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FRIDAY, MAY 24th, 1940.

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MEETINGS—CANCELLED & OTHERWISE

Despite the sudden official cancellation of Bank Holiday, it was found possible to hold at least two important association meetings on Whit Monday, showing how virile is ringing, even in face of great difficulties. Both the Essex Association and the Peterborough Diocesan Guild went on with their prearranged programme and, although the attendance at Chelmsford was much below the usual number, that at Northampton was most encouraging and well up to the average even for peace time. It must have been an anxious decision for the officials to make—whether to go on with the arrangements or to cancel the meeting at such short notice, with little or no opportunity to inform the members. With a Government decision that the holiday was to be abandoned, with all special holiday travelling facilities cut out, it needed courage to decide to proceed with the plans for the meetings, but both these associations are to be congratulated on the result.

It was, perhaps, a good thing that the Central Council had, some weeks ago, decided not to hold the meeting which usually takes place at Whitsun. This gathering, of course, involves much greater preparation than an ordinary association meeting, and representatives have to travel much longer distances, with many commitments on the part of individuals as well as of the Council and the affiliated societies. Cancellation at the last moment, such as would probably have been necessary, would have involved considerable loss, as well as inconvenience to many people. The Whitsuntide development in the war proved once more how unwise it would be to plan anything so considerable as a meeting of the Council in times of great uncertainty like these. A meeting of the Council last week at Cardiff would probably have been, under the circumstances, a fiasco. It was not, of course, intelligent anticipation of coming events that prompted the cancellation of the meeting, but just common sense, that faces facts and realises that where so much preliminary organisation and work are necessary, a great expenditure of time and energy may suddenly come to naught. The affairs of the Central Council can wait, but that is no reason why more localised gatherings, which can easily be cancelled at short notice, should not go on all the while it is possible for them to be held with due regard to the circumstances of the moment.

One other gathering, that was intended as an interesting experiment, has been abandoned. It was hoped by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths to hold a luncheon and purely social fixture on June 1st, but the lack of support makes it necessary to give up the

(Continued on page 242.)

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idea of holding such a meeting this year. Obviously the 'lack of support' is due to the prevailing situation, for at one time there seemed a promise of the idea being well backed and the innovation becoming quite a popular event. No one, however, can feel free to indulge in festivities with the menace of evil things overshadowing the country. There could be no heart in such a gathering, and it is not surprising that there is an enforced abandonment. Under other circumstances the proposal is one which would appeal to a wide circle of ringers—members and friends of the Ancient Society. Years ago, the society used to hold their annual dinner in the summer and go out into the country to enjoy the day. The inauguration, in happier times, of a gathering such as was proposed for next week, but necessarily dropped for the time being, would thus be an interesting revival of a former practice, and would, we feel sure, prove a popular departure among members of the society which, until war conditions enforced it, had no 'day time' gathering of any description.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

SALFORD, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 14, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5640 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 3/4 cwt.

FRANK REYNOLDS 2	JOHN HASSELL 5
CHARLES EDWARDS 2	WILLIAM H. SHUKER 6
GEORGE A. BELL... .. 3	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH 7
REV. F. F. RIGBY 4	DAVID VINCENT Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH

SIX BELL PEALS.

BERGH APTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Plain Bob,
and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*ALBERT J. WALPOLE... .. 2	GODFREY G. WALPOLE 4
*ROBERT E. LESTER 2	LIONEL A. LESTER 5
HERBERT C. BOGGIS 3	REGINALD H. DRANE Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT C. BOGGIS.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a compliment for
the first birthday of Robert E. Lester's daughter.

DEANE, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

REV. F. S. H. MARLE 2	LESLIE A. TREMEER 4
CHARLES W. MUNDAY 2	*ERNEST J. GOWER 5
RONALD F. KINGHAM 3	DONALD W. NASH Tenor

Conducted by DONALD W. NASH.

* First peal in more than one method. Rung as a farewell to the
ringer of the 5th, who joined the Royal Engineers on the following
day.

J. A. TROLLOPE'S 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD'

LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY.

LLANELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ELLI,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 9, cwt.

MRS. G. E. PARMENTER ... Treble	T. H. REES 4
C. H. HAWKINS 2	G. E. PARMENTER 5
W. J. COLE 3	W. ROBBINGS Tenor

Conducted by W. J. COLE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Dean of St. David's, the Very Rev. Watcyn Morgan, who was interred at Llanelly on May 9th, 1940.

HANDBELL PEALS.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

Tenor size 13 in E.

JOCELYN B. GARDINER 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4
IVAN B. GARDINER 5-6	

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. S. Graham, a member of the local band, to Miss J. Fielding, and of Mr. J. Ashton to Miss N. Fielding, which took place at the church earlier in the afternoon.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT LANGLEYDALE, NEW ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Three callings.

Tenor size 11 in G.

SELWYN H. DEARDEN 1-2	WILLIAM H. DEACON 3-4
*JOHN BROWN 5-6	

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

* First peal in hand. A birthday compliment to the son of Norman Heaps.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 14, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	† EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
* WILFRED WILLIAMS 3-4	† ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First handbell peal of Treble Bob. † First handbell peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. The conductor's 250th peal.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

* JACK N. A. PUMPHREY 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER 5-6
ALBERT ROUGHT 3-4	* ERIC DURRANT 7-8

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

* First handbell peal of Major.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 16, 1940, in Two Hours,

AT 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's each called differently.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 1-2	* ERNEST MORRIS 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH 5-6	

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

* First handbell peal of Bob Minor.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—On May 12th for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): I. Smith 1, J. Kentish 2, A. Lawrence 3, S. Cull 4, D. Ellingham 5, R. Richardson 6, T. J. Lock 7, H. Nobbs 8, A. R. Lawrence 9, G. Smith 10.

LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

THE OLD STYLE AND THE NEW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the letters in 'The Ringing World,' especially that of Mr. A. Harold Warboys. I, like A. H. W., don't think much of myself as a ringer, although it seems I have had a few more years' experience than he has, and I think I know what good striking is. I was taught to handle a rope some 50 years ago in a rather 'hard school' as he says, when language was not always as polite as it might have been, and handling bells, as some were then hung, was a man's job. But surely those good old days (or bad) have long since passed away. The spirit prevailing in the average belfry to-day is, or at least in this part of the country is, more as becomes officers of the Church, as ringers are, or should be.

