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 SINGLE BELL.

There are always to be found those who, given the slightest opportunity, complain of the ringing of church bells and who take every occasion open to them of trying to stir up agitation through the columns of the newspapers. Such an opportunity has again been made by a few individuals arising out of the recent suppression of "cab whistling" in the London police area. As is usual in these cases, the few who try to raise opposition make far more ado than the many who have no objection to church bells, to say nothing of the vast majority of those who really appreciate them. The fact of the matter is, we believe, that most of the opposition comes from those who have to endure the frequent clanging of the often harsh and grating tones of a single bell, hung in some neighbouring church turret, and the complaints which thus originate are not always without foundation.

If all the complaints which are made could be investigated it would probably be found that not a large proportion relate to the proper ringing of peals of bells, for it is seldom that this form of calling people to worship takes place more than twice on a Sunday. But, as has often been pointed out, it does behove ringers to give of their best when ringing for service, not only because the occasion calls for the best that can be given, but also because those who hear the bells, without being specially interested in the call they make, should have no secular ground for complaint.

But it is to the incessant ringing of single bells that the strongest objection is taken, and it is here that we ringers have really very little influence in improving matters. It could only be done, we think, by reaching the individual clergy and whether any influence could be brought to bear on them to reduce to an absolute minimum the clanging of single bells, particularly in populous areas, by approaching them through the Bishops is a matter which the Central Council might well take into consideration. The question is a delicate one, for, while the single bell is undoubtedly the great offender, it might be difficult to get the powers that be to discriminate in favour of rings of bells, with their rhythmical pealing. Whatever is done can only, of course, be a matter of recommendation, but anything that might eliminate a smouldering opposition which, perhaps, at some time or other, might burst into violent flame and seriously interfere with the exercise of our art, is worth consideration. There is no need to take any alarmist view of the situation. Two or three letters in the Press do not mean a general uprising against bells, but in such matters it is well to look to the future, especially in an age when a comparatively few determined people are sometimes able, by distorting facts among those who are really ignorant of a subject, to secure legislation which has far-reaching effects.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

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.

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.

ESTABLISHED 1760.

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope Manufacturer,

80, 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.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BISLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(STROUD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 26, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

GEORGE DOWDESWELL	*Treble*	CHARLES JORDAN	4
PTE. WILLIAM DEAN ...	2	THOMAS ANSLOE	5
ALBERT WRIGHT	3	WILLIAM BANYARD ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALBERT WRIGHT.

The peal was arranged for Pte. William Dean, who was wounded on July 3rd, and was home on leave till Aug. 28th. All except the conductor belong to the Bisley Society. Charles Jordan was elected a member of the Association before starting for the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 26th, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,
IN THE BELL TOWER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

MISS ELLEN M. JOHNSON	1—2	FREDERICK J. JOHNSON...	5—6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ...	3—4	HARRY MIDDLETON ...	7—8

JAMES HEMMING ... ... 9—10

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Witness: MR. ROWLAND SPIRES.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Johnson; also as a compliment to her on passing the Oxford Senior Local Examination with First-class Honours. She will consequently take the first prize in the top form, and the prize for the best scholar in the school at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Evesham. She is the first girl pupil from the school to pass this examination with First-class Honours.

RETFORD, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION

On Thursday, August 31, 1916, in One Hour and Fifty-nine Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

JOHN HURST	1—2	JOHN SEGAR, JNR. ...	3—4

GEORGE TURNER ... ... 5—6

Umpire: HY. WARBURTON.

The peal was non-conducted.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following are serving with H.M. Forces:—

Pte Reuben Law, of Stansted, 3rd Essex Regt.
Gnr. Ernest F. Creed, of All Saints' Church, Castle Cary. Somerset, R.F.A.
Spr. L. Meager, St. Mary's, Bletchley, Royal Engineers.
Pte W. Berry, of Middleton, Lancashire Fusiliers.

From the Parish Church of St. Mary, Hornsey, N.:—

Pte Woodcock, killed September, 1915, at Dardanelles
Pte L. Williams,
Pte F. Gregory,
Pte H. Barney,
Pte A. Boote,

and six other members have been attested, but are on Government work.

From St. Mary's, Willesden:—

Arthur French, Royal Engineers, Maidstone.
Harry Kilby, Middlesex Regt., Aldershot.

MARRIAGE OF PORTISHEAD LADY RINGER.

