

No. 1,340. Vol. XXXI.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1936.

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

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THE LENGTH OF A PEAL.

We print elsewhere a letter, on the subject of peals, which may give thoughtful ringers food for reflection. It contains the suggestion that, in view of the fact that the time is fast approaching when, as our correspondent puts it, the whole question of limitations upon peals must receive drastic attention, steps might be taken to lower the recognised standard for the length of a 'peal.' That the question of peal ringing should receive the serious consideration of the Exercise, and that there are, also, occasions when shorter bouts of ringing than three hours would meet the professed purpose of the performance, we fully agree, but there are weighty arguments against reducing the accepted length of a 'peal.'

In the sense that it is laid down that a peal shall consist of not less than 5,000 changes, our correspondent is correct when he says that it is a purely arbitrary standard, but there are mathematical and historical grounds for this definition. In the early days of change ringing a 'peal' was the extent of the changes on any given number of bells. It was a six-score on five, a 720 on six, and a five thousand and forty on seven. Old peal boards can still be found in which a 10,080 of Major is described as a 'quarter-peal.' But for practical purposes, ever since peal ringing, as we know it to-day, began in the early eighteenth century with peals of Triples, five thousand and forty has been the basis of recognition, with due allowance for the requirements of methods rung on eight or more bells.

To lower this standard would, we think, be a retrograde step. Peals are, in these days, 'cheap' enough compared with the tax which they put upon the performers in years gone by. To permit about three-fifths of such achievements to rank for merit as a 'peal' would strike at the very root of the value of the performance. When it is said that on the score of proficiency in a method 1,260 changes can be as searching a test as the whole peal, we do not agree. The last hour of the peal is, in our opinion, the supreme test of the ringers' physical and mental powers, when they have to resist fatigue both of body and mind. That last hour of concentration is the all-important factor in successful peal ringing—to cut it out would rob the performance of more than half its merit.

But while we differ with our correspondent on what the standard of a peal should continue to be, we do agree that ringers have got to give more consideration to the public than has been sometimes done in the past. Peals on 'noisy' bells in congested districts should be avoided, except on very special occasions, but many a tower could

(Continued on page 766.)

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be saved from eventual silence by the remedies which have been suggested. We consider it the ringers' duty, in their own as well as the public's interest, to get Church authorities to do what is needed to moderate the sound of the bells in the vicinity of the tower. The operation can always be carried out in such a way that the volume of sound can be regulated to suit the occasion. This, coupled with reasonable consideration for the public, and the maintenance of a good standard of striking—the quality of striking makes a vast difference to the effect on the public ear—would, we are convinced, go a long way to remove or prevent objection, but in the interests of the art itself we are sure it would be a mistake, even if another peal were never rung, to reduce the standard which was set up in the beginnings of change ringing and has been maintained down the centuries.

TEN BELL PEALS.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

E. DENNIS POOLE Treble	ALFRED S. BAYLEY 6
WALTER S. CRAWFORD 2	WALTER LAGO 7
JOSEPH HANLEY 3	WILLIAM SAUNDERS 8
ROBERT EVANS 4	B. LESLIE JONES 9
GEOFFREY F. D. PRATT 5	JACK GARBETT Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WILLIAM SAUNDERS.

The ringers are all Coalbrookdale 'locals,' and are all ringing members of both the Shropshire Association and the Hereford Diocesan Guild. The peal was arranged to enable their colleague, William Saunders, to ring his 200th peal. At the conclusion the Rev. T. Eland, Vicar of Coalbrookdale, visited the ringing chamber and congratulated his ringers on the excellent ringing. This is the fastest peal yet rung on these ten bells.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

STANLEY F. ARMSTRONG Treble	KENNETH SNELLING 6
EDWARD J. CHARMAN 2	FRANK I. HAIRS 7
CHARLES H. KIPPIN 3	ALFRED GREENWOOD 8
FREDERICK W. ROGERS 4	DANIEL D. COOPER 9
FREDERICK PAGE 5	FRANK E. DARBY Tenor

Composed by J. A. BURFORD. Conducted by FRANK E. DARBY.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE NATIONAL POLICE GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

CHIEF-INSP. WM. BOTTRILL Treble	P.S. CYRIL PEASE 6
P.S. THOMAS G. BANNISTER 2	P.C. NORMAN S. BAGWORTH 7
EX-INSP. FRANK RIDGWELL 3	EX-INSP. ARTHUR B. WIFFEN 8
P.C. JAMES G. A. PRIOR ... 4	P.S. CHARLES WILLMINGTON 9
EX-P.C. ERNEST BRETT ... 5	EX-P.S. ALBERT LAWRENCE Tenor

Composed by EX-P.C. CORNELIUS CHARGE.

Conducted by Chief-Inspector WILLIAM BOTTRILL.

The first peal of Royal ever rung by a band of police officers.

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NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours & Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

ALBERT J. GREEN Treble	FREDERICK C. CASE 6
ROBERT G. BLACK 2	JOHN A. GREEN 7
FRANK J. GREEN 3	WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD 8
HERBERT C. EDWARDS 4	THOMAS E. ROBERTS 9
ERNEST C. LAMBERT 5	CHARLES W. BIRD Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN A. GREEN.

This was the conductor's first attempt to conduct a peal on ten bells. Rung on the 40th anniversary of Mr. E. C. Lambert's first peal.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6043 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 24 lb.

HARRY HOSKINS Treble	JOSEPH HERBERT 6
WILLIAM H. HEWITT 2	EDWIN F. PIKE 7
HORACE BELCHER 3	JOSEPH MARKS 8
*ROY K. MOWFORTH 4	REUBEN SANDERS 9
*MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK 5	WILLIAM LIDBETTER Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM H. HEWITT.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. Specially arranged and rung to commemorate the wedding of Flying Officer John Shepherd-Smith, second son of the Rev. and Mrs. P. W. Shepherd-Smith, of the Vicarage, Isleworth, and Miss Pamela Hunter-Tod, younger daughter of the late Mr. Hunter-Tod, F.R.C.S., and Mrs. A. Thorowgood, of Hogg Lane Farm, Ashley Green, Bucks, which took place at Malta on November 18th.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 14, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

JOHN H. GRUNDY Treble	HAROLD G. JENNEY 5
COLIN HARRISON 2	HAROLD J. POOLE 6
J. FREDERICK MILNER 3	HARRY BROUGHTON 7
SHIRLEY BURTON 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

A birthday compliment to J. F. Milner.

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 14, 1936, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLIAM T. POSTON Treble	*WILLIAM H. SYMONDS 5
JOHN J. WEBB 2	H. ERNEST COX 6
ALFRED T. POULTON 3	WILLIAM POSTON 7
ROBERT E. SUMMERS 4	CHARLES L. SADLER Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

* First peal of Stedman.

NORTH ELHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 15, 1936, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

FREDERICK R. WILLEY Treble	†ROBERT MARSH 5
*BERTIE W. MARSH 2	†WILLIAM R. WEST 6
GEORGE T. BUNNING 3	JOHN A. GODFREY 7
†HARRY R. LOVE 4	ERNEST V. BLAKE Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ERNEST V. BLAKE.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the fallen of the parish, also of Robert Blake, of Hethersett, who died November 14th, 1935.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, November 14, 1936, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

JAMES ROSE Treble	KEITH WHITTLE 5
SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER 2	GEORGE BENNETT 6
CHARLES SHEMMINGS 3	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE 7
WILLIAM KINSEY 4	JAMES BENNETT, JUN. Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by J. BENNETT, JUN.

First peal in the method as conductor.

TWERTON-ON-AVON, BATH.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 16, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

HENRY W. BROWN Treble	†GEORGE BAATZ 5
WILLIAM J. PRISCOTT 2	SAMUEL J. HECTOR 6
*HAROLD PARFREY 3	THOMAS F. KING 7
†WILLIAM G. BROWN 4	GILBERT H. HARDING Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by THOMAS F. KING.

* First peal. † First peal of Bob Major. Rung in honour of the fifth anniversary of the Rev. G. G. Hickman's appointment as Vicar of Twerton; also for the wedding of Miss Marjorie Hector, daughter of Mr. Sam Hector, the well-known Trowbridge ringer, to B.Q.M.S. Humphries, of the R.H.A. It was also a birthday compliment to Henry W. Brown.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 18, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN WHEADON Treble	HARRY HOSKINS 5
*ALAN J. HOPPER 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 6
DEREK M. SHARP 3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER 7
†NORMAN SUMMERHAYES 4	JAMES E. BAILEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Bob Major. The tenor ringer has now 'circled' the tower.

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 18, 1936, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.

FREDERICK W. CRIPPS Treble	JOSEPH FARMER 5
OWEN H. GILES 2	KEITH HART 6
JACK M. CRIPPS 3	FREDERICK PAGE 7
FRANK A. HALSTED 4	EDWARD J. CHARMAN Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by FREDERICK PAGE.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFS.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, November 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

PERCY RICHARDS Treble	HAROLD V. COOPER 5
WILLIAM POTTER 2	THOMAS HEMMING 6
WILLIAM SHORT 3	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 7
ROBERT MATTHEWS 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Composed by S. H. WOOD.

Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

Arranged and rung as a 65th birthday compliment to William Potter, leader of the local band.

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THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(ELLOF DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Thursday, November 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... Treble	CHARLES C. RAWDING ... 5
*CYRIL DOBNEY ... 2	† WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON ... 6
RALPH G. LEY ... 3	JOHN W. CARTER ... 7
ERNEST T. KING ... 4	ROBERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by ROBERT RICHARDSON

* First peal with an 'inside' bell. † First peal.

EARLS BARTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THORSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	CHARLES W. CLARKE ... 5
MISS EVELYN STEELE ... 2	BURLEY P. MORRIS ... 6
CHARLES W. BIRD ... 3	BERNARD J. SADDINGTON ... 7
FRANCIS BALL ... 4	HARRY PETTER ... Tenor

Conducted by W. P. WHITEHEAD.

EGHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.

*AUBRAY CLARK ... Treble	ALAN R. PINK ... 5
*LEONARD E. SCAMMELL ... 2	WALTER A. PECK ... 6
LEONARD STILWELL ... 3	WILLIAM WELLING ... 7
† NORMAN V. HARDING ... 4	*JOHN GREENOUGH ... Tenor

Conducted by W. WELLING.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

FARNHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

CHARLES W. DENVER ... Treble	ALLAN HARDIMAN ... 5
JESSE BEAGLEY ... 2	FRANK KEMP ... 6
GEORGE UPSHALL ... 3	RICHARD HASTED ... 7
RICHARD V. FULLER ... 4	THOMAS UPSHALL ... Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by RICHARD HASTED.

A complimentary peal to the conductor on the eve of his 65th birthday.

BUSHEY, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FRANCIS A. SMITH ... Treble	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 5
E. MAURICE ATKINS ... 2	WALTER AYRE ... 6
*REV. B. F. SHAPPARD ... 3	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7
*HENRY HODGETTS ... 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.
A birthday peal for the daughter of Mr. W. Ayre; also for the conductor.

CLAYBROOK, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CLAYBROOK SURPRISE MAJOR, 6184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... Treble	EDWIN LLOYD ... 5
KENNETH A. ROE ... 2	RICHARD F. ROE ... 6
*SIDNEY O. CHENEY ... 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT ... 7
ALBERT CHAMBERLAIN ... 4	JOSEPH S. CARTER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. S. CARTER.

* First peal in the method. Rung in honour of the birthday of the donor of the bells.

KINVER, STAFFS.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*BERNARD LAWTON ... Treble	HAROLD SHUCK ... 5
JOHN BASS ... 2	JOHN PAGETT ... 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 3	PERCY RICHARDS ... 7
† PERCY HANDLEY ... 4	FREDERICK G. HANDLEY ... Tenor

Composed by GEO. HUGHES.

Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. Quarterly peal for the Guild.

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BERKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ... Treble	*WILLIAM HENLEY ... 5
FREDERICK K. BIGGS ... 2	ROLAND BIGGS ... 6
DOROTHY R. FLETCHER ... 3	GEORGE MARTIN ... 7
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ... 4	HARRY WINGROVE ... Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH.

Conducted by GEORGE MARTIN.

* 400th peal. The Vicar met and welcomed the members of the band to his belfry and wished them success.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-WITHIN-THE-WALLS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*PERCY SWINDLEY ... Treble	*JAMES SWINDLEY ... 5
ROBERT SPERRING ... 2	*EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 6
*FRED HARTMAN ... 3	*SAMUEL JONES, JUN. ... 7
JAMES MORGAN ... 4	*EDWARD PRICE ... Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER.

Conducted by R. SPERRING.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Mr. Fred Hartman.

ADLINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... Treble	ADAM BLOGG ... 5
*THOMAS BARKER ... 2	FREDERICK G. BRADLEY ... 6
† JOHN JACKSON ... 3	*FRANCIS MCCARTHY ... 7
FRED RIGBY ... 4	† ALFRED BLOGG ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (3rd Reversed).

Conducted by A. BLOGG

* First peal of Oxford 'inside.' † First peal of Oxford. First peal of Oxford as conductor. First peal of Major on the bells.

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ACTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE
SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

J. E. LEWIS COCKEY	Treble	*MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE	5
GEORGE M. KILBY	2	CECIL C. MAYNE	6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE	3	HARRY KILBY	7
ERNEST C. S. TURNER	4	JAMES H. RIDING	Tenor

Composed by A. J. P. TMAN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Spliced Surprise Major. This composition contained 2,368 London, 1,152 Bristol and 768 each of Cambridge and Superlative, with 106 changes of method.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

GAYWOOD, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 3, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. FAITH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

SIDNEY FLINT	Treble	WALLACE W. COUSINS	4
*LESLIE STIMPSON	2	EDWARD GREENACRE	5
CLAUDE COUSINS	3	CECIL V. EBBERSON	Tenor

Conducted by CECIL V. EBBERSON.

* First attempt for a peal, and a member of the local St. Faith Guild of Ringers. This peal was originally attempted on August 4th as a wedding peal to Mr. F. Nolan Golden, an esteemed member of the above association.

ASHBOCKING, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. Mary-le-Tower Society.)

On Sunday, November 15, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Three different callings.

Tenor 11 cwt.

WILLIAM J. G. BROWN	Treble	*HARRY R. ROPER	4
*MISS SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER	2	GEORGE A. FLEMING	5
MISS PAVLIS E. TILLET	3	JOHN F. TILLET	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. FLEMING.

* First peal of Cambridge Minor. Harry R. Roper has now completed peals in this method on all numbers.

HOLWELL, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Three Hours and One Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two six-scores of St. Dunstan's, three of St. Simon's, eight each of Reverse, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob and 21 of Grandfire, 23 callings.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*WILFRED P. LAMBERT	Treble	*GILBERT W. RENDALL	3
HAROLD C. R. VINE	2	E. T. PAUL FIELD	4
*PERCY N. G. RAINEY			Tenor

Conducted by E. T. P. FIELD.

* First peal in five methods. Arranged and rung as a farewell compliment to the Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Hopkins. The Rev. A. G. Hopkins, who has been Rector of Holwell since 1927, is retiring through ill-health. The band were very hospitably entered at the Rectory after the peal. Quickest peal on the bells.

LLANELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ELI,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

DAVID L. REES	Treble	*CHRISTOPHER H. HAWKINS	4
ERNEST STITCH	2	EDWARD PHILLIPS	5
BENJAMIN WILLIAMS	3	GWYN I. LEWIS	Tenor

Conducted by G. I. LEWIS.

* First peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob on the bells. The quarterly peal for the Guild.

EVERTON, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's: (1) Capel, Sandal, Oxford, London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob; (2) Double and Single Court; (3) Cambridge Surprise; (4) St. Clement's; (5) Oxford Bob; (6) Kent Treble Bob; (7) Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

ARTHUR MULVEY	Treble	JACK MILLHOUSE	4
MISS KATHARINE BURCHNALL	2	HAROLD DENMAN	5
MISS GRACE BURCHNALL	3	CLIFFORD VESSEY	Tenor

Conducted by CLIFFORD VESSEY.

First peal in twelve methods by all the band and for the association.

DENVER, NORFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(WISBECH BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Oxford Bob, and two 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb.

*ARTHUR G. BACON	Treble	KENNETH NEWMAN	4
ALFRED E. BACON	2	WILLIAM BUCKENHAM	5
*FREDERICK MATTHEWS, JUN.	3	JOHN BUCKENHAM	Tenor

Conducted by W. BUCKENHAM.

* First peal in six methods. First in six methods as conductor.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 21, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven 720's in 12 methods, viz.: (1) Canterbury and Newcastle; (2) Munden and Chester; (3) York and Durham; (4) London and Wells; (5) Carlisle; (6) Cambridge; (7) Surfleet and Beverley.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

JAMES T. TITT	Treble	GEORGE W. PARK	4
ROBERT T. SIMPSON	2	W. NORMAN PARK	5
RICHARD BUSBY	3	ROLAND PARK	Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 18, 1936, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT 20, ABERDORN CRESCENT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES	1-2	HAROLD JACKSON	5-6
ALLEN F. BAILEY	3-4	*HARRY ASHTON	7-8

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

Witness—Mrs. A. F. Bailey.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung as a birthday compliment to 'Bobby' Jones and the composer.

LONDON.

THE ST. MARY ABBOT'S GUILD.

On Friday, November 20, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes.

AT 17, MANDRAKE ROAD, S.W.17,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5007 CHANGES;

CLARENCE H. DOBBIE	1-2	JAMES R. MACKMAN	5-6
WILLIAM E. JUDG	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	7-8
*ARTHUR J. W. HUGHES			9-10

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

Witness—Mrs. J. R. Mackman.

* First peal. First handbell peal of Stedman by the Guild.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over.)

