



No. 1,502. Vol. XXXV.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1940.

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WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

At the beginning of a new year it is usual and, indeed, natural to contemplate the prospect offered by the future, but the upheaval all around us and the uncertainty of the times in which we are living make a forecast not only impossible but almost futile. No one can say what will happen in the world in the days ahead, and, therefore, in ringing matters as in every other sphere, we can only wait upon events, planning to go ahead as opportunity offers. This much, however, can be said, that 1940 opens in conditions more encouraging for ringing than at one time seemed possible. When war broke out it appeared likely that ringing, for the time being, would come absolutely to an end and had the events which were anticipated materialised it is probable that there would have been such a collapse of activities that there could have been no revival until peace came. Happily disaster, in the sense that everyone expected, did not befall us; and in the recovery that has taken place throughout the normal activities of the people, ringing has held its own and the prospect of our art now keeping alive through the stressful days ahead is very bright. It is now realised that church bells rung for the church services and for other customary purposes are not out of place; that the public welcome them and the authorities do not object to them when used under reasonable conditions. Some evidence that the recovery has been really effective is to be found in the number of peals rung for the Christmas festival and, subject to a proper appreciation of the occasions when bells should be silent, there is no reason why peal ringing in moderation should not be continued.

Most associations are now finding it possible to hold meetings, even though, on account of the black-out, the hours of actual ringing are restricted. When the longer days come there will, of course, be even more scope for gatherings of this kind. In the meantime plans can well be laid for making the most of the summer-time meetings, but there ought to be something done now to add interest to the winter gatherings, where ringing is curtailed, by making them educational. There must be in every association some members who, for instance, could give informal instructional talks on various matters connected with bells and the art of ringing, and a profitable hour or so could be provided by such talks and a subsequent discussion.

The return of peace may yet be long delayed, but there seems no reason why associations should not prepare plans for getting quickly into their full stride at the first opportunity. Indeed, it may happen, although at
(Continued on page 2.)

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present it seems very unlikely, that a cessation of hostilities may come in the not distant future, and if schemes are prepared and kept constantly adapted to changing circumstances, they will be ready to be put into operation on the shortest notice. In this respect we refer not only to the internal affairs of all the associations. There are larger problems which need to be dealt with, problems which have been recognised but allowed to slide for want of the desire or the lack of spirit to solve them. One such is touched upon in lighter vein in our present issue; but in this article there is much food for thought. This war which we are fighting should teach us lessons in many directions, and one of them is that there is little place for rivalries which embitter feeling. Ringing has not been without such sources of friction and in the days before us, when curtailed activities in some directions give opportunity of thought on other matters, those who could and should help to mould the future of the Exercise might well consider what changes might be made to wipe out the outworn and unproductive sources of rivalries of the past.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

F. VICKERS...Treble	R. H. HOWSON	6
J. E. ARNOLD	2	F. J. PLUMMER	7
H. B. WHITNEY	3	H. V. FROST... ..	8
*V. W. CONQUEST	4	G. W. DEBENHAM	9
G. E. DEBENHAM	5	E. A. BELSON	Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by E. A. BELSON.

* First peal. First peal of Royal by the ringers of 1, 2, 3, 7, and 10.
First peal as conductor.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

*ALICE M. SCOTT...Treble	ERNEST J. MUNDAY	6
REGINALD A. REED, R.F.A. 2		GEORGE WILLIAMS	7
LEONARD KNOTT	3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER... ..	8
†WILLIAM C. SHUTE	4	LESLIE A. TREMEER	9
ERNEST J. AVLIFFE	5	HAROLD P REED	Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Royal at first attempt. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-A-BECKET,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb. in E.

THOMAS B. KENDALLTreble	ALFRED SMITH	5
HARRY DAVISON	2	HERBERT DAVENPORT... ..	6
MISS MARY WHITE	3	GEORGE ROBINSON	7
KENNETH SIMPSON	4	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS	Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

Specially arranged and rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. Joseph Broadley, of Bradford.

AMPTHILL, BEDS.—At the Church of St. Andrew on Sunday, November 26th, a quarter-peal of Doubles, being 780 of Grandsire and 480 of Plain Bob: W. Foreman 1, A. C. Sinfield 2, S. Daniels 3, R. J. Sharp 4, C. E. Jeffries (conductor) 5, K. Garrett 6. Rung for even-song.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THDRSTANS' FOUR-PART.

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

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 1	Treble	*WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... 5
CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 2		†DONALD E. BRISTOW ... 6
HENRY HUTTON ... 3		ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
C. ERNEST SMITH ... 4		WILLIAM T. BEESON ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

* First peal of Triples in the method. † First peal in the method. Specially arranged for Leading Aircraftsman Donald Bristow, who was home on leave.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

LEONARD LUCK ... 1	Treble	JAMES E. DAVIS ... 5
WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD ... 2		EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ... 3		ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7
HAROLD G. CASEMORE ... 4		CECIL C. MAYNE ... Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

ILKESTON ARRANGEMENT. Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

*WILLIAM DAWSON ... 1	Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 5
*CHARLES HUTCHINSON ... 2		JACK BAILEY ... 6
WILLIAM H. J. KING ... 3		EDWARD C. GOBEY ... 7
HARRY HARRISON ... 4		EDWARD F. GOBEY ... Tenor

Composed by ED. C. GOBEY. Conducted by ED. F. GOBEY.

* First peal of Combined Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Rung in honour of the 38th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C. Hutchinson and the 21st anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. William Lancaster.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. ... 1	Treble	†NORMAN H. MAKIN ... 5
DEREK M. SHARP ... 2		GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 6
ERNEST H. OXENHAM ... 3		JAMES BENNETT ... 7
*FREDERICK G. GROOMBRIDGE ... 4		THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... Tenor

Composed by J. GEORGE. Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. A.R.P. sentry duty: Edwin Barnett. * First peal in the method on tower bells. † First peal of Major. A silver wedding peal for the conductor.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

RICHARD LEE ... 1	Treble	ROLAND BIGGS ... 5
GEORGE MARTIN ... 2		*HARRY JONES ... 6
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ... 3		PERCY NEWTON ... 7
FREDERICK G. BIGGS ... 4		HARRY WINGROVE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

* First peal in the method.

