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, 1913.
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.

1917.

The first thing which devolves upon us in this first number of 1917 is to wish all our readers "A Happy New Year." The phrase is conventional, but the sentiments which it conveys are deep and sincere. We all of us hope that the year just opening will bring with it a lasting peace to the world, based upon the sure foundation of right and justice, and that it will see all those heroic men, now upholding the honour of the Empire in the face of the enemy in many parts of the earth, return once more to the dear old homeland. If peace is vouchsafed to us by the victories of our arms, 1917 will go down in history as one of the most momentous years of modern ages. Much in the future depends upon the happenings of this year, and the anxieties of the coming months will provide a burden which will test the stoutest hearts. But whether the end comes this year or some other year, confidence in the ability of the Empire and its Allies to win through at the finish was never higher than it is now; and though individually there are many to whom the wish of a happy new year may sound something of a mockery, yet we hope that 1917 will, before its close, prove to be the happiest which the nation has witnessed for generations.

And what of the future—as it concerns us as ringers? There are many who feel that ringing will not be quite the same for us in days to come as it was before the war. The Art had then attained to a wonderful height of popularity, and a marvellous standard of skill in its practical application had been achieved. The long break which the war has caused is bound, we think, to affect at least the immediate future. Bands are disorganised or almost wholly broken up by the demands which national service has made upon the men, and it must be, at any rate, a long time before we can return to the former condition of affairs. Whenever the war may end, therefore, the coming year, at all events, is likely to be a "lean" one for ringing; but just as we have confidence in our ultimate triumph in the field, so we can look forward to the future restoration of our Art to the high position it formerly held.

In preparation for the time when the bells will ring again, there is much that might be done by those who are left at home to "carry on" until the "boys" return. Some of the Associations are doing their best to maintain touch with their towers and keep up the interest of depleted bands, but there are others whose condition seems somewhat moribund, although it may be that the reason is beyond their control. Wherever it is possible, however, 1917 ought to witness a determined effort on the part of all Associations to get their organisation in order, to tune up the machine, as it were, in anticipation of the time when peace will once more free the brazen tongues of the bells.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

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

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FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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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

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TWELVE BELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.
ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, December 26th, 1916, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt., in C.

JOHN NEAL	...*Treble*	THOMAS MILLER	7
JAMES L. WELLS...	2	*CHARLES WILLIAMS	8
FRANK W. PERRENS	3	ERNEST MANSELL	9
JOHN R. SHARMAN	4	SAMUEL GROVE	10
ALF PADDON SMITH	5	JAMES E. GROVES	11
ERNEST T. ALLAWAY... ...	6	JAMES GEORGE... ...	...*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

* First peal on twelve bells.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD
AND THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Sunday, December 31, 1916, in Three Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5002 CHANGES;

FRED HAYES...	...*Treble*	BENJAMIN THORP	7
EDWARD R. COLES	2	GEORGE TWITCHEN... ...	8
RALPH COLES	3	WILLIAM T. HORNE ...	9
JOHN D. MATTHEWS	4	WILLIAM PHIPPS	10
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ...	5	WILLIAM J. NUDDS... ...	11
FRANK SMITH	6	HUGH T. SCARLETT	...*Tenor*

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH, and
Conducted by FRED HAYES.

Rung with the bells fully muffled in honour of those who have gallantly given their lives for their country during 1916. First peal of Cinques by the ringers 2, 8, 9, 10, who are members of the local company.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On St. Stephen's Day, December 26th, 1916, in Three Hours and Thirty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt., in E flat.

†WILLIAM HONOR	...*Treble*	*EDWARD T. HOOPER ...	6
WILLIAM HENLEY...	2	‡EDGAR HANCOX	7
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ...	3	WILLIAM LAWRENCE ...	8
PERCY E. JONES	4	WILLIAM T. HORNE ...	9
*JOSEPH MILNER	5	WILLIAM H. FUSSELL	*Tenor*

Composed by WILLIAM HUDSON, of Sheffield, and
Conducted by EDGAR HANCOX.

