church and State continue to go hand in hand and work together for the uplifting of the nation and the world in general.

The Rector, in reply, said Mr. Reeves' speech opened the way to him to give them a long lecture, but he must content himself with a few words. There was only one God, and therefore the God of science and the God of religion was one and the same. Given time and patience, an open mind and a ready heart, they would eventually find that the truth which came from religion and the truth which came from science could be harmoniously blended. Therefore he was not in the least alarmed with the different shocks that came to them. With regard to the relations between Church and State, if there was any great quarrel with the State on any big moral issue he would be among the first to ask for the freedom of the Church, but he did not feel there was any great spiritual or moral question which had arisen to divide Church and State. He was perfectly happy to retain their connection with the State at the present moment, and he felt that whatever action Parliament took in connection with the Prayer Book was taken deliberately in the interest of the Church itself. He believed Parliament believed the Church did not know its own mind sufficiently. There was a strong minority in the Church against the proposed revised Prayer Book, and that being the case the State might be well justified in saying, 'You must hold your hand for the moment.' Continuing, the Rector thanked the Guild for asking him to preside at that gathering. It was a matter of great regret to him that Mr. Paddon Smith had

resigned the secretaryship after 20 years of splendid service. He had now accepted the office of vice-president, which was a signal mark of the Guild's trust and confidence in him now that he had resigned the important post of secretary. He (the Rector) would like to express his own appreciation of Mr. Smith's kindness and his work for the Guild (applause). He would also like to add his appreciation of Mr. Reeves. He felt they would find in him one who would consider the interests of the Guild, who would not fail them, and who would be a worthy successor to Mr. Smith (applause).

HOW JOHNSON CONDUCTED A 'SILENT' PEAL.

Mr. John Jagger proposed the toast of 'The immortal memory of Henry Johnson,' and related the story of his various meetings with the Birmingham veteran. He was first introduced to him, he said, in 1877, by Charles Hounslow, of Oxford, 'but,' added the speaker, 'I had no more to do with him on that occasion, because Mr. Hounslow collared him all the time.' Their next meeting was in 1879, and the next not until 1884. On each occasion the older members 'collared' Mr. Johnson, so that he (the speaker) had little to do with him. The next occasion was in 1886, when they attempted a silent peal at Burton, and Mr. Johnson came to umpire it. The first time Mr. Hattersley, of Sheffield, who rang the treble, wanted to catch the eye of the fifth man, Mr. Samuel Reeves. He could not catch it, so he walked halfway across the belfry and whistled. Mr. Johnson got up from his seat and said, 'That's blueed it' (laughter). They attempted the peal again a fortnight later, and Mr. Johnson conducted the non-conducted peal (laughter). He went into the centre of the ringing room and said, 'Gentlemen, I want you to ring a good peal.' He called, 'Look to; she's gone,' and they started off into rounds. Then Mr. Johnson walked out of the circle, and took his seat. He said, 'Go, Stedman,' and they started. Then, at the finish of the peal, which they got, he said, 'That's all,' let them ring a few rounds, and then called, 'Stand.' He came into the centre again, and said, 'Gentlemen, you have rung a perfect peal. It may be possible to equal it, but never to surpass it' (applause). They were encouraging words to all of them. Afterwards, they had a little 'social,' of course, and Mr. Heywood, as he then was, collared Mr. Johnson (laughter). All the previous speakers whom he (Mr. Jagger) had heard propose that toast had eulogised Mr. Johnson's good qualities, and anything which he might add would be only to endorse what had already been said. He would therefore content himself by asking them all to rise and honour the memory of that wonderful man.

The toast having been drunk in silence, the customary request was made that those present who knew Mr. Johnson in the flesh should rise in their places. Eleven of the company responded.

AN ALDERMANIC REVIEW.

Alderman Pritchett proposed the toast of 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild.' He said that dinner, originally started 41 years ago as a purely local affair, had now developed into a national event. Ringers came there from all over England to celebrate the memory of Henry Johnson, under the auspices of St. Martin's Guild. During that 41 years there had been many changes. He believed Mr. Joseph Johnson, who was a son of Mr. Henry Johnson, was the only one present that night who attended the first dinner, and there could be very few others living. Every year they parted with old friends, but the compensation was that they made new ones. Although individuals left them—inevitably—yet the Guild went on, and the Henry Johnson dinner went on, more prosperously and more successfully every year. The oldest ringer present that night was probably Mr. Frank Banks, who had just attained his 81st birthday, and who was still actively discharging the duties as towerkeeper at St. Martin's Church. Long might he continue to do so (hear, hear). A suggestion had been made that day which might interest them. They had been holding a meeting of the founders of the proposed 'Campana' Lodge of Freemasons, and they were informed that Mr. Banks was already a Forester, an Oddfellow and an Antediluvian Buffalo, and they thought they might as well make him a Freemason and appoint him Tyler of the lodge, the Tyler being the person who looked after the furniture of the lodge. If that idea was carried into execution a very excellent Tyler he would make. Continuing, Alderman Pritchett said they missed several faces that night, for influenza accounted for a good many apologies, and had affected the attendance to some extent. They had, however, many old friends with them, including the venerable Rector's churchwarden of St. Martin's Church, Mr. Kendall, who was still young and active despite his 80 years, and continued to take great interest in that gathering. They regretted the absence of Mr. Geoffrey Molinex, who had been an invalid for some months.

