THE RINGING WORLD

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GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.

Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

THE STEEPLEKEEPER AND HIS OFFICE

There is hardly likely to be two opinions as to the steeplekeeper of a tower being one of the most important men attached to a belfry. His duties may not always be heavy, but he has considerable responsibilities, not only to his colleagues, but to the church authorities. He it is who is primarily responsible for the maintenance of the belfry in proper order, and, above all, for the good going of the bells. Now there are steeplekeepers and steeplekeepers. Some have a keen sense of their duty and spare neither time nor pains to discharge their task in the most efficient manner; others address themselves to the work in the most casual way, seldom putting on any grease till someone complains, or re-adjusting a rope until it breaks. They have no enthusiasm for bells or pride in their office, and, truth to tell, they ought not to be allowed to retain their position.

On the other hand there are steeplekeepers—and we are glad to think that they are in a big majority—who discharge their duties with the utmost keenness and who take a personal delight in keeping the bells in proper order and the belfry spick and span. Usually the work of these men passes with little notice and few thanks. Their services are known only to those who ring the bells, for it is very seldom indeed that their efforts are realised or appreciated by those upon whom responsibility for the upkeep of the bells ultimately falls—the incumbent and wardens.

To our mind the position of steeplekeeper ought to be more generally recognised by the authorities, at least to the same degree as the church caretaker. It is usual, we will admit, for the churchwardens to provide the necessary materials for the upkeep of the bells, but, more often than not, any remuneration which the steeplekeeper receives is provided out of the ringers' own funds. An efficient tower keeper, by the care which he bestows upon his work, saves the church authorities a great deal of money in the long run. They may not realise it, because they are ignorant of the facts, but it is time that the proper recognition of the steeplekeeper as one of the custodian's of the church's possessions should be secured far more widely than it is. For that reason we are specially glad to see that at such an important tower as Wakefield Cathedral the position of the steeplekeeper, as recorded last week, is to be henceforth recognised. We hope that in other places where the steeplekeeper, and his office, are practically unknown to the authorities, steps will be taken to secure the proper recognition of the position.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,

SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to Inspect and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

ESTABLISHED 1760.

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope Manufacturer,

60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

(Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway).

Late 155, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

LUTON, BEDS.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1916, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 19¾ cwt.

JAMES ROOKWOOD ...	...*Treble*	BEN. JARMAN	5
FREDERICK HUNT	2	THOMAS KENDALL	6
BERT WILSON	3	ALFRED KING	7
CHARLES WING	4	WALTER PAYNE ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ALFRED KING.

Rung with bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Lieut. Woodward, brother of the Vicar of Luton's wife, and the soldiers and sailors who have given their lives in the war. The steeplekeeper, Mr. H. Shaw, was at the last minute unable to participate in the peal owing to bereavement, and Mr. Ben Jarman of Harpenden kindly, at short notice, took his rope.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BISHOP'S CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 2, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-four Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with 10 different callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

GEORGE ROBINSON ...	...*Treble*	CHARLES MINTON, Senr....	4
EMMANUEL BEDDOES ...	2	EDWARD JORDAN	5
CHARLES MINTON, Jnr. ...	3	JAMES ADDIS	...*Tenor*

Conducted by CHARLES MINTON, Senr.

Rung with the bells half muffled in memory of and as a token of respect for the men who have given their lives in fighting for their King and country in the war.

HANDBELL PEALS.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes,
IN THE COMMON ROOM AT THE ABBOT'S HOSPITAL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 18 in G.

MRS. FRANK I. HAIRS ...	1—2	AIR-MECHANIC FRANK I. HAIRS, R.N.A.S.	7—8
ALFRED H. PULLING ...	3—4		
MAURICE SMITHER	5—6	SEPTIMUS RADFORD ...	...9—10

Composed by A. KNIGHTS, and
Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.
Umpire: THOMAS W. RADFORD.

Witnesses: JOHN HEATHORN, MRS. PULLING, and PHILIP PALMER (Master of the Abbot's Hospital).

Rung in honour of the 92nd birthday of Mr. J. Heathorn, also as a compliment to Miss E. L. Bennett and Mr. F. I. Hairs on their wedding day. This composition has the quarter peals alternately in the tittums and handstroke position, and it is the first time a lady has taken part in such a peal. It is also the first time a man and wife have rung a peal together on their wedding day. The conductor's 100th peal of Stedman Caters.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 22, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
IN THE NETTLE'S ROOM AT KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor, size 18 in G.

SEPTIMUS RADFORD ...	1—2	MAURICE SMITHER	5—6
ALFRED H. PULLING ...	3—4	THOMAS W. RADFORD ...	7—8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.
Witness: MRS. PULLING.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 24, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes, IN THE NETTLE'S ROOM AT KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL,		Tenor, size 14 in D.	
CHARLES HAZELDEN ...	1—2	MAURICE SMITHER... ...	5—6
ALFRED H. PULLING ...	3—4	MRS. CHARLES HAZELDEN	7—8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witnesses: MRS. PULLING and MDLLE. Y. L. ELOIE-LELOUE.

These two peals were arranged and rung by the Guildford handbell ringers as a wedding compliment to Air Mechanic F. I. Hairs and Miss E. L. Bennett, this being the earliest occasion upon which it was possible to meet.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

We have received the following further contributions to the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund :—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	121	13	5
Ringers of St. Peter's, Staunton-on-Arrow, Herefordshire (per Mr. Jabez Preece)...	0	10	0
Bushey Society, December collection	0	3	6
Luton Parish Church ringers (per Mr. Alfred King)	0	9	0
"Wanderer," December contribution ...	0	2	6
"H. H.," Worksop	0	2	0
Total	£123	0	5

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers serving in H.M. Forces:—

W. H. P. Mellin, of Wrentham, Suffolk, Air Mechanic, R.N.A.S., now at Sheerness.

W. D. Jackson, and

George Jackson, of Dalton Parish Church, Lancs, Royal Field Artillery.

J. W. Newton, of Stockton-on-Tees Parish Church, Northumberland Fusiliers, now at Harrogate.

RINGERS IN CASUALTY LISTS.

We much regret to announce that Sergt. W. R. Washbrook, second son of Mr. James W. Washbrook, has been killed in action. He was serving with the 5th North Staffordshire Regiment.

Among the casualties published on Monday, Lieut. E. Maurice Atkins, Royal Engineers, was reported wounded.

Pte. A. Rodie, a member of the Little Munden, Herts, company, who has been serving in the 8th Batt. Bedfordshire Regiment, has been wounded, and is now in a London Hospital.

Corpl. Robert Stavert, of the Bushey Society, has been invalided home from Gallipoli suffering from frost-bite. He is now an inmate of the Tropical School Auxiliary Military Hospital, Pembroke Place, Liverpool, and is, we are pleased to say, making good progress.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN MILLS.

It is our sad duty to have to announce the death of Mr. John W. Mills, which took place at his residence, Nelson Road, Dudley, on Saturday, January 8th, at the age of 70 years. He had only been ill a week when the news of his death came as a shock to his fellow ringers. Although he had not taken any part in peal ringing of late years, he was always punctual in his attendances for Sunday ringing and practices, and his genial presence in the belfry on all occasions endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, Jan. 12th, at Dudley Parish Church, at which he had been a ringer and worshipper for upwards of 40 years. The cortege was met at the west door by the Vicar of Dudley (the Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland), who conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. C. M. Stuart King (curate). As the coffin was being gently borne into church by his fellow ringers, the organist (Mr. T. W. North) played "O Rest in the Lord," and, at the close of the service, the Dead March "in Saul." After the committal, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung upon handbells at the graveside by the following members of the St. Thomas's band: Messrs. John Goodman, junr., 1—2, Samuel Spittle 3—4, John Goodman, senr. 5—6, William Goodman 7—8, who also acted as bearers with Mr. Herbert Sheppard (hon. secretary of St. Thomas's band) and Mr. E. Harrison, an old friend of deceased. In the evening the following members of the St. Thomas's band rang, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 50 mins.: C. Faulks 1, S. Spittle 2, J. Goodman, senr., 3, W. Goodman 4, G. Guest 5, H. Sheppard 6, J. Goodman, junr. (conductor) 7, W. Meek 8.

