

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 979. Vol. XXIV.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1929.

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

Price 3d.

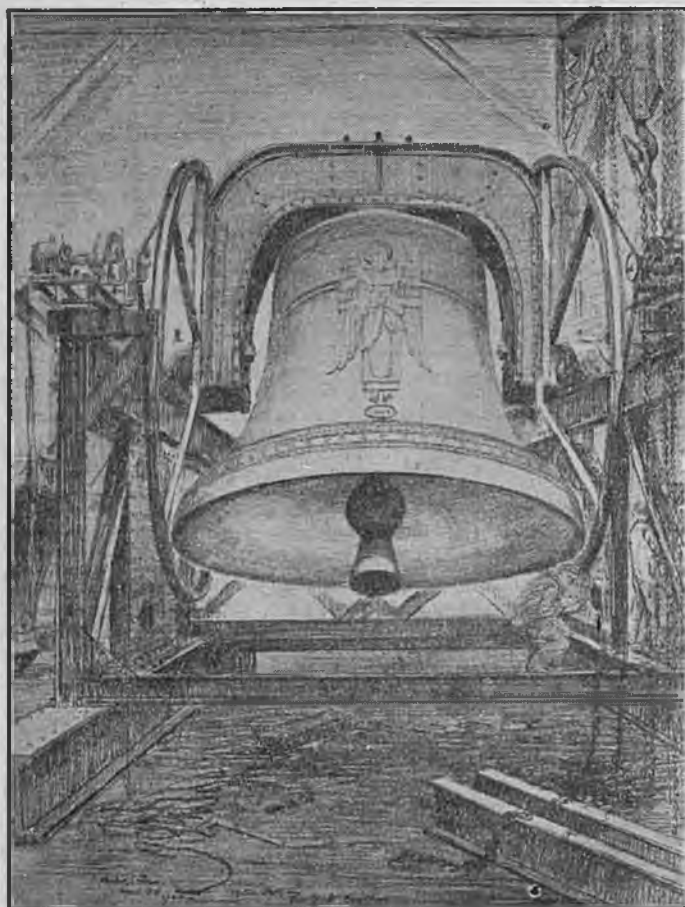
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ANOTHER TWELVE-BELL TOWER.

The year which is just closing has been one of great activity in bell restoration and augmentation, and it is a striking testimony to the work which has been done by the bellfounders that, within a few days of Christmas, one firm alone had in hand the completion of no fewer than ten important contracts. Not the least interesting of the augmentations which have been carried out is that which has resulted in giving the county of Berkshire its first ring of twelve bells, the consummation of the scheme being witnessed last Friday, when the service of dedication took place at St. Laurence's, Reading. This is the second ring of twelve to be brought into existence this year—the other being at Walsall—and it will be welcomed because it establishes another twelve-bell tower in a part of the country where, hitherto, opportunities for twelve-bell practice have been lacking, and, what is more, in a centre where there is every chance of real use being made of the facilities. There are to-day forty-seven peals of twelve in the British Isles, hung for ringing, but we doubt whether in much more than half the towers is twelve-bell ringing regularly practised. From time to time, doubtless, twelve-bell ringing takes place in all of them, but there are many where it is only occasionally heard.

The growth in the number of twelve-bell rings has been really remarkable since the war. In the last eleven years there have been as many rings added as there were in the previous fifty years. A century ago there were just fourteen peals of twelve, in 1878 they had grown to 25, and now there are 47. York Minster was the first to possess twelve bells, the augmentation being made in 1681, but there was a considerable interval afterwards, when there were only ten bells there, and the famous church of St. Bride, Fleet Street, can claim the largest unbroken history for a twelve-bell peal, the trebles being added to the then existing ten in 1719. At one time the practice of change ringing on twelve bells was confined to the privileged few, and except perhaps in London, Birmingham and Norwich, there were no twelve-bell companies that lasted for any length of time, until the latter half of the nineteenth century. To-day, of course, the position is much different, and twelve-bell companies can be found in many places, but, what is more, the number of competent twelve-bell ringers has vastly increased, thanks to the additional facilities for practice which are now enjoyed. There is every reason to hope that Reading will provide an active centre, where twelve-bell ringing will be encouraged on an ample scale. The Berkshire twelve-bell scheme was launched as a venture of faith; it has

(Continued on page 818.)

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been carried through in a spirit of enthusiasm, and we look forward to it being the means of adding to the goodly army of efficient twelve-bell ringers that is now to be found up and down the country.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 14, 1929, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt. 25 lb.

*JOSEPH H. COX Treble	WILLIAM SHORT 5
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 2	HECTOR G. BIRD 6
ROBERT MATTHEWS 3	SAMUEL GROVE 7
FRANK E. PERVIN 4	THOMAS HEMMING Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal in a Surprise method. The 100th peal by C. Skidmore and the 50th peal by H. G. Bird for this association.

SHAROW, YORKS.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 14, 1929, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

EDWARD HUDSON Treble	ROBERT LANCASTER 5
WILLIAM BROADLEY 2	HERBERT E. PICKERING 6
THOMAS METCALFE 3	HENRY CLAYTON 7
JOHN HARRISON 4	FRED E. ADDISON Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by FRED E. ADDISON.

First peal of Bob Major on the bells and first peal since 1911. Treble ringer belongs to Sharow, 2nd to Darlington, 3rd to Middlesbrough, and rest to Tadcaster.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 14, 1929, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 13½ cwt.

STANLEY COPLING Treble	ARTHUR G. KING 5
EDWIN R. GOATE 2	JAMES SPALDING 6
JOHN C. DICKEN 3	WILLIAM LEE 7
*ROBERT SPALDING 4	CHARLES F. SAYER Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by E. R. GOATE.

* First peal of Major, and in his 80th year.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 16, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

*ROBERT HEAZEL Treble	ERNEST J. BUTLER 5
GEORGE R. PYE 2	FRANK G. RINGE 6
FREDERICK W. RICHARDSON 3	HARRY TURNER 7
*ALBERT PRYKE 4	ERNEST W. FURBANK Tenor

Conducted by G. R. PYE.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. E. J. Butler and Mr. F. G. Ringe.

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THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Monday, December 16, 1929, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

* WILLIAM BROOKS Treble	EDWARD A. HERN 5
* ROBERT S. STRATFORD ... 2	R. ALDER GOFTON 6
* RICHARD A. GOFTON 3	STEPHEN W. STRATFORD ... 7
WILLIAM L. GOFTON 4	THOMAS T. GOFTON Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by THOMAS T. GOFTON.

* First peal of London.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 19, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt. in F.

MISS FLORRIE WYMAN ... Treble	NELSON ELLIOTT 5
GEORGE OLLIVER 2	REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 6
ROBERT SWIFT 3	JACK M. CRIPPS 7
KENNETH SNELLING 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 20, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINGS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLY'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

* EDWIN A. BARNETT ... Treble	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 2	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 6
HARRY HOVERD 3	EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... 7
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 4	JOHN WHKADON Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT, SEN.

* First peal and first attempt (age 11 years). The ringers of 1, 2 and 7 are three generations.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MORTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 16, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720's of Oxford Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 4 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

HUBERT BAILEY Treble	ARTHUR SMITHSON 4
ERNEST MALLENDER 2	BERNARD BAILEY 5
* BERNARD PORTER 3	FRED KNOWLES Tenor

Conducted by FRED KNOWLES.

* First peal of Minor. Treble, 4th and 5th ringers hail from Blackwell, 3rd from Teverall and the others belong to the local band.

WORTH, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 18, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

* WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	* NELSON ELLIOTT 4
* ROBERT SWIFT 2	* CECIL NICE 5
* KENNETH SNELLING 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal in the method.

THRADESTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Thursday, December 19, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Plain Bob and two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM MUSK Treble	GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL ... 4
ALFRED J. BERRY 2	WILLIAM STEGGALL 5
DAVID WHITING 3	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. RUMSEY.

BROMHAM, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 21, 1929, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. OWEN.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Woodbine, two 720's of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, each 720 called differently, 720 each of Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 23 cwt.

GEORGE WHITE Treble	PERCY C. BONNETT 4
* FRANCIS BURNE 2	HERBERT L. HARLOW 5
FRANK C. TYSON 3	CHARLES W. CLARKE Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

* First peal inside. Ringers of 1, 2 and 3 are members of the local company.

HANDBELL PEAL.

STOCKPORT.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 19, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

At 23, GREEK STREET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

HAROLD JACKSON 1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY 5-6
FREDERICK PAGE 3-4	ALFRED BARNES 7-8
PETER LAFLIN 9-10	

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ALLEN F. BAILEY

A GREEK DISAPPROVAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Apropos of your recent leading article, a young Greek at my hotel was enlarging a few days ago on his objection to bells. The illustration on the front page of 'The Ringing World' had aroused his curiosity, and coining a new Greek word for the purpose I explained that it was 'a journal for lovers of bells.' At that he queried how I could find either 'necessity or beauty' in bells, and proceeded to tell in quaint English how they had disturbed his slumbers at Locarno. He was staying at an hotel near the Church of Madonna del Sasso, 'and the monk,' he said, 'belled at 5 o'clock. Oh!' (At this point he jumped in his seat to indicate the effect that it had on him.) 'And then he belled it again every half-hour till eight o'clock.'

As the young gentleman in question makes a practice of coming to breakfast in his night attire just before 10 a.m., one can readily understand that the good monk's efforts to encourage early rising did not secure his approval!—Yours truly, F. LL. EDWARDS.

Montreux Club, Territet.

METHOD-SPLICING

'HINTS ON "SPLICING" AND RINGING MINOR METHODS,'

By JOHN P. FIDLER,

with an INTRODUCTION,

'THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SPLICING,'

dealing exhaustively with the whole subject,

by JOSEPH W. PARKER,

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Price 1/3 (post free), from

THE RINGING WORLD,

— Woking, Surrey. —

THE MAKING OF A BELL.

LECTURE BY A BELL FOUNDER.

A lecture on the technical side of bell founding was given by Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, before the Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology, at a meeting held at Prince Henry's Room, Fleet Street, London, on December 18th.

In the course of an interesting lecture Mr. Hughes pointed out that fundamentally the actual processes of moulding and casting have altered only slightly during the last six or seven centuries. The first step in the founding of a bell was to design the shape, and the making of this design was perhaps the most important part of the whole work, for the satisfactory quality of tone depended upon correct shape and correct proportions of thickness at various points. The quality of metal, whilst of importance, was secondary to design. Mr. Hughes went on to describe in detail the process of moulding, and contrasted the care necessary in this part of the work compared with that for commercial castings, in which it is customary to add a percentage of thickness to allow for machining. In the case of bells there was no machining in the accepted sense of the word, and the founder designed his bell to produce the note required. It was for this reason that such particular care was taken with the moulding, as the limits for correction by the tuning machine were very small. The moulds of both core and cope are subjected to drying at several stages in order to reduce shrinkage to the lowest possible point, and are finally given a dressing of plumbago and polished to produce a clean, smooth surface on the casting, also to prevent the metal from burning into the mould and to allow of easy 'stripping' after casting.