CATHEDRAL BELLS RESTORATION SCHEME SHELVED.

During the year 1928 the Guild had gone steadily on and had been very successful, although it had not been able to ring so many peals—for obvious reasons. Eighteen peals had been rung during the year, consisting of Grandsire, Erin and Stedman Triples, Bob and Double Norwich Major, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Royal, and seven peals of Stedman Cinques. These Stedman Cinques

included a peal which was Mr. James George's one thousandth peal (applause). There were only five persons living who had rung over a thousand peals, and they had two of them present that night, Mr. George R. Pye, in addition to Mr. James George. It was a wonderful thing to ring a thousand peals, and very few men were able to accomplish it. During the year the great event in their Guild had been the recasting and rehanging of the bells of St. Martin's Church, and a very beautiful peal they now had, and one they were proud of, and hoped the City of Birmingham would be proud of. Unfortunately, owing to illness, the usual practice and peal ringing had not yet been resumed, but they hoped they would be very shortly. Another interesting event, in which he personally took part, was the reopening of the twelve bells at Lincoln Cathedral. They, also, were a very beautiful peal. Then there was the reopening of the twelve bells at Worcester. That also was a memorable event in the annals of ringing during the past year. They had a Cathedral in Birmingham: unfortunately, the bells there were, in his opinion, worse than useless; they were a positive nuisance—a nuisance to those who heard them and a nuisance to those who had the misfortune to ring them. The authorities of the Cathedral had the opportunity last year to do something to make them a credit to the Cathedral and the town by having the bells recast and rehung, like the bells of the Parish Church. Apparently, the money was forthcoming. They appealed for three thousand pounds and they got £5,200, but no pressure, no solicitation, and no exhortation could persuade them to emulate the example of the Parish Church and install a decent peal of bells ('Shame'). So ringing there would be continued under protest and with a feeling that it was a



MR. A. PADDON SMITH.
Who has retired after 20 years as hon. secretary of
St. Martin's Guild.

disagreeable task that had to be done. In the meantime the practice at the other churches and the service ringing had been quite satisfactory. With regard to other matters, the great event since the last gathering had been the resignation of their secretary, Mr. Paddon Smith, after twenty years of devoted service, and his replacement by Mr. Thomas Reeves. He would have something more to say about Mr. Smith later, but of Mr. Reeves they all knew that he was an accomplished ringer and the son of an accomplished ringer and most worthy man, Mr. Samuel Reeves, who was himself well known all over the country as a ringer and as a former Master of the College Youths. Mr. Samuel Reeves was a most amiable gentleman, and a most patient instructor. With regard to Mr. Thomas Reeves, he believed he would be a most able successor to a splendid predecessor. For 20 years Mr. Godden was the secretary of that Guild. Mr. Godden was a most excellent secretary. He was succeeded by Mr. Paddon Smith. He did not know why Mr. Smith did not wait to attain his 'majority' before resigning: probably the idea occurred to him that as Mr. Godden had been secretary for twenty years he would be secretary for a similar period. He had

now given up that office, much to their regret, although they could not reasonably insist on his retaining it, after the splendid services he had rendered for so many years. But although they had changes in their officials, the Guild went on, and it would continue to prosper as long as it got such excellent men to serve it as Mr. Paddon Smith and Mr. Thomas Reeves (applause).

PRESENTATION TO MR. PADDON SMITH.

The toast having been drunk, Alderman Pritchett rose again and said that the honour had fallen to him to make a presentation to Mr. Paddon Smith. No words of his could adequately express their sense of appreciation of the services which had been so long and so efficiently rendered to St. Martin's Guild, and to the Art and Exercise in general by Mr. Paddon Smith, but they had endeavoured to express their feeling in a concrete form by making a presentation. This was to consist of a tea and coffee service, of beaten pewter, and a three-tier dinner wagon, which could be converted into a table. He congratulated Mr. Smith, not only upon receiving that token of the admiration and regard of his friends and brother ringers, but also upon having his wife and two sons present to witness the esteem in which he was held by the members of the Guild (applause).