Rung with the bells solemnly muffled by special permission of the Rev. R. M. Carrick, M.A., Vicar of the Parish, in memory of Lieuts. Charles Thomas Mills, Jerome Fane De Salis, Evelyn Geofrey Worsley, and twenty-four N.C.O.'s and men from Hillingdon who have fallen in this War, including Cyril Buttrum, of H.M.S. Queen Mary.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Caters away from tenor. ‡ First peal of Caters as conductor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

GREAT HAMPTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION
(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. HEMMING, 29, CHURCH BANK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor No. 17 size, in A.

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

Conducted by JAMES HEMMING.
Umpire: GEOFFREY HEMMING.

First peal "in hand" as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION
(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 30, 1916, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.
Tenor 30 cwt., in D.

*FRANK GODFREY ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE DOLPHIN	5
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON	2	JAMES HEMMING	6
FREDERICK J. JOHNSON ...	3	JOHN DOLPHIN...	7
WILLIAM NEED	4	SIDNEY O. ANNIS ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

* First peal on eight bells. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to Mr. Joseph Amphlett, who was a ringer and a faithful and devoted worshipper at the Abbey Church and who was interred at Pershore on the previous Wednesday; also in memory of those from the town who have fallen in the War.

DEPTFORD, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Monday, January 1, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOSEPH LAW	...*Treble*	GEORGE HUXLEY	5
FREDK. W. RICHARDSON ...	2	JOHN CROWDER	6
WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES ...	3	WILLIAM A. MARTIN ...	7
EDWIN J. PANNETT	4	ERNEST B. CROWDER	...*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES.

As the police restrictions will not allow ringing after dark, this peal could not be attempted on New Year's Eve, so was started early on New Year's Day.

ANCIENT RINGING PERFORMANCES.

HOW HOLLIS HELPED THE SEXTON.

On Boxing Day, a party of ringers visited the towers of St. Peter's, Maxey, when touches of Oxford Treble Bob and Single Court were rung, and St. Guthlac's, Market Deeping, where touches of Treble Bob, Single and Double Court, and Plain Bob, were brought round. Those who took part were Messrs. W. A. Day (Market Deeping), E. A. Sneath (St. James', Deeping), T. Bainbridge, H. Wand (Witham-on-the-Hill), W. Waldron, H. Hoare and J. J. Jutson (Peterborough).

In Maxey belfry there is a board which contains the following:

December 11th, 1863.

Mr. Dixon's peal of Bob Minor Variations was rung for the first time in this belfry, after being composed for 34 years, in a masterly style by the following ringers, viz.: S. Black, senr., treble, S. Black, junr., 2, J. Shelton 3, H. Cutforth 4, W. Lambert 5, J. Shelton tenor

This society also rung in this belfry, on June 11th, 1849, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. and one minute.

The same society also rung, at Glinton, on January 1st, 1852, 10,080 changes, in 5 hrs. and 59 mins. The same men also rung, on January 18th, 1853, at Castor, in this county, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. These peals were conducted by Jno. Shelton.

Whatever Bob Minor Variations may have been there was keen rivalry between the Maxey, Glinton, and St. Martin's (Stamford) ringers at this time, and Mr. Dixon (Sexton at St. Mary's, Stamford), although the "composer" was unable to produce a 720 and Mr. J. T. Hollis, a youth of 17 years, of Glinton, having studied "in and out of course," produced it for them, and was presented with a copy of Shipway, by Mr. Dixon. This Mr. J. T. Hollis was subsequently the author of Hollis's five-part and one-part peals of Grandsire Triples.

Evidently the 10,080 was Oxford Treble Bob. The ringers were good six-bell men in Oxford, Double and Single Court, and the writer remembers, some years ago, ringing in this district in company with a lad of eight years. Steven Black, junr., was present, and while the lad was busy ringing Grandsire Doubles, Steven prodded him in the back, and remarked: "Remember Steve Black, of Maxey, and the 10,080 Treble Bob."

At Glinton there was a good six-bell band over a hundred years ago. Mr. John Scott, a well-to-do farmer, was foreman, and inscribed on the tenor bell is: "John Scott did pay for me one hundred pounds and odd money, November 1st, 1799." For many years this date was kept by the ringers as the big bell's birthday.