QUALITY AND TONE.

Bell metal, continued Mr. Hughes, was an alloy of copper and tin, and, for church bells, the mixture was about 76 per cent. copper and 23 per cent. tin. Many experiments had been made, but this copper and tin alloy had been proved to be the best for producing a clear, pure tone. The note of a bell depended upon its diameter at the mouth and its thickness at the soundbow. Two bells of the same size, but of different thicknesses, would therefore have different notes, the thinner of the two being the lower in pitch. A peal of eight in the diatonic scale were calculated from the following proportions: Taking the tenor as 1, the diameter of the others from the 7th to the treble would be 8-9ths, 4-5ths, $\frac{3}{4}$, 2-3rds, 3-5ths, 8-15ths, $\frac{1}{2}$, and each bell would, of course, be cast on the same scale of thickness. As, however, weights varied at the cubes of the diameters, in the case of bells to be hung for change ringing the weights obtained in a peal cast exactly to this natural scale, would not be satisfactory, and the smaller ones would be overpowered by the larger ones. It was, therefore, necessary to depart by calculation from the natural scale and gradually to increase the weights from, generally speaking, the 6th. This naturally necessitated making them larger, and, in order to retain the desired note, the thickness must be proportionately increased. The result was that the treble would be about 30 per cent. of the weight of the tenor instead of, according to the natural formula, 12½ per cent.

EXACT TUNING.

In modern tuning, the note and harmonic tones were recorded by means of special tuning forks, registering the rate vibrations per second for each note. Each bell was treated on the lathe, until its note responded exactly to the desired forks, and a ring of bells so tuned could be guaranteed to be absolutely perfect in tune. It was in designing and tuning that the great advance had been made. The first tuning machines constructed were laid down at the Gloucester Foundry of the renowned Rudhall family, and at the Whitechapel Foundry about 100 years ago. From descriptions handed down, these machines were worked by horse or donkey, and it was the machine which revolved, not the bell, as on modern lathes. With these early machines, it was only possible to tune a bell in one zone, i.e., the soundbow, and the harmonic tones were, therefore, neglected. Previous to these first machines, tuning was effected by hand-chipping metal from the soundbow. Sometimes a bell would be sharpened by chipping metal from the extreme edge, the reduced diameter and retention of the original soundbow thickness resulting in lesser amplitude, and, therefore, quicker vibration, giving the higher note.

It had been stated that a few of the early English founders had some knowledge of the theory of correct design. The examples were mostly found in the Eastern Counties, and one could only assume that they might have gained a certain amount of knowledge by contact with the Flemish founders, or by having paid visits to the Continent. One of the most renowned bells in East Anglia was the tenor at Lavenham, Suffolk, cast by Miles Graye, of Colchester, in 1625, and weighing about 24 cwt. This bell was almost perfectly correct in its tones. The curious thing, however, was that, as good a founder as Miles Graye was, his bells were not consistent in quality, and one could, therefore, only assume that his knowledge was limited. Mr. Hughes said his own opinion was that these early founders, like their successors, believed that all bells, irrespective of size or scale of thickness, could be designed on exactly the same lines.

(Continued in next column.)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

WEST DORSET BRANCH: APPRECIATION OF HON. SECRETARY'S WORK.

The annual meeting of the West Dorset Branch was held at Bridport on Saturday, December 14th, about 60 ringers attending. Service was held in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. S. H. Viggars (Rector), and an address was given by the Rev. B. J. Langham, Rector of Maiden Newton.

The usual meat tea followed at the Greyhound Hotel, presided over by the Rev. C. Carew Cox, chairman of the branch, supported by the Revs. B. Langham, B. Hutton, C. H. d'Ombain, Messrs. F. Bugler (Ringing Master), W. H. B. Northover (Deputy Ringing Master), and Mr. T. Hervey Beams (hon. secretary).

At the business meeting, the president, Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master were all unanimously re-elected to office.

The unwelcome announcement had then to be made that Mr. Beams felt unable, on account of his ill-health, to carry on all the duties required of the secretary and treasurer. Mr. Beams spoke on his own behalf, regretting his inability, but offering whatever counsel and direction he could to whosoever was appointed to succeed him.

It was unanimously felt that the branch was anxious to retain Mr. Beams upon its list of officers as long as possible, and the warm sympathy of the members was expressed to him. He was, therefore, re-elected formally as secretary and treasurer, and Mr. F. Brooks, of Beaminster, was appointed hon. assistant secretary, with the understanding that he would shoulder all the active work.

The Chairman then spoke of Mr. Beams' association with the Guild during the twenty-three years since his coming to Bradpole, of his untiring devotion to the cause of bells and ringing, and of his persistence which had resulted in the established position of the branch to-day and in the existence of change ringing over a wide area where it was previously unknown. He asked Mr. Beams to accept the gratitude of the branch, which owed all its progress to Mr. Beams.

On behalf of the members, the Chairman then presented to Mr. Beams a framed address, accompanied by some useful gifts, towards which every tower affiliated to the branch had sent a subscription.

Mr. Beams, in expressing his thanks, hoped that the members would assist his successor in every way.

Bradpole, Maiden Newton, Whitchurch, Netherbury and Beaminster were chosen for the quarterly meetings, and it was resolved to hold a bye-meeting at Litton Cheney.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was accorded the Rector of Bridport, the preacher, the organist, and all the incumbents who had welcomed the Guild at their towers during the year.

A strong recommendation was passed that the Diocesan Guild should press for the inclusion of a practical ringer on the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

The towers in the neighbourhood were available for ringing, and many young ringers enjoyed some good practice.

THE MAKING OF A BELL (continued from previous column).

It was, of course, now known that this was not the case. With all these early founders' products, it was noticeable that one or two bells were better than others, and he (Mr. Hughes) thought there was no doubt that they worked largely by rule-of-thumb methods. It should not be inferred, concluded Mr. Hughes, that all the old rings of bells in the country should be recast. There were still many old rings throughout the country which, despite technical faults, were regarded favourably, and the general effect in ringing was pleasing. It was also possible to retune many old peals, getting their fundamental notes correct and their harmonic tones as nearly in line as possible, with satisfactory results.

Mr. Hughes' lecture, which was much appreciated, and followed with close interest, was illustrated by lantern slides and models.

NOTES BY THE WAY (continued from page 821).

The forthcoming Minor Methods Collection contains an appendix which is both an opportunity and a challenge—an opportunity for the Exercise to see if it has any use for a new style of peal composition in Minor and Doubles, and a challenge to those who think that only what has always been done should still be done.

Let us remember that ringing is an art based on a mathematical science, a science so exact and rigid that it makes its own rules. You cannot get very far from them. Its long history and its many developments have left ringing substantially the same thing as when it started, and we need have no fear that it will ever be spoilt by lawless innovations. So I am all in favour of experiments, and the more the people who make them understand the nature of ringing the better chance they have of being successful.

UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Wednesday, December 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins.: G. Mitchell 1, P. E. Jones 2, J. H. Lucas 3, F. G. Baldwin 4, C. Nicholls 5, F. Corke 6, E. J. Swift (first quarter-peal as conductor and first attempt) 7, T. Setter 8.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

RULES FOR PEALS—A TIME OF EXPERIMENT.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The recent editorial in 'The Ringing World' on the subject of 'Conditions for Peals,' raises a rather interesting problem. We are reminded that spliced ringing has become a fairly common practice in late years, and that not only have peals been rung in several Major methods, but Triples and Major and Caters and Royal have been rung in the same peal. And we are asked, 'What about Minor and Doubles?' May they, too, be rung in the same peal? Well, the answer depends, I suppose, largely upon how you are going to mix them. You might ring six complete 720's of Minor, followed by six complete 120's of Doubles, and although such a performance cannot be said to be covered by the accepted rules, it is hardly likely that anyone (save, perhaps, a few purists who are not six-bell ringers) would seriously object. But you could not call it spliced ringing any more than you could call a complete touch of 2,520 Bob Major followed by a complete touch of 2,520 Grandsire Triples spliced ringing. And there hardly seems to be any sufficient reason for ringing such a peal. The essence of spliced ringing is that two or more methods are employed in the same composition, and in ringing you pass from one to the other in the middle of the touch, and with no more notice than you get at a bob. It is one thing to start a fresh method from rounds, and quite another to pick up the work for a new method at any odd lead-end. In proper spliced Doubles and Minor ringing you must have a true 720 made up of the two. Such a thing is no doubt possible, but it would involve making each of the bells in turn a covering tenor, a thing which for obvious reasons is not to be recommended. Apart from the detestable musical result, it would, I think, violate the sound rule of the Exercise that no bell should strike in any one position more than two consecutive blows.

One other way, perhaps, you might do it. You could start a 720 of Minor, then in the middle of it switch over into Doubles, ring a whole or part of a six-score and pick up your Minor again, and so by shifting from one to the other ring a complete 720 and a complete 120. It would not be true spliced ringing, but it might be interesting as an experiment. But would it be worth while? The band that wants to ring it are the only people who can really answer that question, but I should say, seeing that the scope of real spliced Minor ringing is so wide, that it would not be worth while.

But then comes the question, What about the Central Council rules for peal ringing? Cannot we settle this question by seeing what they say and loyally abiding by it? I should say that they have nothing to do with it at all. They were drawn up at a time when nobody thought of spliced ringing, and they do not contemplate these things in any way. True, they do not allow them, but it is not fair to say that they forbid them. Nor do I think that we need worry, at present, about bringing our rules up to date. We are passing through a time of development in peal ringing, and experiments are being made. We want to see what is going to come out of them, and when we know that we can rewrite our rules. We do not want to legalise formally all these experiments, but we certainly do not want to stop them being made.

