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THE NEED FOR YOUTH.

The question of recruitment for the Exercise is an ever present problem and a correspondent again brings the matter to notice in this issue in amplification of a speech made at the annual dinner of the Bristol United Ringing Guilds. There is constant need for bringing in new material to make up inevitable wastage, as well as removals by death, and this state of affairs has existed probably from the beginnings of ringing. With the passage of time prosperous areas—prosperous, that is, in the ringing sense—fall upon evil days, while others get out of the slough of despond, and by their energies and success make up what is lost elsewhere. But on balance it does appear that there is now danger of a set-back in numbers, unless a serious and concerted effort is made, in the near future. From time to time associations report net losses on membership, not wholly accounted for by the deaths of members. Numbers lapse through unpaid subscriptions, usually the result of lack of interest, which goes to indicate that there is a weak link somewhere in the organisation of the Exercise. There are, indeed, many factors which show that the majority of ringers are only lukewarm in their love of the art. Association officials know only too well that it is the 'faithful few' who keep the ball rolling at their meetings; that half the towers are undermanned for service ringing, and that, in the majority of belfries, there is little effort made to keep up the strength of the personnel by consistent recruiting.

That determined action, as suggested by our correspondent, is necessary, to safeguard the future, no one will deny; the real difficulty is to prepare an effective plan. One of the obstacles is that, among many ringers, there is a rooted objection to outside interference and suggestions from associations are, if not resented, at least not acted upon. Any improvement that may be effected has to come from inside rather than from without. It would be extremely interesting, as well as enlightening, if associations could arrange to take a census of all towers in their areas, irrespective of their own membership, to ascertain what is the real strength of hands in relation to the number of bells. It is possible that a tactfully worded letter to incumbents would elicit the information, which would be invaluable as the basis of a drive to get depleted bands filled up. The difficulty always is to reach the worst cases, because it is these cases which are the most indifferent, and any effort to make an impression is usually wasted. But this does not mean that a great effort to improve the general position, as suggested by our correspondent, is not worth

(Continued on page 118.)

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while, and the Central Council might well discuss the matter to see what action can be taken. What are needed are practical suggestions for getting a new interest into those places where, for one reason or another, there are complacency and indifference which are leading or have led to decay. The future of everything in our social organisation depends upon the constant stream of youth, and we know of no activity that needs this source of strength and invigoration more than the art and science of ringing.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, February 15, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5916 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	GEORGE W. STEERE 7
FRED HAYES 2	*WILLIAM HENLEY 8
*CHARLES T. COLES 3	*CECIL MATTHEWS 9
*GEORGE R. PYE 4	*HARRY WINGROVE 10
*JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 5	F. DONALD BOREHAM 11
RALPH COLES 6	*JAMES C. E. SIMPSON Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

* First peal of Bob Maximus.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 6007 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	*MAXWELL F. OAKSHETT 7
GEORGE R. PYE 2	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 8
WILLIAM H. HEWETT 3	JAMES BENNETT 9
CHARLES T. COLES 4	GEORGE W. STEERE 10
THOMAS J. LOCK 5	JAMES H. RIDING 11
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 6	REUBEN SANDERS Tenor

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by L. W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal on twelve bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 14, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT,

A PEAL OF ERITH LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in C.

NOLAN GOLDEN Treble	ALBERT G. WARNES 6
MISS G. E. M. TUNNADINE 2	GEORGE SAYER 7
GEORGE MAYERS 3	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 8
CEDRIC CURSON 4	HENRY TOOER 9
BERTIE J. HOWCHIN 5	WILLIAM CLOVER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal by all in the method except by conductor. First peal in the method in the diocese on ten bells.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 14, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes, 3

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 6039 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE Treble	JOHN BENJAMIN BUDD 6
MISS G. ANNIE CROOK 2	PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
*ARTHUR JAMES 3	RICHARD BENSON 8
FRANK BARRACLOUGH 4	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD 9
CHARLES RIDYARD 5	RICHARD W. MOSLEY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 161). Conducted by J. H. RIDYARD

* First peal of Caters.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF ERIN CATER, 5007 CHANGES;

RALPH EDWARDS Treble	RICHARD T. HOLDING... .. 6
THOS. B. WORSLEY 2	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. 7
JOHN GRIFFITHS 3	FRANK VARTY 8
THOS. R. BUTLER... .. 4	JOHN WORTH 9
JAMES SWINDLEY 5	PERCIVAL W. CAVE Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by SAMUEL JONES, JUN.
First peal in the method on the bells and by the Lancashire Association.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. in E flat.

*VERNON FORSHAW Treble	MICHAEL G. WHEAT 6
†WILLIAM F. FORSHAW 2	*ALAN CAPSTICK 7
*THOMAS TURNER 3	NICHOLAS M. NEWBY 8
*FRANK FORSHAW 4	WILLIAM LANGBORN... .. 9
*JOHN ASKEW 5	THOMAS METCALFE Tenor

Composed by E. JENKINS. Conducted by THOMAS METCALFE.
* First peal. † First peal of Bob Royal. First peal as conductor.
Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Michael Roy Linker, who was inducted the previous evening.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5025 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST J. KING Treble	JOHN G. NASH 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	*THOMAS H. FRANCIS 7
MISS OLIVE L. ASBROOK 3	HARRY WINGROVE 8
CHARLES A. HUGHES 4	F. DONALD BOREHAM 9
NORMAN H. MANNING... .. 5	FREDERICK W. WICKS Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.
* First peal on ten bells. Rung to commemorate the first peal rung by Mr. James George on February 16th, 1889, at St. George's, Cambridge, with this association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 17, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

*VICTOR W. FONES Treble	C. HOWARD STANLEY 5
JAMES L. BOYLIN 2	NORMAN J. GOODMAN 6
EDWARD LARGE 3	WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 7
EDWARD HOLT 4	EDWARD W. BLAKE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT.

* First peal.

CLAYBROOK, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, February 17, 1939, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOSEPH B. FENTON Treble	HENRY W. F. FRANELIN 5
C. HENRY WEBB 2	WILFRID H. J. HOOTON 6
ERNEST W. TIPLER 3	JOSEPH A. FENTON 7
LESLIE G. WATKINS 4	*KENNETH W. GINGER Tenor

Conducted by J. A. FENTON.

* First peal.

SANDBACH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 17, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 6024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. (approx.).

JOSEPH WHITTAKER Treble	JAMES FERNLEY 5
ERNEST BENNETT 2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 6
REV. FRANK BONNER 3	JAMES A. MILNER... .. 7
WILLIAM FERNLEY 4	JOHN WORTH... .. Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

GREAT HOLLAND, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 17, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 10 lb. in F sharp.

URBAN W. WILDNEY Treble	WILLIAM J. NEVARD 5
GEORGE M. RASHBROOK 2	GEORGE WATERMAN 6
MRS. W. A. ROUSE 3	HORACE A. WRIGHT 7
DAVID ELLIOTT 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by E. E. DAVEY.

Arranged by Mr. W. J. Nevard in celebration of his 83rd birthday.

DORCHESTER, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 13, 1939, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE ABBY CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT E. LOCK... .. Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER 5
MRS. A. E. LOCK... .. 2	FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 6
MARIE R. CROSS 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 7
*BERNARD S. NICHOLS 4	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in the method. Rung in connection with the establishment at Dorchester of a See for Bishops Suffragan.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 15, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ABBY CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND THOMAS-OF-CANTERBURY,

A PEAL OF PERSHORE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

WALTER R. FARROW Treble	NOLAN GOLDEN 5
GEORGE MAYERS 2	THOMAS E. SPIGHT 6
PHILIP W. J. FRYER 3	HENRY TOOKE 7
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 4	WILLIAM CLOVER... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in the method by all, on the bells and for the association.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

WILLIE GREEN Treble	DANIEL SMITH 5
SIDNEY F. PALMER 2	T. COLIN RYDER 6
HAROLD CHANT 3	ARTHUR GILL 7
ARTHUR PANTHER 4	ALBERT NASH Tenor

Conducted by GABRIEL LINDOFF

Conducted by A. NASH.

First peal in the method on the bells. A birthday compliment to Mrs. A. Nash.

MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE WATCH TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.) in F sharp.

CHARLES E. LAWSON... .. Treble	KENNETH ARTHUR 5
JOHN ANDERSON... .. 2	*ERNEST WALLACE 6
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 3	ADAM DEAS... .. 7
*CHRISTOPHER HETHERINGTON ₄	*JOHN HEDLEY Tenor

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

* First peal of Triples.

EWELL, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

JOHN BEAMS Treble	GEORGE MARRINER 5
ALFRED H. WINCH 2	ALBERT CHEESEMAN 6
FREDERICK G. WOODISS 3	WILLIAM G. NEWBERRY 7
ALBERT J. ADAMS 4	ALBERT HARMAN Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

* First peal in the method.

FOBBING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

DONALD COOMBS Treble	FRANK C. MAY 5
ARTHUR REEVE 2	FRANK B. LUFKIN 6
WILLIAM S. MAY 3	GERALD FROST 7
WILLIAM PERRY 4	ALBERT E. NORTH Tenor

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by F. B. LUFKIN.

* First peal.