It may be interesting to note that, when the bells of St. John the Baptist's, Peterborough, were reopened on Feb. 23rd, 1809, the Soham Youths opened them with five courses of Treble Bob, and Mr. Scott and his company were present. Presumably the Tebbutts were amongst them, and a youngster was on the tenor of 28 cwt. One of the Glinton men remarked in admiration: "Didn't that youngster dodge that tenor in and out of the slow!"

J. J. J.

WELL-KNOWN KENT RINGER DEAD.

MR. E. E. FOREMAN'S SERVICES TO THE EXERCISE

It is with very much regret we announce the death of Mr. Edward E. Foreman, of Hernhill, Faversham, at the age of 68 years. His illness commenced about a year ago with a malignant growth in the nose and throat. His local doctor partly removed it many times, but it assumed such proportions as to cause great difficulty in breathing. A more serious operation then becoming imperative, this was done apparently very successfully at a London Nursing Home last spring. Mr. Foreman recovered so well that he was able to attend the annual meeting of the Canterbury district of the Kent Association, at Faversham, in May. He rang again at Boughton, in July, at the induction of the new Vicar, and again at the harvest thanksgiving service at the same church on October 2nd. From that time he failed rapidly in health till the end came, on December 20th. Fortunately he suffered practically no pain till the last week, though he felt at times uncomfortable and very weary.

He was buried on Saturday, December 23rd, in the quiet churchyard of Hernhill in the same grave as his wife, who predeceased him 18 years. The local ringers acted as bearers, and the bells were rung half-muffled, after the service, by E. Bones, S. Hadlow, F. Elsey, C. Hadlow, A.Bones, P. Price, R. Tong, F. Packman; and E. Trendell, of Boughton.

Of the deceased's ringing career it seems superfluous to speak, for he was so well known and respected in Kent, in the Canterbury district, of which he has filled the positions of secretary and representative on the Central Committee. He made it a practice to attend all meetings of the district, and used his powers to help, as far as he could, anyone desirous to learn, and no probationer in any branch of the art ever had a more energetic, patient or sympathetic teacher. He tried on many occasions to form local bands at the towers near his home, his greatest success being shown by the first local peal on Hernhill bells, conducted by himself on December 1st, 1911, followed by another on December 19th, 1911, conducted by H. Gilbert.

Mr. Foreman commenced change ringing rather late in life, but was so enthusiastic that he managed to do more than some would in the whole span of three-score years and ten. Many bands attempting peals have good cause to remember his kindness and hospitality. He made it a rule to entertain the ringers attending meetings held at his native place, his one regret being that the meetings were not frequent enough. Many well remember the most successful autumn gatherings, when Mr. F. Bennett and friends, making Hernhill a centre, visited various towers and rang peals in Surprise methods.

The ringers much regret their inability to do more than above recorded for such a great ringer and such a great friend of ringers, owing to the absence of members on active service, and the restrictions placed on ringing bells at this most anxious time. However, it was in keeping with the deceased's wish, as he was most desirous that the funeral arrangements should be of a very quiet nature. Mr. Foreman was an earnest Churchman. He considered ringing an important branch of church work, and his life will be an inspiration to many who will long mourn his death.

The following is a list of his known peals, though no official account has been kept: Minor methods (4 Plain Bob, 3 Grandsire), 2; Grandsire Triples, 62 (conducted 14); Bob Triples, 1; Stedman Triples, 58; Kent Treble Bob Major, 13; Oxford Treble Bob, 1; Bob Major, 2; Stedman Caters, 6; Double Norwich Major, 10; Superlative Surprise Major, 1; Cambridge Surprise Major, 1; total, 157. All rung for Kent County Association, except one, in 25 different towers.

THE PEAL AT PERSHORE.

The peal rung at Pershore, on Saturday last, was interesting, for the fact that, although the bells date back to 1729, it was the first peal rung on them by a band resident in the district, and the first since the funeral of King Edward. The unique surroundings, together with the indifferent "go" of the bells, are not exactly conducive to peal ringing, but the very bells seemed to know that they were solemnly honouring one who had devoted his lifetime to the welfare of the grand old Abbey Church. In Mr. J. Amphlett the town loses one of its oldest and worthiest citizens, for he had spent his 72 years in the place, and had enjoyed the high esteem of seven successive Vicars.

