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EFFECT OF BAN ON CHURCH BELLS

Last week we warned our readers that important official action in connection with the ringing of church bells was under consideration by the Army authorities and the Ministry of Home Security. On the day that this intimation appeared, an Order in Council was made prohibiting entirely the ringing of church bells, except by the military or police, as a notification of the landing of enemy troops by air. The Order has been made and, until the ban is lifted, it has got to be observed, but it will have incalculable effects upon the Exercise and upon the art. For the first time for more than a thousand years no church bell will sound on Sundays in all the land. That in itself is a thing to distress the soul of all who think upon it; who remember all that the church bells have meant to the people of this country through so many centuries. In town and in village the bells have been from time immemorial accepted as part of the life of the people, marking their joys and their sorrows, collectively and individually, but, more than all, in their appeal on Sundays, an invitation and a reminder.

War calls for the sacrifice of much that we cherish, and now the ringing of the church bells on Sunday has to go with the rest. The action that has been taken cannot be questioned; the object of it has been stated by the Ministry of Home Security. There are, however, one or two things about the decision which might well be further explained. For instance, what is the public to do when a bell is rung to notify the landing of enemy troops? We have not yet been told. Is everybody to stay indoors, as when an air-raid warning is sounded? Whatever its purpose, can such a warning be given in time to be of use, and is a church bell, heard, especially when chimed, only within a limited radius, an effective means of sounding the alarm? The ringing of a bell is a job which requires experience, and unless some proper arrangements are in operation everywhere, there are likely to be accidents, broken clock hammers and cracked bells. It is easy to say 'ring the bells when raiders land,' but the carrying out of the order is not so simple as it sounds. To make the best of this means of public warning it would seem desirable that in connection with every tower ringers should be incorporated as members of the Civil Defence Corps and used for the purpose of sounding the alarm. Present members of the corps, unless they are ringers, cannot be taught because there is now no opportunity of doing so—the ban on the sounding of bells prevents it. These and other points naturally occur to those who understand the technicalities of bell ringing, but we are sure there are thousands among

(Continued on page 290.)

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WHAT RINGERS CAN DO.

(Continued from previous page.)

the ringers of England who are ready to be helpful if the authorities will enlist that help.

But the ban on bells is a stunning blow to ringing, from which, even when the war is over, it will take a long time to recover unless the ringers themselves, here and now, resolve on maintaining their organisations, both local and territorial. The danger is that ringers, always, in the mass, inclined to be apathetic, will just let their interest fade out, without any attempt to meet the trouble by utilising such opportunities as already exist or can be improvised. Because the church bells cannot be rung, it does not mean that the art must die in every tower. The chief source of interest and attraction may be silenced, but there remain other things that may be done. Many new hands will be required when the bells once more are permitted to ring out; they can still be trained in the way to handle a rope and ring by practice with fixed clappers. It isn't much fun, perhaps, to the experienced ringer to pull the ropes and get no sound from the bells above; but it can be a help to the beginner to master ropesight, which is the foundation of change ringing. And then there are the handbells, far too much neglected both in the teaching of beginners and certainly by ringers generally who, if they only realised it, would find handbell ringing a most fascinating hobby. The experienced ringer on tower bells will discover, if he has not already done so, that change ringing on handbells opens up an entirely new field of interest and activity, and an evening's practice will provide not only a pleasant recreation but a refreshing antidote to the cares of the day. There is no time for thinking of things gloomy or otherwise when trying to pilot a pair of bells in any method, and we do urge ringers, now that church bells are under a ban, to direct their energies to change ringing on handbells in order both to retain their interest in the art and to preserve it for happier times.

This risk of loss of individual interest in ringing is also a serious threat to the various associations and guilds throughout the country, and immediate effort should be made to find schemes that will help to maintain the life of these organisations. If committees and officials merely sit down, fold their hands and resign themselves to the virtual extinction of their societies, they will be doing the greatest disservice to the art and the Exercise. They should make plans to give their towers all possible support in maintaining the life of the local bands, and even meetings on a small scale need not be entirely abandoned, if the associations will encourage the teaching of handbell ringing and endeavour to keep alive the social contacts which is one of the chief aims of district meetings. During past months the Ancient Society of College Youths have set an example in this matter. When ringing was not possible in their customary towers, they continued to hold their periodical meetings at headquarters, and while, naturally, they did not attract such large gatherings as when there were church bells to be rung, they found quite a reasonable amount of support. Other associations could do likewise, especially if the arrangements were planned for smaller groups of towers than the average association district. Combined practices on handbells and social intercourse would do a great deal to keep alive the spirit and objects of the associations.

(Continued on next page.)

SIX BELL PEAL.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, June 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*R. W. COLLIS Treble	FRANK T. LONG 4
J. EDWARD CLOUGH 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD 5
†FREDERICK WATSON 3	FRANK K. MEASURES Tenor

Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES.

* First peal of Bob Minor. † First peal of Bob Minor 'inside.'

LADIES' GUILD.

NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.

A goodly number of ringers attended the annual meeting of the Northern District Ladies' Guild at Cross Stones, Todmorden, on Saturday week. Early comers set the bells going just before 3 p.m., and, as more ringers arrived, a variety of methods was enjoyed.

At 5 p.m. a very thirsty company set off for tea in the Schoolroom. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the ladies (and men) for providing such a good tea, especially as everything had had to be carried up a terrific hill to the church.

At the meeting two new members from the Leeds district were elected to the Guild.

All the officers of the district were re-elected, and Queensbury, near Bradford, was chosen for the next annual meeting.

The statement of accounts was read and passed. A report on the district showed that all the meetings for the year had been held and well attended, and that the financial position remained satisfactory.

It was, however, regretted that the increase in postage may have a serious effect on the finances next year, and members are asked to 'do their bit' to help by remembering to send their subscriptions on June 1st each year.

A vote of thanks to the Lancashire Association for their support and to the Rev. H. W. Hodgson for the use of the bells brought the meeting to a close.