OXFORD GUILD.

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.

On Saturday week the annual general meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham. The proceedings began with a service of intercession held at All Saints' Church, conducted by the Rev. B. Long, at which the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, Rector of Barkham, gave an earnest and appropriate address.—Mr. H. R. Eady presided at the organ. There were several lady ringers present, but the attendance of men was again somewhat small, owing to the number of members on active service.

Tea followed in St. Paul's Parish Room, by kind permission of the Rector (the Rev. H. M. Walter), and Miss G. Simmons and other ladies of the parish attended the tables.

The business meeting was held immediately after the tea. The chair was taken by the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, President of the branch, and there were also present: The Revs. P. H. Ditchfield (Barkham), W. A. Thackeray (Warfield), E. Broome, hon. secretary (Hurst), B. Long (All Saints'), G. F. Coleridge (Crowthorne), F. M. C. Hare (All Saints'), H. M. Walter (St. Paul's), Wokingham, and Mr. A. Reeves, the Guild general secretary.

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

The report for the year stated that the branch had lost two members, by death in the war, Mr. A. M. P. Nest (Hurst) and Mr. C. Rideout (St. Paul's, Wokingham), and one (Mr. G. Collins, Sandhurst) was missing. No combined practice had been held during the year. —The balance sheet showed a satisfactory surplus of £3 18s. 1d.—The balance sheet and report were unanimously adopted.

The Rev. E. Broome remarked that last year they expected 85 members to the annual meeting, but only 58 actually attended. This entailed some loss. The surplus provisions, however, were not sold, but were distributed to some troops then in the neighbourhood (hear, hear). The branch showed an increase in numbers, having now 137 change ringers, 17 probationers and nine life subscribers, a total of 163, against 147 last year. He regretted the loss, by death, of one very old life member, the late Mr. T. E. Ellison. They had also lost from the same cause, Mr. T. Russell, of Sonning, a ringer, for very many years, as well as those already mentioned in connection with the terrible war. On active service they had 36 members, viz.: Arborfield 4, Barkham 3, Hurst 9, Easthampstead 2, Durfield 3, Sandhurst 4, Sonning 4, Wargrave 4, Wokingham St. Paul's 1, All Saints' 2. They welcomed that night a new hon. member, the Rev. W. A. Thackeray (applause), whose tower of Warfield they would be pleased to see join the branch. One peal was rung at Hurst on April 3rd to celebrate their foreman's wedding day. Muffled ringing, in memory of the fallen, took place generally on January 2nd. He trusted they would have a brighter and happier new year than the last, and that soon they would welcome back their comrades from the war.

GUILD MASTER'S WORK AT THE FRONT.

The Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis was unanimously re-elected chairman of the branch.—In returning thanks, the President said the present times of great stress and anxiety were calling out the real deep souls of their people. We were not down-hearted, and were going to "carry the thing through." He had received a letter from Mrs. Jenkyn, in which she said that her husband (the Master of their Guild) was keeping very well. He had recently been home (in khaki), and after the service was characteristically among the ringers of Caversham. He was very well, and had lost a stone in weight. His division moved back soon after Christmas for rest, which the men badly needed. The work was harder for him, as the men are so scattered but he was glad to be allowed to remain with them. The state of the country was terrible, but fortunately they had two fine days for their move back. He was able to take celebrations in four different camps on Christmas Day.

The Rev. E. Broome was unanimously thanked for his services, and re-appointed hon. secretary. The committee of foremen of the various towers in the branch was appointed as under: Aborfield, Mr. S. Emblen; Barkham, Mr. A. Cook; Binfield, Mr. H. Bungay; Easthampstead, Mr. A. Gough; Finchampstead, Mr. W. Goddard; Hurst, Mr. Jos. White; Sandhurst, Mr. H. Watts; Sonning, Mr. G. J. Wright; Twyford, Mr. F. Dentry; Wargrave, Mr. W. J. Fuller; Wokingham All Saints', Mr. S. Paice; Wokingham St. Paul's, Mr. T. Houlton; Hurst, Miss E. Fuller.

Representatives to the Guild Committee were re-elected, viz.: Messrs. F. Dentry, G. Wright, J. Moth and S. Paice.

The committee for combined practices was also re-appointed, viz.: Messrs. J. Rance, H. Bungay, J. White and J. Moth.

Mr. Bungay urged that these meetings should be carried on, or their bells would be silent for six months after the war. — Mr. Wright seconded this as a resolution, and it was carried.

Mr. Reeves, Guild secretary, gave some account of the Guild business meeting recently held. The Guild had, he said, a balance in hand of £37 17s. 7d., and they had elected three trustees of the Guild property.

Hearty thanks were accorded the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield for his excellent address, the Rev. B. Long for the use of All Saints' Church, and the ladies who undertook the tea.

The towers of All Saints', and St. Paul's, Wokingham, were afterwards open to the members for ringing.

THE LATE MISS MARGERY SAMPSON.

MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT ERDINGTON.

The memory of the late Miss Margery F. Sampson, of Edinburgh, who was one of the most able lady exponents of ringing, and who was for a considerable time identified with the belfry of Erdington Parish Church, has been fittingly perpetuated at this tower by the erection of a handsome marblette tablet recording the muffled peal rung on the occasion of her death, which took place on January 14th of last year. The tablet is the gift of Mr. Jonathan Preston, hon. secretary of the Erdington Parish Church Society, and the unveiling of the memorial took place on Saturday week, the nearest convenient day to the first anniversary of Miss Sampson's demise. There was a numerous gathering of ringers and friends, including Mr. Wm. B. Sampson, of Edinburgh (who had travelled expressly from the Scotch capital to unveil the tablet commemorative of his daughter and the campanological honours paid to her memory), the Rev. F. S. Swindell, M.A., R.D. (Vicar of Erdington), the Rev. H. G. Johnson, M.A. (Assistant Curate of the Parish Church and Curate-in-Charge of St. Margaret's), Mr. Herbert H. Humphries (Parish Churchwarden), Councillor Edwin J. Houlston (late Parish Churchwarden), Mr. Thos. Boyard, Mr. W. H. Locker, and Mr. George Winnall (sidesmen), Mr. Jonathan Preston (Secretary to the Parish Church Society of Change Ringers), Mr. J. A. Hammon and Mr. J. B. Parkes (verger).

THE TABLET.

The Vicar (the Rev. F. S. Swindell) opened the proceedings by reciting a short but appropriate inaugural office, those present heartily joining in the responses and in the Lord's Prayer. He then called upon Mr. Preston to explain the object of the gathering.—Mr. J. Preston said he wished, first of all, to thank those present for their kind attendance. Their object was to unveil a tablet to the memory of the late Miss Margery Sampson, who came to that church several times to participate in their campanological performances, taking part, moreover, in about five peals in the district, and who was a great favourite with the ringers. Twelve months ago—on January 14th, 1915—she passed away, and a fortnight later—on Saturday, January 30th—the ringers there rang a peal to her memory. To commemorate this and to perpetuate Miss Sampson's memory, the tablet was erected, and her father had come down from Edinburgh to unveil it.