On August 24th the bells of St. Peter's Church, Portishead, were rung by the local band for the marriage of Miss Mary G. Hudleston to the Rev. James E. Staley, M.A. The bride, who is a member of The Ladies' Guild and the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, commenced ringing two years ago, and had rung several quarter-peals. She was most regular in taking part in Sunday ringing, and will be very much missed by the band. Among the numerous presents was a silver bell instand from the Portishead ringers.

On August 16th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins.: Miss M. Hudleston 1, Miss D. Sage 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, C. H. Jennings (Wyke Regis) 4, H. Shire (Clevedon) 5, Miss M. M. Hole (conductor) 6, W. Gillingham 7, A. L. Gale 8.

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON.

A SUNDAY CYCLE TRIP.

" Oh! could I flow like thee, and make thy stream
My great example, as it is my theme:
Though deep, yet clear; though gentle, yet not dull;
Strong without rage; without o'erflowing, full.
From " The Thames."

There are some fine biped cattle in these three counties, which are led by the " rope " as easily as a lamb, provided there's a bell at the other end of it. Distance and fatigue are no deterrent to a man when once the fascination of bells and ringing enter into his innermost heart. In this district I find bicycles and biceps valuable adjuncts in the pursuit of both.

From the House of Lords down to the House of Labour the question of holidays, derived from ancient Holy Days, is one of paramount importance, since both the coming Parliamentary vacation or ' recess ' and the ammunition workers' ' week off ' have been definitely agreed upon, so why not a little relaxation on the seventh day for members of the ringing fraternity?

There are some who say, Why ring bells at all whilst war is raging? like a certain writer in " The Times " recently who wrote disparagingly of the annual Eistedfodd in Wales. Those who read Mr. Lloyd George's spirited reply at Cardiff, in answer thereto, may include ringing with the singing without any misgiving. I feel that we owe some explanation for having a day out, and have offered the above remarks as a preface to my account of our excursion.

A run to Henley-on-Thames with Bill Henley had been on the cards for some six months. It was once deferred on account of air raids and once abandoned for bad weather, when only one man, Mr. Welling, faced the elements, and he scored his quarter-peal with the local men, and left us to go and do likewise. Through the kindness of Mr. W. Appleby, and with permission of the Rector, the run has now been brought to a successful conclusion This was on Sunday, August 27th, when the order, " Meet at Salt Hill at 8 a.m. and bring your lunch," brought all the eight boys to their appointment within four minutes of the hour. With fine sunny weather till noon and a head wind, on an excellent tarmac road (the famous London and Bath thoroughfare) eight bicycles carried their riders through Maidenhead, where the river divides Berks and Bucks, over The Thicket to Knowle Green and thence to Wargrave, a wealthy and populous village, picturesquely straggling on the banks of the river at one of its most fashionable boating centres. Timed to arrive at 9.30; we had made an inspection of this costly and complete example of modern church restoration, had stored away the cycles, and exchanged greetings with local men—Messrs. W. Fuller (foreman), W. H. Easterling, A. Gey and C. E. Fuller—well before 10 a.m. With half their men on war service, Wargrave's C.R. Society has been broken up, but with new hands, a side for rounds can still be raised here.

A QUARTER PEAL AT WARGRAVE.

The Vicar, the Rev. S. M. Winter, had graciously sanctioned our coming to ring, but pointed out that the contractor's work was not quite finished in the tower. The ringing room is exceedingly noisy, so our " handyman " soon made use of the builder's plant to cover over five openings in the ceiling with mortar board, sheet iron, coats and sacks, a precaution which accounts for our successful quarter-peal rung by W. Henley 1, T. S. Smith 2, G. T. Leader 3, W. H. Fussell 4, G. Beeby 5, P. Jones 6, E. T. Hooper (conductor) 7, J. H. Cropley 8. A short touch of Grandsire Triples, with Mr. Fuller as conductor, was a sort of prelude, and formed a compliment to him upon the birth of a daughter on the 25th inst., and, of course, congratulations were tendered. What the new arrival means to Mr. and Mrs. Fuller you will understand when I tell you that the previous baby is now a strapping young ringer of 17 years of age, and blessed is he that hath his quiver fuller.