CHICHESTER.—At the Cathedral on Sunday, December 3rd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): T. A. Doick 1, W. Falconer 2, L. Atfield 3, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 4, A. E. Holden 5, L. Stillwell 6, H. Stoveld 7, A. J. Doick 8. Rung for the 40th anniversary of Mr. H. J. Tucker's 100th peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings with all 5-6's at backstroke. Tenor 15 cwt.
*K. J. JONES (Cathedral) ... Treble | G. W. DEBENHAM (St. Peters) 4
A. B. HALSEY (St. Michaels) 2 | REG. EWER (St. Stephens) 5
R. BEDFORD (St. Stephens) 3 | †H. V. FROST (St. Peters) ... Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD V. FROST.

* First peal of Minor. † 50th peal.

GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of an extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Court Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. in E.

ALBERT C. HALES ... 1	Treble	ALAN R. ANDREWS ... 4
VIOLET A. FROST ... 2		LESLIE WRIGHT ... 5
DAISY M. ANDREWS ... 3		RALPH BIRD ... Tenor

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.

A birthday compliment to Pte. A. O. Hales, of the 5th Essex Regt.

MOLD, FLINTSHIRE.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores.

J. S. METCALF ... 1	Treble	*S. WILLIAMS ... 4
*L. GRIFFITHS ... 2		E. P. EVANS ... 5
*H. EDWARDS ... 3		J. H. JONES ... Tenor

Conducted by J. S. METCALF.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

CAPENHURST, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising one extent each of Surfleet, Bevorley, York, Durham, London, Wells and Cambridge. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in G.
ROBERT SPERRING ... Treble | GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 4
LESTER L. GRAY ... 2 | PERCY SWINDLEY ... 5
RALPH G. EDWARDS ... 3 | FRANK VARTY ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

PRESTON, LANC.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford Single Bob and two 720's each of Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

*ALEC DIMMOCK ... 1	Treble	JOHN JACKSON ... 4
*HARRY CLARKE ... 2		W. KENNETH MARTIN, R.A.F. 5
E. ROGER MARTIN ... 3		CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... Tenor

Conducted by C. CROSSTHWAITE.

* First attempt for a peal.

CUCKNEY, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Double Bob, one 720 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

WILLIAM DICKENSON ... 1	Treble	HAROLD DENMAN ... 4
GEORGE E. FOSTER ... 2		HERBERT T. ROOKE ... 5
FREDERICK FLINT ... 3		JOE READER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. T. ROOKE.

ASHBRITTLE, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's.	Tenor 10 cwt.
WILLIAM C. NEWBERRY ... Treble	WALTER STEVENS 4
STANLEY BRISTOW 2	CLAUDE W. J. TARR 5
FRED ALDERMAN 3	CYRIL J. STEVENS... .. Tenor

Conducted by CLAUDE W. J. TARR.

First peal of Minor for all except the conductor. First peal of Minor as conductor. First peal of Minor on the bells. Arranged as a compliment to Mr. James Hunt on his retirement from the Mastership of the Taunton Deanery Branch.

WARBLETON, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 six-scores of Plain Bob (four callings) and 15 twelve-scores of Grandsire (Morris' and Pitman's Arrangements). Tenor 10½ cwt.

*MISS C. MURIEL ORLEBAR Treble	† WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE 4
*WILFRED BOOTH 2	FRANK H. HICKS 5
*BERT STANDON 3	*FREDERICK BAKER Tenor

Conducted by W. A. KITCHENSIDE.

* First peal in two methods. † 100th peal.

SUTTON COURTENAY, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising a 720 each of York, Durham, Beverley, Surfle, Nether-seale, Norwich and Cambridge. Tenor 17 cwt.

*GEORGE AYRES Treble	*REV. MALCOLM C. MELVILLE 4
MARIE R. CROSS 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 5
FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 3	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in seven Surprise methods. First peal of Surprise Minor on the bells.

THORINGTON, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of an extent each of Ipswich, Norwich and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Court Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 22 lb. in G.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD Treble	ALBERT C. HALES 4
DAISY M. ANDREWS 2	HARRY J. MILLATT 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS 3	GEORGE A. ANDREWS... .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Plain Bob, St. Clement's, Childwall, College Exercise, Oxford, Kent and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 13 cwt.

PETER WOODWARD Treble	ERNEST BROOKES 4
*SIDNEY BRIGGS 2	ARTHUR GILL 5
CLIFFORD ROBINSON 3	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung as a thanksgiving peal for Mr. A. Panther, who is now at home progressing favourably after several serious operations.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
AT TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

- Seven extents in 50 methods:—
1. Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury, Oxford Treble Bob, Carisbrooke, Wath, Donottar and Pontefract Delight.
 2. Hereward, Double Court, Oxford Bob and Court Bob.
 3. Iver, Buxton Alliance and Little Bob.
 4. Finchley, Ellacombe Alliance and Crayford Little Court.
 5. Fulmer, Walsingham, Lammas, Olney Alliance and Little Bob.
 6. Chalfont, Cromer, Steventon, Tibenham Alliance and Crayford Little Court.
 7. Windermere, Frodsham, Killarney, Horsmonden, Ennerdale, Cumberland, Lytham, Thelwall, London Bob, Double Oxford, Wavertree, Childwall, College, St. Clement's, Canterbury Pleasure, Fulbeck, Reverse Bob, Double Bob and Plain Bob.
- Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY 1-2	GEORGE E. FEIRN 3-4
JACK BRAY 5-6	

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEIRN.

There were 138 changes of method. The greatest number of methods yet rung in seven extents 'in hand.'

LINCOLN.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Friday, December 29, 1939, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF SPLICED ORIGINAL, REVERSE, DOUBLE, GAINSBOROUGH, LITTLE AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN ... 1-2	JOHN FREEMAN 5-6
JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... 3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT ... 7-8

Composed by GEORGE E. FEIRN. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.
* First peal of Spliced Major. First peal in six Major methods 'in hand' by all the band. Each course was rung with one lead each of the methods as given above, and there were 377 changes of method.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FAKE.