I have had the privilege of teaching quite a few of both sexes in my half a century of ringing. And, sir, I must say the average lady is an apt pupil. The one snag with lady ringers is that just as they get useful they seem to get caught in the snares of matrimony, and with that their ringing career generally ends.

As to ladies in the belfry. The belfry is surely part of the church and ringing should be taught and carried on in the same way as a choir; strong language is not necessary or required. We are born into the world to help one another along, and if a lady is physically strong and has the necessary intelligence, why should there be any obstacle put in her way of being a worker in that form of church service, especially in these days when bands all over the country are depleted of their men? And *don't* mothers who have been ringers want their boys to become the same? Has our friend had much experience of lady ringers? In my last peal we had a lady—her first peal and first attempt—and not one false blow did she strike!

WILLIAM WOOD.

Gulval, Penzance.

A SPIRITED DEFENCE OF THE FAIR SEX.

Dear Sir,—As an old ringer I feel it is time that some of us stood up in defence of ladies in the belfry. I, for one, thought this tomfoolery was a thing of the past. If I remember rightly, it was Mr. Warboys who had a dig at them some years ago.

I am one of those who had the privilege of ringing with one of the first ladies to take up the art, just over 30 years ago, and a jolly fine job she made of it in a very short time. Since then scores of others have come along until their numbers now reach a long way into three figures. We men still get all the ringing we want, but if it were not for some of the ladies turning up we should come poorly off, and among all the ladies I have been privileged to meet in various towers, not 5 per cent. have been so called bell bashers. They are the finest type of ringer in all respects one would wish to meet.

Mr. Warboys tells us he was brought up in a hard ringing school, where, if one made the least mistake, the bellowing one got was enough to frighten you out of your wits. I am afraid I was not lucky enough to get such teaching, and perhaps it is just as well I did not, or I might not now be a ringer. Mind you, at the end of his letter he tells us he is not much of a ringer, which is not very good recommendation for his high school training. Also his saying that if ladies had been there he would not have liked to have to face them again sounds as if this bellowing was not proper belfry language. If it was I fail to see what should stop him from facing them again.

I have not yet found one lady ringer who shed a tear when sharply spoken to after making a trip, but I have heard this phrase used, 'If you had shouted a little louder, I might have heard what you said.'

Mr. Warboys tells us that ladies are not taught in the same way as men are. I ask him why not? What does it matter who is at the end of the rope, man or woman? The bell has to be handled in the same way to be rung properly.

I have taught ringers of both sexes in my time and I teach them all alike. I did not know that there was one way for a man and another for a woman; at any rate, I have only one way of teaching and I have never been ashamed of any of my pupils visiting other towers when I have finished with them.

I should like to ask Mr. Warboys why ringing should be left alone by ladies. I thought the church was built for both sexes, and as the tower is part of the church I see no reason why they should not have the same right to it, providing they are the right type of woman. Again, if he will take the trouble to inspect the congregations in various churches when he attends services, he will find, as I always find, quite 80 per cent. are women. Here again have they not the same right to help to ring the bells for the purpose of calling the people to worship?

Now, Mr. Warboys, war or no war, if there are any ladies who would like to take up the art, now is the time, and when the war is over there will still be ample room for them, and with the addition of them may the Exercise flourish more in the future than in the past. I have two in my hand and the tower is large enough for six—twenty if I could get them. Here's to all lady ringers.

G. RADLEY.
Broxbourne.

HAYES, KENT.—For evening service at St. Mary the Virgin's Church on Sunday, March 31st, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Lyddiard 1, F. Keech 2, C. Cullen 3, Miss H. Oakshett 4, D. Brown 5, M. F. Oakshett (conductor) 6.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

As soon as the peal of Grandsire Cinques had been accomplished, Benjamin Annable came to the fore and took his place as the principal composer and conductor in the Society of College Youths. William Jackson dropped out of the peal band, and Matthew East was content to leave the leadership to his younger and more brilliant colleague.

Less than a month after the Cinques, on February 15th, 1725, at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, Annable called his first peal, one of Grandsire Caters, and his own composition. In the Cinques, the bell allotted to him had been the second, but now that he had his choice he rang the ninth, and in the rest of his peals he was not often found far from the heavy end.

Having rung Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Annable and the College Youths next turned their attention to Plain Bob, of which as yet no peal had been accomplished. They did not ring a peal of Grandsire Triples, for they had no composition which suited their purpose. There was, indeed, Garthon's peal, which had been rung a few years before, both in Norwich and in London, and which Annable knew and understood, but it differed widely from the Grandsire Triples they were accustomed to practise. Probably they would have accepted a peal on the three-lead course plan, with ordinary bobs and singles, but in 1725 such a thing had not yet been composed. Another reason was that the false peal in the J.D. and C.M. "Campanalogia" had been rung so many times that the method had got a bad name among the College Youths, and the prejudice against it was so strong that, even after Holt's peals had appeared and had been accepted by the society, no peal of it was rung until 1771, when Annable and his contemporaries were long since dead or had given up active ringing.

Plain Bob is, of course, almost the oldest method in change ringing, and on five and six bells it was, from the first, one of the most widely practised. But though it had been extended to eight bells as early as Stedman's time, the Major had been little rung before 1725, and the Royal probably not at all.

The reason was, if we may believe William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis,' that until Annable showed it was possible to get long touches and peals without parting the tenors, the music appeared to ringers to be a mere jumble and far inferior to that of odd-bell methods.

The matter was, however, not quite so clean cut as Jones thought. Robert Baldwin's peal of Treble Bob Major with the tenors together had been rung before Annable entered a belfry, and it is not at all likely that the Exercise had to wait until 1725 before both the desirability and the possibility of not parting 7-8 in a peal of Major were fully realised. But Annable did compose a peal of Bob Major which set the standard for many years, and was the basis on which all the composition in the method was founded.

There was nothing startlingly original about the peal. It was a logical development of the plan on which all composition had been based, the system of hunts, which in the first place produced the Sixes and made change ringing possible. Still, Annable is fully entitled to the credit of having composed one of the really essential and standard compositions of change ringing.