RHYL, NORTH WALES.—At St. Thomas' Church on November 10th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Dean 1, J. Wilson 2, G. Wilson 3, J. P. Griffiths 4, J. H. Fuller 5, L. J. Evans (conductor) 6. First 720 for all the band except the ringers of 5 and 6.

FOR BEGINNERS.

ARTICLES APPRECIATED.

It is very gratifying to us to know that the articles for Beginners, which have been appearing every week for about 18 months, are not only appreciated by many of those for whom they are specially written, but that they meet with the approval of members of the Exercise who have long since passed beyond the 'beginner' stage. The fact that it has been suggested that the 'lessons' should be reprinted in book form is an indication of their usefulness.

Although written primarily for beginners, in varying stages—one could not write continuously for those who are only learning to handle a rope, or trying to acquire ropesight—it was our intention to provide material also for those who give instruction, and we are pleased, therefore, to learn from numerous sources that these more or less simple lessons are often proving valuable to those who are teaching others.

From the appreciation which has been expressed we feel that the articles are on the right lines, and we hope they will continue to be of real use. A long series of articles on the plan of taking the beginner in steps 'from rounds to London Surprise' could not, we believe, be published in a weekly paper with the same advantage. All beginners cannot progress at the same speed, and many could not keep pace with such a series. In addition, the claims of the five and six-bell ringers, as well as those who practise on eight, have to be considered, and each category must have its turn while others are digesting what has already appeared. Moreover, there are new ringers constantly coming along, and we must return from time to time to give them a helping hand.

A LITTLE STEP TO LITTLE BOB.

For some few weeks past we have been endeavouring to show ringers a way of getting a new interest, by explaining how easy it is, by means of a little study and patience, to try something fresh with hopes of success. Our examination of Minor methods has shown how they are often interlocked in their construction, and thus the task of mastering them is to some extent eased.

The same thing applies to Major methods. They run very much in groups. One such group is the Plain Bob method, in which, in addition to Bob Major, with 2nd's place made when the treble leads, there is Reverse Bob, produced by 7th's place when the treble lies its whole pull behind, causing the dodging at that stage instead of at the lead end. There is also Double Bob, with both 7th's place and the accompanying dodging when the treble is behind and 2nd's and the accompanying dodging when the treble leads.

It is not necessary for us to go into detail about the ringing of these two methods—a study of the full explanation of Reverse and Double Bob Minor, which appeared in our issue of September 25th, should be sufficient.

We would, however, like to turn attention to another variant of Plain Bob, which readers may like to try. Some ringers look at it rather askance, but it is a change and it can be made to produce good music. Moreover, in a fashion, it is good preparation for a step to Treble Bob.

We refer to Little Bob. This is a method in which the treble has a plain hunt, but it goes up only to 4th's place, where it makes a whole pull, and then returns to lead. That is why some people do not like it—the treble never gets above 4th's place.

It can be rung as Minor, if you like, but, of course, as the treble is never in 5-6 the extent of changes on six bells is not possible by this method. In Major, however, there is full scope for a peal and the method is perfectly easy to ring.

As readers who have reached the stage of Plain Bob on a working bell well know, the 2nd's place made at a plain lead, or the 4th's place made at a bob, causes the bells above those places to dodge.

Precisely the same thing happens in Little Bob. When the treble leads, 2nd's place is made by the bell which came down in front of the treble, and the bells in 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 dodge. When the treble makes 4th's, the bells in 5-6 and 7-8 dodge.

The result is that a bell, once it is above 4th's, dodges in every dodging place, 5-6, 7-8 (up), 8-7, 6-5 (down) consecutively. In addition it dodges 4-3 (down) and 3-4 (up) if the treble is below it. In other words, you dodge in every dodging place as you come to it unless you are actually in 3-4 with the treble; that is unless you cross the treble in 3-4 or 4-3.

Construct a course for yourself, draw your diagram and see how symmetrical it is. The course is, perforce, only half the length of a course of Plain Bob.

The bobs are made as in the parent method: 4th's instead of 2nd's, with the bell, that led in front of the treble, running out and making its first dodge in 5-6; and the bell that would have stopped for a dodge in 4-3 (down) running in to take the treble off the lead.

The lead-ends are the same as Plain Bob, but do not occur in the same order, and the conductor has to be wary of the fact that the calls at Wrong and Middle come at consecutive leads—indeed, they have only the dodge in 8-7 (down) between them, while the Home occurs four leads further on: after he has been down to the front again. If he needs a mental check, Home occurs at the second lead after he has made 2nd's; Wrong and Middle after he has been to the front without making 2nd's. Any true touch of Bob Major will fit the method, but, of course, it will be only half the length.

'CRAFTSMANSHIP' SUBORDINATED TO THE 'ENGINEER.'

WORCESTERSHIRE VICAR'S PLAINT.

The annual meeting of the Western Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association took place at Powick last Saturday and was well attended, considering the day was cold and foggy. Powick, a small village lying on the Malvern road some three miles south-west of Worcester, was the scene, we are told, of the first shot fired in the Civil War which began in 1642, and known as the first Battle of Worcester.

The church is ancient and possesses a 'Bob Major' tower containing six bells, tenor 23½ cwt. in E flat, originally by A. Rudhall, 1705, but four of them have since been recast, the tenor in 1833, others in 1910. The tone of the whole peal is mellow and full of dignity, the handling of them no easy matter unless one allows the arms to go well above the shoulders and uses the straight-all-the-way-down pull.

Ringling began at 3 o'clock and continued until 4.15, when a short service with address was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. C. Champion, who is an honorary member of the association. In his address the Vicar, commenting upon the ever recurring topic of ringers not going to church, said that he would never try to compel anyone to go against their wish. As regards his own ringers he left the matter to conscience, and remarked that it was not so much church-going as the way we lived our daily lives that mattered most. Change ringing was a beautiful art, but he himself was often dismayed at the ignorance of some ringers in failing to regard it as such. He then referred to the craftsmanship of the old bellfounders which to-day had been subordinated to the engineer, a gain to ringers as far as the 'go' of the bells was concerned, but to be regretted inasmuch as the craftsman had been dispensed with.

The Vicar's address certainly surprised some of the members with its knowledge of bells and the understanding of ringers, a fact that was commented upon later in the vote of thanks.

A 'ringers' tea' was very kindly provided in the Village Hall by Mr. Geoffrey Lewis, a member of the Cathedral band, who resides at Powick, after which the business meeting was held. All the officers were re-elected, namely, Messrs. C. Camm (Ringing Master), G. E. Large (secretary and treasurer), W. Rufford (representative of the Central Committee). The quarterly peal was left in the hands of Mr. G. J. Lewis, and it was decided to make either Wychbold or Leigh the place of the first meeting for 1937.

The secretary then reported an increase of about 20 members over last year, the total membership being a record for the branch since its formation. He thanked all tower secretaries and others who had helped to make this possible, and urged on them the necessity for retaining at practices and meetings the new faces they had with them that afternoon. He also asked for revised and accurate lists of members' names for the purpose of the next annual report.

The large hall, with its wide, open fireplace, provided a Dickensian setting for the meeting, and members were loth to leave it for the murky fog which hung outside. Eventually, however, a few stalwarts led the way for further ringing, which included Cambridge and London Surprise. Finally the company, thoroughly warmed by now, dispersed once again into the gloom, this time homeward bound.

A QUESTION FOR THE METHODS COMMITTEE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a ringer of over 52 years' standing and one who rang his first peal over 50 years ago, I think I ought to have the right of putting questions to the Methods Committee and to expect a courteous answer.

Most certainly I have the right to try and impart knowledge to the Exercise, which I know to be true, in spite of the fact that this knowledge is opposed to the beliefs of the Methods Committee.

I propose, therefore, to ask the Methods Committee if they can give the Exercise a mathematical proof, apart from the course-ends of the peals, whether or no the following peals are one and the same.

The peals here given are for 8th's place methods, but they can also be converted into 2nd's place methods. No. 1 peal is applicable to the H class of plain methods; No. 2 peal to the J class.

As five-part peals they would be applicable to many Treble Bob or Surprise methods, provided the methods have clean proof scales.

(1) 23456 F. I. O.

(2) 23456 O. F. I.

35426 — — —

63254 — — —

23564 — — —

25346 — — —

32465 — — —

34256 — — —

63254 — — —

25463 — — —

35264 — — —

35264 — — —

Repeat 9 times.

Repeat 9 times.

Single halfway and end.

Single halfway and end.

I shall await with interest the reply I shall expect to receive from the Methods Committee.

GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton.

GUILDFORD.—At S. Nicolas' Church for evensong on the patronal festival, 1,278 Grandsire Caters by the S. Nicolas' company: E. G. Heath 1, C. Hazelden 2, S. Radford 3, E. Etheridge 4, Mrs. G. Hazelden 5, E. Raddon 6, G. Tomsett 7, F. Radford 8, S. Elton (conductor) 9, R. Radford 10.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD MEETING 'FAILS' IN ITS OBJECT.

