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FRIDAY, MAY 10th, 1940.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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FIRST STEPS.

Every association whose annual report is now appearing is giving evidence of the strain which the war is already imposing on the man-power of the belfries. In some cases half and more than half of the ringers have already joined the Forces, and ringing is, of course, suffering in consequence. Moreover, the claims of the fighting services have, we imagine, even deeper demands to make than have yet been made, and the belfries will find themselves still more seriously depleted. It is imperatively necessary, therefore, that those responsible for keeping the bells going should at once secure all the available material for filling the gaps, and, having obtained it, devote as much time as is possible, while yet there are experienced ringers left to help, to turning this material to the best use. It is quite certain that in many instances the bells will only be kept going by enlisting the services of ladies, and, at a time when practically everyone is anxious to be useful, there ought to be in every congregation young women ready to come forward and assist in this branch of Church work in their spare time. Those who would keep women out of the belfries find a doughty champion this week in our columns, but his criticism is scarcely helpful in these difficult days, for he offers no alternative to the utilisation of the help of women in those towers from which the men are called away.

What is needed now is not primarily the making of change ringers. The essential object is the provision of ringers enough to keep the bells going on Sundays for the services, and the aim of those who may find it necessary to reorganise their bands should be to produce, first of all, good striking. The progress towards change ringing can be left to look after itself, and will come in its own good time, if only the responsible teachers will exercise patience and be content at first to get good round ringing and to teach their pupils the importance of complete control of the bells. More ringers are spoilt by trying to push them on too fast than by any other means. The anxiety to get recruits on to change ringing is often misplaced, for a slovenly style, once acquired, is extremely difficult to eradicate. Good rounds, as has so often been said, is far better than bad change ringing—it is better both in the interests of the ringers themselves and of the public. To attempt to teach a beginner practical change ringing before he can properly handle a rope or completely control a bell is fatal to the cause of good striking, and in these days, when it may be necessary to have a number of learners all at one time, instructors and their helpers will, we believe, find it best to make

(Continued on page 218.)

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haste slowly. Not that we would for a moment suggest that change ringing should not be attempted. The theoretical side, started at the very outset of a learner's career, will add to his interest and show him that there is far more in his new pursuit than the mere pulling at a rope and making 'a joyful sound,' but until he can pull that rope with time and precision his practical attempts at change ringing should be confined to handbells, out of which he will be likely to get a lot of knowledge and plenty of fun, without the risk of annoying the public and himself becoming a persistently bad striker.

THE POSTAL RATES.

WHAT YOU MAY SEND FOR A PENNY.

In view of the increase in postal charges, correspondents are reminded that they can send items of news, such as reports of peals, meetings and obituary notices, for 1d., provided they are

(1) Addressed only to
The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

Lower Pyrford Road,
Woking, Surrey.

(2) Contain nothing in the nature of a letter.

(3) Are enclosed in an unsealed envelope marked
'News only.'

Notices and letters to the Editor are **not** admissible at this postal rate, but the name and address (only) of the sender may be included.

If you do send anything by 1d. post, include only items of news; do not say such things as, 'Dear Sir,— Kindly insert the enclosed—'; even 'Yours faithfully' should be excluded.

In any case, if it is sent as news we know you wish it to be inserted, and we quite understand that you are ours faithfully (or truly, if you prefer it).

Do not forget that any departure from the strict regulations renders the package liable to surcharge.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEEK.

On Saturday, in beautiful weather, a successful meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Leek.

It was well attended by 40 ringers from Cheadle, Kingsley, Stoke, Newcastle, Burslem, Hanley, Longton, Draycott, Crewe, Sutton, Maple, Macclesfield, Disley and the local belfry. The bells were set going at 3.30 p.m. and good use was made of them up to 5.15 p.m., when tea was served in the Church Hall. The Vicar (the Rev. K. G. Milward), in welcoming the visitors, said how pleased he was to see new faces, and he hoped to see them again at Leek. He appreciated the work done by his own band under the leadership of Mr. E. Ridgway, who has been a ringer for 49 years.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. S. Churton, to the Vicar for his welcome and for the use of the bells and to the ringers for the splendid tea, was seconded by Mr. T. Hurd, of Burslem, and a vote of thanks to the ladies who had served tea was proposed by Mr. A. D. Steel and seconded by Mr. E. Steele. On behalf of the ladies, Mrs. G. Plant replied.

The ringing was of a high standard and the following methods were rung: Leek Royal, Kent Royal, Bob Royal, Cambridge Royal, Cambridge Major, London Major, Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters, with rounds for the young ringers.

ASCENSIONTIDE RINGING.

KILBURN.—At St. Augustine's Church on May 1st (the eve of Ascension Day), for evensong, a quarter-peal of 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: E. M. Atkins (conductor) 1, Miss B. Hart (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, G. Kilbey 3, F. Howson 4, A. Cutler 5, G. A. Parsons 6, H. Kilbey 7, C. W. Nichols 8.

NETHER WINCHENDON, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 5th, for evening service, 720 Grandsire Doubles: A. Soanes 1, F. J. Orchard 2, L. H. Orchard 3, C. H. Orchard 4, C. E. Wigg (conductor) 5. This was the first 720 on the bells by an entirely local band, and the longest touch by the ringer of the treble. Rung within the octave of Ascension Day to mark that festival.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
 On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, MOORSIDE,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

FRANK LAWTON Treble	ISAAC GARTSIDE 5
HAROLD ARMSTEAD 2	HAROLD HAMER 6
FRED DUNKERLEY 3	IVAN KAY 7
STEPHEN LL. PARRY 4	SELWYN H. DEARDEN Tenor

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

SHERE, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

FREDERICK OLDROYD... .. Treble	GEORGE L. GROVER 5
*WILLIAM F. J. COPE... .. 2	JAMES R. MACKMAN 6
SIDNEY BREEZE 3	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 7
CHARLES HAZELDEN 4	C. ERNEST SMITH Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.
 * First peal of Major.