Mr. Albert Walker paid a tribute to the services rendered by Mr. Smith, and said that his task as Deputy Ringing Master had been made very much easier by his association with Mr. Smith, who had done wonders for the Guild. Mr. Smith had promised to resign on several occasions, but when this time he told them he had finally determined to do so, it really came as a bit of a bombshell. They had not been left with much time to organise that presentation, but there had been a ready response from friends in many parts of the country, and he had received some remarkable letters of appreciation of Mr. Smith's services, not only to the Guild, but to the Exercise in general. He felt sure Mr. Smith would prize the gifts, which would eventually be suitably inscribed, and he hoped Mr. Smith would always treasure these mementoes of his long period as their secretary. He was glad to know that although Mr. Smith had resigned the secretaryship he would not lose one iota of his interest in St. Martin's Guild or in ringing (applause).

Mr. T. Reeves also spoke, and referred to the days when he and Mr. Smith used to walk together three or four nights a week to practise at the various churches. He knew Mr. Smith had had his heart in the work as secretary of St. Martin's Guild, and he (Mr. Reeves) took the work over from him, knowing he would receive from Mr. Smith all the support possible. In fact, but for that he would not have agreed to take on the position. He wished Mr. Smith success in his retirement from the cares of office, knowing full well that his interest in ringing and the tower of St. Martin's would continue (applause).

Alderman Pritchett, through the chairman, then handed the tea and coffee set to Mr. Smith amid applause. The table has not yet been delivered from the manufacturers.

LOOKING BACK.

Mr. Smith, who was very warmly cheered, acknowledged the gifts. He thanked the speakers for their flattering remarks and the members for their presents. It was not every man, he said, who got his work appreciated as the members of St. Martin's Guild and other Guilds had appreciated his, as shown by those very handsome gifts. Twenty years, continued Mr. Smith, was a long period. It was a big slice out of a man's life, yet, looking back on his twenty years as secretary, he could only wonder at the speed with which it had gone. He would like to read two extracts from the minutes of St. Martin's Guild which he came across the other day. One was of a meeting on January 8th, 1889, at St. Martin's Mission Room (even the building was gone now), Mr. Henry Johnson being in the chair. 'It was proposed by Mr. John Day, seconded by the Rev. H. C. Courtney, and unanimously resolved that Mr. W. H. Godden be elected secretary of the Guild.' Among those present at that meeting were those whose names were household words in those days: Henry Johnson, Harry Bastable, Samuel Reeves, Wm. Rock Small, John Saunders and Thomas Russam. Of all the names mentioned, only one man survived. It was Mr. Thomas Russam, and he (the speaker) was sorry that Mr. Russam was not well enough to be there that night. Twenty years later (1909) a meeting was held at the Church House, Moor Street (now no longer occupied by the church), with the Lord Bishop of Birmingham in the chair. On the motion of Mr. Painter, seconded by Mr. Russam, he (Mr. Smith) was elected secretary of the Guild. Alderman Pritchett had spoken of the Guild going on for ever, but the Alderman himself seemed to be like Tennyson's brook. He seemed to go on for ever (applause). In the minutes of that meeting it was recorded that Mr. J. S. Pritchett spoke in terms of high appreciation of Mr. Godden's services. Only a few moments ago he had done the same of him (Mr. Smith), and he hoped sincerely that when Mr. Reeves had done twenty years as secretary Alderman Pritchett would be there to speak as nicely of Mr. Reeves as he had of Mr. Godden and himself (applause). That meeting in 1909 was the only time in the history of their Guild when they had their patron, the Bishop, present at one of their meetings. Alderman Pritchett had said he thought Mr. Joseph Johnson was the only person present that night who was at the first commemoration dinner. There were two others still surviving, but who were not with them that night—Mr. Thomas Russam

and Mr. William Kent. During the twenty years he had been secretary the Guild had grown stronger, both numerically and financially, than it had ever been. When he took up the job he made a resolution that he would do his very best not only to maintain unimpaired its traditions, of which he was very proud, but, if it were possible, to enhance them. If the Guild was now stronger than ever it was before, it was not owing only to his personal efforts but to the unswerving and loyal support of every brother officer in the Guild (applause). He could only hope that his successor would have the same support, and he was not only hoping but he felt sure he would get it. These presents would occupy a very prominent position in his home, and would remind him for the rest of his natural life of the very many happy friendships he had formed and the many happy hours he had spent among bellringers (applause).

A GIFT TO ST. MARTIN'S TOWER.

