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 LENGTH OF A PEAL.

In introducing a peal of Stedman Caters of ringable length on the plan of Henry Johnson's famous composition of 26,016, Mr. George Clayton calls attention to what he terms the "inequity of the Central Council's ruling" on the length of peals, and argues that in fixing a minimum of 5,000 changes for peals on eight or more bells, the Council have acted on an "inequitable principle." We doubt if Mr. Clayton will find many ringers in agreement with him, or prepared to advocate that we should "accept the nearest product of the length and number of courses divisible by 2, 3, 4, or 5," when that product is less than 5,000. In the first place, the limit for a peal was not an innovation by the Central Council; they merely affirmed in 1892 the minimum which has been accepted by ringers from the earliest days of peal ringing—certainly for two hundred years.

The origin of this number as a peal length is fairly easy to guess at, for it is the nearest round number to the extent of Triples. The minimum length on the higher numbers of bells, while it may be arbitrary and have nothing to do with mathematics, is therefore established by long practice; and we have no doubt that had the Council endeavoured to set up any other standard than that which had received the approval of time, they would quickly have had the Exercise in arms. Moreover, there are not many obvious advantages in changing the limit. That a peal of Stedman Caters, for instance, should be cut down to 4,860 changes in order to enable it to be made up in five equal parts, does not seem to be sufficiently important to change a practice which has the approval of centuries. It is for modern composers to accommodate themselves to old-established principles, and not for the principles to conform to the requirements of later-day composers.

If we read Mr. Clayton aright, we fancy his second suggestion has a good deal of bearing on his first. The gist of the second proposal is that the starting-point of a touch or peal should be permissible at any row, and not necessarily at rounds. The deviation from all preconceived notions of change ringing is compulsory, if Mr. Clayton's proposals, at any rate in Caters and Cinques, are to be of any value. He argues that the "incomparably beautiful cadence" of the tittums position could be maintained from start to finish of the peal if this were permitted. But can we not get it already from the first to very nearly the last change? The importance of the alteration to Mr. Clayton's argument is that to start and end in the tittums position is necessary, if he is to get his peal of 4,860 changes in five equal parts, and maintain the musical qualities from the beginning to the end as he advocates. We think Mr.

(Continued on Page 18.)

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

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

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines

Best Workmanship and Satisfaction Guaranteed

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON BRACKETS.

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

BELLHANGERS sent to Inspect and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUES.

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

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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.

(Continued from page 17.)

Clayton will have to adduce stronger arguments than he has yet put forward, if he desires the Exercise to change the recognised and old-established length of a peal on the higher number of bells, or the principle of starting all touches and peals from rounds, which is the natural sequence of the bells in their musical notation, and, to the ordinary ringer, the only acceptable starting-point. Others may differ from us in these views, and our columns are open to their expressions of opinion.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 13, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALFRED A. WAITE	...*Treble*	JOSEPH A. WAITE	5
JESSE GILLETT	2	THOMAS NEWMAN	6
JOHN AUSTIN	3	GEORGE CONDICK	7
HENRY MITCHELL	4	FRANK A. WAITE	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

First peal on the bells since being augmented to eight. Rung as a birthday compliment to the Rev. F. H. Fowler (Vicar); also to Mrs. F. E. Hart. Mr. Alfred A. Waite and Mr. Henry Mitchell have been connected with the above tower close on 50 years. Mr. Mitchell is now in his 82nd year.

IPSWICH.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
AND THE ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.

On Saturday, January 13, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

ROBERT H. HAYWARD	...*Treble*	HENRY C. GILLINGHAM	5
WILLIAM MOTTS	2	EDWARD EVANS	6
EDGAR PEMBERTON	3	JAMES MOTTS	7
WILLIAM J. NEVARD	4	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE	...*Tenor*

Composed by T. THURSTAN, and
Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Alfred W. Grimes. The deceased was a member of the Norwich Association and of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich.

HANDBELL PEAL.

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

On Saturday, January 6, 1917, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. A. WALKER,
81, BAKER STREET, SPARKHILL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 Size, in B flat.

THOMAS RUSSAM	1—2	JAMES E. GROVES	7—8
GEORGE F. SWANN	3—4	*WILLIAM SHORT	9—10
ALBERT WALKER	5—6	JAMES GEORGE	11—12

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and
Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.
Referee: MR. WILLIAM KENT.

* First peal of Cinques on handbells.

LEYTONSTONE BAND'S PEFORMANCE IN 1916.

