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,
4th March, 1913.

MESSRS GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON.

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

DEPARTED VETERANS.

The sacrifices of the war have claimed many ringers whom the Exercise must mourn, but no section of the community, such as ringers, with a large proportion of young and able-bodied men among them, could expect to escape a share of the losses which the nation is called upon to sustain, and thus, much as we deplore the deaths of so many young and gallant members of the Exercise, they are accepted as a part of the price the nation is having to pay to uphold its righteous cause. It has, however, been a noticeable fact that during the present period of restricted operations in the belfry, a considerable number of veterans from the foremost ranks of ringers have also been taken from among us, and, as one by one they have dropped from the ranks, the Exercise has felt a heavy sense of loss. Those who knew these men in their earlier days and claimed them as friends have specially felt the wrench, and must have turned over in their minds many reminiscences of the past. These reflections, however, rarely come to light, and thus the Exercise is deprived of what would otherwise be interesting sketches of worthy men and valuable records of the lives of those whose names may survive, but of whose personalities future generations will know nothing. George Breed, of York, is the most recent of great ringers of a past generation to cross the bourn, but our readers are indebted to Mr. F. E. Dawe for a sketch of this man who, in his prime, was one of the finest of heavy bell ringers. Our correspondent's recollections will be read with interest and will doubtless lead to many a discussion as to who has been our greatest of big bell ringers. Really great men in this capacity have been few and far between in the past, just as they are in the present. It is one thing to be able to "pull" a heavy bell and another to "ring" it, in the sense that the word is generally used to-day. Many men of great strength can keep a big bell turning, but few can strike with the accuracy that is demanded before it can be said that the bell is properly rung. But of the ringers of thirty years ago, George Breed was one of whom it could be said that as long as a bell would turn on its gudgeons he could turn it and strike it. At that time very few of the really heavy bells were in the condition for ringing that they are usually found to-day, and the performances by which George Breed made his name as a tenor man were really herculean tasks. He was not a big man, but he was an extremely powerful man, and he combined his strength with a gift for using it to the best advantage, that made him an outstanding figure three or four decades ago. Of late years ill-health had kept him out of the belfry, so that his name is not so well known now as formerly, but there are ringers in London as well as in the northern counties who will be reminded of numerous giant tasks performed when they read of George Breed, and they will deeply lament his death.

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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OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 8, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES:

GROVE'S VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 19¾ cwt.

GEORGE DURLING	...Treble	THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN.	5
PERCY J. SPICE	2	GEORGE HUXLEY	6
ALBERT E. NEWICK	3	ISAAC EMERY	7
WILLIAM A. MARTIN	4	*GEORGE F. JAMES	...Tenor

Conducted by ISAAC EMERY.

* First peal. This peal was rung in honour of and immediately following the wedding of Q.-M.-Sergt. F. H. Herbert, R.A.M.C., and Miss E. F. Burch, both of whom are ringers and members of the above Association.

EARLSHEATON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 12, 1918, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14¼ cwt.

WALTER IDLE	...Treble	JOHN GARFORTH	5
JOHN W. DEWS	2	GEORGE H. HARDY	6
JOSEPH HEWITT	3	HERBERT DRANSFIELD	7
HEMINGWAY DRANSFIELD	4	GARFORTH TAYLOR	...Tenor

Composed and Conducted by G. H. HARDY.

Rung in honour of the 70th birthday of Mr. John Garforth.

GATHERING AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

On Saturday last, a merry party, composed of ringers of St. Peter's company, Ashton-under-Lyne, and friends, to the number of 32, met at the Stamford Cafe, where provision had been made to supply the needs of the inner man, and full justice was done to the things provided.

After the tables had been cleared, Mr. Ward Holme occupied the chair, supported by Mr. W. Wolstencroft, the energetic captain and towerkeeper.—The Chairman and Mr. W. Wolstencroft, in a few well-chosen remarks, reminded the gathering of the object of their meeting together. During the past year practical tokens had been sent to the lads from the tower serving in His Majesty's forces on land and sea, and that gathering was arranged to show their appreciation of the way in which the ladies had helped in keeping the bells ringing, and also to give a kindly cheer to the wives of the lads from whom they were separated at that festive season. Incidentally it also afforded an opportunity to wish the respected captain and his wife continued happiness, that date being the 20th anniversary of their wedding. Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Joe Collins (verger), and Mr. Henry Wood (organist) each spoke in terms of goodwill and fellowship, and Mr. Bob Wimpenny replied.