CRAYFORD, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,
A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12¾ cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 2	FREDERICK J. CULLUM 6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3	EDWIN JENNINGS 7
HARRY HOVERD 4	CECIL C. MAYNE Tenor

Composed by H. G. CASHMORE. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.
 First peal of Spliced Surprise as conductor. This peal contains 2,688 London, 1,056 Bristol and 672 each of Cambridge and Superlative, with 111 changes of method.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
 (WESTERN BRANCH)
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).
 Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in G.

ERNEST WILSON Treble	REGINALD WOODYATT... .. 5
LEONARD C. DOWDESWELL 2	ALLEN MORGAN 6
JAMES WOODYATT 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS 7
GEORGE E. LARGE 4	FREDERICK G. YATES Tenor

Composed by GEORGE E. LARGE.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*MISS L. K. BOWLING ... Treble	GEORGE W. STEEL 5
ALFRED SMITH 2	WILLIAM BARTON 6
THOMAS W. STRANGWAY 3	JOHN AMBLER 7
CANON C. C. MARSHALL ... 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.
 * First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of three members of the local company who have recently passed away, Mr. William Child, Mr. Leonard Stokoe and Mr. W. Jackson.

LONDON.—On Sunday, April 28th, for a Confirmation service at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. Prockson 1, G. A. Parsons 2, Miss M. Prockson 3, H. W. H. Strickland 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, F. C. Shorter (conductor) 6, E. Murrell 7, R. Vallerine (first quarter-peal) 8.

EWELL, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
 A TRANSPOSITION OF DAVIES' FIVE-PART.
 Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

*MISS E. HARRINGTON ... Treble	ARTHUR A. HADLEY 5
JOHN BEAMS 2	†GEORGE C. GOODMAN 6
WILKINS MASSEY 3	†H. WILLIAM BARRETT 7
JOHN E. BEAMS 4	HARRY SCOTCHER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. BEAMS.
 * First peal. † First peal of Triples.

SIX BELL PEALS.
 THORNHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
 On Sunday, April 28, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Plain Bob and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*HENRY R. SYRETT ... Treble	EDWIN A. CRACKNELL... .. 4
LESLIE FOSTER 2	VICTOR LOCKWOOD 5
GEORGE BROWN 3	SIDNEY W. ARBON Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY W. ARBON.
 * First peal.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
 On Sunday, May 5, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

WILLIAM GORMAN ... Treble	WALTER H. DOBBIE 4
FRANCIS J. CHEAL 2	ARTHUR G. BOAR... .. 5
WILLIAM A. WOOD 3	GEORGE A. NAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.
 Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Gunner R. M. Naylor, R.A., brother of the conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.
 ADDLESTONE, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
 On Tuesday, April 30, 1940, in Two Hours,
 AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. E. W. MOREY, WHEATASH ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*E. W. MOREY 1-2	J. B. HESSEY 3-4
*E. ARMSTRONG 5-6	

Conducted by E. ARMSTRONG.
 Witness: Mrs. Morey.
 * First peal. First peal of Doubles by all. First peal as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
 On Tuesday, April 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
 AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

WILFRED WILLIAMS 1-2	EDITH K. FLETCHER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 7-8

GEORGE W. FLETCHER 9-10
 Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by EDITH K. FLETCHER.
 First peal of Stedman Caters 'in hand' as conductor.

SWINDON, WILTS.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
 On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,
 AT 81, COUNTY ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Five different callings.

IVOR C. N. BELL 1-2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 3-4
DENNIS W. S. SMOUT 5-6	

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.
 First attempt for a peal by Messrs. Bell and Smout, aged 15 and 12 respectively.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

If we were asked to name the steeple most famous in the history of the London Exercise we should probably hesitate between three—St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and St. Bride's, Fleet Street—and if we decided in favour of St. Bride's, we should be able to give good reasons for our verdict.

The church, says Stow, was at first a small thing, but in 1480 William Venor, warden of the Fleet, built a new and large nave and aisles, leaving the old building as the choir. It stood without the city walls but within Temple Bar, and was used for holding courts of law, St. Martin's-le-Grand serving a similar purpose within the walls.

From very early times it must have had at least one heavy bell, for it was one of the four churches appointed to set the time of ringing the curfew. The inventory taken in the reign of Edward VI. of the goods and ornaments of the church is mutilated. We can tell that there was a saunce bell and a ring of bells, but the actual figure is almost obliterated. Probably there were five or six.

St. Bride's was burnt in the fire of 1666, and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren during the years 1670 to 1684, at a cost of £11,430 5s. 11d. It is generally reckoned as one of his most successful designs, and in cost was exceeded only by Christ Church, Newgate Street, and St. Lawrence Jewry, though more money was spent on the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow than on any other.

St. Bride's spire is the highest in the city, and one of the most original in design. It was finished in 1700, and ten years later Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, supplied a ring of ten bells. They were, and still are, a very fine ring, but their importance in the history of ringing is that they gave the London Exercise an opportunity of practising Grandsire Caters, and so led to a great advance in the art.

For some years there already had been ten at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, but they seem to have been very much inferior in quality. It was at St. Bride's that the London Scholars rang the first ten-bell peal ever accomplished—5,040 changes of Grandsire Caters on January 11th, 1717. A board was put up to record it, but was taken down when the church was repaired in 1796 and was not replaced. So all particulars of the band and conductor are lost.