The following 720's have been rung by the Leytonstone company during 1916, with the assistance of visitors: Surprise Methods—Cambridge 6, Lincoln 5, York 5, London 3, Wells 2, Durham 2, Canterbury 2, Beverley 2, Newcastle 2, Ipswich 2, Chelsea 1, Chichester 1, Worcester 1, Carlisle 1, Norwich 1, Northumberland 1, Chester 1; and, in addition, Oxford Treble Bob 5, Kent Treble Bob 2, Plain Bob 1. The ringers were: W. Theobald 46, W. Miller 43, H. Torble 35, A. Prior 29, J. Moule 26, W. Riches 24, G. Dawson 16, G. Hayden 15, E. Smith 11, W. Doran 9, R. Sanders 8, A. Fiddis 4, G. T. Clayton 2, W. Allcock 2, F. C. Newman 2, G. A. Black 1, E. Andrews 1, A. Hardy 1, A. E. Lebbon 1. The conducting was shared by W. Miller 25, H. Torble 8, J. Moule 6, W. Theobald 2, G. Dawson 2, A. Prior 1, R. Sanders 1, A. Hardy 1.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL PRESIDENCY.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held in the Guild's Room at the Tamworth Arms Hotel, Birmingham, on the evening of Tuesday, January 9th last, and bearing in mind the fact that many members are busy making "something for the Germans"—that "something" being in very great demand at the present moment—was fairly well attended.

Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., took the chair, and was re-elected as Presiding Ringing Master for the ensuing year, all the other officers being also re-elected.

Messrs. J. H. Shepherd and Wm. Kent were unanimously elected vice-presidents, and all felt that the honours had been well deserved. Mr. Shepherd has involved the Guild in a deep debt of gratitude for his munificence on various occasions, which he does not care to be talked of, and Mr. Kent has given many years of good, solid service to the Guild. He has recently resumed "active service" after a period of slackness for which he has been duly censured.

The balance sheet for 1916 which was duly adopted, showed an increase in funds of nearly £3 over the previous year, which must be considered highly satisfactory. Among the items appearing in the financial statement were two that called for comment—donations of £9 and £9 10s. from "Anonymous" and Mr. John Carter respectively, who were thanked heartily for their generosity. These sums were given to defray the cost of framework for peal tablets in St. Martin's belfry, and of the tablet recording the muffled peal of Stedman Cinques rung to the memory of the late Charles Hy. Hattersley, of Sheffield. By-the-by, the photo of the last-named gentleman, promised for St. Martin's belfry, is not yet to hand. (What's that you say, Sam Thomas? Don't be in a hurry? All right, but don't forget it!)

It was decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 24th next, so will all intending visitors please note?

Edgbaston was chosen as the place for the next quarterly meeting, of course with the Vicar's consent for the use of his bells.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Paddon Smith) read an extract from a letter he had received from Mr. J. H. Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, expressing the hope that Alderman Pritchett would in due course become President of the Central Council.—The Secretary said how proud every member of the Guild would be to see him in that position, and pointed out that the "Ringing World" had evidently gauged correctly the opinion of a large number of ringers, when it singled out Mr. Pritchett as the most likely and perhaps most suitable successor to the late President.—The vote was seconded by Mr. Walker, and carried with acclamation.

In reply, the Alderman said he was deeply touched by the remarks that had been made in that room. He had certainly noticed the references to himself that had appeared in the "Ringing World," and he had received letters on the subject from ringers in all parts of the country. He was proud to think he had earned the confidence of so many brother ringers, and in certain circumstances he might, perhaps, be able to give the suggestion consideration. That would not be, however, until after the war, as he was far too busy to entertain the idea of anything extra at present. He thought it would probably not be wise to fill the position or make any arrangements during the war. It was very flattering even to have been mentioned as a probable successor to the late Sir Arthur Heywood, and a distinct honour in itself, but Sir Arthur had set such high standards that it would be difficult for any man to follow him.

Formal votes of thanks to the other officers brought the meeting to a close. A. P. S.

MILITARY RINGERS AT BLACKPOOL.

