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.

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

While war time has interfered with many ringing organisations, it has in no way affected that popular institution — the Johnson Commemoration Dinner. The "impressions" which we published last week showed that the gathering this year was as successful as any in the past, and the fuller report of the proceedings in this issue fully confirms the view. The attendance was even larger than on some previous occasions, and the characteristic spirit of conviviality which marks these reunions showed no diminution. There are many things which go to the making of the success of these parties, and the chief factor is the good fellowship which pervades the ringing ranks in Birmingham and district. Several societies overlap in this area and yet there is no heartburning between them. Friendly rivalry there may be, but it is only that spirit of competition which makes for healthy progress and general advancement.

St. Martin's Guild, of course, occupies a somewhat unique position among ringers in that portion of the Midlands. Like the College Youths and the Cumberlands, its foundations were laid in the distant past. Long before it blossomed into a Diocesan organisation it played an important part in the development of our art, and made Birmingham the important centre for ringing which it has been for generations. The many societies which have sprung up around it are but as juveniles compared with the society whose history and traditions centre round St. Martin's, and it is, no doubt, because of the venerable position which it holds that the Guild continues to retain its place in the affections of those whose allegiance is also given to other societies in neighbouring districts.

But age alone will not maintain the popularity of an organisation any more than of an individual. Energy and good management are essential. The records show that St. Martin's Guild has never lacked in energy. Except when the bells have been under repair, they have never failed in their Sabbath duty, while, even to the non-ringing public of Birmingham, the Tuesday evening practice or peal had become quite an institution, and, prior to the war, nothing but sickness in the neighbourhood of the church would silence them on this one evening of the week. The good management of the Guild is manifest in the manner the members rally to the support of those in office, and, in recent years, those responsible for maintaining its efficiency have had the wholehearted support of a Rector whose popularity among all classes is unbounded, and who, above all, is a real leader of men, an example to all who are proud to serve under him. The support of such a Rector is an incalculable asset in the prosperity of a ringers' society.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.

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**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.

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## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

WEM, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

(THE ST. CHAD'S SOCIETY, SHREWSBURY.)

*On Saturday, March 11, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

H. W. WILDE'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt., in G.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHARLES R. LILLEY | *Treble* | LIEUT. FREDERICK WHITE | 5 |
| *JOHN TUDOR ... ... ... | 2 | *GEORGE JONES ... ... ... | 6 |
| *WILLIAM C. BROOKS ... | 3 | ALFRED E. FULLICK ... | 7 |
| *WILLIAM R. STOCKDALE | 4 | HERBERT JONES ... ... ... | *Tenor* |

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Stedman Triples; also first on the bells and first peal of Stedman Triples by the St. Chad's Society. Lieut. F. White, of Oxhey, Herts, was elected a member of the above Society, and the peal was arranged for him. The band desire to thank the Rector for the use of the bells, and Mr. F. Greaty for having them ready.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

Tpr. Geo. Vaughan, of Wrexham, Dragoon Guards, now at Aldershot.
Gnr. Kirk, of Burbage, Derbyshire, R.F.A., now at Newcastle.
Pte. Archie George, and
Pte. Ernest Parry, of St. Mary's, Eardisland, 3rd Batt. Herefordshire Regiment.
Pte. V. Holloway, and
Pte. H. Holloway, of St. Mary's, Acton, Royal Flying Corps, now at Farnborough.
Pte. J. Bacon (late P.C. Essex County Constabulary), of Springfield, Essex, Machine Gun Corps, now at Grantham, Lincolnshire.
Pte. E. Lanaway, of Horley, Surrey, 5th Royal Fusiliers, now at Dover.

From Christ Church, Southgate:—

Pte. E. G. Tomlinson, 14th Royal Fusiliers, now at Shoreham.
Pte. N. A. Tomlinson, 4/7th Middlesex Regiment (T.F.), now at Purfleet.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The general meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Pudsey on Saturday week, and was well attended, the following towers being represented: Armley, Bramley, Calverley, Guiseley, Holbeck, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Ilkley, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell, and Tong. The bells were rung during the day to touches of Superlative Surprise, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major, Duke of York, Treble Bob Minor, and Bob Minor.

The ringers were entertained to a repast at the White Cross Hotel, at the kind invitation of Mr. Pratt Cordingley (conductor of the Pudsey company).

The business meeting followed, with the President (Mr. Peacock) in the chair. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. Peacock; vice-presidents, Mr. G. B. Bolland and Mr. E. Mann; treasurer, Mr. H. Williams; secretary, Mr. W. Barton. Mr. H. Williams was elected a trustee.

The balance sheet for the year was adopted, and Mr. H. Blythe, Mr. H. Hopton, and Mr. S. Wilkinson, of Rothwell, were elected as new members of the society.

A vote of thanks to the vicar and churchwardens of Pudsey for the use of the bells, and to the local company for their kind arrangements was carried on the proposition by Mr. H. Williams, seconded by Mr. G. Bolland.—Mr. J. Baxendale responded on behalf of the local company.

Handbell ringing in the following methods then brought a pleasant meeting to a close: Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and Plain Bob Minor.

## RINGING IN AMERICA.

On Tuesday, February 22nd, the following members of the Boston (America) Guild of Change Ringers rang a 545 of Grandsire Triples at Groton, Massachusetts: A. Matthews 1, P. J. Allfrey 2, W. S. Sturgis 3, E. E. Randall (conductor) 4, J. Goodhead 5, H. Petts 6, R. Newton 7, J. F. Laker 8. This is the longest length the ringer of the 3rd has yet rung.

On Sunday, February 27th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted at the Church of the Advent, Boston, but came to grief after 35 minutes' ringing. Mr. H. Petts, who is leaving Boston for Port Arthur, Canada, was conducting, and for this reason the ringers regret the loss of this quarter.

# THE JOHNSON DINNER.

## GREAT SUCCESS OF ANNUAL REUNION.

The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner was held at Ye Olde Royal Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday week, and once again was a great success. Favoured with a fine day, many visitors arrived in the Midland Metropolis for the affair, and quite a few stayed over the week-end.

In addition to the real reason for the dinner—the perpetuation of the memory of one of the greatest exponents of the art of change ringing—there was also the great and growing attraction of the personality of the chairman, Canon Willink. In the few years he has been in Birmingham Canon Willink has built up a big reputation as a preacher, and has also proved himself to be a real staunch friend of the St. Martin's Guild. For the first time, too, in the history of the dinner ladies appeared at the chairman's table, in the persons of Mrs. and Miss Willink, and but for the fact that she had unfortunately contracted a cold, the Rector's second daughter, Miss Dorothy, would also have been there. The company would then have had the pleasure of listening to the two young ladies in a duet, but it is hoped the pleasure is only deferred.

One hundred and twenty-one sat down to dine, and curiously enough the odd figures (21) represent the number of persons present who had actually known Henry Johnson in the flesh. Prior to the dinner there was ringing at St. Martin's and Bishop Ryder's Church, and in the former belfry an interesting unveiling ceremony took place, witnessed by a large number of ringers, as described in last week's issue.

The Chairman was supported by the following, in addition to his wife and daughter: Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Messrs. J. J. Kendall (Warden of St. Martin's), J. W. Taylor, J. W. Tilley, W. R. Heaton, W. Tunstall, —. Pitt, A. E. Parsons, H. Mason, W. H. Godden, Dr. Malins (Warden of St. Philip's), and the hon. secretary (Mr. A. Paddon Smith). Among those present were also Messrs. R. Faux and W. R. Small, veterans of 79 and 75 respectively, John Carter, William Kent, J. E. Groves, B. Gough and W. Fisher (Coseley), W. Gallimore (Lichfield), G. Chaplin (Tamworth), W. Rogers (Northampton), R. Holding (Crewe), W. Weatherby (Market Drayton), W. Perkins and H. Horn (Irthlingboro'), W. C. Hunt (Beeston), etc.