A very enjoyable programme was gone through, consisting of a pianoforte duet (Romeo and Juliet), by Master Cyril Wood and Mr. Wood; song, "My Friend," by Mr. Wilfred Norris; recitation, "Somebody's Darling," by S. Holt; song, "Dear England," Mrs. Wolstencroft; recitation, "Mickey Thumb," Master Bertie Palmer; song, "The Trumpeter," Mr. W. Norris; songs, "The Miller and the Baker," "Hark! the merry bells are ringing," Miss Hilda Burton; recitation, "Big Steamers"; song, "Hyacinths," by Miss Dorothy Wimpenny; recitation, "Excelsior," Miss Ida Wolstencroft; duologue, "The letter V," Misses Doris Ogden and Ethel Grimshaw; song, "A long, long Trail," Miss E. Grimshaw; recitation, "Ringers and Singers," Master Bertie Palmer. Mr. Hervy Wood accompanied at the piano. Previous to the gathering, as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Wolstencroft 1,200 Grandsire Triples was rung by: Mrs. Wolstencroft 1, J. W. Holme 2, Miss E. Williams 3, Miss A. Wolstencroft 4, Miss S. Holt 5, R. Wimpenny 6, W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 7, John Harrison 8.

HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Mr. H. Bragg, of Solihull, writes: "We are making an effort in this parish to teach a band of lady ringers, and practices are held on Saturday afternoons. Any ringers from neighbouring churches will be very welcome and, as all the ladies are learners, any aid we can obtain will assist us greatly."

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A very successful meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Fareham, on Saturday, by kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. F. Tarbutt). During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major were rung by ringers from Portsmouth, Gosport, Curdridge, Swanmore, Wickham, Fareham, and visitors from Bristol, Leeds, North Stoneham and Leicester. Tea was served at the Temperance Hotel, when 28 members partook of the good things provided.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. G. Williams (hon. secretary of the Guild). Sympathetic reference was made to the late district secretary, and Mr. J. Whiting, and a vote of condolence passed to the widow and family.

The officers were re-elected en block for the ensuing year.—It was decided to hold the annual meeting again at Fareham, in January, 1919.

The balance sheet, as passed, showed a balance of £7 13s. 1d. for the general fund. Three full members, ten probationers and four compounding members were elected.—It was also decided to hold a quarterly meeting at West Meon on Easter Monday next.—A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells concluded the business.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Kettering District was held at Isham on Saturday, December 29th. The attendance numbered about 35, including the vice-president (the Rev. R. F. Capeman), the general secretary (Mr. F. Wilford), and members from Kettering, Desborough, Rothwell, Orlingbury, Barton Seagrave, Burton Latimer, Finedon, Raunds, Irthlingborough and Isham. Ringing commenced at 2.30, and a variety of methods, ranging from Cambridge Surprise to Bob Doubles, and rounds, was rung, and considerable interest was displayed in a number of lady ringers who have volunteered to help to keep the bells going.

A short service was conducted at four o'clock by the Rector (the Rev. E. J. Atkins), who also gave an excellent address. Tea followed in the Village Schoolroom, and some difficulty was experienced, owing to at least 20 expecting tea without having previously informed the secretary.

At the meeting, held after tea, it was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Desborough shortly after Easter.—A return was then made to the tower, and the bells were kept going till seven o'clock.

RINGING IN THE WEALD OF KENT.

This tower, like so many of the other towers in the Weald of Kent has been sadly reduced in its numbers of ringers by the exigencies of war (only two ringers are left, and one of them is ill). There was thus no one to ring the bells for the special service on Sunday, Jan. 6th. An offer was, however, made to the Vicar (Rev. Canon Bell by Mr. C. Tribe to get a band together, which was very gratefully accepted. The party arrived at 1.30, and the bells, having been already muffled, were raised, and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples rung in 48 mins., by the following: J. Goodsell (Salehurst) 1, W. Hoad (Salehurst) 2, W. H. Lambert (Benenden) 3, W. Perry (Salehurst) 4, T. Booth (Salehurst) 5, C. Tribe (Tenterden) 6, J. Arthurs (Sutton Vallance), conductor, 7, A. E. Edwards (Salehurst) 8. Another short touch was rung, in which J. Blake, of Hawkhurst, and T. Honess, of Biddenden, took part.