The little village of Shere is always an attractive spot for a ringing meeting, and it drew about 30 ringers to the Guildford Diocesan Guild's gathering on Saturday. Indeed, those who visited it had the opportunity of seeing it under picturesque conditions in the evening. Standing in the centre of the village, where a giant oak rises sentinel at the junction of three roads, the scene was one that may be dreamed about, but seldom seen. A crescent moon shining from a starlit indigo sky, the ancient half-timbered gabled buildings, with the warm glow of lamps shining from numerous cottage windows, the shingled spire of the old church standing out in silhouette, with the bells ringing merrily over the quiet village, and the Tillingbourne stream bubbling beneath the little old-world bridge, provided an enchanting setting, which needed to be seen to be fully realised. Shere has the reputation of being one of the prettiest villages in Surrey, and it can be as charming under the moonlight as it is picturesque under the midday sun.

The visiting ringers received a warm welcome from the Rector (the Rev. Sir Paget Bowman) when he addressed them at the service; they would have been more pleased could they have been welcomed also by the local ringers, not one of whom appeared until late in the evening, when 'Old Tommy' Streeter, esteemed by all who know him, made a belated appearance. Old Tom thinks he has nearly passed the active stage, but he was induced to take part in a short touch of Grandsire Triples.

The other methods rung during the afternoon reached out to Cambridge Major, but chief attention was given to those who were anxious to improve their acquaintance with more modest things.

Ringers were present from Guildford (Cathedral and S. Nicolas'), Cranleigh, Ewhurst, Godalming, Haslemere, Pirbright, Woking, Worplesdon, West Clandon and Bagshot, and visitors from Reigate, Sevenoaks and Uckfield. The attendance included all the district officers and the Master, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary of the Guild.

At the business meeting of the Guildford District, after tea at the White Horse Hotel, the Master presided and a vote of condolence and sympathy was passed with the family of the late Mrs. G. E. Walker, of Woking, widow of the late Admiral Walker (who was formerly hon. treasurer), and a life hon. member of the Guild.

One new ringing member was elected, and Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Shelton, of Reigate, were elected non-resident life members.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and organist, but the hon. district secretary reminded the members that, although they had a good attendance, the meeting, having been arranged with a view to interesting the local ringers, had failed in its object, as not one of them was present.

But that is the way of some of the ringing fraternity.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS.

The Shropshire Association held a successful meeting at Condover on November 7th, when over 30 members attended. The very pleasant peal of eight was going at an early hour, the long draught and a couple of newish ropes giving the visitors a good deal to think about for a time. However, some creditable striking in standard methods was heard, and some good practice put in before the service.

The Vicar is a practising member of the association, and showed his interest by conducting a very enjoyable service, also by taking the chair at the business meeting which followed tea in the Parish Hall.

The annual meeting was provisionally fixed for January 16th, other business being the election of Mr. G. F. D. Pratt to the committee. The committee asked for authority to send out to all towers connected with the association asking for 1936 subscriptions. The names only of members who have paid the annual subscription will be included in the register.

The committee also proposed to get in touch with the authorities at the three Shrewsbury churches where the bells are not rung with a view to putting ropes, etc., in order as far as possible.

Further ringing was enjoyed in the evening, and several enthusiasts found it necessary to hurry off for trains and buses at 9 p.m.

WEDDING BELLS.

MARRIAGE OF MISS M. I. HECTOR AT TROWBRIDGE.

The wedding took place at Trowbridge Parish Church of Miss Marjorie Ina Hector, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Hector, of the White Swan, Church Street. The bridegroom was Battery Quartermaster-Sergeant George Humphries, of Newport Pagnell, Bucks. The Rector (the Rev. S. J. Nisbet Wallace) officiated and the service was choral. The bridegroom and best man were in Royal Artillery uniform.

Mr. Sam Hector has had a long connection with ringing in Trowbridge, and is one of Wiltshire's best known ringers. In honour of the wedding the bells rang out merrily after the service. Among the presents received by the bride and bridegroom was a silver rose bowl from the Parish Church ringers.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—For evening service on the occasion of the patronal festival, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: P. Hiscock 1, J. E. Philbrick 2, H. G. Keeley 3, C. W. H. Powell 4, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 5, G. H. Whitmore 6, F. Price 7, W. G. Sartin 8.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank are to cast the two trebles for Chester Cathedral, increasing the peal there to ten bells.

The death occurred at Woking on Wednesday week of Mrs. Gertrude Elizabeth Walker, widow of the late Admiral T. P. Walker. Admiral Walker was hon. treasurer of Guildford Diocesan Guild from its foundation until his death, and Mrs. Walker was a life honorary member. For the funeral on Saturday the bells at Woking Parish Church were rung half-muffled.

In the peal columns is recorded 'Shropshire Bill's' 200th peal. Billy and his local team were quite happy as the bells settled down to what has been referred to in 'The Ringing World' as handbell rhythm.

William is the third Shropshire ringer to reach 200 peals. James E. Groves tops the list, and E. V. Rodenhurst is nearing the 300 mark. Mr. William Froud, formerly a ringer at Maidstone, has passed away at the advanced age of 90 years.

The meeting of the Stockport Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild at Denton, announced for last Saturday, is to take place to-morrow.

The accounts of the Bristol United Guilds have just been issued. The principal activities during the year have been the new issue of the Directory and the annual dinner. The dinner account showed a profit of 1s. 2d. and the directory account a deficit of 13s. 4d., but, after allowing for the differences, the general account has a balance in hand of £15 14s. 4d., an increase of £2 8s. 4d. on the year, thanks to the proceeds of a dance. The next annual dinner will take place on January 16th.

The King's visit to Llanfrechfa during his tour of the distressed area in South Wales last week was celebrated by the ringing of a peal of Bob Minor at the Parish Church in the evening, following an hour and a half's ringing in the morning of the visit. His Majesty, while in Llanfrechfa, visited the Unemployed Boy Scouts' Centre.

THE ARTICLES FOR BEGINNERS.

SUGGESTED PUBLICATION IN BOOK FORM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I strongly support the suggestion which I see that Canon Coleridge made at the College Youths' dinner—that the excellent series of articles 'For Beginners' may in due course be collected into book form? There are, of course, several existing books which are doing great service, but the articles in your paper are second to none for clearness and thoroughness.

But now that they have been running for more than a year they have naturally reached something rather beyond the strict 'beginner' stage, whereas ringing societies are constantly having to deal with complete newcomers to the art; and many of these newcomers too, alas! will probably not start reading 'The Ringing World' until they feel that they do at least know a little about ringing. So if the articles are sooner or later gathered into a book, I am sure that the result will be of great value—particularly to societies such as the University Society here, where practically the whole time is spent on teaching beginners.

(Rev.) HARRY T. WISDOM.

St. Stephen's House, Oxford.

MORE FALSE PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. Roberts (London) points out to me that Compositions No. 1,787 and 1,801, both Stedman Caters, by H. Dains and W. A. J. Knight respectively, are both false and tenders his sympathies to both bands. I add my regrets and beg to draw attention to both peals being omitted from the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association records. E. GUISE, Hon. Secretary.

Sir,—Mr. C. W. Roberts points out that a peal of Stedman Caters (No. 1,801) that I called at Bristol last year is false. I would apologise to the association and to the band that I did not give more than a cursory inspection to the figures. J. T. DYKE.

Peal No. 1,787 was rung at Swindon.

'STRAIGHT FROM THE BELFRY.'

After the College Youths' dinner, 'Peter Simple' had the following in his column in 'The Morning Post,' headed 'Straight from the Belfry.' It needs no comment:—

'At the 299th anniversary dinner of the Ancient Society of College Youths, says a recent news item, the assembly heard four College Youths ring for the first time in public a "spliced surprise major" in five methods. "Splicing the surprised major" is a term well known to campanologists; and the five "methods" or ingredients are the same as those used in all exercises of a similar character. Among the older generation of ringers, a round of triple-spliced swelpme bob majors is the usual signal for the party to break up; whence the phrase "ringing the bell."

'The five "methods" according to the best authorities are sack, stingo, toddy, punch, and that product of modern campanology, the plain cator and it.'

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ELECTION OF MASTER FOR TERCENTENARY YEAR.

Mr. E. H. Lewis Installed.

On Tuesday evening the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths elected their Master for the Tercentenary year, and Mr. E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council) was installed for a period which should prove of unparalleled interest in the society's history.

The meeting at which the election took place was held at the Coffee Pot, in Warwick Lane, almost under the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral, which has been the headquarters of the society for many years past.

The business began when the retiring Master (Mr. E. P. Duffield) took the chair and the ceremonial candles standing on the table in front of the mace had been duly lighted. The silver candlesticks are a pair, presented by the late Dr. Arthur Nicholls, of Boston, U.S.A., actually used by the Duke of Wellington throughout his Peninsular campaign.



MR. EDWIN H. LEWIS.
Elected Master of the College Youths for the
Tercentenary Year.

The preliminary business, which was expeditiously got through, included the reading of a letter from the Rev. Fynes-Clinton, Rector of St. Magnus', containing the suggestion that when the society organised its Coronation ringing, arrangements should be made for bells in the City to be rung throughout the week without the overlapping of ringing at neighbouring towers. One tower should be used each day in a different quarter of the City and the arrangements published in the Coronation programme in the City Press.