In 1718 the two leading London societies, the College Youths and the London Scholars, gave two trebles to make a ring of twelve. It was not the first ring of twelve in England. York Minster had that number as early as 1655, but they were a very unsatisfactory lot, the tenor being 63 cwt. and the trebles only about 3 cwt. The ring at Cirencester was increased to twelve in 1722, but, though both in that town and in York, a great interest was taken by the citizens in bell ringing, in neither was there a band sufficiently advanced to practise Cinques, and it was the bells of St. Bride's which first made ringing on eleven and twelve bells possible.

They also showed that the limit to which it is possible to increase the number of bells in a ringing peal had been reached. There always have been and, I suppose, there always will be, discussions and disputes as to which is the best number of bells in a ring. Some maintain that in eight you have a complete octave, and whether you

add to it or take from it, the result will be something imperfect and, therefore, musically inferior. Others point out that, be the theory what it may, practical experience proves that the two trebles in a ring of ten give a greater range, more expression, and a larger brilliancy of tone. But few, perhaps, will be found to advocate twelve bells on purely musical grounds, and none to desire further extension.

It is no doubt largely a matter of use and custom. The practised twelve-bell ringer, who has trained his ear



ST. BRIDE'S STEEPLE.

Photo by F. E. Dawe.

to the greater musical range and longer rhythm, finds musical effects in Cinques and Maximus, of which the smaller numbers of bells are incapable, but such men are necessarily few. The ear of the ordinary ringer, and, much more so, the ear of the non-technical and outside listener, does not readily adapt itself to so wide a range. It is not that the number of notes (an octave and a half) is particularly great, but that twelve-bell ringing has to be done in a bar of twenty-four beats, which means a very long drawn-out rhythm. There are also the very real and practical difficulties of getting small bells to speak sufficiently clearly among big bells, and also of accurate striking.

When the London Scholars and the College Youths gave the trebles to St. Bride's they were not thinking of the musical effect of twelve bells or making an offering to the service of the Church. They wanted greater facilities for practising change ringing, and we need not suppose that they disguised from themselves or from other people that they had no other and higher motive. Bell ringing was recognised as an ordinary sport and recreation, and many, perhaps most, of the bells were supplied and hung to serve that purpose. It was quite in accordance with the spirit of the times that the two societies looked on the trebles as their own property, and kept them chained up as long as they could so that other ringers should not have the use of them.

But we need not waste any time in condemning them or pretending that we are so much better than they. Human nature and men's motives are much the same now as they were then, and I think it is true to say that the reason why rings of twelve are being installed in increasing numbers is not altogether because men are really convinced or have proved that they are musically superior to rings of ten, or that they serve the Church and the glory of God better, but because of the fascination that twelve-bell ringing has for some ringers and the laudable desire of such Church authorities as can afford it to have the best and biggest that can be gotten.

As soon as the new bells were added we should have expected that there would be a competition between the College Youths and the London Scholars to see which could ring the first peal of Cinques. It may have been so, but there is no sign of it. The College Youths as yet had rung no peal of any sort, nor does there seem to have

(Continued in next column.)

THE SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

APPEAL TO MEMBERS FOR GREATER SUPPORT.

The annual meeting of the Society of Sherwood Youths was held on Saturday, April 27th, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nottingham. Ringing on the ten bells commenced at 3 p.m., and whilst the attendance of ringing friends from the surrounding districts was most encouraging, that of the members left much to be desired. Perhaps the heavy thunderstorm which developed during the afternoon prevented some from attending. Among the visitors a welcome was given to a member of H.M. Forces, and this opportunity is taken of extending to any others who may be stationed in the district an invitation to attend the meetings of the society.

Ringers and friends were entertained to tea by the society at St. Mary's Institute, after which the business meeting was held, presided over by the Master, Mr. R. Narborough.

All the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, and Mr. Bernard Brown, of St. Mary's tower, was elected a member. A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies who so kindly prepared tea and to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

Mr. F. Salter (St. Peter's, Nottingham) stressed the need for regular meetings if ringing is to be kept going in these difficult times.

Everyone agreed, but this is only possible with the full co-operation of all ringers. Meetings cannot be arranged without some expense and trouble. This can easily be overcome if members will rally round, pay their subscriptions promptly and by their presence give that support and encouragement which makes all the difference to the success of a meeting.

Elston was decided upon for the next meeting on May 18th, a further announcement of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

(Continued from previous column.)

been any such ambition among the men who then composed the society. But times were altering, and it looks as if about this period changes were taking place which transformed the company from a number of men of good social standing into a number of young and energetic ringers, mostly of the artisan and lower middle class. Among them was Benjamin Annable, and it was due to him, more than to any other man, that the College Youths became the most proficient company during the eighteenth century and earned a reputation and prestige which have lasted down to our days.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to announce the death of Canon M. H. Ridgeway, Rector of Tarvin, Chester, and hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild, which took place last Saturday after a brief illness.

Conspicuously displayed by means of small posters outside St. Peter's Church, Dorchester, Dorset, is a 'Notice to H.M. Forces.' It reads: 'If there are any church bellringers among H.M. Forces they will receive a hearty welcome in St. Peter's Belfry on Sunday evenings at 5.30 to 6.30 (ringing for service), Monday evenings at 7.30 to 9.30 (weekly practice). Change ringers, round ringers or learners will receive an equal welcome.'

This is a suggestion which other towers in the neighbourhood of military camps might adopt.

