THE RINGING WORLD

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BELFRY ACCIDENTS.

The recent case in the High Court, to which reference was made in 'The Ringing World,' raises important issues for Church Authorities. It will be remembered that the action was one in which substantial damages for personal injury were awarded to a boy, who, while ringing a bell at a Roman Catholic Church, was struck on the head by a clapper, which fell out of the bell. The defendants were the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark and other trustees of the church, the priest at the time in charge of the church, and the bellhangers, who were a firm of builders. The question before the Court was merely that of damages, liability having been admitted.

It would have been interesting to know something further of the case beyond the rather meagre details that have been published, but there are certainly some facts which are worth considering. Assuming that the boy, then only eight years of age, was ringing (or, more probably, chiming) the bell by authority, this case seems to show that in the event of any accident happening in the belfry, church authorities are liable in damages if the ringers are there for any authorised purpose. The reported case did not, as far as we have seen, reveal the grounds for admitting liability, and there is little use in speculating upon them, but one thing seems certain, that while, up to the present, church authorities may have merely regarded their responsibilities as limited to liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in respect of paid ringers, there is a further liability in regard to accidents to unpaid ringers. It may be that negligence by those in authority has first to be proved, but the case just decided seems to point to the fact that a clapper falling out of a bell, the dropping of a piece of plaster from a wall or ceiling, a defective belfry stair (and there are many such) and any similar type of accident, if it results in personal injury, may lead to the award of substantial damages, even if the sufferer is a voluntary worker.

In the pamphlet on 'The Law Affecting Church Bells,' published by the Central Council and drawn up for that body by a committee of legal members, it is stated: 'So far as *all* ringers are concerned it is the duty of the Church Authorities to see that the bells, bell chamber and fittings are reasonably safe and that there is nothing in the nature of a trap whereby an incautious person might meet with injury. It is possible that if an incumbent was aware that the bells could not with safety be rung and with that knowledge permitted ringing to take place, he might be civilly liable in damages for any injury sustained.' In the case of a paid ringer, the question of com-

(Continued on page 82.)

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pensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act would arise.

Happily accidents in the belfry are few and far between, but the risk, however rare, is nevertheless existent and this recent case should at least give church authorities a deeper interest in the condition of things in the belfry and among the bells; to say nothing of the staircases, at those churches where worn or irregular steps in badly lighted stairways are a constant menace to the safety of those who ascend and descend them.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BEDWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 14, 1935, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores. Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN W. CASTLE ...	...*Treble*	*JACK SMITH...	5
LEONARD LAWRENCE... ...	2	*ERIC HAWKE	6
JOSEPH TAYLOR	3	RAYMOND LYDSTER	7
*CYRIL LAWRENCE	4	*ARTHUR G. TAYLOR ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by J. SMITH.

* First peal. First peal by a local band of Sunday service ringers at this church. Rung with 7, 6, 8 covering.

HINDERCLAY, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, January 11, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob and two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

*RONALD F. MOLE ...	...*Treble*	ARTHUR COOK	4
HERBERT C. FORDHAM ...	2	*ROY I. NELTHORPE	5
WILLIAM GOODSON	3	PERCY L. JOHNSON ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by P. L. JOHNSON.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells. First of Minor as conductor.

BUTTERWICK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 18, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Double Court, one each of Canterbury Pleasure and Oxford Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

*MAURICE MILLARD ...	...*Treble*	WILLIAM WILKINSON	4
FRANK P. HARWOOD	2	JAMES SHARPE	5
HARRY JOHNSON...	3	WILLIAM E. CLARKE ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by W. E. CLARKE.

* First peal. Rung on the tenth anniversary of the first peal of Minor on these bells.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LEVERSTOCK GREEN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 17, 1936, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of St. Clement's and Double Bob, and five extents of Plain Bob. Tenor size 11.

HORACE L. WAITE ... ... 1-2 | WALTER AYRE 3-4

WILLIAM J. RANDALL 5-6

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

First peal in three methods 'in hand' by all.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

THE DEATH OF KING GEORGE V.

MEMORIAL PEALS.

The passing of King George V. led to the ringing of a great number of peals, as an expression of the nation's sorrow, and the ringers' individual tribute of loyal respect to their much-loved Sovereign. The following were among the peals rung; the reports of the remainder will appear in due course.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, January 25, 1936, in Three Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

ERNEST T. ALLAWAY	...*Treble*	ALAN SHORT	7
GEORGE F. SWANN	2	FRED PRICE	8
DANIEL T. MATKIN	3	FRANK E. HAYNES	9
ALBERT WALKER	4	WILLIAM DAVIES	10
THOMAS H. REEVES	5	A. PADDON SMITH	11
WILLIAM C. DOWDING	6	ALBERT E. NORMAN	...*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

First peal on the bells since they were recast and augmented. The conductor's 300th twelve-bell peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt.

WILLIAM C. DOWDING	...*Treble*	A. PADDON SMITH	7
FRANK E. HAYNES	2	FRED PRICE	8
ALAN SHORT	3	ERNEST MANSELL	9
DANIEL T. MATKIN	4	WILLIAM DAVIES	10
FRANK E. PERVIN	5	ALBERT WALKER	11
FRANK W. PERRENS	6	ALBERT E. NORMAN	...*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

These two peals were rung with the bells half-muffled in the 'inverted tiltums' and 'hand-stroke home' positions.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Four Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY REDCLIFFE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

FREDERICK G. LEAKER	...*Treble*	HENRY PRING	6
ALFRED PEARCE	2	*JACK CARMAN	7
RICHARD CLARE	3	STEPHEN H. WOOD	8
EDWIN J. RIDLER	4	WILLIAM A. CAVE	9
GILBERT PEARCE	5	E. GEORGE TREW	...*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by W. A. CAVE.

* First peal in the method. Rung with the bells muffled. First peal in the method on the new peal (the last having been rung in 1890).

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

F. HORACE E. STUBBS	...*Treble*	LESLIE W. STEPHENS	6
CHARLES ALLSOP	2	JOHN GRUNDY	7
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	3	JOHN SADDINGTON	8
WILLIAM SMITH	4	COLIN HARRISON	9
FREDERICK H. DEXTER	5	JOHN P. FIDLER	...*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by FREDERICK H. DEXTER.

Rung with half-muffled clappers.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 27, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt.

GEORGE YOUNG	...*Treble*	THOMAS HESKETH	5
JOHN ROBINSON	2	WILLIAM ROBINSON	6
THOMAS ROBINSON	3	HERBERT LODKIN	7
JOHN W. GARDNER	4	JAMES BARKER	...*Tenor*

Conducted by H. LODKIN.

Rung with the bells deeply muffled.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 27, 1936, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

JOHN H. B. HESSE	...*Treble*	JOHN P. PELLOE	5
CHARLES W. DENYER	2	WILLIAM T. BEESON	6
HENRY HUTTON	3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE	7
C. ERNEST SMITH	4	ALFRED H. PULLING	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Rung with the bells half-muffled.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 27, 1936, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*JOHN DYKE	...*Treble*	JOHN H. WHEADON	5
MISS JEAN THOMPSON	2	JAMES BAILEY	6
EDWARD J. BEER	3	GEORGE J. BOTCHER	7
W. J. ERIC PEARTREE	4	CYRIL W. HAMMOND	...*Tenor*

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by G. J. BOTCHER.

* First peal. Rung with the bells muffled.

WATFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(WATFORD SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1935, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24½ cwt.

RICHARD G. BELL	...*Treble*	ARTHUR W. DIX	5
CHARLES N. LEMAN	2	STEPHEN H. HOARE	6
WALTER PAUL	3	GEORGE E. HOWCHIN	7
HARRY LONG	4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

Rung with fully muffled clappers.

MARSHFIELD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

R. FLETCHER	...*Treble*	E. LEWIS	5
J. H. BEAZER	2	G. ROBINSON	6
E. PLAYER	3	H. WOODHAM	7
C. HARDING	4	C. JUKES	...*Tenor*

Conducted by H. WOODHAM.

The first muffled peal on the bells. First attempt as conductor.

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BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 11¼ cwt.

SAMUEL WARNE	*1 treble*	GARNHAM LINDRIDGE	5
LEWIS W. WIFFEN	2	HARRY G. FELTON	6
GEORGE IVES	3	WALTER HAMMOND	7
BERNARD W. PETTITT ...	4	ALBERT WIFFEN	*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by A. WIFFEN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5068 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. 9 lb.

*RALPH G. LEY	*Treble*	*CHARLES C. RAWDING ...	5
ERNEST T. KING	2	MRS. R. RICHARDSON ...	6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ...	3	JOHN W. CARTER	7
FRANK RICHARDSON	4	SYDNEY G. FLOWERS ...	*Tenor*

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(ST. JAMES' GUILD.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (4th observation). Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIAM T. JEANES	*1 treble*	JACK ROY	5
C. HENRY FLOYD	2	HENRY BUNGAY	6
WILLIAM G. GIGG	3	JAMES HUNT	7
WALTER H. POOLE	4	WALTER E. PRIDDLE ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by WALTER H. POOLE.