WHITWORTH, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

HAROLD HAMER Treble	SELWYN HOLT DEARDEN 5
STEPHEN LLOYD PARRY 2	JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 6
DENNIS HOLLOS 3	IVAN KAY 7
HARRY BYROM 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by IVAN KAY.

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

REGINALD CHANCE Treble	HAROLD SHECK 5
THOMAS TOWNSEND 2	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 6
BERNARD LAWTON 3	THOMAS HEMMING 7
HARRY HUBBLE 4	JOHN LLOYD Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. First peal in the method as conductor.

LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE WYCLIFFE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

GEORGE A. NEWTON Treble	ALFRED BALLARD 5
ERNEST W. TIPLER 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD 6
A. JOHN TIMSON 3	FRANK K. MEASURES 7
CECIL E. CARR 4	FRED PERRY Tenor

Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES.

First peal in the method by members of the Hinckley District. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. A. W. Wallace, who was instituted Rector of Lutterworth in November last.

MORTIMER, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 11½ cwt.

LESLIE F. BUSHNELL Treble	RICHARD T. HIBBERT 5
ARTHUR WIGGINS 2	PERCY J. DYKE 6
ALBERT HAM 3	WILLIAM HIBBERT 7
JAMES F. SMITH 4	WILLIAM FORD Tenor

Conducted by R. T. HIBBERT.

* First attempt for a peal. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. L. Whitmill, who was inducted to the living on the previous Sunday.

OLD HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

BENJAMIN GRICE Treble	NORMAN G. LERCH 5
FREDERICK V. NICHOLLS 2	HARRY WOOD 6
ERIC FLETCHER 3	JOHN GOODMAN 7
WALTER FARLEY 4	GEORGE FLETCHER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN.

* First peal 'inside.' A birthday peal for W. Farley.

NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 16 lb. in D.

CHARLES W. CLAREE Treble	JOHN A. GREEN 5
A. NUNNELLY WOOD 2	REGINALD H. HOWSON 6
HERBERT C. EDWARDS 3	THOMAS E. ROBERTS 7
ERNEST C. LAMBERT 4	ALBERT J. GREEN Tenor

Composed by J. A. GREEN. Conducted by A. J. GREEN.

TWERTON-ON-AVON, BATH.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.	
MRS. A. EVANS Treble	JESSE HALLETT 5
THOMAS F. KING 2	WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT 6
HORACE D. TAYLOR 3	SEALY S. WOODBORN 7
GEORGE BAATZ 4	ALBERT E. BAVERSTOCK Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. A birthday compliment to Mr. Theo Grant.

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in F.

HARRY E. BALAAM Treble	F. GORDON COOPER 5
JOHN CHESTERMAN 2	DONALD W. NASH 6
ERNEST P. AUSTIN 3	CHARLES W. MUNDAY 7
RONALD F. KINGHAM 4	FREDERICK A. MUNDAY Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by CHARLES W. MUNDAY.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Bob Major. First peal on the bells since their restoration by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

HAILSHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Half a Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S TRANSCRIPTION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALFRED C. LEVETT Treble	FRANK BENNETT 5
WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE 2	FREDERICK H. DALLAWAY 6
FRANK A. HICES 3	JAMES H. SHEPHERD 7
GEORGE BRIBNEY 4	WILFRED BOOTH Tenor

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

* First peal of Stedman.

ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

G. DENNIS DEIGHTON Treble	WALTER PERKINS 5
MATTHIAS HOBBS 2	GEOFFREY E. WATSON 6
GEORGE EYRE 3	BERNARD J. SADDINGTON 7
CHRISTOPHER G. HENDRY 4	BURLEY P. MORRIS Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by BURLEY P. MORRIS.

* First peal on eight bells. First peal of Major as conductor.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF BISHOP RYDER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS H. RERVES Treble	FRANK E. HAYNES 5
ERNEST T. ALLAWAY 2	HENRY H. FEARN 6
FRANK E. PERVIN 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7
SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY 4	JOHN S. MASON Tenor

Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

Specially arranged and rung to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. James George's first peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

EISHAM, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 11, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

GEORGE BLANCHARD Treble	MARTIN WALKER 4
RONALD BOWNESS 2	GEORGE L. HALL 5
GEORGE E. FEARN 3	GEORGE DOBBS Tenor

Conducted by G. E. FEARN.

Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Sir Francis Astley-Corbett, former Squire of this village.

WEEKLEY NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 13, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 10 lb.

GEORGE W. CLARKE Treble	GEOFFREY E. WATSON 4
MATTHIAS HOBBS 2	BURLEY P. MORRIS 5
*LEONARD G. TOSERLAND 3	BERNARD J. SADDINGTON Tenor

Conducted by B. J. SADDINGTON.

* First peal of Minor 'inside.'

HINTLUSHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, February 13, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. in A flat.

*DOROTHY F. WOOLSTON Treble	SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER 4
†ARTHUR V. PEARSON 2	‡CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 5
WILLIAM J. G. BROWN 3	‡CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First attempt for a peal. † First peal of Minor. ‡ First peal of Bob Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 14, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently. Tenor 9 cwt.

*JOHN DEEM Treble	*EDWARD SPRAGUE 4
* BRIAN PIDGEON 2	*ALFRED LOVERING 5
*JOHN L. GLANVILL 3	REV. E. V. COX Tenor

Conducted by REV. E. V. COX.

* First peal of Minor.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 14, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 6½ cwt.

*MISS IRENE C. DERNFORD Treble	LESLIE W. STEVENS 4
JOHN GRUNDY 2	G. RONALD EDWARDS 5
CHARLES ALLSOP 3	COLIN HARRISON Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES ALLSOP.

* First peal.

WONSTON, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, February 17, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*MISS NESTA SMITH Treble	RICHARD SMITH 4
WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 2	WILLIAM MARKS 5
REGINALD A. REED 3	LESLIE A. TREMEER Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE A. TREMEER.

* First peal. First peal of Minor as conductor.

WENDOVER, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven differently called 720's. Tenor 14½ cwt.

RONALD WOOLMER Treble	PERCY NEWTON 4
JAMES W. WILKINS 2	WALTER LEE 5
HARRY C. JONES 3	ROLAND BIGGS Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND BIGGS.

Rung as a farewell to the Vicar, who is leaving the parish.

BUCKLAND, SURREY.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and One Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 6 cwt.

FREDERICK W. BUDGEN Treble	DEREK M. SHARP 4
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS 2	JOHN O. WELLER 5
GEORGE W. FOGDEN 3	A. PATRICK CANNON Tenor

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

FRIESTON, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 18, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 21 methods: (1) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Hull, Primrose, Bourne; (2) Sandal, Capel, Kingston, Oxford Treble Bob, London Scholars' Pleasure; (3) Old Oxford, Willesden, College Bob IV., Newdigate; (4) London and Wells; (5) Kent Treble Bob; (6) Double and Single Court; (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 14½ cwt.

ALBERT H. FINTH Treble	ALBERT E. FLATTERS 4
WILLIAM WILKINSON 2	JOHN R. KEEP 5
ARTHUR YOUNG 3	JOHN R. YOUNG Tenor

Conducted by JOHN R. YOUNG.

First peal in 21 methods by all except ringer of the 3rd. First peal as conductor in more than seven methods. There were 71 changes of method.

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, February 16, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

AT 20, ABERDEEN CRESCENT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES 1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY 5-6
HAROLD JACKSON 3-4	PETER LAFLIN 7-8
HARRY ASHION 9-10	

Composed by J. W. WASBROOK. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

Witness—Mrs. A. F. Bailey.

LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

On Sunday, February 19, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

RICHARD A. C. BRODRIBBS 1-2	MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 3-4
	*MICHAEL M. K. WARREN 5

Conducted by MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE.

* First attempt for a peal. First peal as conductor and on handbells.

(Many other peal reports are unavoidably held over.)

PEAL NOTES.

QUICKEST PEAL ON CHURCH BELLS.

The quickest peal on church bells was rung on Saturday on the light ring of six at Buckland, Surrey. The seven 720's of Bob Minor occupied only 2 hours 1 minute. The only place where a quicker peal on tower bells has been rung is Loughborough Bell Foundry. There the tenor is 6½ cwt. and at Buckland the tenor is given as 6 cwt.

The peal at Buckland was rung for the Ancient Society of College Youths, whose records now include the quickest and the longest peals on church bells: 2 hours 1 minute at Buckland; 12 hours 25 minutes at Appleton in 1922.

Nesta Smith, who rang her first peal (at the fourth attempt) at Wonston, Hants, on Friday, is only 14 years of age. She must be one of the youngest, if not the youngest, girls to ring a peal for the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

There must be a good deal of enthusiasm for ringing at Wonston. Lionel Marks, another young beginner, and son of Mr. W. Marks, who rang in the peal, sat in the tower all through the performance. Perhaps he was there to keep dad right?

Three peals to welcome new incumbents are recorded this week. The Rev. A. W. Wallace, formerly of West Ham, was instituted Rector of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, last November, and a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at the Wycliffe Church of St. Mary on Saturday, the first occasion upon which a band could be obtained.

To welcome the new incumbent of Mortimer, Berks (the Rev. L. Whitmill), a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at the Parish Church on Saturday. It was Mr. Percy J. Dyke's 56th peal.