This peal the College Youths rang on the largest eight bells at St. Bride's, on Monday, April 26th, 1725. They followed it up seven months later with 5,040 changes of Plain Bob Royal, and in the following February with 5,280 changes of Plain Bob Maximus. Thus in thirteen months the band had scored the first peals of Royal, Cinques and Maximus ever rung in any method, and the second peals of Caters and Major. Peal ringing, which had hitherto been a remote possibility, was henceforth an ordinary incident in a ringer's career.

Annable rang the tenor and called the three peals of Plain Bob. The band for the Major consisted of John Ward, Francis Geary, Edmund Chadwell, William Laughton, William Woodrove, Peter Merrygarts and William Thompson. For the Royal, the band was the same, standing in the same order, except that Ward was still at the treble, and the second and third were rung by Robert Catlin and John Hardham. For the Maximus, John Dearmore and Samuel Jeacock were added to the band, and it rather looks as if they were brought into the Society specially for the peal.

In after years there grew up a rather silly legend about these men. 'It was very currently reported,' says Osborn, 'that everyone who rang (in the Maximus) left the church in his own carriage—how far the real truth of this statement extends, I cannot pretend to determine, but I have often heard it remarked that when St. Bride's bells were first put up, and for some years afterwards, Fleet Street was thronged with carriages and gentry who came to hear them ring. Report says that St. Bride's bells were formerly considered one of the greatest novelties of the day.'

However this legend may have arisen, there is not the slightest truth in it, nor any probability. For one thing we may be quite sure that whatever their stations in life may have been, the company did not disperse at once, but, like all ringers then and since, went to the Barley Mow and spent an hour or so among their friends, congratulating themselves and being congratulated on what they had done.

Also we happen to know something about some of these men and what their social status really was. Annable was a baker, Laughton was a watchmaker, Catlin was a carpenter, and Hardham at the time was a lapidary. Geary was a youth seventeen years of age, who, although he came of a good family, certainly did not own a carriage. Ward and Dearmore were afterwards among the Rambling Ringers. They were not 'carriage folk.'

These tales of the wealth and importance of previous ringers seem to have been common at all times during the history of the Exercise. As early as 1733, Laughton makes fun of the sexton at Newington, who told 'sutch damn't unaccountable lyes' about the rich ringers when he was a young man, and how they used to pay their less fortunate colleagues five shillings each when they made up a band for ringing.

But though these men were not aristocrats, they included more than one person, besides Annable, of striking personality. Hardham lived to be the most famous tobacconist that London has ever known. In 'The Ringing World' of December 27th, 1935, I gave a full account of him. Francis Geary entered the navy and rose through successive ranks until, in 1780, he was appointed to command the main British fleet in time of war, and

that when England had admirals of the type of Hawke, Rodney and St. Vincent.

Robert Catlin came of a working-class family, who had lived for some years at Clerkenwell. Thomas Catlin, the carrier, who probably was his grandfather, or great-grandfather, is mentioned in State papers of 1663. Robert was the fifth son and eighth child of Joseph Catlin, who had thirteen children, most of whom died in infancy. He was baptised on November 29th, 1729, and so was only sixteen years old when he took part in the Cinques. He was employed as a carpenter and bell hanger by Samuel Knight, the bell founder, and he made the frames still at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, and St. Saviour's, Southwark. The latter, according to the unimpeachable testimony of Mr. A. A. Hughes, is a most excellent piece of work. When Knight died in 1741 he left his business to Catlin, who carried on for some years as a bell founder. A large number of his bells still hang in towers in various parts of the country.

William Laughton was a very different and a much lesser man than these. We can best describe him as being a very ordinary person, the last sort that one would have expected to be written about two centuries after his death. But he has earned a place in the history of change ringing because he wrote what he supposed was a poem recounting the doings of a number of men, who called themselves the Rambling Ringers, and, through this 'poem' we learn something about the ringers of Annable's day. The amount of real knowledge we get is not much, but we do learn a lot incidentally about Laughton's own character. He quite imagined he was a very fine fellow, far superior to the 'snarling criticks' who

(Continued in next column.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

WAR-TIME MEETING AT CANTERBURY.

In spite of the present situation, there was an attendance of some 34 ringers and friends at a meeting of the Canterbury District, held at St. Stephen's Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th.

Ringling began at St. Stephen's at 3 p.m., and some good practice was put in before the service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. R. Barnes).

Tea was held in the Parish Room and was served by ladies of the St. Stephen's Women's Fellowship.

At the short business meeting afterwards, with the Rector in the chair, Wingham was chosen as the place for the next meeting, and the Rector and the Vicar of St. Dunstan's (the Rev. E. A. Miller) were thanked for the use of their bells.

Reference was made to the passing of Mr. Ernest Slingsby, for many years a most valuable member of the Sturry band, and a very popular attendant at district meetings. The members stood in silence for a few moments to his memory.

A return was then made to the two towers for further ringing, and Grandsire, Stedman, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Double Norwich were rung. Handbells were also in evidence during the evening, a touch of Grandsire Triples being rung, as well as tunes by Messrs. Whitehead and Saunders.

In addition to eleven towers in the district being represented, members came from Tunstall, Bethersden and Headcorn. Mr. P. Hodgkin, of the latter tower, was present 60 years ago at the meeting in the Chapter House of the Cathedral, when the Kent County Association was formed. He is one of few remaining members who were present that day.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from previous column.)

disapproved of his goings on, but, as I have said, he was just ordinary. He was destitute of any sense of humour, vain, and, in his cups, inclined to be quarrelsome. He looked on ringing merely as a means of 'diverting' himself, and he had no notion of its higher intellectual appeal.