During the evening a song, "Sound Philosophy," was rendered by Miss Willink, her mother accompanying her on the piano, while at other times Mrs. Davies officiated as pianist. Tunes were played on the handbells by Messrs. Walker, Miller and Hunt, accompanied on the dulcimer by the redoubtable Mr. Harry Withers, who also "rang" a touch of Erin Caters on his instrument in perfect style, as well as giving a "Patriotic Selection," including all the Allies' National Anthems. A splendid course of Stedman Cinques was rung in hand by Messrs. Walker, Miller, Russam, Groves, Swann and George, and everyone was delighted by a recitation, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," given on a gramophone owned and operated by Mr. Frank Banks (tower-keeper at St. Martin's). This was also kept going during the dinner, some magnificent band records being given, also a record entitled "Change Ringing on the Bells O'Bournville," this being apparently a record of a course of Grandsire Caters tapped on the bells, which has been standarised, and is now on the market. A song was also given by Mr. W. C. Hunt.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent, and everyone agreed that the second "Johnson" Dinner held in "Nineteen hundred and war time" had been a good success.

### PATRIOTIC PRIDE.

The Chairman, in proposing "The King," said: May I first express the immense pleasure with which I meet you once more. After a year of far-reaching events, we are here once more to-night, as brothers in the art and exercise of bell ringing, and I venture to include myself among them. I have never rung a peal, though I have done my duty, and have gone through the process of pulling. They say no man can ride a horse until he has been thrown three times, and no one can claim to be a bell ringer until he has been dragged up to the ceiling. I have been up, and came down with a thump. I venture, therefore, to claim that I am one of yourselves, at any rate one of yourselves in interests and sympathies, and in love for our art, and in undying love for the bells.

Proceeding, Canon Willink said: I suppose if one thing distinguishes us at the present time more than another, it is our devotion to our King and country. The strain and stress of this awful war, which lies like a cloud over everyone, at the present time, has done this at any rate, it has brought out all that is true and best in our patriotism, and I suppose there is no King enshrined more warmly or more truly in the inmost hearts of his subjects than is King George the Fifth at the present moment (applause). We feel a thrill of patriotic pride as we realise that he is our king, and we are his subjects. We wish well to the king from hearts full of sympathy for him in his trouble. We sympathise more than we can put into words. We have only to look at his careworn face, marked with lines of anguish, as when he appeared in Birmingham not long ago, to understand what the war means to him. We are following him with our sympathy, and we rejoice to have an opportunity to wish God-speed to the greatest King now ruling over the greatest Empire in the world. We are looking forward, added Canon Willink, to that day which please God is going to come soon, that great day of victory, when those dark clouds will roll away, when the sunshine of peace and brotherly love is going to flood the world again (applause). And, in praying for the prosperity of the King, we pray for ourselves, that each one of us may rise to the glory of God, may respond to the call of service and sacrifice, may rightly play the man, and do our part in one of the greatest crisis of the world.

The company joined earnestly in singing the National Anthem.

Apologies were received from Bishop Hamilton Baynes, Rector of St. Philip's; Rev. G. E. Badger, Vicar of Bishop Ryder's; Messrs. G. W. Baldwin, W. Painter and J. S. Goldsmith.

During the dinner a telegram was received from Mr. John Jaggar, wishing the company an enjoyable evening, and a wire was sent to Sir A. P. Heywood wishing him kind regards from the assembly.

### CHRISTIANITY'S CALL.

Dr. Malins then submitted the toast of "Church and State." As far as the Church is concerned, said the speaker, we have not had so much criticism in recent times, because people's mind have been engaged with more troublesome things, but we have had criticism of a kind, and assaults on our Church in gallant little Wales. The attack has failed, or rather it is in abeyance for the time being. We remember how it was engineered and how it was fostered, and the astuteness and cunning with which they were attacking the position of the Welsh Church. The Government wanted to take away its possessions, and did not want to say anything about endowments. That attack was not successful, but a great victory for the Church. The Church is not dependent on the State for any of its funds. Not one farthing of the Church's funds are derived from the State or national taxes. It is all provided by the Ecclesiastical authorities. The Church is very closely connected with the State, and in no period of its history has it been divorced from the State. We have had a great deal of critical hostility to the Church. If you apply criticism to any institution you must substitute something to replace what you pull down. We have, however, heard of nothing to fill the blanks, and lessen our admiration of the organisation of the Church. We are living in an age of criticism and difficulties and perplexities of every kind. We are living in an age of materialism that is settled in its effects. Many and far-reaching are its effects on the German mind, and in the present day many military people believe that science will take the place of Christianity, and that the teachings of past times are incompatible with science and scientific attainments. They believe in the domination of a certain party, and in the attributes of science for the purpose of the destruction of fellow creatures rather than for the advancement of things spiritual. I do not believe this for a moment. The history of our great men and country shows that they have been men of the highest genius, and people who have not forgotten that they were Christians (applause). What is the outcome upon the German mind and spirit? A ghastly and a terrible war, that has been carried on with an utter disregard of humanity, worse than the most savage in ancient times, with gross violation of all private property, and women and children, and a spirit of spoliation and destruction and misery which is incredible, and such as has never happened in past history. This outcome of materialism and this spirit in which the war is being waged is in opposition to all international law. We are out for the defence of the smaller nations. We are out for the defence of the homeless; we are out for the driving away for all time of this barbarous materialism, and we are out for justice and right between man and man (applause). We are out for the highest principles and the deepest instincts that still actuate us in this world.

Right is right, for God is God,
And right the day must win,
To hesitate would be to doubt,
To falter would be sin

—(applause). We must win. We look forward to the time of calm and peace, that the Rector spoke of just now. In our homes and lives we look forward to the time when the bell ringers here will be called out, not for the sad tolling for departed souls, but for praise, and thanksgiving and exultation of God, and so strengthen the bond which binds man to man (loud applause).

Canon Willink, who responded, said: The world will never again need to be reminded of what culture means apart from God, and we are learning as we never thought to learn that Christianity divorced from our daily life is the most disastrous thing for nations as well as for individuals. Long may Church and State go hand in hand together (applause). Long may God be our recognised ruler and leader in things political and social, and in things individual. May He be to us what He has been to our forefathers, our Father and our God, and may we go forward as men to whom our country is dearer than life itself, with a firm trust in the purpose of God, and a firm determination to bring home not only to our own nation, but to all nations of the world, the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

### GREAT GENIUS.

Mr. A. E. Parsons then submitted the toast of "The memory of the late Henry Johnson." He said they had heard in that room on previous occasions many able speakers bear personal testimony to the splendid gifts and virtues with which Henry Johnson was endowed. It had been his privilege to hear Sir A. Heywood, Charles H. Hattersley, Alderman Pritchett and Mr. Godden, bear witness to his worth and character, in words of which he (the speaker) was incapable. He could not say it was his privilege to know Mr. Johnson, but they were able to rely on the testimony of those gentlemen whose names he had mentioned. Ringing history testified to his capabilities, and as a

composer in standard methods, especially, perhaps, in the method of Stedman, with which his name and consequently the name of Birmingham were so closely associated. His wonderful grasp of figures enable him to see at a glance the truth or falseness of a composition. Henry Johnson was, as they knew, a man of humble birth and surroundings, and yet he was sought out by men in infinitely higher positions, willing to learn what he was ever ready to impart in his own plain way. There were lessons for them all to learn from his life: traits in his character they would do well to try to copy. Although, as he had said, Henry Johnson was a man of humble birth, he wielded a quiet and powerful influence for good, and he firmly believed that the result of that influence was felt in Birmingham to this day. His energetic and unostentatious life, his honesty and steadfast purpose in promoting the advancement of the art, was such as they would do well to emulate. The very fact that they met year after year to keep green his memory was a testimony to the good he did during his life. He asked them to rise and honour in silence the memory of Henry Johnson.