The famous peal of bells, together with the good striking, did full justice to the excellent composition, and the band were congratulated on the peal by several old ringers who were listening to the ringing, one going so far as to say that he had heard every peal and every attempt on Pershore bells by bands from all over the country for the past 60 years, but never had he heard them struck better. The military representative on the local Tribunal, Capt. Darbyshire, who, by the way, is himself a skilled change ringer, but declined to take a rope in the peal, sat in the ringing chamber all through the peal, and at the conclusion heartily congratulated the band on the excellent striking.

Afterwards, tea was partaken of at Mr. J. Dolphins, and a quiet social hour spent, the party breaking up with the old wish, "A Happy and Prosperous New Year."

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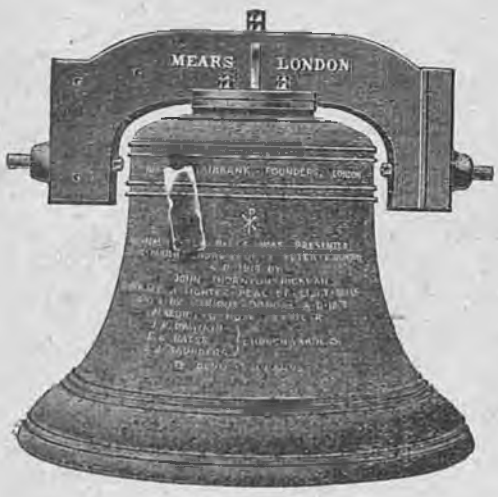

Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

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.

METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

THE DIVIDING LINE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are three or four of your valued writers who from time to time have given us their definitions of the exact constitution of a Lead, Division, or Unit; the latest being Mr. Baker (vide "Ringing World," Dec. 1st, 1916), who observes: "It seems not to be understood that, structurally, the lead-end of all methods, and the division-end of all principles and systems, come at hand-stroke."

How these gentlemen arrive at their conclusions—and they seldom agree with each other—it is impossible to say. Can it be that their vision is limited to the plain course, and are they blind to the aspect of the whole method as contained in a short touch, consisting of plains and bobs?

But, for the moment, taking the plain course to represent the whole method, we find that it can be partitioned off so as to give the regulation number of equal divisions from any row in the course. The mystery to me is how they pitch on any particular one of these cases as the "one and only" proper division.

It is very different when you come to look into a touch. There is only one point from which you can divide the method into equal sections, that point being the row on which the Bob is made, or liable to be made; that is, this particular row is bound to be the beginning—the head—of the little equal sections of which the method is exclusively built, and from no other point is it possible to partition your method in equal units from beginning to end. I ought to say here that the same fact holds good in the case of Double Methods and Stedman, these having two kinds of units running alternately, and in which corresponding units are equal to each other.

Now, since the Bob is made on the hand-stroke in most odd bell methods (short of some freak arrangement or such methods as Bob Triples, I think I may say all), it follows that the back-stroke must be the unit-end, the reverse holding good with even bell methods. We were told some time ago by Mr. Fright that the Bob may be made on any row in the lead; that a lead-head may have more than one possible lead-end, which means that equality in its units is not at all necessary. All I will say is that such notions as these are directly opposed to order, uniformity and fact.—Yours truly,

G. CLEAL.

29, St. Saviour's Road East, Leicester.

EXTENSIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Baker has neither proved himself right nor me wrong. He states a theory for determining correct extensions, but he does not prove it. His contention that a method produced by three interior places cannot be the same as one produced by two would upset a good many accepted extensions. It must be remembered that methods are bound to have different forms on odd and even numbers of positions (i.e., odd and even multiples of two), just as much as on odd and even numbers of bells.—Yours truly,

H. W. FRIGHT.

Artists' Rifles, O.T.C.,
Hare Hill Camp

"RING OUT THE OLD."