Three new members were elected and there was the unique incident of a grandfather proposing his own grandson, when Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., submitted the name of Mr. F. T. Groombridge.

The financial statement for the year having been disposed of, Mr. F. E. Dawe (the oldest surviving Past Master) was voted to the chair while the election of officers took place.

THE OFFICERS.

Mr. Dawe expressed appreciation of the compliment paid him. He recalled the fact that he was elected Master for the first time 49 years ago, and occupied the honourable position on five occasions. He was pleased to meet again that night friends he used to meet 50, 55 and 58 years ago. He was particularly pleased to see present Mr. Challis Winney, for they were elected members the same night 58 years ago. They learnt to ring together; in fact, in their ringing careers they had grown up side by side. Mr. Dawe went on to pay a tribute to the retiring Master, who was to be succeeded by another able gentle-

man. Both the outgoing and the incoming Masters were men for whom the Ringing Exercise had the highest possible respect. For the important year which was before them they could not have a more suitable Master than the president of the Central Council (applause).

Mr. A. A. Hughes then proposed and Mr. T. Groombridge seconded that Mr. Edwin H. Lewis be elected Master of the society for the ensuing year, and the motion was carried amid applause.

Mr. W. T. Cockerill's re-election as hon. secretary was carried by acclamation. Mr. T. Groombridge, in making the proposition, said no one would ever know the amount of work put in by Mr. Cockerill, who had been secretary longer than he (Mr. Groombridge) had been a member.

Mr. J. C. Mitchell, who seconded, said he had for years marvelled at the way Mr. Cockerill had carried on the job so efficiently.

Mr. A. A. Hughes was re-elected treasurer. Mr. L. B. Porter was elected senior steward and Mr. J. Waugh junior steward. Messrs. C. F. Winney and H. R. Newton were re-elected trustees.

AUSPICIOUS YEAR BEFORE THE SOCIETY.

Mr. Lewis then took the chair amid applause, and Mr. Duffield invested him with the badge of office—the new regalia provided by past officers of the society to commemorate the Tercentenary. Mr. Duffield said he invested Mr. Lewis with the badge in the firm belief that the society, during his term of office, would attain a prominence and a position of strength such as in the whole of its 300 years of history it had never attained before. He assured Mr. Lewis of the support of the members of the society and wished him every success in his year of office.

The new Master said he felt it was a great honour to have been elected to the office in this particularly auspicious year that was now starting. He thought Sir Arthur Heywood would have been rather glad to know that the president of the Council which he founded had been elected Master of that society, for when he first broached the idea of a Central Council there were remarks from one or two old members of the College Youths not quite complimentary to his ideas (laughter). But he went through with it in spite of that, and he (Mr. Lewis) was very glad to feel to-day that the College Youths were as keen supporters of the Council as any of the other societies.

Continuing, he said he intended to do all he could during the coming year to support the society in every possible way. He expressed thanks to the retiring Master for all he had done for the society during his two years of office. Despite the fact that he had 50 miles to travel to his home after their meetings, Mr. Duffield had been most assiduous in his attendance (applause).

Mr. Duffield thanked the members for their indulgence during his Mastership, and the stewards and officers for their support. His two years of office had been very happy ones, and in vacating the chair it was a great pleasure to know it was to be filled by one than whom they could find none more acceptable to the Exercise (applause).

A vote of thanks to the officers of the past year was acknowledged by Mr. L. B. Porter, and at Mr. E. A. Young's suggestion it was resolved that on ceremonial occasions the medallion badge of office, until recently worn by the Master, should in future be worn by the Immediate Past Master.

LIMITED ACCOMMODATION FOR TERCENTENARY DINNER.

The Hon. Treasurer, on behalf of the committee who have the arrangements of the Tercentenary celebrations under consideration, said that owing to the dinner coming so near to the date of the Lord Mayor's banquet, they had been informed that the use of the Guildhall for the society's function was out of the question. Only two public rooms in the City were capable of seating the number of people they would be likely to get at the dinner, and he asked the members to decide that night to which place they would go, the Abercorn Rooms or the Cannon Street Hotel.

After details had been discussed, the Cannon Street Hotel, which can seat 400 to 420, was decided upon.

This will preclude the presence of ladies, and a suggestion was made that they might be provided for in another hall in the same building.

Mr. Young suggested that perhaps some kind of celebration, in which the ladies could take part, might be arranged in the summer.

Mr. Hughes stated that now that they had decided that the company would be limited to 420, an early announcement would have to be made in 'The Ringing World' that applications for tickets must be in in good time.

The business concluded, the members, at the call of the hon. secretary, drank the health of the new Master and wished him a successful year of office.

Then the candles were extinguished and slowly the company broke up.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MASTERS.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EARLY LEADERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The election of a Master for the Tercentenary year of the Ancient Society of College Youths gives added interest to the history of the early days of the society and what is known of its first Masters.

A volume of intense interest on the history of the College Youths, its early members and its outstanding performances, has been written by Mr. J. Armiger Trollope, and it is hoped that this may be published during the forthcoming year. It would be a fitting accompaniment to what should be a noteworthy year for the society. By Mr. Trollope's kindness we are able to publish, from his work, the following particulars of some of the early Masters of the society.

The society, as is known, was established on November 5th, 1637, and the first Master was William, Lord Brereton, the head of an old Cheshire family, whose members had done good service to the State, in the Army, the Church and the Law.

He had married, says Mr. Trollope, the daughter of George Goring, afterwards Earl of Norwich, at the time one of the most powerful men in the country, and the influence of his father-in-law and his own social standing brought him into close contact with the Royal Court and the highest persons in the country. He was now 26 years old and, we may suppose, had already practised bellringing both in London and at his country home in Cheshire.

The year 1637 is famous for other things than the founding of the Society of College Youths; it was the first year of the revolutionary movement which led to the temporary ruin of Church and Crown, and five years later the Civil War broke out. The College Youths, naturally, were Royalists to a man, and the older members joined the King's standard or went down to their country homes to help his cause.

A ROYALIST.

Lord Brereton gathered arms, raised forces and garrisoned his house. On the other side was his namesake and distant cousin, Sir William Brereton, who held Nantwich for Parliament, and for some time the opposing forces contended for the control of Cheshire. The issue was decided in 1644, when Sir Thomas Fairfax marched out of Yorkshire, joined Sir William Brereton and routed the Royalists. Lord Brereton escaped from the battle, but was afterwards captured, and his enemies refused to exchange him on the ground that he had put to death in cold blood several of the Parliamentary side.

What truth there was in this charge cannot now be said, but after a year he was set at liberty and returned to his own home and took no further part in the war. His troubles, however, were not by any means over; he had to pay heavily for his 'delinquency' and the Puritans of his parish were continually sending complaints about him up to London.

In the year 1660 came the Restoration and the change in Church and State which it brought with it greatly affected ringing in general and the fortunes of the College Youths in particular. The art received a great stimulus and all those men who had suffered so much for their loyalty to the royal cause looked for compensation and reward. Lord Brereton petitioned the King for a grant to himself and his son of the office of Custos Brevium in the Court of Common Pleas.

Whether his request was granted does not appear, but on May 31st, 1661, a warrant was issued to pay him £500 as the King's free gift. He was made Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire in conjunction with Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, who was also Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and Lord of the Isle of Man. This division of the office was unusual and was done because, while Brereton represented the cavalier gentry of the county, Derby's territorial and personal influence in the district was so great that he could not be passed over. The arrangement did not work well. There was a good deal of ill-feeling between the Breretons and the Stanleys. Derby resented the appointment of a colleague and ignored him; and Brereton was irritated and sulked. The government of the county was neglected and several sharp letters were sent down from Whitehall. Some of the county gentlemen suggested that both Lords Lieutenant should be dismissed and another man appointed, but this was not done. A hint seems to have been given to Derby to confine himself to his other counties, and after that Brereton was energetic in the administration of Cheshire.

NO MEMORIAL TO FIRST MASTER.

He died in April, 1664, and was buried at the church at Brereton, where there is at present no memorial to him. His losses in the Civil War and the heavy fines he had to pay had ruined him.

Lord Brereton's title was an Irish one and gave him no seat in the House of Lords, but in the latter part of his life he was a Member of Parliament for Cheshire. His son sold the Cheshire estates, and after the next generation the family and the title became extinct.

Clifford Clifton, the second Master (1638), was four years younger than Brereton. He was the second son of Gervase Clifton, a wealthy Nottinghamshire landowner, and derived his Christian name from his maternal grandfather, George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland. As the eldest of the family he was intended to make his fortune in what we should now call the Civil Service. His father was a strong Royalist and we may suppose that the son was active on the same side. When the royal cause was finally lost and the King's head had fallen on the scaffold, Clifton's career as a courtier and civil servant came to an end; so he entered himself as a student at Gray's Inn, intending to seek his fortune as a lawyer, and that no doubt renewed his association with the College Youths.