All the ringers then attended the service, after which the bells were lowered in peal. The ringers were then invited to the Parish Room adjoining the churchyard, where tea was provided for them by the Vicar, who personally thanked the visitors for their services, which had been very greatly appreciated.

The Salehurst ringers rang at Hawkhurst for the morning service and started for a quarter-peal, assisted by three of the local band but owing to the late arrival of one of the latter, time did not allow them to complete the touch. Some of the others went to Biddenden, and assisted the locals there to ring for the morning service. Thus three of the churches in the Weald had their full octaves going for their services on that day. The tenor at each church is about 24 cwt.

GRIMSBY.—On Christmas Day, December 25th for carol service, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins.: F. Overton 1, H. Rushby 2, St. Bromfield 3, C. Taylor 4, A. S. Hill 5, A. W. Long 6, J. W. Seaver (conductor) 7, P. Pigg 8. Also 308: F. Overton 1, A. B. Shepherd 2, P. Pigg 3, A. W. Long 4, S. Bromfield 5, A. S. Hill 6, C. Taylor (conductor) 7, J. W. Seaver 8. First quarter by ringers of the treble and 5th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

PAINSWICK.—On January 3rd, the Stroud and Painswick Societies of Ringers rang at the Parish Church, Stroud, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 50 mins., by: G. Orchard 1, A. Tatnell 2, W. Hastings 3, W. Hale 4, H. Scrivens 5, A. Wright 6, F. Cole 7, W. White 8.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Saturday, January 5th, a peal of Grandsire Triples was unfortunately lost, owing to a change course, after an hour and a half's good ringing: P. Evans (Hughenden) 1, W. Henley (Farnham Royal) 2, T. S. Smith (Slough) 3, W. H. Fussell (Slough) 4, J. Evans (Hughenden) 5, G. Gutteridge (conductor), Fulmer, 6, J. Blackmore (Beaconsfield) 7, W. Horne (High Wycombe) 8.

LEWISHAM, KENT.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, January 6th, 1918, with half-muffled bells, as a tribute to the memory of those of His Majesty's Forces who have given their lives to the cause of King and country, the first half of Holt's Original Grandsire Triples: G. R. Simmonds 1, C. H. Walker 2, E. J. Pannett 3, H. Warnett, senr. (conductor), 4, H. Warnett, junr., 5, H. Walker 6, W. W. Fox 7, H. G. Goodwin 8.

WORSLEY.—At St. Mark's Church, on Sunday afternoon, January 6th, at the Freemasons' service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was attempted, but unfortunately came to grief in the 14th course: H. Chapman 1, S. Greenhalgh 2, J. Lowe 3, John Leigh 4, H. Shuker 5, J. Mellor 6, J. Ridyard (conductor) 7, A. Trippier 8. After service, a 504 of Stedman Triples, by: J. Mellor 1, J. Lowe 2, W. Grundy 3, J. Leigh 4, H. Shuker 5, S. Greenhalgh 6, H. Chapman (conductor) 7, A. Trippier 8.

PENDLETON.—At St. Thomas' Church, for evening service, on January 6th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): J. Mellor 1, S. Greenhalgh 2, J. Lowe 3, J. Leigh 4, H. Shuker 5, H. Chapman 6, J. Ridyard (conductor), 7, A. Trippier 8.

WALKDEN.—Lancashire Association. — At St. Paul's Church, on Sunday, January 6th, for the Intercession service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: Jno. Denner 1, J. Welsby 2, A. Potter 3, T. Denner 4, M. Berry 5, R. Welsby 6, John Potter (conductor) 7, R. Denner 8. Also 504 Grandsire Triples for the morning service, with J. Worthington in place of M. Berry, conducted by John Denner.

LUTON, BEDS.—At the Parish Church, for evening service, 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 50 mins.: G. Newson 1, F. Hunt 2, B. Wilson 3, L. A. Goodenough 4, T. Blackbourne 5, J. Rookwood 6, A. King (conductor) 7, T. Kendall 8. Composed by A. J. Perkins, Reddington.