We should be thankful for the light thrown on the past even by such a thing as Laughton's poem, but what a pity it was not written by Annable or John Holt or John Reeves.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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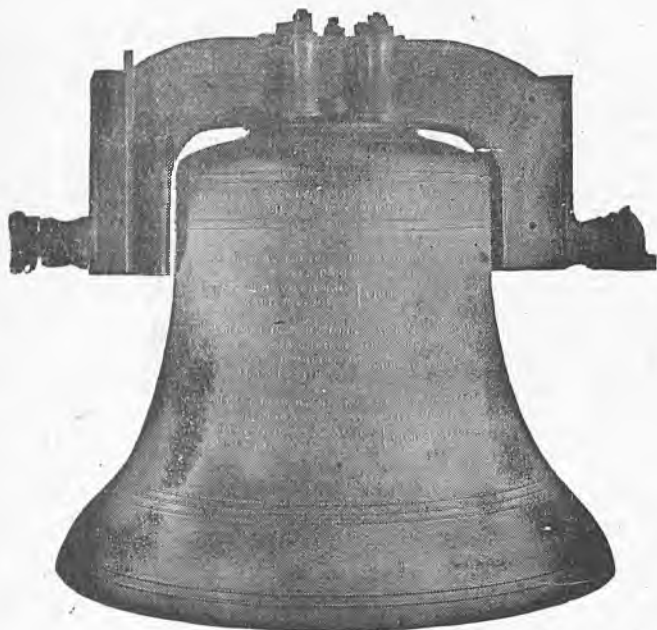
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reached his seventy-fifth birthday last Wednesday.

The handbell peal of Bob Minor at Aughton, Lancashire, on May 12th, was specially arranged for J. Brown, to 'christen' him in handbell ringing. Owing to the international situation, the fourth member of the Walton band was unable to be present to act as witness. The band hope to ring their first of Major 'in hand' before military service temporarily breaks up the company.

The anniversaries of several famous long peals fall in this week. On May 19th, 1777, the College Youths rang 11,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch. On May 21st, 1888, 13,054 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Cheltenham, and on the same date in 1923 the College Youths rang 12,675 Stedman Cinques at Southwark.

On May 22nd, 1899, James W. Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor at Kidlington and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Exactly a century earlier, on May 22nd, 1799, the Junior Cumberlands had rung 'the whole peal of tripples on Steadman's principle,' 'a performance not to be surpassed by any that profess the Magnetic Art.' 'This intricate but truly admirable composition was at length acquired by the celebrated Mr. John Noonan, who conducted the above Unparalleled masterpiece of Campanian Fame.' Noonan sat in the tower and called from manuscript.

The peal was one of the steps in the long process by which a true peal of Stedman Triples was evolved, and which was consummated on May 18th, 1846, when Henry Johnson called 'Thurstans' Four-Part for the first time. 'D--- it, Harry, what peal have you been ringing?' asked the excited John Lates, when the band came out of the tower. 'The bells came round with a single!'

As will be seen from our notice columns, three meetings have been cancelled. One is the Chester Diocesan Guild's meeting at Aldford. The others are the Norwich Diocesan Association's meeting at Diss and the Devonshire Guild's meeting at Withycombe Raleigh.

The death of Mr. George Lucas, of Walthamstow, will recall to the ringers who visited Australia in 1934 the kindness of his son in Sydney. He was indefatigable in his efforts to help the tourists make the most of their short stay, and placed his car at their disposal to convey them to many places of interest.

A LEICESTER WEDDING.

INTERESTING RINGING CONNECTIONS.

The wedding took place at St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, on Saturday, May 11th, of Mr. Ronald H. W. Hardy, R.A.F., V.R., and Miss Margaret Jean Hatherley, who are both Old Wyggestonians. Mr. Ronald Henry Willson Hardy is the only son of the late T. Henry Hardy, chorister and ringer of St. Margaret's, and Mrs. Lilian A. Hardy (nee Willson), who is also a ringer and took part in the first peal ever rung by a band of ladies—Grandsire Triples at Cubitt Town on July 20th, 1912. The bridegroom's grandfather is Mr. Wm. Willson, of Leicester. The bridesmaids were Miss Daphne Whittle, Miss Lily Cray (friends of the bride) and Miss Delia Brooks (niece of the bridegroom).

The service was fully choral, and the bridal party were escorted through the large congregation by the verger, Mr. Ernest Morris, who many years ago acted as best man at the wedding of the bridegroom's parents. Among the congregation were Mr. Albert H. Ward, of Derby, Mr. W. H. Clarke, representing St. John's, Leicester, where the bridegroom formerly used to ring, and the Misses Margaret L. Morris and Grace Dunkley, representing St. Margaret's ringers.

It was unfortunate that owing to war conditions the bells could not be rung, all arrangements for so doing having to be cancelled at the last moment.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED AT ELEVENTH HOUR.

The general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, advertised to be held at Huddersfield on Saturday last, was cancelled at the eleventh hour, on account of the Chief Constable refusing to allow the bells to be rung. As the general secretary did not receive word to this effect until May 16th, it was impossible to bring it to the notice of all the members.

Permission had, of course, already been given, and all arrangements completed. This veto, therefore, put the local authorities into a difficult position, and they decided to cancel all arrangements and to send word accordingly to all who had sent in their names for tea.

It can readily be understood that, in the light of the present crisis, ringing at a tower in the centre of a busy town is hardly desirable, but it was a pity that the business meeting should not have taken place as arranged.

It has been learnt that several members, unaware that the meeting had been cancelled, met at Huddersfield and were able to ring at Lindley, one of the eight-bell towers advertised, which again supports the official view that the action taken to cancel the business meeting, whilst well meant, was perhaps unduly drastic.

It is hoped, circumstances permitting, to try and arrange the meeting at a later date.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**REVISED RULES ADOPTED.****Annual Meeting on Cancelled Holiday.**

Although the Whitsun bank holiday was officially cancelled, the annual meeting of the Essex Association arranged for that day was held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, when, under the circumstances, an attendance of 45, although naturally much smaller than usual, was not unsatisfactory. Service, held in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. E. R. Morrow, and the lesson was read by the Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips. The Rev. H. L. Pike, Rector of Widford, gave the address, his text being 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth.' He said: 'We are living in the midst of chaos and confusion, but it is with confidence and vision that we must look to the future. We can have confidence. We must have the vision of what might be; of what, indeed, can be. A new earth is dependent upon a new conception of what Heaven means, and for that we must have vision. Now, more than ever before, do we need men of vision—men whose eyes are on the future, so that we may have a world of peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. To you ringers I would say, "May it be your opportunity and privilege very soon to ring in a new era of peace."'