Wargrave bells are a twin peal to those at Slough, both by the same founders (Mears and Stainbank), and cast at Whitechapel in 1915 and 1913 respectively, the former weighing 9lbs. less in the key of E. We concurred with Mr. Fuller that they are indeed a fine peal of bells, but we would not care to change with him for Slough at any figure. Which is the richer peal of the two I must leave others to decide, but their similarity led to our hasty decision to call and try them on our way to Henley.

There is one little sad memory that I ought to note here. The founder, the late Arthur Hughes, was called to his rest at the comparatively early age of 55 years, just 11 days after this ring of eight were dedicated, and, therefore, it is one of the last of his works to be consecrated to God.

The bells were lowered in peal, and one of the churchwardens kindly found our band comfortable seats in the nave, in a church that was well filled by the congregation. We enjoyed the service, supported as it was by a good choir and organ, the sermon being preached by the Vicar, who afterwards came and shook hands and congratulated us whilst we were waiting for a heavy rain storm to cease. Our organiser was able to book a hot lunch for eight at the Greyhound, the landlady seating us to roast lamb at a large oval table in a comfortable private room, that reminded one of some of the old Sussex touring days. We did just as much justice to the good things as those lounging river folk would have done, had the weather and the cook favoured them, for it's a mighty bad tide that does not carry some atom of goodness upon its flowing boson.

After dinner, recollections recalled our six hours' fast and 13 miles ride, so we made easy for awhile; then, when the weather cleared, we quickly sped along the picturesque stretch of riverside scenery between Wargrave and Henley.

We ringers little know who may hear our bells, and less still what memories they may recall to those who hear them when we ring. I want to repeat a Press paragraph which struck me as being very homely and impressive, for we saw and heard during the day similar sights and sounds to those the writer speaks of, in this peaceful England of ours, and one wonders if P.W.D.I. is a bell ringer. The other side of the picture is a complaint by Mr. Twells Brex, and here I think some of our ringing clergy may step into the discussion.

A COUNTRY SUNDAY.

The grumblers' views are quoted in another column, but here is P.W.D.I.'s graphic pen picture of the English Sunday in the country: " Bell answers bell across the sunny fields from tower to tower of the churches that mother the clustering village homes. Harvest, which has followed a chequered career all the working days of the week, is abandoned voluntarily to-day because it is the Sabbath. Butterfly and bee and swallow go their ways as busily as ever. There is a drone of insects under the sun in dozing lane and field, and every flower that has opened is wide open. The windmill is motionless in the soft breeze that rustles the corn; the dusty miller is in sober black to-day. And there comes a straggle of churchgoers over the fields, only their heads to be seen when they walk through the tall oats. They turn from green by-ways, too, out into the road where the church stands in its trees. And five bells speak to other five bells faintly heard on one side, and to three on another. In the deep of the fields, strangely emphasising the calm of the day, the low clangour sounds. The great horses stand at the gate in their sociable way as though to see who is about; for, whoever may come, no work will be asked of them. At another gate three labourers lounge stiffly in their Sunday suits, and their talk is of anything but harvest, though their eyes rest on a broad wheatfield strewn with sheaves and only two lines of shocks made. Butterfly and bee are busy because all such days are harvest days for them. And the swallow works because he must, though bell call to bell across the peaceful fields."

At Henley, the bridge, the church and the river are still there in their ancient and stately grouping, surrounded by lofty hills and undulating woodland on both banks, and we entered Oxfordshire, to leave Berks and Bucks behind, at the main street of the town, which now reveals the inroads of National Service by the number of "vacant" business premises to be seen. I well remember the late John Nelms telling me of his unique experience in going to Henley-on-Thames in 1857, when on January 1st—60 years ago—the Royal Cumberland Youths Society, rang the first peal on the bells in 2 hrs. 49 mins., which he conducted. There is no regatta held here now owing to the war, although this broad and beautiful stretch of water appears more inviting than ever. For some years past the Regatta Committee have stopped the paid ringing that was one of the embellishments of the old regatta days. The prowess of the oar has been given up for the prowess of war, and many an English officer, who remembers Henley for a stiff back, is now helping to stiffen our front.