First peal on eight bells as conductor. Rung with half-muffled bells.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 17 cwt. 4 lb. in F.

LEONARD STOKOE	*Treble*	GEORGE ROBINSON	5
CHARLES E. LAWSON ...	2	FRANCIS BARKER	6
*ARTHUR ARMITAGE	3	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ...	7
WILLIAM WOODHEAD ...	4	HENRY SMITH	*Tenor*

Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Stedman Triples on the bells since they were recast. Rung on the middle octave, and with half-muffled clappers.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 33 cwt.

GEORGE WILLIAMS	*Treble*	JAMES SWINDLEY	5
HARRY LEWIS	2	SAMUEL JONES, JUN.	6
GILBERT GERRARD	3	J. WILLIAM CLARKE	7
JAMES MORGAN	4	ARTHUR JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by S. JONES, JUN.

Rung with the bells fully muffled except for the tenor, which was open on one side.

DEPTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD, SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT A. FOSDIKE	*1 treble*	RALPH WOOD	5
CHARLES ELLIOTT	2	*ARCHIBALD F. BENNINGTON	6
JOHN J. LAMB	3	THOMAS A. EASTERBY ...	7
WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES	4	JAMES W. COLBY	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES.

* First peal away from the tenor with an 'inside' bell. Rung with the bells half-muffled before the memorial service.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART, No. 13. Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST WILSON	*1 treble*	GEORGE E. LARGE	5
REGINALD ELT	2	RALPH W. SAYERS	6
DENNIS R. SAYERS	3	REGINALD WOODYATT ...	7
ARTHUR R. MOSELEY	4	FREDERICK G. YATES ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

Rung half-muffled.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*J. MARTIN	*Treble*	*L. TREVOR	5
D. H. ARGYLE	2	J. THOMPSON	6
T. W. CHAPMAN...	3	E. MARTIN	7
W. THOMAS	4	E. STONE	*Tenor*

Composed by H. PRICE. Conducted by E. STONE.

* First peal of Bob Major. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung with half-muffled clappers. All the band are Sunday service ringers at Nuneaton.

HASTINGS, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

JOSEPH D. WHITE	*Treble*	†JAMES W. PIPER	5
WILLIAM J. BRADFIELD ...	2	GEORGE S. PIPER	6
*ARTHUR H. FUNNELL ...	3	ALFRED C. LEVETT	7
ALBERT A. EASTON	4	WILLIAM LEVETT	*Tenor*

Conducted by A. C. LEVETT.

* First peal. Rung fully muffled. All are Sunday service ringers at the church.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation.) Tenor 21 cwt.

RONALD F. SALTER	*Treble*	FRANK BRADLEY	5
MISS IDA B. THOMPSON ...	2	FRED A. SALTER	6
FRANK W. BROWN	3	RALPH NARBOROUGH... ...	7
ALBERT COPPOCK...	4	*A. EDMUND CLEMENCE ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALBERT COPPOCK.

* First peal. Rung with bells deeply muffled.

TO ARCHITECTS AND CHURCH AUTHORITIES

JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD.

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MITCHAM, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
(The Mitcham Society.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Taylor's. Tenor 16 cwt.

*Leonard W. Nicholas	*Treble*	Charles W. R. Grimwood	5
William H. Joiner	2	Charles Pothecary	6
†Herbert Tourle	3	William S. Smith	7
Laurence Greenhow	4	*George A. West	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. Pothecary.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Parish Church of SS. Mary and Lawrence,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

John Flint	*Treble*	Harold Jackson	5
Jesse J. Moss	2	Stanley Slaney	6
Harry Prout	3	Joseph Saxton	7
Benjamin A. Cooper	4	Harold Kent	*Tenor*

Composed by John Carter. Conducted by John Flint.

Rung with fully muffled clappers.

DARLASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
At the Parish Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF DARLASTON BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19¾ cwt.

*William Parker	*Treble*	David Hingley	5
George Butler	2	Dennis Holden	6
George Meath	3	Bert Horton	7
†Jack Gibbons	4	John Pritchard	*Tenor*

Composed by John Carter. Conducted by Bert Horton.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19¾ cwt.

*Albert E. Whiting	*Treble*	Leslie C. Wightman	5
*James Bennett, jun.	2	*George Bennett	6
*George Pryke	3	*George Whiting	7
Leslie G. Brett	4	T. William Last	*Tenor*

Composed by G. H. Cross. Conducted by G. Whiting.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung with half-muffled clappers.

PENN, STAFFS.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Bartholomew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Groves' Transposition of Parker's Twelve-part.

Tenor 10 cwt.

Thomas Hinsall	*Treble*	*Cyril Griffiths	5
Alfred Kermeth	2	Jack Brewster	6
Herbert E. Booth	3	Edward G. Bowyer	7
Arthur Roden	4	Jeremiah Bloore	*Tenor*

Conducted by E. G. Bowyer.

* First peal 'inside.' Rung with the bells half-muffled.

SEND FOR YOUR COPY OF 'A GREAT ADVENTURE' NOW. 2/-

'The Ringing World' Office,
Lower Pyrford Road,
Woking.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

SHENFIELD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 25, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 720 Cambridge Surprise and 1,440 each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

*Bertram C. Hines	*Treble*	†Leslie H. Thrift	4
John Stitch	2	Robert Heazel	5
Harry Turner	3	Edward T. Stitch	*Tenor*

Conducted by H. Turner.

* First peal in four methods. † First peal of Minor. Rung with the bells fully muffled (except the tenor, which was half-muffled) at the request of the Rector.

BRECON.
THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 25, 1936, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, 10 different callings. Tenor 17 cwt.

*Leo. T. Havard	*Treble*	William Evans	4
*Ernest Woolley	2	David H. Bennett	5
*William E. Thomas	3	Sidney T. Rackham	*Tenor*

Conducted by D. H. Bennett.

* First peal. Rung with half-muffled clappers.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 26, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob, and three 720's of Oxford Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

Reginald Wright	*Treble*	Richard T. Holding	4
Eric Clarke	2	Thomas S. Astbury	5
Albert Thomas	3	Albert Crawley	*Tenor*

Conducted by A. Crawley.

Rung with the bells muffled.

GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 27, 1936, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Cambridge Surprise, two 720's Kent Treble Bob, 720 Double Court, two 720's Oxford Treble Bob and 720 College Exercise.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

Harry Seager	*Treble*	William Mills	4
*George Barker	2	John Shynn	5
Frank Shynn	3	Percy Saver	*Tenor*

Conducted by Percy Saver.

* First peal. Rung with the bells deeply muffled.

FOLKINGHAM, LINCS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 27, 1936, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Single Court, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 13 cwt. (approx.).

James H. Musson	*Treble*	Charles Wilkinson	4
Arthur I. Holmes	2	Cuthbert T. H. Bradley	5
Albert E. Scott	3	Thomas L. Bainbridge	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. T. H. Bradley.

Rung with half-muffled clappers. 25th peal on the bells.

CADOXTON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 7½ cwt.

Wyndham Lewis	*Treble*	Edward Phillips	4
Benjamin Williams	2	Albert Devonald	5
David Rees	3	Gwyn I. Lewis	*Tenor*

Conducted by G. I. Lewis.

Rung with the bells half-muffled.

EVERSHOT, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(West Dorset Branch.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Osmund,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six extents each of Stedman Slow Course and St. Simon's, and ten extents each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob and Grandsire, with 26 callings. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A.

Frederick C Isaacs ...	...*Treble*	Harold C. R. Vine	4
H. Dennis W. Bishop ...	2	Arthur G. Chubb	5
Herbert Groves	3	William Ruttley ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by H. D. W. Bishop.

First peal in five methods 'inside' by all except the conductor. Rung with clappers half-muffled.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 21 240's by Pitman, Morris and Lindoff. Tenor 12½ cwt.

Thomas Beaver	...*Treble*	*Albert E. Jones	4
V. James Carless	2	James P. Hyett	5
William Beaver	3	Frederick J. Watkins	...*Tenor*

Conducted by J. P. Hyett.

* 25th peal for the Hereford Guild. Rung with half-muffled clappers.

FARNDON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Chad,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt. 22 lb.

*Harry Hughes	...*Treble*	Reginald L. Ince	5
*George Simon	2	*John Thomas	6
*Lee Ince	3	Albert E. Richards ...	7
*Thomas W. Simon	4	*Jonathan Youde ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by Albert E. Richards.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal on the bells by a local band. Rung on the middle six with the bells half-muffled. The 'whole pull and stand' was also rung 70 times.

PYTCHLEY, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Kettering Branch.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Three Hours,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six six-scores each of Plain Bob, Old Doubles, Canterbury and St. Simon's, and 18 of Grandsire. Tenor 8 cwt.

*Alfred Hicks	...*Treble*	Sidney Munton	3
George Brown...	2	George Middleton	4
Richard Abrams... ...	...*Tenor*		

Conducted by S. Munton.

* First peal. Rung with the bells muffled.