Handbells were rung outside the church for part of the evening, and when the temperature had cooled down a few enthusiasts returned to the belfry for a brief ring, which concluded a most enjoyable meeting.

BEXLEY RINGERS' LOSS.

By the death of Mrs. M. Taylor, the ringers of St. Mary's, Bexley, Kent, have lost a devoted and generous friend. At all times she was ready to help in any way. Mrs. Taylor, from the time the bells were restored in 1938, took a deep interest in all the activities of the ringers and was delighted to take part in their outing or meetings.

Cremation took place at Golders Green on Saturday, June 8th, and the ashes were interred in St. Mary's Churchyard on Wednesday, the 13th. In the evening a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung half-muffled, those taking part being H. E. Audsley (conductor) 1, Alan Hall 2, J. Wheadon 3, A. Williams 4, H. A. Holden 5, E. H. Oxenham 6, H. Hoverd 7, F. Mitchell 8.

WHAT RINGERS CAN DO.

(Continued from previous page.)

Another question which probably a good many of our readers will ask is, 'What of "The Ringing World"?' This curtailment of ringing must of necessity have a serious effect upon the paper, and much depends upon developments in the near future. We feel that now, more than ever, the Exercise needs a journal to enable ringers everywhere to keep in touch, and to knit it together when the time comes for a restoration of church bell ringing. This, however, can only be done with the utmost support which all our readers can give us and the contributions of those who are able to supply matter for our columns, the contents of which will almost certainly have to be remodelled. If our friends will help us in this direction, each feeling that on him depends the future issues of this journal, no effort on our part will be spared to continue a work which we consider to be more essential now than ever. May we ask our readers in this connection to adapt the slogan given in another connection, 'It all depends on me,' realising that we shall need their support to maintain our circulation and their contributions to maintain the interest in our columns?

FALSE COURSE ENDS AND THE SURPRISE BOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought that Mr. Trollope would be gratified by my letter of May 31st, but it is a pity he thought it necessary to add that arrogant little bit of ambiguity about 'insufficient knowledge.' It can mean two things, perhaps purposely, both derogatory—but both unwisely emphasised.

Where it is read to mean insufficient information as to what the book contains, naturally so, where one has not read the book. But the matter would appear to be obscure to some who have. In 1935 Mr. W. G. Wilson is supposed to have been so honoured, and, of it, he wrote to the effect that the total explanation was less than one-third of a column. In 1940, after nearly four columns of explanations with more to follow, Mr. Trollope says they are 'some of those' in the book! These gentlemen may not be expected to refute what the other has written, but if both statements are true, Mr. Trollope is capable of pouring a quart into a pint pot—truly a worker of miracles.

Where it is intended to imply lack of knowledge on the subject, it is most unfortunate that the article of June 7th (presumably still some of the book) should contain those arguments, and even the formula shown in another way, which were published by me, on pages 164 and 165 of 'The Ringing World' of March 15th, 1929. How peculiar to think that a complete table of these 'related' course-ends should have been posted, amongst others, to the Rev. H. Law James and Mr. Trollope—both then members of the Methods Committee, and closely in touch. Of course, Mr. Trollope will have known of them for the 20 years that he has been familiar with half-lead proof. But the Rev. H. L. James took the trouble to write and tell me that the production of these course-ends was 'impossible from the half-lead alone.' Mr. G. Baker disassociated himself with the suggestion, and told me that he would not be convinced that the transposition of 24365 had anything to do with it. Others laughed at it. But, in 1940, I see for the first time these arguments, together with my pet formula in the form that Mr. A. G. Driver preferred it, coming from the draft of a book which, I believe, is copyrighted by Messrs. Trollope and Turner. What was it Mr. Wilson said—'not a very good advertisement'?

Moreover, it is disgusting to think that the subject can be so messed about. First we are told to write out 112 rows; then not to trouble. That falsity depends 'solely' on 1.7.8 in like positions; then contradiction of the 'solely.' That there is not enough space to treat of certain aspects most useful to the student, but to waste seven lines of explanation as to why we need not include the treble when writing out the rows, and so on.

Well—to the dickens with the book. I have said my say, and have endeavoured to imply all that I think. I have repeatedly written that I consider it a cheek to ask the Council to back, financially, the publication of a 'private' book. To beg associations to guarantee it is worse. But to copyright previously published ideas—!

GEORGE L. JOYCE.

Hornchurch.

LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Worboys has surely chosen an unfortunate time for raising this question again, if only in view of the need for economy in paper.

Ladies in the belfry are not an innovation (see my letter of November 13th, 1934). Many hands have included them for years, Clent being no exception, and even were it desirable to exclude them, Mr. Worboys is far too late with his campaign. Ladies are in the Exercise to stay, and more strength to their arms.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

THE VIEWS OF A HE MAN.

Dear Sir,—It's all very well you and the other people talking like you do about what good ladies have done and are doing in the belfry, but you know as well as I do, perhaps better, that we really don't want them if we can do without them. Speaking generally, women are a nuisance except in their proper place and doing their proper jobs, which are, I say, to cook dinners, mend clothes, wash floors and such like things. The truth is women have these last years got out of their proper place and they want putting back in it. When I was a young man people used to quote a wise old saying, which ran something like this:—

'A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree,
The more you beat them the better they be.'

Your correspondents think they will be short of men ringers and dare not say 'No' to the women. It is only pusillanimity on their part. (P.S.—Don't you be afraid. I looked that word up in the dictionary and it's spelt quite all right.)

What I say is more power to Mr. Worboys. I hope he treats his wife and womenfolk in the proper way. I am a brave man, but I think I had better sign myself,

'NEMO.'

LEYTON.—At St. Mary's Parish Church on Sunday, June 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 43 minutes: A. Prior 1, F. W. Housden 2, Mrs. F. W. Housden 3, E. Holman 4, C. A. Hughes 5, G. Dawson 6, E. D. Smith (conductor) 7, A. W. C. Ball 8. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar of Leyton, the Rev. R. Bren, M.A., who is leaving the parish for Wallington, Surrey.