The Oxford Hotel was selected for our headquarters. It is ably managed by Mrs. Williams, and here we were joined by Mr. W. Horne, of Wycombe. Mr. W. Appleby met us at the church, and at 4.30 punctually we raised the bells, and soon went off into Oxford Bob Triples; in fact, Oxford was most fashionable just now for the Diocesan Guild, the county, and the method rung all possess the same title. With steady striking and no hitch the quarter was scored, and the band congratulated by the members of the local society—Messrs. G. White (foreman), W. Appleby (hon. secretary), L. Stillwell, just back from V.D.C. war work at Didcot; R. Bushnell, A. Hill, F. King, and H. Chandler. The Rector (the Rev. S. C. Saunders) most kindly permitted us to ring again after service, and friendly teams for touches of Grandsire and Stedman were arranged. The Henley ringers, like other remnant bands, have felt the " drafts "—having half-a-dozen men on war service, whose places cannot be filled by running round the next street to get a man for Stedman Triples.

During the evening service another violent storm came on, but it cleared off by eight o'clock, enabling the visitors to make a fair start for home. The last lap at Boyne Hill found our old friend, Sapper G. Martin, in khaki, on duty at the " Windsor Castle," and here our sandwiches came in very acceptable with a ration of ale. Our return journey was completed without accident or rainfall, guided by the anti-aircraft searchlights of the London area—and all the eight men got to bed by ten p.m., after 30 miles of cycling and 14 hours of real ringers' happiness.

W. H. F.

KING'S CLIFFE TENOR.

The following further sums towards the recasting of King's Cliffe tenor bell have been received: Miss Bromley, 2s. 6d.; Nurse Norman, 1s.; Tring Parish Church ringers, 5s.; the Central Northamptonshire Association, £1 2s. This brings the total amount subscribed to £11 6s. Further contributions towards the balance of the £36 required should be sent to the Rev. H. A. Orchar, King's Cliffe Rectory, near Peterborough.

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry Established A.D. 1570.

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road, LONDON, E.

Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

WHEN THE BISHOP RINGS.

Within a couple of hours after reading "Bob Major's" Occasional Notes on Saturday last, a few members of the Llandaff Diocesan Association discovered a new ringer—Bishop Crossley, late of Auckland, New Zealand—and had the pleasure of ringing with him on his peal of five bells, at St. Andrew's, Dinas Powis, Glamorganshire, where he is now Rector, and also assisting the Bishop of Llandaff in this busy industrial diocese.

A ringing practice had been arranged for Saturday afternoon, and on arrival the Bishop, who had an appointment at 5.30 elsewhere, very kindly had tea waiting on the lawn, and both he and Mrs. Crossley attended to the visitors. In conversation it was found that the Bishop, who is a Yorkshireman, had learned and did his ringing before going out to New Zealand, at Almondbury, near Huddersfield. "The Ringing World" was handed to him to read Bob Major's official company for a peal, but "Oh, no," he remarked after reading it, "I am not taking the tenor."

Steps were then made for the tower, and after the five bells had been raised, the Bishop, who had but a few minutes to spare, doffed his coat and handled his bell in rounds finely—the first time in their ringing career that those present had had the pleasure of ringing with a Bishop.

A most enjoyable afternoon and evening were spent, and it is hoped the visit will induce the local ringers to drop their system of obtaining changes and go in for method ringing. The visitors included Messrs. W. Bolton and I. Chamberlain, of St. John's, Cardiff; S. Dawe, Llandaff Cathedral: J. W. Jones, H. Forbes and W. Ridout, of Newport: B. Weaver and J. Jones, of Penarth. Late in the evening Mr. Alfred Rowley, of Tipton, Staffordshire, put in an appearance with his brother, with whom he was paying a visit to Cardiff.

Opportunity is now taken to thank the locals for their very kind welcome, and to the Bishop for his kindness and hospitality.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The quarterly meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Stewkley on Saturday week, and was well attended, the following towers being represented: Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Swanbourne, Shenley, Newport Pagnell, Linslade, and Bradwell. Service was held in the historic church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. J. Moxon). This was the first meeting held at Stewkley, the object being to get the local ringers into the fold. As it was a favourable impression was made, and it is hoped that it will not be long before they are interested in the art of change ringing.

About 40 sat down to a good tea provided by the ladies who take an active part in church work, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to them.

The usual business was afterwards proceeded with, followed by a visit to the tower, when the bells were soon set going to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor. The Rectory grounds were at the disposal of the members, who took advantage of the privilege to have a look round, escorted by the Vicar. A further pull on the bells brought a most successful meeting to a close, after which the ringers dispersed in various directions by motor, waggonette and "on the wheel," all well pleased with the way they had been received.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the South-Western Division was held at Hornchurch on Saturday week, 30 members and friends putting in an appearance. Ringing commenced soon after 3 p.m., and touches in various methods were rung till 5.30, when an adjournment was made for tea at the King's Head Hotel.

