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FRIDAY, MAY 17th, 1940.

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THE NEW CRISIS.

The developments of the war during the last week or so have suddenly roused the people of this country from the kind of semi-complacency into which they seemed to have drifted through the long months of stagnation which followed the first outbreak of hostilities. The sudden cessation of ringing which took place at the beginning of September, when the uncertainties of the times dictated a policy of 'wait and see,' has been followed by a gradual return to some degree of activity, even though it has perforce been a restricted activity. Now, once again, the anxieties of the moment are causing an enforced restraint upon everything except the work of a united nation for victory, and ringing, like many of the other lesser things of life, must be subjugated to the urgent demands of the moment.

The immediate effect upon ringing, with the cancellation of the Whitsuntide Bank Holiday, was the postponement or abandonment of meetings and of numerous peal attempts. It was, of course, impossible in the circumstances, with the threat of some sudden intense development of the war over this country, to expect that such events should be carried out, and now that, perhaps, the most vital phase of the war is upon us, it may be some time before important ringing gatherings can again be held. Throughout the country the renewed sense of anxiety is giving way to an even grimmer determination, so that, come what may, we shall be prepared. Nothing will stand in the way of united service to the country, and we must expect ringing in the immediate future to suffer to some extent. But while it may not be possible to indulge freely in peal ringing or to hold meetings in vulnerable areas, there is no reason why ringers should not carry on their work if they have a reasonable regard for the new conditions.

Precautions which were at first taken have been somewhat relaxed in recent months, but they should now be renewed, when the bells of the churches are rung. In cities and towns, at any rate, where preparations have been made for air raid warnings to be given, there should be someone on duty outside the church to give immediate notification to the ringers, so that the sound of the bells shall not interfere with the warning to the public. That is one essential safeguard that should be taken, and while the ringing of church bells is still perfectly lawful, ringers, we are sure, will be only too ready to refrain from their activities if the police or other authorities request it, in the interests of public safety. But if proper precautions are taken there is still no rea-

(Continued on page 230.)

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son why the customary service and practice ringing should not take place.

As we have pointed out before, the bells, calling the people to church or reminding them of a service, are an asset in times like these and helping to maintain the public spirit. In town and in village nothing is more missed than the sounds of the bells when they are silenced, and there is good reason in these days to avoid anything that may even indirectly help to produce gloom. There are grave and perhaps dangerous times ahead, but we feel that that is no reason for deserting the belfries. It goes, almost without saying, that ringers will always have full regard for any circumstances that may arise and for public feeling. Indeed, as in the past, the bells, even in these strenuous and uncertain times, may well interpret public feeling, if judiciously used, and there is still opportunity for ringers to play their part. The last thing that should be manifested in any department of life is nervousness or panic, and there is no reason why panic action should be taken to restrict the activities of ringers, so long as good sense is exercised.

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.

Any departure from the strict regulations renders the package liable to surcharge.

ST. DIONIS', BACKCHURCH, LONDON.

LORD MAYOR ATTENDS DEDICATION OF HALL.

The Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs and Lady Mayoress, officiated at the formal opening of the rebuilt Parochial Hall of St. Dionis', Backchurch, London. It stands in the courtyard of St. Dionis', Lime Street, of which church the late vestry was all that remained. It was here in 1937 that the Rector, Canon Tissington Tatlow, welcomed the College Youths, when they restored the memorial stone of Sir Henry Tulse, both Lord Mayor and Master of the society in 1684. This old stone has been again relaid and is a little nearer to the entrance to the hall.

The ceremony was short and simple. Archdeacon Sharpe offered the opening prayers, and the Lord Mayor spoke of the abiding interest felt by the city for its old churches. He said he hoped the hall would prove a lively centre for the furthering of the spiritual and social welfare of those who worked in that part of the city.

The Rector described what had been done and how the sale of All Hallows', Lombard Street, for £330,000 had strengthened their hands in so many ways and had given the now five parishes united in St. Edmund's this beautiful hall. He congratulated the architect, Mr. Tatchell, too, on his restoration of the old 'Wren' features and fittings from the previous hall.

Amongst the other clergy present were Canon Taylor, of St. Bride's, and Canon Ellison, of Cornhill, both well known to ringers, and with the laity were Messrs. A. A. Hughes and E. Alexr. Young, representing the College Youths.

WATCHET, SOMERSET.—On Thursday, April 25th, at the Church of St. Decuman, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes: Mrs. I. Binding 1, F. Willicombe 2, W. E. Challice 3, W. Challice 4, T. H. Chidgey (conductor) 5, I. Binding 6.

TEN BELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. x qr. 20 lb. in E flat.

FRANK E. DARBY... .. Treble	CHARLES POTHECARY 6
ROYDEN DAVIES 2	LEONARD J. FOX 7
MRS. CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 3	ARTHUR J. W. HUGHES ... 8
THOMAS G. FOX 4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 9
HERBERT E. THOMPSON ... 5	GEORGE W. CECIL Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK E. DARBY.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

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

Tenor 13 cwt.

EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN. ... Treble	FRANK BENNETT 5
GEORGE WILLIAMS 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 6
GEORGE PULLINGER 3	JAMES H. SHEPHERD 7
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... 4	A. PATRICK CANNON Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS

Rung to celebrate Mr. George Williams' 83rd birthday, which fell on the day before.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

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

Tenor 12½ cwt.

HARRY C. JONES Treble	ROLAND BIGGS 5
GEORGE MARTIN 2	PERCY NEWTON 6
JAMES W. WILKINS 3	WALTER LEE 7
*RALPH COLES 4	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

* First peal of Double Norwich. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd, who was 77 on that day.

SIX BELL PEALS.

ST. BRIDES MAJOR, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents, 10 callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

DAVID THOMAS Treble	TREVOR M. RODERICK... .. 4
ERNEST STITCH 2	ALFRED E. WILLIAMS... .. 5
ALFRED HANNINGTON... .. 3	ALBERT E. BACON Tenor

Conducted by E. STITCH.

First peal on the bells.

GRIMLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 12 cwt.