FOR BEGINNERS.**HOW CHANGES ARE PRODUCED.**

Although an official ban has just been placed on the ringing of church bells, except for the purpose of alarm, there is no reason why the beginner should not, even with the limitations that must now beset him, continue with his practice in order to learn to master his bell. In any event, at the earliest stage of his career he should not be allowed to ring his bell 'open.' It is not until he has thoroughly mastered the handling of it that he should in any case take part in open ringing. Until he has reached a stage at which he can control his bell with competence and ease, and 'set' it at will, his practice should be limited to the use of a bell with its clapper 'lashed,' that is, tied in the centre so that it does not strike against the bell. For the present, of course, only that kind of church bell practice will be possible, but the beginner, if he will pursue it, will improve himself and become efficient in preparation for the time when open ringing can once more take place.

(Concerning this a word of warning is under present circumstances very essential. To avoid the risk of the lashing chafing through and thus giving a false alarm, it is important that a piece of leather or other stout material should be put between the lashing and the edge of the lip of the bell.)

We do not suggest that he should be limited to practising on one bell by himself. If the instructor and two or three others will lend a hand and lash up other bells, so that rounds and changes can be practised by ropesight, so much the better. The others, of course, if they are already practised ringers, may find this kind of thing a little irksome, but if they have keenness and a hope of making a band ready for those happier days to which we all look forward, they should not begrudge the time thus spent, and when they get their beginners on to 'change ringing' they may even find an interest in it themselves.

The first stage after the beginner has thoroughly mastered his bell is to learn to 'place' it in rounds. To use the word 'strike' would, perhaps, be out of place at the moment, while the bells remain dumb, but much can be done by acquiring 'ropesight,' a term which indicates picking out the bell you have to follow and spacing your own at the correct interval after it. The competent instructor, even if he cannot hear the bells, will be able to give his pupil a lot of guidance in this, and will improve the beginner's capacity for subsequent half-pull change ringing by giving him practice in call changes.

The aim of all ringers, of course, should be to acquire the art of change ringing, and, while a beginner is learning to handle a bell, there is no reason why he should not begin to study change ringing in theory—it will greatly add to the interest.

It may be just as well here to explain how changes are produced, for this particular article is meant specially for those who are at quite the beginning of their interest in change ringing.

What is aimed at in producing changes is that in every change every bell shall speak once, and that the next time they speak it is in a different order. Moreover, the order is changed to the greatest extent possible, within certain prescribed limits. No bell moves up or down more than one place at a time, and no bell stops in one

place for more than two changes. Subject to this, the object in producing changes is to change as many pairs of bells as possible. If there are five bells, to change two pairs; if there are six, alternately three pairs and two pairs; if seven bells, three pairs each time; and if eight bells, four pairs and three pairs alternately; and so on. Every pair of bells that is changed must be bells in adjoining places, that is, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6; or 2 and 3, 4 and 5, etc.

When we are ringing, the thing that matters is, of course, the sound of the bells, and the aim of the ringer is to strike his bell exactly at the proper time. When we are explaining or describing the order in which the bells strike we must have some means of setting it down on paper, and so the custom is to use figures. These figures are symbols, and when we write down, say, 12345, on paper, that means that the bells sound in that order. The beginner should always look behind the figures to the sounds they are intended to represent, and when he sees, say, 12345 written down, he should try and imagine he is hearing a ring of five bells.

In this article we are not going into the question of method ringing. We have only tried to explain how changes are formed. Would you like to try an experiment for yourselves? Write down the figures 1.2.3.4.5 to represent five bells, and draw a line under them. Underneath write out changes, by changing two pairs at a time in regular succession, first the two front pairs and then the two back pairs, varying it at the 6th, 16th and every succeeding tenth change by changing, instead of the two back pairs, the front pair and the back pair, leaving the bell in the middle where it is, the succeeding change being, of course, a change of the two front pairs. In addition, at the 14th, 34th and 54th change, make a similar variation—change the front pair and the back pair instead of the two back pairs. You should be able to produce 60 changes before you come back again to 1.2.3.4.5, and it will facilitate your work if you put a line under every tenth change.

Let us give you a start:—

1 2 3 4 5

2 1 4 3 5	change two front pairs.
2 4 1 5 3	change the two back pairs, etc.
4 2 5 1 3	
4 5 2 3 1	
5 4 3 2 1	
4 5 3 1 2	change front and back pairs.
5 4 1 3 2	change two front pairs.
5 1 4 2 3	change two back pairs.
1 5 2 4 3	
1 2 5 3 4	

When you have written out the 60 changes, draw a line through the track of the figure 1, which represents the treble, and see how regular it is. Then follow the line of either of the other bells and see the effect of the variations in the pairs that are changed.

Later on we hope to be able to tell you something further about how these variations go to make up different methods.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On St. George's Day for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 by A. H. Winch): W. Gowing 1, W. Henley 2, G. J. Berry (first quarter of Major) 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming 4, P. A. Blamey 5, C. A. Burgess 6, B. O'Neill 7, W. Birmingham 8.

THE FIRST PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Which is correct, the figures you publish in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' or the figures you published on September 7th, 1928. It is an historic composition and should be handed down in correct form. The figures of peal given in 1928 contains no bobs at 9 or 15. Here is the first part as printed:—

231456789	1	4	6	10	16
365741928	—	—	—	—	—
365271948	—	—	—	—	—
361524978	—	—	—	—	—
364125	—	—	—	—	—
365421	—	—	—	—	—
561234	—	—	—	—	—
Repeat twice, omit Bob at 1,	—	—	—	—	—
then two	—	—	—	—	—
parts as	—	—	—	—	—
shown	—	—	—	—	—
One part	—	—	—	—	—
with Bob	—	—	—	—	—
at	—	only	—	—	—
then five	—	—	—	—	—
parts	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
Omit Bob at one in last	—	—	—	—	—
four parts.	—	—	—	—	—

The first three parts the back bells are in the tittums, 978 (except for the first two courses), then one course 897, followed by twenty courses 789. This is the 5,076. The 9,720 is actually a three-part peal as far as I can see.