Another presentation followed. Mr. F. E. Dawe referred to the hearty welcome which was always extended to visitors to St. Martin's belfry and to the friendships that were there set up and cemented. He said the ringers there were proud of their bells and of their ringing chamber. He knew they were proud of their Rector and churchwardens, and he believed their chairman was proud of his ringers. Seventeen years ago he (Mr. Dawe) had the pleasure of being their chairman, and on that occasion he presented to the belfry a small photograph of the church. He could not help thinking now that that photograph was totally inadequate to the surroundings. He therefore unearthed the old negative, had had it enlarged, and the picture framed to take the place of that earlier one. As it happened, although it had not been mentioned, he was one of those who were present at the first Johnson dinner. Henry Johnson himself was there, in wonderful form, shrewd, witty, clear-headed and humorous. He was truly a wonderful man. Although 53 years separated Henry Johnson's birthday and his own, they were not only friends, but, which was very unusual for an old man and a young one, they were 'pals.' He (the speaker) was never able to hoard money, but he cherished the letters which he received from many distinguished persons. He was now going to collect the letters he had received from Johnson, Reeves, Bastable and many others—Johnson's letters were particularly interesting, and contained many of the old man's compositions—and it was his intention, if the Guild would accept them, to hand them over at an early date to Mr. Reeves to be preserved in the archives (hear, hear). He hoped to do the same thing with the letters of other notable persons of 50 years ago, and to give his letters from Holey to the College Youths; those from John Cox to the Cumberlands; those from Jasper Snowden to the Yorkshire Association; while those of James Washbrook would find their way to the Oxford Guild (applause). He asked St. Martin's Guild to accept the gift of the picture in the hope that it would find a place in the ringing chamber (applause).

The Rector gratefully accepted the gift on behalf of the Guild, and said it would be treasured in the ringing chamber.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed 'The Visitors,' and extended a cordial welcome to the representatives of the many societies who had come to join St. Martin's Guild in that commemoration. Referring to the various dinners now held in different parts of the country, he said there were many who would probably like to attend them all, but some of the smaller ones were held too close to the larger gatherings, and he suggested that the organisers should endeavour to spread them out somewhat. They ought to give every encouragement to these dinners which cemented the fellowship and brotherhood among ringers.

THE RECTOR ON THE RACK.

Mr. C. F. Johnston, who first responded, said in coming to that gathering, visitors always felt that their time and trouble were well repaid. They felt that this year they were present on an auspicious occasion. They had been presenting a most worthy, hardworking and popular secretary, after his 20 years' service, with a suitable memento, and they had been listening to the new peal in St. Martin's; they had enjoyed a very good dinner and had listened to some most finished speeches. He felt he was interpreting the wishes of the visitors when he said they were enjoying themselves. He agreed that if these dinners could be divided into periods it might be a little easier for those visitors who wished to attend them. Last year at that gathering the Rector appeared to be rather on the rack—there were so many attempts at advice as to how St. Martin's bells should be hung and how they should be cast. They all felt some measure of pity for the Rector, and therefore they came that day to join in their compliments and congratulations to him and to the authorities at St. Martin's who had cut the gordian knot. They had got their peal back again; everybody was happy in Birmingham, and they were there to witness their pleasure that evening (applause).

Mr. E. W. Elwell also responded, and referred to the way in which such gatherings promoted good fellowship among ringers, and by that means did a great deal to improve change ringing and to keep members of the Exercise enthusiastic, keen, loyal and good friends one with another. From the geographical advantage which they had in Birmingham, the Henry Johnson dinner drew ringers from all corners of the land, for they could get there without undue trouble. Those who came to that dinner were not treated as visitors, but

(Continued in next column.)

ANOTHER PEAL OF TEN FOR LANCASHIRE

Among the new contracts which Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have had entrusted to them are the following:—

Leyland, Lancs.—Recasting peal of eight, tenor 22½ cwt., adding two trebles to form peal of ten, and hanging in new metal frame with new fittings.

Barnet, Herts.—Rehanging on ball bearings, peal of eight, tenor 23½ cwt.

Kingsteignton, Devon.—Recasting peal of six, tenor 12 cwt., and augmenting to peal of eight, tenor 16 cwt., and supplying new metal frame and new fittings.

Iver, Bucks.—Rehanging peal of six, tenor 15½ cwt., in new metal frame and with new fittings.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

A 'CONSULTANT' FOR DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Hadleigh with the hope of helping beginners there, but as no local men turned up the more elaborate methods were rung. At the business meeting after tea, it was proposed by Mr. C. J. Sedgeley in the chair, that the meeting thanked the secretary and supported him in his action in writing to the Archdeacon and to the secretary of the Advisory Committee, pointing out how unwise it was for that committee to act without the expert advice of the Guild.—This was carried with enthusiasm.

It was decided that an officer, to be called 'Consultant to the Advisory Committee,' be elected each year at the annual meeting.

It was also decided that members of the Guild should do all they could to get as many ringers as possible elected on the Parochial Church Councils, the Diocesan Conference, and the Church Assembly.

It was agreed to send an instructor to Hadleigh as soon as a hand could be got together able to avail themselves of such instruction.

The Chairman explained that it was hoped that the memorial tablet to W. L. Catchpole and James Motts would be unveiled at St. Mary-le-Tower Church on Easter Monday, and that all subscriptions would be sent in before then.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PEALS OF MINOR DISCUSSED.