On Sunday, December 24th, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Blackpool, for morning service, 504 Stedman Triples: Lance-Cpl. E. J. Mallard 1, Spr. S. J. White 2, Pte T. H. Reeves 3, Pte E. W. Marshall 4, Corpl. J. Lloyd 5, Lance-Corpl. F. Butler 6, Pte M. Hibbert (conductor) 7, T. Bolton 8.—On December 30th, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 720 Bob Minor, in 24 mins.: Sapper S. G. White (conductor) 1, Pte T. H. Reeves 2, Corpl. J. Lloyd 3, Pte E. W. Marshall 4, Lance-Corpl. F. Butler 5, Pte J. A. Trollope 6.—On Sunday, January 6th, at the Church of St. John, for afternoon service, 504 Stedman Triples, in 19 mins.: Lance-Corpl. J. Mallard 1, Corpl. J. Lloyd 2, Sapper S. G. White 3, Pte E. W. Marshall 4, Pte J. A. Trollope 5, Pte. T. H. Reeves 6, Pte M. F. R. Hibbert (conductor) 7, Pte Poole 8. The majority of the band were leaving for Chelmsford, Essex, and wish, through the medium of "The Ringing World," to give their best thanks to Messrs. Crookhall, Smith, Maries, and others, for their cordial welcome and hospitality, the local ringers being anxious to do all in their power to make their stay in Blackpool, from a ringing point, highly successful.

The captain of the Parish Church of St. John (Mr. F. Crookhall) extends a hearty welcome to all service ringers stationed in or near Blackpool, and arrangements for ringing can be made by calling on him at his residence, 18, Bank Hay Street, opposite the Palace Theatre.

5400 STEDMAN CATERS.

By GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

4	5	6	15	16	123456789
—					326451978
—	—				215436
—	—			—	165324
—	—				642315
—	—		—		234516

Repeat four times, substituting a single for the bob at 15 in the last part and repeat the whole.

Additional bobs at 1 in courses 1, 49 and 50.

There are a few other peals of Stedman Caters without a fixed bell in 2nd's place, but so far as I know this is the only one on the plan of Henry Johnson's great peal of 26,016 changes. That peal is so highly commended by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies and Sir Arthur Heywood, vide 'Stedman,' page 92, and, if I may be permitted to add my mite of praise, deservedly so, that I was induced to compose a peal of a ringable length. The peal is necessarily a good bit over the conventional 5,000 changes, but notwithstanding this, it may find favour with the admirers of a man who in his day and generation adorned the Exercise in many ways.

In connection with peal lengths, however, I should like, if I may be allowed to do so, to call attention to the inequity of the Central Council's ruling. On railways, when halfpence are not accounted for, the fraction is taken when it is ½d. or more, and dropped when it is less. This is equitable, but the Central Council go on the inequitable principle of taking every advantage, and giving none. The extent of the changes on seven bells is undoubtedly the natural peal unit, and I submit that the rule for Major and upwards should be to accept the nearest product of the length and number of courses divisible by 2, 3, 4 or 5. This would make a five-part peal of Stedman Caters, without starting and turning courses, 4,860 changes, which is surely enough for a ten-bell peal. Examples might be multiplied, but the principle advocated is perfectly obvious, and the net result of its adoption would probably be insignificant, for, cutting both ways, the ruling authority would gain in some cases; whereas the present rule so heavily penalises peals in certain parts that such peals are either not composed at all, or they are composed in a form in which they can only be said to be divided into parts by a campanological fiction.

There is another rule which, I venture to think, could be amended with advantage. For a considerable time I have been of opinion that the definition of the words "touch" and "peal" ought to be a round block of so many changes. Theoretically the row called "rounds" is of no more value than any other row, and there is no scientific reason why it should not occur anywhere, or, in non-extent peals and touches, nowhere. Many peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques are lost owing to the turning course, and if not lost the ringing is often more or less rough after the heavy bells have been moved into unaccustomed, and, I may add, musically inferior positions. It seems to me unreasonable that the Central Council, in order to maintain an unscientific and invidious distinction, should put a stumblingblock in the way of ten and twelve bell ringers. What untoward consequences, may I ask, would follow if touches and peals of Stedman Cinques went off from the row ending 78E90? Were this allowable, Annable's incomparably beautiful cadence would be the termination of every course. It ought not to be necessary to observe that, theoretically speaking, in no form of Stedman does it signify in the least whether you go off from, or with, the particular row selected, whatever that row may be. But musical cadences most properly come at the end, and, with only two exceptions that I can think of, ringers have had the good taste to recognise this.