The Vicar said he understood that the cost of this tablet—a very beautiful and quite exceptionally excellent one, as he could testify, for he had been privileged to see it—had been defrayed by Mr. Preston, a member of their bell ringers, of whose liberality in this and other matters he could not speak too highly. He (the Vicar) knew the late Miss Sampson slightly, and was photographed with her, some three years ago, in a group of bell ringers outside the tower of that church. That group included, also, the late Mr. Thomas Wells, the late Mr. Sanders, and others, and it was painfully noteworthy that several gaps had been created by death, amongst the few persons composing it, in so short a time. He was glad to see and to welcome there Mr. Sampson, the father of Miss Sampson. She was one of a number of ladies who had taken up bell ringing, and he was glad to hear that this movement—so pleasant and elevating, and so intimately connected with God's service—was spreading amongst them. He would now ask Mr. Sampson to unveil the tablet.

Mr. Sampson then pulled a cord, releasing the cloth which had covered the tablet, and exposing it to view. It revealed a very beautiful black marblette memorial, with gilt letters and embellishments, on which—besides an excellent medallion portrait of the deceased lady—was set forth the following inscription:—

SAINT MARTIN'S GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
ERDINGTON PARISH CHURCH SOCIETY.

To the glory of God, and to the memory of Margery Fletcher Sampson, of Edinburgh, member of the above Society, who died January 14th, 1915, was rung upon these bells (half muffled), on Saturday, January 30th, 1915, in two hours and 57 minutes, a true and complete peal of Stedman Triples, Sir A. P. Heywood's Variation of Thurstans', 5040 changes. Tenor, 15½ cwt.: Charles Cottrell, treble; Jonathan Preston, 2; William J. Meers, 3; John Sanders, 4; William G. Anker, 5; George F. Swann, 6; George Garrison, 7; John E. Pywell, tenor. Conducted by George F. Swann.—Frederic S. Swindell, M.A., Vicar; George H. Machin, Herbert H. Humphries, Churchwardens.

MR. SAMPSON'S THANKS.

Mr. W. S. Sampson, who was much moved, said he was a Scotsman, and a man of few words. Moreover, the present occasion, as they could well imagine, had been almost too much for him. Of his late daughter, he could conscientiously and lovingly say, that she was at all times a good girl, and that, whenever he wanted anything done, he could always rely on her. She came amongst the ringers of Birmingham an entire stranger, and was always received with the utmost kindness, especially by the Erdington ringers, who ever afterwards retained a warm place in her heart, and for whom she always had the very highest regard. He thanked them all for their great kindness, and wished to express his special obligations to Mr. Preston—who was entertaining him whilst he was there—for his most thoughtful and touching kindness and liberality.

Some time was then spent in inspecting the tablet, which elicited warm expressions of admiration, and was universally admired.—Mr. Churchwarden Humphries, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Preston for his kindness and liberality in providing the tablet, said it was really a very handsome piece of work. It had come as quite a pleasurable surprise to himself, for he had expected something much plainer. It had not that funeral look about it which some of these tablets had—which he thought was a great advantage—and no expense had been spared to render it a becomingly beautiful and worthy memorial to Miss Sampson, which, he hoped, would encourage others to take up the very attractive pursuit of bell ringing in which she engaged.—Councillor Edwin J. Houlston said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion, because at one time—during his two periods of office as churchwarden—he had very much to do with the bell ringers, and with their enthusiastic secretary, Mr. Preston, to whom they were under such special obligations on this occasion. Bell ringing was a very important matter, and most intimately mixed up with all their ecclesiastical functions and services, and was closely linked in association alike with the gladdest and saddest events of their lives. He was very glad to have been present at that worthy commemoration of one who had done her work so well. The tablet was a great addition to the belfry, and would remind them of one who had passed away, and whom they would long remember.—The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Preston briefly returned thanks.—The ringers then rang a short touch on the half-muffled bells to Miss Sampson's memory (her father himself being one of the band).

Canon J. W. Willink (Rector of Birmingham) arrived at the conclusion of the ringing, having been prevented by other engagements from reaching the tower earlier.

CANON WILLINK'S ADDRESS.

At the close of the service, the party adjourned to the Church House for tea kindly provided by the bell ringers of the Parish Church. The tables were very artistically decorated by the Ladies' Committee, consisting of the wives and sister of the ringers, who were responsible for this part of the proceedings. The Vicar presided, and was supported by the Rector of Birmingham (the Rev. Canon J. W. Willink, M.A.), Mr. H. H. Humphries (churchwarden), and Councillor E. J. Houlston. Grace having been said by the Vicar, the party did justice to an excellent repast. Tea being over, the Vicar called upon Canon Willink to say a few words.

The Rector, who was received with applause, expressed his great pleasure at being invited to the service, but, owing to great pressure of work now placed upon him in his new office as Rural Dean of Central Birmingham, he was not able to be at the first part of the unveiling ceremony. He spoke very highly of the good work done by the late Miss Margery F. Sampson in the ringing art, and expressed the sympathy of those present, and of the St. Martin's Guild in the bereavement Mr. Sampson had sustained, and hoped that he would return to Edinburgh much the happier, knowing that his daughter was highly esteemed whilst in Birmingham. He also based his remarks on the word "Bells," taking the letters as follow:—B for Brotherhood, E. for Enthusiasm, LL for Love of Church and Loyalty, and S for Self-Sacrifice. Speaking on these letters, Canon Willink said that the ringers were a splendid body of men, and helped in the work of the Church. Enthusiasm was a great feature among them, for the time they spent and miles they walked to ring. They were loyal to the Church, and their love of Church work was great: and (for the last letter) the ringers did a great deal in self-sacrifice for the Church. He concluded by saying that he thanked the Erdington ringers for their invitation, and again assured Mr. Sampson of the true fellowship which existed between his daughter and the ringers of the Guild.

Councillor E. J. Houlston proposed a vote of thanks to the ringers and ladies for their kindness in inviting the visitors to tea, and assured them that the Church authorities appreciated their work, and gatherings such as these helped to bring together a closer union amongst them all.—Mr. H. H. Humphries (churchwarden) seconded the vote of thanks, and expressed his delight to be present on such an auspicious occasion, and to share his sympathy with the bereaved father, who was their honoured guest. He hoped that Mr. Sampson would go back to Edinburgh knowing that Erdington ringers had done their duty to one near and dear to him, who had departed.—Mr. Thomas Boyard—"Father of the Congregation," as the Vicar called him—also spoke in very high terms of the ringers, and, mentioning that one of the old ringers, Mr. J. H. Sanders, had passed away, hoped that a similar tablet would be erected to his memory, remarking that he himself would be pleased to subscribe.—The Secretary (Mr. J. Preston) said the matter was already in hand, and he would be pleased to receive any subscriptions.—Mr. W. H. Locker said he was glad to be present, and had learned that he and Mr. Sampson were both choristers at the laying of the foundation stone of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. He hoped that Mr. Sampson would convey his good wishes to those he knew at Edinburgh.—Councillor Dr. Featherstone having arrived (being late on account of professional engagements, said how pleased he was to see them all present

" in his house " (for he was responsible for the Church House), and hoped it would be more freely used by the ringers on such occasions. —Mr. Geo. Winnall also spoke in high terms of the ringers and their work.—The vote of thanks was put by the Vicar, and carried unanimously.—The Secretary thanked the proposer and seconded for their kind wishes, and said it was a great pleasure to the ringers to entertain them and a greater pleasure for the ladies to wait upon them.