Nowhere in England was the traditional custom of ringing out the old and ringing in the new observed at midnight on Sunday. The Defence of the Realm regulations prevented it, and most of the London daily papers remarked the absence of the ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral. It would be interesting to know how many centuries have elapsed since the custom was so completely suspended throughout the country.

In France, near the fighting line, however, there appear to have been no restrictions, for Mr. Philip Gibbs, a well-known war correspondent, writing of the passing of the old year, says:—

"Behind the lines—so close that the noise of the guns shakes the windows of French villages and the light of the night rockets make the sky pale above them—bell ringers are going round the little old churches to ring the New Year in. In these little old churches the bells have been rung for many birthdays of the years and the centuries, when Edward the Black Prince came riding through them with Sir Walter Manny and Lord Chandos and other English knights, when Joan the Maid came in her armour with spirit voices calling through the wind, and when the guillotine was put up at midnight in the market square of Arras, and now the bells of France are clashing out again, and the wind mingles their notes with the booming of the guns, and another year of history opens with greater strife than in all the centuries before, and in these villages of France British soldiers stand on sentry duty saying, 'Halt, who goes there?' to any shadow who comes out of the darkness. It is the New Year that answers the challenge."

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

Mr. J. J. Parker writes with regard to the article from his pen on Stedman Triples, which appeared in our last issue: "Owing to the omission of a part of a sentence at one point, the kernel of the question is lost. In summing up the results from the five-part table, I meant to say: 'But in no case is it possible to get a single group or even a single course in Class II true with any four groups in Class I.'"

THE LATE CORPL. W. S. INWOOD.

Lce.-Corpl. W. S. Inwood, of Aldenham, Herts, Royal Fusiliers, killed in action on November 14th. He was a most promising ringer, having achieved peals in Surprise methods, and was a devoted member of the church choir and Bible class at his native parish.

PLEASANT GATHERING AT CONISBRO'.

PRESENTATION TO MR. S. HARRISON.

An interesting ceremony took place at Conisbro,' near Rotherham, on Boxing Day, the occasion being the presentation of a silver bell-shaped inkstand to Mr. S. Harrison, the late leader of the new band of ringers at Conisbro' Church.

The presentation was made by the Vicar (the Rev. W. A. Strawbridge, M.A.), who expressed regret at the departure of the recipient of the gift, but assuring him of the best wishes of the clergy, church-workers and bell ringers of Conisbro'. The peal of eight bells recently hung in the tower had, he said, been placed in the care of Mr. Harrison, who had spared no pains in getting together a band of young ringers, and, furthermore, under his tuition they had made splendid progress.

Mr. Harrison suitably responded, and said it would be always a great pleasure to him to come over to Conisbro' and help them whenever he could.

Mr. G. Hawksworth, of Doncaster, expressed much pleasure in being able to be present on the interesting occasion, and spoke of the genial disposition of Mr. Harrison, and of his ability as an instructor.

The ringers of the local company very kindly invited a few ringing friends from neighbouring towers, and during the afternoon some good touches were enjoyed.

O.D.G. MASTER HOME ON LEAVE.

The Caversham ringers had the extreme pleasure of welcoming home, on leave from France the other day, the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Master of the Oxford Guild, whose conspicuous bravery on the field recently gained recognition by the award of the Military Cross. On Sunday, December 16th, "welcome" touches were arranged at Caversham Church, the following being rung: 448 London Surprise: H. Simmonds 1, G. Essex 2, Second Air-Mechanic J. Thomas, R.F.C., 3, A. D. Cullum 4, E. J. Menday 5, Rev. C. W. O Jenkyn 6, H. Smith 7, R. T. Hibbert 8. 504 Stedman Triples: Air-Mechanic L. Griffiths, R.F.C., 1, J. Thomas 2, W. Hibbert 3, C. Giles 4, G. Essex 5, E. J. Menday 6, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (conductor) 7, A. D. Cullum 8. Also a course of Cambridge Surprise.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX. — On Nov. 5th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes): E. Bonfield 1, J. Waghorn 2, R. Bevan 3, A. E. Brightman 4, E. F. Cole 5, T. Beadle 6, C. Hunt 7, F. Smith (conductor) 8.