The business meeting followed in the Chapter House, the Rev. H. L. Pike taking the chair.

The 61st annual report, presented by the Master, revealed a strong financial position. The balance on the general fund amounts to £241 0s. 4d., of which £149 is invested in Conversion Loan and £60 19s. 11d. in the Post Office Savings Bank. Actually there was a loss on the year of £21 17s. 7d., but £8 13s. 4d. of this represented interest carried to the Bell Restoration Fund, while £22 5s. 4d. of the expenditure was accounted for by the cost of lunch at the last annual meeting. The total expenditure was £75 3s. 7d. The receipts included £44 2s. 8d. balances on the district accounts. The amounts received by the districts in subscriptions were: Northern £12 10s., North-Eastern £7 3s. 6d., North-Western £3 12s. 6d., South-Eastern £11 12s. 6d., South-Western £17 15s. The Bell Restoration Fund has been increased to £79 17s. 9d., by the interest referred to and offertories amounting to £4 5s. 5d.

THE MASTER'S REPORT.

In his report, the Master (Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips) began by saying: 'I very much regret that the work of the association has been curtailed by the fact that war has once more broken out, but hope that every member will do his utmost to keep the bells ringing for divine service in as many towers as possible. The only hope of a real lasting peace is the wholesale return of all peoples to the Christian spirit, and the bells are the best way of calling them to this.'

The membership of the association, the Master pointed out, showed a decrease of 24. The towers at Ingatestone, Langdon Hills and Stanford-le-Hope had been added to those in union, but Ingrave, Leigh-on-Sea and Gestingthorpe had ceased to be in union, so the number remained the same.

The average attendance at district meetings had shown a great falling off and was only 29. The peals rung during the year were as follows: Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Cambridge Royal 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Plain Bob Royal 1, Spliced Surprise Major 4 methods 2, Bristol Surprise Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 8, Double Norwich Major 6, Kent Treble Bob Major 8, Bob Major 11, Bob Triples 1, Stedman Cinques 1, Erith Little Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Stedman Caters 1, London Surprise Major 4, Superlative Major 6, Yorkshire Surprise Major 2, Cam Treble Bob Major 1, St. Clement's College Bob 1, Stedman Triples 1, Minor 35. On handbells, Bob Major 4.

The peals of Minor consisted of 1 in 34 methods, 1 in 32 methods, 7 in 9 methods, 4 in 5 methods, 6 in 4 methods, 3 in 3 methods, 1 in 2 methods and 10 in 1 method.

Erith Little Bob Royal was rung for the first time by the association and also the following Minor methods: Netherseal, York, Annable's London, and Bourne as one method peals. The peals of Spliced Surprise Major were rung by an entirely resident band for the first time.

Fifteen members rang their first peal and 153 their first in the method. Among the conductors were F. B. Lufkin (20), J. H. Crampion (15), R. Bird (12), L. W. Wiffen (11).

In mentioning the names of the members lost by death the Master said that the late Mr. Alfred Pye was a ringing member for over 50 years, and that the late Mr. J. H. Cheesman and Mr. Challis Winney were members of the band who rang Chelmsford Cathedral bells at the dedication of the peal of twelve on September 27th, 1913. The death of Mr. C. H. Howard was a great loss to the association. He was Master for many years and did much for the benefit of the association. The Master concluded by thanking the district masters and secretaries for their careful and strenuous work, and the general secretary for his conscientious work for the association. He regretted he was not able to devote as much time as he could wish to the association and he was very grateful to all the officers who had done the work.

The Master (Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips), the general secretary and treasurer (Mr. L. J. Clark) and all other officers were re-elected. Several new honorary and ringing members were elected.

(Continued in next column.)

A VILLAGE MEETING.**GUILDFORD GUILD AND LADIES' JOINT AFFAIR.**

The beautiful Surrey village of West Clandon was seen at its best on Saturday by the forty or more ringers who visited it for a joint meeting of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild and the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. The winding village street, bordered by picturesque cottages standing in well-kept gardens, is on the foot of the North Downs, while the church itself has a rising background of trees which were in all their spring glory, and presented a scene of peace and beauty which made it very difficult to think of the fury let loose by war, in which this country and, indeed, some of the manhood of this village, are fighting.

West Clandon Church and the bells have a long history, and many of the visitors learned for the first time what, perhaps, not all the parishioners know, that for more than 350 years every Sunday two bells are chimed at 9 a.m., a relic of the practice of pre-Reformation days, when the villagers were called to Mass at that hour.

Originally there were three bells in the steeple and a saunce bell, but in 1741 Thomas Lester, of London, installed a ring of six bells, three of which were recast at Whitechapel in 1875. In 1913 the tower and bells were destroyed by fire and were replaced in the following year. Since then two trobles have been added, the money for which was raised by the local ringers. The bells hang in a frame carried on the top of the tower and are housed in a wooden timbered structure. The result is they are very noisy in the surrounding neighbourhood and also in the tower. An experiment is now being tried with 'silencers.' The sound has been modulated, but the visitors last Saturday did not care for the general effect, which makes the bells sound rather mournful.

There was some mixed ringing, typical of meetings, during the afternoon and evening; some of it was excellent, and some wasn't.

The customary service very nearly wasn't held. The Rector (the Rev. M. O. Boyd) is, among other things, a member of the London A.F.S., and he had only just returned from a three days' spell of duty, having, as he frankly admitted, forgotten the service. However, roused by the Guild secretary from a much needed rest, he kindly hurried to the church, conducted the Guild's service, pitched the note for the hymns, and gave an impromptu address, which fitted well with the occasion.

There were more ringers present (as usual) than had notified their intention of attending, and The Bull had a difficulty in seating all who presented themselves for tea. The result was that some of the men had theirs in the bar, but they only had tea to drink like the rest.

The Guildford Guild side of the party did not occupy long over their business meeting. The minutes were taken as read, there were no new members to elect, discussion on any subject was debarred, and the vote of thanks to the Rector and the local band was put in brief, but none the less sincere, terms. And then the men went out into the glorious evening and back to the church.