SOLIHULL.—On Sunday, January 6th, on handbells, 720 Grandsire Doubles: Lce.-Corpl. E. C. Shepherd, 9th Cheshires (conductor) 1—2, G. A. Martineau 3—4, H. Bragg 5—6. The ringer of 1—2 was home on hospital leave.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—Lancashire Association.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, January 6th, for morning service, 672 Bob Major: T. Watson 1, J. Huddleston 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Suart 4, W. H. Dennison 5, T. Suart 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. For evening service, 784 Bob Major: T. R. Jackson 1, T. Watson 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Suart 4, J. Huddleston 5, T. Suart 6, W. H. Dennison 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, January 6th, 1918, to mark the 24th anniversary of the reopening of the bells, 720 Plain Bob Minor: H. Briggs 1, George Wood 2, E. Chamberlain 3, H. Webb 4, J. Garratt 5, J. Clarke 6, conducted by H. Briggs, who was present at the reopening 24 years ago.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 6th, for the special services, 504 Grandsire Triples: H. Holderness (first 504) 1, H. Sear 2, F. Hedges 3, A. Crane 4, W. Sear (conductor) 5, E. Marks 6, F. Stanton 7, V. Sear 8. 336 Grandsire Triples: C. Garner (first touch) 1, H. Sear 2, F. Stanton 3, A. Crane 4, W. Sear (conductor) 5, E. Marks 6, F. Whitehead 7, V. Sear 8.

MARESFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, January 6th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Baker 1, Pte. R. Clifford, R.G.A., Notts (conductor) 2, A. Brown 3, W. Burrell 4, Pte. A. H. Porter (Cambridge) 5, J. A. Hart 6.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's Church, on January 6th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins.: H. Whan-Low 1, A. W. Darlington 2, E. Cassel 3, A. Cutmore 4, C. C. Collis 5, J. Kent 6, W. S. Smith (conductor) 7, C. Collis, senr., 8.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL. — Recently, 670 Kent Treble Bob Major: A. E. Adfield 1, H. F. Cooper 2, Mashall 3, H. Richell 4, P. White 5, H. Allen 6, J. A. Trollope 7, B. Thorpe (conductor) 8.

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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.

WEDDING BELLS AT BROMLEY.

A REAL RINGERS' WEDDING.

The old Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley, Kent, was on Tuesday, January 8th, the scene of an interesting and unique event, on the occasion of the marriage of two local ringers, Q.-M.-S. F. H. Herbert, R.A.M.C., who, prior to "joining up," was for some years secretary of St. Luke's band, and had rung several peals, and Miss E. F. Burch, who for the past year has been a ringer at SS. Peter and Paul Church. Miss Burch did not start seriously learning to ring till about a year ago, since when she has rung three quarter-peals of Grandsire on the treble, and so may be considered to have made very good progress.

The wedding being by special licence, the preparations were, of course, somewhat hurried, but everything went as merrily as the proverbial marriage bell. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of Bromley (the Rev. J. K. Wilson), who, in his address to the newly-wedded pair, made marked and kindly reference to their connection with local ringing. Both bride and bridegroom being members of the Kent County Association, eight members of that organisation assembled in the belfry, seven being members of the local society, the Bromley Youths, the eighth being Mr. T. Groombridge, of Chislehurst, the hon. district secretary of the K.C.A. Special permission having been given to attempt a peal, and, the bells having been previously raised, as the happy couple left the church, the old bells were sent racing off to the well-known tune of Grandsire Triples, and Groves' Variation. Two hours and fifty-one minutes saw the completion of a capital peal, the particulars of which appear in the usual place.

It is worthy of note that the bells were going right merrily as Sergt. and Mrs. Herbert left Bromley South Station en route for Eastbourne to spend their honeymoon.

After the peal the ringers were invited to accept the hospitality of the bride's parents, which, needless to say, was accepted by all who were able to do so. First, of course, the bride and bridegroom's health was drunk with many good wishes for their future happiness and prosperity, and also, it being the bridegroom's birthday, wishes for "many happy returns of the day." Full justice was done to all the good things provided, and the rest of the evening was spent in music, songs, and handbell ringing, which altogether made up a very happy time.