But people say, 'That won't do. If we have got rules we must keep them, otherwise better to do away with them altogether. And do we want to have a state of lawlessness in the Exercise, where everyone does just what he thinks good in his own eyes?' The answer to that argument is that you must understand what the nature and use of rules in ringing are. And on this point there is a good deal of misunderstanding. People think that our rules are like the rules in such things as cricket and football, which are necessary to the game, and which, if a player breaks, he is guilty of unfairness. But they are not. When the essence of a game is competition between two people or two sides, you must have rules to hold the proper balance between them, and if one side breaks them it is guilty of unfairness. For instance, the bowler who throws in cricket is unfair to the batsman. But in ringing there is nothing of that sort. Competition only enters into it as a side issue. Our rules are not restrictive. They are not intended to prevent people from doing things. They are really directions how to get the best out of ringing. They are the result of the experience of the Exercise during centuries, and they say to ringers, 'If you want to get the best out of ringing, do this and do not do that.' But, if a band chooses to do otherwise, they are quite within their rights, and are guilty of no unfairness. It follows that if sufficient reason occurs any band may break any of these rules and be justified in doing so. Nor will these exceptions alter the fact that for nearly every case the rule is good and should be observed. No rules should stand in the way of the legitimate and natural development of ringing. The final test must be whether the novelty is a legitimate and natural development. And that, I think, time alone can solve. Fifty years ago (much less than fifty years ago) a representative body of ringers would have condemned out of hand such things as Little Methods, or spliced peals. The time was not ripe for them. But now they have fitted themselves into our scheme of things, and we feel they are right and proper and a gain to our art. Novelty just for novelty's sake and things that are freaks are to be sternly discouraged, but if ringing is to live and flourish it must develop.

(Continued in previous column.)

READING'S RING OF TWELVE.

DEDICATION AT ST. LAURENCE'S, READING.

It is remarkable what results may be achieved when everyone concerned does his best, and at the same time makes it possible—and attractive—for others to do theirs. This is practically the story of the St. Laurence Twelve, which were dedicated by Bishop Shaw on Friday, December 20th. The matter was only taken in hand at the end of June, and some time before six months had elapsed the money was assured. The result is also a witness to the fact that you can have a ring of twelve possessing beauty, body and balance with a tenor of under 24 cwt. Every bell is heard distinctly in the ringing room, and all are restrained. The 'go' is all that could be desired.

Besides adding two trebles, the treble of the old ten has been recast and the whole ring tuned and hung with new fittings in a cast-iron and steel frame. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, whose representative in charge of the work in the tower was Mr. Frank Smith.

It was the wish of the church authorities that the ringing at the dedication should be carried out by experienced twelve-bell ringers, so the foreman of tower, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, applied to Mr. H. Langdon, of the College Youths, who brought down for the occasion some of the St. Paul's Cathedral band, most of whom are also members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and the bells were heard to good advantage in a 504 of Stedman Cinques rung at the close of the service.

The original ten bells were a ring by Robert Catlin, which were restored in 1882, when some of the bells were recast.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

A COMPLETE LIST.

The practice of having twelve bells, hung for ringing, in a tower goes back to the earliest days of change ringing. York Minster possessed the first, set up in 1681, but these were recast into a peal of ten in 1765, and there was not twelve in the tower again until 1844. It was at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, that the first twelve-bell peal was rung, and the bells here were made twelve in 1719. Cirencester followed in 1722, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields (1726), St. Michael's, Cornhill (1728), and St. Saviour's, Southwark (1735) came next, but it was not until 1770 that another ring of twelve appeared in the provinces. In that year the twelve was completed at St. Mary's, Cambridge, but in the meantime, as mentioned above, the twelve at York had disappeared. Two famous peals followed soon after—Birmingham in 1772 and Norwich in 1775.

It is interesting to note that two rings of twelve of former days are no longer in existence. That at Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire in 1836, and the ring of twelve at St. Peter's, St. Albans, completed in 1868, was afterwards reduced again to ten.

Here is the list of rings of twelve in Great Britain and Ireland, with the approximate weights of the respective tenors:—

	Approx. weight, tenor, cwt.		Approx. weight, tenor, cwt.
London:		Leicester	33
St. Paul's	62	Lincoln	24
St. Bride's	28	Liverpool	40
St. Martin's	30	Macclesfield	26
Southwark	50	Newcastle	38
Cornhill	41	Norwich	38
Bow	53	Oldham	34
Shoreditch	29	Oxford	31
Cripplegate	36	Painswick	26
Ashton-under-Lyne	25	Quex Park	15
Birmingham	37	Reading	24
Bristol	51	Saffron Walden	24
Buckfast Abbey	40	Sheffield	40
Cambridge	28	Shrewsbury	40
Canterbury	30	Taunton	30
Chelmsford	35	Wakefield	31
Cheltenham	23	Walsall	26
Cirencester	28	Waltham Abbey	39
Dublin	45	West Bromwich	23
Exeter	72	Winchester	30
Great Yarmouth	30	Wolverhampton	33
Halifax	25	Worcester	50
High Wycombe	31	York	60
Ipswich	32		
Leeds	36		

OVER, CAMBS.—On Monday, November 18th, a 720 Plain Bob: Mansfield Ginn (first 720 on tower bells) 1, D. Adams 2, A. W. T. Ginn 3, C. Robinson 4, A. J. Ginn (conductor) 5, F. Warrington 6. Also 720 Woodbine Treble Bob: H. Robinson 1, C. Robinson 2, B. Wayman 3, F. C. Ginn 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by 1st, 2nd and 3rd ringers, and the first by the Over Society.

SPlicing PLAIN MAJOR METHODS

PEALS IN 15 METHODS.

BY STEPHEN H. WOOD.

This article is really a continuation of, or a sequel to, one which appeared in 'The Ringing World' of August 30th, 1929. In that article I was dealing mainly with the first 15 methods in the C.C. Collection, namely, all those which are produced by adding one or more of the following to 'plain hunting': '3rd's and 4th's round the treble,' '5th's and 6th's round the treble,' '2nd's place,' '7th's place.'

We succeeded in splicing seven of them into a peal, and, later, added six 'Little' methods to this number. In doing this we limited ourselves to the use of bobs only, with the exception of two Singles—one at the end of each half—to turn the 'course' of the rows; and I promised to return later and see whether we could get any further by using Singles as well as Bobs. I have since investigated this matter, and hope to explain in this article how the use of Singles enables us to splice the whole 15 methods into a peal.

In my previous article (referred to above) I divided the 15 methods up into four groups and showed how there are eight false course-ends between any two of them, namely:—

34256,	35426,	63254,	42635,
42356,	52436,	43652,	35264,

The problem before us now is, therefore, to produce four sets of natural course-ends which are such that no member of one repeats with any member of any of the others when transposed by any of these eight false course-ends. This sounds rather alarming, but in reality it is not nearly as hard as it sounds. We can at once get two sets—one in-course and one out-of-course. What we have to do, therefore, is to write down two sets, both in-course, which satisfy these conditions; we can then write down the two corresponding out-of-course sets, making up the necessary four.

There are several solutions to this problem, giving in each case a total of 60 course-ends—i.e., just half the full number (and, incidentally, just about enough to give us a peal).

The following is the most obvious and symmetrical solution:—

(In-course.)	(In-course.)	(Out-of-course.)	(Out-of-course.)
23456	24365	23465	24356
42356	32465	42365	32456
34256	43265	34265	43256
42635	32546	42536	32645
34625	43526	34526	43625
23645	24536	23546	24635
35264	46253	36254	45263
25463	26354	26453	25364
45362	36452	46352	35462
62534	52643	52634	62543
64523	53624	54623	63524
63542	54632	53642	64532
56234	65243	65234	56243
56423	65324	65423	56324
56342	65432	65342	56432

In the above, A and B are in-course, and it will be found that the rows of B are just the rows of A written backwards. C and D are out-of-course, and are the same as A and B with 5 and 6 reversed. These four sets will be found to satisfy the conditions.

Now, we could have got as far as this before, but our trouble was that, while we were limited to the use of bobs only, it was impossible to get from A to B, or from C to D. The Singles will overcome this difficulty, and it now remains for us to see how we can best join up these 60 courses into one round block.

Here again we are likely to get temporarily stuck; but it is obvious that there must be a way of doing it, so that if we think about it long enough and hard enough we shall probably get an inspiration or brain wave. Now it will be observed that the 60 course-ends which we are using are rather peculiar; in each of them 5-6 are either 'at home' (i.e., in 5-6, either the right way or reversed), or else are coursing each other; and these 60 course-ends have already been joined into an admirable peal of Double Norwich some years ago by the Rev. E. Bankes James.

I would ask any who are interested in these matters to follow this through very closely, because the way in which Mr. Bankes James' peal of Double Norwich is bound up with our present difficulties, and the manner in which it overcomes them all with one fell swoop, as it were, and saves us from any further worry about falseness, is one of the most fascinating and beautiful things which I have yet met in the world of composition.

The figures of this peal are as follows:—

23456 5 6

42635	x
64523	x
65423	S
46352	x
34265	x

Eleven times repeated, with two similarly-placed Singles, one in each half.

This is in itself a very clever peal of Double Norwich, but I doubt whether even such a far-seeing man as Mr. Bankes James can have foreseen when he composed it that it would enable the Exercise

several years later to splice many methods into a peal of Major with such a maximum of simplicity. To begin with, it contains just the courses which we are dealing with, but it does more than this; it uses only two calls, Bobs at 'Home' and Singles at 'Out.' Now a Single at 'Out' in an 8th's-place method has the same effect as a Single at 'Right' in a 2nd's-place method, and by making this slight variation we at once make room for our 2nd's-place methods as well as our 8th's-place methods, and, moreover, the calls are now in both cases right at the end of the course, so there is no possible chance of bits of one course repeating with bits of another, each one being an entirely separate and independent unit. In fact, it is all almost too good to be true!

If we write out the peal in full and mark A, B, C or D opposite each course according to which of the four groups the previous course-ends appears in above, we can find out at once which methods we may use for each course; there will in each case be a choice of two. For instance, I have taken the—

Plain Bob, Double Bob and Reverse Bob group for A, Lavenham, Maidstone, Edmonton and Chesterfield for B, Shipway, Highbury, Winchester and Marlborough for C, and Double Norwich, Pershore, Double Oxford and Hereward for D.

Suppose we make opposite a course, then if the calling is 'Bob at Home,' the method to be rung is Reverse Bob, and if the calling is 'Single at Right,' we may ring either Plain Bob or Double Bob. And again, if D is marked opposite a course, we can ring either Double Norwich or Pershore if the calling is 'Bob at Home,' and either Double Oxford or Hereward if it is 'Single at Right.'

So far things have been going well for us, but we now find ourselves up against two snags. The first is fairly easily overcome; we have got to put in two Singles, one in each half, and in doing this we must be careful about changing the method. We must always change from one group to another at a Single, and as in this case we must make the Singles in the middle of the course, we shall have to change the method in the middle of a course.