HOW A PRESSMAN CAPTURED NEW YEAR 'ATMOSPHERE.'
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While ringing was in progress for morning service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on December 31st, a Press photographer entered the belfry, accompanied by two soldiers.

When the ringing was finished and the bells lowered, the camera-man proceeded to pose the soldiers as ringers and took their photograph holding ropes.

On being asked for what purpose the pictures were required, he said it was to illustrate New Year celebrations in the Press—the London dailies.

Neither of the soldiers had ever been in a belfry before and the ringers present had considerable difficulty in persuading them to remove their hats, which the pressman wanted retained 'for added effect.'

It was stated that the name of the church would not be published, but if any ringer should see such a picture in any paper he will know just how much truth there is in whatever caption may be underneath it.
G. W. STEERE.

ORDINATION OF A FORMER BOURNEMOUTH RINGER.

In the list of Advent ordinations in the Manchester Diocese the name of Fred Frankland Rigby appears. Mr. Rigby returns to his native Lancashire after having spent some years in the South of England as a member of the Bournemouth St. Peter's band. He was originally captain of the Westhoughton (Lancashire) company, and is a member of the Lancashire Association, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, the Salisbury Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths. His address is now 100, Hall Road, Smallshaw, Ashton-under-Lyne.

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A GREAT HANDBELL PERFORMANCE.

FIFTY METHODS IN A PEAL OF MINOR.

There was a wonderful performance on handbells at Burton-on-Stather, Lincs, on Boxing Day. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bray and Mr. George Feirn rang a peal of Minor in fifty methods; easily, of course, the greatest number of methods yet rung in seven true extents on handbells. This trio, it will be remembered, are members of the six-bell band that hold the tower-bell record, of 104 methods of Minor, and their latest achievement is no less remarkable.

The peal included both plain and Treble Bob methods and was called by Mr. Feirn from the middle pair. In the first 720 there were no fewer than 13 Treble Bob methods, and in the last 720 there were actually 19 plain methods. Altogether there were 138 changes of method. It makes the average ringer dizzy even to think of it.

Another excellent Lincolnshire performance is also recorded this week. A Lincoln company on Friday rang a peal in six Spliced Plain methods, and it was the more notable from the fact that the ringer of 1-2, Michael Freeman, is only 14 years of age, and the ringer of the tenors, Kenneth Croft, is only 17.

Each course of the peal consisted of Original, Reverse, Double, Gainsborough, Little and Plain Bob Major, and, as a result, there were 377 changes of method.

CHRISTMAS PEALS.

A silver wedding peal was rung at Crayford, Kent, on Boxing Day, it being the 25th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Groombridge, jun. Mr. Groombridge called the peal and a hearty welcome was extended to his father, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., who made his first attempt for a peal since his accident last August. It should be noted that while the peal was in progress Mr. Edwin Barnett did A.R.P. sentry duty.

A peal of Minor in seven methods was rung on the front six of the ten bells at Preston, Lancs, on Boxing Day. Kenneth Martin, of the R.A.F., took part and the band would like to associate with the peal the name of Kenneth Hall, a member of Penwortham company, now serving in the Royal Navy.

The first peal of Minor on the bells at Ashbrittle, Taunton, was rung on Boxing Day. It was specially arranged by Mr. S. Bristow as a compliment to Mr. James Hunt upon his retirement from the Mastership of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association after 21 years' service.

A peal in seven Surprise Minor methods was rung at Sutton Courtenay, near Oxford, on Boxing Day. The tenor bell at this tower has had a huge hole torn in the centre of the crown at some time, and a plate has been screwed across it, the bolts coming through on

the very edge of what is left of the crown. The damage, we are told, does not seem to have affected either the tone or go of the bell.

Mr. William A. Kitchenside, who has done good work for ringing on the Kent and Sussex border, scored his 100th peal on Boxing Day, when he called a 5,040 of Doubles at Warbleton.

FOUR ST. ALBANS TOWERS.

There are four towers with rings of bells in the city of St. Albans, and on the Saturday before Christmas a band representing them all rang a peal of Bob Minor at St. Stephen's. It was Mr. Harold Frost's 50th peal, and he and Mr. G. W. Debenham (who represented St. Peter's) have now rung a peal in each of the towers.

Mr. William C. Shute rang his first peal of Treble Bob Royal on Boxing Day at North Stoneham, Hants, and has thus scored peals of Treble Bob from Minor to Maximus.

The first peal on the ten bells of All Saints' Church, Leighton Buzzard, since they were rehung in 1937 was rung on Boxing Day. It was a 5,000 of Plain Bob Royal and was called by the Luton district secretary, Mr. E. A. Beison, at his first attempt. The peal was of great value to the local ringers, as they all scored their first peal of Royal and one his first peal. The inclusion in the band of Messrs. G. W. Debenham, G. E. Debenham and H. V. Frost, of St. Albans, greatly strengthened the team, and the local men were all eager to show their appreciation to the visitors for such a fine performance. The striking was of a high standard throughout, and the performance was a credit to the conductor and his band.

COMPLIMENT TO VETERAN YORKSHIRE RINGER.

A peal at Heptonstall, Yorkshire, on Saturday, December 23rd, was arranged specially as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. Joseph Broadley, of Bradford. Mr. Broadley reached his 80th birthday in October, but Hitler upset all the plans to honour it at the appropriate time. However, like other recent events, this peal performance shows that the German menace is being overcome, and the glorious tones of the splendid bells, situated high in the heart of the Pennines, seemed to echo a challenge to all strife and aggression.

Mr. Joe Broadley, who has made the bells and belfry at Bradford Cathedral his special care, joined the Yorkshire Association in 1879—four years after its formation by the late Jasper W. Snowdon, and has rung 402 peals under its auspices, the highest individual total. Although Mr. Broadley has done little peal ringing of late years, he is still more than 70 peals ahead of his runner-up. We accord him our sincere congratulations and greetings, and trust that he may long be spared among us.