JAMES WOODYATT Treble	GEORGE E. LARGE 4
ALLEN MORGAN... .. 2	REGINALD WOODYATT... .. 5
WILLIAM RANFORD 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

A 71st birthday compliment to the ringer of the third.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Tuesday, May 7th, by a newly-formed local band, 720 Bob Minor: P. Hayes 1, N. Fox 2, R. Fox 3, G. Briggs 4, P. Jervis 5, G. G. Graham (conductor) 6. First 720 by ringers of 1, 2, 3 and 4, and first 720 for some years by a local band.

HANDBELL PEALS.

FELSTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

RONALD SUCKLING 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL... .. 3-4	LEWIS W. WIFFEN 7-8
ALBERT WIFFEN 9-10	

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	*LEONARD LUCK 7-8

Composed by J. BARKER.

Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 11 in G.

*EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4
*EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6	

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal of Surprise on handbells. First peal of Surprise on handbells as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, May 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
*THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method on handbells and first attempt.

MAGHULL, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT 22, NORTON GROVE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven callings.

Tenor size 15.

THOMAS S. HORRIDGE 1-2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 3-4
WILLIAM H. DRACON 5-6	

Conducted by W. H. DRACON.

Witness—Hilda Deacon.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

RESIGNATION OF THE SECRETARY.

The annual meeting of the Sheffield and District Society was held at Eastwood on May 4th, at which members were present from Sheffield (St. Marie's, Ranmoor and Handsworth), Rawmarsh, Whiston, Eckington, Whittington, Rotherham Parish Church and the local belfry. During the afternoon various methods were rung, and afterwards tea, which the local company had provided at short notice, was served in the Church Hall.

The Vicar, the Rev. P. Kennedy, presided over the business meeting, supported by Mr. C. Haynes, and gave the society a hearty welcome.

All the officers were re-elected with the exception of the secretary, Mr. M. E. Wilson, who on account of increased pressure of work had had to resign. Mr. G. Lewis, on behalf of the society, expressed appreciation of the work done by Mr. Wilson, and Mr. G. G. Graham was elected to take his place. Several new members were elected, and then ringing in various methods, including Forward and Original, brought the day to a close.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

For more than sixty years the College Youths held their regular practice meeting at St. Bride's, and their headquarters and the centre of their social life were at The Barley Mow, a tavern which stood just beneath the tower.

The social side of the old societies represents a phase in the life of the Exercise which has almost entirely disappeared. Founded on the inherited traditions of the old guilds, it was immensely strengthened and influenced by the customs of the time.

In the early eighteenth century social clubs were very common and existed in all classes of society. Wherever there was a small group of men who had some interest in common, there was the material for a club. They agreed to meet at stated times at a tavern or coffee house, they had a code of rules to regulate their proceedings, and a scale of fines for breaches of the rules, a chairman was appointed, and the evening was spent in social intercourse, drinking, smoking and sometimes singing. An almost universal rule was that no strangers were ever admitted except on very exceptional occasions, and then by special permission of the chairman and assembled members.

The Barley Mow was a noted house for clubs. Its site is at present covered by a vast new block of offices, but in the corner of it there is still a tavern, only the name has quite recently been changed from The Barley Mow to The Cogers Hall in imitation of a club that once was held there.

The Society of College Youths, on its social side, was like the other clubs, and, like them, it existed for the benefit of its members alone. It was exclusive, and there was no pretence that its members were church workers, or even that their aim was to promote the art of change ringing or the good of the Exercise at large. We have, or profess to have, different ideals to-day, but there can hardly be any doubt that these exclusive and secular ideas were, on the whole, those best fitted to further the interests of change ringing in the eighteenth century. It was only after the changes in social and religious opinion in the nineteenth century that the Exercise was faced with the problem of adjusting itself to new conditions.

We often read and talk of the old ringing societies as if the whole Exercise was organised into societies like the College Youths, and there is a tendency to assume on very feeble evidence that there existed in various places companies with similarly long unbroken corporate existences. The recent claim made for Halesworth is a case in point. We can be fairly sure that from the earliest times, wherever there were bells there were ringers of some sort or other, and to that extent almost every old church can claim to have had an old society of ringers, but fully organised societies like the College Youths were the exception. They existed mainly in those towns where change ringing became popular among the townsmen of better social class as distinct from artisans and farm labourers. Among the members there was usually a proportion who valued the social side more than the ringing side, and when they became the majority the end of the society was not far off. Practically all the eighteenth century ringing societies faded

away in the early nineteenth century because the class of men who had composed their members was no longer attracted to the belfry. The St. Stephen's Society of Bristol survived, but no longer as a company of ringers except in name. The College Youths survived as a ringing company, but shorn of their old social status. The Cumberlands survived and suffered little loss in the changes and chances of the times, because socially they had much less to lose. In the provinces societies like the Union Society of Shrewsbury and the Hertford College Youths lapsed. Those like the Norwich Scholars and the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham that survived do not appear to have been organised as full social clubs like the College Youths, but were companies attached to particular churches, held together by the necessity of having a regular band to do the paid ringing.

There seems to be in the minds of some of its members a vague sort of idea that the Society of College Youths has enjoyed one long prosperous and unbroken career from 1637 to the present day. But, of course, such was in the nature of things impossible. Several times it went through a crisis and came out different from what went in. One such crisis seems to have happened about 1720 which altered the whole character of its members. Before that time it consisted of a number of men of good social class who do not appear to have been very keen about ringing. Afterwards it was a company of very young and very skilful ringers who not only re-established the supremacy of the society on a new basis, but set a new and high standard in method ringing and peal ringing for the whole Exercise.

It may be that the change was more marked and more abrupt in the belfry than in the club room, and that these men had not for some years the same importance at The Barley Mow that they had in St. Bride's steeple. But it is significant that Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, the great Welsh landowner, joined the society in 1717 and William Laughton joined in 1725. The interval is only eight years, but it is certain that Laughton never knew Wynn as a member, nor does he seem to think that the society ever consisted of men any different from himself.