The second snag is more serious; it is this: as the calling is 'Bob at Home' in all the 8th's-place method courses, these courses will in no case contain the full seven leads. The Reverse Bob courses will give six leads and the Double Norwich five, but the others will give only four, three and two, according to where the 'Home' position occurs in the course. The result of this is that although we have 60 courses (and 45 full ones are enough for a peal), even if we spin out the length of our round block as far as possible by putting in only one course of Pershore, Maidstone, and Highbury, we are still nearly four courses short of a 5,000. This is a tragedy, and something drastic must be done about it. There is no choice; if we are to get a peal at all we must splice in some courses with the tenors separated. I have done this as simply as possible (and having due regard for 'truth') by making three calls at '5th's' in each half, and by making the first of them in each case a Single instead of a Bob, we get over our first snag at the same time, and so avoid messing up the composition any more than is absolutely necessary.

I will now give the figures of the peal:—

A SPliced PEAL OF PLAIN MAJOR IN 15 METHODS.
5,008 CHANGES.

(5th's)	H. R.	23456	43256
x		42635 Reverse Bob.	24635 Double Norwich.
x		64523 Reverse Bob.	62543 Double Norwich.
S		675234 P. Bob; Dbl. Oxf.	675432 Dbl. Oxf.; Plain Bob.
—		645732 Double Oxford.	625734 Plain Bob.
S		65243 Double Oxford.	65423 Plain Bob.
x		26354 Lavenham.	46352 Shipway.
x		32465 Lavenham.	34265 Shipway.
x		43526 Maidstone.	23546 Highbury.
x		54632 Lavenham.	52634 Shipway.
S		56432 Chesterfield.	56234 Marlborough.
x		45263 Double Norwich.	25463 Reverse.
x		24356 Double Norwich.	42356 Reverse.
x		32645 Pershore.	34625 Reverse.
x		63524 Double Norwich.	63542 Reverse.
S		65324 Hereward.	65342 Double Bob.
x		36452 Lavenham.	36254 Shipway.
x		43265 Lavenham.	23465 Shipway.
x		24536 Lavenham.	42536 Shipway.
x		52643 Lavenham.	54623 Shipway.
S		56243 Edmonton.	56423 Winchester.
x		25364 Double Norwich.	45362 Reverse.
x		32456 Double Norwich.	34256 Reverse.
x		43625 Double Norwich.	23645 Reverse.
x		64532 Double Norwich.	62534 Reverse.
S		65432 Double Oxford.	65234 Plain Bob.
x		46253 Lavenham.	26453 Shipway.
x		24365 Lavenham.	42365 Shipway.
x		32546 Lavenham.	34526 Shipway.
x		53624 Lavenham.	53642 Shipway.
S		56324 Edmonton.	56342 Winchester.
x		35462 Double Norwich.	35264 Reverse.
x		43256 Double Norwich.	23456 Reverse.

The calling for the second half is the same as for the first
(Continued in next column.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. A MEETING AT BEVERLEY.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District was held at Beverley on Saturday, December 14th, and was but poorly attended. The service was held in the choir of the minster, where the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Rigg, D.D., delivered an appropriate address, in the course of which the demise of the late Vicar, Canon Nolloth, was touched upon in affectionate terms.

Tea was served in the Minster Parish Room to members representing towers at Howden, Hull, Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Selby, Sutton, Withernsea and the local company. The business meeting followed, the chair being taken by the Vicar.

The annual meeting was arranged to be held at Goole in March, and Mr. E. E. Taylor, of Withernsea, was elected a member of the association.

A vote of condolence was moved by Mr. F. Cryer and seconded by Mr. W. Gibson, with Mrs. Nolloth on the death of the late Canon, the members standing a few moments in respectful silence.

A unanimous hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. Dr. Rigg for the use of the magnificent peal, service and address, also to the ladies who kindly administered to the wants of the visitors, and to Mr. W. Gibson for the excellent arrangements.

This concluded a small but a very enjoyable and harmonious meeting, to which the Vicar contributed in no small degree.

(Continued from previous column.)

N.B.—In the 3rd course Plain Bob is rung till the '5th's' position comes up (at the second lead), and Double Oxford is then rung till the course-end, the course consisting of four leads. In the third course of the second half, Double Oxford is rung till the '5th's' position comes up (at the 5th lead), and Plain Bob is then rung till the course-end, the course consisting of ten leads. In arranging the methods I have as far as possible put the harder and less known methods early, and in this and other ways made the practical performance of it as easy as its nature allows.

This peal contains one or two rather unsatisfactory features; to begin with there are seven methods which only appear once, and in three of these cases only for a short course. There are also the four courses with the tenors apart, which we had to put in.

I have, however, composed another peal which gets over these difficulties to a great extent. I will publish it, and the groups of course-ends A, B, C, D from which it is produced, in a later issue. It is based on the same idea, but at the expense of elaborating the calling a little bit I have reduced the number of short courses, so that the 60 courses, instead of giving a round block of under 5,000, now give 6,048, which is a big improvement.

MR. GEORGE GILBERT'S 200 PEALS.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Doubles in three methods	1	1
Doubles in four methods	1	1
Minor in one method	1	1
Minor in two methods	1	1
Minor in three methods	3	3
Minor in four methods	10	7
Minor in five methods	3	2
Minor in seven methods	48	11
Grandsire Triples	20	12
Bob Triples	2	2
Oxford Bob Triples	1	—
Stedman Triples	18	—
St. Clement's Triples	1	1
Bob Major	15	8
Double Norwich Major	11*	1
Little Bob Major	1	—
Canterbury Pleasure Major	1	1
Oxford Treble Bob Major	5	4
Kent Treble Bob Major	16	7
Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major	1	1
Cambridge Surprise Major	7	—
Superlative Surprise Major	9	1
Bristol Surprise Major	4	—
London Surprise Major	11	—
Stedman Caters	4	—
Bob Royal	1	—
Kent Treble Bob Royal	2	—
Cambridge Treble Bob Royal	1	—
Stedman Cinques	1	—
	200	65

* Includes 11,008. Rung in 89 different towers and 10 different counties.

COLLEGE YOUTHS AT DOVER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to the inquiry by Mr. C. Turner in your issue of December 6th, the College Youths rang a peal of Bob Major (5,040 changes) in 3 hrs. 2 mins. at Dover (St. Mary's) in the year 1732.—Yours faithfully,

F. WARRINGTON.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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PICTURES OF CHURCH TOWERS FOR
PUBLICATION IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' will be glad to receive photographs of churches, with a view to their future publication when suitable occasion arises.

The photographs should be accompanied by brief particulars of the bells, with their inscriptions and dates if possible, and any other interesting information about them.

Pictures should, for preference, be photographic post-cards, and, where there is any choice, the tower should be a feature.

Obviously, of course, all the pictures cannot be published at once, the object of getting a collection being that the photographs may be ready at hand for use when fitting opportunity occurs.

Will each tower secretary be good enough to send a photograph of his own tower? It should be forwarded in an envelope for protection, and addressed to The Editor, 'The Ringing World,' Woking, Surrey, and the sender should enclose his name and address.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

A happy and prosperous new year to all our friends. May good fortune always attend them, and their shadows never grow less.

The St. James' Society (which is now the London County Association) was established to give the members of the College and Cumberland Youths the opportunity of meeting and ringing peals together. It was established over a hundred years ago, but it was not the first society that existed to meet this particular requirement. As long ago as 1738 there was in London 'the Friendly Society of Ringers.' How long it lasted we do not know, but on December 27th, 1738, under its auspices, a peal of 6,160 Bob Major was rung at St. Andrew's, Holborn.

A 'John' peal, composed by John Holt, reversed by John Carler and conducted by John Jagger, was rung at St. John-the-Baptist's Church, Hagley, on December 27th, 1902. The Johns, too, rang a peal of London Surprise at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, on January 2nd, 1904, but the first John peal was rung by the Bromley Youths in 1828.

On hundred and eighty years ago to-morrow the 'Twickenham Scholars' rang a peal of 6,000 Bob Major at Twickenham.

A peal of 12,000 Bob Major was rung at Bromsgrove on December 29th, 1738, and on the same day, two years later, a 10,080 was rung at Leeds, Kent.

The 29th is also the anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich in Surrey, rung in 1848 at Holy Trinity, Newington, composed and conducted by John Cox; and the 35th anniversary of 10,176 Kent Treble Bob Major at Irthlingborough, which was conducted by Charles W. Clarke.

Two records in their day, set up by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, were made on December 31st, when, in 1831, 15,041 Stedman Caters was rung at Appleton; and in 1892, 12,036 Double Norwich at Maidenhead.

James Barham rang his 100th peal on January 1st, 1793. The total age of the band was 582 years.

On New Year's Day, 1776, a peal of 8,046 Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Mary's, Nottingham, conducted by W. D. Crofts.

The first recorded peal in the belfry of St. George's, Gravesend, was rung on January 1st, 1786, fifty years after the bells had been installed. The church was burnt down in 1727, and the restoration completed in 1736. The present bells are a fine-toned peal by Messrs. Taylor and Co., dedicated in 1923.

Mr. Robert Spalding must have created something of a record when on Saturday week he rang his first peal of Major, for he is in his 80th year. Age is no bar in ringing. Prior to this peal of Kent Treble Bob, Mr. Spalding had rung only one other eight-bell peal, namely, a peal of Grandsire Triples, 17 years ago.

If you want to buy or sell handbells, advertise in 'The Ringing World.' An advertiser writes: 'I had seven applications from my two advertisements of set of handbells, and sold them satisfactorily.'

Mr. H. A. Barnett has completed fifty years as a ringer at All Hallows', Tottenham.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Huish Champflower, December 14th, and reported in our last issue, should have been credited to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.

EAST BERGHOLT'S QUAIN'T BELL HOUSE

The quaintest belfry in this country with a ring of bells is East Bergholt in Suffolk, where at the parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, there is a heavy peal of five bells, the tenor reputed to be about 28 cwt., hung in a cage in the churchyard. They are roofed over, but have neither ropes nor wheels. Each ringer stands on a ledge about two feet from the ground by the side of the bell frame and swings his bell by hand by the stock. The ringers



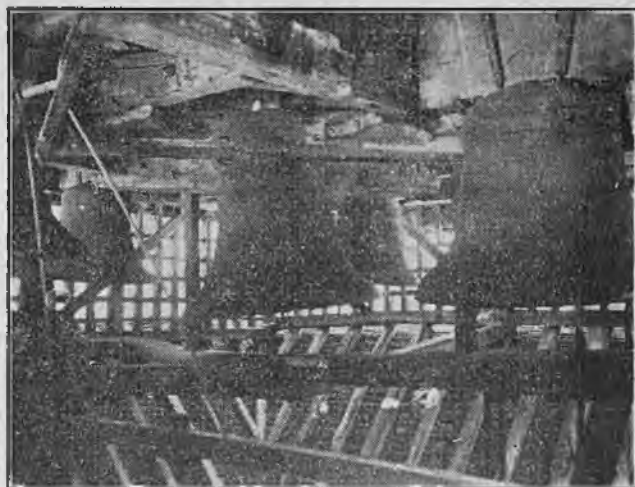
THE BELL HOUSE.

are quite dexterous in handling their bells and the ringing of them is always an object of interest.