In connection with the wedding, an interesting little event took place on the previous Sunday morning in the belfry, for, acting on the old maxim of "The better the day the better the deed," Miss Burch was presented by her fellow members of the Bromley Youths, and a few ringing friends with a handsome inlaid mahogany timepiece in appreciation of her efforts in the ark, and as a token of their good-will on her forthcoming marriage.—Mr. I. Emery made the presentation, and, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the feelings of all concerned, in their good wishes for her future happiness, especially for the safe and speedy return of Sergt. Herbert from his military duties.—Miss Burch very nicely thanked the company present for their kindness and good wishes, and Sergt. Herbert, who was also present, did likewise.

5006 STEDMAN CINQUES.

BY JAMES E. GROVES.

123456 start	slow six							
513462 8709x	1s	7	8	10s	13s	16	17	18
512364								19
215463 78x90	2	6		13s	15s			19
213564								19
312465		6						19
315264								19
314562								19
314265		6s						19
315462 8709x	2			13s	15s			19
312564								19
213465		6						19
215364								19
214563								19
412365		6						19
415263 78x90	2			13s	15s			19
413562								19
413265		6s						19
415362								19
412563								19
214365		6						19

The last 18 courses repeated, omitting the bob at 6 in the first course. Rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, December 26th, 1917. Conducted by the author.

GEORGE BREED, OF YORK.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD FRIEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On opening the first number of the "Ringing World" for 1918, I was much grieved to read of the death of my dear old friend, usually referred to by all who knew him as George Breed of York. As you are aware, I love to speak of all the dear old and truly wonderful men who have gone over to the great majority, and am always most keen in giving honour and credit where it is due. Therefore, I hope you will give me a little space in your much esteemed journal to add my humble testimony to the excellently written memoir in your issue of the 4th inst.

George Breed originally hailed from Braintree, in Essex, and by a curious coincidence this is the next village to Bocking—the native place of that other wonderful heavy bell ringer, the late John Murray Hayes, so well known and appreciated in London for many years. These two renowned and able ringers were great friends. George Breed and myself have been the greatest of chums for nearly 40 years, and during my peregrinations all over the country in years gone by it is interesting to recall the frequent discussions and opinions expressed from all points of the compass as to "who was the finest heavy bell ringer in England." It is, of course, somewhat difficult to determine this matter, but his name always found a place well to the front, and in this respect I fully concur, for in his prime he certainly was my ideal for that position. The weight of a bell was of no consideration whatever to him, and he was quite indifferent to the fact as to whether it "went well" or not, and a false striking bell never troubled him at all! Rather below the medium height, he was a very thick-set man, and immensely strong, with curly auburn hair, and a ruddy fresh complexion, and it was not only a pleasure but quite a treat to see him handling a big bell. The graceful action and very easy elasticity of movement, which characterised him in every way, at once showed him to be the "right man in the right place." In appearance he bore a very striking and marked resemblance to the late Captain Webb—the first man to swim the English Channel. I have seen both, and he sometimes answered to this name! He never appeared to work hard at a badly going bell, and his striking was of the truest description.

In March, 1883, he kindly journeyed to London for the express purpose of ringing the tenor at St. Saviour's, Southwark, for the peal of 5134 Stedman Cinques in honour of my 21st birthday. I rang the 11th on that occasion, and Mr. J. Martin Routh (who was Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths at the time) asked permission to sit in the belfry between the 5th and 6th in order to watch the tenor man he had heard so much about. St. Saviour's tenor went very badly at the time, and at the conclusion of the peal in 4 hrs. 3 mins. Mr. Routh expressed himself in words of unmeasured admiration, and declared that "Breed rang the bell like a bit of easy-going, well-oiled machinery!"

I remember going to York Minster the following year to call the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on the bells, when we again rang the 11, 12 together, and on this occasion quite a host of visitors occupied all the available space in the ringing chamber for the same reason. After making a good show it was found that some of the front bells had to be considered as "unpealable"—but it made no difference whatever to the tenor man!