## ALDERMAN'S ANNUAL ACCOUNT.

Alderman J. S. Pritchett next submitted the toast of "Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild," and referred first to the losses which the Guild had sustained during the past year. First of all, he said, the war has claimed its victim from amongst our ranks in Lieut. James, who was killed in the Battle of Loos on September 25th last. I wrote on behalf of the Guild to his father, who sent back a pathetic reply, stating that since he had received my letter, he had had news of the death of a second son. We rang a peal in his memory, and I think, when the war is over, that peal and his memory may be commemorated by another tablet in St. Martin's Church. Secondly, we have had to mourn, and all ringers in England have had to mourn, the loss of one of the best known members of our Exercise, Mr. C. H. Hattersley. Although a Sheffield man he was well known in Birmingham. He was present at this meeting many times, and when he took the chair we heard him propose the toast of Mr. Henry Johnson in a manner quite inimitable, and in a manner we shall never listen to again. He rang his first peal of Stedman Cinques in May, 1878, at St. Martin's Church. He took part in the record peal in 1881, and by a singular chance his last peal of Stedman Cinques was rung in our belfry on November 22nd, 1910. He was a link with the past. He was over 70 years of age when he died. His memory was full of old matters, and it was a pleasure to any ringer to have conversation with him. We doubly regret his loss; we shall never see his like again. We have also to lament Mr. J. Saunders, many years tower keeper at Erdington. His memory is commemorated in our belfry by his having taken part in the jubilee peal of Grandsire Cinques in 1887. Beyond these three there have not been any gaps in our ranks. Now from these we go to the invalids. Mr. Painter was visited by a member a few days ago. He is confined to his room with little probability of getting outside his house again. Our old friend, Jimmy Jones, out of whom I have had many a joke in days past, happily is in a fairly comfortable state of health and strength, and we hope he will be with us for a long time to come yet. Mr. Baldwin continues much the same. He is the oldest member of the Guild, having joined in June, 1868, and has accordingly been a member for no less than 48 years (applause). I do not know whether it is possible for him to come here again, but we should all be delighted to see him.

## PLEASANTRIES AND PATRIOTISM.

Now to pleasanter matters. I should like to congratulate Mr. Vice-President Faux upon having attained his 79th birthday last Wednesday (applause). He is with us to-night, and we hope he will live to enjoy many more good dinners with us. We have one or two ringers of special note among us. We have a son of Mr. Henry Johnson with us, Mr. Joseph Johnson. It must be a pleasure to him to see the way in which his father's memory is respected and commemorated by this gathering. Mr. John Carter is once more with us as active as ever; long may he continue so. We have also in the room Small and Short. I hope Mr. Frank Banks does not think I am making a personal allusion to him (laughter). By-the-bye, we are very much obliged to Mr. Banks for the use of the gramophone and his thoughtfulness. I do not think I shall be doing my duty, or that it would be right for me to proceed further at present by omitting to mention Mr. James George. He has now rung 571 peals. He has rung more peals during the past year than any other man in England, namely, 23. Of course, there have not been so many opportunities as usual, still he has made the most of them. We hope he will live to ring many more. He has lately accepted the important position as Ringing Master at Bishop Ryder's, greatly to the addition of that church, and he desires me to say, as he says in the columns of the "Ringing World," he will be pleased to see any ringers on Sunday or any time convenient. We are delighted to have Mr. J. W. Taylor with us to-night. Mr. Taylor, you will see, is in khaki. He is doing his little bit. Not only is he doing his little bit, but he has got four sons doing their little bit (applause), and he has got a daughter doing her little bit (applause). She has been out in France for five months as a Red Cross nurse (hear, hear). We hope his sons will all be restored to him safe and sound at the end of the war. One man in the room whom I should like to mention, is my old friend William Palmer. He has rung in King's Norton belfry for 50 years, and his aged father, Frank Palmer, who taught me to ring, is still alive, and recently celebrated his 87th birthday. I mentioned the two muffled peals, one for Lieut. James, and one for Mr. Hattersley. There is a third muffled peal I should like to mention, that for Miss Horton, who for over 72 years was a worshipper in St. Martin's Church.

## BETTERING THE BELFRY.

During the past year the belfry at St. Martin's has been thoroughly renovated, the floor covered with linoleum, the walls painted and whitewashed, and an anonymous ringer has completed the frame work for peal tablets there, with the injunction not to mention his name. Mr. Baldwin, when he was visited by Mr. Smith a day or two ago, was good enough to send 5s. towards an octagonal oak table that the ringers, with the permission of the churchwardens, propose to place in the ringing chamber. A few other sums of 5s. have been contributed, and I think Mr. Smith is going to ask for donations to-night to get a table really worthy of the edifice, which will cost anything from £5 to £10, but we want a good one while we are about it, which will last as long as the church. Those who are doing overtime at pay and a half, will you kindly give what you think you can reasonably afford towards this excellent object.

During the past year the Guild has resumed the practice of ringing handbells. Three peals of Stedman Caters have been rung, and one is remarkable for the fact that another Joseph Johnson, not a son of Henry Johnson, a youth not get seventeen, rang 7—8 (applause). We offer him our most hearty congratulations, and we look forward to many wonderful reports in the future. If I may be egotistical enough I should like to say one word about myself. I had not rung in a peal for more than a year—I think nearly two years—but I had the pleasure of conducting a peal at King's Norton in November last on a melancholy occasion, and I am very glad that I have the health and vigour to ring and conduct a peal still (applause). I hope that, provided I have my health and vigour, I may take part in one of the innumerable joy peals, which will be rung on the proclamation of peace. In conclusion, Mr. Pritchett proposed "Prosperity to the Guild." It is pleasing, he said, in these depressing times that our numbers and members are maintained. I really believe we are being taught to take a more serious view of life, and its responsibilities and the way in which we can be of use to the nation, and that when the war is over we may be more devoted servants of the Church. There will be a great revival of ringing after the war, and God grant that it may be soon. In the meantime we hope that the Guild will prosper, and, therefore, I ask you to drink to it, and with it the health of our worthy secretary, Mr. Paddon Smith (applause).

## RECTOR'S RECORD.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith replied to the toast. He said he had only done the best that was in him for the good of the Guild, and if he had succeeded in pleasing them at all, it was because he had had the help and loyal co-operation of every member of the Guild. As a Guild they had been particularly fortunate in many things, but in none so much as in having as their presiding ringing master such a capable man of affairs as Alderman Pritchett. When they remembered the calls his civic duties must make on his time, they ought to be, and, he was sure they all were, grateful to him for coming amongst them so often. Proceeding, Mr. Smith called attention to the fact that the Rector had created another record. He was the first Rector to attend four consecutive dinners, and was the first Rector of Birmingham to take the chair at all. He was also the first man, either clergyman or layman, to take the chair three years in succession. To say that Canon Willink was popular would be to repeat what was obviously a truism. He could say without hesitation that he was the finest clergyman he (the speaker) had ever met, and the most popular Rector Birmingham had ever had. While they had such a Rector and such a presiding ringing master, it was a real pleasure to be the Guild's secretary (applause).