The new Vicar of Dalton-in-Furness, Lancs, was also welcomed with a peal on Saturday, after induction on the previous day. The peal of Bob Royal was the first peal by five of the ringers. Eight of the band belong to Dalton. They were supplemented by Mr. N. M. Nowby, hon. secretary of the Furness and Lake District Branch, and Mr. A. Capstick, of Ambleside.

Mr. Walter Farley's birthday was celebrated with a peal of Grandsire Triples at Old Hill, Staffordshire, on Saturday. It was also the quarterly peal for the Dudley and District Guild.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Selly Oak on Saturday week was rung by the Sunday service ringers at St. Mary's Church, except Mr. E. W. Blake, who kindly filled a gap at the last moment and rang the tenor.

ESSEX VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY.

The Essex veteran, Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, has recently celebrated his 83rd birthday, and in honour of the event he arranged a peal at Great Holland on February 11th, choosing a band representative of eight parishes.

They were U. W. Wildney, Kirby-le-Soken; G. M. Rashbrook, Colchester; Mrs. W. A. Rouse, Great Holland; D. Elliott, Sudbury; W. J. Nevard, Great Bentley; G. Waterman, Harwich; H. A. Wright, Clacton-on-Sea; and E. E. Davey, Little Clacton. Messrs. Rashbrook, Elliott and Wright first rang with Mr. Nevard 50 years, 48 years and 40 years ago respectively.

Tea was kindly provided by Mr. Nevard after the peal, which was also a farewell to the Rector of Great Holland (the Rev. G. A. Barsley), who is leaving for Cromer.

It was rather strange that while the first peal of Erith Little Bob Royal on tower bells should have been rung at Prittlewell on Saturday, February 11th, another peal in the same method should have been rung at Norwich only three days later. This second peal was composed and conducted by Mr. Nolan Golden and contains the 72 course-ends with the extent of 4, 5 and 6 in 6th's.

On the following day Mr. Golden conducted the first peal of Pershore Bob Major for the Norwich Association and the first by all the band. This was rung at Wymondham.

Seven 'stars' were awarded in a peal of Bob Maximus, rung at High Wycombe, Bucks, on Wednesday week, among those so decorated being at least two men, each of whose peals of Surprise Maximus number over eighty.

It was Mr. J. C. E. Simpson's 300th peal and was a birthday compliment to Mr. James Bennett, of London, who, unfortunately, was unable to take part.

A peal of Grandsire Caters (No. 161) by Mr. Arthur Knights was rung for the first time on February 14th at Worsley, Lancs. It has all the 5-6's and 6-5's in the titmuss and handstroke positions.

Mr. Burley P. Morris, of Warkton, rang his 75th peal when he took part in a 5,040 of Bob Minor at Weekley, Northants, on February 13th.

A half-muffled peal of Minor, as a token of respect to Sir Francis Astley-Corbett, former squire of the village, was rung at Elsham, Lincs, on February 11th. The third bell, which bears Sir Francis' name, was given by him when the bells were increased from three to six in 1924.

A peal of Bristol Surprise Major at Sandbach, Cheshire, on February 11th, was rung on the eleventh anniversary of Mr. Ernest Bennett's first peal.

Minor ringing of the more advanced type is going ahead by leaps and bounds in Lincolnshire. A band in the Eastern Branch has now rung a peal in 21 methods. Splicing was used in only five of the extents, but there were 71 changes of method. Only one member of the band had previously rung a peal in 21 methods. He is Mr. Arthur Young, and this was his 60th peal. The peal was rung at Freiston on February 18th.

PEAL AT MORPETH WATCH TOWER.

Morpeth, in Northumberland, possesses one of the few 'secular' rings of bells in the country, and it is not often a peal is rung on them. Last Saturday, however, a peal of Stedman Triples was brought round there. In the ringing chamber is a slab bearing the following quaint couplet:—

Have you heard the Morpeth Wonder?
Church and steeple a mile asunder.

Other places in England where there are peals of bells not attached to a church are Manchester Town Hall and Ques Park, Kent, where there are rings of twelve; the Imperial Institute, London, and the Bell Foundry, Loughborough, with rings of ten; the Curfew tower, Windsor Castle, with a ring of eight, and the Carfax tower, Oxford, with six bells.

The first peal of Erin Caters by the Lancashire Association has followed close upon the heels of the first for the Chester Guild. It was rung on Saturday at Manchester Cathedral. The band wish to thank Mr. W. C. Bridgford, of the Cathedral company, for making arrangements for the attempt, and they also wish to couple with the peal the names of Messrs. G. R. Newton, of Liverpool, and R. Sperring, of Chester, who were prevented from taking part in the peal through illness. They wish them a speedy recovery.

A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Twerton-on-Avon, Bath, on Saturday, as a birthday compliment to Mr. Theo Grant, the esteemed local secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.

The first peal on the bells at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Basingstoke, since the recent restoration by Messrs. Taylor and Co. was rung on Saturday. Four of the band rang their first peal of Major.

Three twelve-bell peals in eight days is not bad going. Messrs. G. B. Pye, C. T. Coles and G. W. Steere, having scored a peal of Cambridge Maximus, as recorded last week, at Croydon on February 11th, and rung in the peal of Bob Maximus at High Wycombe on the 15th, completed the week with a peal of Stedman Cinques at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday. Mr. Leslie Morris came from Leeds to call this peal, and Mr. Jim Riding came from Crewe to take part.

A NEW SUFFRAGAN SEE.

An Order in Council creating the Suffragan See of Dorchester in the Diocese of Oxford revives one of the oldest episcopal titles in England after nearly 900 years' disuse. The Rt. Rev. Gerald Burton Allen, Archdeacon of Oxford and Assistant Bishop, has been appointed to the office. He has interested himself in the work of the Oxford Diocesan Guild since he returned to live in Oxford in 1936.

In honour of the establishment of the Suffragan See, a peal of Bob Major was rung at Dorchester Abbey Church on February 13th.

None of the ringers except the conductor in the peal at East Budleigh, Devon, on February 14th, had ever before rung a 720 of Bob Minor. Despite this fact, the striking was good throughout. The ringer of the treble belongs to Littleham (Exmouth), the second to East Budleigh, the third, fourth and fifth to Withycombe Raleigh, and the tenor to Bramford Speke.

To celebrate the jubilee of Mr. James George's first peal, rung at St. George's, Camberwell, on February 16th, 1889, a peal of Stedman Triples was rung on Saturday at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, where, at the age of 86, he is still Ringing Master.

The peal of 50 years ago was Grandsire Triples, and Mr. George, whose peal total is now 1,277, is the only survivor of the band.

After the peal at Bishop Ryder's, Mr. George entertained the ringers to tea. The Vicar (the Rev. C. A. Williams) was also present and expressed appreciation of Mr. George's services, while all the band wished him a speedy return to health, hoping that he may shortly be once more ringing in a peal, instead of listening, as on Saturday.

Members of the London County Association also commemorated the jubilee of Mr. George's first peal, with a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Magnus', London Bridge, on Saturday. It was with the old St. James' Society, out of which the London County Association sprang, that Mr. George rang his first peal.

Three students of Lichfield Theological College rang a peal of Grandsire Doubles on handbells on Sunday. It was a memorable performance, because it marks a new stage in the efforts to get these future clergy interested in the art of ringing.

The peal was conducted by Mr. Malcolm Melville, formerly hon. secretary of the Warwickshire Guild, and was his 25th peal, but the other two ringers were making their first attempt.

Mr. Melville's peals, which range from Doubles to Maximus, and include one in four Spliced Surprise Major methods, have been rung in 19 towers, in seven counties, for nine guilds and associations and with 116 different ringers.

Mr. C. J. Sedgley, of Ipswich, who is among the leading conductors of Surprise Maximus methods, called his first peal of Bob Minor on February 13th at Hintlesham, Suffolk.

Woodhouse Eaves is in Leicestershire, not Worcestershire as printed in a peal report last week. Our eyesight must be getting a little weak.

STEPNEY SCHOLARS.

The progress of the Stepney Scholars is again marked by the first quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters rung by the Guild. The average age of the band is only 25; H. Groves 1, L. Fox (conductor) 2, A. Strachey 3, H. Thompson 4, T. Fox 5, T. Burns 6, J. Boomsma 7, H. Pinchbeck 8, A. Jarvis 9, C. Audus 10. It was rung for evening service on January 15th.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Dawe in your issue of the 17th inst. now tells us that he is 'surprised to find that anyone pins their faith entirely on the book mentioned . . . seeing that, at the time, it was merely regarded as an overlooked printer's error'! This is truly amazing news. I have never yet heard of a whole book being regarded as a printer's error. Still, it is astonishing what information can be gained if a point is argued. However, if Mr. Dawe means (although he does not say so) that the 'B,' in the reference to a B tenor for a peal of twelve bells, is a printer's error, then my only comment is that there must be an uncommonly large number of printer's errors in the book.

I note Mr. Dawe denies having quoted words from the book in question ('Clocks, Watches and Bells'). The quotation appears on page 760 of your issue of December 2nd last in what purports to be the substance of a letter from Mr. Dawe.

I do not intend to bore you further on the subject.

H. WALKER.

Monkseaton.

DEATH OF YOUNG NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.