On Easter Monday, 1882, we rang together in the first peal of Stedman Cinques in the North of England. This was at St Peter's, Sheffield, composed and conducted by the late Charles Henry Hattersley. It was an exceptionally fine peal, and a local poet extolled the virtues of all the performers in clever verses—one of which ran thus:—

> The tenth was George Breed from the City of York,
> He can swing the big bells just as if they were cork,
> No matter to him how heavy the metal,
> It's woe be to them when this Breed cries "settle"!

George Breed was of a very kindly and genial disposition, good-natured to a degree, obliging in every way to all, and a man that anyone could at once take a liking to and be quite at home with. He also possessed the rare qualification of being a most reliable double-handed ringer in all standard methods, and was rarely known to make a mistake, either on handbells or in the tower—for he did it all by ear!

The late James Pettit, Matt Wood, and others, used to joke him by saying they would have some pictures pasted on the ceilings of the ringing rooms so as to amuse him when ringing! The fascinating science of change ringing has now lost one of its best men of three or four decades ago, and none of your readers among his wide circle of friends regrets the sad loss more than yours faithfully,

FRANCIS EDWARD DAWE.

VETERANS HONOURED AT LIVERSEDGE.

DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

At the Parish Church, Liversedge, Yorks, on Saturday last, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major (1918 changes) was rung in 1 hr. 2[mins. to celebrate the birthday of Mr. John Wilson Lang (aged 77) and William Collins (aged 73), who have been for a long period, and still are, regular service ringers at Liversedge Church. The ringers were: Walter Knott (Liversedge) 1, Herbert Scott (Birstall) 2, William Clark (Birstall) 3, Albert North (Mirfield) 4, Willie Thomas (Liversedge) 5, Edward Crowther (Birstall) 6, Arthur Hudson (Birstall) 7, Herbert Peel (Birstall) 8. The date touch was composed and conducted by A. Hudson, and is made up by omitting the first two changes in going off (in other words, have two Plain Bob rows at the start), and then calling 1 M. 2 W. 2 H. four times repeated.

After the ringing, an adjournment was made to the bell room at the Albion Arms, where refreshments were provided, and ringers were present from Liversedge, Birstall, and Mirfield. An enjoyable evening was spent with the handbells, the methods rung being Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Grandsire on six, eight and ten bells, and on which the two veterans took part.

During the evening, Mr. A. Hudson, on behalf of the Liversedge band, had the pleasure of presenting to Messrs. Lang and Collins a briar pipe and tobacco each, as a token of the respect in which they are held by their friends, and with good wishes for their future good health. Both Messrs. Lang and Collins feelingly responded and the evening was brought to a close in the old ringers' form.

Mr. John W. Lang rang his first peal in 1862, and has since rung the bells round in four different methods in a peal of 5000. In the days of ringing for money prizes he shared in the winning of four first prizes at the following towers: Rawmarsh, Almondbury, Huddersfield, and Brighouse. He has been a ringer at Liversedge tower for 58 years, and has rung peals on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells, including a 10,000 of Kent Royal at Bradford, two peals of Cumberland Exercise, of 6,720 changes, and one of 8,000 of Kent Major.

Mr. William Collins rang his first peal in 1861, at Huddersfield, being then only 17 years of age. For 40 years he rang the tenor at Liversedge Parish Church, and has now rung the 7th bell for 15 years. He won two first prizes in the old days at Almondbury and Brighouse. His peals on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells include one of 10,000 Kent Royal at Bradford, one of 10,000 Kent Major at Liversedge, and one of Cumberland Exercise, of 6,720 changes.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Tuesday evening of last week. This meeting is not of the usual "joy" type, but is purely for the transaction of formal business, and the receipt of subscriptions.

Immediately after the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Chairman (Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A.) referred to the loss, by death, of two well-known members, Mr. Wm. Palmer and Mr. Frank Withers, both of King's Norton, the latter having been killed in action in France, and the secretary was instructed to write letters of condolence to their respective widows.

Apologies were received from Vice-Presidents Faux and Shepherd, and Messrs. Buffery, Rock Small and B. Gough.

All the Guild's officers were re-elected for the ensuing twelve months, and the balance sheet for the past year was adopted.

Two new honorary members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting, with the Vicar's consent, at Aston.

The "Henry Johnson" Commemoration Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 16th, in the Connaught Room, at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street.

A DATE TOUCH.