This was followed by the meeting, at which two old members were re-elected, viz., Messrs. Wood and Hanbury, and two new members, Messrs. Ellis, of Hornchurch; and Davis, of Dagenham, were also elected. For the annual district meeting, to be held in December, both Barking and West Ham were proposed, and on being put to the vote West Ham was selected. It was decided to hold one more practice meeting, if possible, at Chigwell Row, and then let them cease for the winter months. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar (the Rev. H. Dale) for kindly allowing the use of the bells, and to Mr. J. Dale, the steeplekeeper, for having everything in readiness and making arrangements for the tea.

During the afternoon touches were rung in practically all standard methods from Grandsire to London Surprise. Ringers were present from Barking, Dagenham, Hornchurch, Little Heath, Orsett, Walthamstow (St. Mary's and St. Saviour's), Wanstead, West Ham, Woodford and London.

THURCASTON CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

The six bells of the above church were recently removed and sent to the foundry of Mr. Alfred Bowell at Ipswich, where they are to be fitted with all the most modern fittings and hung in massive steel framework for eight bells. The tower is undergoing a thorough restoration, and it will be several months before the bells are re-erected.

LIEUT. SOWELL KILLED.

"BOLD, PLUCKY AND BELOVED BY HIS MEN."

The Truro Diocesan Guild have lost a most promising member by the death of Second-Lieut. A. Donald Sowell, only child of the Rev. R. H. Sowell and Mrs. Sowell, of St. Kea Vicarage, Cornwall, who was killed in action a week or two ago. Like his father Lieut. Sowell took great interest in ringing, and was looked upon as a very careful and safe ringer. He also evinced a ready grasp of the intricacies of the art, and would doubtless, had he lived, have speedily reached the first ranks. While receiving his education at Cathedral School, Exeter, he had many opportunities of ringing with his Exeter friends, among whom his presence was always welcome. There, too, he served in the Cadet Corps, and, when war broke out, joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He was a brilliant and brave young officer, "a true British boy" as one, who knew him intimately, described

THE LATE SEC.-LIEUT. A. D. SOWELL, as a Cadet.

him. He was killed by a shell, and from the Major of his battalion his parents received the following particulars of his death: "We were being attacked at the time," the officer wrote, "and there was a very heavy bombardment going on, and he was struck by a shell, or piece of one, and killed instantaneously. He was a bold and plucky officer, one of the few left who joined the battalion originally, beloved by his men, and very keen in his work. His death is a great loss to the battalion, as well as to us all. He was brought down the following night and buried by a chaplain."

Much sympathy will be felt with the parents of the gallant young officer, whose loss to the Truro Diocesan Guild will also be keenly felt.

BELL WANTED FOR PONDOLAND.

The Rev. the Hon. A. P. F. Erskine, whose appeal for a bell to take out to his West Pondoland Parish Church was made in our issue of August 18th, was some years ago a very active ringer in this country. He learnt to ring at Oxford in the year 1900, and during the following five or six years rang some 40 peals, and conducted one, which was Holt's Original. After his ordination, in 1905, he worked in Glasgow for six years, and had only time for an occasional touch. In 1911 he went to Umtata, in the diocese of St. John's, Kaffraria, where there are no peals at all, and the only other ringer is Canon C. E. Earle Bulwer. The natives of Pondoland, Mr. Erskine tells us, are a very musical people, and, although he has heard them learning to play tunes on handbells, he thinks it would require the genius of a Washbrook to teach them to ring changes.

The Rev. A. Erskine returns to his "parish," St. Barnabas' Mission, P.O. Mlengana, West Pondoland, Cape Province, South Africa, at the end of October, and anyone who has a good sized bell for which they have no further use should write to him at 16, Lowndes Square, London, S.W.

TWELVE BELL RINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your article by Mr. Jerram, on rings of twelve bells in England, Painswick tenor bell is given as 25 cwt. The correct weight is 25 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs., and it is 4ft. 5in. in diameter. Mr. John Taylor kindly sent the correct weights of all the twelve bells as they were weighed at the foundry.—Yours sincerely,

Hon. Sec., Painswick Youths. WILLIAM HALE.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BELLS.