The ladies spent longer over their affairs; at least, it seemed some time before they got back to the tower. They decided to hold the next meeting of the district at Hershaw on June 29th, when they will join forces with the Chertsey District of the Guildford Guild.

The towers represented at the meeting included Aldershot, Hershaw, Seale, Epsom (Christ Church), Guildford (Cathedral and S. Nicolas'), Witley, Haslemere, Godalming, Worpleston and West Clandon, with welcome visitors from Ealing (Middlesex) and West Grinstead (Sussex).

ESSEX OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

(Continued from previous column.)

The meeting considered a redrafted set of rules. The Master explained the effect of the proposed revision. He said they would cause little alteration to the general working of the association, but they were more concise and definite than the existing rules.

Messrs J. Chalk, R. C. Heazel and L. J. Clark spoke in support of the revision, and after questions put by several members had been satisfactorily answered, it was proposed by Mr. R. C. Heazel, seconded by Mr. L. J. Clark and resolved unanimously, 'That the revised rules as circulated to all members be adopted by the association.'

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. G. L. Joyce for preparing the draft of the new rules and to the committee for their work in considering and revising them.

The question of subscriptions payable by members serving in H.M. Forces was considered, and it was decided that no such member's name should be struck off by reason of non-payment, but it was thought that other members at towers to which serving members were attached might wish to continue the payment of their absent colleagues' subscriptions.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Provost for allowing the use of the Cathedral bells and for conducting the service, to the Rev. H. L. Pike for his sermon and for presiding at the meeting, to Mr. F. R. Frye for playing the organ and to the officers of the association for the work during the year.

Lunch followed at the Golden Fleece Hotel, a company of 43 sitting down.

The bells at the Cathedral and various churches in the district were kept going during the day to a variety of methods, although most members had to leave for home earlier than usual owing to the difficulty of travelling at the present time.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.****Successful Gathering Under Difficulties.**

The cancelling of the Whit Monday Bank Holiday caused some anxiety to the officials responsible for the arrangements for this meeting. It was decided on Saturday afternoon, when the general secretary was able to get into touch with other officers (by telephone in some cases), that if the meeting was abandoned there would be some confusion, as there was no apparent way in which the members could be notified. Therefore, it was decided, with the catering already ordered and the food probably delivered, that arrangements already made be carried out.

A good meeting was the result. Service was held in St. Peter's Church and the address was given by the Rev. E. V. Fenn, hon. secretary of the Towcester Branch. Tea was served at the Angel Hotel, 126 sitting down, the Master (the Rev. E. S. Powell) presiding. The whole of the officers were re-elected with thanks for past services.

The balance sheet and report were adopted. The report was, under the shadow of war, a very satisfactory one. There are now 70 hon. members, 735 ringing members and 246 non-resident life members, a total of 1,051—an increase of 15 from the previous year. Twenty-five peals only were rung and 20 members rang their first peal. The finances also were sound, with a balance on the year of over £11.

Grants from Belfry Repairs Fund of £7 10s. each to Duston and Newnham were made.

A resolution was passed 'That members serving in His Majesty's Forces be excused payment of subscriptions during the period of their service.'

The five lads from Brafield, who recently rang their first peal, at the first attempt and at the average age of less than 14½ years, were presented with certificates and congratulated by the Master, who also included appreciation of the work put in by Mr. P. Jones, their instructor, who conducted the peal. These boys began ringing a year ago.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Master to the Rev. Chaplin for the service at St. Peter's Church, to the Rev. E. V. Fenn for his address, to the organist and the incumbents of the various churches for the use of their bells, also to the caterer who had made the very best he could out of a difficult situation.

During the day ringing took place on all the rings of bells in Northampton, while Kingsthorpe bells were also available.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**RINGING IN THE OVERTON DISTRICT.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—The sorry plight of the above district does not tend to encourage the district officers in their work, and the root of the trouble seems to be the rank and file of the members, who show nothing but apathy.

When I commenced work for the Winchester Guild in 1902 this district was then part of the Yorktown Branch, which was larger and more scattered. It ran from Thames Ditton to Yateley and travel was not at all easy. There was much to be done if change ringing was to progress, but we set to work in many ways so that difficulties could be overcome. We formed a handbell party and soon rang the first handbell peal in Surrey, then we formed a cycle section and took the handbells with us wherever we went. This enabled us to score the first quarter-peal on the River Thames, to ring touches at local functions, concerts, etc.

By degrees we cultivated interchange of local visits, which led to combined practices, augmented practices and the adoption of the spare unit rota which assisted the bands not so well off, not only in their practices, but also on Sundays. Special quarter-peals were made up for outstanding events with the help of the members, whose turn it was to be spare in their own tower, and this feature became very popular.

Our programme was mapped out every three months and covered all sorts of events, both in and out of the district, and as Ringing Master I was kept very busy, but as the members were keen, it was a pleasure to work hard for my district and so further the work of the Guild.

Congratulations to those who rang a handbell peal of Grandfire Doubles recently at Addlestone, and this takes my mind back 31 years when I called a handbell peal of Grandfire Triples at Chertsey, this being Mr. Hessey's first 'in hand.'

When I left the Hersham and Oatlands district in 1926 both bands were doing well, but shortly after coming to reside in Addlestone I met with an accident which compelled me to cease ringing tower bells, and I deeply deplore the fact that change ringing has slowly but surely declined in this district. Nothing can be done to start a revival at present owing to the war, but it will be a great pity if this general apathy is allowed always to remain in a district where, in the past, some of the finest Sunday service ringing was always maintained.

There is a sad dearth of those prepared to give of service to the Church, and this is no doubt caused by the desire to be up and doing for the many counter-attractions which now exist, but three hours per week is surely not much to ask, seeing the majority now enjoy more leisure hours.

W. SHEPHERD.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. G. B. LUCAS.**

On Saturday last a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association was held at St. George-in-the-East, and about 40 members and friends attended, showing the interest and enthusiasm which justify the continuance of such gatherings in spite of the trying conditions of the present day.

The heavy peal of eight was rung to various methods and the bells were kept going as long as available. One lady rang the tenor to a touch, which shows the excellent condition of the bells.