Mr. W. H. Godden proposed "Kindred Ringing Societies." The toast, he said, hardly needed any commendation of his, so far as he could gauge the spirit of St. Martin's Guild, for he knew they had always appreciated the work of "kindred ringing societies," and if ever St. Martin's Guild had found some other Guild doing better than themselves, the spirit had been one of emulation, without any envy at all (applause). In connection with the toast he would like to mention the name of one who was with them that night, who was well known throughout the country, not only as a bell founder, but as vice-president of the Midland Counties Association, he meant Mr. J. W. Taylor. It was many years ago since he (the speaker) first met Mr. Taylor, and he knew his father. Mr. Taylor was a gentleman with whom one could meet with the greatest respect and sympathy. At one time he held the record for conducting more peals than any one man in the kingdom. That said a lot for a business man who had so many cares on his shoulder.

## A LOUGHBOROUGH LEAD.

Mr. J. W. Taylor, who responded to the toast, said although his father never had the opportunity of taking at all a prominent part in ringing matters—it was not till the later years of his life, after he (the speaker) had begun to ring and conduct, that he began to ring—there was no one who had the interest of ringing and ringers more

at heart than he. His happiness was to work very hard, and he had not much time to give to ringing, but his interest never flagged for a moment. To the very end of his days he used to say to him, " keep up your interest in ringing and ringers, there is nothing you will enjoy more, and nothing which will keep you more lively." Mr. Pritchett had mentioned what his (Mr. Taylor's) children were doing. Scarcely had war been declared, than his two sons gave in their names, and before a week elapsed went over to Leicester to join the Motor Cyclists' Corps. In September they enlisted in the Public Schools' Battalion, and a year ago they were given commissions. One was in the 9th Leicesters, and was at the front; another was in charge of a machine gun crew. Two, who were in Canada, wrote home to say they had enlisted, and his daughter took up nursing. One, of course, felt anxious for them, but he was very glad to know that they were all right up to now, and that the example they had set had led to a good number of men following them. Out of their own small place they had sent fourteen to the front, so that it showed it did a great deal of good in bringing young men out to help us in this crisis. Mr. Taylor added, that they would need a lot of push and go to bring on young ringers to fill the ringing ranks. It would be a long time before things could go on as they used to, but he looked forward to the time when the bells would be ringing again. Life would look better and brighter after going through a time of crisis like this.

### PRESS, PEALS AND PEACE.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith proposed " The Ringing World." The toast, he said, was old, and yet new. If they would refer to the toast list they would see it was " The Ringing World " not " The Ringing Papers," as in former years. They had now only one ringing paper, the " Bell News " having ceased publication with the last issue for 1915. He did not want to kick a dead dog, but the " Bell News " had its chance, and the proprietors did not grasp their opportunity. The " Bell News " was most unpunctual in its appearance, and from the point of view of the provincial ringer it had also another bad fault. It gave great preference to peals rung in the Metropolis. It did not matter very much, perhaps, but it had happened that a peal rung in London had been published a few days afterwards, whereas peals rung in the provinces had not been published for weeks afterwards. They wanted news while it was news, not when it had become history. "The Ringing World " had now got the field to itself, and would no doubt make the best use of its opportunity. Continuing, Mr. Smith deprecated the practice of taking in one copy for the whole belfry. He hoped everyone in the room would be a regular subscriber, as in these difficult times, the paper would want all the support it could get. He was sorry Mr. Goldsmith was not present to reply to this toast, but he asked them to drink to " The Ringing World " and its editor.

After the toast, Mr. Smith continued: With the permission of our chairman, I just want to say one or two more words. Our old friend Dr. Malins, who is churchwarden at St. Philip's, mentioned just now the joy it would be to listen to the peals, which would be rung when peace comes. I want to give him notice here and now that unless he raises money for rehanging the bells they will get very little ringing at St. Philip's. I don't want to miss this opportunity of reminding Dr. Malins that it would only take a few hundred pounds to restore them and make them ringable, and, in view of the prosperous times in Birmingham, it should not be very difficult to raise the money. I give this tip to Dr. Malins free of all charge, and I hope he will talk over the matter with the Rector of St. Philip's, and his co-warden (applause).

### CHAIRMAN CHEERED.

Ald. J. S. Pritchett gave " The Health of the Chairman." He said they all looked up to Canon Willink, and reverenced him not only on account of the important position he held in the city, but because of his personal character. Mr. Smith had told them what a record the Rector had established in connection with that meeting. They did not want to tax his good nature more than they ought, but however often he condescended to honour them at that dinner, so long they would give him the most cordial welcome imaginable.

He had put them under an additional obligation that night, by inducing his wife, Mrs. Willink, and his daughter to be present. He (the speaker) hoped they had enjoyed themselves. Certainly it must have been a novel experience for them, and he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing them again on some future occasion.

The toast was acclaimed with the singing of " For he's a jolly good fellow," and three cheers were given for the Rector and one each for Mrs. Willink and Miss Willink.

Canon Willink, who replied, said it was a very great privilege to be near them and to be greeted by them so warmly, and to feel they liked him to be with them. So often as they would have him, and health and strength allowed, so often it would be his privilege to come there (loud and continued applause). On behalf of his wife and daughter, he added it had been a novel experience for them, as they had never before been to a bell ringers' annual dinner. He was glad they had been able to come with him, and he much regretted that his other daughter had not been able to come with them.

This concluded the speech-making, and the proceedings, which, as already stated, had been interspersed with music and handbell ringing, closed with the National Anthem.

## YORKSHIRE MEETING AT LIVERSEDGE.

The annual meeting of the Western District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Liversedge last Saturday, when, despite the unfavourable day, over 50 members attended, representing 21 towers. During the afternoon and evening the fine peal of bells (recently rehung) were kept going in a variety of methods, and a short service was held, conducted by the Vicar, who gave an interesting address. Subsequently the members and friends sat down to a substantial tea in the Schools.

The business meeting followed, the President (Mr. G. B. Bolland) being in the chair, supported by the Rev. H. R. Evers (Vicar of Liversedge), Messrs. Armitage and Brook, churchwardens, and officers of the Association.—The Rev. H. R. Evers was made a life honorary member of the Association. Owing to no invitations being forthcoming for the June meeting, it was left in the hands of the committee to select a place.

Mr. P. J. Johnson was re-elected Ringing Master for the next three years by a small majority.

The following members were elected to serve for the next twelve months on the committee: Messrs. H. Peel (Birstall), T. Bancroft (Keighley), Herbert Dransfield (Earlsheaton), J. Lawson (Lightcliffe), J. Broadley (Shipley), J. Hardcastle (Bradford), H. Williams (Headingley St. Michael's), J. McKell (Gargrave) and F. W. Dixon (Guiseley). Of these Messrs. Peel and Broadly were appointed to serve on the Central Committee.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells was accorded on the motion of Mr. G. B. Bolland, seconded by Mr. Lawson.—Mr. Armitage, the Vicar's warden, replied, and gave a very encouraging reception to the members, and added that whenever they wanted a place for a meeting they should come to Liversedge, where the Association would always be welcome.—The Vicar also replied, remarking that he was pleased to say that his own ringers and himself worked admirably together, and he was very much honoured to have been made a life honorary member of the Association.

A vote of thanks to the local company, and to the ladies who helped at the tea-tables was passed, Mr. Brook (people's warden) replying.

Handbell ringing was afterwards indulged in, and brought an enjoyable meeting to a close.