The band would like, through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' to express their thanks and appreciation to the Vicar, churchwardens and local ringers for their kindness in granting permission to make the attempt, and also for making the necessary 'black-out' arrangements

John Taylor & Co.

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.....

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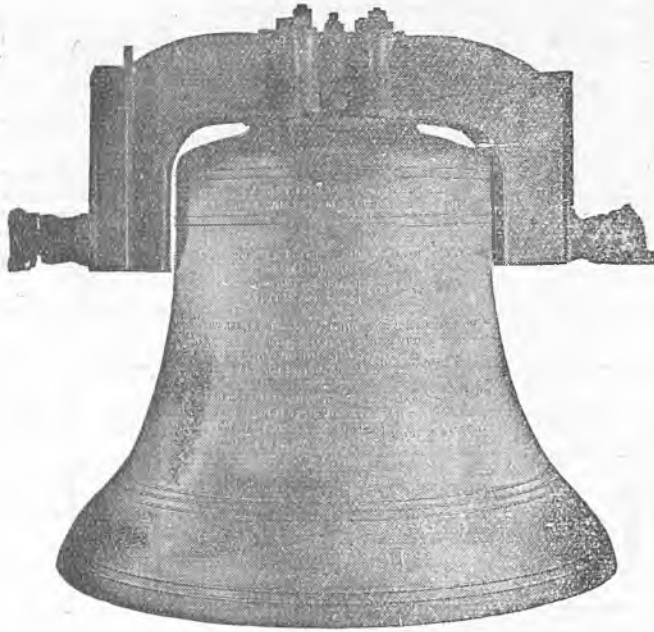
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, who, we are pleased to find, has been able to leave Glasgow for his Scottish home after his recent attack of influenza, informs us that the 720 of Stedman Minor, mentioned in his letter of last week, was rung on December 18th, 1905, at St. Michael's, Garston, Lancs.

A Sheffield correspondent writes: The 'Mad Band' returns compliments and offers all good wishes to Pay-S. Lieut. C. Glenn, R.N.V.R., with a fervent desire that we may meet again in the future.

Greetings to their English fellow ringers have been received by the Editor from Mr. A. A. Savage, of Melbourne, Australia, Mr. A. R. Wilson and Mr. A. Pedder, of Hobart, Tasmania.

On January 1st, 1733, 'some select Oxford ringers' rang Christ Church bells for a wager. 'The wager was that they could not ring the five thousand and forty quater or cater changes on them. They were to have six tryals, and if on the sixth tryal they did not do it, they were to lose.'

It was the first peal ever rung in Oxford. In the previous year Annable and a band of the College Youths had visited the city, but had been defeated by faulty hanging and rotten ropes.

The Sherwood Youths, with W. D. Crofts, rang 8,064 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on January 1st, 1776.

On the same date in 1793 James Barham rang his 100th peal, one of Bob Major, at Leeds in Kent. Two years later, in 1795, the village band at Soham in Cambridgeshire scored one of the first peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major to be rung outside Norwich.

On January 2nd, 1909, the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Royal ever achieved was rung at Wednesbury, and on the same date five years earlier the 'John' peal of London Surprise Major was rung at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917, at a comparatively early age. His record of 250 peals rung in two consecutive years has never been beaten and probably will stand for many years.

On January 6th, 1851, the College Youths rang 7,524 changes of Stedman Cinques at St. Giles', Cripplegate.

The first twelve-bell peal outside London, Grandsire Cinques, was rung at Cirencester on January 7th, 1767.

Henry Johnson died at Aston on January 7th, 1890, full of years and honour. His is one of the great names in the history of the Exercise.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Caters was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on January 7th, 1817. Treble Bob on odd numbers is, of course, a freak method, as every bell has to lie still four blows behind, and at a bob eight blows.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought the following two verses of Longfellow might be a stimulus to ringers at this present time of Christmas in war:—

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."'
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep:
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail
With peace on earth, goodwill to men.'

A. TROTMAN.

CENTENARIES IN THE YEAR 1940.

The year that is opening will contain no centenaries or bicentenaries of any particular interest in the history of change ringing. About 300 years ago what is practically the same thing as our Plain Bob Doubles was first rung, and so 1940 may be the tercentenary of the real beginning of modern change ringing; but the date is only an approximate one.

A century later in 1740 the art was full grown and peal ringing in our modern style had been in use for nearly 20 years; but that particular year was rather a lean one. Five peals were rung by London men belonging to two societies, the College Youths and the Eastern Scholars. Of them only one was of any particular interest—the first peal of Double Bob Maximus, rung by the College Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 24th. Benjamin Annable was the conductor.

The record of only one peal rung in the provinces during the year seems to have survived. This was Union Triples on September 21st at St. Laurence's, Reading, by the local band.

The year 1840 was also rather a lean one. In London ringing had been declining for some time, and in that year the College Youths rang only two peals, Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major. The Cumberlands rang 5,079 changes of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow on March 17th. There was a good band at Norwich, but they had already achieved all their best performances except the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. Birmingham, too, had many excellent ringers, but generally throughout the country the Art and the Exercise were reaching the lowest point in their history.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Saint Giles', Cripplegate, is one of the finest and most interesting of the London churches. Built in 1545 to replace an older building, it just escaped the fire of 1666, and, as narrowly, a great conflagration which destroyed Jewin Crescent in the opening years of the present century. The style—Perpendicular Gothic—is in marked contrast to that of the majority of the city churches and gives a good idea of what most of the larger ones were like before they were rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. The church is closely associated with several great



ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

[From a photo by F. E. Dawson.]

men. Here, though the exact spot is unknown, lies John Milton. Here, too, are buried John Foxe, the author of the Book of Martyrs, and Martin Frobisher, the famous explorer. Here Oliver Cromwell was married, and here Lancelot Andrewes was vicar from 1588 to 1605.

The tower contained bells from early times and the inventory made in the reign of King Edward VI. returns 'fyve belles greate and small.'