I have by me the peal in manuscript, which was once the property of the late H. W. Haley.

The above, I think, will interest a good many of your readers.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

[Both sets of figures are correct. It is only a question of which row is taken as the course end in the first two courses. Perhaps the way quoted by Mr. Hunt is the better. — EDITOR, 'The Ringing World.']

A WAR-TIME OUTING.

Despite the difficulties caused by the war-time situation, Christ Church, Eastbourne, ringers had their annual outing on Whit Monday as usual. The news that there would be no Bank Holiday almost put 'paid' to it at the last minute, but as only four of the party were affected, it was decided to carry on.

The remaining nineteen, composed of members of their wives and friends, left Eastbourne by coach at 8 a.m., and after a two hours' run through Sussex and Kent, arrived at the little village of Smarden. Here the ring of six, with a tenor 18 cwt., were kept going for an hour in various methods from Grandsire to London, and also rounds for the beginners.

The next stop was Chilham, the village near Canterbury that has the distinction of being the first place in England to be bombed in this war. Fortunately the tower was found to be intact, and for another hour this handy ring of eight were kept going to Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob.

Canterbury was the next call, where an excellent lunch was ready upon the ringers' arrival. Afterwards the party split up to explore the city, according to their various tastes, the Cathedral being the main attraction. Some of the livelier members preferred to make a trip on the river and hired the only two available boats. One ringer found a pair of oars less easy to manage than a bell rope, and his efforts to negotiate his craft under a very low footbridge caused no small amount of hilarity among the crowd which collected to watch the fun.

The time to leave came all too soon, but timetables must be adhered to, and by 4 p.m. the coach was en route for the next tower, Mersham.

This was a new tower for all the band. The bells are a light ring of eight, which could be improved by a visit from a competent bell hanger, but good use was made of them for nearly an hour. Even if the tone was not admired by all, at least it was one more tower in the bag.

After tea in Ashford, the party went on to the last tower, Hawkhurst, where they were welcomed by Mr. J. Powell and other local ringers. The bells were kept on the go until 8.30, and then after slight refreshment the visitors left for home, Eastbourne being reached shortly before 11 p.m. with everyone apparently quite satisfied with their day's outing.

The ringers would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the incumbents for the use of the bells, and also the local secretaries for having everything in readiness.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

THE

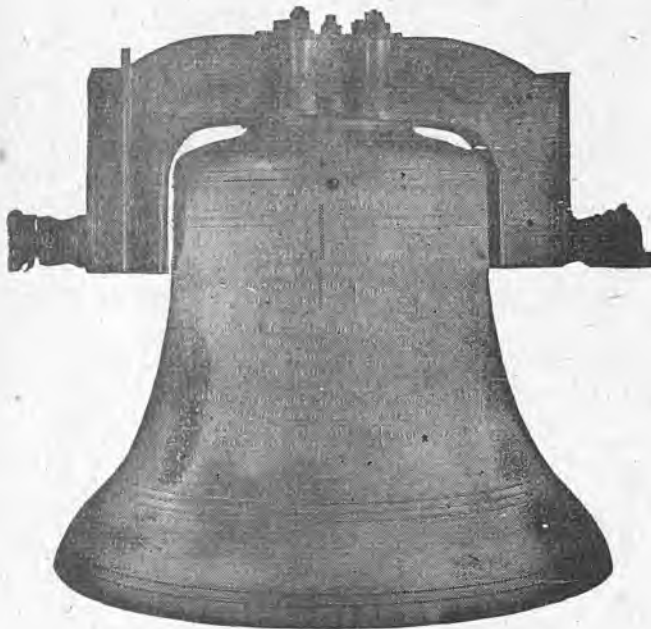
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Minor rung at Croft in Leicestershire was the twelfth successive peal rung on the occasion of the anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

The board recording the peal of Minor in 104 methods will be dedicated on July 27th at Bigby, not at Burton-on-Stather as reported in our issue of May 10th, but probably two other boards will be dedicated on that day at Burton. The meeting to be held at Louth in August will be an ordinary district meeting.

Last Tuesday was the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, which finally ended as grim a struggle as that in which we are now engaged, and on the same date in 1844 was born Jasper Whitfield Snowdon. Snowdon died in 1885 at the comparatively early age of 41 after a ringing career of little more than ten years, in which he did probably as much for the advancement of change ringing as any man who has ever lived. He wrote several text books, including 'Rope Sight,' 'Treble Bob' and 'Standard Methods,' which, though they were first published more than fifty years ago, are still the best text books we possess.

The first peal by the Midland Counties Association, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at Derby on June 23rd, 1882.

An outstanding peal was achieved at Birmingham on June 24th, 1922, when 5,055 changes of Stedman on thirteen bells (Stedman Sextuples it was called) was rung on handbells in three hours and thirty-five minutes. It was conducted by Mr. Albert Walker, who tells us that he has not yet given up the hope of ringing a peal of Treble Bob Fourteen-in.

Samuel Thomas, of Sheffield, died on June 24th, 1924, at the age of 53, and on the same date in 1808 was held a very famous ringing match at Flixton in Lancashire between the Mottram and the Ashton-under-Lyne bands. A full account of it appeared in 'The Ringing World' of July, 1926.

CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS.

Owing to the official prohibition of ringing, the following meetings arranged for to-morrow have been cancelled:—

- Yorkshire Association, at Pontefract.
- Peterborough Diocesan Guild, at Braunston.
- Royal Cumberland Youths, at Bexley.
- Midland Counties Association, at Sawley.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE DENT.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION'S GREAT LOSS.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. George Dent, the esteemed leader of the ringers at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Harlow Common, Essex, which took place at his home on Wednesday, June 12th, at the age of 76 years.