There are various traditions accounting for the strange state of affairs; the least probable being that every time an attempt was made to build a bell tower his satanic majesty, annoyed over something or other, pulled it

down. A more likely explanation is the one that Cardinal Wolsey started the new tower but his 'fall' put a stop to the work. The former nave was taken down in 1520 and a base for a new tower prepared, but this was never completed, and the bells were housed in the cage as it is seen to-day. Some of the bells have been recast.

The church of St. Mary is chiefly of the decorated period, with a spacious chancel dating back to 1450, containing a beautiful marble floor and well carved oak choir stalls. The windows all round are large, and some very



THE BELLS.

beautiful, giving the building a very bright interior. An oaken chest, 1400 A.D., is placed near the organ, whilst an unexploded German bomb, one of forty dropped from an airship in September, 1915, is hung on the south wall. A short distance away from the church is the birthplace of John Constable, the artist.

CLERGY AND RINGING

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I, as a parson who has recently taken up ringing, join in the correspondence re the above?

First let me say that, while from the ringers' point of view the ideal thing would be for every parson to be also a ringer, there is another side to it, and one which must not be lost sight of. For it is obvious that to learn ringing absorbs much time. Some, it is true, pick it up much more quickly than others, but it requires, say, a year or more to become at all proficient at change ringing. How many overworked clergy and curates in large parishes can give one or two nights a week during that time to learn the art in the midst of all their other engagements? Even a country parson finds himself much occupied by evening classes, and many might well argue that his time might be much better spent than in the tower week after week. But if he is not a ringer, how is he to get in touch?

He may visit the ringers on practice nights, if he has time and is not otherwise engaged, but the probability is that he will not understand what they are doing, and will feel very much in the way. On Sundays the bells are ringing before he gets to church, and if they are having quarter-peals his arrival in the belfry will disconcert the ringers if he attempts to start conversation with them during the peal. If they are having change ringing, it is not easy to time one's arrival for the few minutes in between the changes. By the time they stop ringing for tolling in he is probably in the vestry getting ready himself for the service. And do not forget that there are often many things he must see to just before the service if all is to go with that smoothness which is so necessary to devout worship.

It may be said that he should be there early to take the opening prayer. But if the parson is single handed, and possibly in the country with two churches some distance part, this may entail a very early start, and I think there are many of my brethren who would agree with me that the last half-hour is a very sacred and precious

preparation for prayer and meditation, and not one to be lightly dispensed with. Having for some years lived about a mile and a half from my church, I know something of what time and distance mean.

My point is that there is a very real difficulty in getting in touch with the ringers, even with the best will in the world. It is easy enough for the ringer to say, 'If parson were different it would be all right, but the question is, 'Is it always his fault?' I honestly think that if the parson rings himself it helps to bridge the gulf, but, as I have tried to point out, that is not always easy.

But are we not in danger of losing sight of the main crucial point? The office of bellringers should be as sacred an office as that of Sunday School teacher or any other churchworker. Quite so; then we must go one step further. Spiritual men and women for spiritual work. Aim, pray, work for converted bellringers. Then there will be no gap between parson and bellringer; both will be one in their aims and purpose, they will not only meet in the belfry, but in many other phases in Church life and work. And there will grow up between them that holy, happy bond of Christian fellowship which is only to be found between those who are truly one in the deepest spiritual things. Their bellringing will then be not merely a hobby nor an occasion for social intercourse, but it will be a bit of spiritual work undertaken from the highest motives.—Yours truly,

F. ARTHUR ROUGHTON,

Vicar of Galleywood, Essex.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOS.—On December 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 43 mins., by the following members of the St. Lawrence Society: H. James 1, Mrs. F. A. Clements 2, A. W. Wright 3, H. Gillett (conductor) 4, T. Banning 5, B. T. Phillips 6, F. A. Clements 7, C. Pratley 8. Mr. Gillett's first quarter as conductor. He is an old and respected member of the St. Lawrence's Society.

JOSEPH J. PARKER.

PIONEER IN COMPOSITION.

A NOTED SOUTH BUCKS RINGER.

Among the names that will go down to history in ringing is that of Joseph J. Parker, who, as an investigator of and a pioneer in new ideas of composition, was among the leading composers of a generation ago. Mr. Parker has produced peals which are classics, and, if only for his famous twelve-part of Grandsire Triples—in its original and transposed forms it is the most widely rung Grandsire composition to-day—his work will always be known in the Exercise. But while ringers have the advantage of his work, what of the man? One of the most retiring of individuals, one who has never sought the limelight, Joseph J. Parker, loved by his intimates who ring in and around South Buckinghamshire, is personally unknown to the larger world outside, and it is a delight to us, through the sketch which follows, from the pen of 'W. H. F.', to introduce him to the ringers of a new generation. Mr. Parker has just completed fifty years as steeplekeeper at Farnham Royal Church, and the present is therefore a particularly fitting opportunity for such an article.

Born near the River Colne, in the parish of Horton, Bucks, on March 7th, 1853, Mr. Joseph J. Parker migrated as a young man to Salt Hill, near Slough, for two years, and then on to Farnham Royal in 1870, where he was married to an Eton lady, by the Rector, at St. Mary's Church on April 25th, 1865.



MR. J. J. PARKER.

Two children (a son and daughter) survive of a family of four, the elder son—named Joseph after his father, and who had rung a peal or two—passing away in his prime in the year 1920. Early in June this year Mrs. Parker was called away in her 84th year, and as troubles never come alone Mr. Parker almost followed her a few days afterwards, having been run down by a fast motor-car while cycling near his home. Fortunately serious results were not apparent—although his machine was crumpled up and he was cut about and bruised considerably—for he may yet be seen occasionally riding a brand new cycle through the village.

Mr. Parker's trade as a practical boot and shoe maker was carried on at two shops in the Village Square, facing the well-known 'pump house' in the centre. One he occupied for 17 years, the other for 14 years, with the added responsibility of the Post Office work to his numerous undertakings. Some 20 years ago he was obliged, by a nervous breakdown, to retire to his present residence, Ellesmere, in the Stoke Poges Lane, where we hope he will be spared for many years to hear the bells of St. Mary's.

IN THE BEGINNING.

Farnham Royal Church tower was rebuilt in 1876, and the present back six bells, with new frame, etc., hung by Mears and Stainbank. They were made up as a 'six' with four old bells, two of which (by Pack and Chapman, dated 1752) were cracked, and two new bells. On Whit Monday, 1877, ceremonious rejoicings at the opening of the restored tower and bells took place with 'open house' to neighbouring bands of ringers and their clergy, from Berks and Bucks towers, with service in the church and a suitable address, and luncheon in a marquee in a field adjoining. To the Slough ringers (a six-bell band in those days) was allotted the honour of opening the bells, and the writer has vivid recollections as a young 'prentice hand' with that company of taking the second bell in a few call changes and his first meeting with Mr. Parker 52 years ago.

There were present Rev. A. H. Drummond, of All Saints', Boyne Hill, inducted Vicar in 1877, and his eight-bell band of ringers, whose tower and bells had been opened in 1875. During the speeches reference was made to 'half-pull' ringing and bellfry reform, several letters having appeared in 'Church Bells' upon these matters.

Local clergy were not slow in appreciating the advice of Canon Ellacombe in the current issues of that weekly, whilst the newly-formed West Middlesex Association and the Devonshire Guild, both in 1874, followed by Yorks Association, 1875, and Lancashire, 1876, pointed the way to a Berks and Bucks Association for the advancement of change ringing in this district.

It took over twelve months to bring the organisation into shape. Drummond was president, Marshall treasurer, and Edward Rogers hon. secretary. Rules were drawn up, and the annual fee fixed at 2s. per head. A number of meetings and practices were held by the ringers, Messrs. Rogers, Smith (from Devonport), Parker, Flaxman, Bissley, Alder and Fussell, during 1878, and on January 1st, 1879, subscriptions were first paid in, the writer treasuring No. 14 receipt of that date, now in his possession.

Mr. Parker is the only survivor of the old Farnham team—Messrs. Batten (schoolmaster), Beaumont, verger, a big man who could scarcely climb the old stairs, Bovingdon, Crockett, Deadman and Flaxman—and with them he learned to pull a bell, his assistance having been previously secured as a musician to enable them to master handbell tune playing for Christmas.

PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS.

Mr. Parker's appointment as tower foreman followed, and he set about getting new hands, and soon mastered tower bells in Doubles and Minor. Then he turned his attention to simple compositions on six bells, little dreaming of the mass of figures he was to wade through in after years. When Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee came along, it was Mr. Parker who urged the 'trebles' in opposition to other suggestions, and in 1897 he collected the whole of the funds for the new bells and fittings.

With his neighbour, the late George Alder, of Burnham, he at once set about hanging the new bells in a new frame without professional help, and in October, 1898, with his own band conducted his own composition for the first peal on the octave. On the death of the Rector, the Rev. F. Stirling Marshall, a well-beloved ringers' friend, who had been incumbent for 37 years, the parish decided to keep his memory by installing a striking clock in the church tower, and the whole of the funds for this were collected as a labour of love by Mr. Parker, who has ever since 1891 cared for and attended to its regular timekeeping.

When the Parochial Council was formed, under the Local Government Act of 1894, Mr. Parker was one of the first members elected, and has served on it ever since. He now holds the position of vice-chairman, with the added dignity of being Father of the Council. As a fire brigade volunteer he took on the care of the hose reel and hydrants of the parish for some time. Fond of music and a natural musician, he early joined the choir as a tenor singer and played a great part in concert work in many of the neighbouring parishes, with occasional violin and English concertina performances of merit, and solo handbell table pieces.

It is to be hoped my account is not wearying to the readers of 'The Ringing World,' but one cannot hold a friendship with a fellow churchman for over half a century without going into a little detail of his life. How much should we appreciate to-day a similar history of some of the early founders of the art, such as Garlton, of Norwich, Annable and Holt, of London, and several others of centuries ago?

HIS PEAL RINGING.