The ringers afterwards started for a peal with the bells half-muffled, but, after an hour's ringing had to stop owing to a change course.

Among those present at the tea were: Mrs. G. Swann, Mrs. J. Preston, Mrs. J. Sanders, Mrs. F. Sanders, Mrs. C. Cottrell, Miss P Garrison, the Vicar of Erdington (Rev. F. S. Swindell), the Rector of Birmingham (Rev. Canon Willink), Councillor E. J. Houlston, Mr. H. H. Humphries, Mr. W. H. Locker, Mr. T. Boyard, Mr. W. B. Sampson, Councillor Dr. W. B. Featherstone, Mr. G. Winnall, Mr. J. B. Parkes, and Mr. J. A. Hammond. Ringers: Messrs. T. Russam, J. E. Groves, C. Stanbridge, C. Cottrell, J. Pemberton, G. F. Swann, W. J. Meers, G. Garrison, T. Bicknell, F. Sanders, A. Hobbs, and J. Preston. Letters of apology for absence had been received from Alderman Dr. A. Paget Evans, Dr. T. J. Baker, Mr. G. H. Machin (Vicar's Warden), Mr. G. N. Guest, Mr. H. W. Ashwell (Parish Clerk), Mr. H. J. Silcock, Mr. C. F. B. Flint, Mr. W. H. Godden, and Mr. S. J. Dixon.

On the following evening, for service at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung, in 46 mins., in honour of the visit of Mr. W. B. Sampson, of Edinburgh, by the following band: Charles Cottrell 1, Jonathan Preston 2, William J. Meers 3, James E. Groves 4, William G. Anker 5, George F. Swann (conductor) 6, William B. Sampson 7, Joseph Pemberton 8.

WINCHESTER GUILD.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION.

A very successful meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester Guild was held at Titchfield, on Saturday last, when ringers were present from Portsea, Portsmouth, Bishop Stoke, North Stoneham, Fareham, Swanmore, Curdridge, Wickham, and the local tower. The bells were rung in the afternoon to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Bob and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor. The ringers attended service at 5 o'clock, at which the Guild form was used. Owing to the Vicar (the Master of the Guild) being with the troops at the front, the prayers were read by the curate-in-charge. The lesson was read by the Rev. E. Bankes James, who also gave a very inspiring address from Corinthians 1—10, " Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment."

Tea was kindly provided by the Rev. C. E. Matthews, and at the business meeting, which followed, the Rev. E. Bankes James was voted to the chair. A letter was read from Mr. A. T. King regretting his absence owing to a cold.—Mr. Whiting, for so many years district secretary, regretted his inability to continue in office any longer owing to ill-health. His resignation was regretfully accepted, and Mr. P. J. Harding was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. F. Burnett was elected assistant secretary and representative of the Central Committee. The Rev. C. E. Matthews was again appointed president; Mr. J. Harris, auditor; and Mr. W. Linten, the second representative.

The places of meetings for the year were fixed as follows: Easter Monday, Soberton; July 15th, Privett; October 14th, Havant; the January meeting place to be decided later. — Five members were elected, and votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. C. E. Matthews for the use of the bells and kindly giving the tea; to the Rev. Bankes James for his address and for presiding at the meeting, and to Miss Carden for presiding at the organ. Owing to military restrictions there was no ringing in the evening.

YORKTOWN DISTRICT RE-SHUFFLES OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Yorktown district of the Winchester Guild was held at Chertsey on January 8th. Owing to illness near the church the bells could not be rung, and a move had to be made to the Church Hall, where handbells and the piano were made use of. Tea was partaken of, during which the curate put in an appearance to say that the Vicar had been called away and could not attend the meeting.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. F. Shepherd, senr., and among the various items transacted was a re-shuffle of officers. Mr. G. B. Edser, who resides in London, retired from the post of hon. secretary, but took the office of auditor, while Mr. W. A. Woodrow was transferred from position of auditor to that of representative. Mr. G. Miles was elected hon. secretary, with Mr. F. J. Shepherd as assistant. The Ringing Master (Mr. W. Shepherd) was re-elected. The places for the four meetings for the year were chosen as follows: Hersham, Farnborough, Oatlands and Hawley.—The annual reports from the ringing master and hon. secretary were confirmed.

Regret was expressed at the retirement of the hon. secretary, to whom the thanks of the members were accorded, and Mr. Edser suitably replied.—The usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

Representatives were present from Bagshot, Hersham, Weybridge, Yorktown, and the local band. Handbell ringing terminated a pleasant gathering.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT AT SOUTHGATE.

The annual meeting of the North and East District was held at Southgate on Saturday last, and, favoured with very fine feather, there was a good attendance, quite 50 members being present during the day, and much good ringing being done on the very fine peal of bells prior to the service, which took place at 5.30.

The service was mainly given to intercessions, and it was specially mentioned that many members of the society were away fighting for their country, and also that three members had, alas! already given up their lives. Four other members who had died during 1915 were also mentioned in connection with the intercessory prayers.

Tea was served at The Cherry Tree, followed by the business meeting, at which the chair was taken by the Master, Mr. J. Armstrong. —The Hon. Secretary presented the balance sheet, and in spite of there being many members away whose subscriptons were excused, there was a balance in hand on the year's working of nearly £2. This was considered as very satisfactory.

Mention was made of the £70 War Loan Stock purchased by the treasurer on behalf of the society, with the president, the hon. secretary and treasurer, as trustees.

The Hon. Secretary spoke of the work of the district during the past year. He stated that many bands were very hard pressed to obtain enough ringers to ring the bells, owing to the number who were away serving the country. Cases in point were the bands at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, where eight out of ten had already gone forth, and at Harrow and Clerkenwell with six and five respectively. Great efforts had, however, been made in these cases to keep ringing going, and it was to be hoped that their absent friends would soon return to take their places amongst them once again. Six meetings had been held during 1915, with excellent results, and it was mainly due to the holding of these meetings that the society was able to keep together so well, the meetings also affording opportunities for practice, which in many cases could not otherwise be obtained.

After six new members had been made, the whole of the retiring officers were re-elected.—The Hon. Secretary pointed out that the assistant hon. secretary (Mr. W. J. Kemp) was serving in the army, and that the Master (Mr. J. Armstrong) and himself were at some future date likely to be called up under Lord Derby's scheme. It was, therefore, necessary for them to be prepared for such an emergency, and he asked the members to agree to him calling together the remaining officers and their members of the Central Committee, when that emergency arose, to decide what should be done.—This was agreed to.

THE LATE MR. E. PYE.

The Hon. Secretary moved that a sincere vote of condolence be passed to the friends of the late Mr. Ernest Pye, who died on December 8th last.—Mr. Coles stated that the society had suffered an irreparable loss by the death of this great ringer. Ernest Pye was one of those men who could always be relied upon, in whatever he undertook to do. He was always in his place on Sundays, and although he lived nearly three miles from Romford Church, he seldom missed attending twice on Sundays, and invariably attended divine service after ringing. He was an excellent ringer and conductor, and although usually content to leave the conducting to others, he could always be relied upon to conduct a peal in first-class fashion should the necessity arise. He was always willing, even anxious, to help young ringers, and the speaker testified to this from his own personal experiences. He was buried at Aldboro' Hatch, as already fully reported in " The Ringing World," on December 12th, and amongst the many floral tributes was a beautiful imitation bell from that district of the Association. Two attempts had been made at Romford for a half-muffled peal, but unfortunately without success. The St. Mary's, Walthamstow, bells, had been rung half-muffled in his memory, and a half-muffled peal had been rung at Wrentham, Suffolk, by members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, in which Ernest Pye's old friend and ringing comrade, Bertram Prewett, took part.—The Hon. Secretary moved that their sympathies be shown to the relatives of the deceased member in the usual way.—Mr. J. R. Sharman briefly seconded, and the vote of condolence was passed in silence, the members all standing.