The handbell peal of Doubles rung at Addlestone, Surrey, by three members of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild is an encouraging sign after the disappointment recently expressed with affairs in the district. Two of the ringers rang their first peal on handbells; it was the first peal 'in hand' in the Chertsey District of the Guild, and the first peal the conductor had called. Mr. John Hessey, Ringing Master of the district, rang his 25th peal.

Mr. Robert H. Robinson, of Southsea, has responded to the recent appeal for experienced men and has been accepted in the Royal Naval Patrol Service. His future shore address, to which communications should be sent, is c/o 40, Waldrons Moor, King's Heath, Birmingham.

By ringing 3-4 and conducting a peal of Stedman Caters on handbells, Mrs. Fletcher has added another to her numerous records. She has now called a peal of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, both on handbells and on tower bells.

The peal of Treble Bob at Headingley last Saturday was rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to three lately deceased members of the company. Of them, Mr. William Child had been a member for more than 55 years and Mr. Leonard Stokoe for 50 years.

On May 7th, 1792, the Cumberlands rang 5,112 Grandsire Maximus at Southwark, composed and conducted by John Reeves, who considered that Grandsire Royal and Maximus were superior to Plain Bob on ten and twelve bells. On the same date in 1807 Elijah Roberts, who performed so many famous feats on handbells, was born.

To-day is the 163rd anniversary of the peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 10,200 changes, by the Cumberlands at Shoreditch, one of the stages in the historical contest between that society and the College Youths. On the same date two years later, in 1779, the Braughing Youths rang 12,240 changes of Bob Major.

On May 11th, 1903, 14,112 changes of London Surprise Major were rung at King's Norton, composed by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by William Pye. It remains the record length in the method, though a composition, one lead longer, is in existence.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING AT WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.

A country place, a beautiful afternoon and a friendly tower all helped to make an ideal setting for the half-yearly meeting of the Lancashire Association at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday. The bells were set going at 2.30, and except for a short service and tea were kept in use until black-out. Members from the Blackburn, Bolton, Manchester, Preston and Wigan Branches were present to the number of 40. Although an hour had been allowed for the service, the Vicar (the Rev. M. H. Garner) cut it short, and the ladies were ready with the tea when the ringers left the church. A happy party gathered round the tables, ate the good things provided and talked shop until the Rev. Arthur Scott (president) proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the local ringers for making the association welcome and to the ladies for their help in arranging the tea.

This was responded to by the Vicar, who hoped to welcome the association again in the near future.

The ringing was on the best side for mixed meetings of this description. The seven methods rung ranged from Grandsire to Cambridge, but as the bells are well looked after there was no excuse for bad striking.

SHIPLAKE RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred recently of Mr. George Cleave, for 37 years a ringer at Shiplake Church, Oxfordshire. He had 14 peals of Triples to his credit; of these he had conducted several, which included one to the memory of King Edward and another on the wedding day of King George VI.

The deceased was of a retiring disposition and loved by all. For over 40 years he laboured with dairy cattle, and those dumb creatures God had bequeathed to his care won his confidence and kindness. For all those years he never knew a day's rest. Yet he would be with the cattle at 5 a.m. on a Sunday morning to enable him to stand in a quarter-peal for morning service.

He was laid to rest by his brother ringers, and the bells pealed out their half-muffled notes. The floral tribute, bell shaped, sent by his colleagues of the belfry, contained a quotation from Gray's Elegy:

If memory o'er his tomb no trophies raise.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene

The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

O. W. P.

LADIES IN THE BELFRY. TWO SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

MR. LLOYD EXPLAINS.
To the Editor.

Sir.—Mr. Challice is to be commended on his vigorous protest on behalf of lady ringers, but I would remind him that a summarised report is not always the best medium of ascertaining the spirit and trend of a discussion.

The discussion referred to by him failed to produce anything new. Our old friends the 'parsons' and a 'certain type of conductor' were blamed for the falling off in ringers, but the few remarks about lady ringers were not unfriendly.

After remarking that the efforts of ladies in the belfry were welcome and appreciated, I *did* say 'It is also true that ladies have sometimes been responsible for ringers leaving the tower.'

I had in mind the numerous youngsters who have found the call of the opposite sex, and the course of true love, far more enchanting and less exacting than the voice of the ringing instructor and the course of Plain Bob or Grandsire. And how many have wandered in those pleasant groves, to be seen in the belfry no more? Unfortunately the point was too subtle or too crudely put—the latter, I presume.

However, I refute the charge that the Bath and Wells Association is opposed to lady ringers, and I consider that the discussion referred to showed a recognition of the necessity to explore every avenue likely to produce recruits. As for recruitment, the bands must work out their own salvation, and as a start they should build up a tradition of good ringing, progressive outlook, punctuality and real discipline. A slack band is not attractive to a learner, and I agree that the time to build is when a band is strong. W. H. LLOYD.

PETERSFIELD'S EXPERIENCE.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read the excellent leading article in your last issue entitled 'Ladies in the belfry,' and it is my opinion that unless the advice given is acted upon immediately there will be many silent bells in the near future.

To quote the case of 'man-power' at St. Peter's, Petersfield; one week before war was declared no less than six of our young ringers were called up for military service, which left us with six to maintain service ringing, with no allowance for absence by a member for any reason whatsoever. Luckily, I had realised several months previously that, with compulsory military training, it would become more and more difficult to keep young men, and so mooted the idea of ladies as ringers. Upon the declaration of war, five young ladies were partially trained, and the result has been that only two services in the past seven months have been held without the bells being rung. Without the ladies the bells must have been silent for at least half of the services.