A very successful meeting of the Biggleswade District was held at Eaton Socon on Saturday, February 23rd, members being present from the following towers: Bedford, Biggleswade, Roxton, Southill, Clifton, Bromham, Sandy, Kempston, St. Neots, Great Staughton and Long Stanton.

The business meeting followed tea, with the Rector (Rev. H. P. Higham) in the chair. One new member was elected, and it was proposed to hold the next meeting at Arlesey on Saturday, March 16th. It was also suggested that a combined meeting be held with the Herts County, Ely Diocesan and Beds Association at Biggleswade on Saturday, April 20th.

A discussion on what should constitute a peal of Minor took place at some length. A resolution being put to the meeting was carried unanimously, that all peals of Minor should consist of seven 720's, each true and complete, as passed at the Central Council meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, and for presiding, brought the business meeting to a close.

The tower was then again visited, and some good touches rung round.

The secretary wishes to thank all the members who made the journey to Eaton Socon on such a rough day, and hopes that still more will try and be present at the future meetings. The bells were rung down about eight o'clock, and brought a very pleasant and successful afternoon and evening to a close.

(Continued from previous column.)

were made to feel thoroughly at home and to have a share and interest in that festival, which became more and more national in character.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith submitted 'The Ringing World,' to which he wished every success, and suggested that those who were responsible for sending reports of meetings might get out of the stereotyped style and add interest to their contributions by sometimes telling readers about the features of the church and the bells at the places visited.—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith responded.

Alderman Pritchett offered the thanks of the company to St. Martin's quartette and to Mrs. Hughes for their delightful contributions to the musical programme, and went on to propose the toast of 'The Chairman,' to which Canon Rogers replied.

This brought a pleasant evening to a close. The speeches were interspersed with glees and part-songs by St. Martin's quartette, handbell selections by Mrs. Hughes, tunes by members of St. Martin's Guild, and a bob course of Stedman Ciques by G. P. Swann, F. W. Perrins, A. Walker, J. F. Smallwood, A. E. Norman and M. J. Morris.

A large number of visitors stayed for Sunday and met for ringing and friendly intercourse at various centres during the day.

A NEW PEAL FOR KENTISH WEALD.

The new peal of eight at Frittenden, Kent, was dedicated by the Bishop of Dover on Thursday evening, February 21st. The bells are the gift of Admiral Moore, who was, owing to indisposition, unfortunately unable to be present at the service. A large congregation of parishioners was, however, in the church, and listened with great interest to the most interesting address of the Bishop.

The local ringers, ably led by Mr. H. Baker, raised the bells afterwards, and with the help of Capt. J. H. R. Freeborn and Mr. Adecock, of Croydon, rang a touch of Grandsire Triples. Mr. C. F. Johnston represented Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, who have been responsible for the work.

The bells are a completely new ring, replacing the old peal of eight. The tenor is 15 cwt. in F sharp, and the bells are hung in metal headstocks and hall bearings, in a new teak frame of two tiers. Although no visiting ringers were present on Thursday, the new peal was tried during the previous week by neighbouring experts, who expressed their keenest approval at both the tone and 'go' of the bells. The local ringers are extremely pleased with their new peal.

CATHEDRAL RINGER'S DEATH AT CHICHESTER.

Death has robbed the Chichester Cathedral band of a keen member in the person of Mr. Marcus Robert Heffer, who passed away at the Richmond Arms, of which he had been proprietor for a number of years. Deceased formerly served 25 years in the West Sussex Constabulary. The funeral took place on February 27th, when six police constables acted as bearers, and a number of ringers were present, including Messrs. J. H. Blake, A. Tugwell, H. J. Tucker and T. H. Doick, representing the Cathedral Guild. In the evening, with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by F. Arthur 1, W. Falconer 2, T. H. Doick 3, W. E. Ticehurst 4, G. Marshall 5, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 6, J. H. Blake 7, A. Tugwell 8.

NORTHERN ASSOCIATIONS MEET.

There was no doubt that the joint meeting of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association and the Southern Division of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, held at Northallerton on a recent Saturday, was a huge success. The 30 members who attended will all vouch for that. The ringers gathered from Darlington (St. John's and Holy Trinity), Middlesbrough, Richmond, Ripon, Saltburn, Sharow, Stockton, Thirsk, and Hurworth, and everybody had a real good ringing day. The striking feature of the meeting was the large proportion of young ringers there, and it gave the officers great pleasure to see the meeting (which was a suggestion of a member of the Richmond band) such a great success. The bells were rung from about 2 o'clock till 8, and touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Stedman, and Double Norwich were successful. The younger members were given careful attention, and each one of them was made to do something better than he was accustomed to. A unique touch was one of Grandsire, in which the ages of two ringers totalled more than 150 years. Vice-President Newton, of Stockton, was one of the veterans, with a 'score' of over 70, whilst the 'father of the meeting,' Mr. 'Jimmy' Barnett, 'topped the bill' with 80 years to his credit. Long may these two worthies live to grace the meetings of the association.