A sincere and hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. C. F. Peploe for the use of the bells, and to Mr. J. E. Miller and the local ringers for their very kind welcome, and a similar vote was passed to the officers of the society for their services during the past year.—This concluded the business of the meeting.

A course of Stedman Caters was rung on Mr. J. Rayner's handbells by Messrs. C. T. Coles, J. Armstrong, G. R. Pye, J. Hunt, and W. J. Nudds, and the latter four gentlemen also rang a course of Stedman Triples.

It being a fine moonlight evening, with no danger from enemy airships, the bells were kept going until 8.30, the methods rung during the day ranging from Grandsire and Stedman Triples to London and Bristol Surprise.

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A BIRTHDAY AND WEDDING PEAL.

MR. F. I. HAIRS AND MISS ELSIE BENNETT.

St. Mary's, Clapham, was on Saturday week the scene of a ceremony of interest to many in the ringing world, the wedding being solemnised of Air Mechanic Frank Hairs, R.N.A.S., and Miss Elsie Bennett, both of whom are well known in the Exercise, Miss Bennett having achieved much distinction in handbell ringing. The bride was charmingly attired in a costume of dark green cloth with a velvet hat, trimmed with a coil of ostrich feathers, and carried a spray of lilies of the valley and ferns, whilst the bridegroom was in his uniform of the R.N.A.S. The duties of best man were carried out by Air Mechanic Frank Hawkins, R.N.A.S., the bridesmaid being Miss Norah Hairs, sister of the bridegroom. The Rev. Father J. Bennett officiated.

After the ceremony a small reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Hairs, amongst those present being Mrs. Bennett, Miss Alice White, Mr. W. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Horton, and several other friends of the bride and bridegroom. A touch of Stedman Caters in hand was rung by W. Hewitt 1—2, Mrs. Frank Hairs 3—4, A.-M. Fr. Hairs 5—6, C. H. Horton 7—8, Miss A. White 9—10. After the breakfast the health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed in a neat speech by Mr. Horton, who, on behalf of their many friends,

MR. AND MRS. F. I. HAIRS.

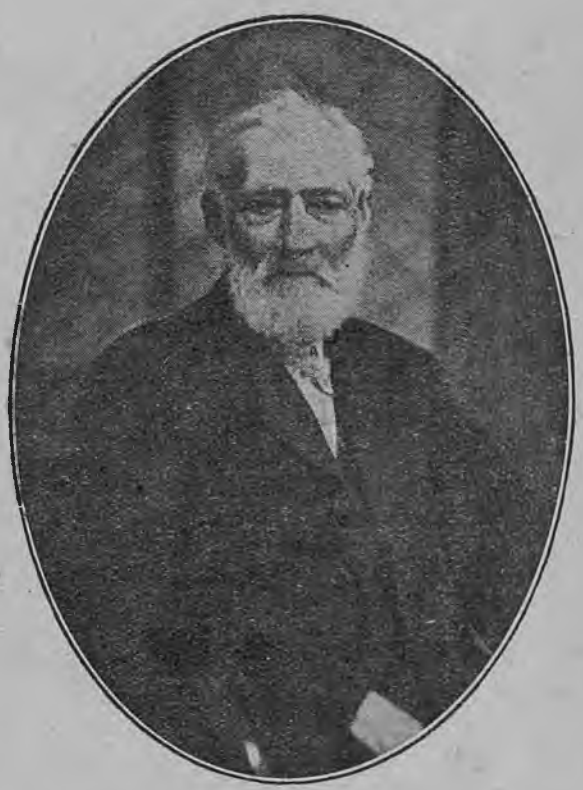
wished them every possible happiness and success in the future.—Mr. and Mrs. Hairs suitably responded. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of numerous presents. In the afternoon, under the able conductorship of Mr. Hewitt, who kindly lent his car for the ceremony, etc., the bride and bridegroom left for Waterloo en route for the charming county town of Guildford, where a brief honeymoon, limited by the bridegroom's leave of absence, was spent among ringing friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Hairs accomplished the unique feat of both taking part in a peal on their wedding day. This was rung at Guildford, and in addition to being a fitting celebration of the occasion, was also a birthday compliment to England's oldest change ringer, Mr. John Heathorn. The latter is an inmate of Abbot's Hospital, a famous old building in the Surrey county town, and the peal was rung in the ancient dining hall. The ringers were welcomed by the Master of the Institution (Mr. Palmer) and Mr. Heathorn, and after good wishes for success, rang a capital peal of Stedman Caters in 2 hrs. 42 mins. The listeners included Mr. Heathorn, his son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter, Mrs. Pulling, Mr. and Mrs. Hazelden and their niece, Mr. Steer and Mr. Gafford (a brother of the Hospital). It was a pleasing and remarkable coincidence that Mr. Heathorn should hear a peal which marked not only his 92nd birthday, but the wedding of the daughter of his old friend, Mr. Frank Bennett, and Mrs. Hairs received the congratulations of all persent at the conclusion of the performance.

Other ringing which took place during that week-end included an attempt for an odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples on Sunday afternoon, but a " shift " occurred three courses from half-way. Afterwards touches were rung. On Monday a 500 was rung in which Mrs. Hazelden took part, but a peal, which it was hoped to attempt had to be cried off, as one of the band was unable to join the rest.

As a tower-bell peal was impossible in London, in celebration of the wedding, friends of the bride and bridegroom met at 405, Kingsland Road, Dalston, and rang the following touches on handbells: 312 Stedman Triples: J. Hunt 1—2, A. W. Grimes (conductor) 3—4, W. A. Alps 5—6, H. A. Alford 7—8; and 504 in the same method: J. Hunt 1—2, A. W. Grimes 3—4, W. A. Alps 5—6, R. W. Green 7—8.

It may be of interest to ringers generally to know the number of peals rung by Mr. and Mrs. Hairs. Mr. Hairs' total is 180 peals in 61 towers and on handbells, in the following methods: Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Treble Bob Royal and Maximus, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Waterloo, Duffield, Forward, Double Norwich, Superlative, Bristol, Brighton, Norfolk, and New Cambridge Major, and Cambridge Major and Royal, and including 8099 Grandsire Caters on handbells.



MR. J. HEATHORN,
The oldest ringer in England.

Mrs. E. Hairs' peals number 63, all on handbells, comprising Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal, including 8099 Grandsire Caters. On one occasion she rang three peals in one day.

DEATH OF A YORKS RINGER.

The death has occurred, at his residence at Mirfield, of Mr. Fred Robinson, a former member for many years of the band at St. Mary's Church. The deceased was a life member of the Yorkshire Association, which he joined in 1897. He was a composer as well as a conductor. He was interred at Mirfield Church on January 13th, and prior to evening service on the 16th a half-muffled touch of 832 Kent Treble Bob Major was rung as a last tribute of respect, by: T. Crawshaw 1, A. North (conductor) 2, Hemmingway Dransfield (Earlsheaton) 3, J. W. Dens (Earlsheaton) 4, W. Idle (Earlsheaton) 5, R. Elam 6, H. Dransfield (Earlsheaton) 7, J. E. Dawson 8.