These are eminently practical questions over the head of no ringer, and on this occasion, perhaps, some of the silent men will favour the Exercise with their views.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

On Saturday last, a very successful meeting of the Manchester Branch was held at St. Thomas' Church, Pendleton, when members and friends attended from Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Didsbury, Eccles, Manchester, Prestwich, Stockport, etc.—Mr. Harry Chapman gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, wishing them all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Frank Stoneley (Miles Platting), Miss Ada Wolstencroft (Ashton-under-Lyne) and Mr. George Marshall (Stockport), non-resident, were elected members of the Association, and St. John's, Deansgate, was chosen for the next meeting, on Feb. 10th.

A resolution was passed, calling upon the president and general secretary to suspend the half-yearly meeting this year, owing to the increased cost of travelling, and to curtail the Association's expenses incurred thereby.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the authorities for the use of the bells, and to the local ringers for having everything ready. The methods rung during the afternoon were: Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and Superlative Surprise Major.

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.

ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY CHIMING APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—There would be little danger from accidents caused by chiming apparatus being being left in gear if the plan which I described about a year ago, when an accident happened through the same cause at Exeter Cathedral, were adopted. It is simply to have the manual enclosed in a lock-up case, and a single roller with ratchet-wheel and pawl for putting the apparatus in gear; with a block fixed on the inside of the door of the case in such a position that it is impossible to shut the door when the pawl is down in the ratchet-wheel. A printed notice should also be displayed, stating that the apparatus must be thrown out of gear, and the door closed immediately after chiming. It is better, if possible, to have the manual placed in the ringing chamber, when the bells are rung from the floor above.—Yours, etc.,

J. R. JERRAM.

Salisbury.

DAMAGE AT FULMER.

Sir,—The Rev. C. E. Matthew's letter goes to show how truly necessary it is that a notice of some kind should be posted up in every belfry where a chiming apparatus is in use, especially now there are so few ringers available. Our little ring of six (tenor 7¾ cwt.) at Fulmer Parish Church (about four miles from Slough) were rehung, and a chiming apparatus installed in 1884. Between then and now, with the exception of the second, all the bells have had pieces chipped off them, through carelessness, by the chiming apparatus being left in gear, as it is fixed in the loft above, and the bells are rung from the church floor. The third and tenor are new bells, and have suffered more severely than the others. As recently as this last summer, a big piece was chipped out of the tenor by the clerk putting the apparatus in gear to chime, and finding the bells set up, went downstairs to lower them without again first putting it out of gear.—Yours truly,

G. H. GUTTERIDGE.

LOSS OF TWO ESSEX RINGERS.

News has come to hand that two members of the Essex Association (South Western Division) have died from wounds received in action in France, viz., Mr. P. Leate and Mr. T. E. D. Loosemore.

The former, who enlisted in the R.F.A., was a well-known member of the Loughton band, and was held in great respect by all who knew him, and the deepest sympathy is extended to the young widow he has left to mourn his loss.

Mr. Loosemore, who was for many years a member of the St. Edward's Guild, Romford, joined up under the group system, and was called to the colours in July, and drafted to the Middlesex Regiment. He went to France in October, and died from wounds received in action in November last. He was for one year the secretary of the South Western Division of the Essex Association, and was held in great esteem by all who knew him. He leaves a widow, to whom the deepest sympathy goes forth in her loss of a gallant husband.

Mr. Loosemore had rung in all twelve peals, made up of Bristol Surprise 1, Superlative Surprise 2, Bob Major 1, Stedman Triples 4, Grandsire Triples 4; one each of the two latter having been on handbells.

KING'S CLIFFE TENOR FUND.

A sum of only £17 remains to be raised to recast the tenor bell at King's Cliffe, and the church authorities there hope to be able to get the work done by Easter. That being the case, it behoves the Exercise to put their shoulder to the wheel, and find the balance of the money that is necessary. The latest contribution to the fund comes from India, the sum of 2s. 6d. having been received from Pte H. J. Dewey, R.A.M.C., Calaba War Hospital, Bombay. Donations should be sent to the Rev. H. A. Orlebar, King's Cliffe Rectory, Peterborough.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Fareham, on Saturday, by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. G. E. Tarbat). The bells of the Parish Church were available, and ringers turned up from Portsea, Wickham, Gosport, Curdridge, Swanmore, North Stoneham, Ryde, Newport, and Ventnor, and visitors from Worcester and Somerset, as well as some of the local band. During the afternoon touches of Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. Afterwards the members partook of tea, and the business meeting followed, presided over by Mr. G. Williams, hon. general secretary of the Guild. The district secretary (Mr. E. J. Harding) presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance of nearly £10.