MOLD, NORTH WALES.
THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

Fred Hartman... ...	...*Treble*	†E. Evans	4
*G. Williams	2	Walter Price	5
*B. Griffiths	3	*E. Barnett	...*Tenor*

Conducted by Fred Hartman.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' Rung half-muffled

ALGARKIRK, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Eastern Branch.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being a 720 each of Double Oxford, St. Clement's, London Bob, Double Court, Plain Bob, Single Court and Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

*Francis E. Carter ...	...*Treble*	Harold Barsley	4
George W. Burrell ...	2	Harvey E. Burrell	5
*Joseph J. Leeson	3	Cyril R. Burrell ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by C. R. Burrell.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal by a local band. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

TALGARTH, BRECONSHIRE.
THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Gwendoline,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 different callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*C. Morgan Davies ...	...*Treble*	David H. Bennett	4
Bernard H. Davies ...	2	†Stanley C. Powell ...	5
William D. Griffiths ...	3	†Selwyn L. Speake ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by D. H. Bennett.

* First peal on hunt bell. † First peal. Rung after a memorial service with half-muffled clappers.

FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Sonning Deanery Branch.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

Bernard C. Castle ...	...*Treble*	Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow ...	4
Gordon R. Cross	2	William J. Paice	5
Marie R. Cross	3	Rev. C. Elliot Wigg	...*Tenor*

Conducted by Rev. C. Elliot Wigg.

First peal in seven methods by all except the conductor. First in seven methods as conductor. Rung with half-muffled clappers.

DARLINGTON.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge, Surfleet, Beverley, York, Durham, Wells and London. Tenor 7½ cwt.

James T. Titt	...*Treble*	Robert B. Simpson	4
Robert Jeff	2	George W. Park	5
Richard Busby	3	W. Norman Park ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by W. Norman Park.

Rung with the bells half-muffled.

COLNE ENGAINE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
(St. Andrew's Guild, Earls Colne.)

On Tuesday, January 28, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Kent Treble Bob, two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob and two 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

Albert L. Dixey ...	...*Treble*	*Harry Carter	4
Reginald G. Simmonds ...	2	Robert C. Lyon	5
Alec M. Genery	3	George R. Townes ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by G. R. Townes.

* First peal 'inside.' Rung with half-muffled bells. The band are all regular Sunday service ringers at this church.

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MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NEW COMPOSITIONS TO BE PRINTED IN ANNUAL REPORT.

A quarterly meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, February 1st, at Wigston Magna, near Leicester. The fine ring of eight bells was made good use of during the afternoon and evening by members from Burton, Derby, Hinckley, Loughborough, Nottingham and Leicester branches, as well as several out-county members. It was unfortunate that South Wigston bells were unavailable for this meeting. The committee met in the afternoon, and arising out of their deliberations it was decided to grant £5 to the Bell Repairs Fund at Anstey, Leicester, and also £2 2s. to the William Pye Memorial Fund. It was decided to print the annual report in the usual way, and, after a lengthy discussion, it was proposed to print figures of new compositions rung during 1935 and the new methods rung by the Wigston Magna band.

A short service followed, conducted by the Vicar, and a peal board dedicated recording the Jubilee peal of Buckingham Surprise Major.

Tea was served in the Church Rooms at 5 p.m. and over 30 ringers and friends sat down. Immediately afterwards the general business was proceeded with. The president (Mr. E. Denison Taylor) gave a review of the past quarter's work, but first voiced the feeling of all present at the great national loss of H.M. King George V., and asked all to stand a few moments to his beloved and respected memory.

Fewer peals had been rung during the quarter, but calling for special mention was the new method called Claybrook Surprise Major, rung by the Wigston Magna band, and 9,760 Bob Major, composed and called by the general hon. secretary, which never had a single bob, but 400 singles! He was pleased to have the Vicar of Wigston present at the meeting and thanked him for the inspiring service.—The Vicar, in reply, gave a welcome to all members present and trusted all had enjoyed the bells.

New members proposed since the last meeting, viz., 15 ordinary, two rejoining, two life, two honorary, were duly elected.

The hon. treasurer (Mr. W. E. White) explained that nominations for Central Council representatives and general officers, if duly proposed and seconded, could be received by the general hon. secretary up to one month before the annual meeting at Easter.

Two auditors to check accounts were duly chosen—Messrs. C. Harrison and J. H. Dean.

This concluded the business, and Mr. J. H. Swinfield proposed a vote of thanks to the local company for all arrangements made and to the ladies for catering. Further ringing on the bells and 'impromptu meetings' elsewhere brought a successful afternoon to a close.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

MEMORIAL TO LATE MASTER DEDICATED.

The annual general meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths was held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 25th. Despite the national mourning for the death of King George V., the attendance was considered very good, about 50 members and friends attending. Although there was no ringing on the tower bells, the time was well occupied in handbell ringing. At 5 o'clock the Vicar unveiled the memorial to the late respected Master of the society, Mr. J. D. Matthews. In a few well-chosen remarks, Canon McCormick spoke of the great work Mr. Matthews had done for the society.

Mr. G. Cross (Master) then asked the Vicar to accept and dedicate this memorial to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Matthews.

After a prayer, the Vicar pulled aside the curtain which covered the tablet.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated by all and the ceremony concluded with the Blessing.

The tablet is of black glass in the shape of a bell, with gold lettering, supplied by Messrs. Caspar and Co.

A sumptuous tea was provided by the Vicar and Church Council in the canteen, and afterwards a course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells to the delight of the assistants.

A move was then made to the celebrated Vestry Hall, where the business meeting was held. The balance sheet was presented by the treasurer (Mr. G. W. Steere), and showed a very satisfactory balance on the right side—about double of the previous year.

The secretary (Mr. G. A. Card) gave his report, which was also considered very satisfactory, as progress had been maintained.

The following officers were then elected: Master, Mr. G. H. Cross; secretary, Mr. G. A. Card; treasurer, Mr. G. W. Steere; trustees, Mr. F. Smith and Mr. A. Hardy; senior steward, Mr. T. Bevan; junior steward, Mr. F. Arnold; auditors, Mr. T. Newman and Mr. F. Symonds.

It was decided to hold three quarterly meetings, as usual, the following places and dates being decided upon, providing permission be obtained: March 28th, Gravesend; July 18th, Beddington; October 10th, Walthamstow. Due notice of these meetings will be advertised in 'The Ringing World.'

It was also decided to hold a practice meeting at Shoreditch on the last Thursday in the month, from 6 to 8.30, to help on the young members at this church.

Four representatives for the Central Council were elected, viz., Mr. G. H. Cross, Mr. G. W. Steere, Mr. J. Parker and Mr. G. Gilbert. This concluded the business, and the Vicar was thanked for presiding.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret that owing to the great pressure on our space, many peal reports and touches are unavoidably held over, as is also the report of the reopening of Marple bells, which have been restored by Messrs. Taylor and Co. A report of the annual meeting of the Truro Diocesan Guild will appear in our next issue.

During the peal at Finchampstead on January 28th it was noticed that all the ringers were wearing spectacles! This may not be a new record, but it is certainly a rare occurrence.

The ring of five of Thornford Church, Dorset, is to be rehung and a new treble added to make six. The work is in the capable hands of John Taylor and Co.

We are not surprised to learn that Mr. J. T. Dyke, the genial hon. secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, has received many congratulations upon the performance at Chewton Mendip, recorded in our last issue. A † indicated that it was his first peal of Surprise Major. Even the printer's 'devil' should have known better than this, but there's many a slip—when one is handling type.

The ladies are to hold a meeting at Ossett, near Wakefield, on February 29th. As usual the presence of gentlemen will be welcome, but the secretary warns them, by asking them to note the date!

The two eight-bell towers in Taunton have four active ringing members, each of whom has called a peal on eight bells.

Frederick G. Smith, aged 16, the ringer of the treble in the peal at Beaconsfield, rang his first peal (Bob Major) without the least semblance of a trip. There are very few ringers, of any age, who ring their first peal without a slip of any kind, and Fred Smith's performance was a highly creditable one.

MUFFLED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice by your peal reports that some muffled ringing was done at the usual ringing speed, and one footnote even adds, 'Quickest peal on the bells.'

I venture to suggest that muffled ringing loses its beauty if carried out at the usual speed and method, but is most impressive rung with half-muffled clappers in whole pulls, or, better still, call changes. At the tower where I ring we could not manage whole pull changes to a method, so arranged suitable call changes, the tenor making about 15 blows per minute.

It would be interesting to hear what is considered correct.

There is no time given for the quarter-peals.

W. A. OSBORN.

Galhampton, Somerset.

HALF OR FULL MUFFLED?

Dear Sir,—In going through my 'Ringing World' of last week I was surprised to find that bells had been rung in peals or quarter-peals two ways, some half-muffled and some fully muffled for our beloved King. For my part, I think this was wrong to have had two kinds as stated above. Going back to the time of Queen Victoria's death, I have always understood that bells should be rung fully muffled for any member of the Royal Family, which I take it means King or Queen and sons and daughters of the Royal House.