LOSS TO BURTON-STATHER.

Ringers in the northern part of Lincolnshire were shocked to learn of the death on Monday, February 13th, of Mr. Bernard Gillatt, jun., at his home at Burton-on-Stather, at the early age of 27. He succumbed, after only a few days' illness, to pneumonia which developed from a chill. His family have a long connection with church life in the parish, and it was natural that young Bernard, as he was affectionately known, should join his father as a ringer at St. Andrew's Church. He was also in the choir and was a member of the Church Council. A keen cricketer, he kept wicket several times for his county.

He rang his first peal on June 13th, 1929, and went on to ring 68 peals, all for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, in a variety of methods. He rang in several 'firsts' for the Guild, including Gainsborough Little Bob and Loughborough Bob on tower bells, Spliced Major, Spliced Royal and the first of Maximus rung on handbells.

Under the shadow of the old church tower he was laid to rest on Wednesday week, four ringers acting as bearers. A number of ringing friends from Burton-on-Stather and Scunthorpe, also Mr. and Mrs. C. McGuiness, of Lincoln, were among the mourners. Afterwards a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled by J. Bray (conductor) 1, Frank Lord 2, Ernest Brittain 3, A. Tomlinson 4, H. Judd 5, G. Hobbins 6, P. Barnes 7, F. Jeffery 8.

DEATH OF MRS. E. M. TAYLOR.

YOUNG FAMILY BEREAVED.

We regret to record the death, at the early age of 39 years, of Mrs. Evelyn M. Taylor, of Maidenhead, a warm supporter of St. Peter's Society, Burnham, and a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Ladies' Guild and the Royal Cumberland Youths.

Tragedy lies behind this announcement. Only three years ago her husband, Mr. William E. Taylor (then foreman ringer at All Saints', Boyne Hill) died, leaving Mrs. Taylor with a family of three children. Since then she had had a hard struggle to bring up her family. On February 3rd she was admitted to Maidenhead Hospital, suffering from pneumonia and in a serious condition. She passed away only two and a quarter hours later. The home has had to be broken up and the children scattered.

Mrs. Taylor was a regular service ringer at St. Peter's, Burnham, and had rung one peal at this church, a peal of Grandsire Triples. Her smiling face, which covered a load of sorrow (she had never properly got over the loss of her husband), will be sadly missed on Sundays in the belfry.

Of the three children who are left, the eldest is a ringer at Burnham, and Hilda (aged 8) is a member both of the Royal Cumberland Youths and the Ladies' Guild. The youngest child is Cecil, aged three. The two latter have been taken for the present under the guardianship of Mrs. Taylor's brother, Mr. J. Cox, of 60, Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent, who, although he has a family of his own, has taken the orphans under his roof.

The funeral took place at Maidenhead Cemetery on Tuesday, February 7th, when Mrs. Taylor was laid to rest with her husband in the presence of relatives and ringing friends, among them Mrs. A. Smith, of Thatcham, members of the St. Peter's Society, Mr. Thomas J. Fowler, Ringing Master, East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, etc.

A request was made that no flowers should be sent, but, owing to the straitened circumstances in which the orphans were left, it was asked that the money be forwarded to the guardian of the two younger children to aid in their support.

The sad circumstances in which these children have been left should appeal to the hearts of ringers, who are always generous in cases of distress, and this is an instance in which help is really needed. Mrs. Taylor's ringing friends can have any information they may require from Mr. George Gilbert, c/o Roberts' Stores, 40, St. Luke's Road (North), Maidenhead. We are asked to say that should any ringers write to Hilda they are requested to remember that she does not yet know of her mother's death. The news will be broken to her later on.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The latest news of the condition of Mr. Arthur Knights, of Chesterfield, is that his condition is about the same.

A notice of particular interest to ladies, and especially ladies in the London area, appears in our notice columns.

John Briant, the Hertford bell founder, who was born in 1747, died on February 27th, 1829.

Henry Johnson, whose memory is to be honoured at Birmingham to-morrow, was born on February 28th, 1809—one hundred and thirty years ago. He died on January 7th, 1890, at the age of 80 years.

Fifty years ago, namely, on March 1st, 1889, the record length of 13,440 Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham, Sussex, in 7 hours 45 minutes.

Last Friday was the anniversary of a Yorkshire Association record. On February 17th, 1906, at Wortley, near Sheffield, W. Eversfield's 11,232 Treble Bob Major was rung, conducted by Mr. George Lewis. This is still the record for tower bells for the association in the county, and six of the band are still alive, viz., A. Nash, J. Thorpe, S. F. Palmer, W. Allwood, C. Glenn and G. Lewis. The correspondent who reminds us of this performance would like to send greetings to Mr. C. Glenn and to inform him that he is still in the thoughts of the 'mad band.'

There was an error in our report last week of the handbell competition at the London County Association meeting. Two teams from Isleworth were entered, but only one took part. The second competing team was from St. Stephen's, Westminster.

PEALS IN 1938.

AN INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR.

There was a substantial increase in the number of peals rung in 1938 over those of the previous year, when 1,902 were rung. The total reached 2,036, made up as follows:—

On church bells, Maximus 24, Cinques 44, Royal 69, Caters 81, Major 741, Triples 314, Minor 491, Doubles 181; on handbells, 91.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

INFORMATION WANTED

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the past two years I have been collecting and arranging material for a treatise on Grandsire Caters, with the object of providing a comprehensive survey of the method in all its aspects. In attempting to relate the history of the method I find that the subject matter is vague and diffused, especially in the early years, and I shall be grateful if, through your columns, I may ask those in touch with early records for special information on certain points where information seems to be lacking or where discrepancies appear.

To be as brief as possible, I will tabulate.

1. The first peal of Grandsire Caters was rung by the London Scholars in 1725. The length was 5,053. The composition was presumably not in the Tittums, the invention of which is attributed to Annable at a later date. Is there any hint of what this composition was and is there any clue to the band?

2. In 1736 a long peal was rung at Norwich. Snowdon gives the length as 12,603, the peal board gives 12,603, Morris gives 12,603 and 12,600; 12,600 is divisible by 18 and so can be rung in 700 leads, but 12,603 cannot be rung without some juggling. Can any of our Norwich friends give information or provide the composition?

3. Bringing the bells round at hand is said to have been invented by Francis Roberts, and 'New Campanalogia' states that the first peal rung on this plan was at Fulham in 1770. Morris quotes a 5,057 rung by the College Youths at Cambridge in 1765. Whose composition was this?

4. Trollope gives Annable's first peal as conductor at St. Magnus' in 1725. Are the details of the band and the composition available?

5. In the early compositions brought round at hand the composers seem to have been content to turn the bells in the last course. I very much wish to trace the growth of popularity of the plan of using blocks of changes in the handstroke home position, and so should be glad to have copies of early peals in this form.

6. Can anyone send me particulars of the bands that rang the handbell peals of Grandsire Caters in 1883 and 1912?

7. In the 'Bell News' of December 10th, 1898, Mr. Hewitt, of Gosport, advertised a composition of 362,380 Grandsire Caters. Can anyone send me a copy of this?

I am afraid I have no means of consulting many of the early books on change ringing, and, living in the Midlands, I have little chance of doing research work in London. I shall be extremely grateful, therefore, if Mr. Trollope, and anyone else with information that throws light on the early practice of Grandsire Caters, will communicate with me direct.

There are other points of great interest, such as the first use of the Inverted Tittums, early notions of Proof, queer turning courses and freak performances. Concerning such things there may be an abundance of material lying idle, and I shall be glad to collect it.

E. C. SHEPHERD.

Hollebeke, Witley Avenue, Solihull, Birmingham.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—59.**ALAN R. PINK.**

A conductor of initiative and enthusiasm, Alan R. Pink, who has recently gone to live in Oxford, has had a considerable share in the ringing of new Surprise methods. He has called the first peals in 13 of them and has enabled a number of associations to record their first peals in many more. New methods and fresh compositions have been his hobby, but, despite this, he is a ringer who does not mind how humble the method, as long as someone benefits.

Mr. Pink, who was born at Ripley, Surrey, on December 5th, 1905, is a member of the staff of the Westminster Bank, which he joined at Pulborough. It was while living in this Sussex country town that he learned to handle a bell, and rang his first peal (Grandsire Triples) in December, 1926. His first peal as conductor was one of Bob Minor at Perranarworthal, in 1929, while on a holiday in Cornwall.

When he was transferred to Dorking, Surrey, he rang a good deal with the Leatherhead District, and it was there that he really laid the foundations of what was to follow. Incidentally he became hon. secretary of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and did some excellent work in the early days of that organisation. When, later, he moved to Windsor he found an eager and capable band in the district, and, backed by the genius of Mr. A. G. Driver, they had a long series of successes. Among other things they rang peals in 25 Surprise Major methods, and Mr. Pink conducted at least one of each, including the 13 which were the 'first ever.' It is noteworthy that very nearly all these peals were rung at the first attempt, without any previous practice.

The first peals in the method which Mr. Pink has called have been Painswick, Windsor, Chiltern, Berkshire, Truro, Runnymede, Boveney, Belvedere, Melbourne, Sandringham, Luttermouth, Cranbourne and Pyrford Surprise, Spliced Painswick, Yorkshire, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise, and Ashbourne College Bob.