The officers elected were: Rev. C. E. Matthews, Vicar of Titchfield, president; E. J. Harding, secretary; W. Sinter and F. Burnett, representatives; J. Harris, auditor.

It was decided to have the next meeting some time in April, the date to be fixed by the secretary, at St. Thomas', Portsmouth.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar of Fareham for the use of the bells, and to the officers of the district, concluded the business.

THE DEATH OF MR. A. W. GRIMES.

COLLEGE YOUTHS' TRIBUTE.

On Saturday, at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang the whole pull and stand funeral peal to the memory of Mr. Alfred W. Grimes, who was a most highly respected member, and the Senior Steward of the Society. Those taking part were: Edwin Horrex 1, Edwin Gibbs 2, Alfred Jones 3, C. H. Horton 4, Henry Springall 5, W. E. Garrar 6, H. Langdon 7, C. F. Winney (conductor) 8, Albert A. Hughes 9, Reuben Sanders 10, Samuel E. Joyce 11, W. T. Cockerill 12. This was followed by three courses of Stedman Cinques: S. E. Joyce 5, A. A. Hughes 7, H. Langdon 9, W. T. Cockerill 11, A. S. Pettett 12, the others standing as before.

One peal, and a notable one in its way, was omitted from Mr. Grimes' list published in the last issue. This was a peal of Bob Maximus by the Kent Association at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, to which the late Mr Grimes rang the tenor. The peal was interesting from the fact that it was the first peal of Bob Maximus rung on tower bells in London for more than a hundred years. Among the associations of which Mr. Grimes was a member in addition to those mentioned, was the Winchester Guild. The last tower bell ringing in which he took part was, we are informed, a course of London, at Barking, at the end of May.

The widow and family of the late Mr. Alfred W. Grimes, and his parents, wish to thank the many friends for the sympathy exhibited to them in their bereavement, and for the kindness shown to the late Mr. Grimes during his long illness.

A half-muffled peal of Stedman Triples was rung to the memory of the deceased at St. Margaret's, Ipswich, by members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, on Saturday. Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, being in the band. Mr. Nevard had rung 19 peals with the late Mr. Grimes, two of them at Debenham, and the rest in 17 other different towers in Suffolk, London, Cornwall, Devon, and Surrey.

A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The sad news of the death of my dear friend, Alfred W. Grimes, came as a great blow to me, and I am sorry to be too far away from London to pay my respects to him in the usual ringer's fashion. What you say about his last peal is quite true, but the coincidence is even more remarkable. The last peal in which he rang was my first of Stedman Caters, on handbells, and he sat on my immediate right, whilst the last peal in which the late Mr. E. Pye rang was my first of Stedman Triples, on handbells, and Mr. Pye also sat on my immediate right. Thus the finish of their ringing careers seems to me to be bound up with my own in a way that I shall never forget. We shall all miss our late friend, and our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and family in their bereavement.—Yours faithfully, C. T. COLES (Sapper).

No. 2 Hut, B Company, R.T.D., R.E., Longmoor Camp, Hants.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Romney Marsh and District Guild was held at Appledore on Saturday week, and, taking all things into consideration, the attendance was quite satisfactory. Grandsire Doubles and Triples were rung throughout the afternoon, and a service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar and President of the Guild (Rev. A. O. Scutt), at which all the absent members on active service were specially remembered. Tea was partaken of at the Red Lion, Host Noakes, as usual, providing a bountiful spread, and the Vicar presiding.

At the general business meeting following, the Secretary presented his annual report, in which it was stated that although the times had been adverse to ringing, they had been able to get in their twelve monthly meetings for the year, most of which had been very well attended. There were 40 active members, as against 35 in 1915, and two hon. members, and the balance in hand was £4 8s. 9d., as against £3 3s. 5½d. at the end of 1915. The President (Rev. A. O. Scutt), the Master (Mr. G. Youngs), and the Secretary (Mr. H. Balcombe), were unanimously re-elected, and all received a hearty vote of thanks for their past services. The names of Mr. C. Everett (Ashford), Mr. R. Barman (Woodchurch), and Mr. R. Curd (Rye), were aded to the committee, and the next meeting arranged to be held at Stone on Saturday, Feb. 17th.