In a short address at the service the Rector (the Rev. R. Bruce Eadie) welcomed the association, and said he was very pleased to see the general secretary of the association present, for it was at St. George's Mr. C. T. Coles learnt to ring.

When the bells were ringing, he said, it satisfied him to know that the sound was bound to be doing some people good, inasmuch as their minds would be taken away from the unsettling events of the present time, apart from the message sent out, which draws attention to the higher things in life. He wished ringers and ringing continued success and stressed the importance that ringers, after calling people to the House of God, should complete their duty and take part in the service.

An enjoyable tea followed. Those present were reminded that the difficulties of catering were made acute by the fact that less than one half of the company had sent in their names as requested, thereby putting unnecessary additional burden on the people who gave voluntary service to help others.

At the business meeting the death of Mr. G. B. Lucas was regretfully referred to. Mr. Coles said that the deceased had been an example of what a ringer should be—always ready to help others. The speaker owed a great deal to Mr. Lucas, who, when he was acting as instructor at St. George's in the years 1902-05, laid the foundation of one of its earliest members. Details of Mr. Lucas' lifetime work for ringing had appeared in the previous issue of 'The Ringing World.'



THE LATE MR. G. B. LUCAS.

The Rector of St. George-in-the-East was unanimously elected an honorary member of the association, and Mr. S. A. Prior, of the local band, was elected a ringing member.

Mr. G. W. Fletcher gave a reminder regarding ringing in war time, stressing the importance of keeping within the law and working in the interests of public safety.

Mr. J. A. Trollope suggested that a letter of congratulation should be sent to a vice-president of the association, the former Bishop of Willesden, upon his appointment as Bishop of Leicester.

The business meeting closed with due thanks being extended to the Rev. R. Bruce Eadie for conducting the service and the use of the bells and the other helpers who combined their energies to ensure a successful meeting. Handbells were made good use of and the belfry was revisited for more tower bell ringing.

St. George's was one of the churches erected by funds voted by Parliament in the ninth year of Queen Anne. It was designed by Hawkesmoor and Gibbs and consecrated on June 29th, 1729. The bells were cast by Thomas Lester in 1751, partly recast by Thomas Mears in 1820 and thoroughly restored two years ago by Mears & Stainbank.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Bob Major on August 4th, 1752, by the Eastern Scholars, conducted by George Meakins. George Partrick called 5,152 changes of the same method for the Cumberlands in the following October, and in December the Eastern Scholars rang 5,040 Double Bob. In 1753 the London Youths rang peals of Bob Major and Bob Triples, the Cumberlands rang 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major and the College Youths 6,080 of the same method. The latter was the last peal that Benjamin Annable conducted and the last he rang with the society. It was the longest length on the bells.

On June 9th, 1752, William Underwood called a peal of Grandfire Triples for the Eastern Scholars, which probably was the first time that Holt's Ten-Part was rung, although George Partrick is usually given the credit of being the first man to conduct that composition, and although a board still in the belfry claims that the younger George Gross called the first peal of Grandfire Triples on the bells with a band of Cumberlands consisting of four fathers and four sons.

LADIES MEET AT ST. GEORGE'S, SOUTHWARK.**WAR-TIME CONDITIONS DISCUSSED.**

A successful reunion of the London District of the Ladies' Guild took place on Saturday, May 4th, when the first meeting since war broke out was held at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark. Members and friends attended in very good numbers.

At the business meeting in the church vestry, at which 17 members were present, Mrs. Fletcher proposed three new members: Mrs. Fergusson, Miss Dellar and Miss West, all of St. Albans. Mrs. T. Lock, who made a welcome reappearance after her long absence from the Guild, seconded.

It was considered advisable to have a London tower for the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting of the district, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields was decided upon. In the event of St. Giles' not being available, Mrs. Fletcher offered the use of Edmonton tower, while Mrs. Davis thought that St. John's, Waterloo Road, might be obtained. Mr. W. Hewitt has very kindly invited the ladies to visit St. Margaret's, Westminster, in the evening after this meeting, and as the date will have to be one convenient to him, it has been left open for the time being. Ample notification will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Under the heading of 'Any other business,' some points of view were put forward concerning the future activities of the district. It was finally agreed that the monthly practices at the Borough should be resumed, but the day changed to Thursday instead of Wednesday. The next practice meeting, therefore, will be on Thursday, June 6th, at 7.30 p.m., when members and friends will be very welcome.

In view of this, Mrs. Fletcher was anxious that Sunday service ringing should also be carried on at this tower, and members are invited to volunteer for the duty.

Mrs. Fletcher announced that the annual general meeting of the Guild, which should have been held at Winchester this year, would not take place. No new reports were being drawn up owing to the shortage and expense of paper.

As to the number of Saturday meetings to be held during the war, it is hoped that members will think over this question in order to express their views at the forthcoming annual district meeting. Wednesday afternoon meetings have been temporarily abandoned.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar and Mr. Bagworth concluded the business meeting.

Ringing was varied to suit all comers, and included courses of Superlative and Cambridge rung entirely by the ladies.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.**MEETING AT ST. CHAD'S, BIRMINGHAM.**

St. Martin's Guild held a very successful meeting at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, Birmingham, on Saturday last, May 18th.

Through the kindness of the Father Administrator (Very Rev. Canon J. Roskell), the bells, recently recast by Messrs. Taylor, were available during the afternoon and evening, their beautiful tones being heard in a variety of methods ranging from Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles to Cambridge Surprise and Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The towers represented were St. Martin's, Aston, Handsworth, Smethwick, St. Philip's Anglican Cathedral, Sutton Coldfield, Shirley and Erdington Parish Church, as well as St. Chad's local band. After the meeting the ringers adjourned to 'another place,' where a convivial gathering concluded the proceedings.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, Ringing Master of the Guild, supervised the day's ringing.

The Cathedral bells are rung each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and all ringers visiting Birmingham are welcomed.

BURTON RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

A short time ago Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Logie, of Burton-on-Trent, celebrated their golden wedding and were the recipients of many congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Logie were married at Holy Trinity Church on April 28th, 1890. On that day the bells at the Old Church and at Winhill rang in honour of the event. A peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, which was conducted by W. Orme, and he and Mr. Jaggard, now of Birmingham, are the only survivors of the band. Mr. Jaggard and Mr. John Austin, also formerly of Burton, were among the guests at the golden wedding celebration.