ALL-DAY CLANGING.

Periodically complaints against church bells appear in the Press, and the suppression of the "cab whistling" in London has given certain people the opportunity of voicing their grievance. Here are two letters which have appeared within the last few days in the "Daily Mail." The first one is from "Another Sufferer," living at Bedford Hill, Balham. He writes: "As Mr. Twells Brex pointed out in his recent valuable contribution on 'The Cab Whistle Fiend,' 'Noise makers have always had notoriously nothing but contempt for the complaints of invalids, brain workers, and light sleepers, they are dismissed as the possessors of 'nerves' and temperaments.' Nearly all the points so powerfully scored by him in the above article apply equally to the sufferers from the church bell ringing scandal. Even Sunday, the "day of rest" anxiously looked forward to by tired workers, brings no relief, but the reverse. On this day a church in this neighbourhood commences ringing at seven in the morning and continues at close intervals throughout the day, and on week-days commences at the same time and continues scarcely less frequently. Why the legitimate and well-earned rest of thousands of wounded, invalids, and professional men and others (many financially ruined by the war and compelled to work far into the night to make a subsistence and to bear heavy taxation) should be broken by the wholly unnecessary clamour of church bells—particularly when early morning services are attended by only two or three persons—passes all comprehension. Nobody wishes to or does interfere with their attendance at any service they may wish; but this does not imply any right for them to interfere with the liberty of the subject by restriction of legitimate rest. The patience of the public has in this respect been tried too long by far, and it is high time that a period be put to the nuisance."

The second writer is W. Livingstone-Learmouth, of Sutton Lodge, Guildford, who says: "The two letters you have published protesting against the ringing of church bells are of more importance than all the protests against whistling for taxicabs. Here is my experience. Twenty years ago I met with a serious accident and was recommended a treatment at Bath. The treatment was excellent, the waters healing, but the place was a simple inferno of bells. Thus, as my nerves were shaken, I could not stand the noise, and was obliged to leave long before my cure was completed. Now, years afterwards, I find myself in Guildford, a small town with military hospitals. Two churches here make Sunday a positive purgatory with their bell ringing. I am a confirmed invalid, but what of the nerve-racked wounded soldiers who have to listen to the cacophonous clangour of those bells, almost incessant, on 'the day of rest'? Bells were originally invented to scare off devils, on the lines of the Chinese joss stick. Neither seems to have been effective! If a German band or a barrel organ annoys me I can order it away. Have the church bells a monopoly of annoyance?"

The writers obviously refer to the clanging of single bells, and complaints against these are often not without foundation. The unfortunate part of it is they, metaphorically, tar all bells with the same brush, and there is nothing done to discriminate between the harsh clangour of these single bells and rings of bells that are properly rung in peal twice, perhaps, on a Sunday and about which few, if any, have real ground for complaint.

RINGERS' OUTING.

STREATHAM COMPANY AT LEATHERHEAD.

On Saturday week the ringers from St. Leonard's, Streatham, went for their annual outing to Leatherhead. A few took the journey by 'bus, and others travelled by train. Ringing started at 4 p.m. at the Parish Church on the splendid ring of ten. Various methods were rung, the most notable touch being one of Grandsire Caters—the first "inside" by Mr. H. Pates, to whom great credit is due, as he is 72 years of age. After the ringing the visitors adjourned to the Leatherhead Institute, where a substantial tea was provided. After a stroll around the district, which is a very pretty one, social intercourse and handbells were enjoyed, and a very pleasant time was spent. The party were sorry that Mr. S. Greenwood was not able to give them the pleasure of his company, but, his age being 86, he felt the trip would be too much for him. Many thanks are due to Messrs. A. Dean and A. Winch, who made all the necessary arrangements.

SAPPER DEAL TO HIS OLD FRIENDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a little space in your columns to inform my old friends in London and elsewhere that I am still safe and sound, and enjoying good health. We have had a rather rough time lately, but have now reached a fairly quiet part of the line. I have not run across any brother ringers out here, but have been in communication with one old friend, Richard G. Rice, of the Oxford Guild. Needless to say, we are hoping that the time is not far distant when we can renew our acquaintance with what has become almost a "lost art" for so many of us. Wishing you every success, Yours faithfully,

(SAPPER) RICHARD F. DEAL.

226th Field Co., R.E., 2nd Division, B.E.F., France.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF DEVIZES BRANCH.