He rang in the first peals by the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Canterbury Pleasure Major, New Cambridge, Kent, Ipswich, Ashted, Chiltern, Pyrford and Boveney Surprise, and conducted the last three. He also called the first peals of Kent, Ipswich and Ashted Surprise for the Surrey Association and took part in their first peal of Yorkshire Surprise.

For the Kent Association he called their first peal of Painswick Surprise, and for the Middlesex Association their first peals of Ashted, Painswick, Truro, Belvedere and Cranbourne Surprise, as well as Spliced Plain Bob and Double Norwich and Ashbourne College Bob, this last being the only peal yet rung in the method.

His contribution to Oxford Guild records has been to call their first peals in twelve Surprise methods, including eight rung for the first time; their first of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative, and the first ever rung with Painswick, Yorkshire, Superlative and Cambridge spliced into one peal. He also called their first peal in which Double Oxford, Double Norwich and Plain Bob were spliced together.

Among other interesting performances have been a 'colour' peal of Superlative at Erith in 1931, which he conducted and in which the names of the ringers were all different colours; and the first peal by members of the Banking profession, a peal of Bob Major at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London. On May 6th, 1935, Mr. Pink rang the tenor to a peal of Bob Major in the Curfew tower at Windsor Castle in honour of the Silver Jubilee of King George V. This was the first peal of Major on the bells and only the fourth peal rung on them.

Altogether Mr. Pink has rung 228 peals in 100 towers for ten associations, and has conducted 115 of them.

BROADCAST RINGERS.

In answer to many inquiries as to the names of the ringers who took part in the broadcast ringing at St. Leonard's, Streatham, on January 22nd last, here they are: C. A. Button 1, H. Mance 2, E. L. Miles 3, C. Potchery 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, L. G. Franks 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, H. Tourle 8. The touch was 252 Stedman Triples taken from the 'Ringers' Directory,' third edition. The full five minutes was allowed on the air.

**MR. ALAN R. PINK.****LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In accordance with the instruction of the annual meeting of this association held on Saturday last, February 11th, it is their wish now to withdraw from the letter of January 2nd last to the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and to express regret for its inclusion, the following sentence: "and now points the finger of scorn to the Editor and the Diocesan Association of which he was the instigator encroaching on the areas already covered by other associations."

T. W. TAFFENDER, Hon. Secretary.

February 13th, 1939.

'AN UNSATISFACTORY POSITION.'

Dear Sir,—I read the report of the last annual meeting of the London County Association, as published in your issue of the 17th inst., with intense disappointment and disgust. It appears that resentment, truculence and personal animosity followed each other in rapid succession; the net result of the meeting being that an apology, entirely devoid of repentance or any real regret, is to be sent to the Guildford Diocesan Guild in vindication of honour. That was all. Apparently nothing was done with regard to the more important question of overlapping, and no assurance given by the officers as to the conduct of the activities of the association in the future. A most unsatisfactory position, which gives rise to certain misgivings in the mind of the ordinary Sunday service ringer.

It seems that we are now left with only one remedy for this kind of thing, and that is the removal of all temptation to trespass or muscle-in at any tower by any association, guild, society or clique. This could be achieved by the formation, under the auspices of the Central Council, of a National Association possessing wide executive powers for the parcelling out of the country into regions and districts; the regions electing representatives to the Central Council, on the basis of membership, as at present. It would not then be possible for some ringers to be represented two or three times over, and ringers from one region or district should not be permitted to interfere in the management of another. Such are a few reflections of

F. G. WOODISS.

Sutton, Surrey.

P.S.—I want to make it quite clear that these are my personal views and have nothing to do with the Surrey Association, of which I am one of the district secretaries.

'STANDARD' METHODS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—There is still in use among ringers the term 'Standard' methods, applied to the methods which once were almost exclusively rung and even now are extensively practised, because they are the foundations upon which ringers generally build. But the term does not always mean quite the same group of methods. One reads from time to time of 'the four Standard methods,' meaning Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob, but many ringers also include Double Norwich as a 'Standard' method. Can anyone inform your readers whence came the term 'Standard' in this connection? Was it introduced by Snowdon, when he published 'Standard Methods,' because in that case it is by no means limited to the methods mentioned? His work, as everyone knows, covers a much wider field and included, in addition to many Minor methods, three Surprise Major methods. It would be interesting to know how and when this expression came into use, and what purpose, except as the title of Snowdon's useful book, it now serves.

'INQUIRER.'

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**CANTERBURY DISTRICT.**

The Canterbury District of the Kent County Association held its first meeting of the year at Walmer on Saturday, February 11th. This meeting is more usually called 'the spring meeting,' and, though a trifle early for spring, it was in warm sunshine that members gathered during the afternoon for ringing upon the peal of eight bells at this church. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Canon C. F. Tonks), who also gave an address. Presiding at the organ, as is usual, was Mr. W. E. Pitman, Mus.Bac.

Tea was held in the 'Upper Room' of the Parish Hall, and, more members turning up than was anticipated, things were a trifle warm towards the close of tea. Therefore, for greater comfort, the meeting was held in the hall itself.

Mr. H. Whitehead occupied the chair and presented a report of the association's central committee meeting, held in November.

Six new members were elected, and for the next by-meeting three towers were proposed, viz., Teyham, Elham and Chilham, the latter tower being selected.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for his address, and the members then returned to the tower for further ringing.

An attendance of 44 was recorded, representing 14 towers in the district.

RINGING IN NORFOLK.

THE HELP OF UNATTACHED MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It looks as if your correspondent, 'Norfolk Dumpling,' and I are rather at cross purposes. He has gone to a great deal of trouble to say over again what I have said, since, when he states that every member of the Norfolk Association rang 3 of a peal—that is, formed about one-third of a peal band—it is the same thing as saying that the members took part on the average in 2.3 peals each during the year, except that it is stated in a somewhat different way. His figures and mine agree, as they were bound to do, being calculated from the same original—the 1937 report, so that I feel justified in taking exception to his statement that I have drawn upon my imagination.

The point of his analysis of the peals into districts is very elusive. If he wishes to draw attention to the fact that some districts rang no peals it is all the more credit to the members who, in spite of that slackness elsewhere, contrived to amass their splendid total. That two-thirds of the members did not help seems to a plain, unimaginative person like myself to emphasise the energy of the other one-third. In no way whatever can it be considered to derogate from the performance of the latter.

Moreover, I am sorry that in his anxiety to remove the impression my letter is supposed to have conveyed—the term 'ringer's paradise' was his, however, not mine—your correspondent should so pointedly deny to the present generation of ringers any credit for the 5,000. It cannot possibly be true that the 'peal of peals' was rung in the hey-day of the association, when Norfolk and Suffolk were one, so long as the ringers of 1937 and 1938 were able on their own account to score more than 100 peals a year.

May I remind your correspondent (1) that I was writing to you upon one specific matter—the 5,000 peals, and (2) that I am not a Norfolk ringer, though I was one for five very pleasant months at Norwich and Yarmouth. It was not for me to enter into a general discussion upon the position of Norfolk ringing to-day (though 'Norfolk Dumpling' may be qualified to do so), and it would have been an ill-return for the spontaneous welcome I met with everywhere in East Anglia if I turned to criticise my hosts.

Nevertheless, as he has brought up the subject, I can only agree with your correspondent about the derelict areas of his home county, not alone from the ringing standpoint, but from the agricultural standpoint as well—the connection between the two is intimate. When all the young people go off the land they leave the village towers. I was also saddened by the thought of those moribund rings to which 'Norfolk Dumpling' refers—every day of the five months I saw the fine tower of St. Andrew's in the very heart of the city, and thought of that ten rotting on its frame; and it is only one silent ring in the city of Norwich. It is to be remembered that, chiefly owing to the agricultural depression, Norfolk is one of the poorest associations in money, however wealthy she may be in other ways, and restoration work suffers in consequence. But it must be confessed that there is not much point in restoring rings that cannot be manned, and there are few enough to go round as it is with the present available towers.

The chief item of offence in my letter appears to have been my statement about unattached ringers. Here I have to admit that I did not make my point clear; I should have been more careful to say that I referred to unattached peals—peals by bands of ringers attached to no towers anywhere who go round snatching peals where they can. I have no particular feeling on this question, but many other ringers have, and, as I said, they write about it from time to time. Unattached ringers, however, are or may be in quite a different category. There are many reasons why a man remains unattached, though that need not and often does not mean that he does no ringing. Of this class there are many in Norwich, and during my stay there I never on a single occasion rang anywhere, for service or practice, when there were not some of these technically unattached ringers in the band. Some of them attend twice every Sunday and every Tuesday night at St. Peter Mancroft; one of them in addition runs another tower in the city and keeps the bells going there; others attend as often as business permits. Any association that had a hundred or two of such unattached members would be very fortunate indeed.

With these facts in my mind I feel that on this matter 'Norfolk Dumpling' has not been quite fair to his fellow countymen. He must know as well as I do that practically all the unattached ringers to whom he refers in his letter as taking part in a number of the peals rung during 1937 were of this class. They are technically unattached certainly, but much more assiduous in their service ringing and attendance at practice than many of the attached. As a matter of fact, they take so active a part in the ringing life of the association that when I was looking over the report before writing my previous letter I did not realise they were unattached. It is only now, in seeking to identify the unattached ringers mentioned by your correspondent, that I find they are the people with whom I rang regularly week by week.