BEESTON, NOTTS.—On Sunday, Nov. 5th, 448 Superlative Surprise: L. Price 1, A. Coppock (conductor) 2, W. Clifford, senr., 3, F. S. Price 4, C. Dicken 5, W. Clifford, junr., 6, E. J. Boot 7, Pte P. Price 8.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING AT CARDIFF.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Association was held at Cardiff on Boxing Day, and, notwithstanding that train arrangements were curtailed, there was a good attendance, the Glamorganshire members especially mustering well, but several abstained from attending in order to carry out the suggestion made through the Press that the public should not travel more than was absolutely necessary so as to enable the trains to carry those serving King and country. Members began to muster soon after 10 a.m. at St. John's, and a party, including Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, was made up to go over to Whitchurch, three miles distant, to try the ring of six (tenor 14½ cwt.). A mishap on the road to the motor bus made the journey longer than was anticipated, but on arrival the first to be met was a band from Caerphilly, who, by the way, had called at Llanishen, where there is a light ring of six. After all had tried their hand, steps were made for Llandaff Cathedral, about a mile and a half away. There the bells were quickly raised, and those that had not heard the peal before expressed the opinion that they are a good lot. After touches of Grandsire Triples, the ringers returned to Cardiff, and, on the way across Llandaff fields, the bells of St. John's could be heard beautifully.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

A short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Henderson, was held at 3 p.m., which was followed by touches on the bells until half-past four, and this finished the ringing for the day. A move was then made to the Grand Hotel, where arrangements had been made to hold the business part of the proceedings. The chair was taken by the Rev. Canon Henderson, who was supported by the two churchwardens.

The Hon. Secretary read a post card, which he had received on the previous day from Mr. A. Peppin, a member of the Association, now a prisoner of war in Germany, acknowledging his grateful thanks to all those that had subscribed at the Pentre meeting towards sending him a parcel.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, Mr. J. Prickett, of Chepstow, being unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year; the two hon. secretaries (Rev. Connop L. Price and Mr. J. W. Jones) were re-elected, and Mr. F. Chamberlain and Mr. S. Dawe were elected auditors.

All Saints', Newport, was selected as the place for the next annual meeting, Llanfrechfa for the next Monmouthshire quarterly meeting, and Whitchurch for the next Glamorganshire meeting.

New members were elected from Caerphilly, and also the whole of the ringers at Llangonoyd Church, thus adding one more tower to the Association's list.

The Hon. Secretary announced that one of the members, Mr. Dan Morgan, of Rumney, had been killed in action, and a vote of condolence was passed by all standing in silence. It is with regret also that news has now been received of the death of Mr. F. G. Lewis, one of the Llanfrechfa ringers, who has been killed in action.

At the close of the meeting, the Vicar welcomed the Association to Cardiff. He dwelt at some length on the history of bells, both English and foreign, but nowhere had he heard bells rung as in England. He would, he said, be always delighted to do what he could for ringers, and as regards the bells, if what he had been reading lately, that bells were introduced to drive away evil spirits, was true, he hoped Cardiff bells would ring, and not stop again until all the "devils" were driven out of Cardiff. He mentioned that in the past there appeared to have been a gap between the ringers and the church officers, but he was glad to think this had been removed, and he would be only too pleased to do what he could, if his ringers would only ask for it. He added that he considered the ringing of the bells on special occasions should be recorded.

The Hon. Secretary brought to the Vicar's notice the fact that not a single peal board hung in St. John's tower, not even to record the first peal on the bells, and the reason for it was that a former Vicar objected to any peal records being fixed to the walls.—After a word with the wardens, the Vicar announced that there existed no objection now. The St. John's company will, no doubt, bear this in mind, and do their utmost when peace is declared to score a peal, and have it recorded as suggested.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and to the churchwardens for attending brought the meeting to a close.

ASSOCIATION ENTERTAINED.

At the invitation of Mr. W. Hammett, one of the churchwardens, the whole of the members adjourned to an adjoining room, where an excellent repast was waiting, the company being graced with the presence of several ladies. At the conclusion of the meal, a musical evening was spent, presided over by Mr. W. Belton. The toast of "the King" having been honoured, glees, solos and handbell ringing followed.—The Chairman, on behalf of the St. John's company, welcomed and appreciated the Association for visiting St. John's for the annual meeting. What the members had partaken of that evening, together with the whole of the refreshments which would be required before

dispersing, would be kindly provided by Mr. W. Hammett. This announcement was received with loud applause.