On Saturday last a monthly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at the grand old church of St. Mary, Steeple Ashton, and proved to be a most successful affair, waking up, for the time being, the usual quietness of this ancient village. Soon after 3 p.m. ringers began to assemble by two-horse brake from Devizes, trap from Trowbridge, and cycles from the neighbouring towns and villages, and some good touches of Grandsire Doubles, Stedman and Bob Minor were brought round. The authorised Guild service was held in the church, 33 ringers being then present, the singing (as usual at the meetings of this district) being very earnest and hearty. An able and stirring address was given by the Vicar (the Rev. E. Ponsonby Knubley, M.A.).

Tea was provided at the Long's Arms Inn, 41 sitting down to enjoy the welcome meal. After tea, a short business meeting was held, presided over by Mr. S. Hillier, branch chairman, who was supported by Mr. H. Brownlee West (hon. secretary), together with the Master of the Guild (the Rev. H. E. Tilney-Bassett), the Rev. E. P. Knubley, Vicar of Steeple Ashton, and the Rev. E. Bankes James, of Lee-on-Solent, Hants; Mr. R. J. Wilkins, of St. Stephen's, Bristol; Mr. I. B. Holmyard, of Midsomer Norton; and Mr. W. Lawrence, of West Ealing; with ringers from Devizes, Trowbridge, Melksham, Westbury, Southbroom, Steeple Ashton, Holt, Keevil, West Ealing, Bristol, Lee-on-Solent, Midsomer Norton, and Beechingstoke. — The Secretary proposed the election of seven new members from Bratton and three from Steeple Ashton. Two new life ringing members from St. Stephen's, Bristol, were also duly elected members of the Guild.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Steeple Ashton for the service in church, and for the use of the bells; and also to the organist for so kindly presiding at the organ. Speeches, short, but much to the purpose, were made by the Rev. H. E. Tilney-Bassett (Master of the Guild), the Rev. E. P. Knubley, Mr. Sidney Hillier (chairman), the Rev. E. Bankes James, Mr. Wm. Lawrence, and Mr. R. J. Wilkins.

The party then dispersed, many going (on the kind invitation of the Vicar) to view the Vicarage grounds; and on the lawn the handbells were produced, and a well-executed course of Grandsire Caters was rung by S. Hillier 1—2, W. Lawrence 3—4, Rev. E. B. James 5—6, R. J. Wilkins 7—8, S. Hector 9—10; also touches of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. Later on, several of the ringers went to St. James', Trowbridge, where a touch of Bob Major was conducted by the Rev. E. B. James; and three courses of Stedman Triples by Wm. Lawrence. A touch of 350 Grandsire Triples was conducted by Miss Edith Jones, a clever lady ringer, and pupil of Mr. Wm. Lawrence, from West Ealing, this being her first attempt at conducting, and it was also the first touch to be called by a lady ringer in Trowbridge tower. The ringers on this occasion were: A. E. Wilkins 1, S. Aldon 2, Miss Edith Jones (conductor) 3, C. D. Mead 4, Rev. E. B. James 5, W. Lawrence 6, S. Hector 7, J. Francis 8.

The Devizes ringers, after leaving Steeple Ashton at 7.30 p.m., stopped at St. Leonard's Church, Keevil, on their way home, and some very well-struck Grandsire Doubles were rung, the ringers in this being: C. D. Higinbothom 1, H. Brownlee West 2, A. E. Bolland 3, F. W. Bealing 4, S. Hillier 5, W. Greenland 6. The bells were then lowered in peal, and the brake resumed its journey to Devizes, reaching home about 9.30, thus bringing a very pleasant and successful meeting to a close.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

PROPOSED FUTURE MEETINGS IN EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.

	Burnham, Saturday, Sept. 9th	6 to 8 p.m.
	Wooburn, Wednesday, Sept. 13th ...	6 to 8 p.m.
A.	Slough, Saturday, Sept. 16th	5 to 7 p.m.
	Farnham Royal, Saturday, Sept. 23rd	5 to 7 p.m.
	Old Windsor, Saturday, Sept. 30th ...	3 to 5 p.m.
	Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 7th	4 to 6 p.m.
	Beaconsfield, Saturday, Oct. 14th ...	4 to 6 p.m.
B.	High Wycombe, Sunday, Oct. 15th ...	3 to 5 p.m.
	Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 21st	4 to 6 p.m.