Tea was provided at Russell's Cafe, presided over by the Rev. Canon Brown, Vicar of Northallerton, supported by the president of the association (Mr. J. C. Pollard) and Mr. T. Metcalfe, secretary. The Vicar, in his usual happy way, gave the association a most hearty welcome to Northallerton, saying how pleased he was to hear the bells rung so well, and hoped to have the pleasure of welcoming the association on many more occasions.

The President thanked the Vicar most heartily for his kind remarks, and also for being present at tea and for allowing the members of the association the use of the bells. He also thanked Mr. J. Barnett for making the necessary arrangements for the tea.—This was seconded by Mr. J. T. Titt and carried by acclamation.

A lively and useful discussion on the aims and work of the association took place afterwards. The officers particularly wish to express their pleasure on seeing such an excellent meeting, and hope that the Easter meeting at Masham and the annual meeting at Ripon in Whit Monday will be as well attended.

KENTISH RINGERS' LOSS.

Mr. Arthur Finn, J.P., F.S.A., donor of the fine peal of bells at Lydd, Kent (lost by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), died on Thursday week at the age of 72 years. He was a leading figure in the Romney Marsh District, and his passing has thrown the little borough of Lydd into gloom.

He was always interested in bells and ringing, and welcomed and entertained the Kent Association whenever they visited Lydd. A well-known agriculturist, Mr. Finn was six times Mayor of the borough, and he filled a great many other public offices.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, February 24th, for evening service, 720 Grandsire Doubles in 20 mins.: J. Baileys 1, C. H. Webb (conductor) 2, F. Baileys 3, E. Watson 4, W. A. Wood 5, A. Warwick 6. First 720 by all except the conductor and first by the local band. The bells were augmented from three to six by J. Taylor and Co. last May.

TIMSBURY.—On Sunday, February 17th, for evening service, 720 Oxford Bob in 25 mins.: G. Comer 1, Gilbert Hasel 2, Wm. Young 3, Wilfred Young 4, J. Fear 5, T. Clark (conductor) 6.

ELTHAM, KENT.—At the Parish Church of St. John-the-Baptist, on Sunday, February 17th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins.: H. Flower 1, F. Fraser 2, W. Watchorn 3, J. Hurrell 4, C. A. Bines 5, Gunner R. Martin, R.A., 6, W. Anderson (conductor) 7, F. J. Hurrell 8. Rung as a compliment to F. Fraser, who celebrated his 79th birthday on February 12th.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Sunday, February 17th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,263 changes): A. Dean 1, W. Coles (conductor) 2, G. Talbot 3, G. Mariner 4, G. Cook 5, A. Harman 6, G. Smart 7, J. White 8, J. Bennett 9, C. Otway 10. First quarter in the method by the ringers of 3rd and 7th.

LONDON.—At St. Giles-in-the-Fields on Sunday, February 17th, for Confirmation, 1,260 Grandsire Triples in 45 mins.: R. E. Geare 1, J. Bennett 2, A. Howkins 3, G. Radford 4, G. Cowley (first inside) 5, W. H. Seabrook 6, A. W. Coles (conductor) 7, C. Carpenter (first quarter) 8.

HAYES, KENT.—On Sunday, February 17th, for morning service, 720 Lancashire Surprise, conducted by O. Gilbey; for evening service, 720 Lancashire Surprise, conducted by J. Brown, with G. Harwood, H. Reader, J. Hack, F. Keech, H. Brown. First in the method on the bells and by all the band.

PINEDON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, February 10th, at St. Mary's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 50 mins.: J. R. Main 1, G. Bashford 2, C. Richardson 3, G. Clapham 4, A. Boddington 5, T. Abbott 6, J. King 7, T. R. Hensher (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method by ringers of 3rd and 5th.

LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE.—On Sunday, February 10th, in 32 mins., at 33, New Street, Ludlow, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) on handbells: J. J. Price 1, H. Jones 2, W. J. Beniams (conductor) 3-4, A. Nason 5-6.

MANGOTSFIELD, BRISTOL.—For evensong, February 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: C. Jefferies 1, J. G. Jefferies (conductor) 2, I. Hopes 3, J. Jefferies, jun., 4, T. James 5, E. Palmer 6, T. Marsh 7, A. Smart 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of 1st and 2nd.

OXFORD.—At St. Giles' Church on Sunday, February 3rd, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 46 mins.: W. Blake 1, W. Judge (conductor) 2, L. J. Coles (first quarter-peal) 3, G. Cooke 4, J. B. Howes 5, W. Brigham 6, V. Bennett 7, J. R. Chaundy 8.