The toast of "the donor" was then submitted by the Chairman, and received with musical honours.—Replying, Mr. Hammett said what he had done had been a very great pleasure to him, but they really had to thank his son, who had expressed a desire to participate jointly in the expense. (Mr. Hammett's son, by the way, is one of the St. John's ringers, but at present holds a commission in the army, and is now serving in France.) He (Mr. Hammett) hoped all had enjoyed themselves, and at any future time he would be only too pleased to do what he could for St. John's ringers. — His co-warden, Mr. James, having spoken in terms of welcome, the musical part of the programme resumed, and the day's proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

The Association is very much indebted to the St. John's company for making such a success of the gathering, but more especially is it indebted to Mr. H. Bolton for his untiring personal efforts in bringing about the very best annual meeting yet held in the history of the Association.

The bells of St. John's were made good use of during the day, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent and Forward Major being rung.

A CHRISTMAS REVIVAL AT BECCLES.

After several months of silence (owing principally to the war, and the various restrictions at present in force), Christmas ringing at Beccles, Suffolk, came as a very welcome revival, and a number of touches were accomplished in excellent style by the St. Michael's company, members of the Norwich Diocesan Association. On Sunday, Dec. 24th, several touches of Grandsire Caters were rung for divine service in the morning, and also during the afternoon, and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was brought round in capital style, in 57 mins.: R. J. Goate 1, Pte E. Pipe 2, G. Baxter 3, J. Spaulding 4, C. Parnell 5, E. Etteridge 6, H. Ling (conductor) 7, R. Freestone 8.—On Christmas Day, for 7 a.m. Holy Communion, touches of Grandsire Caters; for 11 a.m. service, 504 Grandsire Triples; and for evening prayer and carols, at 4 p.m., touches of Grandsire Caters. —On Bank Holiday, several touches of Grandsire Caters and Grandsire Triples were rung during the morning. The following are the members who took part: R. J. Goate (captain), H. Ling (conductor), H. Reynolds, R. Freestone, R. Rush, E. Etteridge, J. Spaulding, C. Parnell, S. Clarke, G. Baxter, T. Holmes and Pte E. Pipe, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, one of the company, who the members were extremely pleased to welcome home on a well-earned ten days' Christmas leave, after several months' fighting in the Somme battles.

RINGERS ENTERTAIN WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

A party of handbell ringers from Horsham gave selections on handbells to wounded soldiers and friends at Llandaff Military Hospital, Weybridge, on Christmas evening. The following programme was much appreciated by all present: Waltz, "Believe me, those endearing charms"; song (with handbell accompaniment), "Dear old mother"; waltz, "Cinderella"; air, "The rakes of Mallow"; "A course of Grandsire Triples"; waltz, "Merry bells." At the end of the programme the matron voiced the appreciation of those present, and presented a suitably inscribed book to the ringers as a small token of thanks. She also said how good it was of the party to come over without remuneration. The ringers were: Mrs. W. Shepherd, Messrs. F., F. J. and W. Shepherd, and Mr. J. Emery.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

MALDON, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, Nov. 5th, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: E. Mansfield 1, J. H. Waldock 2, Sergt.-Major H. Finch 3, H. J. Mansfield 4, A. South (conductor) 5, F. Chalk 6. Arranged for Sergt.-Major H. Finch, who was home on leave from "somewhere" in France.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Nov. 5th, for morning service, 560 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. Suart 5, T. R. Jackson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8; and for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. R. Jackson (conductor) 5, W. S. Forshaw 6, J. Burrows 7 (covering).

GLOUCESTER.—On Lord Mayor's Day, Nov. 9th, at St. Michael's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Edward Pugh 1, Francis E. Hart 2, Thomas Newman 3, John Austin 4, Jesse Gillett 5, Ernest E. Davis 6, George Condick (conductor) 7, George Brunsdon 8.