## DEATH OF REV. BERNARD JEALOUS.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Bernard Jealous, of Newcastle, who passed away on the 2nd inst. in Devonshire, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. The deceased gentleman had been in the Northern diocese for about eleven years, and was connected with the Durham and Newcastle Association, with whom he had rung six peals.

## LADIES' PROGRESS.

Three of the ladies of the St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Society, took part in a touch of 168 Grandsire Triples for service on Sunday morning: Mrs A. Wolstencroft 1, Miss S. Holt 2, J. W. Holme 3, H. Holme (3rd Writer, R.N.) 4, Miss A. Horricks 5, H. Palmer 6, W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 7, J. Rolls 8. H. Holme was on leave from H.M.S. " Victory," Portsmouth.

## FOR SAPPER R. F. DEAL.

Will Sapper R. F. Deal, or any friend who may know his whereabouts, kindly send us his address. We have a letter for him, from someone on active service, which we are requested to forward.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday evening, March 12th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: E. Webb 1, T. Beadle 2, H. W. Lidbetter 3, C. Dell 4, E. Newell, Farnham, 5, A. Beckensale 6, G. Spencer (cond.) 7, W. Howlett 8. Rung as a farewell to C. Dell, who was about to join up with his group under the Derby scheme.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Tuesday, March 7th, at the rooms of the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey, at Trinity College, a touch of 350 Grandsire Triples, on the handbells: B. F. Sheppard 1—2, Rev. A. H. F. Boughey 3—4, J. B. Williamson 5—6, Second-Lieut. E. V. Rodenhurst, conductor, 7—8.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.—On Sunday, March 5th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Kendall 1, L. Wiseman (conductor) 2, Pte R. Rayner 3, S. Hale 4, F. Wiseman 5, E. Barker 6, W. Ruffle 7, W. Cross 8. For afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1264 changes, in 51 minutes): E. Kendall 1, L. Wiseman (conductor) 2, Pte R. Rayner 3, H. Cooper 4, F. Wiseman 5, E. Barker 6, S. Hale 7, W. Ruffle 8. This was arranged for Pte R. Rayner, who was home on a few days' leave.—On March 6th, on handbells, 720 Bob Minor: N. Vagg (first 720) 1, B. Pettitt 2, L. Wiseman 3—4, S. Hale 5—6.

BRIGHTON.—Sussex County Association.—On Sunday, March 5th, for evening service, at St. Peter's Church, 1280 London Surprise Major, in 51 mins.: E. C. Merritt 1, A. W. Gravett 2, R. Stredwick 3, J. Capp 4, F. Bennett (conductor) 5, Pte J. Jacques, R.A.M.C., 6, K. Hart 7, A. D. Stone 8.

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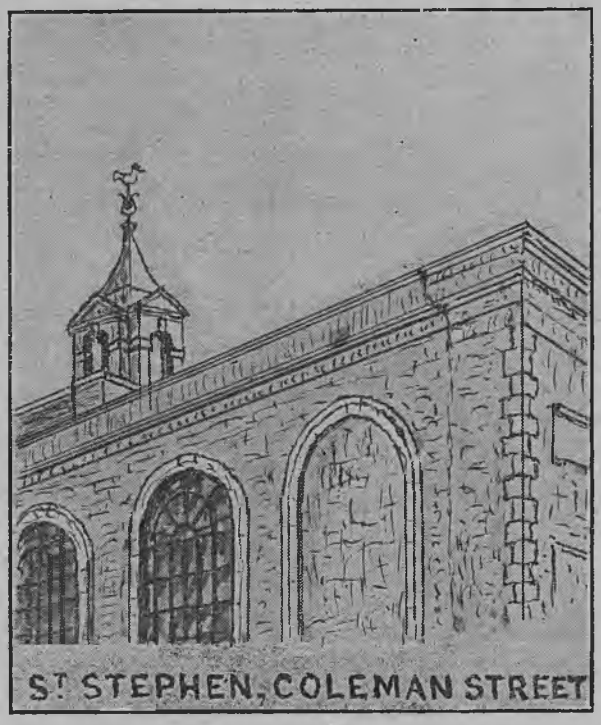
# LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

## ST. STEPHEN, COLEMAN STREET.

By J. R. Jerram.

St. Stephen, Coleman Street, in the City of London, although possessing a peal of eight bells, seems to be a church which is very little known among ringers.

The original church was built as early as the twelfth century; but perished in the Great Fire of 666, and was rebuilt from Wren's designs in 1676. The plan is most irregular—there is not a square corner in the whole edifice. The approximate external dimensions are as follows: North side 106 feet, south side 96 feet, east end 40 feet, west end 52 feet. The steeple is built over the north-west corner, and is a rhomboid in plan, the acute angles being the N.W. and S.E. corners, and is surmounted by a small lead-covered lantern.




The exterior of the east end of the church is thus described by Hatton: "A circular pediment between two pine apples, and under the pediment a figure of a cock carved with a handsome compartment between two festoons, and two windows environed with enrichments." This has now been replaced by a plain wall with the east window in the centre, which is of stained glass, representing the "Descent from the Cross," after Rubens. The organ is a fine one by Avery in 1775, and was enlarged by Gray and Davison in 1853. Over the gateway into the churchyard is a carving representing "The Last Judgment." The original is now preserved in the vestry, the present one over the gateway being a reproduction.

The steeple contains a peal of eight bells, tenor 43 inches in diameter, weight about 14 cwt. There is also a clock-bell. The original peal was by James Bartlet, of the Whitechapel foundry, in 1693; but several of the bells have since been recast. The inscriptions are:

*Treble, Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth.*

THOMAS RYMILL IAMES FRENCH CHVRCH WARDENS 1693. I.B. O [Whitechapeal mark 3 bells enclosed in a wreath.]

*Fourth.*

GEO: BRAY BEN: DAWES, CHVRCHWARDENS 1772. I. W: FECT: [by John Waylett.]

*Seventh*

THOs. MITCHELL, Wm. HOPKINS GEO: CLARKE THO: DENNY OVERSECRS [Sic] 1721. I × W × FECIT × [by John Waylett.]

*Tenor.*

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT, 1833.

*Clock-Bell.*

IOHN ABBOTT IOHN PAYNE CHVRCH-WARDENS 1672. O [3 bells enclosed in a wreath.]

A tablet in the belfry records the following peal:—

"SOCIETY OF S. JAMES' YOUTHS. On Monday, April 2nd, 1827, was rung in this Steeple by the above company a true and complete Peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, consisting of 5040 Changes, in 3 hours and 11 minutes; being the first peal ever rung in this tower for 80 years. Performed by

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jas. Platt | *Treble* | Thos. Tolladay | *Fifth* |
| Josh. Ladley | *Second* | Geo. Smith | *Sixth* |
| Geo. Potter | *Third* | Wm. R. White | *Seventh* |
| Wm. Atherton | *Fourth* | Wm. Holworthy | *Tenor* |

Conducted by the above Wm. Atherton.
Josh. Smith, Wm. Good, Churchwardens.

On the leads of the roof is incised: "*Laurence Kimpton, steeplekeeper 1761;*" and near to this, "*Tuesday - - - - 12—1741, was rung in this steeple by the Society of Eastern Scholars a compleat peal of 5040 Bob Major. P. Mainwaring treble, R. Butterworth 2, J. Newell 3, W. Goodman 4, T. Bennett 5, W. Lovell 6, Jn. Bradshaw 7, W. S. - - - - Tenor. Compleated in 3 hours and 10 minutes.*" Several words are obliterated by repairs to the leads. Close by someone has written: "*This is a lye as sure as ever the performers lived.*" Whether the peal was really ever rung or not I cannot say.