At Aberavon, by the West Wales Association, on Saturday, January 5th, at St. Mary's Church, in connection with the special services held on January 6th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1918 changes) was rung with the bells deeply muffled in 75 mins. (after meeting too late to attempt a peal), by: E. Stitch 1, J. Hoare 2, W. Nurton 3, D. Frankcom 4, F. Stedman 5, H. Perry 6, A. Pitman (conductor) 7, J. Wethersby 8.

This composition is a musical touch, composed by the conductor, and is in three parts, as follows: Bobs at 1, 2, 5, 4, 2, 1, 4, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, 4, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 3, 1, 5, 4; repeat the first fourteen calls twice, substituting one plain lead for last nine calls in last two parts.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at St. Philip's, Bristol, on January 19th. Bells (8) open 3 o'clock, service at 5. Tea and meeting to follow. All visitors welcome.—G. Wiltshire, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Nuneaton to-morrow (Saturday), Jan. 19th. Bells available from 3 o'clock.—Joseph H. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual committee meeting of the branch will be held at All Saints' Vestry, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, on Saturday, January 19th, 1918, at 5 p.m. The Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Thackeray, M.A., has kindly promised to preside. Business: Minutes of the last two meetings; audit the accounts for 1917; officers and committee for 1918; annual branch meeting and Service; new members; and war-time suggestions.—W. H. Fussell, Hon. Sec and Treas., Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.—*Memo.*: All subscriptions and names for 1917 should be sent in at once for inclusion in the Annual Report. The Guild's "Roll of Honour and War Workers" is now in the hands of the Branch Secretaries, and all members are asked to take pains to see that full particulars of those ringers, whose names are to be included or amended, are sent in to their District Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Balderstone Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 19th. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Saturday, January 19th Bells available from 3 p.m.; meeting in the Church Room at 6.30. Owing to the difficulties of catering, no tea will be provided this year.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Northampton District.—A special ringing meeting will be held at S. Giles', Northampton, on Saturday, January 19th. Bells ready 4 p.m. No tea.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bromley (SS Peter and Paul) on Saturday, 19th January, 1918. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service (Association Form) and address by the Rev. J. K. Wilson (Vicar) at 5.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow in the Parish Hall, West Street. Subscriptions are due and should be paid at this meeting.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Halesowen on Saturday, January 26th. Bells available for ringing at 3 p.m. Service in the Church at 5 p.m. Business meeting in the Schools after the service.—E. J. Dowler, 11, St. Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hinckley on Saturday, Jan. 26th. Ringing from 2 o'clock until 6. Committee meeting at 5.30. Tea (1/3 each), followed by general meeting at 6 o'clock, all at the Dining Rooms, Market Place. Arrangements for tea will only be made for those who notify Mr. F. Cotton, 4, Gladstone Terrace, London Road, Hinckley, by the previous Saturday of their intention to be present.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, January 26th. Bells available 3 till 9 p.m. Divine service at 4 o'clock. Tea at the Church House at 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. Those who require tea must let me know not later than January 22nd.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Established 1878).—The annual meeting will be held at Headingley, Leeds, on Saturday, January 26th. Service in St. Michael's Church at 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow in the Parochial Institute, Bennett Road. Further particulars by circular.—H. Williams, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, New Wortley Cemetery, Leeds.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Ringing practice will be held at Earls Colne January 26th, Braintree February 9th. Bells, 3 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.—H. F. Cooper, District Master. B. Redgwell, District Secretary.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD—The annual general meeting of the above will be held at Appledore, Kent, on Saturday, January 26th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock until 4.30. Tea, by the Guild, at 5 p.m. for all members.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on January 29th, and for handbell practice on the 24th, at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1/8, which entitles members who have not attended twenty meetings in the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, February 2nd, 1918. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting following the ringing.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, February 2nd. Full particulars next week.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

THE LADIES' GUILD.—I beg to remind members that the subscription for 1918 is now due.—Edith K. Parker, Hon. Sec., 29, Leigh Road South, Clifton, Bristol.

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.

DEATHS.

PRICE.—On January 9th, at Southwick (Brighton), Hannah, widow of Rev. Newton Price, Vicar of Oxhey, and mother of George N. Price, in her 84th year.