There is one other thing that must be said, and it is suggested by the fact that for no apparent reason 'Norfolk Dumpling' chooses to write under a nom-de-plume. The inevitable conclusion would be, of course, that your correspondent is not quite sure that his own services to his county association are assiduous or regular enough to justify him in criticising others. I hope that is not the case, for

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH NORFOLK BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the South Norfolk Branch was held on Saturday, February 4th, at Saxlingham Nethergate. The eight bells of the Parish Church were rung during the afternoon and evening to various methods, from Bob Major to London Surprise Major, and the special method, Checkendon Major, was also practised. Service was held in St. Mary's Church, conducted by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard (Rector of Bergh Apton), who also gave an eloquent address based on the words 'Come, for all things are ready.'

Forty-five members and friends sat down to tea in the Church Room, and at the business meeting which followed Mr. W. L. Duffield (Saxlingham) was in the chair, supported by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard (an hon. member), Mr. Nolan Golden (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. A. G. Harrison (branch secretary), Messrs. E. G. Bennett and E. Whiting (members of committee), and ringers from Attleborough, Alburgh, Barham, Buxton, Bergh Apton, Beccles, Caston, Diss, Gressenhall, Garboldisham, Mulbarton, Norton Subcourse, Norwich, Pulham, Shelfanger, Saxlingham, Stoke Ash, Winfarthing, Wymondham and Yaxley.

The chairman and branch secretary were re-elected, Messrs. E. G. Bennett, E. Whiting, C. Looze, C. E. G. Bauham and R. H. Drane were elected on the District Committee, and the Rev. A. St. J. Heard and E. G. Bennett on the Central Committee.

Five new members, Messrs. B. Barber, G. H. Woolmer, H. G. Lake, H. Nichols and F. Pearson were elected.

It was decided to visit Buwell on Saturday, May 6th, for the next meeting.

Mr. Nolan Golden laid great stress on the value of 'The Ringing World' and appealed for more members to support it.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector (the Rev. — Deuchar) for use of the bells, to the Rev. A. St. J. Heard for conducting the service, to Mr. W. L. Duffield for providing the tea, and to the organist and blower.

DEATH OF CIRENCESTER RINGER.

FIFTY YEARS AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

The death took place, on January 30th, after a very brief illness, of Mr. F. W. Bond. Deceased had been a ringer at Cirencester Parish Church for about 50 years. He had rung peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters, and was very proficient on the treble in rising and falling in peal.

The ringers sent a wreath, and several attended the funeral service on February 2nd, but a very old friend, Mr. John Austin, was unable to be present owing to illness.

In the evening, as a last tribute to the memory of Mr. Bond, members of the band rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis, sen. (conductor) 2, F. J. Lewis, jun. 3, H. S. Parsons 4, H. L. Cooke 5, H. Lewis 6, W. H. Hayward 7, F. F. Bloxham 8. Incidentally Mr. Bond introduced the conductor to ringing.

CELEBRATIONS IN TASMANIA.

HOBART RINGERS KEEP UP ANNIVERSARIES.

Each year the anniversary of the visit of the English ringers to Tasmania in 1934 is celebrated at Hobart, and an enjoyable evening was spent by the members of Holy Trinity Association when they met for the purpose on an evening last November. Interest was added to the proceedings by an exhibition of lantern pictures concerning bells and ringing, which had been kindly sent by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston and Messrs. Taylor and Co.

The second anniversary of the dedication of the tower and bells at St. David's Cathedral, Hobart, has also been duly celebrated. On December 6th the Precentor entertained the Cathedral and Holy Trinity ringers and ringing was done on the Cathedral bells. Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilson, who recently gave a clock to the Cathedral belfry, were present as honoured guests. Mr. Wilson is brother of Mr. Ray Wilson, the enthusiastic hon. secretary of Holy Trinity Association.

A recent visitor to Holy Trinity has been Mr. W. G. Hall, secretary of St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne, who took part in ringing Grandsire Doubles with the local men. Afterwards Mr. and Mrs. Hall were entertained to supper.

A photograph of the English members of the Holy Trinity Association, taken on the occasion of the Australian tourists' reunion at Surfleet last October, now occupies an honoured place in Holy Trinity belfry.

(Continued from previous column.)

those who do nothing themselves have no right to express any opinion about the activities of others—a very sound principle that so many of our self-appointed critics forget. But I am quite sure that I am wronging 'Norfolk Dumpling' in this respect, though I should have preferred to know whom I was addressing.

But I commend to the Exercise his remark about lack of recruits. There is no question more important than this. The hands and associations all over the country are simply wasting slowly away, yet we never seem to care. That is, however, far too big a question to be dragged in at the end of a letter that is already too long.
Bristol. A. J. CORRIGAN.

RECRUITMENT AND INSTRUCTION.

SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE POOLED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is becoming increasingly evident that the number of those coming forward to learn the art of ringing is diminishing. Action on the part of the Central Council and the diocesan guilds seems to be needed to stimulate recruiting. The day has gone by when all that was necessary was to let youngsters wander into our bellies, impelled by curiosity or some other reason. We must now go out after recruits. Direct co-operation between associations and incumbents, to rope in youths who have served as choirboys or boy scouts, should yield a goodly number of suitable subjects for instruction.

It is very sad to note that a large number of those who have been recruited are lost through various reasons, some of which, I believe, could be removed. One hears of many cases where youngsters get so far as to be able to handle a bell and then give it all up. This is wasted effort for both learner and teacher.

I wish to make a suggestion that the Central Council appoint a small panel of qualified ringers, and request them to get out a small book of *instructions for instructors*, whereby those who have to teach learners might be helped to success. Clear cut instructions, in present-day language, pointing out not only how to teach the technical part of ringing, but also dealing with the various known reactions of different types of learners, might help the instructor to keep the pupil's interest.

I am not suggesting that we have not already got a large number of proved and skilled instructors up and down the country—I know many such, and I am quite sure that the type of instructor I am thinking of would welcome any hints from any reliable quarter whereby his work could be made easier. What I have in mind is that we should pool the skill and knowledge which we already possess in our ranks and use it to greater advantage. Unless we get right down to this problem of making the period of instruction more positive and attractive, our numbers will so diminish that the position will become very serious.

The question may be asked—who will pay for the production of the book? Well, so far as I am able to observe, there is no marked shortage of funds—either in the Council or in the Guilds. We should do well to get rid of this 'savings societies' idea, and, instead of hoarding up money in investments, spend it now, and so make an effort to ensure the continuance and strengthening of our art.

38, Penn Lea Road, Bath. J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

NORTHERN ASSOCIATIONS MEET.**A PRE-LENT GATHERING AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.**

The pre-Lent meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held as a joint meeting with the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association at West Hartlepool on Saturday. The ring of ten bells of St. Oswald's Church, with a 21½ cwt. tenor, by Warner, and the ring of eight of St. Aidan's, with a 15 cwt. tenor, by Taylor, were placed at the ringers' disposal, and during the afternoon and evening touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Treble Bob Royal, Double Norwich, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung.

Tea was partaken of in St. Oswald's Parish Hall, where upwards of 40 persons sat down. The president of the Durham and Newcastle Association (Mr. M. D. Oubridge, of Gosforth) welcomed the members of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, but said he would have liked to have seen more of their members present.

Responding, Mr. J. E. Pollard, president of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, said he believed that all the Cleveland men present were also life members of the Durham and Newcastle Association, which placed them in a rather invidious position, but, nevertheless, they were pleased to be present.

Mr. C. L. Routledge thanked the church authorities for the use of the bells.

The Rev. Rowlandson, curate at St. Aidan's, replied. He said that the clergy appreciated the work of the ringers, and they were pleased to grant the use of the bells.

Mr. J. T. Titt proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had ministered to the needs of the 'inner man.'

Mr. Oubridge appealed to the ringers to endeavour to improve their striking, a comment which did not appear to be too popular in some quarters, but it is to be hoped that the appeal may not have been wasted.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex Association was held at Storrington on Saturday, February 11th, when ten towers were represented by 28 members. Ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Cambridge Minor.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. R. H. Faithfull) the address being given by the Rev. W. Bramwell (Rector of Wiginholt).

After tea the members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. A. Feist, of Billingshurst.

At the business meeting two new members were elected, viz., Messrs. F. Short, of Goring, and H. Bentinck, of Lyminster.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector of Storrington for the use of the bells and for presiding at the business meeting.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE VILLAGE WANTS MORE BELLS.**RAMPTON HOPES TO HAVE SIX.**

The village of Rampton, Cambridgeshire, has just completed some important work of restoration to the church. The tower, belfry, porch and south-west wall have been restored and the bells increased to four, as the preliminary, it is hoped, to raising them to a ring of six, a frame for this number having been provided. The new treble has been given by the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, who was Rector of the parish from 1894 to 1928, and a new third bell has also been added. The present second was cast by Thomas Newman in 1713, and the fourth, a pre-Reformation bell, weighing 4 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb., bears the inscription, 'Sancte Oswalde Ora Pro Nobis.' The four bells have been hung with new fittings in a new oak wood frame, the work having been carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

The dedication of the work took place on February 2nd, the Bishop of Ely (Dr. B. O. F. Heywood) performing the ceremony. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. T. L. Havers), and Bishop Price read the lesson.