The oldest member of the new band was Peter Merrygarts. He had joined the society in 1711 and was now about 35 years old, a keen ringer, and evidently a man of some standing, for he had been steward in 1718, the year in which the two trebles were given to St. Bride's. William Jackson, who joined in 1717, had some ambitions as a composer. All the rest were under thirty years of age and some not much more than youths. They were William Woodruff and Matthew East, who joined in 1718; William Thompson and Robert Catlin, 1722; John Pearson, 1723; John Ward and Edward Chadwell, 1724; and—the man who was to supply the real driving force, the spirit which was to weld a number of good ringers into one of the best bands in the whole history of ringing—Benjamin Annable, who joined in 1721.

Annable stands out as one of the most distinctive personalities of the Exercise, a born leader of men, and one who did as much as anyone to influence the development of the art of change ringing. The time was ripe for such a man both in the Society of College Youths and in the Exercise at large, but it must have been no easy thing for him, who was not much more than a youth, with no advantages of birth or education, to gain a position of ascendancy in a society like the College Youths,

with its long conservative and aristocratic traditions. It could only have been possible through the weakening of the older elements and in a very real sense the advent of Benjamin Annable marks the close of the old era and the beginning of a new.

On January 19th, 1725, these men rang at St. Bride's the first peal of Grandsire Cinques ever accomplished. It was the first peal by the College Youths (if we except the doubtful performance at St. Sepulchre's in 1689, the memory of which had entirely faded out of the society) and the ninth peal of any sort by any company of which we have any record. Annable was not yet the recognised leader; Matthew East rang the eleventh and called the bobs, and the composition was by Jackson.

The College Youths were not yet strong enough to ring a peal of Cinques entirely by their own members, and two outsiders were brought in for the peal—Robert Carter and Thomas Rowlands — neither of whom was then, or at any time, a member. Why they were not elected members we cannot tell. It may be that, though qualified as ringers, they were not considered eligible socially, or it may be that they were members of the rival Society of London Scholars. We hear no more of either.

William Jackson, as I have said, composed the peal. Annable has always had the credit of introducing the tittum position into Cater and Cinques ringing, but I am inclined to think that there is rather more rhetoric than sober historical fact in what the 'Clavis' says about the matter.

'Caters and Cinques,' say the writers, 'he found in such a rude and chaos-like jumbled state as may be easier conceived than described'; and they point to the composition in the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' as evi-

dence. 'But Mr. Annable threw them into the harmonious tittums, where they still continue and most likely ever will remain.'

Annable was for many years the greatest and the generally accepted authority on composition. His peals of Grandsire Caters were rung and doubtless were decisive factors in establishing the popularity of the tittum position, but it is hardly likely that ringers had to wait until he appeared before they recognised its merits.

In the earliest times of all on six bells composers used the treble as the whole hunt and the second and third as the half and quarter hunts; and when they turned to Triples and Caters they naturally did the same. But between these early attempts and the appearance of Annable there was nearly a quarter of a century in which Grandsire Caters was extensively practised by the leading London companies. However much they may have neglected the positions of the big bells they could not have failed sometimes to have got them into the tittums and that would have been enough to show them the musical value of the position. Anyhow Jackson's peal was in the tittums and it is hardly likely he would have got the idea from his younger colleague.

WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING.

CALNE, WILTS.—For morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 minutes: F. Walker 1, F. Hacker 2, W. Hacker 3, R. Saye 4, R. Barry 5, H. Burry 6, A. O. Wrintmore (conductor) 7, W. Saye, sen. 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman by all except the conductor. First as conductor. All are Sunday service ringers. Rung as a final touch pending members being called to the Colours.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM.—At the Church of St. Thomas, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Frank Lawton 1, Harold Armstead 2, Clement B. Taylor 3, Fred Mellor 4, John W. Truelove 5, Isaac Gartside 6, Ivan Kay (conductor) 7, James Brooks 8.

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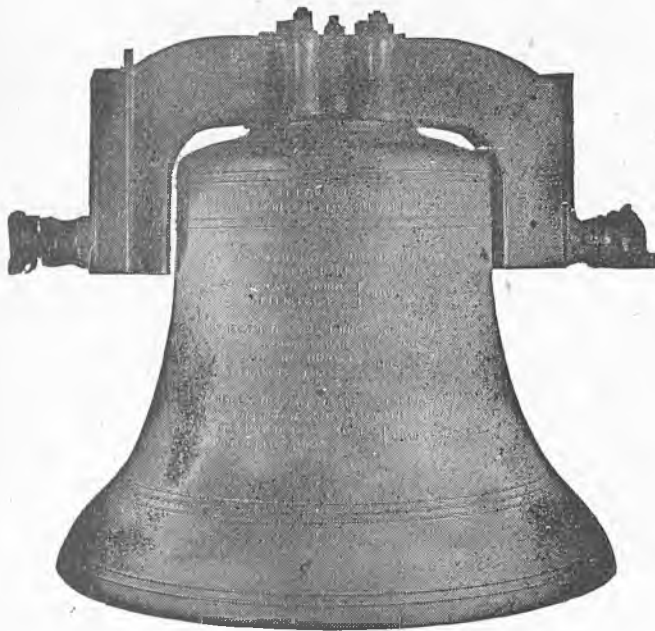
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Heartly congratulations will be extended to Mr. George Williams, the Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, upon calling a peal of Double Norwich Major for his 83rd birthday.

The method was selected because Mr. Williams thought it would bring his peals of Double Norwich up to 200. After he had rung it—with a Surprise band—he found it was his peals of Superlative that were one short of the double century. Well, well, George!

Twice has Hitler prevented Messrs. Tom Coles and Jim Bennett ringing their one thousandth peal. Last September their plans were laid to make it a joint affair, and it would have been a memorable performance for two men to complete their four figure total at the same time. But the outbreak of war stopped it.

Since then the pair have crept up to 999, and last Saturday the 1,000th was to have been attempted at Walthamstow. But again Hitler's interference has put a stop to their ambitions. However, it can wait. Hitler won't always be able to interfere.