CHILVERS COTON, WARWICKSHIRE.—At All Saints' Church, Chilvers Coton, on December 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute to the memory of the late Miss Tomlinson, who for many years was an earnest church worker: H. Reader 1, T. W. Chapman 2, W. Martin 3, R. Pollard 4, H. Argyle 5, J. Clarke, senr., 6, J. Clarke, junr. (conductor) 7, A. Hancock 8.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

By ' BOB MAJOR.'

Pressure on space, I am told, prevented my notes from appearing last week. For one reason I was rather sorry, for I have got into hot water, and when I get in, I like to get out again as soon as I can. My note about the long peal of Treble Bob, rung at Elland in 1831, has brought down upon my devoted head the verbal chastisement of the present-day champions of that band of former days. I had better begin by giving the indictment. It comes from Mr. George H. Simon, of Elland, who writes, under date of Jan. 10th:—" I am sure that the Occasional Notes, by ' Bob Major,' have always been looked upon with interest by the majority of ringers, but, it is regrettable to note that in your last week's issue, whilst referring to the long peal at Elland, in the year 1831, that he should so far forget himself and introduce remarks which he did, to the effect that the Elland band of ringers should try to palm off the work of ten men as if it were the work of eight. As this aspersion has come as fresh news and as a great surprise to many old Ellanders, I should like ' Bob Major ' to tell us where he gathered his information from, and if it is a ' German ' tale, as it has always been understood in Elland (so we are told by some of the oldest ringers now living in Elland) that the peal was always known to have been rung by ten men, and that the band which rang this remarkable performance (at that time considered) never endeavoured to make the public believe that the peal was accomplished by eight men only. The 'assumption' of ' Bob Major ' that the old ringers of the year 1831 were so ' audacious ' to palm off something not accomplished is rather an awkward jar, and such remarks would have been best left unsaid, unless the same can be proved, that is, if ' Bob Major ' wishes to retain his ' future reputation ' and, seeing that ' Murder will out,' so let the truth."

THE PROOF.

I ought, really, to feel utterly crushed. I have evidently hurt the susceptibilities of my Elland friends, and for that I duly apologise, because I wouldn't, if I could help it, offend the feelings of anyone. But I am called upon to prove what I wrote. Unfortunately for me, I have never lived in Yorkshire, and more unfortunate still, for my present purpose, I was not alive when that 15,000 was rung, and, therefore, cannot give first-hand evidence. But there once lived in Yorkshire a man whom all Yorkshire ringers delighted to honour in life, and whose memory is still cherished. He made lots of researches into ringing history, and we have all come to look upon what he wrote as authentic. That man was Jaspar Snowdon, and I am sure that even my Elland friends will hardly dispute his word. Now, Jaspar Snowdon once wrote a book called " Treble Bob," and in that book was a chapter on the history of the method. The Elland peal, being a record length at the time it was rung, is, of course, given its proper place in the chapter, and, commenting on the peal Jaspar Snowdon says: " For some time it was given out that this peal had been rung by eight men only, but at last the truth crept out that ten men took part in the performance, as the ringers of the third and fourth had to be relieved." I am really sorry if this should be an ' awkward jar ' to the present generation of Elland ringers, but this is not the only case where subsequent revelations have caused surprise—but I must not be led into reminiscences of this kind, or I shall be treading on somebody else's toes.

RECENT PEALS.

There were one or two very interesting points about some of the muffled peals rung at the beginning of the month. At St. Mary's, Southampton, the first peal was rung on the bells; at the other end of England, at Newcastle, the first peal was rung on the twelve bells. At Willesden they rang the first peal since having a ring of eight, and on the other side of the country, at Tewkesbury, the first peal on the ten was scored. Then, too, I believe that the peal at Romford was the first peal of London Surprise rung since the war started. It seemed quite like old times—the times that seem to be very distant when, viewed through the happenings of the past eighteen months—to see a crop of over 30 peals in one issue. True, they were, most of them, rung for a sad purpose, but, still, many a familiar name was brought to notice again. And talking of this batch of peals, reminds me of the handbell peal at Birmingham. How refreshing it was to note that performance. It is something like eleven years since a handbell peal was rung for the St. Martin's Guild, and yet it cannot have been for want of capable ringers that there has been this gap. Now that the ice has been broken we may hope to see something further in this direction. Speaking from memory, I believe St. Martin's Guild claim the credit of the only handbell peal rung on the sea; the peal of Stedman Caters rung on the passage between Dublin and Holyhead, and which was called by our old friend Bill Short. Two other famous Bills were in that peal, William Pys and William Barber, and the band was made up by Ernest and Bob Pye. Two equally famous men were the umpires, Jim George and Isaac Shade, and two witnesses of the performance were John Buffery—who seems to have dropped out of ringing—and our Editor.

AN OLD FRIEND'S DISAPPEARANCE.

I have been pondering during the last week or two over the absence of an old friend of mine. For many years—almost more years than I care to believe—he has looked in upon me every week—well, nearly every week. Sometimes he would miss a week, and then, perhaps, come twice the next week, although formerly it was a regular Saturday morning call. Once upon a time he was always bright and chatty, and I really used to look forward to his coming. But latterly he grew, as it were, dejected and gloomy; he harped often on the same string till he got upon my nerves; his earlier vivacity had disappeared. Perhaps it was advancing years that accounted for the change, although he was not so old as years go, compared with some others whom I know. And now he's stopped coming altogether. I miss his face and familar garb, and he has sent me no reason for his sudden abstention. I cannot say I altogether deplore his absence, for he has not, in recent years, been of quite of the companionable nature he once was; and yet I miss him? By-the-way, are you aware that " The Ringing World " is the only paper now published exclusively in the interests of ringers?

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association was held on Tuesday of last week in the belfry of St. Alkmund's Church, Derby, for the purpose of electing officers, etc., for the year. Members were present from Derby, Duffield and Darley Dale.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. W. Wallace; two committeemen, Mr. C. Draper and Mr. A. Wright; secretary, Mr. J. Lord, 36, Howard Street, Derby.

It was also recommended to the next quarterly meeting of the association that the general officers be re-elected en bloc.

The following delegates for the Central Council were nominated for the district: Sir Arthur Heywood and Mr. A. Wright.—Seven new members were admitted to the Association.

A resolution was proposed to be forwarded to the next general meeting, that no annual reports should be issued for the year 1915.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and officers concluded the meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Branch took place at the Cathedral, and was graced by the presence of one of the churchwardens. The genial tower keeper, looking hearty and well, despite his 74 years, was there to welcome one and all, with his " happy and victorious New Year," he having a job on to shake hands with some 40 members and friends from Bolton, Middleton, Stockport, and most of the towers in the branch. Ringing commenced about 5.30, when touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob and Treble Bob Royal were rung, and a few rounds for the ladies. The Vice-President (Mr. Ridyard) conducted the business meeting, at which Miles Platting was chosen for the next meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the authorities, which was responded to by the warden, Mr. Higginbottom. The bells were kept going till about 9 p.m. Khaki friends in the neighbourhood could not attend the meeting, as some were on duty and hospital hours barred others.