NUNN.—At 9, Sir George Monoux Alms Houses, Parish Churchyard, Walthamstow, on January 10th, John Nunn, aged 85.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

DARLINGTON, DURHAM.—On Saturday, December 22nd, on the bells of Holy Trinity Church, touches of London Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Stedman Doubles and Double Court Bob Minor, were rung by Pte. Hibbert, W. D. Listeu, W. H. Porter (Redfearn), F. Cooke, F. Atkinson, G. J. Lungley, G. W. Park.—On Christmas Day, for Divine service, 720 of London Surprise Minor: G. J. Lungley 1, H. Atkinson 2, W. Wookey 3, G. W. Park 4, Pte. M. Hibbert 5, C. Todd (conductor) 6. This is the first 720 Surprise Minor in any method rung by Mr. Hibbert, who belongs to Bushey, Herts.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, December 30th, for evensong, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: F. T. Dawson (conductor) 1, Sapper J. W. Walker 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, G. E. Lawrence 4, W. C. Lawrence 5, W. P. Deane 6.—On Sunday, January 6th, 720 Violet: G. E. Lawrence 1, Sapper J. W. Walker 2, J. E. Wheeldon (conductor) 3, E. E. Johnson 4, F. T. Dawson 5, W. P. Deane 6. Also for evensong, 720 Killamarsh Surprise: E. E. Johnson 1, Sapper J. W. Walker 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence (conductor) 4, W. P. Deane 5, F. T. Dawson 6. All the above were rung in honour of Sapper J. W. Walker's visit to his native tower while on leave from service in France.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, December 30th, for morning service, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins.: H. G. Naish 1, F. G. Goddard 2, F. Davis 3, C. Slade 4, E. F. Cole 5, Major J. H. B. Hesse 6, J. Howes (conductor) 7, J. N. Frossell 8. Arranged for Major J. H. B. Hesse, who was home on leave from France.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Winchester Diocesan Guild. — At St. Peter's Church, on Sunday, December 30th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, as a compliment to Lance-Corpl. D. Williams, who was visiting Bournemouth on leave: Cov. Q.-M.-S. W. A. Cave 1, T. Green 2, C. Forfeit 3, Lance-Corpl. D. Williams (conductor) 4, E. Waters 5, G. Preston 6, C. Goodenough 7, Sapper Capewell 8. Lance-Corpl. Williams takes the opportunity of thanking the ringers of No. 1, 6 and 8, who journeyed from Christchurch for the occasion; and also Mr. Goodenough (his teacher) for making the necessary arrangements.

CRANLEIGH, SURREY. — On Sunday, December 30th, 1917, for the evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: G. Charman 1, W. Streeter 2, Mrs. R. Whittington 3, R. Whittington 4, Alwyn Charman 5, J. Knight 6, W. Charman (conductor) 7, T. Worsfold 8. Rung as a farewell to Gilbert Charman (son of the conductor), who is called up for service with the colours, he being Mr. W. Charman's third son to join His Majesty's forces. All three are also ringers belonging to the Cranleigh band.

BOLTON, BRADFORD.—On Sunday, December 30th for morning service, at the Church of St. James, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 27 mins.: Miss Pollie Gill (first 720) 1, B. E. Howe 2, F. Hopwood 3, W. Waland 4, S. Palframan 5, A. Gill (conductor) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 2nd.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.—At St. Peter's Church, on Monday, December 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: Mrs. J. E. Staley 1, Miss D. Sage 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, Miss M. Jukes 4, Mrs. H. S. Briggs 5, Miss N. Gillingham (conductor) 6, Mr. J. Nisbet 7, Mr. W. Watts 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled for the memorial service held at 8 p.m. for those fallen in the war from the parish.

DEPTFORD, KENT.—At St. John's Church, New Year's Day, 1918, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: J. Law 1, F. W. Richardson 2, E. J. Pannett 3, H. E. White 4, E. B. Crowder 5, J. Crowder 6, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 7, Arch. Bennington 8.

GARSTON.—Lancashire Association and Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—On Tuesday, January 1st, an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples was made at Garston, but came to grief after ringing two hours: G. Woodhall 1, H. Ludkin 2, T. Gilmour 3, Rev. C. A. Clements 4, Pte. F. S. Macey 5, J. Martin 6, W. Hughes (conductor) 7, S. Barnes 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of our fallen soldiers.

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