At the annual meeting of the Sussex County Association three of the oldest members—Messrs. Edmund Lindup, of Heene, Walter Franks, of Battle, and Charles Tyler, of Henfield—were elected to honorary life membership. Thus has a life-time of loyal service to the association been recognised.

These three men have been part of the backbone of the association for half a century; indeed, the membership of Mr. Tyler, at any rate, goes back to the first days of the association, which was formed in 1885. Mr. Tyler took part in the first peal rung by the association and called the only peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung by the association. This, of course, was on handbells, for Sussex has no twelve-bell tower, and followed handbell peals of Stedman Triples and Caters.

Mr. Walter Frank's services to the association have been mainly in East Sussex and his steadfast services in an area where for years change ringing made little progress, has been a tower of strength to the association.

Mr. 'Ted' Lindup's efforts have been principally at the other end of the county. He filled for years the leadership at Heene and conducted a great many peals.

On Monday last was rung at Wakefield by the Ringers of that place a New Composition Peal of Tripple Bob Triples called Wakefield Delight consisting of 5,040 in 8 Courses Compleat. The same set of Ringers without changing a man or setting a rope began another Peal of Oxford Single Triples in Twelve Courses consisting of 5,040 called Wakefield Surprise. Both these peals consisted 10,080 changes Where performed including the Raising and Settling the Bells in Seven Hours and One Minute, an instance never before Done in Ye Kingdom. What adds to the singularity of this performance is—There were Two Fathers, Five Sons, Five Brothers, Four Cousins, One Uncle, One Nephew yet only eight Persons and only two names.—From 'an old peal book' under date May 12th, 1788.

On May 14th, 1845, John Cox called the first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes. It contained 6,485 changes and was his own composition.

The first peal of Spiced Surprise Major (Cambridge and Superlative) was rung at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, on May 14th, 1924.

May 15th, 1837, was Whit Monday, and on that day Thomas Tolladay called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Fulham, containing 12,096 changes, for the St. James' Society. On the same date in 1894 the then longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was rung at Loughborough. Nathan Pitstow composed and conducted the peal, and John W. Taylor rang the tenor.

The handbell peal at Maghull in Lancashire is the first peal in the parish, as though the church has eight nice toned bells, they are hung dead.

Doncaster ringers invite any ringers serving with the Colours when near the church to enter the belfry or get in touch with the Vicar or vergier.

Despite the cancellation of the Bank Holiday, the annual meeting of the Essex Association was held on Whit Monday, when there was an attendance of fifty members.

DEATH OF CANON RIDGWAY.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

As reported briefly last week, the Rev. Canon M. H. Ridgway, hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild, died on Saturday, May 4th, after a short illness. He was in his 61st year.

Canon Ridgway became secretary three years ago, following the preferment of the Rev. W. R. Ingham to the living of Moreton-in-the-Marsh. He had spent most of his life in the Chester Diocese and was well known as a man of energy and action, and, although not a ringer, these qualities made him an ideal officer of the Guild. Last November the Cathedral paid tribute to his work in the diocese by electing him to the office of Honorary Canon, an honour which gave great satisfaction to his many friends in the county and not least to his fellow members of the Guild.

The funeral took place at Tarvin on Wednesday of last week, when the great company present gave testimony to the high esteem in which he had been held. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service, and the Guild was represented by the Master (Mr. J. W. Milner), Mr. J. W. Clarke and the local band.

The deep sympathy of the Guild is extended to the widow and two sons left in bereavement.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE B. LUCAS.

AN ARDENT MIDDLESEX RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Burnell Lucas, which took place at his home at Walthamstow on Tuesday, May 7th. Mr. Lucas, who was born on June 30th, 1862, was a fine example of that type of ringer whose main object is to do his duty as a service ringer, and his utmost to spread the art of change ringing. From his earliest ringing days he had been well known as a man who would willingly assist in teaching young ringers, and there are many bands in Middlesex and Essex which have, at one time or another, sought and received his assistance.

It was at St. Mary's, Hornsey, that he first became known as a ringer nearly 60 years ago. Later he became a member of the band at All Hallows', Tottenham, when that tower was one of the strongholds of ringing in North-East Middlesex. About 1894 he went to live at Walthamstow and became Ringing Master at St. Saviour's Church, which office he retained until about 1908, from which date for several years he devoted his energies to assisting and ringing at many towers. For a considerable time from 1904 he gave immense assistance at St. George-in-the-East, and amongst those ringers who greatly benefited from his tuition were Messrs. A. W. and C. T. Coles and R. Sanders. Right up to a few months ago he was willing to give his services, and even since the outbreak of war he has helped on occasions at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton.

Particulars of his peals are not available, but he rang a considerable number in many methods, including Stedman Cinques, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise, and he rang the treble to the first peal of Middlesex Surprise Royal at St. Magnus', Thames Street, in 1922. His first peal was rung in 1885 for the Royal Cumberland Society, which he had joined the previous year. This peal was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields and was conducted by the late George Newson. In 1885, too, he rang in the first peal by the All Hallows', Tottenham, Society, which was rung by an entirely local band, including the late Henry A. Barnett (conductor), William Pye English and Joseph Waghorn, sen., and also Joseph Waghorn, jun., who would appear to be the only surviving ringer of this peal. Mr. Lucas rang in many peals during the next three or four years for the St. James' Society and the Waterloo Society, including one of Bob Major in 1887, which was his first as conductor.

In September, 1889, when the Middlesex Association (1889-1897) was formed, Mr. Lucas became one of its staunchest supporters, and was at once elected to the committee of that society. He composed and conducted the first peal, one of Bob Major, rung by this association, on November 1st, 1889, and it was a source of great regret to him that the jubilee of this peal could not be celebrated a few months ago. For this short-lived association he rang 24 peals, conducting 12 of them, and he was a member of the committee during the eight years of its existence. He also represented this society on the Central Council from 1891 to 1896, attending all six meetings held during that period.