To instructors doubtful of teaching lady ringers, I may say this is my first experience, and that I find them, if anything, rather quicker on the uptake than a good many of the lads I have taught.

Break down the old prejudices, bring the ladies in to maintain ringing, and raise the standard of conduct in the belfry.

CHARLES E. BASSETT.

A VERY MASCULINE VIEW.

Dear Sir,—I am going to attack your leading article of last week. I have two main points. If in the future the Exercise is to consist of both sexes, I am of the opinion that in a generation or two bell-ringing will be entirely a matter of looking at in museums.

This is why. I myself and many more ringers have been brought up in a hard ringing school where to make mistakes, careless or otherwise, brought forth bellows enough to make one feel the size of a church mouse, and this is the right way. It is only by strict training that perfection can be obtained.

Now supposing there had been ladies in the belfry at this time of my career, would I have had the face to put in an appearance next week after a particularly bad bit of bashing? Oh! no. That is if the conductor would have dared to raise his voice in the presence of a lady.

Again, the ladies are not trained the same way as us. It just isn't done to yell your head off at them, and all the quiet talking in the world makes no difference to bad striking or bell bashing. And so, with the introduction of ladies exits the strong arm training of to-day and enter laziness and the attendant bad habits.

The belfry is one of the last places where ladies have not intruded to any great extent. It is a good thing for men to get together and do a job without the embarrassment of having to be very polite, make pretty speeches and keep a perpetual smile going all the time; in fact, the whole atmosphere is falsified, particularly after an exhibition of bad striking by a lady member, everybody tries to look as if they are thoroughly enjoying themselves and the striking was perfect. This is the kind of thing that will not build up the future Exercise.

Now for a few points in your article. 'What influence women have had in the belfry has been, we are convinced, to raise the standard of conduct.' The infernal cheek of it! Do you imagine that it is an excellent opportunity for a game of pitch and toss or some such law break? I have seen this remark in your paper before and I am very indignant about it. I have been ringing since 1932 with a good

(Continued in next column.)

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

STEEP BELLS TO BE AUGMENTED.

A quarterly meeting of the Alton and Petersfield District was held at St. Mary's Church, Liss, on Saturday. The total attendance was 30, among those present being Mr. George Williams (Guild Ringing Master), Mr. F. W. Rogers (Guild hon. secretary), the Rev. H. W. Gooch (Rector of Liss), the Rev. E. A. Berrisford (district chairman) and members from Alton, Blackmoor, Bramshott, Hawkley, Liss, North Stoneham, New Alresford, Portsea, Portsmouth (Cathedral), Petersfield, Steep and Southampton. Mr. W. J. Rawlings, of Beckenham, Kent, was also present. The bells were rung in the afternoon and evening to methods ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Bristol Surprise Major.

The Guild's office was said in church at 4.30, at which the Rector officiated, and afterwards tea was provided in the Parish Hall. The district chairman announced with much regret the death of the Rev. T. N. Rathbone-Griffin, for many years district auditor, which was due to an accident while cutting the branches of a tree, from which he fell. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Griffin. His action in sending a wreath to the funeral on the previous Saturday was confirmed.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Rev. T. J. Best (district vice-chairman), Mr. W. Linter (Guild treasurer), Mr. F. S. Bayley and Mr. A. Brownjohn. New members were elected as follows: Alton, Mr. S. J. Tily and Mr. L. G. King; Bramshott, Misses V. Hill, M. Pope and M. Worsdel.

The next quarterly meeting was fixed for July 27th at West Meon.

The meeting received with much pleasure the announcement that Steep bells were to be returned and augmented to six by adding a new treble. Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector of Liss and the caterers.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

FAKENHAM MEETING AFFECTED BY PETROL RATIONING.

A meeting of the West Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Fakenham on Saturday, May 4th, when about a dozen members attended from Norwich, Swaffham and Attleborough, with members of the local company. Touches of Kent, Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major were rung during the afternoon, and in the evening St. Clement's and Double Court on the back six. The weather was perfect, and the lack of numbers was probably due to the petrol rationing, although a few members might be reminded that there is no tax on cycling at the present moment.

After a very good tea, for which a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. R. Cooke, who made the arrangements, a short business meeting followed, with Mr. J. A. Godfrey, the branch chairman, officiating, supported by Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary) and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (vice-president). Master W. G. Cooke was elected a ringing member, and Mr. A. Potter, of Watton, was elected to the Branch Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the branch at Swaffham on Saturday, June 29th, when it is to be hoped that a good company will meet to enjoy the fine ring of eight bells.

LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

(Continued from previous column.)

many people in many places. Only once did I see a breach of conduct and that was in a belfry that contained more ladies than I have ever seen before or since at a meeting, so your argument doesn't hold water. It may have done in your young days, but not in ours.

This article on ladies has appeared in your paper several times since 1932, in fact I am inclined to think it is boosted. The above has been difficult for me to write, as I am not much of a ringer myself, but I desire to see the Exercise continuing many a year yet. There is ample opportunity for them to use their energy elsewhere. They have pinched our football and cricket, to say nothing of all-in wrestling. So please leave us one place where men can be men without interruption.

What ho! the pages of criticism next week.

Barking, Essex.

A. HAROLD WARBOYS.

LADIES' SERVICES WILL BE REQUIRED.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading your leader on the above subject in last week's issue. In my opinion, we shall be glad of the services of the ladies before times become normal again.

Some years ago when I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the North Notts Association, two lady ringers were there and I can assure you, sir, they were a treat to watch for supple movement and accuracy of striking such as I have never yet seen or heard excelled either by male or female. And these same ladies are still doing yeoman service not only in the belfry, but in other organisations of the Church to which they belong.