As we ring bells half-muffled for, say, clergy, churchwardens and ringers or anyone else of importance, when it comes to such a sad loss as the nation has just sustained I think there should be a marked difference in the way in which the bells should be muffled.

We all know our King looked upon himself as just an ordinary man, but the whole nation looked upon him as something far beyond that. I certainly think that we ringers should be given to understand which is the right way to have them muffled, then whenever such a sad event falls upon the nation again—I trust this may be a long, long way off—all bells will be muffled in the same way throughout the country. At Broxbourne we had them fully muffled with the tenor open one side.

May I ask if the Central Council could discuss this matter at some convenient time and inform all ringers of their view on this important subject?

I trust no ringer or ringers will think I am making an attack on any ringing, whether half or fully muffled, because we all had the same sincerity at the end of the rope. All I am asking is for information as to which is the correct way to muffle bells on the death of a member of the Royal Family. G. RADLEY.

OAK PANEL PRESENTED AT BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

At the half-yearly meeting of St. Michael's bellringers on Thursday, January 30th, an oak panel recording two peals—a peal of Stedman Triples and a peal of Bob Major—was dedicated by the Vicar (the Rev. W. McCarthy). This oak panel was presented to the belfry by Mr. H. M. White, the secretary of the local band, the peal of Bob Major having been rung upon his silver wedding. Mr. H. J. Tucker, of Chichester, and formerly of Bishop's Stortford, who conducted the peal, was present, and the ringers gave him a hearty welcome.

The Vicar thanked Mr. White on behalf of the churchwarden and all present for this handsome gift.

During the evening touches were rung in various methods, including Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

DEATH OF REV. B. H. TYRWHITT-DRAKE

WALSOKEN MOURNS A BELOVED PRIEST.

Many tributes have been paid to the loss which the parish of Walsoken, the town of Wisbech and the Diocese of Ely have sustained by the tragic death of the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, who, as recorded last week, was killed by a falling tree in the Rectory grounds on January 25th.

Apart from his purely parochial duties, Mr. Drake had allied himself to many good causes, and took an active part in social as well as church life in the district.

He took great interest in the affairs of the British Legion, and was chaplain and vice-president of Walsoken branch. In Freemasonry he was Past Provincial Grand Chaplain of Hertfordshire.

The Late Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake.

The great grief felt in the district at his death was manifested at the funeral on Wednesday week, when, despite a rain that never ceased, such a large and representative congregation assembled that the church would not hold all who attended.

The Bishop of Ely (the Rt. Rev. B. O. F. Heywood) took part in the service, which was conducted by the Vicar of Wisbech (the Rev. H. K. Stallard). Prayers were recited by Archdeacon Ward, and the committal prayers were read by the late Rector's cousin, Canon F. Halsey, of Great Gaddesden, Herts, where Mr. Drake's father was formerly Vicar.

In addition to the family mourners were many clergy, most of whom were robed. There was a parade of the British Legion, with their standard. The Women's Section, with their standard, was also represented, while the Wisbech Salvation Army was present with their band. Wisbech Brotherhood and Wisbech V.A.D. sent representatives, as did also the local lodges of Freemasons, the Walsoken Rectory Bowls Club, the Wisbech Women's Institute and the Wisbech Male Voice Choir.

Mr. E. H. Lewis (president) and Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary) represented the Central Council, and other ringers present were Mrs. E. K. Fletcher (hon. secretary, Ladies' Guild), Mr. R. Richardson (Master, Lincoln Diocesan Guild), Mrs. Richardson (hon. secretary, Lincoln District of the Ladies' Guild), Miss K. Willers (hon. secretary, Ely Diocesan Association), Mr. F. Warrington (hon. secretary, Ely Diocesan Association, Central District), Mr. A. N. P. Woodard (hon. secretary) and Mr. W. H. J. Hooton (representing Cambridge University Guild), Messrs. R. Crofts (Elm), A. Johnson and W. Mann (Hilgay), J. R. Smith (Wisbech), S. Ingle and E. Shinkins (Terrington), A. V. Bowen (Shouldham), C. Cousins and W. Cousins (Terrington St. John), A. G. Giddins (March), etc.

At the graveside rounds were rung on handbells by members of the Ely Association and the local service ringers.

Touches of Bob Minor were rung on the tower bells, with clappers deeply muffled, both before and after the service, and muffled ringing took place on the bells at several towers in the Wisbech Rural Deanery.

At Walsoken, on Sunday, February 2nd, the bells were rung with clappers deeply muffled. Touches of Bob Minor were rung before morning service, and in the evening a 720 of Bob Minor: W. Storey 1, W. Cousins 2, G. F. Mason 3, S. Steed 4, Lewis Bush 5, F. C. Wigmore (conductor) 6.

On Saturday, eight members of the Wisbech Branch of Ely Diocesan Association attempted a peal of St. Clement's Bob Major at All Saints' Church, Hilgay, with the bells half-muffled, but owing to a shift course the bells were called into rounds after 1 hour 15 minutes' good ringing.

At the inquest, which had been held on the preceding Monday, evidence was given that the tree felling was begun during the Saturday afternoon, but was held up for a time owing to rain. It was completed by lamp-light, and just before the tree was thrown, the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake was warned by Alfred Freeman, who was doing the work, assisted by his son, to stand in a place of safety, which he pointed out to the Rector. Apparently the Rector did not stop in this spot, for after the tree was down Freeman failed

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE CHURCH AND ITS BELLS.

WHAT THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY HAS SAID.

Striking Contrast With Vicar of Kingston's Views.

The extraordinary attitude taken up by the Vicar of Kingston-on-Thames with regard to the relation of his bells to the Church has been the subject of much comment among ringers, and to many of those who love church bells, because of their association with centuries of Christian worship, it came as a painful surprise.

The Rev. T. B. Scrutton's views are, happily, shared by few of his fellow clergy, and we present below a striking contrast. One quotation is from the declaration of the Vicar of Kingston; the other is extracted from the address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the jubilee service of the Kent County Association in Canterbury Cathedral on Easter Monday, 1930.

The Vicar of Kingston:

The bells are of no interest to the Church as a Church. As a machine for spreading Christianity, which is its primary function, the Church has no interest in bells. They may be of some slight interest to the Church in awakening people's interest in it, but if I regard myself as one whose business it is to assist Christianity in Kingston, then I take not the smallest interest in the bells. The only interest I have in them is as a Kingstonian. The interest is municipal—civic. It is not a Church of England interest. Some people may be inclined to say: 'It is the business of the parish church—let them get on with it.' But, quite honestly, if it is left to us the bells will be left.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury:

The voice of the church bells is, among the many voices of the world, full of a very special signification and meaning. . . . . Some of the deepest associations of human life, most of all, of course, the message of the Church, the bells speak out. There are other voices within the Church, of teaching, of worship and of praise, but the bells always seem to me to be the voice of the Church itself, when the buildings, so many of them old and venerable, try to speak for themselves. The bells, therefore, give their witness of what the churches themselves stand for throughout all the changes and chances of the generations that have passed, of things that are unseen and eternal. Sunday by Sunday the sounding of the bells reminds the people of God's claim upon their lives. . . . To me there is always something joyful and rather assuring in the sound of the bells. They speak of the faith that endures and of the everlasting gospel of the love of God.

DOES MUSIC OF BELLS MEAN NOTHING?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is, indeed, difficult to write with restraint of the remarks uttered by the Vicar of Kingston, and, although it may be impossible for a ringer to view the subject with the reverend gentleman's eyes, can it be really possible that the music of the bells means nothing to him?

I cannot bring myself to believe that if the Rev. T. B. Scrutton was at Westminster on Tuesday last, as I was, he could possibly have failed to be deeply moved, for of all the sounds I heard on that day none of them had the effect of stirring up the emotion as the wonderful mournful rhythm of the Abbey bells—and, my word, how they were rung!

Bells have always been regarded as the most appropriate way of expressing the nation's joys and sorrows, to say nothing of their regular Sunday ringing to remind us of our duty to God and His House.

Lastly, if the Vicar of Kingston was really in earnest, and no one will deny that he was very frank, it is time he moved to a church without a peal of bells and made room for someone a little more sympathetic towards our very ancient and noble art.

We should be very thankful that there are few clergymen who hold that view, and I trust that his convictions will be overruled.

WILLIAM T. GRICE.

Barming, Kent.

(Continued from previous column.)

to find him there, and, on searching, discovered him crushed under a bough. Medical evidence showed that death was instantaneous, for the Rector sustained a broken neck, a broken back, a fractured skull and a broken nose.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of 'Death by misadventure,' and added that Freeman was in no way to blame for the occurrence. The Coroner expressed his profound sympathy with the family, and Police Supt. Green, associating himself with the expression of sympathy, said the Rector's death would be deplored by all who knew him. 'His death,' he added, 'has robbed us of a very beloved priest.'

MUFFLED RINGING FOR DEAD KING

The number of muffled or half-muffled peals and touches rung for the death of His Majesty King George V. was greater probably than for any previous monarch. Reports of about 150 peals have been sent to us, apart from the great number of shorter lengths which have been rung—evidence of the determination of ringers everywhere to ensure that the bells took their traditional place in the national mourning.