In 1897, when the Middlesex County Association was formed, he was again a leading spirit, and was at once elected to the committee, resigning only two years ago, after a total service of nearly 50 years. In 1922 he was elected Ringing Master of the North and East District, but had to resign in 1925, when a nasty accident whilst cycling caused him to give up active ringing for a time. On his recovery he became a regular ringer at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, until the outbreak of war last year. For the Middlesex County Association he rang in 74 peals, of which he conducted 13, and quite a large number of members owe to him their first peals. He was always a regular attendant at association meetings, and was proud to be able to say that he had never missed an annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association except one held three weeks ago during the period of his last illness.

In addition to the societies mentioned above, he was also a member of the Bedford, Essex and Hertford Associations, and at one time was a well-known visitor to meetings in those counties.

His last meeting was one held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on January 6th of the present year, which he left early owing to feeling unwell. A few days later he became seriously ill and never recovered.

The funeral took place on Friday, May 10th, at Queen's Road, Walthamstow, Cemetery, after a service at St. Mary's Church. At this service Canon Oakley, the Vicar, spoke of Mr. Lucas' long service as a ringer and of his sterling qualities. At the graveside, in addition to members of his family, were many ringers, including Messrs. R. Maynard, J. H. Wilkins and H. Rumens (St. Mary's, Walthamstow), G. R. Pye, E. Pye, A. Prior, G. Dawson, J. E. Davis and C. T. Coles (hon. secretary, Middlesex County Association). Amongst a large number of floral tributes were wreaths from the Central Council; the Middlesex County Association; the St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Society; colleagues at Jubilee Wharf, Wapping; Mrs. Ethel Pye (widow of the late Alfred Pye); T. C. Groves (late All Hallows', Tottenham); Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooper; and from his son in Australia.

It is regretted that owing to the great lack of time, and the tense-ness of the national situation, no ringing could be arranged, but this showed no lack of respect to the memory of a much loved man.

HUGHENDEN.—For morning service on April 21st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. R. Biggs 1, R. Biggs 2, A. Newton 3, J. W. Wilkins 4, A. G. James 5, E. Timpson 6, P. Newton (conductor) 7, V. Evans 8.

LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

THE HARD RINGING SCHOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is surely a bit late in the day and, in any case, entirely the wrong time to take exception to the presence of ladies in the belfry as ringers. We were glad of them in the last war—those of us who were anxious to keep the bells going while the lads were away—and it is more than likely we shall be glad to have them in still greater numbers in the near future. Between 1914 and 1918 ladies saved the situation in many parishes. Without their aid there were numerous places where ringing would entirely have lapsed, but the ladies came to the rescue and many of them stayed on to make excellent ringers.

In passing, may I say one word with regard to Mr. Lloyd's explanation of what transpired at the Bath and Wells Association's meeting. It puts a rather different complexion on what your readers may have been led to think from Mr. Challice's letter. It now seems that it was not the presence of ladies in the tower that was alleged to be the cause of ringers leaving the towers, but the charms of the ladies who are not ringers that have resulted in drawing members of the other sex from the belfry. Ah, me, how well I know it. Courtship and marriage have spoilt many a promising band of ringers, and there can hardly be a tower in the country that at some time or other has not suffered from this cause. The remedy is to bring the ladies into the tower, not to keep them out.

I feel sure Mr. Warboys' letter will have amused your readers. This 'he-man' stuff is funny. I haven't the pleasure of Mr. Warboys' acquaintance, so he must excuse me for saying that when I began to read his letter I pictured him as a gentleman of ripe experience in the most select and exclusive ringing circles, with, may be, a bald head and flowing white beard, and perhaps dim recollections of the spacious days (or nights) at the Whittington and Cat, or the Goose and Grid-iron—both famous in the distant past for their association with ringing. Judge my surprise when reading further to find that Mr. Warboys has been ringing not since 1882, but 1932. Bless my soul, there has been no hard ringing school since 1932. Mr. Warboys doesn't know what a hard ringing school is, although, it seems, it may have been a noisy one. The young people who have come into ringing since the last war have been spoon-fed, wrapped in cotton wool and only taken out after the room has been well aired. As they have grown up, in the ringing sense, their path has been made easy for them. Whether that has been for the good of ringing may be a matter of opinion, but the pampering of the new generation of ringers hasn't been solely for the benefit of the ladies. If their presence has taken away some of the crudities which might otherwise have been displayed in belfries, surely even such a product of a loud shouting school as Mr. Warboys' would not complain. What embarrassment should he find in being polite? Politeness can go hand in hand with firmness and firmness is not synonymous with 'bellowing' or 'yelling your head off.' If that was the kind of thing that happened when Mr. Warboys was learning, either he was a dull pupil, or—well never mind, I won't pursue the point. If I say too much, it may incite the ladies not only to pinch our ringing, as, according to Mr. Warboys, they have pinched our football and cricket, but Mr. Warboys as well.

P. H. BROWN.

A GREAT PUZZLE.

Sir,—I was very interested in the letters and particularly in your leader on the above subject. That leader, so well put, I greatly admired.

It is one of the great puzzles I still have to solve in the world of ringing that men can object to lady ringers. In my 20 years as a ringer in and around London I have met such men and have tried with and without success to reason with them; and I notice that such objectors are only too glad to ring with the ladies in order to get the touch they want, which shows there is no real objection, but merely a silly fad.

I have had the honour to ring with many ladies (many better ringers than I), and I find I am none the worse for the experience.

If it is not taking up too much valuable space in your paper, may I say that last October business brought me to Carlisle. Now in Cumberland ringing is at a standstill, in fact almost dead. I am now trying to revive the art in the short time I expect to be here, so I shall be glad of any help you may be able to give in appealing to ringers in Cumberland to wake up and get doing.

At St. Stephen's, Carlisle, I found five youngsters trying to ring rounds, and, after being appointed instructor, I have built up a band of eight ladies and eight men and boys. Calling-up has taken four men away, but we are attacking Grandsire Doubles with great enthusiasm.

I would like to extend to all ringers and bands of ringers, who would wish to visit us at any time, a very hearty welcome, particularly to the Ladies' Guild. Our ladies would be glad to see them.

FREDERICK W. ALLEWAY.

Other letters on this subject will be printed next week.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRIGHTON. Old Members Honoured.