SOLIHULL.—On Saturday, Nov. 11th, on handbells, 180 Doubles, being 120 Grandsire and 60 Stedman: E. C. Shepherd (conductor) 1—2, G. A. Martineau 3—4, V. Rigg 5—6. Also 36 Bob Minor. Longest length on handbells by ringers of 1—2 and 5—6.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, Nov. 12th, 1056 Kent Treble Bob Major: I. Titterton 1, A. Keeble 2, E. S. Bailey 3, H. J. Button 4, J. M. Bailey 5, G. Wilson (conductor) 6, C. Sampson 7, J. G. Rumsey 8.

NOTICES.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, January 6th, 1917. Bells available from 2.30 to 5.30.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION—Bristol Branch,—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6th, at St. George's, Bristol. Bells, 2 till 4.30; service to follow; tea, 5 o'clock. Members are urged to attend if possible. Kindly notify by Jan. 2nd to C. J. Walton, 4, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meetings for practice will be held at Bromley (SS. Peter and Paul's) on Saturday, Jan. 6th, St. John's, Deptford, S.E., on Saturday, Jan. 13th, Bromley (St. Luke's) on Saturday, Jan. 20th, and Beckenham, Saturday, Jan. 27th. All 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friends and visitors will be cordially welcomed.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of the above society will be held at Burley (Leeds) to-morrow, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Business meeting to follow the ceasing of the bells.—William Barton, Hon. Sec., 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Established 1755.—Annual Business meeting will be held at Tamworth Arms Hotel, Moor Street, City, on Tuesday, January 9th, 1917, at 7.30 p.m. All subscriptions are due at this meeting, and the special attention of members whose subscriptions are in arrears is directed to Rule 5. The balance sheet and statement of accounts for year ending Nov. 30th last will be presented. —A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting of the Kettering District will be held at Burton Latimer on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready 2 p.m.; short service 4.15; tea 5 o'clock. Kindly notify me by Wednesday, Jan. 10th.—Robt. F. Turner, Dist. Sec., 160, St. Peter's Avenue, Kettering.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—The quarterly meeting of the District will be held at Fareham on Saturday, January 13th. Bells available 3 to 5. Tea at Miss Foster's, West Street, at 5 30; business meeting after. Will members kindly let me know by Tuesday, 9th, how many will require tea, which will be provided free; visitors 1/-.—E. J. Harding, District Secretary, 76, Carnarvon Road, Portsmouth.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Pendleton (St. Thomas's) on Saturday, January 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m. till dusk; meeting to follow.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society.—Established 1824).—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Camberwell, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Tower open from 2.30 to 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow at the "Stirling Castle," Church St., at 6.30 p.m. Social evening with music to follow. Ringers and friends welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION—Maidstone District.—A quarterly meeting of the Maidstone District will take place at Bearstead on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 1917. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock. A short service at 5 o'clock. Tea provided at 6 p.m. Business meeting after. —S. Hazelden, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Balderstone Parish Church, on Saturday Jan. 13th. Bells ready at 2 o'clock till dusk, meeting to follow.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 132, Morton St., Middleton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Meetings for practice during the first three months of 1917 will be held as follows:—Jan. 13th, Cranleigh; Jan. 27th, Shalford; Feb. 10th, Cranleigh; Feb. 24th, Worplesdon; March 10th, Shere; March 24th, Clandon; all at 3 p.m. Visitors heartily welcome.—J. J. Jones, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTS. ASSOCIATION —Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Old Hill on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service in the Church at 4.45. Tea will be provided, to be followed by the meeting in the schools after the service. Bells available for ringing from 3 p.m. until service time. Will all those intending to be at the service and tea kindly let me know on or before Wednesday, Jan. 17th?—E. J. Dowler, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on January 16th and 30th; and for handbell practice on the 11th and 25th. All at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members, who seldom attend the meetings, to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The Hon. Gen. Sec., Mr. Clement Glenn, having joined the R.N.V.R., all official communications should, for the present, be sent to the President or Hon. Treasurer.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles, having joined H.M. Forces, all communications should be sent to Mr. W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street. Harrow, until further notice. Will members and others please note?

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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