A.—A private room and set of handbells will be available afterwards. It's a birthday.

B.—Unveiling of peal board for Stedman Cinques rung March, 1914. London members and friends will be welcome. Tea can be arranged for visitors.

Volunteers are invited to send in their names to W. H. Fussell, Farnburn Avenue, Slough, for quarter-peals for the Sunday morning services at Burnham, Sept. 17th; Farnham, Sept. 24th; Old Windsor, October 1st; and Slough, Oct. 8th. All meetings at 10 a.m.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of 6s. from "Wanderer," for the above fund for the months of July, August and September.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday evening, Sept. 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: J. R. Sims 1, W. Phillips 2, J. W. Fruin 3, Staff-Sergt. Verralls 4, B. Brewer 5, Robt. Holloway (conductor) 6, E. Newell 7, A. Elliott 8.

NOTICES.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting of the Guildford District will be hold at Woking on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea (9d.) at 5 o'clock. Service at 6; Preacher, the Vicar.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., North Street, Guildford.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at North Stoneham, on Saturday, September 9th. Bells available at 2.30. The Rector of North Stoneham has kindly promised to provide tea at 5 o'clock.—Jas. W. Elkins, District Secretary, 20, Culver Road, Winchester.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-Under-Edge and District Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Cam, on Saturday, September 9th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m.—W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Sec., Ham, Berkeley, Gloucester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Middleton Parish Church, on Saturday, September 9th. Bells ready at 3.30 p.m. Meeting at 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Secretary, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next meeting will be held at Wortley, near Sheffield, on Saturday, September 9th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Tea (11d. each).—Leonard Brightman, District Sec. pro. tem., 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Battersea, on Saturday, September 9th. Bells available from 4 to 8 p.m. A business meeting will be held at the conclusion of ringing. T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION & LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells ready 4. Business meeting in the Church House at 7.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Secs. pro tem.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Saviour's Church to-morrow, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells available from 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested, to elect a secretary for Bolton Branch.—G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—A special practice will be held at St. John's, Miles Platting, on Sept. 9th. All ringers invited; 4.30 till 8.—W. Wolstencroft.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on September 12th and 26th, and for handbell practice on September 21st, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. P. C. West) at Sunbury on Saturday, September 16th. Bells available from 3.30. Tea at 6. All ringing friends welcome. The Hon. Sec. begs to remind members that all outstanding subscriptions should now be paid.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Hefton, Hounslow.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Northern and Eastern Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, September 16th. Tower open from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5.30; meeting follows.—District Secretaries: F. R. Bacon, W. H. Lawrence.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the North Western Division, for the election of officers, will be held at Bishop's Stortford on Saturday, September 23rd. Further particulars next week.—William Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting and eight-bell contest will be held at Calverley on Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Tenor 11cwt. Draw for order of ringing at 3 p.m. in the school. All entries for the contest to be sent to me not later than Monday, Sept. 18th.—F. Salmons, Sec., 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Rochester District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Rochester on Saturday, September 23rd, 1916. The Cathedral bells will be available from 3 p.m. Service in Cathedral at 4 p.m. Tea at 6 p.m. at "Tea Table" Cafe, High Street, opposite the Cathedral, for which 6d. per member will be charged. Will those wishing to take tea kindly let me know not later than Wednesday, the 20th. — Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. Secretary, 77, Bill Street Road, Frindsbury, Rochester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The next quarterly meeting will be held at Chesterfield on Saturday, September 23rd. Committee meeting 4.30. General meeting 5 o'clock, both in Church Vestry. Ringing from 3 to 7.30, except during the time of meeting. Tea at Mander's Cafe, a la carte—W. E. White, Hon. Secretary.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Coseley, on Saturday, September 23rd. Bells available at 3; Service in Church at 5.15, with an address by the Rev. L. J. Lamplugh, B.A.; tea (1/-) in the Schoolroom at 6. Reports are ready. Please send word not later than Tuesday, 19th inst.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—The annual meeting of the above, at Headcorn, has been postponed to October 7th.—C. Tribe, Hon. District Secretary, British School Villas, Tenterden.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The proposed Sept. general meeting at Ilkley in connection with the William Snowdon Memorial is postponed on account of difficulty in obtaining the metal for the tablet. Members will be notified in due course when arrangements are complete.—Clement Glenn, Hon. General Secretary.

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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