When the Oxford Diocesan Guild was formed in 1881, the Berks and Bucks Association was taken over en bloc by the diocesan body and allowed to retain its old title as a branch. For the Guild, Mr. Parker has scored over a century of peals, details of which are appended, but it is doubtful if he will add another to the list owing to his recent accident. The writer consoles himself with the fact that he shared in Mr. Parker's first (Ealing in 1883) and last (Ritchin in 1925) performances.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Grandsire Caters	...	1
Grandsire Triples	...	54
Oxford Bob Triples	...	31
Stedman Triples	...	16
Bob Major	...	7
Double Norwich	...	5
Superlative Surprise	...	4
Cambridge Surprise	...	1
Kent Treble Bob	...	5
Seven methods on six bells	...	1
Five methods on six bells	...	1
Four methods on six bells	...	4
One method on six bells	...	1
	131	56

Of these, 101 peals were rung for the Oxford Diocesan Guild, 19 for the Middlesex County Association, and 11 for other societies.

It will be noticed that 'Grandsire' predominates in the list, which shows that the veteran was born too soon, at a time when half-pull men were scarce, and long journeys on foot had to be undertaken.

for an 'attempt' that was frequently repeated. For instance, at Wraybury Mr. Parker made nearly a dozen attempts, some of almost three hours' duration, before he was rewarded with 'That's all.' In addition to the Oxford Guild and Middlesex Association, he also joined the College Youths, St. James' and Waterloo Societies in London.

IN THE REALM OF COMPOSITION.

Success with his early efforts in Minor led Mr. Parker to plain 'Triples' compositions in Union, Court and Oxford Bob methods, and several new peals were sent to Harry Burstow, of Horsham (an old friend), and were rung by the Warnham company. Indeed, Mr. Parker was so well recognised as an authority on these methods that he was asked by the Rev. Earle Bulwer to classify a collection, but he gave way in favour of the late Dr. A. B. Carpenter, of Croydon. No composer of note is free from numerous applications from budding conductors for information, often of an 'impossible nature,' and Mr. Parker's postbag of the past 40 years would fill a good-sized box.

He has produced several peals of value in Double Norwich, Treble Bob and Superlative, but it is in the development of new ideas from 1889 onwards that J.J.P. surprised the Exercise by his compositions. All leaders in the realms of method building and composition have, at one time or another, communicated with him to their mutual satisfaction and the advantage of the Exercise—Snowdon, Bulwer, Dains, Washbrook, Pritchard, Carter and Sir Arthur Heywood, all now deceased, as well as J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, G. Baker, of Brighton, G. Lindoff, of Dublin, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. With the last-named, a good deal of the spade work was done to produce the two modern works on ringing, viz., 'Grandsire' and 'Stedman.' It is on record that Sir Arthur Heywood, on seeing certain productions by Mr. Parker, threw over a whole pile of work in order to start afresh.

During the early years of the Sussex County Association challenge cup era certain of the committee rather feared for the truth of the peals rung in the Warnham district, not knowing till later who was the actual composer. Quite recently Mr. Lindoff produced a ten-part peal of Stedman Triples and wished to claim it, but was referred to the 'Bell News' of 1889. Again, Wm. Sevier, of Gloucester, sent him years ago a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples by the Rev. H. L. James, which Mr. Parker converted into an excellent five-part peal. In recent conversation I have ascertained that much of his early work was entirely wasted in endeavouring to 'produce an impossibility,' and it was only after elaborate diagrams, with columns of part-ends to correspond with the 'bob sets' of calling, had been prepared that it was possible to answer the question: 'Will it go?'

Carter's '20 courses,' with the help of the two Parkers, soon became 30, and then 40 courses as we know them to-day, and, strange to say, working independently, each man produced them in exactly the same way.

The Waterloo Society rang Holt's Original reversed by Carter, and it was questioned by Challis Winney with letters to Mr. Parker, who pointed out that by cutting out the three leads between the Singles, and placing them in the body of the peal, it was quite true. There was a very interesting half-hour with Carter at the 'Goose and Gridiron' soon afterwards, during a College Youths' meeting there.

Harvey Reeves, the late editor of 'Bell News,' had an ambition to call a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow. Carter arranged the composition—a variation of Thurstan's four-part—to suit the 4th bell as the observation. This Reeves called, and had a board erected for it in the belfry. That peal proved false, but the same composition with the 2nd as observation by Parker runs true. When 'Bell News' started, Harvey, a portly man, often visited Farnham Royal for a week-end, when he would engage a pony and chaise to drive through the famous Burnham Beeches with Parker, and I often heard a good deal of talking and figuring in various methods by the pair during our drive, which usually finished up at the Duke's Head to moisten the course ends.

Mr. Parker had the pull on him once when Reeves returned his two peals of Grandsire Triples on the six-part plan as false, whilst they were perfectly true, a plan which other composers have since followed up.

What do you consider the most effective composition in Grandsire? I asked. 'My 12-part; it is capable of endless variation,' replied Mr. Parker. 'I have it transposed with the second bell as observation for a conductor, who is unable to ring at the back end of a ring of eight.'

This contribution would not be complete if attention were not drawn to Mr. Parker's fourfold jubilee, an accomplishment that does not fall to one individual very often, viz., as chorister, towerkeeper and Berks and Bucks ringer, and, last but not least, fifty years of happy married life. His many services as a ringer, composer and a committee man for the Oxford Diocesan Guild were acknowledged by electing him to honorary membership of the Guild in 1889, and there is every prospect of his making another jubilee in 1931.

On St. Leonard's Day four Berks and four Bucks men met at Farnham Church and rang a 'complimentary peal' (as already reported) for Mr. Parker to celebrate his jubilee. One of his favourite methods, 'Oxford Bob,' was selected. W. H. F.

THE STANDARD OF STRIKING IN PEALS.

SOME PERTINENT REMARKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Far be it from me to cast animadversions upon other people's peal ringing. The standard of striking in peals is necessarily arbitrary, for various reasons. However, there is a definite minimum of performance below which no ringers should go.

I am moved to these remarks by what I heard of a peal at Painswick on Saturday last, by the band which had attempted to regain the twelve-bell record for length. I trust that no one will think I exaggerate, or that I approach the subject with anything but an open mind. I say, then, that this performance was no peal, for neither did it start from nor did it end with rounds. Not one of the opening rounds was clean, and owing to the careless ringing of two of the little bells, rounds did not come up where it ought to have done. Of the forty minutes or so of the ringing that I heard, the least said the better. It reminded me of nothing so much as a billiard player idly knocking the balls about the table, with no definite object in view. If a ball goes in a pocket, all well and good. If it doesn't, nobody cares. And this was from the band which, had it succeeded in keeping the bells going for the proposed length, would have taken precedence over the band which rang the Southwark Stedman, a magnificent performance, and over the Ashton Maximus band.

I have just read through the foregoing, and see no reason to withdraw one jot or tittle of my remarks. The two very efficient ringers who were with me at the time agreed with me that the ringing was very bad indeed.

I do sincerely trust that the band, among which are some of my very good friends, will take these strictures as they are offered, i.e., in a spirit of friendly criticism.

Now, Sir, I am not the man to take an attitude which may be construed as purely destructive. Hence I have a suggestion to make in regard to all record performances. Is it impossible for the Central Council to appoint competent judges to listen to the ringing of these peals? The difficulty which crops up immediately is that were such judges to be appointed, they would have no fixed standard on which to base their conclusions, but they would have their own very good sense, and that is not an unreasonable criterion.—Yours truly,

J. T. DYKE.

Chilcompton, Somerset.

OLD SLOWE'S GHOST.

A GRAVE WARNING TO YOUNG RINGERS.

'Tis oft times repeated as 'how there's no ghosts.'
But, don't you believe it; for he who sure boasts
Upon this moot point—well, just doesn't know
Our long defunct change ringer—Benjamin Slowe.
Now 'Benjy,' while wearing this ill-fitting coil
Which poets call mortal, gave much of his toil
To the art of change ringing; but always insisted
That 'striking' came first, the remainder—existed.
'Tis known for a fact that old Benjamin 'walks.'
He was buried in seventeen forty, and folks
Declare that on practice nights he's 'nosing' round,
When you'd think he was safe tucked away underground.
If the 'striking' be had, then an 'aura' is seen
To materialise over the closely cropped green
Into 'Benjy' himself! a-dancing a jig,
In his three-cornered hat and his pump-handled wig.
When the bells 'fall' in peal, and the light are turned out,
It is then that had 'strickers' their fears try to flout.
Quite useless, however! they just have to face him:
If they take to their heels they can never outpace him.
The end of this race is a terrible thwack,
As a shrewd blow goes home 'cross the broad of the back.
The striker now stricken, ducks—bellows for mercy,
And as Barham would say, 'it's now quite wisey wersey.'
But afterwards, in the smoke-laden saloon
Of that good house of cheer, 'The Yorkshire Dragoon,'
It's then that 'mine host,' from the victim in pain,
Takes toll, winks, and says, 'What! old "Benjy" again?'

'CASCABLE.'

THREE GENERATIONS IN A PEAL.

Edwin Barnett the third has scored his first peal at the age of eleven years, and will earn the hearty congratulations of the Exercise upon his achievement. 'Granddad' called the peal, and father also took part, so that the performance is specially noteworthy as being one of the very rarer examples of three generations taking part. We hope the three Edwin's may ring many more peals together, and that some day Edwin Barnett I. and Edwin Barnett II. will ring in a peal conducted by Edwin Barnett III.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST. LAVENHAM'S FAMOUS TENOR.

The 'Saturday Magazine' of October 17th, 1832, had the following paragraph in praise of Lavenham tenor, still held to be one of the finest old bells in the country: At Lavenham, an obscure little town in Suffolk, once celebrated for the manufacture of blue cloth and hand-spun yarn, stands a noble monument of ancient munificence, ranked among the most beautiful Gothic fabrics in the kingdom, both for durability and grandeur. In the steeple of this church is a bell, weighing only 2,576 lb., with such a melodious note as to be universally styled 'The Matchless Tenor'; and 'Magna Britannia,' treating of Lavenham bells, says: 'The tenor hath such an admirable note, as England has none to compare to it.'

'Its weight, its shape, its size alike admir'd,
And tone wherewith each ringer is inspired,
The merry eight with music fill the ear;
Enterpe, too, invites from far and near.
And though, in floating, all sounds slowly die,
They're quick revived by Echo's sweet reply.
Heard through the woods their soft melodious ring
Inspires the warbling feathered tribe to sing,
Nestling 'mid leaves, or skimming o'er the plain,
Distinct to hail each harmonising strain.'