About Edward Flower (1639) Mr. Trollope says he seems to have been in much the same position as Clifton, and in after years he was one of the King's Messengers.

Two brothers, Henry and Robert Mackworth, the sons of Sir Henry Mackworth, of Empringham, in Rutlandshire, were Masters in 1642 and 1643. Robert, who was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1640, died in 1717 at the good old age of 97. He appears to have kept up his connection with the society throughout his life, and his son Thomas was steward in 1693.

Capt. John Harrison, who followed the Mackworths in the chair (1644), was a different sort of person. Soldier, courtier, envoy, administrator, author and divine, he played many parts during an adventurous life spent in three continents. He was a man past middle life when he joined the society.

Among the other early members were Thomas Joyce, the Master in 1641, who was the son of a Dorset gentleman; John Hackett, Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn; two other clergymen, John Milner and John Lightfoot; and John Houghton, Master in 1646, a writer of learned books and dealer in coffee, chocolate and other luxuries 'against the Ship Tavern in Bartholomew Lane.' All these were Cambridge graduates, except Joyce, who was at Exeter College, Oxford, and almost from the beginning there was a close connection between the Cambridge University ringers and the College Youths.

Sir Henry Tuise was successively Alderman, Sheriff and Lord Mayor of London, and in the year that he held the last office (1684) he was elected Master of the society.

John Tending, an Essex country gentleman, was not only a good ringer, but also a first-class composer. He produced some five-bell peals which are very ingenious and elaborate in construction. That he was highly thought of by the society is shown by the fact that he was elected Master (1659), only two years after joining the society and without having previously held the office of Steward.

Sir John Everard (1662) was a member of another important Essex family, whose official duties took him to Westminster, where he made the acquaintance of the College Youths and became one of the leading men of the society.

Among the men who have left their mark upon the art of ringing and who in their day served as Master of the society were Fabian Stedman (1682) and Benjamin Annable (1746), but the earliest composer who is known to have occupied the chief official position in the society, the man who probably converted 'cross peals' into half-pull changes, was Robert Roan (1652). He first produced the six-score of Grandsire Doubles, and from it 'Grandsire Bob,' the 720 of Bob Minor with the old standard calling.

John Patrick, who joined the College Youths in 1679, was Steward in 1684 and Master in 1692, was one of the men who carried on Stedman's work as a composer. He lived at Ship Court in the Old Bailey and was an inventor and maker of barometers and thermometers and had a great reputation among navigators and scientific men of the time. Fourteen or fifteen of his Minor methods and half a dozen Triples methods are printed in the 'Campanologia' of 1702.

THE MASTERS OF THE LAST 100 YEARS.

The books of the College Youths give the names of the Masters from the foundation until 1755, when, unfortunately, the custom of recording the appointment in the Name Book fell into abeyance and there is consequently no record of those who occupied the Master's chair until 1822.

The list of the Masters in the last 100 years contains the names of most of the famous members of the society of the century. We take these from the College Youths' own record:—

Richard Mills, 1837-1839.	John W. Rowbotham, 1884, 1908.
James Durrant, 1840.	J. Martin Routh, 1885.
Thomas Britten, 1841.	George T. McLaughlin, 1886.
Thomas Gray, 1842.	Samuel E. Joyce, 1887.
James Mash, 1843-1844.	Francis E. Dawe, 1888-90, 1892-93.
Charles Clay, 1845.	William D. Smith, 1891, 1903-1904.
James Rogers, 1846.	William Burkin, 1894-1896.
John Bradley, 1847.	Walter Prime, 1897.
George Morley, 1848.	Henry R. Newton, 1898, 1925.
John Merrin, 1849.	Edward P. O'Meara, 1899-1900, 1905-1906.
James Dwight, 1850, 1852, 1853.	William H. Pasmore, 1901.
James R. Haworth, 1851.	John W. Golding, 1902.
Charles Balle, 1853.	Arthur Hughes, 1907.
Robert Jameson, 1854.	Charles S. Burden, 1909.
William Lobb, 1855.	Alfred B. Peck, 1910.
Matthew A. Wood, 1856, 1859.	Thomas H. Taffender, 1911.
William Cooter, 1857.	Thomas Faulkner, 1912-1913.
Edward Lansdell, 1860.	Albert A. Hughes, 1914-1917.
George S. Shurey, 1861-1863, 1865.	Charles H. Horton, 1918-1919.
George Munkett, 1864.	Harold S. Walton, 1920.
George Mash, 1866-1867, 1871.	George R. Fardon, 1921.
James Pettitt, 1868, 1872.	William E. Garrard, 1922.
Edwin Horrex, 1869.	Richard T. Hibbert, 1923.
Thomas Richards, 1870.	Percy E. Clark, 1924, 1930.
Henry W. Haley, 1873.	Thomas Groombridge, 1926.
Arthur Hayward, 1874.	Joseph S. Hawkins, 1927, 1931.
William Greenleaf, 1875, 1883.	James Bullock, 1928.
John Murray Hayes, 1876.	Edward J. Choate, 1929.
George Dorrington, 1877.	Frederick M. Mitchell, 1932.
Samuel Reeves, 1878-1879.	E. Alex. Young, 1933.
William Tanner, 1880.	Edward P. Duffield, 1934-1935.
Walter Jones, 1881.	Edwin H. Lewis, 1936.
Edwin Gibbs, 1882.	

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.**SHOULD THE LENGTH OF PEALS BE REDUCED?***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your judicious remarks on the above subject should serve as a reminder to the Exercise that the time is fast approaching when the whole question of limitations upon peals must receive drastic attention. It is becoming increasingly apparent that in these days the public will not endure uncomplainingly the number of peals and peal attempts that in other days were imposed upon their ears.

So far nobody has revived the old question of limiting the number of changes that constitute a peal. Perhaps we have at last become so impressed with the idea that five thousand changes must necessarily go to a peal that the idea of a shorter standard has not occurred to us. Yet the present standard is a purely arbitrary one, and it is quite within our power, as an Exercise, and acting through our own elected body—the Central Council—to stipulate that a lesser number shall be recorded as a peal; at any rate, upon ordinary occasions.

On the score of proficiency in a method, 1,260 changes, which is the standard for admission imposed by the Ancient Society of College Youths, can be as searching a test as the whole peal. While none of us would have the temerity to propose so low a figure as this for a recorded peal, there is no valid reason why we should not accept something round about 3,000 changes. For the sake of Minor bands the figure might be 2,880 or 3,600; that is, either four or five 720's.

Once we made the break with tradition in our minds on this matter we could, I think, see much to commend the shorter peal on other grounds than the mere abatement of noise. It has always seemed ludicrous to me that whether the occasion is the crowning of a monarch or the christening of the tenor's latest-horn, the Exercise has precisely the same celebration to make; unless, of course, the Master of the tower has a due sense of proportion, and accords to the infant the perfectly sufficient tribute of a quarter-peal. With the longer peal, the 5,000, kept in reserve, and not cheapened by promiscuous resort, it could be used with effect as a really royal peal when national occasions justified it.

All the parts of Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Major—to name only some of the methods about which the same could be said—that are worth ringing could easily be compressed into 3,000. It is the extension of these to peal length that demands the inclusion of unmusical courses, or in some methods the employment of unmusical long courses instead of far better short courses. Indeed, the whole field of composition would be altered out of our present knowledge if we adopted a 3,000 standard. Needless to say, the improvement of the music for outside ears must go a long way towards abatement of opposition to the bells.

There is finally a very important practical consideration. Short peals, of the length I have indicated, would take about two hours to ring on the average eight or ten. This shortening of the time would permit the peal to be fitted into the interval between afternoon and evening service on Sunday, when the occasion was of sufficient importance to justify the effort, and so have the happy effect of transferring many peal attempts, not merely to the most suitable occasion for them, but also to the time when they would probably arouse least opposition. It would always be possible to justify two hours' ringing on Sunday evening much more satisfactorily than three hours or more on a Saturday. Likewise it would remove from peal ringing the present reproach that it is utterly dissociated from the true function of the bells: service ringing.

None of us who are keen ringers will contemplate very happily any such self-denying ordinance as I have suggested. But as you, sir, have so cogently and rightly warned us, something of the kind must be the lesser of two evils, for it is quite certain that if we do nothing ourselves, something much more drastic will be done, without our compliance perhaps, but also without our power to oppose it. Already many towers are closed for peal ringing altogether; we shall be very short-sighted indeed if we persist in disregarding the portents until there are no towers left to us.

A. J. CORRIGAN.

North Stoneham, Hants.

VETERAN SUFFOLK RINGER'S DEATH.**MR. LIONEL HAMMOND, OF CHEDISTON.**

The death has taken place at Chediston, Suffolk, of Mr. Lionel Hammond, who had reached the advanced age of 81 years. He had been a member of the Halesworth Society for 34 years, and, despite his age, was a regular attendant for Sunday service ringing, frequently walking to and from Halesworth three times on a Sunday. In this and other ways he was a faithful servant of the Church. He had taken part in 24 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association.