We referred last week to the wonderful effect of the beautiful ringing at Westminster Abbey, as the solemn funeral procession started out from Westminster Hall.

The cortege arrived at Windsor to the tolling of the 'Sebastopol' bell, hung in the Round Tower of the Castle, while during the procession the tenor at the Parish Church was tolled.

Some very fine half-muffled Stedman Cinques was heard at St. Paul's Cathedral before the great memorial service held on the afternoon of the funeral, and at Windsor in the evening half-muffled touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung at the Curfew Tower and the Parish Church.

At the Parish Church on Sunday, January 26th, a muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for evensong: J. A. Glass 1, W. P. Cross 2, T. Smith 3, L. Stilwell 4, W. W. Phipps 5, A. R. Pink 6, E. S. T. Farr (conductor) 7, F. Simmonds 8.

PEAL ATTEMPT COMES ROUND TOO SOON.

A half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples at Lyme Regis on the day of the King's funeral came to an unexpected and disappointing end. Holt's Original was being attempted, but when 4,368 changes had been rung in 2 hours 45 minutes, the bells, owing to an unfortunate lapse on the part of the conductor, were allowed to run round at the end of the plain course, which comes up at this point of the peal: F. Hiscock 1, J. E. Philbrick 2, C. W. H. Powell 3, H. G. Keeley 4, G. H. Whitemore 5, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 6, F. Price 7, W. G. Sartin 8. On Tuesday, January 21st, with the bells half-muffled in memory of King George V., the whole pull and stand for the 70 years of his age was rung by Rev. C. C. Cox 1, F. Hiscock 2, C. W. Powell 3, J. E. Philbrick 4, H. G. Keeley 5, F. Price 6, F. E. Blackmore 7, W. G. Sartin 8.

At St. Mary's Church, Dunmow, Essex, on Tuesday, January 28th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major with the bells half-muffled: G. Pitts 1, R. Roper 2, W. Richardson 3, A. Perry 4, A. Smith 5, G. Saunders 6, J. Jennings 7, W. Smith (conductor) 8.

At Sulgrave, after a memorial service on January 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, the bells being fully muffled: T. Wilcox 1, J. Salisbury 2, W. Branson (conductor) 3, L. Wootton 4, J. Murdell 5, — Wilcox 6.

At the Parish Church, Luton, Beds, on the occasion of H.M. King George's funeral, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, half-muffled: H. Walker 1, A. King 2, B. Wilson 3, T. Kendall 4, A. J. Smith 5, H. Wood 6, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, E. Shane 8.

A quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung with the bells fully muffled at the Ashford Parish Church, Kent, on Sunday evening, January 26th: Mrs. Everett 1, P. Page 2, J. Parsons 3, G. Swaffer 4, T. Cullingworth 5, T. Tabrett 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 8. On Tuesday evening, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples with the bells half-muffled: Mrs. Everett 1, R. Edwards 2, F. Conley 3, G. Swaffer 4, T. Cullingworth 5, T. Tabrett 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, R. Goldup 8.

At the Church of St. Mary, Hornsey, on Tuesday, January 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, being 10½ different six-scores: Rev. D. A. Bailey (first quarter-peal) 1, J. G. Nash (conductor) 2, E. G. Hibble 3, F. Fensom 4, J. Clouston 5, G. W. Blee 6. Rung with the bells deeply muffled.

At St. Giles', Willenhall, on Tuesday evening, January 28th, with the bells muffled, 720 Bob Minor with 7-8 covering: A. Evans 1, J. Evans 2, J. Picken 3, J. Luck 4, C. Wallater (conductor) 5, W. Edge 6, A. E. Reed 7, H. Ludford 8. First 720 in the method for all except the conductor.

At Overseal, Derbyshire, on Tuesday, January 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,554 changes), with the bells half-muffled, at the Church of St. Matthew: H. Adams 1, W. Curson (conductor) 2, L. Freeman 3, W. Brooker 4, W. E. Clayfield 5, J. W. Cotton 6, G. W. Clayfield 7, H. Curson 8.

The bells of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, were rung half-muffled for the funeral of King George V., and in the evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): H. Griffiths 1, H. Knight (conductor) 2, T. Roden 3, G. A. Baker 4, N. H. Smith 5, K. Knowles 6, J. D. G. Harris 7, F. Brotherton 8, W. H. Lawley 9, G. Langley 10.

A fully muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Peter's Church, Croydon, for evensong on February 2nd: W. Witterick (first quarter-peal) 1, D. Wright (conductor) 2, H. Wills 3, A. Jones 4, F. Jones 5, W. Bulpitt 6, F. Lecks 7, R. Simmons 8, H. Simmons 9, E. Denham 10.

On Saturday, January 25th, at St. Peter's, Powick, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with the bells half-muffled: T. W. Lewis (conductor) 1, F. Barnett 2, J. Woodyatt 3, H. Cole 4, F. Woodward 5, F. Yates 6.

(Other memorial touches will be published next week).

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTH NORFOLK BRANCH.

Over thirty members, representing the four branches, from Buxton, Dersingham, Diss, Fakenham, Garboldisham, North Walsham, Norwich, Shelfanger, Winfarthing, Wroxham, Wymondham, Yarmouth and the local band, supported the annual meeting of the North Norfolk branch at Hethersett on Saturday last. A variety of methods from Grandsire to London Surprise were rung during the afternoon and evening.

The Rector of Hethersett (the Rev. J. M. McAnally) conducted a shortened form of evensong in the church, and, following this, most adjourned for tea in the Church Rooms.

At the business meeting which followed tea, the Rev. H. W. Benson was unanimously re-elected branch chairman, while Mr. N. Golden was asked to continue as hon. secretary. Messrs. G. Bailey (Wroxham), H. F. Carter (Aylsham), W. Clover (Wymondham), W. C. Duffield (Buxton) and G. Mayers (Norwich) were elected committee members, and Messrs. Bailey and Duffield were re-elected members of the Standing Committee of the Association.

Mr. J. R. Hindry was elected a performing member, the belfry elections of Messrs. W. Clarke and J. H. Arbon were ratified, while Mr. C. V. Blake was re-elected a member.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the North Norfolk Branch at Scottow on May 2nd. The South Norfolk Branch meets at Diss on May 16th.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. J. M. McAnally for conducting the service and for his hearty welcome to Hethersett concluded the business of the meeting.

SOUTH NORFOLK BRANCH.

On Saturday, January 18th, the South Norfolk Branch held its annual meeting at Pulham Market. Members from Diss, Redenhall, Saxlingham, Starston, St. Margaret's, Garboldisham, Winfarthing, Shelfanger and the local band supported the meeting, while the usual group turned up from Norwich and Wymondham.

The Rector of St. Mary Magdalen, Pulham, conducted a short service with a congregation of 30 ringers, and then followed tea, the members, as usual, being the guests of the Rector.

At the business meeting the Rev. R. H. Stacey presided, supported by Mr. W. L. Duffield, branch chairman, and Messrs. H. G. Bennett, A. G. Harrison, R. Riches and E. Whiting, members of the committee.

A letter from the hon. branch secretary was read apologising for his absence, due to illness.

The branch chairman, hon. secretary and the committee were re-elected en bloc, and Messrs. W. E. Bason and E. G. Bennett were nominated as members of the General Committee of the association.

Mr. F. T. Bloomfield, of Garboldisham, was elected a performing member of the association.

The next meeting of the branch is to be held at Diss, on a date in May to be fixed by the secretary.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for his address, his hospitality and his services in the chair was carried enthusiastically, and the best wishes of the meeting for a speedy recovery were sent to Mr. Nolan Golden, the hon. secretary.

DEATH OF MR. ALPHÆUS BERRY.

SUFFOLK RINGER WHO DIED IN HOUSE WHERE HE WAS BORN.

It is with much regret that we record the death of Mr. Alphæus Berry, which occurred somewhat suddenly, on Wednesday, January 22nd, at Thornham, Suffolk, in the house in which he was born 52 years ago. For some years he had been district secretary of the Eye Branch of the Suffolk Guild. Till four years ago, when he was appointed sexton of Thornham Church, he had been an enthusiastic peal ringer, and had rung upwards of 330 peals, often cycling many miles after a day's work to make peal attempts in various methods. He took part in a peal of 10,080 changes in 14 Treble Bob methods in 1912, also, in more recent years, in most of the peals of Surprise Minor rung there.

The deceased was interred in the presence of a large congregation, which included Lord Henniker, the Hon. John Henniker, Rev. the Hon. Victor Henniker, who, with the branch chaplain of the British Legion, conducted the service. Deceased was a member of the Legion, and 30 members attended. All the workmen on the Thornham Hall Estate, where Mr. Berry was foreman, were present.