In 1580 William Lamb left fifteen pounds for the bells and the church chimes, and in 1648 an inventory shows

that there were then 'in the belfry six bigge and lesser bells, and a saunce bell.'

Five years later Ellis Knight, of Reading, recast the tenor, the cost being as follows:—

Paid to Mr. Knight for casting the great bell	22	7	8
Paid for the bond and covenant between the Parish and the Bellfounder			1
Paid for hire of 4 horses for 4 c'wardens, etc.	2	11	0
Expended at same time on journey backwards and forwards	3	15	2

In 1665 twenty-seven pounds was paid to Christopher Hodson for recasting some of the bells at his foundry at St. Mary, Cray, in Kent, and in 1668 two were added to complete the octave at the expense of a Mr. Piggott, who paid £20 for the new bells and £20 for the frame.

In 1682 the brick top was added to the steeple, a new clock and chimes installed, and several bells recast. In 1683 the 'sixth biggest bell' was ordered to be recast and made tuneable in peal.

Hodson's foreman, William Wightman, and his brother, Philip, set up a foundry in the parish and the following extracts from the accounts show that they were employed on the bells:—

1685. The great bell to be recast forthwith and to ring in peal tunable to answer the other bells, and that Mr. Wightman do receive the sum of £30, little more or less, being the remainder due to him.

1686. That the fifth bell be now forthwith new cast by Mr. Wightman, and be made a good bell to ring tunable in peal to answer the others, and he to have the same rate as formerly he had for the other; and the same Mr. W. did promise at the same time to cast and make a new Great Bell, commonly called the Tenor, to ring tunable in peal, to answer and cover all the other bells and left to his discretion the weight of each so that they both perform as above exprest.

August, 1686. That the Great bell, commonly called the Tenor, be forthwith taken down before which time Mr. Whiteman shall have a week's time to consider whether he will bring or cause to be brought into our steeple the great new bell, commonly called the tenor; if not then the committee of Gentlemen of the Vestry to treat and agree with another bellfounder for a new tenor.

In 1688 the steeple keeper was paid £4 a year, which seems a not ungenerous amount, considering the then purchasing power of money, unless his duties included other things besides looking after the bells.

By 1726 the ring had been increased to ten. In August, 1742, it was ordered that the bells should be rehung at a cost of £9 10s., and a contract was made to supply ropes and keep the bells in proper order (barring stock and wheel).

In July, 1753, an estimate from Joseph Eayre, of St. Neots, amounting to £45 for repairs was accepted and the work ordered to be done within four months.

March 30th, 1772. It being represented to the Vestry that the eighth bell in the steeple is broken, it was ordered that there be provided a new set of ten bells at the expense of the Parish and that Messrs. Pack and Chapman, bellfounders, be employed in casting the same, the sum of £200 being raised by annuities towards defraying the expense.

Pack and Chapman's estimate was to recast and make a complete new peal of ten bells and recast the Saint's bell for the sum of £315 11s.

In 1783 John Warner, the founder of the well known firm of engineers and bell founders, was churchwarden, and under his direction the tenor was recast by Robert Patrick, and the third and eighth retuned. Warner's name appears on the recast bell as 'contractor.'

In 1792 the treble was recast and two new bells added, to make a ring of twelve, by John Briant, of Hertford.

The tenor, as cast by Pack and Chapman, weighed 36 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs., and the ring bore the rhymed couplets which are usually found on bells cast at Whitechapel in the middle of the eighteenth century. The present sixth

(Continued on next page.)

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

SOME QUARTER-PEALS.

Throughout the country, despite the war-time conditions, the bells were rung for divine service both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. Owing to the black-out there was not so much ringing for mid-night and early service as usual, but numerous reports of touches have reached us, among them the following quarter-peals of Grandsire Triples rung on Christmas Eve:—

St. Michael's, Great Tew, Oxon.—J. Morley 1, B. Morley 2, L. Lerner 3, D. Harris 4, V. R. Hitchman 5, L. Clifton 6, R. Laffin (conductor) 7, C. Shelton 8.

All Saints', Benhilton, Surrey.—A. Clayton 1, J. H. Pink 2, F. Randall 3, F. Woodiss 4, G. Chiverton 5, E. G. Talbot 6, W. C. Smith (conductor) 7, R. Freeman 8.

St. Mary's, Usk, Monmouth.—G. J. Thomas 1, A. Hawkins 2, G. Knight 3, E. W. Luff 4, L. Jones 5, S. A. G. Kear 6, D. C. Cliff (conductor) 7, N. Sweet 8.

All Saints', Martock, Somerset.—H. B. Perrott 1, A. E. Worner 2, F. Strickland 3, F. Farrant (conductor) 4, T. Gale 5, A. Dyer 6, W. Gould 7, J. Jetten 8. Electric light has recently been installed in this belfry, and the ringers wish to thank an anonymous donor.

Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Chiddingfold, conducted by A. J. Bartlett.

On Christmas Day the following quarter-peals, etc., were rung:—Lincoln Cathedral, 1,323 Stedman Cinques: Mrs. L. L. Neal (first quarter-peal of Cinques) 1, G. Flintham 2, K. S. B. Croft 3, T. Pyle 4, J. A. Freeman (conductor) 5, J. Freeman 6, L. Snell 7, S. H. Chester 8, G. M. Mayer 9, H. Lowman 10, J. L. Millhouse 11, A. H. A. Marcon 12.

St. Helen's, Darley Dale, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: D. Scott 1, K. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, H. Gregory 4, H. Taylor 5, Ron Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson 7, E. Paulson 8. Miss K. Devaney took part at the early service ringing.

Glensford, Suffolk.—At the Parish Church for morning service, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob Minor: G. N. Ives 1, G. W. Bloomfield 2, E. W. Ambrose 3, T. E. Slater 4, S. Honeyball 5, A. Catterwell (conductor) 6.

St. Denys', Northmoor, Oxon. 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Trinder 1, C. Bowsher 2, P. Trinder 3, V. Clifton 4, H. Farmer (conductor) 5, A. Townsend 6. The first quarter-peal on the bells rung for service by a local band.