THE BUSHEY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting and supper of the Bushey Society took place on Thursday of last week, at the Church Institute, the following being present: The President (Rev. G. M. Hall) in the chair, the Rev. H. H. C. Richardson, and Messrs. Gabain, Head and J. Prewett, vice-presidents; Messrs. F. A. Smith, Edwards, W. J. Oakley, W. E. Oakley, Darlow, Parslow, Andrews, Bates, Willis and B. Prewett, of the local company, and Messrs. Hughes (Stanmore), Cooper (Oxhey) and Inwood (Aldenham). After supper, the Rector briefly reviewed the work of the year. The society, like every other institution had, he said, suffered from the effects of the war. Five members (Messrs. Stavert, Prewett, George, Whitehead and Seeley) were serving with the colours, but despite their absence, the ringing had been kept up to the usual standard, owing to the loyalty and self-sacrifice of those who were left. No peals had been rung during the year, and, in deference to public opinion, the practices and Sunday evening ringing had been suspended during the winter. Sympathetic reference was made to the loss the society had sustained by the death of Mr. E. E. Huntley, one of the vice-presidents, and for 21 years Master of the band, to whose energy and perseverance the establishment of change ringing in the district was due.

The officers were all re-elected with the exception that Mr. F. A. Smith takes the place of Rifleman B. Prewett as secretary, while the latter is with the colours.

After the meeting various games were indulged in for the remainder of the evening, and the gathering broke up at 11 p.m., after a very hearty vote of thanks had been passed to the President for his hospitality.

It may be mentioned that in 1915 the society has, by means of the penny collections, contributed £2 11s. to " The Ringing World " National Relief Fund.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

Owing to the pressure on our space the report of the annual meeting of this Guild and several other items are unavoidably held over until next week.

"SNAPPED" AT THE WEDDING.

Mr. William Shepherd and his bride, photographed at their wedding, and Mr. Arthur Shepherd, the best man The two brothers took part in the world's record of 19,738 Stedman Caters, rung on handbells at Guildford in 1912.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

STROUD BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Stroud and District Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Chalford on Saturday week, and proved to be a most pleasant and successful gathering. The novel and interesting peal of six steel bells were rung during the afternoon and evening in various musical touches in the standard methods by the 30 ringers who attended from 10 out of the 2 towers in the Branch. A service was held in the Parish Church, the Vicar (the Rev. A. E. Addenbrooke) taking the first portion, which was from the Association's form of service, and a brother ringer, the Rev. H. P. Barchard, gave a most interesting address, which was much appreciated.

At the conclusion of the service, by the kind invitation of the Vicar, all partook of tea at the Church Room. The annual report and balance sheet were presented by the Branch Secretary (Mr. W. Hale). It was considered most satisfactory and unanimously adopted, and the whole of the officers were unanimously re-elected and thanked for their services. The report showed that 18 out of the 80 members had enlisted in his Majesty's Forces, and all enlisted would be exempt from paying subscriptions for the duration of the war. Twelve meetings had been held with an average attendance of 20, the record meeting being at Stroud in July with an attendance of 41 ringers. One new honorary member was elected and Minchinhampton selected for the next quarterly meeting, and Painswick and Avening for the monthly meetings.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens, the Rev. H. P. Barchard, the organist and local society of ringers for their great kindness and hospitality. In response, a hearty welcome was given to the Association. — Tower and handbell ringing concluded a pleasant day's proceedings.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE BRANCH.

A meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch was held at Thornbury on Saturday week. Over thirty members were present from all parts of the district, including a good number of the Bristol Branch, amongst whom were the hon. treasurer (the Rev. H. A. Cockey), Mr. F. G. May, Mr. H. Howell and several other well-known members of the Association. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major were brought round in the afternoon, and after tea the Rev. Canon Cornwall (Vicar of Thornbury) presided over the business meeting.—Slimbridge was decided upon as the next place of meeting on February 19th.—A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. Canon Cornwall for his kindness to the ringers in giving them such a hearty welcome to Thornbury, and the motion was suitably acknowledged.

The tower was again visited, and a very pleasant evening spent, everyone enjoying the splendid "go" of the bells. Two lady ringers from Dursley took part in Stedman Triples, and a touch on the handbells was rung by the Bristol ringers.

WEST EALING.—On Sunday, Dec. 19th, for the evening service, at St. Stephen's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1248 changes): C. Edwards 1, J. A. Trollope (conductor) 2, R. Holloway 3, Geo. Harbour 4, V. Holloway 5, W. H. Hollier 6, W. Lawrence 7, A. Harding 8.

MUFFLED RINGING FOR DEAD HEROES

The following were among the muffled touches rung for those who have fallen in the war:—

BROOMFIELD.—Essex Association.—At St. Mary's Church, on Jan. 2nd, for evening service, with the bells muffled, 360 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Bradley 1, C. Parsons 2, G. Parsons 3, Pte. F. Smith (Oxford and Bucks L.I.) 4, E. Clark 5, Quartermaster-Sergt. Hedges O.B.L.I.) 6. After service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: G. Clark 1, C. Parsons 2, G. Parsons 3, E. Clark 4, H. Bradley 5, Q.-M.-S. Hedges O.B.L.I.) 6. Also 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor by the same band, conducted by Q.-M.-S. Hedges.

TENDRING.—Essex Association.—On Jan. 9th, with the bells half-muffled, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, before morning service, and 720 of Plain Bob afterwards: C. Marven (Tendring) 1, J. Bowell (Little Bentley) 2, J. Souter (Mistley) 3, E. Eady (Thorpe-le-Soken) 4, G. Jennings (Weeley) 5, W. J. Nevard (Great Bentley), conductor, 6.

CARDIFF.—At St. John's, on Jan. 6th, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 55 mins.: H. Day 1, W. B. Biss 2, W. Heath 3, S. Dawe 4, A. Rowley 5, J. Clutterbuck 6, F. Chamberlain (conductor) 7, S. Barker 8.

UPPER ARMLEY, LEEDS.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, at Christ Church, for evening service, with the bells muffled, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: A. Windsor 1, J. Hey 2, F. Gaunt 3, J. Peacock 4, M. Broadbent (conductor) 5, Jos. Thackray 6.

LANGHAM, ESSEX.—On Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: G. Lilley 1, G. Green 2, A. Smith 3, F. Smith (conductor) 4, J. Smith 5, W. Sterry 6. For evening service, 480 Doubles, by: G. Green 1, A. Smith (conductor) 2, F. Smith 3, H. Lilley 4, W. Sterry 5.

BRADPOLE, DORSET.—For Intercession service, on Jan. 2nd, at Holy Trinity Church, in the morning, 504 Grandsire Triples: C. Lathey 1, Rev. C. F. Langford 2, J. Lathey 3, E. Joy 4, T. H. Beams (conductor) 5, H. Way 6, T. Lathey 7, A. Hill 8. For evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Stiley 1, Rev. C. F. Langford 2, J. Lathey 3, T. H. Beams (conductor) 4, H. Haines 5, H. Way 6, T. Lathey 7, H. Hill 8. Also 210 Grandsire: H. Corbin treble, the rest as before. Rung with the bells fully muffled. Longest length of Triples by ringers of the treble.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—For the Intercession service, for morning service, 360 Grandsire and Bob Doubles: W. H. Lawrence 1—2, S. Game 3, A. Phillips 4, E. A. Overall (conductor) 5, W. Williams 6. Owing to police regulations no ringing is allowed for evening services.

BATH.—At St. Mary's Church, on Jan. 2nd, for evening service, with the bells half-muffled, 1260 Grandsire Triples: W. Flower 1, T. Hogsflesh 2. A. Richardson 3, A. E. Alexander 4, A. E. Seers 5, C. Densley 6, R. J. Cousins (conductor) 7, H. Davis 8.

HENFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, after divine service, in the evening, 1008 Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled: A. E. Baker 1, C. Tyler (conductor) 2, G. Payne 3, E. Lish 4, A. Baigent 5, W. J. Alliss 6, L. Payne 7, A. Hodges 8.