The funeral took place at Chediston on November 12th, the Rev. D. Twigg (Vicar) officiating. The hymn, 'For ever with the Lord,' and the 90th Psalm were sung and appropriate music played on the organ. At the graveside the handbells were rung by Messrs. F. C. Lambert, A. H. Took, W. Kemp and J. O'Neill. In the evening there was half-muffled ringing on the bells of Chediston Church by Messrs. A. Peck, F. Cady, G. Carter, R. Gardiner, A. Rogers, G. Andrews and J. Thurlow.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**SECRETARY'S INTERESTING REPORT.**

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Burslem on Saturday, November 7th. Thirty-four members were present from Burslem, Bucknall, Biddulph, Cheadle, Brown Edge, Draycott, Kidsgrove, Kingsley, Lawton, Longton, Norton, Newcastle, Stone, Tunstall and Uttoxeter. Service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. E. W. Hadwers).

After tea in the Schoolroom, the usual votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector and ringers for the use of the bells and the splendid welcome they extended to all present.

The company then stood in silence for a minute in memory of Mr. W. J. Woodward, who was an honorary member of the association.

The annual committee meeting took place immediately after tea. Mr. Thomas Hurd presided, supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary) and Mr. Kenneth Thacker (assistant hon. secretary). Thirteen towers were represented.

The secretary, in his report, said that during the past year 12 meetings had been held. There had been an average attendance of 41 per meeting, which was an increase of six. He was also very pleased to note that four members had attended all the meetings; they were Messrs. T. Hurd, R. G. Lewis, J. E. Wheeldon and A. Thompson. One hundred and three of the members had attended at least one meeting during the year. Forty new members had been elected, consisting of two honorary, one non-resident and 37 ringing members.

CLEANER BELFRIDS.

The secretary added that he was pleased to state that the affiliated towers of North Staffordshire were kept much cleaner, and he considered them as well kept or better than those in most parts of the country.

During the year he had visited most of the towers in the district, apart from association meetings. They included Audley, Swynnerton, Silverdale, Keele, Madeley, Cheadle, Barlaston, Stone, Kidsgrove, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Alton and Rocester. One of the disappointing things was the number of peals rung for the association, which numbered only seven (two of Major, one of Triples and four of Minor). Most of all he deplored that there was not a muffled peal rung in memory of the late King George V., and only one quarter-peal was rung, which was one of Grandsire Triples at Newcastle-under-Lyme. He took the opportunity of asking all present to try to make an effort to ring a peal for the Coronation of King Edward VIII. The association had 20 affiliated towers and six unaffiliated with ringable peals. The association was represented at the Central Council meeting, held in London in June, this being only the second time it had been represented at a meeting of that body. He emphasised the appeal on behalf of the Central Council that ringers would think more about 'The Ringing World' and try to give more support to that valuable paper. Fight meeting reports have appeared in 'The Ringing World' since March.

The statement of accounts was read and accepted on the motion of Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. J. Stanaway. Among the major items of expenditure was the sum of £6 12s. 7d. paid in half rail fares to members attending meetings, and a grant of £3 3s. to Stone towards the rehanging of the bells.

The auditor's report stated that there was a gain on the year of £2 17s. 0d., which made a total balance of £18 7s. 6d., consisting of £10 4s. in the Post Office and £8 3s. 6d. in secretary's hands.

The Rev. F. D. Gardner (Rector of Bucknall) was elected clerical secretary, Mr. Andrew Thompson hon. secretary and Mr. Kenneth Thacker assistant hon. secretary. The following were also elected: Chairman of committee, Mr. Thomas Hurd; Ringing Masters, for eight-bell towers Mr. R. G. Lewis, for six-bell towers Mr. J. E. Wheeldon; Central Council representative, Mr. Kenneth Thacker; auditor, Mr. W. Wheeldon.

CHANGES IN RULES.

A new rule was brought forward for confirmation: 'That no other tower shall be officially opened on arranged meeting dates except as deemed necessary by the committee.'

It was also decided to delete Rule 14, which reads: 'The committee shall appoint instructors where necessary to those towers desiring instruction in a method of change ringing, the charge per visit being 1s. per hour from the time of leaving home until the bell-ringers close, with travelling expenses, half the total cost being paid by the tower to which the visit is paid, and half by the association.' This was brought forward by Mr. A. Thompson with the idea of helping bands who need instruction and cannot afford to pay for it.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. G. H. Hall, to the chairman for his faithful work during the year. A vote of thanks to the hon. secretary and assistant secretary for their valuable work was proposed by Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. R. G. Lewis, and cordially carried.

REMARKABLE RECORD

The 'North Dorset Church Magazine' records what it rightly describes as a 'memorable meeting' at Marshull Church on October 16th. Six men gathered together, who, 40 years ago on that date, had begun what has turned out to be 40 years of united service as bellringers in this church. This is a remarkable if not a unique record of unbroken fellowship of the belfry.

NOTICES.

BOWDEN, CHESHIRE.—Practice night has been changed to Thursday, commencing November 26th. Help of visiting ringers appreciated.

RUSHDEN CHURCH, HERTS.—The ring of five (tenor 6½ cwt.), rehung in a new frame with new fittings by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, will be re-dedicated by the Archdeacon of St. Albans on Friday, November 27th, at 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served in the School at 6.30. All ringers welcome.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Denton on Saturday, November 28th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. For tea please advise Mr. W. Wilde, 28, Holland Street, Denton.—A. Whiting and K. Lewis, Joint Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Northern Division will be held at Braintree on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting. — F. Ridgwell, Dis. Sec., Queen's Road, Earls Colne.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley Branch.—The next meeting will be at Higham-on-the-Hill on Saturday, November 28th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All members and friends cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at All Saints', Benhilton, Sutton, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 o'clock, followed by tea and a short business meeting. Nominations for district officers will be required at this meeting. All ringers and friends welcome. Numbers for tea to be sent to F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City Branch.—Annual meeting Saturday, Nov. 28th, at St. Giles', Oxford. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—Miss M. Reynolds, Dis. Sec., 10, North Parade, Oxford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Eccles, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock (1s. each). Meeting in the School Room at 6 o'clock. The Rev. A. Scott will conduct the service. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-West Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Bishops Stortford on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Those intending to be present kindly advise me.—H. A. Wacey, Hon. Sec., 73, Pye Street, Bishops Stortford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A bye-meeting will be held at Herne on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, free, by kind invitation of Herne ringers.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—A meeting at Seale on Saturday, November 28th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, Jubilee Room, 5 p.m. Nominations for district officers for 1937 to be made at this meeting. All welcome.—C. W. Denyer, 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

CHARLES CHURCH, PLYMOUTH.—The ring of 10 (tenor 23 cwt.) has been restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, and will be re-dedicated by the Bishop of Plymouth on Saturday, November 28th, at 3.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting is to be held at Wimborne Minster on Saturday, November 28th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Rev. Canon Kieth, R.D. Tea in the Church House at 5.15, followed by business meeting. The bells at Corfe Mullen will be available from 2.30.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horley on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—W. Claydon, Hon. Sec., 8, Chartfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Clewer (6 bells) on Saturday, November 28th, at 3 p.m. Tea, at 1s. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Wilburton, Cambs, on Saturday, November 28th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Calne Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wootton Bassett on Saturday, November 28th. Bells from 2 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea in the National School 5.30, free. All ringers welcome.—L. A. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 109, High Street, Wootton Bassett.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A special meeting will be held at New Alresford, Hants, on Saturday, November 28th, by kind invitation of the Rector. Bells available at 2 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea at 4.30. No charge will be made. All welcome. Please let us know if you are coming.—G. and Miss Noice, Hon. Dis. Secs., 6, Cathedral View, Winchester.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting will be held at Halvergate (6 bells) on Saturday, November 28th, at 3 p.m. Nearest station, Reedham. Please send names or numbers for tea.—G. Harwood, Hon. Sec., 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, November 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. The bells at the Cathedral will be open after the meeting.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Fulney, Spalding, on Saturday, November 28th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—George Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER CHURCH, IPSWICH.—A new peal board with eight panels will be dedicated and unveiled by the president of the Central Council (E. H. Lewis, Esq.) on Saturday, November 28th, at 4.30 p.m. St. Margaret's (8) and St. Matthew's (6) bells will also be available.—G. E. Symonds, 28, Chevallier Street, Ipswich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The district annual meeting will be held at Leytonstone on Saturday, November 28th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (in Church Hall) to follow.—E. J. Butler, Div. Sec., 313, Mawneys Road, Romford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at West Coker on Saturday, November 28th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow.—F. Farrant, Hon. Local Sec., North Street, Martock.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—An evening meeting will be held at Bentley to-morrow, Saturday, November 28th. Bells ready at 6 p.m. A good attendance is hoped for at this, the last meeting of this year.—E. Cooper, 1, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wednesday Afternoon Guild.—A meeting of the Guild will be held at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday, December 2nd. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Church Institute at 5 p.m.—W. Sheraton, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which enables members who have not attended twenty times, to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Andrew's on December 3rd (8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 8th, St. Magnus' on the 10th and 24th, Southwark Cathedral on the 17th, *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 22nd, St. Michael's on the 29th, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Ewell on Saturday, December 5th (not the 12th as originally fixed). Service at 5 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting in the Mary Wallis Hall. Nominations of district officers for 1937 to be made at this meeting. Please send numbers for tea to Mr. C. E. Read, 58, High Street, Ewell, by December 3rd.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The last meeting of the year will be held at Measham on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea in Church Room, followed by meeting. Will all members and visitors requiring tea kindly advise me by Wednesday, December 2nd? All ringers heartily welcomed. Let us have a good finish to 1936.—Joseph Wm. Cotton, Overseale, Burton-on-Trent.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Thomas', Exeter, on Saturday, December 5th. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 in the Buller Hall, free to members. Bands and visitors please notify me by November 30th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Warminster on Saturday, December 5th. Usual arrangements. For tea please advise W. C. West, Hon. Sec., Semington Road, Melksham.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. Please come. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Neath on Saturday, December 5th. Bells available 3. Service 4.30, with tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Numbers for tea by December 1st certain.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Wednesbury, on Saturday, December 5th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30. Tea will be provided at ninepence each for all those who notify directly Mr. A. J. Hubble, 2, Mark Road, Wednesbury, not later than Tuesday, December 1st, and not to myself.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Gloucester Branch will be held at Barnwood on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (8) open at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. (free), in the Schoolroom. All ringers welcome. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me not later than December 1st?—W. H. Harris, Branch Hon. Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Hastings, on Saturday, Dec. 5th. Tower open after 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5 (1s. 3d. per head). Will all those intending to be present kindly let me know by Wednesday previous to meeting?—A. C. Pankhurst, Div. Hon. Sec., 12, Bradford Street, Eastbourne.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, on Saturday, December 5th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Special method, Cambridge Court Bob. Meat tea, 1s. each to members, at Express Dairy, High Street, at 5 o'clock. Please advise me, without fail, by December 3rd. All ringers welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bridport on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at the Greyhound Hotel at 5.30, to be followed by meeting, etc. Other towers open: Bradpole (8), Symondsburry and Burton Bradstock (6). All ringers cordially invited to attend.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmesbury, Middle Street, Bradpole.