Mr. Logie was formerly a ringer at the Parish Church and continued there for nearly 30 years. He was during that time a constant ringer at Winhill and took part in many peals in the Midlands, being a member of the Midland Counties Association and the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford Association.

NEW VICAR WELCOMED.

A quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) was rung at St. Peter's Church, Henfield, Sussex, for the evening service on May 5th by the local band as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Henry De Candole. The ringers were P. S. Bedford (first quarter-peal) 1, E. Rapley (first quarter-peal as conductor) 2, V. Freeman 3, E. Lish (longest length of Bob Major) 4, F. Cruttenden 5, A. E. Baker 6, C. Longhurst 7, G. Payne 8. A touch of 504 Stedman Triples was rung for the induction service on May 1st.

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.**

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

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—The meeting arranged to take place at Aldford on Saturday, May 25th, is cancelled.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Owing to the international situation the meeting arranged for tomorrow at Diss has been cancelled.—Albert G. Harrison, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Owing to lack of support, the suggested luncheon on June 1st will not take place. Ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry on Saturday, May 25th, 3.30. Business meeting, headquarters, June 4th, 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. 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. 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.—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.

NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting arranged to be held at Retford on Saturday, May 25th, has been cancelled owing to the war situation.—R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

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.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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.

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—A special meeting will be held at Toddington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Learners specially invited.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

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. 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.—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.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

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.

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. St. Giles' bells (8) will be available from 2 p.m. and Cathedral (12) after the meeting.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

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. 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.

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.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

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.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Will all those who require tea please send cards to H. Bradley, Station Gatehouse, Norton, Doncaster. — E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

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.

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.—P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Stanford-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.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Cottesmore on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Please notify for tea to S. H. Towell, 27, West Road, Oakham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Waltham St. Lawrence (6 bells), Saturday, June 1st, 3 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual festival will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Please notify me for tea by May 29th. Visitors will be welcomed.—Walter Sear, 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Lincoln District.—The next meeting of the above will be at Caythorpe on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service 4.15 p.m. Bring your own tea and picnic in the fields.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Pytchley (5 bells) on Saturday, June 1st. Usual arrangements. Please notify me if you require tea.—H. Baxter, 21 Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—A meeting will be held at Halsall on Saturday, June 1st. Bells available from 2.30. Tea will be free and, owing to catering difficulties, I ask all intending to be present to notify Mr. A. Maudsley, Post Office, Halsall, near Ormskirk.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice at St. Clement Danes, Strand, W.C., on Saturday, June 1st, at 3.15 p.m., and at St. Magnus', London Bridge, at 6.15 p.m. Service ringing at St. Clement's on Sunday, June 2nd at 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, Acting Gen. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Higham-on-the-Hill. Usual times on Saturday, June 1st. The Rev. P. H. Unwin, Higham Rectory, near Nuneaton, will arrange tea on receipt of your postcard, but please note, no sugar can be provided. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Cheddleton on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mrs. Lawton, The Runde, Ostlers Lane, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, not later than Wednesday. Tea 1s. 3d. each. Stoke meeting June 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Ashwell on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 5 at Bushel and Strike, only for those who notify Miss Brown, Bushel and Strike, Ashwell, by Wednesday, May 29th. Remember we are on rations, so don't forget the postcard.—R. Thos. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock, Herts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Eaton Socon on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, tea at 5. All ringers welcome. I shall be obliged if all who want tea will let me know by Wednesday, May 29th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Derby District) AND THE PEAK SOCIETY.—A combined meeting will be held at Darley Dale, near Matlock, on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at a nominal cost, but to ensure adequate arrangements, names should be sent to Mr. H. E. Taylor, The Hillside, Darley Dale, not later than Tuesday, May 28th.—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec., Peak District.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—The meeting arranged for June 1st at Withycombe Raleigh is cancelled.—R. Brook, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Handsworth on Saturday, June 1st. For tea, please notify Mr. F. Cardwell, 19, Finchwell Road, Sheffield 9. All welcome.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

LADIES' GUILD.—London District.—Practice at the Borough on Thursday, June 6th, at 7.30, and in future at the same time on the first Thursday in every month until further notice.—I. R. Housden.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th, in conjunction with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The eight bells will be available from 3 o'clock. A service will be held, and tea for those who notify Mr. C. Brasier, 3, Monastery Villas, Rotherfield, by Wednesday previous.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccleston Church on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—F. Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Housden is now 25, Cranbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11. Telephone, Wan. 5580.

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WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BI-QUARTERLY MEETING AT HALESOWEN.

Glorious weather favoured the bi-quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, the first of its kind, which was held at Halesowen on Saturday, May 4th.

By kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. W. H. Davies, the grand ring of bells was available from 3 p.m. to dusk, and a hearty welcome was extended to the members by the local Ringing Master (Mr. W. H. Webb) and the secretary (Mr. J. H. Cox) on behalf of the Halesowen band.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent, separately and spiced, and Cambridge, London, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major, which, together with rounds, etc., provided good practice for all, and kept the popular Branch Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd, busy the whole time seeing that all tastes were gratified.

About 65 members put in an appearance during the afternoon and evening, nearly 40 of whom were able to avail themselves of an excellent tea at the Central Cafe nearby.

The towers represented were Bellbroughton, Birmingham (St. Martin's, St. Philip's and St. Chad's), Harborne, King's Norton and Selly Oak, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, Netherton, Stourbridge and Wollaston.

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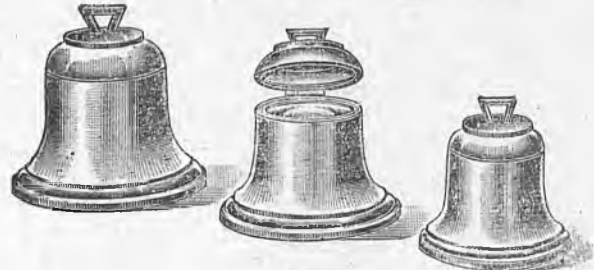
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