LAVENHAM.—On Sunday, February 3rd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 50 mins.: M. T. Symonds (conductor) 1, W. R. J. Poulson 2, F. F. Mortlock 3, F. A. Poulson 4, Leonard Pryke (first quarter-peal on tower bells) 5, A. Symonds 6, L. Poulson 7, F. A. Turner 8. Rung to welcome the preacher, Archdeacon Farmiloe, of Bury St. Edmunds.—For evening service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes): M. T. Symonds (first quarter-peal in the method as conductor) 1, A. Symonds 2, F. L. Leeks 3, W. Fayers 4, L. Poulson 5, F. F. Mortlock 6, L. Leeks 7, W. R. J. Poulson 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to L. Leeks.

LONDON.—At St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, E.C., on Sunday, February 3rd, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,299 changes), tenor 30 cwt.: A. W. Coles 1, F. Jennings 2, E. J. Trimmer 3, W. E. Madgwick 4, E. F. Pike 5, W. J. Nudds 6, W. H. Hewett (conductor) 7, C. W. Grimwood 8, C. W. Roberts 9, H. Belcher 10.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, January 27th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: C. H. Briggs 1, Rev. R. P. Farrow 2, C. E. Carr 3, C. Brown 4, C. H. Webb 5, L. E. Towers 6, R. F. Elkington 7, A. Ballard, jun. (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method by ringers of 3rd, 6th and tenor, and first attempt.

BATH.—On Sunday, January 20th, in 43 mins., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: H. W. Brown 1, Miss I. Hastie 2, Miss N. G. Williams 3, R. J. Cousins 4, T. Grant 5, T. F. King 6, W. J. Prescott (conductor) 7, H. Davis 8. Arranged for Miss Hastie, of Guildford, who was paying a visit to Bath.