The Secretary read a letter which he had received from Gunner A. H. Pulling from "somewhere in France," who sent hearty greetings to all the members, and said he often lived over again the happy times he had spent with them during his stay in their neighbourhood, and he was looking forward to renewing their acquaintance after the war.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Mr. G. Johnson who was ill, and unable to attend, it being the first annual meeting he had missed since the Guild's formation.—Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for his permission to hold the meeting for the service, and for presiding at the tea and meeting; to Miss Avery, the organist, for playing for the service, and to the host and hostess for the bountiful tea. The towers represented were: Ashford, Rye, Woodchurch, Stone and Tenterden, and the local tower, Ashford, came out strong, with six representatives.

EARLSHEATON BELLS RESTORED.

PLEASANT YORKSHIRE GATHERING.

On Saturday, January 6th, at the invitation of Mr. Walter Idle, of the local band, there was a gathering of ringers at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton, to try the bells of the church, which had recently undergone a thorough renovation at the hands of Messrs. J. Taylor and Son, of Loughborough. The bells were cast by Mears, in 1853, being a peal of eight, with a 14 cwt. tenor, and were a nice musical peal. Some twelve months ago the "go" of the bells became very heavy, and as the Earlsheaton ringers are famous strikers and ringers, invariably occupying a prominent position at the local contests, Messrs. Taylor were called in to set matters right. The result was that a new iron frame was put in, with all new fittings, wheels, headstocks, etc., the bells being returned on Canon Simpson's principle, the result being a great credit to the famous Loughborough foundry. The following gentlemen accepted the invitation to attend: Messrs. G. B. Bolland (Tong), F. Salmone and J. Cotterell (Halifax), F. W. Dixon (Guiseley), H. Oddy (Thornhill), J. Broadley and T. B. Kendall (Shipley), P. J. Johnson (Holbeck), and last, but not least, Mr. Harry Withers, of Birmingham. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and consisted of various touches of Kent Treble Bob and Stedman Triples, the conducting being shared by Messrs. Johnson, Withers, Dixon, and Cotterell. The tone and go of the bells were greatly admired, the tuning in particular coming in for great praise, as the 14 cwt. tenor sounds as if it were a much larger bell.

Tea was provided at the Co-operative Restaurant, Dewsbury, by Mr. Idle, the party there being joined by the members of the local branch, some 25 ringers sitting down to a really splendid tea. An adjournment was then made to the headquarters at Earlsheaton, the evening being spent in handbell ringing in various methods, while Mr. Withers, with his dulcimer, completely mystified and delighted his hearers by the ease with which he produced musical selections and changes, ranging from Stedman Triples to Grandsire Caters, Double Norwich and London Surprise Major, the last named being a truly marvellous performance.

Mr. G. B. Bolland, during an interval, announced to the company that it was the birthday of Mr. Idle, and also of Mr. John Garforth, the veteran of the Earlsheaton band. Their health was drunk, and wishes expressed by Messrs. Cotterell, Broadley and Johnson, that they may be spared many years with good health, to ring on the bells that they had been so long and honourably connected with.

Opportunity was also taken to thank Mr. Idle for his great kindness in entertaining the party, and also Mr. Withers for his fine performances during the evening. Train time brought proceedings to a close all too soon, leaving one wishing that it might fall to their lot soon to meet again under such happy and congenial surroundings in the future. P. J. J.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL BRANCH MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch was held at St. George's, on Saturday week. The bells (6) were set going soon after two o'clock to various methods until 4 30, when a short service was held in the church. The Rev. G. H. Willmott Ellwell officiated, and, in his interesting address, he referred to the loss to the Association of the Rev. H. A. Cockey. Some 23 members and friends afterwards sat down to tea in the Schoolroom.

Before commencing the business meeting, the chairman of the branch (Mr. H. T. Howell) extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, Mr. A. W. Brighton (of London) and Mr. J. W. Jones (of Newport, Mon.), the latter being a most frequent visitor.

The chair was then taken by the Rev. Willmott Ellwell.—Mr. Howell said they no doubt greatly regretted to learn of the Rev. H. A. Cockey's death, and spoke very highly of his services to the Association, and particularly of the active part he took as hon. treasurer. He proposed that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs. Cockey by the hon. secretary, and the members signified their approval by standing in silence.

The balance sheet, presented by the Hon. Secretary, and adopted, showed the branch to be in a good financial position, with a balance in hand of £5 12s. 6d.