The Bishop, in his address, congratulated all who had been concerned in the enterprise, and in the course of his address upon Christian worship said the question, 'Why do people go to church?' was a more useful subject for discussion than the question, 'Why don't certain people go to church?'

Although the work of restoration, which has cost about £700, has been completed, some £330 has still to be raised, and donations will be gladly welcomed by the Rector.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT WANTS MORE RECRUITS.**

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and Loudon Diocesan Guild was held at Isleworth on Saturday, February 4th. Ringers were present from Brentford, Camberwell (St. Giles'), Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Isleworth, Kingston-on-Thames, Leighton Buzzard, Norwood Green, Ruislip, Twickenham and Westminster (St. Margaret's). Ringing included touches of Triples and Caters.

A short service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Wright, the lesson being read by the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope.

Tea in the Church Hall was followed by the business meeting, with Mr. J. A. Trollope in the chair.

The annual report was presented by the secretary, in the course of which it was stated there had been an average attendance of 42 at the six district meetings. It was better than in the previous year, but it was still capable of improvement. Tower secretaries were urged to try and arrange for at least two or three of their bands to attend each meeting, especially any learners, who would receive every help and encouragement. Three joint meetings with other associations were held, and they were indebted to these associations for arranging these successful gatherings. He thought further such meetings should be arranged. Gratitude was expressed to the Heston band for their efficient and successful efforts in arranging the annual supper. Eighteen peals had been rung in 12 towers and 35 quarter-peals. Service ringing had been kept at about the same level as last year, but it was regrettable that there were few bands who could muster their full strength regularly for Sunday ringing. The position with regard to recruits was unsatisfactory, only five ringing and one honorary life member and two life ringing members having been elected in 1938. He made a strong appeal to towers and to individual members to find recruits.

The financial position was better than last year owing to the more prompt payment of subscriptions, but he could not see this improvement continuing unless the membership increased. They started the year under the reorganisation scheme, and with their very efficient general secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles, in general charge of the association, it was up to every member to give him support and help to make the association second to none. In conclusion, the report thanked the various district officers for their ready help.

The financial statement by Mr. T. Collins (treasurer), which was also adopted, showed a rather better position than the previous year.

Mr. H. C. Chandler presented the report of the Supper Committee, who were thanked for all that they had done, and the committee was reconstituted as before.

Mr. W. H. Coles (Hillingdon) was elected Ringing Master and Mr. G. M. Kilby (Ruislip) deputy.

It was regretted that Mr. W. H. Ellingham (Heston), last year's deputy, was too ill to accept office, and it was decided to send him a letter of sympathy.

Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey (Ealing) was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. W. G. Wilson (Ealing) assistant secretary. Messrs. T. Collins (Ruislip) and C. H. Chandler and C. S. Bird (Heston) were elected to the Central Committee; and Messrs. E. C. S. Turner (Ealing) and C. S. Bird (Heston) were appointed auditors.

Two new members, Messrs. M. W. Norman (Heston) and W. Wigginton (Twickenham) were elected.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Twickenham, and the usual joint meetings during the year with nearby societies.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Isleworth, to Canon Wright, to the lady helpers at the tea and to the local company closed the proceedings.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT'S POSITION.

There was an attendance of over 60 ringers at the annual meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild on February 4th at Guildford. Ringing took place both at the Cathedral and S. Nicolas' Church, and a service, conducted by the Rev. W. A. Hefher, at S. Nicolas'.

At the subsequent meeting, which followed tea, Major J. H. B. Hesse (Master of the Guild) presided, and was supported by Mr. W. F. J. Cope (hon. district secretary) and Mr. C. E. Smith (Ringing Master of the district). Among others present were the Rev. L. Starey (Rector of Merrow), Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (vice-president), Mr. G. L. Grover (general secretary) and Mr. J. Corbett (Guild hon. treasurer).

The following officers were elected: Hon. secretary, Mr. W. F. J. Cope; Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith; hon. auditor, Mr. C. Hazelden; members of the Executive Committee, Messrs. E. J. Ayliffe, F. Cherryman and R. Whittington.

The balance sheet showed a credit balance of £25 8s. 3d., an increase of £3 9s. 3d. Subscriptions from ringing members realised £15 11s., honorary members paid £1, and £2 2s. was subscribed by life members. Expenditure totalled £15 10s. 9d., and included £10 14s. 6d., which was remitted to the Guild treasurer.

The secretary suggested that they should donate £5 to the New Cathedral Bells Fund. It was possible that two towers in the district, Merrow and Bramley, might have their bells seen to, and they should also subscribe to such restorations as were forthcoming.

The Chairman thought they should give money to places like Bramley and Merrow rather than to the Cathedral Bells Fund.

Mr. T. W. White supported the secretary's proposition that £5 be given to the Cathedral Bells Fund.

Mr. A. H. Pulling thought that the money should be given to the building rather than to the bells.

It was eventually decided to obtain sanction from the Guild annual meeting to donate £5 to the new Cathedral bells, and that money should be subscribed to the restorations when they occur.

PAST AND FUTURE.

Mr. C. E. Smith (Ringing Master) stated that 1938 was not an eventful year for the district. He had paid a number of visits to towers, and in most instances progress in service and practice ringing had been maintained. He had long advocated the idea of towers in proximity to each other amalgamating for practices, and stated that Godalming and Witley and Haslemere and Chiddingfold regularly exchanged visits. He appealed to members to maintain practices, which was the only way to keep up the standard of Sunday service ringing. Steady progress had been made at Bramley, who had rejoined the Guild, and the Witley band had been revived owing to the endeavours of Sergt. Hagley. In July, Ewhurst bells were augmented from six to eight, and Major Hesse had played a prominent part in that work. He would like to see more local ringers attending meetings at their tower. Eleven peals were rung in the district during the year, which was eight less than the previous year.

In presenting his first report, the secretary (Mr. W. F. J. Cope) thanked all those who had supported him, especially the general secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover. He was sorry that there was not the hoped-for increase in 'new faces.' The average attendance at the five district meetings was 37. Although that might be considered satisfactory, the average attendance of Guildford district members was only 21. When it was considered that there were 157 ringing members in the district there was room for improvement. The fact that the district meetings were fairly well attended was due to the support given by the Farham district ringers. He appealed to the tower secretaries to see that their towers were represented at meetings.

The district membership was 157 ringing and eight honorary members, compared with 153 and 10 in the previous year.

They welcomed back Bramley into the Guild, and the newly-formed band there was taking an active interest in district and Guild affairs. Their secretary, Mr. Martin, had recruited six honorary members. The drive for honorary members had been fairly successful, two life and eight new honorary members being secured.

The accounts, said the secretary, showed a balance in hand of £25 8s. 3d., and he thought they might with advantage consider spending a little of the surplus during the year. The New Cathedral Bells Fund should receive attention.

Although the general outlook appeared bright there remained a lot to be done before they could feel properly satisfied. The serious decline in the number of ringing members had for the present been arrested. On the other hand, they were not represented at Grayshott, Hascombe, Merrow, Ockham, Puttenham and Shere. If during 1939 they could bring at least one of these towers back into the fold, a step in the right direction would have been made.

It was decided to hold district meetings this year at Worplesdon, Puttenham, Ewhurst and Haslemere.

New members elected were: Life member, the Provost (the Very Rev. Eric Southam); hon. members, Mrs. T. Treffry Cockill, Miss H. M. Wright, Mrs. M. Broome, Capt. L. C. W. Phillips, and Messrs. J. Roe, H. P. Lawson and E. H. Robinson; junior ringing members, Messrs. L. H. Hazeldene (Holy Trinity, Guildford) and E. Mackett (Womersley); ringing members, the Rev. L. Starey (Rector of Merrow), Messrs. J. Heather and R. Jackson (Bramley), A. J. Mitchell (Dunsfold), L. Wallis (Clandon) and L. Hill (Old Woking).

Mr. J. Mackman urged the practice of handbell ringing in connection with district meetings where possible. In these days, when the art was up against so much outside attraction, the practice of double-handed ringing would help considerably to keep bands together and interest keen.

The secretary approved Mr. Mackman's suggestion, remarking that such an arrangement would relieve congestion at the tower.—At Mr. C. E. Smith's suggestion, the matter was left to him and the secretary to arrange.

Mr. C. Hazelden proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of S. Nicolas' for the use of the bells and the church, and the Rev. W. A. Hefher for addressing them. He thought they should send congratulations to the Ven. E. de G. Lucas on his appointment to the Archdeaconry of Durham, as he had been a good friend to ringers, and this was agreed to.

A BOOM IN HONORARY MEMBERS.

One of the results of the drive for honorary members in the Guildford Diocesan Guild was revealed at the annual meeting of the Leatherhead District held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 11th, when 31 were elected. Ringing commenced soon after 3 o'clock with Grand-sire Doubles. Later the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge), supported by the organist and choirboys, conducted the Guild's form of service, and gave a pointed address on the challenging message of the bells.