LATE NOTICE.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting of the above will be held at South Hackney on Saturday, March 16th. Bells from 3 to 9 p.m. Service, Tea, Meetings, etc., at 4.30. All visitors will be made heartily welcome.—J. A. Waugh, District Secretary, 8, Fuller's Road, Woodford, E.18.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. 'Magnus' on the 14th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 19th; Southwark Cathedral on the 21st; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Ealing, on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m. Tea arranged as usual. Following meeting, a dance and social will be held in Christ Church Parish Hall in aid of the Isleworth Bell Fund. Tickets, 1s. 6d. inclusive, may be had from the hon. secretary, Wm. H. Hollier, 29, Duke Road, W.4.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service in church 4.30. Tea and business meeting afterwards. — Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division. — The next meeting will be held at Fryerning on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Usual arrangements.—H. W. Kirton, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Flare (6) on Saturday, March 9th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, Braunston Road, Daventry, Northants.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Morriston (bells 6) on Saturday, March 9th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., with tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxbourne on March 9th, when the bells will be available during the afternoon and evening. Service at 5 o'clock. Tea at the Welcome after. All members and ringing friends will be heartily welcome.—W. H. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., Little Munden.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Cranleigh on Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—G. Grover, Hon. Dis. Sec., Merrow Cottage, East Clandon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Widnes, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Special method: Court Bob Triples. Members are requested to make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec., Caerleon, Dunbabin Road, Wavertree.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. A good attendance is requested.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held on March 9th at St. Marie's and the Cathedral, Sheffield. Bells open early. Committee meeting 4 p.m. in St. Marie's Presbytery. General meeting 6 p.m., in St. Marie's Presbytery for election of officers. Details of contest for silver cup, etc. Visitors make own arrangements for tea.—R. Harrison, Sec., 41, Baltic Road, Sheffield.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Mildenhall District.—Ringing meeting at Newmarket on March 9th. Bells: St. Martin's, Exning (5), St. Mary's (6), All Saints' (8) available from 3 p.m. All ringers invited.—L. Moon, Ramleh, Newmarket.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District. — The next meeting will be held at Quorn on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (8) will be ready from 3.30 p.m.—D. S. Collins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 145, Paget Street, Loughborough.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Royston on Saturday, March 9th. Bells ready 2 p.m. Tea in Church Schools 5 p.m., 1s. each. A hearty invitation is offered by the Vicar and ringers of Royston.—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A meeting at Waddesdon, Saturday, March 9th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Preacher, the Waddesdon Deanery Lent Missioner. Tea and business meeting as usual.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Whetstone on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available from 3.30 p.m. This is the first of a series of meetings to be held at some of the 5 and 6-bell towers in the district, now seldom, if ever, visited. It is hoped that members will do their best to support both this and subsequent meetings. — Alban Disney, Local Hon. Sec., 19, Houlditch Road, Knighton Fields, Leicester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Chigwell Row (8 bells) on Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Subscriptions for 1929 are now due.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Hamer, Rochdale, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Eastern District will be held at Gateshead on Saturday, March 9th. Meet at St. Mary's Church at 3 p.m. Tea, at 1s. 3d. per head, at the 'Anchorage'—Frank Ainsley, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are due. Reports, etc., to hand. Expecting a good muster of members and visitors.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 8, Oaklands Road, Edenfield.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Ann's, Stamford Hill, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m., followed by tea (usual terms) and business meeting. Please advise me if you require tea. All members and friends welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting of the above district will be on Saturday, March 16th, at Daybrook. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. It is essential that all those requiring tea to notify me not later than March 13th.—Fredk. W. Bailey, Local Sec., 42, Rupert Street, Nottingham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at Reigate. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d. per head) at the White Hart Hotel, Bell Street, at 5.45 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. All those requiring tea must inform me by Wednesday, March 13th. — Chas. H. Kippin, Hon. Gen. Sec., Winchester, Guy Road, Beddington, Croydon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch-in-Rusholme, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells ready 4 o'clock. Meeting 7 p.m. A good attendance is requested. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due. — J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Marlborough Branch.—The next meeting of the branch will be held at St. Katherine's, Savernake Forest, on Saturday, March 16th. Visitors requiring tea kindly notify the secretary.—Cyril Hussey, Hon. Sec., East Leaze, Baydon, Marlborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next half-yearly meeting will be held at Kirkby-in-Furness on March 16th at 3.30 p.m. The bells (6) will be available for ringing at 2 p.m.—W. T. Clark, Branch Sec., Broughton-in-Furness.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The annual meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at a charge of 1s. 3d. per head to all those who send in their names to Mr. W. Barton, 46, Alexandra Road, Pudsey, not later than Thursday, March 14th.—F. Hutchinson, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of above branch will be held at Sympson on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available during the afternoon. Service at 3.30 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify me by March 12th. All ringers welcome.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Sonning on Saturday, March 16th. Bells at 3. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5. All welcome. Please let me know by Tuesday, March 12th, if requiring tea.—W. J. Paice, Branch Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Arlesey on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Horsell on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Tea in the Institute at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must inform me not later than March 12th.—H. Hancock, 3, Chobham Road, Ottershaw, Chertsey.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A meeting of the Guild will be held at Bedworth on Saturday, March 16th. The bells (8) will be available for ringing from 3 p.m.—J. A. Fenton, Gen. Hon. Sec., 6, Frederick Street, Rugby.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5. Tea at 5.30, at 1s. per head. Will all who require tea please notify Mr. C. Haynes, 441a, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, by Wednesday, the 13th? The business meeting for the election of officers, etc., will be held at the Institute after tea, and a good attendance is desired. The annual report will be available at the meeting.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Mayfield on Saturday, March 23rd. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock, to be followed by the business meeting. Will those intending to be present kindly notify me by Wednesday, March 20th?—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Dis. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at All Souls', Bolton, on Saturday, March 23rd. Bells available 3. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual general meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, March 23rd. Tower open 3. Tea, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—G. Lambert, Hon. Sec., Drummond Hay, East Grinstead.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Laxfield on March 23rd. Bells (6) at 2. Tea, 1s. each, at the King's Head at 4.30. Meeting follows.—H. Drake, Sec., Ufford.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday. Ringing all day (except 2-3) at St. Mary le Tower (12), St. Margaret (8), St. Clement (6), Rushmere (6). Service; St. Mary le Tower, 2 p.m. Meeting in Oak Lane Rooms at 2.30. Tea 4.30.—H. Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Maidstone on Easter Monday, April 1st. Committee meeting in All Saints' Vestry at 11.15. Service in All Saints' Church at 12. Address by the Rev. H. de V. Watson, Rector of Harrietsham. Dinner in the Corn Exchange at 1 o'clock, followed by business meeting. Towers open for ringing; Maidstone (All Saints) (10), Leeds (10), Harrietsham (8), West Malling (8), Linton (8), Barming (6), Boxley (6), East Farleigh (6), Bearsted (6), St. Michael's, Maidstone (6). For dinner tickets apply before March 28th to Fred M. Mitchell, Assistant Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at Whitby on Easter Monday, April 1st. Bells (10) available throughout the day. Tea will be provided at a charge of 2s. per head, and all applications for same must reach Mr. G. W. White not later than first post Tuesday, March 26th. Members are urged to attend.—Percy J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ALTON, HANTS.—At St. Lawrence's Church, on Monday evening, February 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins.: A. H. Heath 1, A. Hardiman (conductor) 2, C. L. Rogers 3, L. Noakes 4, G. Noakes 5, W. Perry 6, S. E. Armstrong 7, V. Lowten 8. This was the first quarter-peal by A. H. Heath and C. L. Rogers.

WARFIELD.—At St. Michael's Church, on February 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Double in 48 mins., in honour of the Vicar's engagement and the birthday anniversaries of the ringers of the 1st, 3rd and 5th: G. Simmons 1, T. Wetherall 2, W. Dyer 3, F. Webb 4, J. Brant, sen., 5, J. Brant, jun., 6, G. Higgs (conductor) 7, J. Collyer 8. Rung with 4, 6, 8 covering.

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