There was an excellent attendance at the annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association held at Brighton on May 4th. Eighty ringers were present from Chichester, Heene, Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch, Lower Beeding, Warnham, Crawley, Rotherfield, Eastbourne (St. Saviour's, St. Mary's and Christ Church), Balcombe, Cuckfield, Twineham, Hurstpierpoint, Heathfield, Wadhurst, Burgess Hill, Arundel, Hastings (Blacklands and All Saints'), Battle and Brighton (St. Peter's, St. Nicholas' and the Good Shepherd).

Service took place at St. Nicholas' Church, where in the course of his address the Vicar (the Rev. L. N. Phillips, M.A., M.C.) made the point that during the difficult times that were with us, and those to come, which might prove even more exacting, a greater devotion to service in all fields was necessary. No results must be expected either in the service of ringing or of Christianity without constant practice and application. Perseverance was as necessary in one as in the other, and there was no time for casual attendance in either calling. The one must be linked with the other, and ringing was a reminder to others who were unable from some cause to make their attendance at church that the work of the church was still going on. Now was the time to make service acceptable to God, and the ringers could well do this by setting a good example themselves.

The business meeting took place in St. Nicholas' Hall after tea and was presided over by the Master (Mr. H. R. Butcher). He was supported by the hon. general secretary (Mr. S. E. Armstrong), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Stone), the divisional secretaries, the peal secretary and one of the hon. trustees (Mr. F. H. Dallaway). The Master extended a welcome to the visitors, who included Mr. J. T. Rickman, a former Master; Mr. G. Williams, Master, and Mr. F. W. Rogers, general secretary, of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. The Master presented the balance sheet and report for the year.

SUGGESTED RECRUITMENT OF LADIES.

In their report to the members, the Master and hon. secretary referred to the effect which the events of the past year had had upon ringing and which, they said, may leave serious marks upon the organisation. Although the immediate restrictions placed on the association's activities in September had not continued to be so serious as were at first anticipated, some considerable changes had been experienced. Peal ringing had come almost to a standstill, while meetings, owing to the restriction on lighting, were in many cases impracticable during the winter months. It was suggested that meetings should be held mainly in the summer months at towers where there was no possibility of interference with work of national importance.

The report went on to say: 'As time goes on the question of manning the bells will become an acute one, especially owing to the fact that those called away cannot be adequately replaced when there are restrictions on practices. The problem is a general one, yet one which must be considered by each tower individually according to its particular circumstances. We may, however, offer the suggestion that lady ringers may be recruited in larger numbers. During the last year they proved invaluable in keeping the towers together under most difficult circumstances, so again perhaps they may render service in this respect.'

'Ringers may be assured that, as far as possible, the business of the association will be carried on as usual. It is hoped that all the benefit previously enjoyed will continue, and for this purpose it is necessary to ask for the continued support of every affiliated tower. Fortunately the association's finances are in a condition to meet the strain of whatever may befall in reason.'

Thanks were expressed to all those who have helped, both in giving their support to the affiliated towers and also in the organisation of the divisional meetings, to the clergy and others who have helped with the services, and to the divisional officials for their generous expenditure of time and tact. The year had again taken its toll of members by death, amongst them Mr. F. W. Cripps, of Shoreham, Mr. A. C. Pankhurst, of Eastbourne (hon. secretary of the Eastern Division), Mr. W. Hooker, of Warnham, Mr. W. Hack, of Rotherfield, and Mr. T. Patching, of Lindfield.

SUBSTANTIAL BALANCE.

The general account showed receipts of £61 11s. 7d., including £57 17s. from subscriptions and £1 16s. 10d. interest transferred from reserve fund. The expenditure was £62 2s. 7d. The strong position of the association is revealed from the balances, viz., £130 14s. 9d. on general account, £50 in the Reserve Fund, £84 10s. 5d. in the Benevolent Fund and £4 11s. 3d. in the Certificate account. During the year the Benevolent Fund received £1 16s. 10d. in interest and £2 14s. 2d. from collections at meetings. Grants amounting to £8 8s. were made from the fund.

The peal secretary reported the ringing of 44 peals during the year, and stated that this was much below the average, owing to the outbreak of war in September, which caused a considerable falling off after that time. The list included one peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, two of Spliced Surprise Major in four methods and three handbell peals of Bob Minor.

(Continued in next column.)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

REV. C. C. COX ELECTED MASTER.

At the annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild on May 4th, the president (Lord Shaftesbury) said that in spite of war conditions and restrictions, black-outs and the calling of young men to serve their country, the Guild had been able to keep the bells going. It was well that it should be so, for life would be so much drearier without the music of the bells, because there is so much to help and uplift the heart of man, and they are a solace and inspiration to many in this war-stricken world. Let it be known that the message of the bells was as strong as ever. Proceeding, his lordship referred to the retirement of the Master, the Rev. R. H. Gundry, of St. Leonard's, Ringwood, who, he said, had been their leader for so many years. He suggested that they should send him a message of appreciation for all that he had done, and saying how much they regretted that his doctor would not let him go on any longer.—This suggestion was agreed to.

The hon. secretary (the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Kington Magna) presented the statement of accounts, which showed a credit balance of £66 4s. 8d., as compared with £61 6s. last year. He added that since the last meeting they had lost by death a large number of strong supporters, including Canon Fletcher, Archdeacon Okes-Parish, and several of the oldest members, including one of the celebrated band at Marnhull, which had rung together for the past 40 years. They had also lost the first Master of the Guild, the Rev. A. du Boulay Hill (1884-1898).

EFFECT OF THE WAR.

The Hon. Secretary (Rev. F. Ll. Edwards) referred in his annual report to the war as it affected bells and ringers. He said:—

The year 1939 was rung in with the nation still at peace: it was tolled out in the stress and strain of war. The war, as it affects bells and ringers, has brought two facts into prominence. The first is the spontaneous recognition by the Government of the part fulfilled by the bells in our national life and the value of the ringers' services.