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

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—Ring of six restored and two trebles added to complete the octave by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Dedication by the Venerable Archdeacon of Lewes on Saturday, December 5th, at 6 p.m. Supper in the Parish Church Room at 8.30 p.m. Will those who wish to attend the supper send notice to Mr. A. Gasson, Minette, Balcombe, by December 3rd? All ringers welcome.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Northern District will be held in the City on Saturday, December 5th. Bells available: St. Magnus' (10), 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.; St. Dunstan's-in-the-East (8), 7 to 9 p.m. Tea and meeting as usual. All welcome.—J. G. A. Prior, Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be at St. Lawrence's, Brentford, on December 5th. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m., at Messrs. Druce and Smith, 239, High Street. Discussion on recent 'Ringing World' questionnaire in Church Room at 6 p.m. Isleworth (10), 3 to 4.15 p.m. Brentford (6), 4.15 to 5 p.m., and after tea. Come prepared for special practice in London Surprise Minor and Double Court Bob Minor at the latter tower.—F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec., Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Standish on Saturday, December 5th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea in school (6d.) to all who notify Mr. E. Birchall, 163, Preston Road, Standish, nr. Wigan, before Wednesday, December 2nd. Please note Secretary's change of address.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec., 38, Poolstock, Wigan.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Ranmoor Church (10 bells) on Saturday, December 5th. For tea (5 o'clock, Ranmoor Inn), please notify Mr. C. Haynes, 441a, Sandgate Road, Sheffield, by December 2nd. Take Fulwood bus at Leopold Street, fare 1½d., opposite Town Hall. All welcome.—M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 13, St. Ronans Road, Sheffield.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Tring on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Those requiring tea, please notify Mr. F. J. Reeve, Frogmore Street, Tring, by the Thursday previous. District members are particularly asked to attend. Very important. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—W. Ayre, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Tewkesbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Leigh, Saturday, December 5th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Intending visitors please notify secretary by Wednesday, December 2nd.—H. Wakeford, 63, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Cartmel Priory on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m.—R. N. Newly, Branch Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulveston.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oundle Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Nassington, on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (5) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (1s. each) 5 p.m. Those who wish for tea please write by Tuesday, December 1st.—Rev. L. S. Clark, Polebrooke Rectory, Peterborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart (R.C.), Blackpool, on Saturday, December 5th. Bells open for ringing 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only. Business meeting afterwards.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Christchurch District.—The annual meeting will be held at Christchurch on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. at the King's Arms Hotel, P.R.H.A. All requiring tea please let me know by Thursday, December 3rd.—G. Preston, Dis. Sec., 42, Waterloo Place, Christchurch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, December 5th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m. Hearty welcome to all ringers. Please notify me those requiring tea.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Surprise practices at the R.C. Church will be discontinued after December 10th until further notice.—R. Lathbury, Castle Street, Cambridge. Phone 4494.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Pontefract on Saturday, December 12th. All Saints' bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Short service in All Saints' Church, 4 p.m. Preacher: Rev. C. C. T. Waters, M.A., Vicar of St. Giles', Pontefract. Tea at 5 p.m. (1/6 each) in Co-operative Cafe. Please advise Mr. H. C. Walters, 8, Elm Terrace, Newgate, Pontefract, by Thursday, December 10th.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at 1s. each. Please notify Mr. N. Chaddock, 33, Bricklands, Broom, Rotherham, by Wednesday, the 9th, for same.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8) available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. All those intending to be present please notify me as soon as possible.—J. R. Sparling, Hon. Sec., Station Hotel, Wivenhoe.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District & Romney Marsh & District Guild.—A meeting will be held at Wye on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. at the King's Head. All ringers welcome. Kindly send card for tea by December 10th.—Frank Conley, Sec., 11, Park Road, Ashford, Kent.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Framlingham on December 12th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea (1s. each) at St. Michael's Rooms, at 4 p.m. Meeting follows.—H. Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

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GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch will be held at Prestbury on Saturday, December 12th. Bells open at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Baghot de la Bere), 5.30. Business meeting to follow tea. Acceptances by the 9th.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Will those desiring tea kindly let me know by December 9th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Broxham, Saturday, December 12th. Bells available 2.30. Service, if possible, 3.45. Tea 4.30 *sharp* in the Parish Hall. I have made special arrangements with the Post Office to receive post-cards (duly stamped) with reference to numbers for tea.—Nolan Golden, Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Special Notice.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 12th, and not Saturday, December 5th, as arranged. A hearty invitation is extended to all ringers.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea (1s.) at 5 o'clock, but kindly notify Mr. P. Massam, Glenroyd, Royds Lane, Rothwell, by Wednesday, December 9th. Business meeting after tea.—Frank Rayment, Hon. Dis. Sec., Bramley, near Leeds.

CROYDON PARISH CHURCH.—The new ring of 12 bells (by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston) will be dedicated by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury on Saturday, December 12th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. in the Old Palace Banqueting Hall, by kind invitation of the Right Rev. the Bishop of Croydon and churchwardens. Admission by ticket only. Bells available for ringing until 8.30 p.m. Social at the Drill Hall, Union Road (opposite the Bell Foundry), at 8 p.m. Applications for tea tickets to be received not later than Monday, December 7th, by Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon. Will those accepting invitation to tea say whether or not they are able to attend the social?

COSELEY, STAFFS.—On Thursday, December 17th, at 8 p.m., the Bishop of Stafford will dedicate the ring of eight bells recast and rehung in new framework by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—No. 38, Penn Lea Road, Weston, Bath, is now the address of Mr. J. Frank Smallwood.

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OVERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On Armistice Day at St. Matthew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled in remembrance of the fallen: H. C. Adams 1, P. W. Grice 2, L. Freeman 3, W. Brooker 4, J. W. Cotton 5, W. E. Clayfield 6, G. W. Clayfield (conductor) 7, H. Curson 8.

KING'S NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Remembrance Day, November 11th, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major: F. B. Yates 1, C. Webb 2, H. Williams 3, W. C. Dowling 4, J. E. Eaton 5, H. J. Turner 6, H. H. Fearn 7, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 8.

SHIPLEY, YORKS.—On Tuesday, November 10th, at St. Paul's Church, 1,472 Superlative Surprise Major, in honour of the Shipley men who fell in the Great War: G. Titterton 1, *Miss M. White 2, F. Davison 3, *R. Simpson 4, L. W. G. Morris (conductor) 5, T. B. Kendall 6, H. Davison 7, E. H. Simpson 8. * First quarter-peal in the method.

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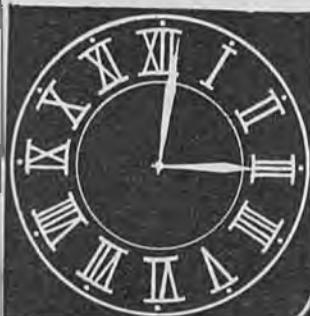
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