Burnham, Bucks. 1,232 Little Bob Major for the 6 a.m. celebration: M. A. Blamey, R.A.F. 1, C. A. Burgess 2, P. A. Blamey 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming 4, G. W. Limmer 5, B. O'Neill 6, J. E. Taylor 7, G. Gilbert (conductor) 8. 1,260 Grandsire Triples for 10 a.m. matins: W. Gowing 1, C. A. Burgess 2, P. A. Blamey 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming (first of Grandsire) 4, G. W. Limmer 5, M. A. Blamey 6, B. O'Neill 7, J. E. Taylor 8.

Cheltenham.—The Parish Church ringers assisted the Charlton Kings band in a couple of touches of Stedman Triples for their morning service, which, conveniently, began at 9.45. The Charlton Kings band returned the compliment by giving the Cheltenham band a helping hand for their service, which began at 11 a.m., when a touch of 936 Grandsire Caters was brought round by: M. Bridgeman 1, A. Humphris 2, G. Simmonds 3, S. Hayward 4, W. Hunt 5, W. Dyer (conductor) 6, F. Price (late of Lyme Regis) 7, A. W. Handoll 8, L. Williams 9, F. Simmonds 10.

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

(Continued from previous page.)

has, 'Ye people all who hear me ring be faithful to your God and king.' The seventh, 'While thus we join in cheerfull sound may love and loyalty abound.' The tenth, 'In wedlock bands all ye who join with hands your hearts unite, so shall our tuneful tongues combine to laud the nuptial rite.' And the eleventh, 'Ye ringers all that prize your health and happiness be sober merry wise and you'll the same possess.'

In the early years there was a good deal of paid ringing in all the city churches. Much of it was for royal birthdays and anniversaries such as the Coronation Day. During the time of the Commonwealth that sort of ringing ceased, but the bells were still rung to celebrate civic and political events. The fee paid was then five shillings. This sum was paid when Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of the Realm, dined in the City, when peace was made between England and France, and when in 1659 'the secluded members were voted in,' which was the preliminary step towards the restoration of King Charles II.

(To be continued.)

OUR 1,500th NUMBER.

RINGERS' APPRECIATION.

Many congratulations have come to us upon reaching the 1,500th number of 'The Ringing World.' It is gratifying to know that our efforts through this long period have met with the appreciation of ringers. Among the letters that have reached us have been the following from old ringers who have seen the rise and fall of several ringing newspapers.

INVALUABLE TO THE EXERCISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, in the first place, heartily congratulate you on the issue of the fifteen hundredth number of 'The Ringing World'? And I think also that we ringers should congratulate *ourselves* on the fact that we have, for so long, had such a man as yourself in our ranks, able and willing to devote such a lot of skill and energy in the production of such an invaluable aid to our Exercise.

Your leader every week must certainly have inspired very many ringers to a better appreciation of our Exercise, all of them having been entirely unbiassed and fair and of a nature tending to raise the standard of thought and action in regard to everything appertaining to the Exercise.

I subscribed to 'The Bell News' for many years, and also to all the other attempts at a ringer's paper which came later on—some of which were, certainly, good attempts, but 'The Ringing World,' whether looked at from a journalistic or from purely a ringers' point of view, at once soared far above any previous attempt, and has, week after week, continued to give us ringers food for thought and, when necessary, fair and considered criticism. I think, sir, that there is no doubt whatever that your efforts have 'fostered the interest of ringers and raised the standard of ringing.'

It is a pity that your remarks with regard to ringers giving their full support to 'The Ringing World' during the crisis we are now passing through cannot be got to the eyes and ears of the offenders in this respect. Unfortunately, in 'The Ringing World' pages you are preaching only to the converted.

Whenever and under whatever circumstances there is no 'Ringing World' published, as we have so long known it, it will, I am sure, constitute an incalculable disaster to our Exercise.

May you, sir, be long spared to continue your good efforts is the wish of—

ROBERT WHITTINGTON AND HIS WIFE.

Cranleigh, Surrey.

A RINGING PAPER SINCE 1871.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to congratulate you on reaching the 1,500th number of 'The Ringing World.' No other ringing paper has reached that number yet, except, of course, 'The Bell News.'

It may be of interest to you to know that Samuel Slater, my father, and I have taken a paper devoted to bells and ringing a long time. I still have the first one, dated January 1st, 1871. My father and I have taken over a thousand copies each of 'Church Bells,' 'Bell News' and 'The Ringing World.' I took the latter two for some time. I wish you every success for the future.

Mr. Trollope's accounts of the bells of London churches are very interesting, and I, for one, have been interested in them.

I think it is a pity he omitted to mention the long peal of Kent Treble Bob Major the College Youths rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in March, 1870. It contained 3,448 changes, the extent with the tenors together, and was rung by the same men who rang the long peal at Bethnal Green in 1868. It took 5 hours 36 minutes, was conducted by Henry W. Haley, and John Murray Hayes rang the tenor. In 'Bells Life,' a lengthy description of the performance is given, and it tells of some of the difficulties under which the peal was rung. It was no doubt a great performance.

With best wishes for 1940.

T. E. SLATER.

Glensford, Suffolk.

A BOXING DAY EXCURSION.

A party from Cheltenham made good use of Boxing Day morning by visiting the nearby churches of Prestbury and Charlton Kings. The bells of Prestbury were set in motion at 10 a.m. with touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. During intervals the young Prestbury learners were given some good practice.

Thanks are due to the three Misses Richardson for obtaining permission to use the bells. These young ladies, daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, hail from somewhere in Kent (late of Hereford) and are staying at Prestbury for 'the duration.' They are instilling some enthusiasm into the ringing at this tower and the struggling young band there will benefit considerably.

The party afterwards proceeded to Charlton Kings and enjoyed more than an hour's ringing on this excellent eight.

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

WAR-TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

A meeting in lieu of the annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, which should have been held in Durham in September, was held at the Crown Hotel, Newcastle, on Saturday, December 16th. A small but nevertheless representative attendance of 30 was to some extent disappointing, but, considering the difficulties presented by the black-out and curtailment of travelling facilities, perhaps it should be regarded as satisfactory. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W. Story, J. Anderson, G. S. Taylor and R. S. Gowland.