The Chairman of the Branch, in his report, said the past year had been very successful, and he asked the members to continue the good feeling and real pleasure shown at the meetings. He also urged that a still more keen interest be taken in the Association, and its objects by all members. Mr. Howell then asked to be allowed to resign the chairmanship, considering it would be better to have new blood for the new year.—With the unanimous wish of the members, however, it was decided to elect Mr. Howell again as chairman for the year; it being stated that when a good man occupied the position it was better to keep him there.—The chair was then taken by Mr. Howell for the remainder of the meeting.

A letter was read from the hon. secretary, Mr. Arthur W. Seviour, at present with the army, tendering his resignation. Mention was made of the services to the Association of Mr. Sevfour and to his great interest in the ringing, and with the unanimous assent of the members it was decided that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Seviour for his efforts during his term of office.

The present hon. assistant secretary, Mr. Charles J. Walton, was then elected hon. secretary for the year, and Mr. C. Gordon was re-elected as representative on the Management Committee.

Mr. G. Condick again brought forward the suggestion to have four fixed quarterly meetings, one in each district, to be decided at the annual meetings, and after discussion it was finally agreed to have the four quarterly meetings for this year, as under: No. 1 District, Henbury, 10th February; No. 2 District, Bitton, 12th May; No. 3 District, Westerleigh, 18th August; No. 4 District, Almondsbury, 17th Nov.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for so kindly receiving the Association again at St. George's, and for taking the chair at the meeting, and also to the lady organist and the organ blower.—The Rev. Willmott Ellwell, in responding, expressed his pleasure at seeing the Association gather at St. George's again, and hoped to have them at another time.—A vote of thanks was also passed to the ladies for arranging and attending the tea.

Several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Cinques on the handbells furnished an appropriate end to a successful meeting.

DEATH OF THE REV. J. H. PILKINGTON.

RINGER AND FREEMASON.

The Exercise has lost another of its clerical members by the death of the Rev. James Holme Pilkington, who for thirty years was Rector of Framlingham, Suffolk. The deceased gentleman had not in recent years been actively identified with ringing, but his interest in the art never flagged. He was a member of the Norwich Diocesan Association, for which he had rung 26 peals, and was always a welcome figure at the Association meetings. Twenty years or so ago the reverend gentleman was fond of composition, and he composed several peals of Bob Major of some note. Some of them appear in the Central Council's Collection, among them being a 5088, with the fewest possible number of courses in a six-part composition; a 5088 with the 120 7—8's before, and a perfect seven-part 5152, in which the part-ends are the lead-ends of the plain course in their proper coursing order. While he was Rector of Framlingham Mr. Pilkington carried out the restoration of the church at a cost of £5,000, the scheme including the rehanging of the peal of eight bells.

In Freemasonry the deceased was a very prominent member, and rose to the rank of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, one of the highest honours in the craft open to a clergyman. He was initiated into "Fidelity" Lodge, Framlingham, in 1888; served the office of W.M. on more than one occasion, and was successively appointed Chaplain, Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and eventually in 1902 Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Suffolk. He was also a Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England. In the Royal Arch he was initiated into "Heuniker" Chapter, Framlingham, No. 555, and after first serving as Provisional Grand Sojourner, was in 1901 appointed Grand Superintendent of Suffolk, which exalted position he occupied with credit to himself and to the welfare of the Province till his death. In Mark Masonry he has been Provincial Grand Chaplain of England as well as of East Anglia. He was also a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden of East Anglia. In the Rose Croix he was a P.M.W.S.; Kt.T.; and a Past Provincial Grand Prelate of East Anglia.

Although the deceased gentleman was known to have enjoyed anything but good health in recent years, his somewhat sudden death on the 28th ult. came as a shock to his parishioners. The comparatively recent death of the reverend gentleman's daughter, and the fact that his only surviving son was badly wounded in France, resulting in the amputation of the right hand, tended to retard progress towards good health, which the late rector had not enjoyed for some years past. He had the widespread sympathy of all amongst whom he lived in these domestic afflictions, and the large attendance at his funeral indicated the general regret his demise had occasioned.

The first part of the service took place at the Parish Church at Framlingham, the building being filled by a congregation consisting of the townspeople of Framlingham and the representative gathering of Suffolk Freemasons. Canon Abbay (Earl Soham), Canon Goldsmith (Aldeburgh), and the Rev. H. A. Bright (curate of Framlingham) conducted the service, which was fully choral, and attended by a number of surpliced clergy. Brahms' "Requiem" was played as the funeral procession entered the church, and the hymns were "O God our help" and "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven," set to Goss's music.