FAKENHAM, NORFOLK.—At SS. Peter and Paul's Church, with the bells half-muffled, on Jan. 2nd: G. Beverley 1, A. Dye 2, F. Harrison 3, C. Wybrow 4, A. W. Baldwin 5, C. S. Tuthill 6, F. T. Cooke 7, R. Cooke (conductor) 8. Special ringing was arranged for the afternoon, 1008 changes being attempted immediately before sunset, owing to the church being in a restricted area. After about 784 changes had been rung, however, the fourth bell set itself fast and became immovable.

STOCKPORT. — On Sunday evening, Jan. 2nd, at St. George's Church, with half-muffled bells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1259 changes), in 55 mins.: J. Booth 1, E. Goddard 2, T. Jackson 3, J. W. Bayley 4, E. Jackson 5, J. Mottershead 6, H. Meakin (conductor) 7, G. Astbury 8, H. Jackson 9, G. Marshall 10.

LEICESTER.—On Intercession Sunday, at St. Margaret's Church, special touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, half-muffled, by: E. Smith, A. Peach, J. Vernon, F. Sharman, B. Kirby, A. Ballard, T. H. Hardy, J. Morris, E. Morris (conductor).

LOUGHBOROUGH.—On Saturday, Jan. 8th, at the bell foundry tower, an attempt was made for a half-muffled peal of Stedman Triples, but was lost through a "shift": E. Morris 1, R. Lane 2, E. Leslie 3, W. Willson 4, H. Broughton 5, F. H. Dexter 6, E. Reader (conductor) 7, J. Oldham 8.

ARKSEY, Near DONCASTER.—At All Saints' Church, with the bells half-muffled, on Saturday, Jan. 8th, in 45 mins., a quarter-peal of Minor (1260 changes), being 240 each of Violet, New London, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and 300 Plain Bob: F. Garner 1, Rev. Rhys James 2, G. Clarke 3, E. Arrand 4, F. Beardsmore 5, F. Clarke (conductor) 6.

LATE NOTICE.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Burham on Saturday, February 5th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.15 at the Clarence Hotel, meeting to follow. Bells available from 2 p.m.—J. Harris, Hon. Local Sec., Burham.

NOTICES.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5.15; business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Stansted on Saturday, January 29th. Bells available from 4 to 9 p.m. Business meeting in the Tower at 5.30 p.m. Wm. Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A committee meeting will be held at the offices of the British Equitable Assurance Co., 1, Greyhound Street, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, at 5 p.m., followed by general meeting at 5.30. Business: Appointment of Auditors, etc. A notification of intention to be present will be esteemed.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec., Cotgrave.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the whole district will be held at the Parish Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas, Leatherhead, on Saturday, January 29th. Bells (10—tenor 20 cwt.) available 3.30. Service at 5 o'clock. Meat tea (members 9d., visitors 1s. 6d.) at the Institute Restaurant 5.45, followed by business meeting for election of officers and other business.—Ch. Reading, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Union Bank Chambers, Croydon.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Evesham on Saturday, January 29th. Service in All Saints' Church at 5 p.m., at which members are requested to attend. The bells (10) will be available for ringing. — J. Hemming, Branch Secretary, 29, Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Wakefield on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. For full particulars of the day's arrangements see circular sent to each tower secretary.—C. Glenn, Hon. Gen. Sec, 11, Fisher Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, January 29th, 1916. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD OF CHANGE-RINGERS.—Annual meeting January 29th, 1916, at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. Ringing 2.30 p.m. (also at St. Alkmund's), Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in St. Chad's Room 5 p.m. Meeting after tea. Please reply before the 24th to Rev. F. Tennison, Honorary Secretary, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Stamford on Saturday, January 29th. Bells of S. Martin's, All Saints', and S. Michael's available afternoon and evening. Tea at Crown Hotel 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow. Members and friends are cordially invited.—Wm. G. Thorpe, Assistant Secretary.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Droitwich on Saturday, January 29th, 1916. Service in St. Andrew's Church at 4.15 prompt; the bells (8) will be available.—R. G. Knowles, Branch Secretary, Madresfield, Malvern.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Staplehurst on Saturday, February 5th. Tower open at 3. Committee meeting at 4. Service in Church at 5. Tea at the Bell Hotel at 5.45, followed by General Meeting. Members intending to be present must notify the District Secretary not later than Tuesday, Feb. 1st.—W. Latter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this society will be held at Ranmoor on Saturday, February 5th. Bells open from 3 to 9 p.m. Service in church at 5.30 p.m., followed by tea to all who notify Mr. R. W. Collier, 78, Everton Road, Brocco Bank, Sheffield, not later than Tuesday, February 1st.—Sam Thomas, Secretary, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Wanstead, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock, short service at 4 o'clock, after which bells again available till 6.30. Arrangements will be made for tea for all letting me know by Wednesday, February 2nd. All ringers and friends invited.—H. Rumens, Honorary District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEETING will be held at Dulverton on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available at 3. Service at 4.30. Tea (9d.) in the Parish Room at 5. Those requiring tea are asked to notify me by February 1st.—Rev. E. V. Cox, Bampton, Devon.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — Quarterly meeting will be held at Worksop on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 8.30. Tea at the Waverley Hotel at 5.15 p.m. to members at 9d. per head, 1s. 3d. to others who advise J. T. Wilson, 151, Eastgate, Worksop, not later than February 1st.—H. Haigh, Honorary Secretary.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY. — The nomination meeting of the above society will be held at Armley on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting in the White Horse Hotel at 7.30. All members are requested to attend.—Wm. Barton, Honorary Secretary, 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting of the South and West District will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, February 12th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. McGill, in the Hartland Road Mission Hall at 5. Those members who have not already paid their subscriptions are earnestly requested to do so by the date of the meeting. — H. C. Chandler, Honorary Secretary, Church Road, Heston, Hounslow.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meetings will be held at Desborough, February 5th; Finedon, February 12th; Twywell, February 19th; and Kingsthorpe, February 26th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Will members let district secretaries know not later than the Wednesday previous to meetings if they require tea.—Fred Wilford, General Secretary, 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

GLOS. AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held on February 5th at Stapleton. Bells (6) open from 3 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30. Visitors heartily welcomed. Kindly notify by February 1st to A. W. Seviour, 5, Brunswich Street, City Road, Bristol.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual general meeting at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Saturday, February 12th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 in the Vestry Hall at 9d. per head to those who notify me not later than February 8th.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks & South Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Slough on Saturday, February 12th, 1916. Service in the Parish Church 4.30 p.m.; preacher. Rev. F. G. A. Phillips, Rector of Taplow. Tea in Church Institute 5.15 p.m., business meeting to follow. The bells will be available from 2.30 until 9 p.m. Names of members intending to be present must reach me not later than Monday, February 7th.—G. Martin, 21, Powney Road, Maidenhead.—United practice will be held at Gt. Missenden on January 29th, at 7 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A meeting of the above will be held at Ashford, by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. E. H. Sopwith), on Saturday, February 19th. Bells available from 3 till 6. Service in the church at 6 o'clock. Arrangements will be made for tea after the service (for those who wish it) by notifying me of same not later than Tuesday, February 15th. As we have not been privileged to hold a meeting at Ashford for several years it is hoped members will turn up in force to show their appreciation of same.—C. Tribe, British School Villas, Tenterden.

HANDBELL PRACTICES are held on Monday evenings from 7.45 to 9.30 p.m. in the belfry of the Church of the Emanuel, Streatham Common. Handbell ringers would be gladly welcomed. — G. B. Edser, 113, Angell Road, Brixton, S.W.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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