As bells are now hung on hall bearings most ladies are capable of manipulating them from a physical point of view.

I know men who fight shy of working along with ladies, but this would gradually work off in time.

J. E. WHEELDON.

Milton, Staffs.

TREBLE BOB AND SURPRISE METHODS.**INTERNAL FALSENESS.**

When we turn to the proof of methods on the Treble Bob Principle the first thing we have to notice is that, in every lead, the treble is four times in each position, twice on its way up, and twice on its way down. There are seven leads in a Major method, and therefore any particular row can occur in any one of twenty-eight positions in a course.

Let us see how we can make sure that in our composition there is no internal falseness which does not reveal itself at the lead ends. We will confine ourselves to symmetrical methods, because no others are practised nowadays.

A.	B.
f. 25134768-	f. 2513476980+
21537486+	2153749608+
d. 12354768+	d. 1235476980-
21345678-	2134567890-
b. 12436587-	b. 1243658709+
a. 12345678+	a. 1234567890+
21436587+	2143658709-
c. 12463857-	c. 1246385079-
21648375-	2164830597+
e. 26143857+	e. 2614385079+

Here we have, first, in Example A, two sections of a Major method, in one of which the treble is hunting down, and, in the other, is hunting up.

For the same reasons that there can be no internal falseness in symmetrical Plain methods if the lead ends are true, we can be sure that in this method, if the lead ends are true, there can be no repetition between rows in the positions of (c) and (d), or (e) and (f), or any other rows which are equidistant from lead head and lead end. The symmetry of the method will settle that, and there is the additional safeguard that the rows in one position are odd and the other even.

But between rows in the positions of (a) and (d), and (b) and (c) the symmetry affords no safeguard, since one is produced from the lead head going forward in a different way to that in which the other is produced from the lead end going backwards.

In addition, in each case all the rows in both positions are of the same nature, either all odd or all even.

It is, therefore, possible for a row to appear in two separate courses, although the lead ends and course ends are different. We need some further safeguard other than symmetry and the nature of the rows, and we find it usually in the positions of the two tenors.

We compare all the even rows in the plain course with the treble in second's place going down, with all the even rows with the treble in second's place going up. If 1, 7, 8 do not fall twice into the same relative positions we need not fear any internal falseness so long as the tenors are not parted. If they do fall twice into the same relative positions we know that for every natural course in the method there is at least another which is false against it.

When we have compared the even rows in a section we need not compare the odd unless we like, for we can be certain that if the even rows show no liability to falseness, neither will the odd; and if the even rows re-

vealed the presence of false course ends, the odd rows will show complementary ones.

Also when, as in the example we have given, all the place making is at backstroke, or when there are hand-stroke places which are arranged symmetrically within the section, we need test only alternate rows of the sections—the first and third of the first half leads against the second and fourth of the second half leads. The second and fourth of the first half leads, and the first and third of the second half leads can then be left to look after themselves.

In our issue of February 23rd we gave rules for working out false course ends. As we said, some people use different rules, but in the long run they all come to a comparison of rows such as we have just described.

Since rows can only be false when the treble is in the same position we need only compare certain sections with each other. For instance, in a Major method we compare the first and last sections of every lead in the plain course, the second and seventh; the third and sixth; and the fourth and fifth. If we do that we can ignore the treble altogether and write out the rows without it.

Now turn to the second example at the head of this article. It gives two sections of a ten bell method, and you will see that it is the same method as the eight bell example. Both, in fact, are Cambridge Surprise.

What we have said about the Major will apply to this with an important difference.

If the lead heads and lead ends are true there can be no falseness between rows in the positions of (c) and (d), or between (e) and (f), for they are protected by the symmetry. Neither can there be any falseness between (a) and (d), or between (b) and (c), for (unlike the equivalent rows in the Major) these rows are of opposite nature, one odd and the other even. It is only in Royal methods where the first and third rows, or the second and fourth rows in a section, are of the same nature that you need fear any internal falseness.

The same thing happens in Minor and that is the reason why every symmetrical Treble Bob Minor method will produce a true 720. We say every one, because the one or two so-called exceptions are not methods according to the usually accepted standards.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**PREPONDERANCE OF YOUTH AT HARSTON MEETING.**

A good number of ringers turned up at the meeting of the Ely Diocesan Association at Harston on April 27th, a notable visitor being the gentleman with the measuring rod or whatever it is with which he judges weight of tenors. A feature was the preponderance of youth.

The visitors were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. P. G. Ward, who conducted the Guild service and afterwards entertained them to tea at the Vicarage. There was no formal business, but it was decided to hold the next meeting at Stapleford, and six young ringers from Trumpington and one life member from Exning, Suffolk, were elected members of the association.

Mr. Hurry expressed the thanks of all to the Vicar for his kind welcome, and, in reply, the Vicar said how pleased he was to have the association at Harston once again. He would pass on their thanks for the tea to his aunt, Mrs. Ward, a lady greatly interested both in the bells and the ringers.

ERDINGTON RINGER'S JUBILEE.

Ringers generally and Midland ringers in particular will congratulate Mr. W. J. Meers, of Erdington, on his complete recovery from a serious illness. He is now able to resume ringing, after being three months in a Birmingham hospital and undergoing two severe operations.

This year 'Bill' Meers celebrates his jubilee as a chimer and ringer at Erdington Parish Church. He commenced in 1890 on the tubulars there. In 1904 when the present ring was installed he joined the new band. For many years 'Bill' was Ringing Master, and for the past 20 years he has been an excellent towerkeeper, as anyone who knows the conditions at Erdington will testify.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Witney on April 20th. Ringing started at 2.30, and service was held in St. Mary's Parish Church, conducted by the Rector of Witney (the Rev. G. F. Sharp). The lesson was read by the branch secretary (Mr. W. Evetts), and an excellent address was given by the Deputy Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg).