For over 50 years Mr. Dent had been in business as a grocer and draper. He was churchwarden for a number of years, during which time he had taken a prominent part in getting eight bells at the church, and he and his wife presented the two trebles. His efforts to get together a band of ringers were rewarded, as is shown by their being able to ring all the standard methods up to Bristol Surprise. He was a life member of the Essex Association, was Master of the North-Western Division for a number of years, and representative on the Central Council in 1915 and 1916.

Unfortunately we have no record of the peals he had rung, but they were many and varied.

At the funeral, which took place on Saturday, the Vicar (the Rev. J. O. White) officiated. The service was fully choral and a large number of parishioners attended to mark the esteem in which he was held. The ringers present were Mr. L. Cordell, Mr. W. Wheeler, Mr. S. Clark, Mr. B. Copping, Mr. E. Rochester and Mr. E. Luid (of the local company), Mr. C. Tucker (Marlow), Mr. W. Prior, Mr. I. Cuvill (Stansted), Mr. W. T. Prior (Bishop's Stortford), and Mr. G. Walker (Sawbridgeworth). Owing to short notice and present conditions, many others doubtless were prevented from attending.

It had been arranged to have rung a muffled peal after the interment, but as ringing was not allowed, a whole pull and stand was rung over the grave on handbells by his own company.

Mr. Dent was of a most generous nature, and many will remember his kindness. Among the large number of wreaths and tributes were a floral bell from his own band and a wreath from the ringers at Harlow Parish Church.

THE HALESWORTH COMPANY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope seems to have a sort of perverse feeling about Halesworth. As I have more than once said in letters to you, and privately to him, no claim has ever been made that there was a society like the College Youths at Halesworth. Still in an article in your columns he repeats this absurd claim, and when I challenge it he does not attempt to support it, but goes off on some misquotation of what I wrote.

I think that most of your readers are grateful to me, for what I described of Halesworth, and they can rely on its being correct, whether Mr. Trollope 'allows' it or not.

HERBERT DRAKE.

CHURCH BELLS BANNED.**AN UNEXPECTED WAR-TIME ORDER.**

The complete ban which was placed last Thursday on the ringing of church bells came as an unexpected blow to ringers. Some inkling of what might happen was gained by 'The Ringing World' earlier in the week, and the paragraph of warning of things to come was inserted just before going to Press.

Notification had earlier been received in this office that at various places in the Aldershot Command notification had been given that bells were only to be used for signifying the landing of enemy troops by parachute or aeroplane and, as a result, the Editor got into communication with the hon. secretary of the Central Council (Mr. G. W. Fletcher), who visited the Ministry of Home Security on Tuesday.

Consideration of the plan for using church bells as a warning was actually taking place, and the hon. secretary endeavoured to persuade the authorities to adopt a more modified scheme than a complete ban. Unfortunately, the lines suggested by Mr. Fletcher were not followed, and the new Order was issued two days later.

Ringers, disappointed though they are, accept the decision of the Ministry as one of the minor sacrifices that have to be made in the national interests, although the efficacy of what is proposed is still conjectural, for reasons that ringers will know well.

There is, however, one important point that in the interests of the public should be made plain. What is the object of the warning which the bells are to sound? Is it to call certain services to help in rounding up the invaders; is it to tell the people to keep indoors? The public ought to be informed, otherwise they may go rushing out and impede military or other defensive action, to say nothing of the risks they may themselves run.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was the first to give any public intimation of what was to be expected when, addressing the Church Assembly at the new Church House, Westminster, he said that the silencing of church bells at an early date was possible. He warned the clergy that he had been advised by Sir John Anderson, the Home Secretary, that some restriction on the ringing and chiming of bells was to be expected.

The ban has not only put an end to all Sunday service ringing, but it will also, of course, seriously affect meetings of associations, although there is already proof that a meeting can be successful even without ringing. Last Saturday, the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association met at Ilkley, and forty ringers were present. This is an example which other associations may bear in mind when tempted to adopt a defeatist attitude and imagine that it is of no use to hold meetings if the church bells cannot be rung.

CHURCH BELLS AND WAR ALARMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—All ringers and thousands of the public will very much deplore the action of the Home Office in ordering our church bells to be silent, thus depriving the Church of their rightful and Christian uses.

With the system of sirens already in use for air raid purposes, one would have thought it possible to have used them as a warning for paratroops by using a distinctive note to that used for air raids.

It is of little avail to use one end of the church in which to ask God's blessing and deliverance from so ruthless an enemy when the authorities do not hesitate to desecrate church property at the other end by using the bells for war purposes, bringing every church possessing a bell under the heading of a military objective.

War or no war, let us keep the church and church property sacred. Maghull, near Liverpool.

S. FLINT.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.**HOW RINGERS MAY HELP.**

It is only natural that ringers should feel disappointed at the newly issued Order, which forbids the use of church bells except as a warning, after the efforts to maintain their use for their chief purpose, that of ringing for service.

This is not the time to express that disappointment or to offer criticism of the Order. Military needs come first and it is the duty of ringers to help the authorities in every possible way to carry out the Order. It may be, however, that a more effective warning may be discovered later.

It is not yet clear how the bells are to be rung as a warning, or who is to give the instructions that they are to be sounded. To make the warning more effective, bells that can be rung should be rung and not chimed, so that the sound may carry as far as possible. It might be well, therefore, to consider some of the difficulties in the case of bells hung for ringing. If the warning is to be sounded quickly, it will be necessary to have always at hand, day and night, at least one person who can ring a bell.

In this connection it may be well if the clergy were warned of the danger of allowing any unauthorised person into the tower. Unfortunately, quite a number of the clergy and most of the local military authorities do not realise the risks to limb or to church property.

There is considerable risk of damage to the bell and the person attempting to ring it if he has no knowledge of ringing, and to ensure that someone is available day and night will require a good deal of local organisation. If under the Order a number of bells are to be rung where they are available, the difficulty of getting ringers together would be insuperable in most cases.