## A SOUTHGATE CEREMONY.

On Saturday last the consecration took place of the completed portion of St. Andrew's Church, Chase Side, a daughter church of Christ Church. The building is complete except for the tower, and has cost £6,200.

The Bishop of London performed the ceremony, which was well attended, despite the cheerless climatic conditions. The Bishop also performed another ceremony, viz., the baptising of the infant daughter of the curate-in-charge of St. Andrew's Church. That this should take place on the same date as the consecration of the building is unique.

The bells of Christ Church were kept going practically all the afternoon, and some very good ringing was accomplished. The following touches were rung during the afternoon: 168 Grandsire Triples, 576 London Surprise, 224 Bob Major, 224 Superlative, 224 Bristol Surprise, 224 Cambridge Surprise, 192 Stedman Triples and 192 Double Norwich. The following ringers took part: Messrs. J. E. Miller, H. Miller, W. Pickworth, G. Bester, G. W. Fletcher, F. G. Tegg and J. Armstrong (of the local band), A. J. Trappitt, H. Burlingham and C. Dale (Barnet), C. T. Coles (Walthamstow), J. R. Sharman (Hornsey) and G. M. Kilby (Willesden). The conducting was shared by Messrs. J. E. Miller, J. Armstrong and C. T. Coles.

## STEDMAN CATERS AT WORCESTER.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The peal of Stedman Caters rung at All Saints', Worcester, on August 3rd, 1915, was not the first in the method on the bells as was stated at the time. I have just found that a previous one had been rung on September 23rd, 1867, by the St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham.

—Yours, S. GROVE.

# HINTS ON CONDUCTING.

## HELP FOR THE BEGINNER.

After a break in my articles much longer than was ever anticipated, but which has been, I am told, unavoidable, I am now hoping to resume my hints on conducting for beginners, and to be able to maintain the notes with more or less regularity. The point where we finished, on page 221 of the last volume, had taken us to an explanation of the positions at which the bobs are called in Grandsire Triples. I now want to go on to an important matter in connection with conducting—the coursing order of bells.

For those who are not quite sure of the meaning of this term, I would say that it means the order in which the bells follow one another through the method. In Grandsire Triples it is the order in which the bells travel up and down, and, as a matter of fact, the order in which they lead. The importance of a conductor being able to follow this coursing order lies in the fact that from it he is able, not only to know whether the bells are right, but to correct any trips that occur, for it must not be supposed that any man, by glancing at the fall of the ropes at any moment chosen haphazard in a peal, can tell when the bells are right. He can do so at certain stated intervals, but at other times, if he had merely to rely upon this method of verifying the correctness of the ringing, he would be utterly at sea. It is only by concentrating his mind upon the coursing order, and mentally transposing it as the ringing proceeds, that he is able to check the accuracy of what is being done and to put right any error.

Now this ability to "course the bells," as it is called, comes largely by practice, and the ringer, from the beginning, should always note the order in which, while hunting up and down, he meets the other bells. As tyros in change ringing we are generally taught, when hunting the treble for the first time, that we are to take the bells back in the same order as we take them out. That is the principle upon which the coursing order in Grandsire is based, and it applies to the other bells besides the treble, with certain small variations.

Let us look at the plain course, and let us suppose the conductor is ringing the 7th. After dodging with the 6th, and lying the whole pull behind, the order in which the bells are met is 5,1,2,3,4,6. Then the 7th leads and, hunting up, once more meets the bells 5,1,2,3 (with which the 7th dodges in 4-5), 4,6. Going down again the 7th meets 1,2,5,3,4,6 and, after leading, meets once more 1 and 2. Then 3rd's place is made, and after returning over 1 and 2 to lead, the 7th meets the bells in the following order in hunting up: 5,3,4,6,1,2, and in hunting down: 5,3,4 (with which the 7th dodges in 4-5 down), 1,2,6. In hunting up it is again 5,3,4,1,2,6 and, in returning 5 (with which the 7th dodges in 6-7 down) 3,1,2,4,6. Once more hunting up it is 5,3,1,2,4,6, and this brings the bells round. Tabulated, and omitting the dodging, the order for the course is:

| Down: | 5,1,2,3,4,6 | Up: | 5,1,2,3,4,6 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,2,5,3,4,6 | | 1,2, |
| | 1,2, | | 5,3,4,6,1,2 |
| | 5,3,4,1,2,6 | | 5,3,4,1,2,6 |
| | 5,3,1,2,4,6 | | 5,3,1,2,4,6 |

Examine these figures and you will find that 5,3,4,6 are always met in the same order in the plain course, 1,2 intervening in a different place in each lead. What really happens to cause 1-2 to course after different bells is that the bell which in one lead comes down immediately in front of 1, 2, courses in the next lead immediately after these two bells, having been turned round by the 3rd's place.

Now, for conducting purposes, it is well for the ringer to detach himself, as it were, from his own bell and, instead of merely coursing the rest, to course all the bells, including his own. This acts as a check upon himself, for even conductors can err and may "shift course." The simplest way now to put the coursing order of the bells is to give the order in which they will lead, for that, after all, is their real order of running. These figures, too, show accurately the transpositions that are made and how the order of the working bells is retained:—

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 5
1, 2, 5, 3, 4, 6, 7
1, 2, 7, 5, 3, 4, 6
1, 2, 6, 7, 5, 3, 4
1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 5, 3

To carry out mentally, therefore, what is here set down on paper, the young conductor will observe that he has to take the bell that was in front of the treble in one lead and put it after the bell in the hunt (the 2nd in the plain course) in the next lead, keeping the remainder of the bells in the same order.

When a bob is called it further effects the transposition, but with a little practice this can be done "in the head" with just as much facility as at a plain lead. A bob, of course, puts a new bell into the hunt, and this bell has to be substituted after the treble for the bell that goes out. There is also the transposition caused by the ordinary 3rd's place. This means that, instead of the bell hunting down before the treble in one lead being (as in the plain course) placed after the bell in the hunt in the next lead, the two bells hunting down in front of the treble in one lead have (at a bob) to be placed between the treble and the bell that was in the hunt. The figures of a short touch illustrate this:—

| Lead ends. | Coursing order. |
|---|---|
| 234567 | 1234675 |
| 253746 | 1253467 |
| — 672453 | 1672534 |
| 647325 | 1647253 |
| — 536247 | 1536472 |
| 523764 | 1523647 |
| — 475623 | 1475236 |
| 467352 | 1467523 |
| — 234567 | 1234675 |

At the outset, probably, the beginner will be unable to see, as he rings, little further than from bell to bell, but with practice he will be able to transpose ahead of his position, and thus not only be able to say whether the bells, as he meets them, are in their right order, but to see some distance in front and know which bells to expect a lead or even more before he reaches them. The more he can apply this principle the more successful he will be in his conducting.

CONDUCTOR.

## PRESENTATION AT DEPTFORD.

In the tower of St. John's Church, Deptford, Kent, the captain of the ringers, Mr. W. J. Jeffries, was recently presented with an illuminated address, a gold bell medal, and a fountain pen, subscribed by the Vicar, churchwardens and ringers, to commemorate his 25 years' ringing at this church (1890—1915), and for his great help in keeping the band together and making the ringing chamber so comfortable.