At the conclusion of the service the bells were rung with half-muffled clappers by ringers from Braisworth, Cotton, Diss, Eye, Finningham, Gislingham, Garboldisham, Mendlesham, Redgrave, Shelfanger, Stoke Ash, Thornham, Thorndon, Walsham le Willows, Wickham Skeith, Wetheringsett, Wymondham and Yaxley. On the following evening an excellently struck half-muffled peal was rung.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.—At St. Botolph's Church, for morning service on Sunday, December 15th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. R. Dyke (first quarter-peal) 1, G. J. Butcher (conductor) 2, R. Smith 3, L. T. Stacey 4, T. Taylor 5, A. Durling 6, R. A. Constant 7, C. W. Hammond 8.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SONNING BRANCH.

The Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held its annual meeting, as usual, at Wokingham, Berks, when, despite the arctic weather, a considerable number of members (including several ladies) attended.

Ringing took place at All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches both before and after the meeting.

Service was held at All Saints' Church, the Rector (the Rev. G. Kenworthy) officiating, assisted by the Master of the Guild, the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge (who read the lesson), the Deputy Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg), and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (curate of All Saints'), who preached a striking sermon from Revelations iii., 15: 'Neither cold nor hot.' He remarked that the text emphasised that our religion should be filled with fervour: strong words, almost as though it were better not to become Christians at all than be lukewarm Christians. Everything was to be keen. Our Lord's parables emphasised this. The people mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles were 'all out' for their Lord. It was the same now. They were told about the uselessness of the slacker; he was of no help to the Lord's work on earth, but directly hindering it. The history of the Church showed that, when from flourishing it 'slipped back,' slackness was the cause. When Christians were so keen that they feared not persecution or even death, the Church flourished.

We wanted not so much better Christians as more of them in these days if the Church was to go forward. It was up to each one to see if he were 'pulling his weight' or whether he was hindering the work of the Church, which had no use for slackers—those who came to see and then, censorious, went away saying, 'That was not very much help to me.' Those only of real help to our Lord were those who went out after Him in a spirit of absolute loyalty to Him. Slackness was the one great drawback in all their work for our Lord and His Church. The keen ones were a tremendous support to the Church, but there was room for improvement.

The preacher then indicated ways in which people might become even a little more helpful. These included for ringers—keenness in their work, shown in punctuality for ringing for church services on Sunday and for practice on weekdays—a help and not a hindrance to the band. There was a difference, he said, between choir and ringers. In the former, one voice out of a part, wrong or absent, might pass comparatively unnoticed, but the ringer absent or incorrect was bound to have an obvious effect. The preacher added that he had scarcely dared to say so much, but for an article he recently read in 'The Ringing World' on this subject, and went on to say: 'Ringers, on the whole, are the most splendid fellows I have ever met, and when the youngsters get heckled by the other ringers it is all to the good. Don't be offended when you are told of your mistakes. Ringing is a very difficult task, and surely that is what makes it so worth while. Always be trying to learn something new. You improve by practice.'

To take pride in one's work and to work together as a team were well worth while, he proceeded, and mentioned a tower, 'not far from here,' where in 1934, out of a possible 1,100 attendances only 25 were missed! Such could be done by keenness. It was well, sometimes, to think about all those little faults and failings, too, as well as to remind themselves what a tremendous privilege it was to be a ringer, even if people did discourage by criticism.

Among those present at the service and subsequent proceedings included the Revs. A. P. Carr, W. T. Stubbs and L. R. Majendie, Mr. A. J. Wright (Guild treasurer), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Guild secretary), with foremen of the towers and ringers, a congregation of about 70.

A collection for the Branch Restoration Fund amounted to £1 2s. 6d.

Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O., was at the organ and played 'Belfry Praise,' for 'Unchanging God Who livest' and 'Each Lord's Day morn,' sung during the service.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The usual meat tea followed, held in the All Saints' Church House, the fare including the much favoured Wokingham meat pies and also mince pies. Miss A. H. Walker and her helpers, the Misses Greany, Ward, Cox, Butler and Mesdames Rose, Henderson, Brooks, Lindsey and Willis, formed the efficient staff of waitresses, etc., while, under Mr. C. Goddard's able direction, the Rev. R. L. Majendie, Messrs. F. E. Chapman, A. E. Priest, W. Houlton and L. Russell acted as carvers.

The meal over, the Master thanked in happy terms the ladies and gentlemen who had carried out the tea arrangements, and this was emphasised by acclamation.

Mr. W. J. Paice (the hon. secretary) thanked the two Rectors for their kindness in allowing the use of their towers, not only on that day, but on many other occasions. He further thanked the Rector of All Saints' for the service, which they were always delighted to attend on those occasions. He further thanked the preacher (the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow), whose sermon, he said, had hit the nail right on the head, and he hoped it would go in deep. He also thanked Mr. Yould, the organist, for his beautiful music, and regretted that Mr. Yould was unable to be with them at the tea.

The Rev. G. Kenworthy, responding, paid a tribute to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow's sermon, and remarked that since Mr. Thurlow's coming to All Saints' he himself had learnt quite a lot about bell-ringing and what a wonderful art it was. He felt they were a splendid lot of ringers (applause).

The Master of the Guild (Canon Coleridge) presided at the business meeting.

The hon. secretary referred to Mr. Darvill, of Waltham St. Lawrence, and Mr. A. H. Jones, of Wokingham (both members of long standing), who were ill and unable to attend the meeting. He congratulated Mr. W. Bagley, of Easthamstead, upon his partial recovery from eye trouble, expressing pleasure at seeing Mr. Bagley again with them (applause).

The balance sheet was then presented by Mr. Paice as hon. treasurer. The balance had increased from £5 12s. 1d. in 1934 to £11 7s. 3d. on December 31st, 1935. He thanked Miss Walker for her donation of £3 15s., and paid a warm tribute to Mr. Owen Goddard for his kind services as auditor. He also thanked the hon. members and foremen of towers for the prompt payment of subscriptions.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Moth, seconded by Mr. L. Russell, the report was adopted.

Mr. Moth then said Mr. Paice had not drawn his honorarium, voted some years back.—Mr. Paice said he did not take it, as the branch had not given instructions.—Mr. Moth then moved, and Mr. Rance seconded, 'That the sum of four guineas be awarded to Mr. Paice, as honorarium for two years.'—This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Paice expressed thanks.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. Paice reported 27 honorary and 142 ringing members, against 25 and 153 the year before. During the year Dr. Attlee had left Burfield and the Rev. J. G. Elwood had succeeded him. Miss Renshaw, of Waltham St. Lawrence, had passed away, and her sister, Mrs. Robins, had expressed a wish to fill her place as an honorary member. Mr. F. Hanson, a Wargrave ringer, had also passed away. In many ways the past year had shown increased activity, and more keenness had been shown by many members. At a successful meeting at Waltham St. Lawrence in the summer, a variety of methods were rung in good style. The Rector and parishioners were thanked for their kind welcome and hospitality. Peals had been brought home by mixed bands from the Deanery towers, but none by individual branch towers. Good practice in Minor methods had been put in at several of the towers. Barkham tower and ringers had again withdrawn.—The report was adopted, with thanks to the secretary.

The Deputy Master presided pro tem. while the chairman was unanimously re-elected.—Canon Coleridge, thanking the branch for the honour, said he would do his best, but age and infirmity precluded his mounting tower steps. He would soon reach his 80th year.

Mr. W. J. Paice was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. J. Moth, seconded by Mr. F. Dentry, who both expressed cordial appreciation of the excellent work done by the hon. secretary.

Mr. Paice suitably responded, and referred to Mr. G. J. Wright, of Sonning, who was not present owing to illness. He was one of their oldest members, and he wished him many more happy years.

Messrs. F. Dentry, J. Moth, J. Rance and J. White were then re-elected branch representatives to the Guild Committee. The Branch Committee, consisting of foremen of the towers, was re-elected.

Recommendation from the Branch Committee for a half-yearly meeting to be held in June at Waltham St. Lawrence, and for monthly combined practices as before, were carried.

The Master regretted that, with so few of his Saturdays free and his not being able now to get about as he would have liked, he had very little to report. He proceeded humorously to make an encouraging speech (applause).

The Deputy Master, in similar vein, expressed his satisfaction at visiting the Sonning Branch, also his pleasure at the way in which Mr. Yould had so beautifully played the organ that day.

Mr. A. J. Wright (Guild treasurer) said the money for the Guild was coming in very satisfactorily. He hoped for a better balance than they had last year. Although past 'man's allotted span of life,' he would still do his little bit for the Guild. He wished everything good for the Sonning Branch, which always gave him a hearty welcome. They always did their best, and Mr. Paice was again first in getting in his figures. He congratulated him on his treasurership and for his Restoration Fund. He wished every tower and branch would do that, in which case they would be much better off. He wished them all a very happy New Year (applause).

Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Guild secretary) congratulated Mr. Paice on being 'first in.' Mr. Hibbert said that he could himself still get up tower steps and crawl over the framework of bells. Easthampstead had invited help for reconditioning their bells, which request he recommended to Mr. Paice and to the Guild Restoration Fund Committee, who would themselves make a recommendation. The Guild was for mutual help, and he hoped somebody would bring the matter forward. 'Let all work together with loyal support,' he added.