Tea was provided at the Fleece Hotel, to which about 43 sat down.

At the business meeting which followed, the branch secretary asked the members to support his proposition that a deputy chairman be appointed in view of the fact that the branch's chairman (the Rev. H. Pickles) was Rural Dean, which made him a very busy man. In putting forward the name of the Rev. G. Bateman, Vicar of Bampton, the secretary said he was a very keen and enthusiastic hon. member and supporter of ringing, and was centrally situated in the Witney Deanery.—The motion was carried unanimously.

The branch chairman (the Rev. H. Pickles), the Guild secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert) and Guild treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) were unable to be present.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country during the past twelve months, the secretary said it was almost impossible to say much in his report of work done in the branch. Members were well aware of the cancellation of the autumn meeting last year owing to the declaration of war almost on the date of the meeting.

The balance sheet was submitted, which showed a balance of £24 6s. 8d. for the year.—This was received and adopted.

In the election of officers for the ensuing year, the Rev. H. Pickles was unanimously re-elected as branch chairman.

Mr. W. Evetts was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and, in thanking the members, he said that he was now entering on his 16th year in that office and was hoping to complete his score of years as their secretary and treasurer. He was himself only three years off his three score years and ten, and felt quite young enough to continue for some years to come.

The members on the Guild Committee were re-elected en bloc, viz., Mr. W. T. Bond, Mr. H. Farmer and Mr. H. Floyd.

Cassington was chosen as the place for the autumn meeting, and the provisional date decided on was September 21st.

The Rev. T. Brancker, Vicar of Cassington, was unanimously elected as honorary member in place of the late Vicar, the Rev. L. C. K. Greenway (retired).

A hearty vote of thanks to the deputy chairman, Deputy Master, the Rector of Witney, the organist and those who provided the tea was proposed by the secretary and carried unanimously, and this brought the meeting to a close, when members retraced their steps to the towers at their disposal.

Visitors at the tea included ringers from Abingdon, Faringdon, Swindon, Buckland, Oswestry, Oxford and Dinton, and they also took part in ringing on the grand peal of eight at Witney.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at St. James, Grimsby, on Saturday, April 20th.

The bells were rung to various methods during the afternoon and evening, and the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon E. Lisle Marsden, who gave a very inspiring address. Mr. H. Rushby presided at the organ.

After the service the members adjourned to the Church House, where, as usual, Mrs. Stowe had a substantial tea ready, 28 sitting down.

The president, the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, presided over the business meeting which followed, and was supported by Canon Marsden. The secretary, in his report, said the last year's membership had been a very favourable one. A few members had been lost, two had passed away and a few had lapsed, but there had been a gain of six. Some members had joined His Majesty's Forces, and it was up to those who were left behind to carry on. The past year had also been noteworthy with regard to Minor ringing, two wonderful peals having been rung at Bigby—104 methods and 125 methods. Very great credit was due to the band and the conductor, Mr. G. Feirn.

All the officers were re-elected, namely: President, the Ven. Archdeacon Parry; secretary, H. Mingay; Ringing Master, J. Bray; Deputy Ringing Master, G. Blanchard; General Committee representative, C. W. Taylor.

It was decided to hold a district meeting at Bigby on June 29th, when the Dean of Lincoln will be the preacher, and a meeting at Burton-on-Stather on July 27th to dedicate a board to commemorate the record peal of Minor. Two boards will probably be dedicated at Louth on August 24th.

Mr. Walker moved a vote of thanks to those who had made the arrangements, and the president one to Canon Marsden for the service and his address and the use of the bells.