## RINGER GAINS D.C.M.

### KILLED THE DAY AFTER RECEIVING THE HONOUR.

A Northampton and Warwickshire ringer, Corpl. Robert W. Jesson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Jesson, of East Langton, Market Harborough, has, we regret to say, been killed in action in France, and his death is the more to be regretted inasmuch as only the day before he fell to a chance shot by a sniper, he received the notification that he had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The deceased was in the 1/4th South Midland Howitzer Brigade, R.F.A. Prior to the war he was employed at the B.T.H. Works at Rugby. He was a popular young fellow, and the news of his death was received with feelings of very sincere sorrow. The greatest sympathy is felt with Mr. and Mrs. Jesson and family in their great loss. The sad news was conveyed to the parents in a letter from Major Nickalls, in which he says:—

"It is my very sad duty to have to tell you that your gallant son, Corpl. R. W. Jesson, was killed by a stray bullet at 7 a.m. to-day. He was shot through the temple on his way back from roll call to his billet—his death was instantaneous. I hope you will accept the deepest sympathy of all the officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the battery in your great bereavement. Your son, whom I had the honour of congratulating only yesterday on parade before the officers, N.C.O.'s and men on gaining the Distinguished Conduct Medal, was universally loved and respected, not only in his own battery, but throughout the brigade.

"Speaking personally as his battery commander, I can only say that I have lost one who had endeared himself to me by all those qualifications which stamp a man as a man—upright, brave, generous, and chivalrous. He was in charge of the telephone system of the battery—his duty called for much very hard work—he was always ready at any hour of the day or night to go out cheerfully at great risk to attend to any defect or breakage of the telephone wires, and his fearless devotion to duty set a grand example to all ranks.

"Knowing him so intimately as I did, I feel sure that he is proud to have given his life for his country, and in the words of Rupert Brooke, his epitaph fittingly should be:—

'If I should die, think only this of me,
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England.'

"Your son was buried by Captain the Rev. B. McNultby, in the presence of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the battery."

Mr. and Mrs. Jesson have also received a letter from Corpl. F. Shepherd, who said, "Corpl. Bob Jesson was my greatest chum and friend." He adds:— "I was so delighted, as was everyone, when the news arrived on Tuesday that he had been awarded the D.C.M. I was extremely pleased because I knew how he deserved it. Then when the awful news came yesterday morning that he was killed it seemed really too bad to be true, but I found out later in the day, much to my great sorrow, that it was all too true.

"We buried him yesterday afternoon at about 4.30 in a little cemetery not far behind the firing line, and quite close to where he fell. Bob had none but friends in the whole brigade, everyone loved him, he was so cheerful and kind-hearted. I expect the Major would tell you how it happened, but in case he did not, it was like this. He was walking through a small orchard close to the billet when a stray bullet entered his head—it is practically certain he died instantly. The bullet must have been quite a chance shot from the sniper's rifle, as the enemy cannot observe anyone walking past the spot where the dear boy met his death. I shall visit his grave frequently. It seems so hard that in the hour of his great honour and distinction he has been taken from us.

"Please accept my very deepest sympathy. By his friendship I know what his death means to you. He was one of the finest types of British man and soldier."

The deceased corporal learnt ringing at his native village of East Langton, and took the greatest interest in the art. On going to Rugby he joined the Parish Church company, and rang his first peal (on the tenor) on November 24th, 1913—a peal of Stedman Triples, in celebration of Mr. James George's 60th birthday.

On the Sunday after the announcement of his death had been received, the bells of Langton Parish Church were rung, muffled, to his memory.

## LIGHTNING METHODS.

How about this for an "apt pupil!"

"At Trinity College, Cambridge, on March 3rd, a plain course of Grandsire Triples: C. M. Girdlestone 1—2, J. B. Williamson 3—4, Rev. A. H. F. Boughey 5—6, B. F. Sheppard 7—8. This touch is noteworthy owing to the fact that an hour before it was rung the ringer of the trebles knew nothing whatever about ringing, and had never seen a handbell. It was well struck by him, no 'conducting' being necessary."

This, we think, our readers will agree, is a truly astonishing performance. Cambridge methods of teaching double-handed ringing must be as remarkable as Mr. Girdlestone's receptive mental faculties.

On the same occasion 720 Bob Minor was rung by J. B. Williamson (conductor) 1—2, Rev. A. H. F. Boughey 3—4, B. F. Sheppard (first 720) 5—6. The ringers are members of the Cambridge University Guild.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last the annual meeting of the Southern District was held at Sheffield. About 30 members attended from Doncaster, Rotherham (Parish Church and Eastwood), Sheffield (All Saints' and Ranmoor), Bolsterstoke, Adwick, Nottingham, Staveley, etc. The Cathedral bells were well utilised from 3 to 6 p.m., and the business meeting was afterwards held in the Wolstenholm Hall, the new vice-president (Mr. T. R. Hensher) presiding. Letters regretting inability to be present were read from Mr. J. T. Rew, Mr. F. Willey and Mr. G. Hawksworth, all of whom sent their best wishes for a successful meeting.

On the proposition of Mr. C. Glenn, seconded by Mr. L. Brightman, the retiring Ringing Master (Mr. G. Hawksworth) was unanimously re-elected. The committee were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. J. W. Moorhouse, of Wakefield, who was voted to the seat vacated by Mr. T. R. Hensher (now vice-president). Mr. J. T. Rew and Mr. D. Brearley were re-elected to serve on the General Committee.

The Chairman moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the clergy and wardens of the Cathedral for the use of the bells and to the local company for carrying out all arrangements so excellently.

Mr. F. Newsome (of Adwicke-le-Street) and Mr. A. T. Baker (of Sheffield) were elected new members of the Association.—It was decided that the secretary should endeavour to arrange the next meeting at Whiston, near Rotherham, Mr. C. Glenn pointing out that it was a new ring of eight, and it would be an encouragement to the band who were learning there for the Association to hold a meeting.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, who suitably responded.

### EASTERN DISTRICT MEET AT YORK.

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held in the city of York. About sixty members and friends were present, and, in spite of the wretched weather, a most enjoyable day was spent. By permission of the Dean (the Rev. A. P. Purey-Cust) the bells of the Minster were placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon, and touches were rung by the various bands. The bells of the Churches of St. Philip's and St. James', Clifton, and St. Mary's, Bishopshill, were also lent by the respective Vicars, the Rev. C. T. Alexander and the Rev. B. Wood, the kindness being much appreciated, and touches rung at both towers.

An excellent tea was provided at the Lantern Cafe, where the business meeting was subsequently held.—The Hon. Secretary explained that he had received a letter from Mr. Pearson (the Ringing Master), which stated that owing to ill-health he should be obliged to refrain from attending the meetings, and Mr. T. Barker, of Pontefract, was elected Ringing Master for the next term of three years.

The members of the committee were re-elected en bloc, with Mr. Cutsforth, of Hull, and Mr. Imeson, of York, as representatives of the Eastern Division on the General Committee.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Smith) moved a vote of thanks to the Dean of York for placing at the disposal of the society the Minster bells; to the Rev. C. T. Alexander, and also to the Rev. B. Wood for the use of the bell towers of their churches (applause). He thought they had been specially privileged in securing the use of the Minster bells, for he understood it was some considerable time since they had been placed at the disposal of any Association. They had only recently been rehung. Previous to that they had not been in a fit condition to ring for some time. He coupled with the vote of thanks the names of Mr. G. Horner, secretary of the Minster Society, and Mr. T. F. Earnshaw, the local President, for the excellent arrangements they had made for the visit of the Association to York.—The vote of thanks was carried unanimously, and the Rev. R. Harrington Johnson (Vicar Choral) replied on behalf of the Dean of York. He said he knew it had given the latter great pleasure to extend the hospitality of the Minster tower to the members of the Association, many of whom had come such a long distance to show their keenness for bell ringing (applause).