Arising out of the minutes, it was revealed that the bells of St. Mary, Gateshead, appeared to be quite satisfactory after rehangings, although only limited opportunities for ringing had so far been available.

In his annual report, the hon. secretary (Mr. R. Park) appealed to all members who were not called away to do their utmost to keep interest in the association alive, even though unforeseen difficulties might be encountered, and to keep him informed of all relevant matters, especially of the names of members called to the colours, so that on the cessation of hostilities a complete record would be available.

The Rt. Revs. A. T. P. Williams and Leslie Owen, who had been appointed to the Bishoprics of Durham and Jarrow respectively, had both consented to become patrons and support the efforts of the association. Dr. Hensley Henson, who for a number of years was Bishop of Durham, had retired during the year, and the sentiments of the members had been suitably expressed and acknowledged.

Death had removed Mr. John Foreman, Mr. Jackson Pallister and Mr. S. O. Ferry. The last named will not be known to the present generation, but his name will long be remembered as the pioneer of the Sunday service ringing scheme, which has been in use by the association for upwards of 40 years.

In his statement, the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. N. Park) said that there was a balance in hand of £66 19s. 1d., which was slightly less than last year, and he appealed to members not to let the payment of subscriptions lapse during the war.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

Discussion took place on the conduct of the activities of the association in war time, and it was decided that the arranging of meetings and practices should be left in the hands of the district officers, who would be more in touch with local conditions. It was revealed that some towers were suffering from stringent local regulations owing to their close proximity to the East Coast, but efforts would be made to have the regulations relaxed a little if possible.

It was thought best that the competitive aspect of the Sunday service ringing scheme should be suspended owing to the fact that competition could not be equitable due to depleted bands and restricted ringing.

It was agreed that the payment of subscriptions by members serving with H.M. Forces should be waived during the war.

An annual report will be printed covering the year 1938-39, but no such report will be printed during the war; a composite report will be issued when practicable.

Mr. W. N. Park raised a point which may be of interest to members of the Exercise. He said that in the event of peal ringing becoming possible there might be men stationed in the area, engaged in war work, who would be desirous of taking part in peals, and it would hardly be fair to ask them to pay a life membership fee. On the other hand, association members might be in other districts and be asked to pay a life membership fee should they take part in peals. He thought a general ruling on the matter for the benefit of all ringers would be welcomed.

The President (Mr. M. D. Oubridge) referred to the passing of the immediate past president of the association, the late Councillor Arthur Payne, O.B.E., J.P., and Mr. C. L. Routledge added his tribute, saying that he had known Mr. Payne for a number of years and he had done valuable work for the association in various capacities. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

In presenting the peal report, Mr. Routledge said that the number of peals rung during the year was 22, which was less than last year, but perhaps more than it would be possible to ring for some time to come. The outstanding performance, he said, was without doubt the peal in seven Surprise Minor methods rung by members of the Darlington Holy Trinity band on handbells, and he congratulated Mr. G. W. Park on the performance.

Mr. Robert Falconer, of Gosforth, who has supported the association for a number of years, was elected an honorary life member.

BROWN'S DREAM. A VISION OF THE FUTURE. What might be done in London.

The morning of Boxing Day was fine, with a seasonable crispness in the air, when I met Brown early, to cycle to a small village in Buckinghamshire, where we had been invited to stand in a peal attempt. On the way he remarked casually that he supposed the peal would be for the Middlesex Association, as he was not a member of any other and could not afford another subscription just for the chance of a peal.

As the tower was in Buckinghamshire, the peal might have been rung for the Oxford Guild, but that was unlikely with a band of Londoners. So I thought carefully about the remainder of the band. Two of them were College Youths and two were Cumberlands, so the peal could not be rung for either of those societies. Of the other two in the band, one was a member of the London County Association and one of the Surrey Association. Fortunately three of these six had at some time or other been elected members of the Middlesex Association, so as I was a Middlesex man everything would be all right if the other three could be persuaded to join.

Brown then remarked how strange it was that this dilemma should arise that day, as he had had a very vivid dream the night before. He had been on duty at an air raid warden's post, and whether the cause of his dreaming was Christmas pudding, made from a war-time recipe, or was an excess of the ringers' favourite beverage, or was merely the hard bench on which he fell asleep, I do not know. But this is the tale he told me.

He had been idling turning the pages of a pile of 'Ringing Worlds' when his eye was caught by an account of the annual meeting, in St. Paul's Cathedral, of the Greater London Association of Change Ringers. That was so strange that he turned to the date of the paper—December, 1939. His interest was by now thoroughly aroused and he looked eagerly at the other papers in the pile. There he noticed accounts and notices relating to various branches of this Greater London Association. There were the St. Paul's Branch, the St. Martin's Branch, the Southwark Branch and the Eastern, Western and Northern Branches, and the leading members of each branch bore names he remembered as young members of the College Youths, the Cumberlands and the London territorial associations. And he saw that peals were credited to the Greater London Association, and where all the ringers belonged to the same branch, its name appeared as a sub-title. And he saw that the bells of all the churches in the Greater London area were rung regularly, though not yet all of them every Sunday. This was managed by a rota involving ringers from other towers and branches in the area. And in his dream examples occurred to him of other cases where, to avoid chaos, or waste of effort or inertia, centralisation and co-ordination had been adopted—the Metropolitan Police; the London Passenger Transport Board; the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee; the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority; the Port of London Authority; the Thames Conservancy Board; the Greater London Regional Planning Committee and, in the wars of 1914 and 1939 when the need for co-ordination was essential, the control of the fire brigades in the London region under the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade.

And he heard bells ringing out from towers that had been silent for many years. And he dreamed that at last what thoughtful members of the London societies had hoped and worked for years had come to pass, and those bells he could hear were rung by members of one large association who were helping each other in serving their Church, while still retaining their former identities and traditions in their separate branches. And he was glad, for with such an organisation, meetings could never again be spoilt by being arranged at adjoining towers on the same day. He could still hear the bells, but they seemed to change their tone and become harsh and insistent and all of the same note—and he woke up and felt for the telephone.