It is well known, though it took some time for some of those in authority, both in Church and State, to discover the exact truth, that in issuing orders for the control of noises, the Ministry of Home Security specifically exempted church bells from the operation of such orders. That is a fact of great significance. The other is that the conditions of this time of war have strikingly demonstrated the practical utility of the Central Council. When doubts and difficulties began to arise in various quarters about the legal position with regard to the ringing of bells, the Council, through its energetic secretary, promptly got into direct communication with the Ministry, with the result that not only were ringers and Church authorities assured that the 'Ministry were anxious that all normal ringing should be continued,' but the Ministry itself issued definite instructions to its Regional Commissioners to the same effect. To the question sometimes asked, what is the use of the Central Council, this evidence alone provides a conclusive answer. At the same time it affords a signal example of the great value of 'The Ringing World' as a ready means of communication in matters affecting the vital interests of the Exercise.

The official recognition thus given to the value of ringers' services makes it all the more imperative that we do our utmost to overcome all difficulties and maintain our church bells in full use—in time of war as in days of peace—to celebrate the Lord's Day and the great festivals of the Church, to proclaim the hours of prayer and praise, to honour God and the King, while by so doing we hold ourselves in readiness to sound forth the glad tidings of victory and peace.

SUNDAY RINGING MAINTAINED.

It is satisfactory to find that in most quarters in the diocese Sunday ringing has been maintained and Guild meetings held despite the difficulties of the times. In some cases almost whole bands have been called to the colours, and naturally attendances at meetings have on the average been smaller, though the Dorchester Branch achieved a great success in a rally of sixty to its annual meeting.

Peal ringing has quite properly been on a restricted scale, but the 14 peals rung show some interesting features. A peal of Grandsire at (Continued on next page.)

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

The Central Council representatives' report was presented by Mr. F. H. Dallaway, who gave a brief summary of the proceedings and emphasised the successful social side of the meeting.

New members were elected as follows: Hon. life members, Messrs. E. Lindup, W. Franks, C. Tyler; non-resident members, Mr. and Mrs. Guy, Portsea; ringing members, Messrs. J. G. Brewer, P. Walder, R. Stewart, C. Woods, D. Palmer and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cross.

The whole of the officers were re-elected, and the meeting expressed its thanks for their services.—The various officers briefly replied.

Under the heading of 'any other business,' the question of an honorarium for the general secretary was put forward and seconded.

The secretary thanked the proposer and seconder for the thought which had prompted the motion, but declined to accept any sum. Nevertheless, the motion was forced, but was lost.

The towers of St. Peter's and St. Nicholas' Churches were open for ringing from 3 p.m. to 8.15, and methods ranged from rounds to Cambridge Royal.

PEAL RINGING IN SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous page.)

Wootton Bassett, in which five of the eight taking part rang their first peal and the conductor called his first of Triples, bore signal testimony to the good work done in that district. The peal of Cambridge Surprise at Trowbridge, which was the first of Surprise for half the band, was a most creditable performance. A peal on the great bells of Sherborne Abbey is always a noteworthy event, and that rung on August 7th was rendered all the more so by the fact that the conductor was a lady. And the handbell peal rung at Mere by three members of the North Dorset Branch was quite an historic feature—only the second recorded in the last 45 years! Here again a lady took part, and, as far as we know, Mrs. Coward is the first lady to score a handbell peal for the Guild. The present restriction of facilities for practice in the tower should stimulate interest in the fine art of handbell ringing.

After regretting the loss of members by death and expressing thanks to the hon. members for their support and to the officers for their good work courageously carried on in these difficult days, the hon. secretary said the new edition of the Guild Office had been printed and was enriched by the inclusion of an additional prayer and two fine hymns, for one of which they were indebted to the courtesy of the Winchester Diocesan Guild.

The Master (the Rev. R. H. Gundry), in his report, also referred to war's effects on the activities of the Guild. The loss of the services of members who had joined the Forces, the difficulty of transport owing to restriction of petrol, and the black-out all made things difficult. He hoped, however, that wherever possible ringing might be kept up, even if it was no more than ordinary rounds. "Do you remember the cause for which bells were often used in ancient times?" he asked. "It was to scare away evil spirits: there are a number of these about just now, so do please do what you can to keep ringing going."

The Master also said that last year he suggested it would be nice to have a record of the members who had been ringers for 50 years and of the peals they had rung, but only four members had so far responded. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Hewlett, of Puddletown, who had just retired at 80 years of age after 64 years as ringer.

The following officers were appointed: Master of the Guild, the Rev. C. C. Cox, Lyme Regis; hon. secretary and treasurer, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. Green, Devizes; vice-presidents, the Rev. R. H. Gundry and Canon Peters; auditors, the Rev. R. E. G. Newman and Mr. W. Hinks; members of the committee, Canon Gorringe and Mr. E. Coward. Mr. W. Hewlett, of Piddletown, who has been ringing for 60 years, was elected a life member of the Guild.

On the motion of Mr. S. Hillier, it was agreed that members serving with H.M. Forces should be excused contributions for the duration.

GRANTS.

Upon the question of grants, the Master, secretary and Messrs. Phillips and Stewart were appointed as a committee to enquire into the condition of the bells at Swanage, with a view to a grant being made.—It was agreed to offer the Wimborne Branch a donation of one guinea towards their proposal to bind 'The Ringing World' for a period of 25 years, to be presented to Wimborne Minster.—It was decided to inform the incumbent of Wyke Regis that sympathetic consideration would be given to an application for a grant for the bells of his church if they procured additional estimates for the work.

Thanks were accorded to Lord Shaftesbury for presiding, to the Archdeacon of Sarum for the use of the room, and to the incumbents of the parishes in and around Salisbury for the use of their bells, on the motion of Canon E. W. J. Hellins.