The Rev. W. T. Stubbs, Rector of Easthamstead, said about £150 would be required for the restoration of bells and tower. He would ask the Guild to loan the amount, and hoped, in a year, to collect sufficient to repay it.

On the proposition of Mr. Paice, seconded by Mr. Rance, five guineas was voted unanimously to Easthampstead from the Branch Restoration Fund.

The Rev. A. P. Carr thanked the chairman for presiding, and Canon Coleridge, in reply, said he hoped for some time yet to be with them, either as a humble member or as their chairman (applause).

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

PRESTEIGN DISTRICT WANTS TO CHANGE ITS NAME.

The annual meeting of the Presteign District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Lyonshall on Saturday, January 25th. The towers represented were Kington, Eardisland, Dilwyn, Staunton-on-Arrow and Lyonshall. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. C. Ellison), who made special mention of the great national loss by the death of King George. Tea was afterwards provided at the Vicarage by the Vicar, and this was followed by the annual business meeting. The Vicar presided. Mr. T. Jones (Kington) was elected District Ringing Master for the ensuing year. The instructors, Mr. L. Evans (Eardisland) and Mr. W. Richards (Lyonshall), were re-elected, as also was the hon. secretary (Mr. Jabez Preice).

In his report, the secretary paid high tribute to Lyonshall and Staunton-on-Arrow ringers for attendances at the combined practices and quarterly meetings, and said that, on the whole, members attended much better in 1935 than before.

There was a long discussion on changing the name of the district, and it was unanimously agreed that it should be called the 'Kington' District instead of the 'Presteign' District. The decision will be sent to the Hereford Guild for approval.

The next quarterly meeting is to be held at New Radnor in May. Four new members, three from Kington and one from Lyonshall, were elected, and five qualified for certificates, three from Staunton-on-Arrow and two from Lyonshall.

Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for taking the service and providing the tea, to the lady helpers, and also to Mr. Bowen (Lyonshall) for acting as organist. The bells were afterwards rung half-muffled till 9 p.m.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

BRANCH COMMITTEES THAT DO NOT MEET.

A meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Kidderminster on January 18th. Good use was made of the new ring of twelve bells, and the service, held in church, was conducted by the Vicar (Canon L. B. Sladen, M.A.), who also gave the address.

Tea, by invitation, was provided in the Parish Hall, at which about 50 members sat down. The Vicar presided at the subsequent business meeting, supported by Mr. J. Hemming, Mr. Charles Woodbury, Mr. J. Bass (Central Committee representative) and Mr. C. W. Cooper (librarian).

Reference was made to the loss to the association by death of Mr. Harry Mason, who had been an indefatigable worker for the association. His gifts were always of material value to the association. It was proposed that the secretary send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Mason, the members agreeing by standing in silence a few moments.

Another gentleman who had also passed on was remembered by a great many of the older members, the Rev. C. A. Clements.

Apologies were announced from Mr. W. B. Cartwright, the branch secretary; Mr. J. D. Johnson, general secretary of the association, and Mr. W. Short, Ringing Master of the association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Chaddesley Corbett in June, and it was arranged that the quarterly peal should be attempted at Kidderminster, by the kind permission of the Vicar.

Five new performing members were elected.

Mr. R. Matthews raised an interesting point. Each branch, he said, had a committee consisting of the leader of each company, who should be responsible for all moneys due to the association and see that they were duly collected. He had no recollection of them ever being called together, and he thought it would be a good thing for them to meet and discuss matters concerning the towers in the branch.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells, conducting the service, to the organist and to those who had kindly provided the tea and waited upon the members.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

Although the weather was uninviting, a considerable number of members assembled at St. Mary's Church, Kingswinford, on the occasion of the quarterly meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

The Rev. D. J. Wilson, Vicar, conducted the service, and gave an interesting address. In the course of his remarks, the Vicar said how pleased he was to see some of his old friends from St. Matthew's Church, Walsall, where at one time he was doing service as curate.

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, at the conclusion of which the Rev. C. H. Barker proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist, towerkeeper and the caterers.

It was resolved to hold a special meeting for practice at Wombourne on Saturday, March 14th, of which due notice will be given.

On the proposition of Mr. K. Knowles, the clerical secretary was asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. George Hughes—who is at present in hospital—with best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The next quarterly meeting is provisionally arranged to take place at Walsall on Saturday, April 25th.

FOR BEGINNERS.

PITFALLS IN EARLY COMPOSING.

There are many young ringers who like trying their hand at composing. Last week we showed those who would like to find new methods one of the pitfalls which must be avoided if they try to construct a new method. Here are one or two points selected at random which they must bear in mind if they endeavour to compose touches or peals.

The indiscriminate stringing together of lead-ends (or 'lead-heads') and courses does not necessarily lead to a true touch or peal. You can, by experience and study, get to know that certain combinations produce certain true blocks of changes, either of leads or courses, but departure from what we may term these standardised callings requires the application of tests, to ensure truth, that cannot be ignored.

For instance, if you are trying to get a composition of Grandsire Triples, you cannot throw in the bobs anywhere until the bells are brought round, and depend upon it being a true touch. To give the simplest example: If you are pricking your touch by the lead-ends, you cannot have 325476 at a plain lead or a bob, because before that comes up in your ringing you will have had 'rounds' at hand-stroke.

But the liability of error goes much deeper than that. Every lead-end can be produced in two ways, by a plain lead or by a bob. As an example, 752634, produced by a bob at the first lead, could also occur at a plain lead after 723546; it, therefore, follows that if you begin a touch with a bob at the first lead, you must also have a bob at the lead following 723546.

The leads which have a relationship of this kind run in blocks of five, and there are 72 such blocks in the extent of Grandsire Triples. Each of these blocks is a cycle and they are known as Q-sets. It is impossible to set them all out here, but here is an example:—

A	B	C
234567	253746	752634
346572	354267	253746
467523	456372	354267
672534	657423	456372
723546	752634	657423
234567		

Notice the relationship between the five rows in A. Column B is the plain lead which follows the corresponding row in A; column C shows what will be produced if a bob follows A instead of a plain lead. Notice also that the rows in C are the same as in A, except that the cycle is begun at a different place.

Thus it follows that if you have a plain lead after 234567, you cannot have a bob after 346572; or if 346572 is followed by a plain lead, you cannot have a bob after 467523. If you use all your Q-set, as you must in a peal, it means, therefore, that if a plain lead follows any row in column A, a plain lead must follow them all; or, if a bob follows one, a bob must follow all.

It may happen in a touch, however, that you will not use all the lead ends in column A, and then it is possible to use both plained and bobbed leads, but the utmost care is necessary. Before, therefore, wasting too much time on composing Grandsire, it would be well to study the subject more closely as it is set out in Snowdon's book on the Grandsire method, for Grandsire composition is a somewhat precarious task.

There is a similar snare in methods like Bob Major, which can very easily be seen by setting out the handstroke and backstroke leads of the treble.

		Plain Leads.		
Handstroke	...	12436587	14326587	13246587
Backstroke	...	12345678	14235678	13425678
		Bob Leads.		
Handstroke	...	13246587	12436587	14326587
Backstroke	...	12345678	14235678	13425678

An examination of these figures will show that, while it is possible to use one lead plained and one lead bobbed, if all three are to be used, then (unless a single is used for one) all must be plain or all bobbed. This applies not only to those leads where the tenors (that is 7-8) are together at the lead-end, but to every lead of the course.

Not only have you to avoid the repetitions which may occur in this way, but there are other hidden sources of trouble which you need to know how to avoid, and we hope to be able to say more of them next week.