By the time Brown had finished his tale we had reached the tower and proceeded to elect three not very willing members of the Middlesex Association before starting for the peal. Unfortunately this was lost in the last course—the band had never really settled down into the complete harmony between individuals that is necessary before a good peal can be rung. I felt relieved that it did not fall to me to collect the new members' subscriptions.

P.S.—I think I must have been dreaming also, as it is not yet Boxing Day and peal attempts in war time are few and far between.

P.S.S.—It may be that some will call this experience a nightmare rather than a dream—but here is a hard fact which would seem to show that all is not well with ringing in the Metropolis. On a fine Sunday morning, December 10th, 1939, between 9.40 and 10.20 a.m., I cycled nine miles from Westminster through the western suburbs and did not hear a church bell of any description until I reached the tower that was my destination.

W. G. W.

SATURDAY PRACTICES.

Arrangements for Saturday afternoon combined practices during the first quarter of 1940, in towers situated in the south-eastern part of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, are as follows: January 6th, Bramley, 6 bells; January 20th, Cranleigh, 8 bells; February 3rd, Wonerish, 6 bells; February 17th, Ewhurst, 8 bells; March 2nd, Bramley; March 16th, Cranleigh; March 30th, Wonerish; April 6th, Ewhurst; all from 3 to 5 p.m.

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NOTICES.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—North-East Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Time of service and tea will be announced at meeting.—R. Harris, Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ringing St., Clement Danes, Strand, Saturday, January 6th, 2.30 p.m., followed by quarterly meeting, also Sunday, January 7th, at 10 a.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Measham on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) available at 2.45 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. Business important. It is hoped to arrange tea or light refreshment in Church Room at 4.45 p.m. Hearty invitations to all. Frequent bus service from Birmingham, Tamworth and Nottingham.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Mount Pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, January 6th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. and also after business meeting. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

BRIGHTON.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Future arrangements will be announced later.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sussex County Association.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Service at the Cathedral at 3 p.m., to be followed by business meeting and tea, at St. Maurice's Hall. The Cathedral and St. Maurice's Church bells will be available from 1.45 to 3 p.m.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. The annual meeting will be held at St. John's, Devizes, on January 6th. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—W. C. West, 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Newhey on Saturday, Jan. 6th. A good attendance requested. — J. Hay, Branch Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Ringing at St. Martin's Parish Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 prompt at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Annual dinner Feb. 3rd.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at LONG ASHTON on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Further ringing after the meeting.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Just to remind you that we meet to-morrow (Jan. 6th) at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells. Ringing from 3 o'clock to after black-out. Tea by kind invitation. Did you send that p.c.?—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, at 7 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting of the Lincoln District will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at Washingborough. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 to 4.30 p.m., short service to follow. Tea at moderate charge to those who inform me by Wednesday, Jan. 10th. — Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 31, Vine Street, Lincoln.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells at Charminster and Fordington available from 3 p.m., St. Peter's from 4. Service in St. Peter's Church at 4.30. Tea in the Moule Institute, adjoining Fordington Church, at 5.30. Business meeting to follow. Please notify by Tuesday, Jan. 9th, how many we may expect.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing during the afternoon and evening. Names for tea to Mr. C. Brown, Sharnford Road, Sapcote, early as possible, please.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available from 2.30. A good attendance is requested.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bispham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.; business meeting 5 p.m.—C. S. Sharples, Branch Sec.

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GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch. — Monthly meeting at Stratton St. Margaret, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) from 2.30 to 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Barnsley, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 5 p.m. Tea in Rectory Rooms, Huddersfield Road, 5.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 11th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A practice will be held at Sible Hedingham on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Daventry (8) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Usual arrangements. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, Jan. 3rd.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Macclesfield Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. A line from intending visitors would be appreciated.—Jack Tippen, 8, Arlington Drive, off Ivy Road, Macclesfield.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2 p.m. till black-out. Short business meeting at 3.30 in the ringing chamber.—Walter Yeend, Hon. Branch Sec.

ST. WOOLOS' CATHEDRAL, NEWPORT, MON. — Combined practice will be held on Jan. 13th from 3 to 4.45 p.m. Visitors welcomed.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Emberton on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited. — Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Annual meeting of Southampton District at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells 1.30 to 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. only for those who notify by Jan. 11th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea if possible to arrange. All ringers welcome. Please come. A good company is requested. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at St. James' Church, Poolstock. Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. only. Business meeting for the election of officers will be held in the belfry. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Local Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. —The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 20th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea, at 1/- each, in the Co-operative Hall. Important: Don't forget to let me know you are coming.—A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting Jan. 20th. Business meeting in St. Chad's belfry at 3 p.m. prompt. Service, St. Aiden's Chapel, 5.30 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. St. Chad's bells (12) available 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 5.30 p.m., subject to war restrictions. Handbells otherwise and after tea. Names for tea to W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 18th.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The third annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained with remittance from Andrew Thompson (Hon. Secretary), 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs, until Jan. 18th. Ringing arrangements later.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby District.—Owing to the black-out it has been considered advisable to postpone the annual meeting until lighter evenings. It is hoped that the usual meetings will be possible during the summer months.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec.

THANKS.—Will all those ringers, both in Sussex and beyond who have sent their good wishes and gifts on the occasion of my marriage please accept most grateful thanks? — S. E. Armstrong, 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

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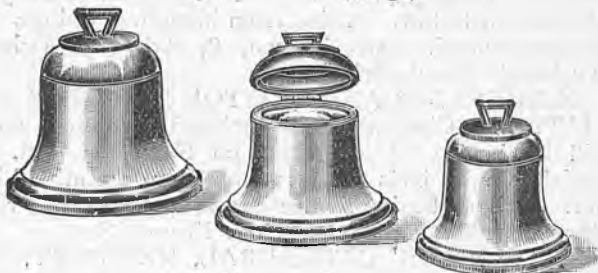
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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.