Tradition says that at the time of casting this tenor bell at Lavenham (1625) some rich wool staplers there and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood contributed great quantities of silver, and even gold, to the usual metal, which may, perhaps, account for the vast superiority of its tone. Three roods of land were left to the church by some admirer of ringing for the repair of the bell ropes. Judge Hale, Simon De Ewes (one of the most learned antiquaries of his time and lord of the manor of Lavenham), and William Cecil (Lord High Treasurer of England) were celebrated bellringers, and no doubt travelled miles to assist at the rejoicings of village festivals.

BOW STEEPLE.

Bow bells, still silent for want of that attention which all ringers are hoping will soon be given to them, are perhaps the most famous in the world, and the steeple is one of Wren's masterpieces. It is recorded that about the year 1190, one Longbeard, ringleader of a furious mob, sought refuge in the spire of Bow Church and refused to surrender himself to the authorities until compelled to do so by their setting fire to his place of retreat. In 1271 part of the steeple fell, and, says Stow, the historian, 'slewe manie people, men and women, that then were in the church, or dwelled neere there or about.' The old steeple was entirely rebuilt about 1460, when the Common Council of the City of London ordered that 'Bow Bell' should be rung nightly at nine o'clock in order 'to release the London 'prentices.' This bell, says, Stow, being usually rung somewhat late, as seemed to the young men 'prentices and others in Cheap, they made and set up a rhyme against the clerk as followeth:—

'Clerke of the Bow Bell, with the yellow locks,
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knocks.'

Whereunto the clerk, replying, wrote:

'Children of Cheap, hold you all still,
For you shall have the Bow Bell rung at your will.'

This Bow steeple suffered in the Great Fire of London, and Wren's noble structure is its successor.

FORTUNE SPENT ON BELLRINGING.

One of the most notable of the lords of the manor of Cowley (Gloucestershire) appears to have been Henry Brett. He was an eccentric man, and was remarkable for his fondness for bellringing, which he gratified by constantly travelling about the country with a company of ringers. So costly was this amusement that in the end he is said to have thus dissipated a splendid fortune! He gave a ring of six bells to the Church of St. Mary, at Cowley, in the year 1730.

WHEN 'GREAT PAUL' CAME TO TOWN.

When 'Great Paul' was brought from Loughborough Foundry to London in 1881 it made a kind of triumphal progress through the country. It was drawn on a trolley by traction engines, the vehicle with its load weighing about 22 tons. One day's journey was planned from Leighton Buzzard to Dunstable, but between Fenny Stratford and Breckhill the trolley became stuck in the mud, and many attempts had to be made before it could be extricated by jacks. The roadway was too soft for the narrow wheels of the heavily-loaded wagon, and the experiment was made of putting down boiler plates for the vehicle to travel on. This, however, met with little success, and only 100 yards was covered in the day.

The first 'Big Ben,' cast at Stockton-on-Tees, also met with misfortune on its journey. It was brought by boat to London, and while being unshipped fell into the water. It was recovered, only, however, to be fractured and rendered useless.

PINED FOR NOT RINGING.

Of ringing upon historic occasions there are many quaint records in old parish documents, the details having been preserved because of the payments made by the churchwardens to the ringers, which were duly charged up in the parish accounts. At the time of the civil wars, the parson and the ringers did not apparently always feel safe in their celebrations, and veered from side to side in their

loyalty. At Wrington, Somerset, the ringers were paid to ring when Henrietta Maria rode through the little town on her way to France, but in 1651 a payment of five shillings was made to the ringers 'for ringing for joy of the route of Worcester,' and in 1652 the like sum, 'when the Lord Protector was proclaimed,' with another payment in 1657 for 'God's discovery of the bloody plot against the Lord Protector.'

Sometimes the non-ringing of bells brought its penalties. The people of Twickenham, while busied in reaping, neglected to have the bells rung when Charles I. passed through their town in 1647, and it is recorded that they were mulcted in a penalty of 13s. 4d. 'for default of ringing in harvest when the King came by twice.' In 1529 Queen Catherine was at Reading, and in consequence of the bells failing to be rung the sum of eightpence had to be paid to her almoner. Earlier still, in 1410, Archbishop Arundel suspended certain churches in London, 'with God's holy organs and instruments in the same,' because when in open daylight, passing on foot through the city with his cross borne before him, the bells did not ring out.

A DUKE'S EXPERIMENTS AT BRISTOL.

It is said that the St. Nicholas' Guild of Ringers, Bristol, owes its charter to a royal visit which Queen Elizabeth paid to that city. One of her victims, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whose death warrant was thrice sealed, but only twice effectually revoked, had some love of ringing, and experimented on bells in Bristol. At the Temple Church, where there is the famous leaning tower, it is said he had the bells rung to see whether the tower rocked during the process. It must have been well tested, if it was not more gently tried than was the belfry of St. John's in the same city, where there is entered in the church accounts for the same year, 'Paid for reparation upon the church at the ringing of the Duke of Norfolk, 9s. 11d.,' a sum which represents about £10 in modern money.

PEALS AT SHREWSBURY.

The 'Shrewsbury Chronicle' has given the following details of peals rung in that town up to 50 years ago:—

'The recorded peals of 5,000 or more changes, rung on our town church bells within the last 144 years, amount to 21 or a little more, on an average, than one peal for every seven years. The first of these peals was rung at the Abbey in 1735, comprising 5,040 Grandsire Triples, and the same peal was repeated the following year in the same tower. It is stated that three peals in the same method, and containing the same number of changes, were rung at Old St. Chad's in 1762, 1769 and 1770 respectively, and, in the same old tower, a peal of Grandsire Caters was successfully performed in 1772. Mr. Holt's celebrated peal of Grandsire Triples seems to have been rung for the first time in our town at St. Mary's in 1778: a peal of Treble Bob Major was rung at the Abbey in 1783; in 1798 a peal of Grandsire (eight-in) was rung at St. Mary's. Our local society of change ringers must have been in good form at that date, for in the following year (1799) they succeeded in completing a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Chad's remarkably distinguished for its fine striking; and in 1800 they surpassed themselves by the far more difficult task of ringing a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in the same tower.'

THE RINGERS OF CHEW.

AN OLD RHYME.

Here's a health to John Northcote,
And James Rendall, too,
They made a new Sconch*
For the ringers of Chew.
This new sconch was made
For to rise and to fall,
And the name of John Northcote
Shall reign above all.

In the year of 1804
This noble fine sconch
Was brought into Chew Tower,
Which made all the ringers
Rejoice and to sing,
Here's a health to John Northcote,
And God save our King.

If a Gentleman calls
This new sconch to see,
There's no harm in treating
Such ringers as we.
We can ring Bobs and Singles,
Extremes and true blues.
There's no ringers can compare
With the ringers of Chew.

Chorus:

Twinkle, dillo, Twinkle dillo, Twinkle dillo, dillo, dillo, dillo,
For he that loves a pretty girl is a jolly good fellow.

* Sconch=sconce?—a three-branched candlestick. Chorus is reminiscent of the Sussex blacksmith's song.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

EXETER.—On Sunday, December 15th, for evening service, at Heavitree Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Sandover 1, W. Lethbridge 2, J. Oke 3, T. Laver 4, W. Richardson 5, C. Glass 6, F. J. Davey (conductor) 7, W. Bedford 8.

STONY STRATFORD.—At the Church of St. Giles, on Sunday, December 15th, for Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: E. Yates 1, H. E. Tomkins 2, T. C. Tompkins 3, E. C. Lambert 4, W. Neale 5, W. W. Bonham 6, H. C. Edwards (conductor) 7, T. Trazler 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, December 15th, for morning service, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): F. Vickers 1, H. V. Sear 2, J. Mead 3, A. Crane 4, J. Marks 5, E. Marks 6, H. Sear (conductor) 7, W. Sear 8. Rung on the occasion of Mr. E. Marks' golden wedding.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, December 15th, at the Parish Church, for Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) by the local band in 50 mins.: F. W. Buckland 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Harry Wingrove 4, Jesse Harrison 5, W. H. Fletcher 6, R. Buckland (conductor) 7, F. Lamb 8.

SHERBORNE ABBEY, DORSET.—On Sunday, December 15th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 52 mins.: S. Gallop 1, W. Lamber 2, D. Clothier 3, F. Price (conductor) 4, C. Vowles 5, J. Ellis 6, P. King 7, H. Pope 8. This was the first quarter-peal ever rung on the Abbey bells by a local band, and it was rung as a compliment to the Vicar (Canon S. H. Wingfield Digby) upon his election the previous day as chairman of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

WORKSOP.—On Advent Sunday, at the Priory Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 47 mins.: W. Brunt 1, Miss Ethel Winrow 2, B. Smith 3, S. Jordan 4, S. Walker 5, G. Hardwick (conductor) 6, H. Jordan 7, S. Eastland 8.

TOTTENHAM.—At All Hallows' Church, on Sunday, November 24th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Dr. W. P. Roe 1, H. A. Barnett 2, W. J. Ellis 3, C. T. Coles (conductor) 4, W. Dickinson 5, H. W. H. Strickland 6, H. Ellis 7, E. A. Hull 8.—On Sunday, December 1st, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: *H. W. H. Strickland 1, *Miss P. Upsher 2, *W. J. Ellis 3, H. A. Barnett 4, J. G. Nash (first quarter in the method as conductor) 5, M. Fensom 6, N. Tomlinson 7, E. A. Hull 8. *First quarter-peal in method.

FEERING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, November 17th, for Remembrance service, 1,024 Bob Major: S. Fisher 1, W. Keeble (conductor) 2, C. J. Rogers 3, G. Hayward 4, J. C. Newman 5, F. Fludder 6, L. A. Clark 7, C. Button 8.

KELVEDON, ESSEX.—On Sunday, November 10th, for afternoon service, 720 Kent Treble Bob: F. Dale 1, W. Keeble (conductor) 2, G. Hayward 3, J. Elliott 4, W. Elliott 5, C. Button 6.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKS.—On Sunday evening, November 10th, half-muffled for the Armistice, 720 Bob Minor: C. Everitt 1, E. Nicholls 2, H. Stopp 3, H. Jones, jun., 4, H. Jones, sen., 5, J. Stopp (conductor) 6.

COMPTON MARTIN, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, November 10th, for Armistice service, at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles with the bells half-muffled in 45 mins.: J. House 1, C. Field 2, W. Webb 3, J. Tossell (conductor) 4, F. Tossell 5, E. Tossell 6.

OVER, CAMBS.—On Sunday, November 3rd, for morning service, 720 Plain Bob: D. Adams 1, H. Robinson 2, Wm. Bavin 3, R. Thoday 4, C. Robinson 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

AVERAVON, GLAM.—On Sunday, November 3rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: C. Hughes 1, W. Williams 2, W. Nulton 3, E. Stith 4, C. Mathers 5, F. E. Stone 6, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 7, J. Weathersby 8.