Among the towers represented were Bigby, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Old Clew, St. Andrews, Grimsby, and the local band. Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell, of Goxhill, and some unattached members were also present.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—A meeting will be held at Swalcliffe on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Cary Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Templecombe on Saturday, May 11th. Usual arrangements. Horsington and North Cheriton bells available.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil. Phone North Cadbury 230.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Andover District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Laverstoke on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available from 2.30. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting follows.—F. S. H. Marle, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches will be held at Christ Church, Southport, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, for which a small charge may be made, at 5 p.m. After tea, the meeting will be at Emmanuel Church.—S. Forshaw and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Melbourne on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available 3 p.m. A hearty invitation extended to Loughborough district and to all ringers who care to attend.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Michael, Hawkshead, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Hon. Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulverston.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Practice meetings will be held at Shipham (6 bells) on Saturday, May 11th, and Blagdon (8 bells) on June 1st. Bells open 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Practice Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at Highworth on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Magnus', London Bridge, on Saturday, May 11th, at 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Whit Sunday, May 12th, at 5.30 p.m. Visitors will be welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, May 13th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., with address by the Rev. H. L. Pike, Rector of Widford, followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Copies of the proposed revised rules have been sent to all towers for distribution to members. Towers open for ringing: Cathedral (12), Great Baddow (8), Boreham (8), Galleywood (8), Great Waltham (8), Widford (8), Writtle (8), Broomfield (6), Danbury (6), Springfield (6) and Little Waltham (6). Lunch at the Golden Fleece after meeting. Members 1s. 6d., non-members 2s. 6d.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—The 66th annual general meeting will be held in Exeter on Whit-Monday, May 13th. Service at St. Sidwell's, at 12.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. H. Lanyon-Owen (Rector). Dinner at Deller's Café, Bedford Street, at 1 p.m. Admission by ticket only. Members' tickets price 1s., non-members 2s. 6d., must be applied for, with remittance, by May 7th. Business meeting to follow. Towers open for ringing from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., are St. Sidwell's (10), St. Thomas' (8), St. David's (8) and Heavitree (8). Visitors are cordially invited. Tickets may be obtained from Fredk. C. Smale (acting hon. sec.), Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday, May 13th. Central Committee meet 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Room. Service, St. Peter's Church, 3.30. Address by Rev. E. V. Fenn. Tea at Angel Hotel 4.15, followed by business meeting. Hon. and subscribing members free, others 1s. 6d. Bells available: St. Giles' (10), St. Edmunds' (8) 11 to 1, All Saints' (8), Holy Sepulchre (8) 1 to 3, St. Peter's 1 to 3.30; after the meeting until 7.30, St. Giles', St. Peter's, All Saints', Holy Sepulchre and Kingsthorpe (6).—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held on Whit Monday, May 13th, at Hereford. 3.15 p.m., service in Cathedral, with address by Canon J. H. Jordan. 4 p.m., tea at Kerry Arms Hotel, followed by annual general meeting. Following bells will be available: Cathedral (10), All Saints' (8) and S. Nicholas' (8), from 2 to 3.15 and 6.15 to 8 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) to members notifying before May 11th to Rev. E. G. Benson, Burghill Vicarage, Hereford.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Guildford District).—A joint meeting will be held at West Clandon on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that numbers for tea be sent to Mr. G. L. Grover, East Clandon, near Guildford, not later than Wednesday, May 15th. Owing to catering difficulties, please bring your own sugar if you require it.—Miss H. F. Mills and W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Berks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Abingdon on Saturday, May 18th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Important.—Ringers intending to be present please notify by Wednesday, 15th, latest.—Albert E. Lock, 35, East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Berks.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Huddersfield on Saturday, May 18th. The bells of the Parish Church (10) will be available from 1.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m., Lindley (8), and Almondbury (8), also available from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All three rings available again after the meeting until 9 p.m. General Committee meet at 3 p.m. in the schools. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 6d. per head) at the Princess Cafe at 5 p.m. All requiring same must notify Mr. W. B. Frith, 5, Sufton Street, Birkby, Huddersfield, not later than the first post on Thursday, May 16th. The general meeting will take place in the schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting following service. It is essential that those who require tea should notify me not later than Thursday, May 16th, otherwise no guarantee of tea can be given. Please help by sending your name in early. St. Dunstan's bells (6) also available 2.30 to 4.15, and after meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Deane, Bolton, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Business 4 p.m., to make arrangements for the annual meeting.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southampton District.—Meeting at Dibden on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5.15 for those who notify by May 15th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Burrington on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available from 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. George-in-the-East Church, Cannon Street, E.1, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Those who require tea must advise Mr. J. G. A. Prior, 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2, by Tuesday, 14th inst. Handbells will be available. Penny fare from Aldgate, Mansion House or Monument on buses Nos. 5, 15, 23 or 40, and trams Nos. 65 or 67 (eastbound services).—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Langley Bury, Hunton Bridge.—Meeting Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) open 3.30. Tea 5.30, 1s. 3d. per head. Business meeting after. Ringing till 7.30. Excellent bus service from all parts to church. Those requiring tea must notify me by May 14th, so that arrangements may be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Crawley on Saturday, May 18th. The eight bells will be available from 3 p.m. Cards for tea at 1s. should be sent to Mr. G. Charlton, 2, Albury Parade, Crawley. Your printed tea card in unsealed envelope will only cost 1d.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Gorton Unitarian on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—Joseph H. Ridyrd, Branch Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Charminster on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and short business meeting. Dorchester bells (8) available 7 to 9.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bromborough (8 bells) on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards. Please let me know if you are coming.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM.—Meeting at Cotgrave, May 18th, 3 p.m. Lewis' bus 2.20 and 2.50 from bus station. All ringers welcome.—I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Nottingham.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting is to take place at Church Lawford, near Rugby, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at the White Lion at 5 o'clock.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gypsy Lane, Nuneaton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Naseby (5 bells) on Saturday, May 18th. Usual arrangements.—H. H. Shrides, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckley, Rugby.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting has been arranged for May 18th at Northchurch. Bells (8), a good peal, available from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45, followed by tea and meeting. Tea can only be arranged for those who let me know by Tuesday, May 14th. Let us have a good meeting.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Bi-quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, May 18th, at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, Bath Street, Birmingham. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Banstead on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m., and again in the evening until 8.30. Service 5 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, at the Memorial Cafe at 5.30. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. G. Woodiss, 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, by Wednesday, May 22nd. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Tea 4.45, only for those who notify me by Thursday, May 23rd. Everybody welcome. Look up your Minor methods.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Broadclyst on Saturday, May 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock, 1s. each. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Bands and visitors please notify me by May 18th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kirkham Parish Church on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting at 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Secretary.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Gillingham, St. Mary Magdalene: Sunday ringing, 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.; practices, Thursdays, 7.30 to 9. Rainham, Kent, St. Margaret's: Sunday ringing, mornings 10 to 11; evenings, 5.30 to 6.30; practice, Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9. All ringers, especially members of all branches of H.M. Forces, will be very welcome.—C. H. Spice, Hon. Sec.

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BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.—On Sunday, April 21st, for evening, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): F. Jeffery 1, Mrs. J. Bray 2, John Markham (first quarter-peal) 3, A. Tomlinson 4, G. Moody 5, J. Bray (conductor) 6, Philip Barnes 7, E. Brittain 8.

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