The interment took place in Saxted Churchyard, the body being laid to rest at the head of the three graves of the deceased gentleman's children. The remains were followed to their last resting-place by deceased's daughter (Miss Phyllis Pilkington), his brother (Mr. Arthur Pilkington), his sister (Miss Edith Pilkington), and Mr. F. G. Ling. The widow was too unwell to attend, and the deceased gentleman's son (Mr. Dan Pilkington), who is a Second-Lieut. in the Suffolk Regiment, was, of course, unable to be present, being still in a London nursing home. The Rev. Canon Abbay and the Rev. S. W. Key officiated at the graveside service, at the conclusion of which those of the Masons who made the three-mile journey to Saxted dropped sprigs of acacia on to the coffin, which bore the following inscription: "James Holme Pilkington, born July 3rd, 1856; died December 28th, 1916." There were a large number of beautiful wreaths.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on January 30th; and for handbell practice on the 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.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the Surrey Association will be held at St. Mary Magdalene, Reigate, on Saturday, the 20th Jan., 1917. The ten-bell tower (tenor 20 cwt.) will be open for ringing from 2.30 to 5 p.m. Service 5.10. Tea in Parish Hall, Lesbourne Road, 5.45 (Members 9d.). It is hoped that those who can possibly do so will endeavour to be present at least at the meeting following tea, for the election of officers to "carry on" so far as may be possible.—Ch. Reading, Asst. Hon. Sec., Union Bank Chambers, Croydon.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A Quarterly Meeting will be held at Rugby on Saturday, January 20th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. till dusk. Committee meeting 4.30 p.m.; Business meeting in belfry, 5.30 p.m.—J. H. White, 65, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

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.—E. J. Dowler, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Hon. Sec.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION — Western Branch.—A District Meeting will be held at Watford Parish Church, on Saturday, January 20th. Ringing from 2 o'clock until dusk. Meeting afterwards.—F. A. Smith, and F. Edwards, Secretaries, 67, Upper Paddock Road, Oxhey, Watford.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Northampton District.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Ecton, on Saturday, January 20th. Bells ready 2.30 p.m. Service 4.40 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—T. Law, District Secretary, St. Peter's Cottages, Weston, Favell.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Rushall on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service in church, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. A. T. S. Talbot), at 5.15; Tea (1/-) in the Schoolroom at 6. Please send word not later than Tuesday, 23rd inst.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Beckenham on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Service, with address by Canon H. Arnott, at 5 p.m.; Tea and business meeting to follow in the Church House. A charge of 1/- per head for tea, and this can only be provided for those who send their names to me by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd, the latest. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION. — The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Loughborough, on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing from 1.30 p.m. until dusk at the Bell Foundry, and at Stanford-on-Soar. Visitors to Stanford should make up their band previously and notify Mr. Harry Whittle. Committee meeting at 5 o'clock, followed by tea and general meeting for the election of auditors, etc., at 5.30 p.m., in the Coffee Rooms, Market Place. The tea will be free to ticket holders only. Application for tickets, giving each member's name, must reach me not later than first post on the previous Thursday. —W. E. White, Hon. Sec., Cotgrave.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. —Annual meeting at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Tower open 2.30 to 5. Tea kindly provided by the Vicar in the Vestry Hall at 5.30 to those who notify me by the 24th.—H. J. Bradley, 25, Winchester Avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

SALOP GUILD.—Annual meeting, January 27th, 1917, at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. Ringing, 2 to 5 p.m.; service, 5.15 p.m.; tea in St. Chad's Institute, 5.45 p.m.; meeting 6.30 p.m. Please reply to Rev. F. Tennison, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, before 24th inst.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Pontefract on Saturday, February 3rd, 1917. Bells of both churches available until dusk; service in All Saints' Church at 4.45 p.m.; tea and meeting to follow. — H. Williams, Sec. *pro tem.*, New Wortley Cemetery, Leeds.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —A meeting of the above will be held at Hythe, on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available from 2 o'clock till sunset. A member will be elected at this meeting to serve on a sub-committee to consider the question of a memorial to all those who will have fallen in the War and who have served in H.M. Forces. A good attendance is hoped for.—C. Tribe, Hon. Sec., British School Villas, Tenterden.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells ready at 2 p.m., until sunset. See notice next week. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—B. Ridgwell, Dist. Sec., Rayne.

THE LADIES' GUILD.—I beg to remind Members that the annual subscription is now due.—Edith K. Parker, Hon. Sec., 97, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield,

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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