The Rev. C. T. Alexander thanked the members on behalf of himself and the Rev. B. Wood, and Mr. Horner, on behalf of the Minster ringers, said the latter were amply repaid if their visitors had enjoyed themselves (applause).

Mr. C. L. Routledge expressed thanks to the members for the hospitality extended to the visitors who were present from the Durham and Newcastle Association, and hoped that the latter would be able to repay the compliment in the future (applause).

Mr. T. F. Earnshaw, on behalf of the York ringers, said it had given them great pleasure to have the Durham and Newcastle men among them that day.

Five new members of the Association were elected.

After the meeting the majority of the ringers adjourned for handbell ringing, feeling that the meeting had been one of the most successful ones held in the Eastern District.

## RINGING IN PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

Mr. E. J. Harding, district secretary of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, having communicated with the Provost Marshal (Col. Lindsay), has been informed that there is now no objection to the church bells in the Portsmouth district being rung for service up to 6.30 p.m.

## RINGER'S EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT.

### PTE. KILBORN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

An interesting letter has reached us from Pte. Fred Kilborn, of Desborough, a well-known member of the Central Northants Association, who is serving with the 7th Northamptonshire Regiment in France, and who at the time of writing was at the 24th Infantry Base Depot. In the course of his letter he says:—

"To hear a peal of bells after a lapse of over six months, and after the life we have lived would be almost sufficient to make one weep for joy. Certainly we do hear bells occasionally in France, but I've not yet heard of 'peal' of more than two. Generally speaking, I think, they have but one bell only. It would interest me very much to visit one of these belfries when ringing is in progress. They sort of get the bells half-way up and 'keep 'em there.' First you hear 1-2—then, of course, 2-1, but the 'variety of clipping' between the 'change' is about the limit! This they do for, perhaps, five or ten minutes—then 'drop 'em' (for a few minutes rest, I suppose); then begin the performance again. It sounds—to us—very funny, really, but it's their way, I suppose. I wonder what they would think—and say—if they were to hear a touch of Triples or Major on one of our peals—such as Rothwell, for instance?

I was extremely sorry to see recently that young Jesson, of East Langton, has been killed in action. He had only just been awarded the D.C.M. He was a fine lad and only quite young. I believe he was making splendid headway with his ringing at the time the war broke out. He went to Rugby, and if I remember rightly, scored his first peal with the ringers there. It is, of course, one of the many sad cases of this terrible conflict. It's a shocking thing altogether—wicked indeed—but it must be done. We none of us know who may be the next to fall. Our regiment, I'm afraid like many more, caught it pretty stiff up at —— last September. Many were killed, wounded and captured, and many missing; some of whom (Corpl. Faulkner, of the Easton Neston band, for one) not a word has been heard of to the present day.

"I myself had rather a narrow escape from at least a serious wound on the Sunday morning (Sept. 26th). I had my water bottle smashed by a piece of shrapnel. As a matter of fact it's part of the shell case. It's an ugly piece—between three and four inches long. I eventually lost the bottle, but I'm still hanging on to the shrapnel. The following day I got my touch of gas—not badly—but I felt it more as the time passed on. After being in hospital a few weeks I went back to the trenches for about a month, but it gave me trouble again—consequently I was sent back to hospital. From there I was sent to a convalescent camp for a few weeks' rest, but I had only been at the C.C. a short time when I was carried back into hospital (once more) doubled up with pain. I think I am rid of it now, and I was marked 'active' only on Saturday last, so I expect to be sent back up the line any time when a draft is to proceed. In the meantime I am working in the orderly room, and may quite possibly be kept here several weeks yet. We never know! Now that I feel better, however, I don't mind in the least going up again.

"Life here—as you may imagine—is a 'wee bit' on the rough side, but the boys go through everything with a wonderfully broad smile. Some of the boys one meets here are 'proper lads' and can always keep one smiling. I only hope, before this year ebbs away, they will be coming home a proud and victorious army."

Pte. Kilborn sends his kindest remembrances and best wishes to his many ringing friends, and adds that he hopes he may have the luck to be spared to see them all again soon—during the year, any way.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last a very successful and well-attended meeting of the Manchester Branch took place at Pendlebury. Ringers were present from Manchester, Prestwich, Pendleton, Ashton, Hyde, Deane, Bolton, Didsbury, Miles Platting, Radcliffe, etc.

The newly-appointed Vicar (the Rev. A. Jones Philips) presided over the meeting, and gave a hearty welcome to the ringers. He dwelt upon the important positon the ringers held in church life, urging upon all the necessity of giving of their best.

The Rev. A. Jones Philips and Messrs. W. Grundy and W. Oakes, of Worsley, were elected members of the Association. Radcliffe was chosen as the next meeting place.

Sympathetic reference was made to the death of Mr. James Gratorex, of Strangeways, Manchester, and to the illness of Mr. James Booth of Ashton-under-Lyne, who has been in a precarious state of health for many years. Votes of condolence were passed with Mr. Booth and the relatives of Mr. Gratorex.

The ringing included touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire, Double Norwich and Superlative.

## IS IT A RECORD?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—An old friend of mine, at the age of 73 years and nine months, rang an inside bell in a peal of London Surprise. I shall be obliged if you or any readers can kindly inform me if this is a record.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY DEW.

Bishop's Stortford.

# NOTICES.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch. — The monthly meeting will be held at Tytherington on Saturday, March 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at 6 p.m. Will those requiring tea please notify not later than Wednesday, March 15th, to W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Secretary, Ham, Berkeley, Glos.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, March 18th, 1916. Bells ready at 3 o'clock.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Wedford on Saturday, March 18th. Bells available 3 o'clock till 7. Service 5 o'clock. Tea provided for those who notify me before the 15th. Subscriptions for 1916 are now due.—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Hornsey, on Saturday, March 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 o'clock. Tea in St. Mary's Hall, Brook Road at 5.30. No ringing after 8 p.m. Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1916 are now due.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary, 19, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Newington, on Saturday, March 25th, 1916. Bells available from 3 p.m. Half rail fares allowed up to 2s. Subscriptions for 1916 should be paid on or before that date.—Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. District Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, March 25th, 1916. Bells ready from 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30. Reports are ready. Tea will be provided in the Schoolroom at 8d. each for those sending in to Mr. J. Rollerson, 70, Schofield Road, Rawtenstall, not later than 23rd.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, March 25th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Tea provided at a small charge at 6. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Heston.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on March 28th, for business and on the 23rd for handbell practice.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Bolsover on Saturday, April 1st. Bells available from 3.30 to 7.30 p.m. The members of the Committee are requested to meet in the Church Institute at 4.30.—Sam Thomas, Secretary, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. The next meeting will be held on April 1st at Oldham Parish Church. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are now due.—T. K. Driver, The Gardens, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — South-Western Division. —Will members and friends kindly note, that during the absence of the Hon. District Secretary (Mr. H. Rumens) on Military Service, the secretarial duties will be undertaken by the undersigned, to whom all subscriptions and communications should be sent. — Ernest J. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE WILLIAM SNOWDON.—The Members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers propose to erect a Memorial to the late William Snowdon in the form of a Brass Tablet in Ilkley Parish Church, near to the Ringers' Window already erected to the memory of his brother, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon. Will any person wishing to be associated with this movement kindly communicate with the Treasurer to the Fund, Mr. H. Williams, New Worthy Cemetery, Leeds, Yorks.

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.

**HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS**

Owing to the curtailment of postal facilities, correspondents are requested to forward their communications as promptly as possible. We cannot guarantee to insert anything which does not reach us by first post on Tuesdays.


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