CHARING, KENT.—On Sunday, November 3rd, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles in 46 mins.: M. Johnson 1, A. Waddington 2, W. Henniker 3, W. Good 4, F. Good (conductor) 5, A. Foreman 6.

LONDON.—On Sunday, November 3rd, for the festival of 'the harvest of the sea,' at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, City, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: T. H. Taffender 1, A. F. Petrie (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, E. J. King (conductor) 3, W. D. Grainger 4, J. Waugh 5, F. W. Thornton 6, W. Rogers 7, E. J. Brown 8. Also after morning and before and after evening service, touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Major were rung, in which Messrs. W. Hardy, T. Wyatt, E. J. Moye, A. Cutmore, G. Dawson, A. Prior, E. D. Smith, G. Cross, E. Garrard, W. Bullen, G. Card, G. Gilbert, J. R. Gammon and W. Armstrong took part.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, October 20th, for morning service, at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): F. J. Lewis, jun., 1, F. J. Lewis, sen., 2, A. W. Bond 3, H. C. Bond 4, H. S. Parsons 5, H. Lewis 6, W. H. Hayward (conductor) 7, F. Edwards 8. For evening service at the Parish Church, two courses of Grandsire Cinques: F. W. Bond 1, F. J. Lewis, jun., 2, H. L. Cook 3, A. W. Bond 4, F. J. Lewis, sen., 5, H. S. Parsons 6, J. C. Eden 7, F. E. Collins (Croydon) 8, H. C. Bond 9, H. Lewis 10, W. H. Hayward 11, F. Edwards 12.

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT'S**RINGING DEFENDED AMONG NOISES OF LONDON.**

The bells of St. Clement Danes, London, have recently come under the lash of those who object to bellringing. One London newspaper gave great prominence to the complaint made against them, and the Rector, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, who is one of the best clerical friends that ringers have in London, has spiritedly defended the ringing.

The 'Daily Telegraph' has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the bells, and in a leading article said:—

'The bells of St. Clement's are famous, not only in the nursery rhyme, but in fact. Seven of the ten date from William III.'s day, and their music is sweet. Yet it appears that some of the few neighbouring residents object to their ringing. Bells, they think, are to be unheard as well as unseen. Barristers poring over their briefs by lamplight are disturbed by the pealing from St. Clement's spire. They do not share Trotty Veck's awed admiration for the deep, strong melody that Dickens has described so well in "The Chimes." They have no sympathy with the ancient and peculiarly English art of change ringing which the Rector of St. Clement Danes has encouraged at his church. Grandsires, Treble Bobs, and Plain Bobs are all equally abhorrent to them.

'There is no arguing with the indignant Templars who dislike church bells, but accept the roar of the street traffic as a matter of course. It may be suggested, however, that the evening peals which five Guilds of change ringers perform on Saturday afternoons and on occasional evenings at St. Clement's are so exceptional in modern London as to deserve encouragement rather than reproof. Travellers who have heard the nightly carillon in the towns of Belgium and Northern France often regret the silence of our London belfries, save for the Abbey. Many a good peal of bells, handed down from generations that delighted in their aerial melodies, hangs neglected. When there are enthusiasts who like the skilled team-work and hard exercise of change ringing, it would be a pity to deter them. London is noisy enough, in all conscience, but it would not willingly part with the bells of St. Clement's.'

The Rector, writing to the 'Daily Telegraph,' said: 'Having regard to what has appeared elsewhere, I think, in all fairness to our beautiful bells and to the public, it is due from me to say that I have had no complaints, written or verbal, from any resident of the Temple, excepting just one instance, which was settled most amiably, or from any of his Majesty's Judges at the Royal Courts of Justice, during the nineteen years that I have been Rector. On the contrary, when the famous peal was silent, some years before 1919, I found that these renowned bells had so many admirers, both far and near, that there was no difficulty whatever, in a very short space of time, in providing a new steel frame, which had become necessary in order that the London public could hear them again. The late Queen Alexandra set the bells ringing after this long period of silence, and the subscribers included some of his Majesty's judges and several residents of the Temple.'

BISHOP AND RINGERS.

A visit by the Bishop of Guildford to Haslemere on Thursday, December 19th, for the dedication of an organ, which an anonymous donor has given to the Parish Church, provided an opportunity for a small but happy gathering of ringers who met there to pay the usual compliment due to a prince of the Church when visiting in his own diocese.

Several touches of Grandsire Caters were rung before and after the dedication service, the following ringers being present: Messrs. A. Furlonger, B. Elliot, F. Bowden, R. Overy, J. H. B. Hesse, W. Eldridge and R. Hayes, of the local band, Messrs. A. J. Bartlett, Chiddingfold, W. and R. Melville, A. H. Pulling and C. Hazelden, Guildford.

After the service, the Bishop visited the ringing chamber and expressed his surprise and pleasure in finding a full company of ringers able to be present for a mid-week function. His Lordship concluded by wishing the ringers every success and happiness in their work for the Church.

A. C. H.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on November 21st, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: A. H. Stebbings 1, T. Ringrose 2, S. Bigmore 3, W. G. Gridley 4, H. S. Barker (conductor) 5, H. Stebbings 6. First quarter-peal on the bells by a local band.

ICKLETON, CAMBS.—On Thursday, November 14th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 49 mins.: W. Smoothey 1, L. Lilley 2, P. Webb (conductor) 3, L. Flitton 4, R. Clements 5, G. Lilley 6, W. Flitton 7, A. Lilley 8. First quarter-peal by treble and 2nd ringers.

APSLEY END, HERTS.—At St. Mary's Church, on Wednesday, November 13th, two 720's Grandsire Doubles, each in 24 mins. First 720: G. Palmer 1, E. Picton (first on a working bell) 2, A. V. Good 3, R. Bruce 4, F. Tompkins 5, C. J. Henley (conductor) 6. Second 720: R. Bruce 1, G. Palmer 2, C. J. Henley 3, A. V. Good 4, F. Tompkins (first 720 as conductor) 5, E. Picton 6.

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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d. which entitles members who have not met twenty times in the previous year to vote on matters of finance is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on Jan. 2nd, 16th, 30th; *St. Giles', Cripplegate, or the Coffee Pot on the 7th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 9th (8 p.m.); *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 21st; Southwark Cathedral on the 23rd; at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch. — A special meeting, following the augmentation, will be held at Radstock on Saturday, Dec. 28th. Bells (6) available at 2 p.m. Divine service at 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. T. Clark, Hon. Sec., High Street, Timsbury, Bath.

RADSTOCK, Somt.—Ringers' opening day, Saturday, Dec. 28th, of the augmented peal of six hung with modern fittings in a new oak bell frame by Taylors, of Loughborough.

TILSWORTH, Beds.—Dedication of the recast and augmented peal of six peals hung with modern fittings in new cast-iron framework by Taylors, of Loughborough, is to take place on Sunday, Dec. 29th, at 6 p.m.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Southern District will be held at Stockton-on-Tees on Wednesday, Jan. 1st. Bells (10) available from 2 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Ringers requiring tea please notify me not later than the 30th inst. All ringers welcome.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 71, Surtees Street, Darlington.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. — J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Padiham on Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. A good attendance requested.—F. Hindle, Hon. Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting for the election of officers for the ensuing year will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4th, at the Cathedral, Derby. Bells (10) available from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. Business meeting at 4 p.m. in belfry. A good attendance is desired. Seats can be reserved and tea obtained at King's Café, St. Peter's Street, on notice being given in the belfry during the afternoon. — George Freebrey, Local Sec., 81, Roe Street.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4th, in the belfry of St. Martin's Church. Business to commence punctually at 5.30 p.m. Bells available later.—Thomas H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District. — The first meeting of the year 1930 will be held at Thurleigh (6 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Good bus service from Bedford.—Percy C. Bonnett, Stagsden, Beds.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at Devizes on Saturday, Jan. 4th. The following bells are available: St. John's (8), St. Mary's (6), St. James' (6). Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Guild service at St. James' Church 4.40. Tea at 5, followed by the business meeting, in St. James' Parish Room. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Branch Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — West Norfolk Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Dersingham on Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells (6) available at 3 o'clock. Tea and meeting in Parish Room.—W. J. Eldred, Hon. Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Framlington on Jan. 11th. Bells available 2.30. Tea in Church Room at 4.30. Meeting follows. — Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. The usual arrangements. Trams pass church. Everyone welcome.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. —The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, Jan. 11th, at 4 o'clock. Unveiling of peal tablet by Rev. P. McCormick at 4.30. Meeting in Church House at 7. Tea will be provided to all who send me a postcard not later than Jan. 6th.—J. Sparrow, Sec., 5, Bandon Rise, Wallington, Surrey.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILD'S Ninth Annual Dinner will be held at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, Jan. 18th, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 5s. 6d., now available from Messrs. Walker (Birmingham), Tanner (Weston), Hawkins (London), Grant (Bath), Austin (Gloucester), all Bristol tower officials, or direct from the hon. sec., Edgar Guise, 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

CLAYBROOKE, Leics.—Ring of 4, augmented to peal of 8 and hung with modern fittings in new cast iron frame by Taylors, of Loughborough, will be opened on Saturday, Jan. 18th.

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WEDDING BELLS.

In honour of the wedding of Mr. J. Stopp, of Maids Moreton,
Bucks, and Miss D. Whitehead, which took place on Saturday, De-
cember 7th, at Maids Moreton, a 720 Grandsire Doubles was rung by
the local band, after the ceremony: H. Jones, sen., 1, H. Jones, jun.,
2, C. Everett 3, W. Jones 4, H. Stopp (conductor) 5, T. Jones 6.
Also 720 Oxford Bob Minor, at Hemel Hempstead, on Thursday
evening, December 12th, in 26 mins., with tenor behind: F. Tompkins
1, H. Gates 2, W. Shepherd 3, J. Floyd 4, H. Golding 5, A. V. Good
(conductor) 6, E. J. Wynn 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

EXETER.—At St. David's, for Confirmation service, on December
11th, a quarter-peat of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) by St.
David's Society: W. Webber 1, W. Lethbridge (conductor) 2, J. Hop-
kins 3, C. Carter 4, A. W. Searle 5, F. Gardner 6, F. J. Davey 7, W.
Bewes 8.

MAISEYHAMPTON, GLOS.—On Thursday, November 28th, a
quarter-peat of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: E.
Smith 1, J. Hope (conductor) 2, H. Barnfield 3, H. Prophet 4, H.
Day 5, G. Pearce 6. First quarter-peat since the 5th was recast, and
all six hung with new fittings and ball bearings. All are Sunday
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