There is a special risk of damage in towers where bells are hung for ringing and there are no organised ringers, as is unfortunately the case in a number of village churches. This fact suggests a useful outlet for the energies of the various associations who cannot carry on with their normal routine. They can help towers which are not in union who have few or no ringers, instructing, if necessary, some of the Local Defence Volunteers to ring a bell at least frame high without danger to themselves or the bells. If this were undertaken, it might be a useful introduction to such towers and benefit the Exercise in the happier times which we ultimately look for.

A word of warning might be given about instruction, if false raid warnings are not to be sounded. A tied clapper should not be used, because there is always the danger of the rope chafing through and allowing the clapper to sound. For instruction, therefore, in handling a bell, the clapper should be taken out. If the organisation of the warning is properly carried out, there will be quite a lot for local bands and for associations to do.

I hope the Central Council will be able to help in clarifying the position and sending out useful suggestions, preferably in co-operation with the authorities, with whom the hon. secretary has been in contact since September 3rd.

In these days ringers have not much time to spare, but even in war time some relaxation is necessary, and I suggest that handbell ringing is a very suitable antidote

(Continued on next page.)

DEFEAT THE EVIL SPIRITS.

(Continued from previous page.)

to worry. I picture a ringer-parashot, waiting in the tower for orders to sound the tocsin, being joined by two of his fellow-ringers and whiling away the time with some double-handed Minor.

If, as a warning, a number of the bells are to be rung, should they not in accordance with tradition be rung backwards?

'The bells are rung backwards, the drums they are beat.'

Or is this practice merely a Scottish one?

The one thing that is quite clear is that every member of the Exercise should, instead of ringing to drive away evil spirits, do his utmost to defeat the evil spirits, so that he can once again ring the bells without let or hindrance.

E. H. LEWIS.

COUNTRY VICARS' VIEWS.

BLACK-OUT CURFEW.

The following two letters appeared in 'The Times' on Monday last:—

Sir,—For some months now the regular ringing of curfew at 8 p.m. in this parish has been altered to the ringing of the same bell at 'black-out' time. It has proved a most useful function for a custom which had lost all meaning. Under the new regulation this will have to stop. It seems a pity that such use should not be allowed to continue.

It is to be hoped that those who are now alone allowed to ring the bells will get some instruction from skilled ringers. It is painfully easy for the uninitiated to pull a bell rope with all the vigour imaginable and yet fail to produce any sound at all. Here it had been arranged for the old fire-call to be used, i.e., the clashing together of the smallest bell with the tenor.—Yours truly,

The Vicarage, Deddington, Oxford. MAURICE FROST.

A DANGEROUS THING.

Sir,—The use of church bells as an indication of the approach of invaders may be invaluable. Two points, however, need to be raised.

Only the military or Local Defence Volunteers are to use the bells. Do they know how to? The novice will pull the rope (so easy!). No sound will be heard. He will pull more fiercely. Again no sound. He will pull it frantically, angrily. If lucky, he may produce one very half-hearted boom. One has to learn how to make a church bell speak effectively. If a bell is left 'set,' even the novice will then be able to make the bell speak on pulling its rope, but in doing so he runs the grave risk of wringing his own neck. An uncontrolled bell rope can become a very dangerous thing.

The second point is, why should church bells be used for this new purpose only? By all means let the tolling of a single bell be the official warning, but who would want or expect a peal of five or eight bells to herald the approach of the enemy? For the sake of our spirits, let the peal of church bells still call us to worship. The solemn tolling of one bell can be an ominous warning about parachutists.—Yours faithfully,

Benenden Vicarage, Kent.

V. B. YEARSLEY.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Commenting on the Order, 'The Daily Telegraph' said: 'Home security officials state that it is not intended that an elaborate peal should be rung. All that is needed is the ringing of a small bell which would not demand expert knowledge or practice.'

Points which would seem to arise are whether the churches are to be kept open day and night, and, if so, who is to be responsible for the protection of the building? If churches are locked up at night, are the military or A.R.P. authorities to have the keys or are vergers to be summoned in an emergency?

FIRST PROSECUTION UNDER THE NEW ORDER.

The first case since the Home Office Order silencing church bells was heard at Bradford on Saturday.

William Metcalfe, eighteen-year-old baker's labourer, was arrested under the Defence Regulations for ringing the bells of St. Peter's, Laisterdyke.

He was charged with 'doing an act communicating, or likely to communicate, to the public information falsely purporting to be duly given for purposes connected with the defence of the realm.'

Mr. J. Staples, prosecuting, asked for Metcalfe to be remanded for medical observation. He had no connection with the church.

RADIO 'BOW BELLS' SILENT.

It is announced that owing to the ban on church bells except as a warning, the B.B.C. discontinued the 'Bow Bells' interval signal. The 'ticking clock' has been substituted.

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING DESPITE BAN.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION CARRY ON WITHOUT BELLS.

On Saturday last, in spite of the unexpected announcements regarding the ringing of church bells, made by the B.B.C. during the week, a most successful meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Ilkley. It was felt that to cancel the arrangements at the last minute would only lead to confusion, as it would be impossible to notify all the members. Since the meeting was to be held in such a delightful place and the weather had been more or less settled, it was hoped even if the ringing activities of the association had to be restricted, the social side of the work should be carried on. The numbers present more than justified this view. About 30 members attended the service in the church, which was conducted by Canon J. P. Garland, and about 40 sat down to a delightful tea in the Blue Bird Cafe.

At the business meeting, held in the Church Institute, the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson) presided, supported by the association's president, Canon Marshall.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, expressed the disappointment which they all felt at being unable to ring and hear the newly recast peal of bells now at Ilkley. He explained that the latest Government announcement was quite definite and said that while we were precluded from ringing the tower bells, there was no reason why the work of the association should stop. At most of the meetings held during the year, only a small proportion of the members were able to ring on the bells to any extent, and therefore the committee felt that meetings should be held if at all possible, so that the members could be kept together and not lose touch with one another.