Tea was served in the club room of the Duke's Head, but although 29 notifications had been sent in, only 25 sat down to the meal, so the secretary has been wondering if others besides the Guild's treasurer had been struck down with 'flu.' The Vicar presided over the business meeting. The first act was to observe a silence upon the recent death of Mr. Jesse Beams, of Ewell.

The district's reply to the appeal for more honorary members made in last year's report brought 24 honorary and seven life members, Mr. James, of Cobham, being responsible for securing 29 of these. Four ringing members were also elected.

The balance sheet showed an increased balance of 10s., it now being £5 19s. 6d., and the report marked a steady progress in ringing and in attendances at meetings. Seven peals had been rung in six methods, including the first ever of Painawick Surprise Royal, which made a total of 25 firsts in a new method. The report concluded with an appeal to members to maintain the increased attendances at meetings, reminding them of the wide range of methods the meetings offered them, and also of the fact that the officers also had to leave jobs in homes and gardens to attend the meetings.—Both balance sheet and report were accepted without comment.

The retiring district officers were re-elected, viz., Messrs. A. Harman, Ringing Master; A. H. Smith, hon. secretary; and W. J. Whiting, hon. auditor. The Rev. Coleridge, Mr. G. Marriner and Mr. A. J. Adams were elected representatives on the General Executive Committee, no other nominations having been made, and with their consent a draw resulted in their serving A. J. Adams one year, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge two years, and G. Marriner three years.

All the retiring general officers were renominated, Mr. R. Whittington being added to the list nominated for Central Council representatives.

Places selected for meetings during the year were Newdigate, Ranmore, Cobham, Epsom and Dorking, with Leatherhead for the next annual meeting.

Mr. Grover reminded the meeting of the waning interest in the Benevolent Fund boxes, the lack of subscriptions towards the New Cathedral Bells Fund and the towers' affiliation fees.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the organist and choirboys, and to the Vicar for his continued interest and his varied services that day.

Ringling was then resumed until 9 o'clock, methods ranging from the aforementioned Grand-sire Doubles to Triples, Major, Caters, Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Surprise Royal. Members were present from Ashted, Banstead, Cobham, Ewell and Leatherhead, with visitors, including the general secretary, from Guildford, Bagshot, Hounslow and Kingston, and an old member of the district in the person of Miss I. L. Hastie.

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NOTICES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 51st annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 25th, at 6 p.m. prompt, Rev. Canon Stuart Blofeld, B.A., Vicar of Edgbaston, in the chair. The following towers will be open: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12) and Aston Parish Church (12), 3.30 to 5 p.m.; Cathedral Church of St. Philip (10), 4 to 5.30 p.m.; St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral (8), 3 to 4 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—East Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft, on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at St. Nicholas' House at 5 p.m. Business meeting after tea. All ringers welcome. But 'Mr. Harwood wants to know' the names or numbers for tea, so just send a postcard, chums. Address to J. G. W. Harwood, 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—The next monthly practice at Chelmsford Cathedral will be held on Saturday, February 25th, at 7.30 p.m. The special method is Cambridge, up to Royal.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1939 are now due.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Adwick-le-Street on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. A good attendance is expected, so please turn up in your dozens and look up your methods.—E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—North Forest Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Huntley on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. (1s. each).—A. J. Gibson, Hon. Sec., Westbury Court Cottage, Westbury-on-Severn, Glos.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A six-bell meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, February 25th. St. Michael's bells, tenor 13 cwt., from 3 p.m. to 5.30. Tea and meeting at 'Nell Gwynn's', St. Michael's Street, to be followed by ringing at St. Stephen's, tenor 15 cwt. Both are very fine peals—come and enjoy a ring on them.—Harold V. Frost, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Halliwell, on Saturday, February 25th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, at small charge per head. Special invitation to friends in Wigan Branch. Names for tea to J. F. Wood, 51, Melrose Avenue, Bolton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Braughing (8 bells) on Saturday, February 25th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and tea as usual. Meeting to follow. Ringing for all.—A. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., Hatfield Park, Herts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Old Windsor (8 bells) on Saturday, February 25th, at 5 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec. and Treas., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings: *St. Paul's Cathedral, Feb. 28th; St. Magnus the Martyr, March 2nd. *Business meeting afterwards. At 7.30. — A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LADIES' GUILD.—London District.—Practices will be held at St. George-the-Martyr, S.E.1, on the first Wednesday in every month, commencing on Wednesday, March 1st, at 7.30. All ringers welcome, but, ladies, this is mainly addressed to you, so please turn up in good numbers. Also, kindly book the dates for future practices, as this notice will not appear again. Rounds to Spliced Surprise (we hope!), so tell your friends.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A combined practice will be held at Hatfield (10 bells) on Wednesday, March 1st, at 8 p.m.—Harold V. Frost, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—The annual lunch of the society will be held on Thursday, March 2nd, at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford, at 1.15 p.m. All those intending to be present must notify Mr. M. G. Hayter, Christ Church, Oxford, not later than Feb. 27th. Tickets, 3s. 6d., exclusive of wines.—R. D. St. John Smith, Master.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Acton on Sat., March 4th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service, with address by the Rector 4.45. Tea 5.30. Rector, Rev. P. Gough, invites members of the association to tea, and to the meeting, will all accepting advise me by Tues., Feb. 28th. All information and alterations for Annual Report should be sent to me without delay.—C. T. Coles, Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4. Tel. Larkwood 1959.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—First meeting of the year will be held at Hallow (4 miles north of Worcester) on Sat., March 4th. Bells (8, tenor 21½ cwt.) recently rehung, from 3 p.m. Short service 4.15. Tea in the Parish Hall 5 (gratis to those who notify me not later than Tuesday, Feb. 28th). Business meeting afterwards, at which the problem of a new secretary *must* be solved.—G. E. Large, Branch Sec., 1, Windmill Cottages, Lower Town, Claines, Worcester.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Sketty on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Tuesday, February 28th, certain.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, March 4th. As there is a committee meeting the same day, there will not be any business done by the branch.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Lilbourne (5 bells) on Saturday, March 4th. Usual arrangements.—H. H. Shives, Hon. Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Those requiring tea please send names in good time. A good attendance desired. All ringers welcome.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30. Tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than Tuesday, Feb. 28th. Business meeting afterwards. All arrears of subscriptions should be paid at this meeting. Old and new members cordially invited.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 17, Grange Road, Dudley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Southwark Cathedral on March 4th. Bells (12) available from 3 p.m. Evensong at 5 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) at The Chapter House, St. Thomas' Street, S.E.1, followed by meeting. Please send notifications for tea to me by 28th inst.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting of this district will be held at Bromham on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5. You will be very welcome. All members please attend. Important business.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Annual meeting will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea and business at 5 p.m. All welcome.—F. J. Plummer, Dis. Sec., Leighton Buzzard.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Potterne on Saturday, March 4th. Usual arrangements. A card for tea would oblige.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Poolstock on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, which will be free, in School at 5 p.m., for which please notify Mr. A. Parker, 89, Barnsley Street, Wigan.—F. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Cranford (6 bells) on Saturday, March 4th. Usual arrangements. Please notify me by Tuesday, Feb. 28th, if you require tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Kettering.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Fenton on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. S. Dutton, Gramerci, Grove Road, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., not later than March 1st? Tea at 5 p.m. Committee meeting after tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 37, Broad Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

APPLETON, BERKS.—The 121st anniversary of these bells will be celebrated on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available all day. Dinner at 4.30 p.m. Please notify R. White, Appleton, Berks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St Helens Parish Church (10 bells) on Saturday, March 4th. The tower will be open at 2.30 p.m. Service at 5 o'clock, followed by tea and meeting. A hearty invitation is extended to all ringers. Please send word for tea to Mr. A. Wallace, 6, Brookside Avenue, Eccleston, St. Helens.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on March 11th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Business meeting 5.30. All ringers welcomed.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., Fylde.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Norbury Parish Church, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, on Saturday, March 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mrs. Fearnley, 7, Vernon Street, Hazel Grove, Cheshire. All ringers welcome.—E. Dorice Kelly, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Penwortham on Saturday, March 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Bells (8). A good attendance is requested.—A. Blogg, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A joint meeting of the Western Division and Huddersfield District Association will be held at St. Mary's, Elland, on Saturday, March 11th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea (1s.) 5.15 p.m., followed by business meeting—election of officers, etc. Names for tea to Mr. F. Linfoot, 2, Turnpike Street, Elland, by Thursday, March 9th. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual dinner will take place on Saturday, March 18th, at 6.30 p.m., at the Old Bell Restaurant, Holborn, E.C. Tickets, price 6s. each, may be obtained from either of the following: Messrs. T. Bevan, J. Cornford, G. H. Cross, T. H. Francis, G. Gilbert, R. Heazell, J. Parker, G. Radley, A. H. Pulling, N. Summerhayes or the secretary. Arrangements for ringing will be announced later.—G. W. Steere, Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general committee meeting will be held at Reading on Saturday, March 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in St. Lawrence's Hall, Abbey Street.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

DEATH.

TAYLOR, Evelyn M. (Mrs.).—On February 3rd, from pneumonia, in Maidenhead Hospital. R.I.P.

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