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NOTICES.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—The annual meeting to be held at the Cathedral has been postponed to Saturday, Feb. 8th. Ringing from 3. Service 4.15. Branch members are asked to make every effort to attend, and a cordial invitation is extended to all members of the guild, as important business with regard to the Cathedral bells is on the agenda. Tea (price 6d.) will be served in the Refectory after service.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Wayside, Circular Drive, Chester.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Guildford District at Guildford on Feb. 8th. Holy Trinity bells from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m., S. Nicolas' from 3.30. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Café (next S. Nicolas') at 5 p.m. —G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District. —The annual meeting of this branch will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, Feb. 8th. The bells will be available from 2.45 p.m. Tea at 5, followed by meeting.—Arthur E. Sharman, Hon. Sec., 199, High Street N., Dunstable.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Ringing at St. Giles', Cripplegate, E.C., 2 to 3.30 p.m.; St. Margaret's, Westminster, 2 to 3 p.m.; St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, 3 to 3.30 p.m.; St. Clement Danes', Strand, 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. Short Divine service in St. Clement's at 4.15 p.m. A good tea, at 1s. per head, in Perdy's Restaurant nearby at 48, Essex Street, 5 p.m. Business meeting in Parish Hall 7.15 p.m., to be followed by the handbell contest (about five bands competing). Please let this be a record meeting. Come early.—Chas. O. Moore, Hon. Gen. Sec., 7, Camberwell Station Road, S.E.5.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ludlow and Church Stretton District. — The annual meeting of the district will be held at Ludlow on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Rector (Rev. F. G. Shepherd). Tea at the Royal Oak Café, Tower Street, at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome. — W. J. Beniams, Hon. Dis. Sec., 8, New Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch. — The next monthly ringing practice will be held at St. James's Church, Barrow-in-Furness on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (8) will be ready at 2.30 p.m. Non-members will be welcomed.—W. T. Clark, Branch Sec., Broughton-in-Furness.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ilminster on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Service at 6 p.m.—D. G. Taylor, Ilminster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Hornby on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m., price 1s. 3d. each. A good turn up is requested. —E. Swain, 29, Beecham Street, Morecambe.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Shireoaks on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. onwards.—R. Towler, Ollerton Road, Retford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—A practice meeting will be held at Hollingbourne on Saturday, Feb. 8th, at 6.30 p.m. Every ringer will be welcome. Come to help others do what you can already do, and be ready to try something fresh yourself. Double Court and Oxford Bob are worth trying. — A. Waddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Egerton.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual general meeting of the guild will be held at Withyham on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Tower opened 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, Moat Road, East Grinstead.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Short service at 5. Tea at the Cherry Tree Hotel at 5.40, 1s. each. The District Committee will meet at 3.45 p.m. Business meeting after tea. No. 29 bus or tube to Southgate. All ringers welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Marlborough Branch.—Monthly meeting will be held at Chiseldon on Feb. 8th. Bells (5). All ringing friends welcome. Please note change of address. All future correspondence should be sent to W. J. Jennings, 16, Lainley's Close, Marlborough, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting of the district will be held at Beeston on Saturday, Feb. 8th, from 5 p.m. Bells (8). All ringers welcome. Subscriptions are due for 1936. — E. C. Gobey, 23, Shaw Street, Ilkeston.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Paignton on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (8) available from 2.45 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting in the Schoolroom at 4.45 p.m.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Peterborough Branch.—The postponed meeting of this branch will be held at Woodston on Saturday, Feb. 8th.—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8th, at South Wingfield. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea, at a moderate charge, at 5 p.m.—J. W. England, The Common, South Normanton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —The next monthly meeting will be held at Walton St. Mary's on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service at 5.30. Meeting and tea to follow.—H. Grundy, Branch Sec., Alness, Green Leach Avenue, St. Helens.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Cogenhoe on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Usual arrangements. Subscriptions are now due.—J. C. Dean, Hon. Branch Sec., 16, St. Peter's Street, Northampton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Cary Deanery Branch.—The annual general meeting will be held at Charlton Horethorne on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. F. Creed, Hon. Local Sec., Dimmer Farm, Castle Cary.

LADIES' GUILD.—A mid-week meeting will be held at Beckenham, Kent, on Wednesday, Feb. 12th. Bells from 3 p.m., tea 5 p.m., service 6 p.m. All ringers welcome. — E. K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec., 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not met 20 times in the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on the 20th, Southwark Cathedral on the 13th, *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 18th, St. Michael's on the 25th, at 7.30 p.m., St. Andrew's on the 27th, at 8 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service. Members' subscriptions are now due and may be paid at this meeting. Will those intending to be present please notify me before Thursday, Feb. 13th? — Percy W. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec., Fair View, Littlebourne.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove (Repton bells *not* available for this meeting) on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea 4.45, followed by meeting. Subscriptions are now due. Visitors welcomed. Those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, Feb. 12th.—Joseph Wm. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held jointly with the quarterly meeting of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Service at 4.30 and tea and business meeting afterwards in the Institute. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Feb. 12th.—A. H. Smith and H. F. Mills, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Shaw (1 mile from Newbury) on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., at 6d. each. All ringers welcome. Intending visitors please notify Mr. F. J. Owen, 1, Love Lane, Donnington, Newbury, by Wednesday, Feb. 12th, for tea.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, Berks.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — Meeting will be held at Sandal on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells ready at 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. (1s. per head) in the Parochial Hall. Please be sure to notify Mr. E. Cutt, Milnthorpe Green, Wakefield, by Wednesday, 12th. Business: Auditors' report, election of officers, extension of radius for contest, etc. A good attendance is earnestly desired.—A. Panther, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Whilton (6), Saturday, Feb. 15th. Usual arrangements. — W. C. Moore, Fircroft, Braunston Road, Daventry, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—The first monthly meeting of the year will be held at Shepshed on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (8) open at 3 p.m. All ringers welcome. — H. Kirby, Hon. Dis. Sec., Hathern Road, Shepshed, Loughborough.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—The annual district meeting will be held at Sutton, near Ely, on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (6), recently rehung by Bowell, of Ipswich, available 2.30. Service 4.30. Rev. Canon Woodard. Tea 5 p.m. Please notify Mr. G. Few, High Street, Sutton, near Ely, Cambs, by Feb. 12th.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cirencester Branch. — A meeting will be held at Tetbury on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (8) open 3 p.m. Tea 5. Service 6 p.m. Will those intending to be present kindly let me know by Feb. 11th?—W. F. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., Glemsford, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bromyard District.—The annual meeting will be held at Bromyard on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (6) available 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea provided for those who let me know by Thursday, 13th.—A. S. Tomkins, Dis. Sec., Post Office, Bredenbury, Hereford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Birch-in-Rusholme on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Tower open for ringing at 5.30. Meeting in the tower 7 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. — D. Brown, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Bi-quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Perry Barr, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells available at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—The postponed annual meeting will be held at Corston on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea, with meeting to follow, 5 p.m. — Theo Grant, Swainswick, Bath.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — The postponed meeting of this division will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Those intending to be present will greatly oblige if they notify me as soon as possible.—F. Ridgwell, Hon. Sec., Queen's Road, Earls Colne.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—A meeting will be held at Blunsdon on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Light six, usual arrangements. Good bus service from Swindon.—W. B. Kynaston, 3, Dumbarton Terrace, Victoria Road, Swindon, Wilts.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The monthly meeting will be held at Shilton, near Coventry, on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells (6) available from 3. Tea has been arranged. Good bus and train services from most parts.—Malcolm Melville, Gen. Hon. Sec., Exhall, near Coventry.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Milnrow on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are invited to attend.—H. Hamer, Hon. Branch Sec., 3, Nall Street, Milnrow.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Cuckfield (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells at 3 p.m. Service, tea and meeting. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Feb. 12th. All ringers welcome.—O. Sippetts, 10, Albany Road, Crawley, Sussex.

ROMNEY MARSH & DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Wye on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells ready 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch, for Newport Pagnell Rural Deanery. — Feb. 15th at Stoke Goldington. Begin 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Please send number for tea to the Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—A meeting of this district will be held at Stagsden on Saturday, Feb. 15th. Bells, a handy ring of six, available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5. You will be very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wednesday Afternoon Guild.—A meeting of the Guild will be held at St. Mary's, Gateshead, on Wednesday, Feb. 19th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at 4.30 p.m. Ringing after meeting until 6.45 p.m.—W. Sheraton, Hon. Sec., Roseville, Boundary Cottages, Philadelphia, Co. Durham.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETIES. — The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Leicester, on Saturday, Feb. 22nd, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets 2s. 9d. Apply to me by Wednesday, Feb. 19th, latest. Bells available: St. Margaret's (12) 5 to 6 p.m. and St. John's (10) from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Ernest H. Bagworth, 36, Turner Road, Leicester.

MELTHAM, HUDDERSFIELD. — Centenary of Bells, Feb. 22nd.—Service 3 p.m. Address by Canon Marshall, President, Yorkshire Association. Free tea for ringers sending names to Edward Earnshaw, 124, Helme Lane, Meltham, before Feb. 17th.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Wivenhoe on Feb. 22nd to mark the occasion of the opening of the bells after repairs. Bells will be available at 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea will be provided for ringers and friends at 5 p.m. All those intending to be present please notify me as soon as possible.—J. R. Starling, Station Road, Wivenhoe.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch. — The quarterly meeting will be held at Crediton (8 bells) on Feb. 22nd. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 in the Institute. Bands and visitors attending please notify me by Feb. 15th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Eynesbury on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 48th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 29th, at 6 o'clock prompt when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) and Bishop Ryder's Church (8) will be available from 3.30 to 5 o'clock. Applications for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should be made to Thomas H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

LADIES! — A welcome awaits you at Ossett (near Wakefield) on Saturday, Feb. 29th. Good meeting assured. Details later. Will gentlemen note the date also?—E. Dorice Turner, Northern Dis. Sec., 168, Richmond Road, Handsworth, Sheffield.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. W. R. Madgwick is now 382, Uxbridge Road, London, W.12.

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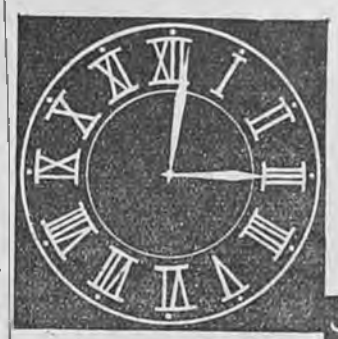

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