Two new members were elected—Miss N. M. Askham, of Headingley, and Miss P. M. Barton, of Pudsey, which is evidence of the extremely encouraging work carried on by the Ladies' Guild. As the chairman remarked, the men will have to look to their laurels, as Miss Barton is only 9 years of age.

In voicing the thanks of the association to the Vicar and churchwardens of Ilkley, to the local company for making the splendid arrangements, and the organist who officiated at the service, Canon Marshall expressed his pleasure at the number present. He was sure everyone had thoroughly enjoyed their outing, even though they were unable to ring on the fine peal of bells. The vote was seconded by Mr. Barton, who hoped the members would support the committee in their endeavour to arrange meetings during these difficult times. In putting the vote to the meeting, the Chairman expressed his pleasure at seeing such an active work being carried on at Ilkley with a tower well equipped with youth. It was, of course, only what one could expect from the home of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, who had done so much for the advancement of change ringing. The fact that there was such a ready response to the appeal for funds for recasting the bells at Ilkley was a symbol of the enthusiasm created in the district.

Mr. W. H. Crawshaw, in replying for the local company, expressed his pleasure at the result of the day's meeting. He said how very sorry he was that the bells were not available, but hoped that the bells would soon be ringing in happier times all over the country and that the association would come again to Ilkley, where they would always have a ready welcome. As regards their recent appeal, he would like to say that they had no difficulty whatever in obtaining the required amount—in fact the fund was over-subscribed. The money was given purely for the bells, which confirmed the chairman's remarks that many would give for the bells when they would not give.

A brief discussion took place on the conduct of the district during the national emergency, and it was felt that if suitable districts could be chosen, the quarterly meetings should be held whenever possible. The next meeting is due in September, and it was proposed that an endeavour should be made to hold it at Tadcaster, where, given a nice day, the members would be able to make the most of the pleasant surroundings.

A collection taken at the tea tables for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised a total of 8s. 1d.

The handbells were then brought forward, and excellent touches were rung of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal, Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, etc.

The towers represented during the day were Addingham, Armley, Batley, Bramley, Bradford Cathedral, Calverley, Denholme, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Ilkley, Leeds Parish Church, Ossett, Pudsey, Rothwell and Silsden.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9 (6 copies for 15/-), 6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

BIRMINGHAM BELLS AND RINGERS. IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

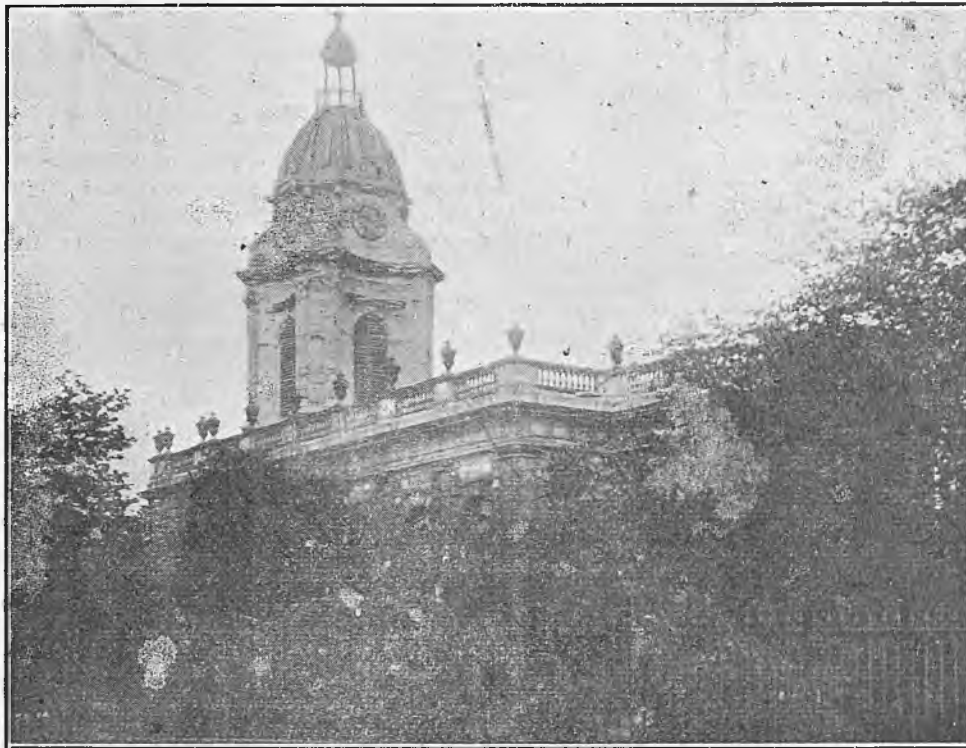
Birmingham in the eighteenth century possessed three churches with rings of bells—St. Martin's, the old parish church; the Chapel of St. John-at-Deritend; and the new Parish Church of St. Philip.

St. Martin's was of ancient foundation, though the church had been altered and rebuilt several times. In 1552 it possessed 'iij belles 'wt. a clock and a chyme.' In 1682 these were increased to a ring of six, with a tenor of 18 cwt., and later two trebles were added. In

1760 this number had not been increased. In 1775, Pack and Chapman supplied a full octave, and in 1814 two trebles were added.

The bells at all three churches—St. Martin's, St. Philip's, and Aston—have been recast in recent years, and St. John's, Deritend, has been pulled down.

No account of any early ringing in Birmingham has survived, but we can hardly doubt that the town was one of the first in the provinces in which change ringing was practised. The present St. Martin's Guild, following the statement in its peal book, dates its foundation from the year 1755, when the first recorded peal was accomplished; but though it may have been a time of more



ST. PHILIP'S, WHERE THE FIRST RECORDED PEAL IN BIRMINGHAM WAS RUNG.

1758, Lester and Pack, of Whitechapel, supplied a ring of ten with a tenor of 36 cwt., and in 1772 Pack and Chapman added two more to make up the full twelve.