At the service held at St. Thomas' Church, the Vicar (the Rev. P. J. Hayes) preached and a new edition of the Guild office was used. The singing of the hymns and National Anthem was led by a brass quartet, consisting of two cornets and two trombones. The lesson was read by the Rev. Dr. Hellins. About 100 members were present. Touches of Triples and Major were rung before and after the service. Tea was subsequently served at the Church House.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**SEVENTEEN TOWERS REPRESENTED AT DISTRICT MEETING.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association took place at Witham on Saturday, May 4th, when 30 ringers attended from the following 17 towers: Witham, Kelvedon, Halstead, Greenstead Green, Earls Colne, Bocking, Braintree, Dunmow, Feering, Springfield, Wanstead, Colchester, Harwich, Maldon, Sible Hedingham Goldhanger and Kirby. A service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. B. E. Payne), and was followed by tea in the Church Hall, the catering being ably undertaken by local ladies.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. H. W. Smith (District Master), of Dunmow. Three new ringing members were elected: Messrs. D. H. Barker, A. Ruffle and J. H. Brett, of Sible Hedingham. Mr. Brown, of Exning, was confirmed a life member of the association.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Felstead, if the bells are available, on July 6th.

The District Master expressed thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome the ringers had received, and also to the ladies for preparing the tea, including Miss Eyre, Mrs. Kidd and Mrs. Harte, who had kindly given some of the provisions.

Several of the members subsequently indulged in handbell ringing, whilst others returned to the tower.

NOTICES.

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 St., Birkby, Huddersfield. The general meeting will take place in the schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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.—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.—Albert E. Lock, 35, East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Berks.

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. 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.—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 St. Rd., E.1, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. 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.

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.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. 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.

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. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

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.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

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, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

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. Let us have a good meeting. — W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Saturday, May 18th. Meeting at Langley Bury, Hunton Bridge (6 bells). Bells open from 3.30 till 7.30. Tea, 5.30, Farriers' Arms Tea Rooms. Excellent bus service to church from all parts.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch —A meeting at Bathford on May 18th. Usual arrangements.—T. T. Woodburn, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —The next meeting will be held at Headquarters on Tuesday, May 21st, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 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.

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.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Ives on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Please note, no cards will be sent out, owing to increased postal changes. — H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, May 25th. Please make an effort to attend and help to encourage the local band, who have just started change ringing. Please notify Mr. C. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, re tea.—J. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., Hawkhurst.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available 3 p.m., meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION (South Norfolk Branch) AND THE SUFFOLK GUILD (Eye District).—A joint meeting will be held at Diss, Norfolk, on Saturday, May 25th. Bells: Diss (8) and Palgrave (8) available afternoon and evening from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. in Diss Church. Preacher: Rev. J. A. Appleton, M.A. Tea and meeting at the Waverley Hotel 5 p.m. Please send number for tea by Wednesday, May 22nd, to Roy Nelthorpe, Wattisfield, near Diss, or Albert G. Harrison, 90, Denmark Street, Diss, Hon. Secs.

NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Retford on Saturday, May 25th. It is *most* important that I should have cards for tea by May 22nd.—R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Bennington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready at 2.30 p.m.—A. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Balderstone on Saturday, May 25th. A good attendance requested. Everyone welcome. Please note, subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 25th, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Leyton. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained nearby. Handbells available. — C. A. Hughes, 92, Stanley Road, Woodford, E.18.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting, both districts. Ruislip, May 25th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea, Church Room, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells 7 to 9 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Secs.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — West Dorset Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bradpole on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by meeting.—C. H. Lathey, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Luton District.—A special meeting will be held at Toddington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. W. Bottrill, Sow and Pigs Hotel, Toddington (Tel. 214) by Thursday, May 23rd. Learners specially invited.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District. — The next meeting will be held at Shepshed on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea, 1s. each, at Charnwood Café, at 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Please notify me by Wednesday previous if you require tea. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The next meeting will be held at Ottershaw, near Chertsey, on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Tea can only be arranged for those who notify me by Wednesday, May 22nd. All ringers welcome. It is hoped that all who can will turn up.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at West Coker on Saturday, May 25th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea should give notice early.—F. Farrant, Martock.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify not later than Thursday, May 23rd.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, May 25th. Service at St. Giles' at 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 5 p.m. A moderate charge will be made for tea to non-members. Please bring your own sugar. It is most important that those requiring tea should notify Mr. H. Marcon, 269, Wragby Road, by the Wednesday previous. St. Giles' bells (8) will be available from 2 p.m. and Cathedral (12) after the meeting.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Aldford on Saturday, May 25th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than the previous Thursday. — J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A combined meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge, Bristol Rural and Bristol City branches, will be held at Dursley on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Service 6 p.m. A coach will leave St. Stephen's, Bristol, at 2 p.m. (4/3 per head) provided numbers are sufficient, otherwise buses from Centre at 1 and 3 p.m. It is essential to give notice for coach.—A. Taylor, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wisbech on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (10) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. No arrangements made for tea, but ample facilities available. A good attendance is requested for this, our first war-time meeting.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—A by-meeting will be held at Charing on Saturday, May 25th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 at the Chestnut Tea Rooms, at 1s. 2d. per head. Please drop a card before Thursday, May 23rd, to Mr. Good, The Garden, Charing.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Chippenham Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at St. Paul's, Chippenham, on Saturday, May 25th, at 3 p.m. St. Andrew's also open. Intending visitors notify by the 23rd.—F. W. Merrett, Branch Hon. Sec., 38, Downing Street, Chippenham, Wilts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Next meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church in North Mimms Park on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at Churchyard Cottage. Post cards will help arrangements. The 2.38 p.m. bus from St. Albans stops at

park gates. Learners, turn up, you will be encouraged. All tastes catered for from Rounds to Surprise.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, June 1st. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Please notify for tea by Wednesday, May 29th.—P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

LADIES' RINGING GUILD (South Midland District) AND PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD (Daventry Branch).—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Daventry on Saturday, June 1st. Will those wishing to stay for tea please notify Mrs. Powell, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry, by May 28th? No sugar provided. — Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirby-le-Soken on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea at the Church Hall. Tea can only be provided for those who send in their names to the district secretary by Tuesday morning, May 28th.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Withercombe Raleigh on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 5, 1s. each. Meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Monday, May 27th?—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Stamford-le-Hope on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. It is essential that I shall have numbers for tea by first post Wednesday, May 29th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. Seager is now 14, St. Luke's Crescent, Leeds 11.

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