St. John, Deritend, had been founded as far back as 1382, but the church was rebuilt in 1735, the steeple being added in 1762. The eight bells were cast in 1776 by Robert Wells, of Aldbourne.

St. Philip's was a new parish, and the church was erected between 1711 and 1715. The design is said to have been largely copied from St. Paul's Cathedral. Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, a local founder, supplied first one or two bells, and then in 1727 a full octave. This was replaced in 1750 by a ring of ten with a 29 cwt. tenor by Thomas Lester. At the neighbouring parish of Aston there were bells, and in the late eighteenth century and since, the belfry has played an important part in the history of the Exercise in Birmingham.

When the inventory of the goods and ornaments of the church was made in the year 1552, there were in the steeple 'v belles oon of them broken,' and so late as

active life, it is unlikely that it was other than one of those revivals in spirit and activity which periodically happen in the history of ringing companies, usually as the result of the influx of new members or the inspiration of new leadership.

There does not appear to have been a formal society with a well developed social side such as were the Society of College Youths and the Union Society of Shrewsbury, but it is pretty certain that from at least the closing years of the seventeenth century St. Martin's has possessed a company of ringers, and that an unbroken continuity has existed from the early days of change ringing to the present time. The statement in the peal book has very little authority or historical value.

There had been a change ringing band when the old octave hung in St. Martin's steeple, and quite possibly peals had been rung by them. Joshua Neale, who took part in several later peals, was 39 years old when the new ring was erected. He lived until 1812, when he was in his

(Continued on next page.)

EARLY PEALS IN BIRMINGHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

ninety-third year, and used to say that he himself had rung changes on the old bells.

The first recorded peal in the town was 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Philip's on September 16th, 1755. Three men of the name of Thompson (John, Joseph and William), who probably were brothers, rang the front three bells, John Archer rang the fourth, Abraham Fletcher the fifth, Samuel Brooke the sixth, Humphrey Peck the seventh, and Andrew Peake the tenor, with William Smith to help him. No conductor is mentioned, but most likely Peake called the bobs.

From that time onwards there followed a steady succession of performances, but the accounts of many of them are lost, for it was not until 1822 that an official peal book was kept by the society, and the older records had to be collected as best they could, from written or oral information preserved here and there by private individuals.

Birmingham possesses but one eighteenth century peal board in all her belfries; whether there were once others, which have since been destroyed, I am unable to say.

Three years after the Bob Major at St. Philip's, the earliest known peal at St. Martin's was rung. The method was Grandsire Caters, and six of the earlier band took part—John and William Thompson, John Archer, Abraham Fletcher, Humphrey Peck and Andrew Peake. Joseph Neale rang the treble and Thomas Hadley the fifth. Hadley was one of the subscribers to 'The Clavis,' where he is described as 'esq.,' which shows that he was socially in a better position than the rest of the company.

The Grandsire Caters was composed and called by Andrew Peake, who thus takes his place as the first in the long and distinguished line of Birmingham composers and conductors.

Some time after this, Peake left Birmingham, and his connection with the St. Martin's Youths came to an end. He took part in and probably called a peal of Grandsire Triples at Kidderminster in 1765, and afterwards went to live at Shifnal, where he did good work as the first conductor of the Albion Society, a company which achieved some distinction as a peal-ringing band.

During the ten years which followed the Grandsire Caters in 1758, no peal is known to have been rung in Birmingham, but it is difficult to believe that the time was a blank. All the members of the band continued to be active ringers, and the St. Martin's Youths were steadily gaining the reputation of being the leading provincial company next to the Norwich Scholars. A good deal of interest in ringing was taken in the town, which led in 1772 to the ring at St. Martin's being increased to twelve.

On August 29th, 1768, 6,210 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung in 4 hours and 26 minutes. The band included Joseph Neale, Joseph and William Thompson, Samuel Brooke, Thomas Hadley, Abraham Fletcher, Humphrey Peck, John Archer, and John Smith, all of whom had taken part in one or both of the earlier performances. Two new names appear, Phineas Smith and Daniel Veisey, both of whom, and especially Smith, were to be leading members of the society during the coming years.

John Archer had succeeded Andrew Peake as bob caller, and, like him, he called his own composition. The figures are lost, and there must be a doubt whether at the time there was sufficient knowledge of proof to ensure the truth of either peal.

As soon as the two trebles were added to St. Martin's, the company began to practise Grandsire Cinques, and on June 3rd, 1773, they rang 5,324 changes, the third peal in the method achieved outside London, and the second by a provincial band. The first had been rung by the College Youths in 1767 at Cirencester, the second in 1770 by the Cambridge Youths in their own tower.

Five of the older members of the St. Martin's Youths took part in the peal—Veisey, Brooke, Hadley and John and Phineas Smith. Thomas Midlam, who rang the eleventh, was for some years the society's leading heavy-bell man. Two men were needed for the tenor, James Nock and John Miles. Both were afterwards active members of the company, and Miles called several peals.

John Archer was not in the band, and his place as bob caller was taken by Phineas Smith, who for the next ten years was the principal conductor in the company. He, too, called his own composition. What it was like, we have no means of knowing; but we may assume that it was on the lines of the peals of Caters then rung, in long courses with the big bells in the tittums throughout.

Having rung Cinques, the band would naturally next turn their attention to Maximus, but the following peal on the bells was actually one of Bob Royal on November 5th, which probably was a paid ringing day. Seven of the other band took part, and Joseph Neale and John Archer stood in. Smith called from the eighth, and Midlam rang the tenor single handed.

Meanwhile two peals of Grandsire Caters had been scored at St. Philip's, one of 5,040 changes on August 17th, the other of 6,246 changes on October 23rd. Smith called both from the seventh, Robert Peck rang the treble, John Miles the sixth, James Nock the ninth, and Joseph Neale the eighth. Samuel Brook rang the fourth to the six thousand, and in both peals there were two men to the tenor.

One more peal was rung at St. Martin's before the year closed. It was one of Grandsire Triples, and, as the time taken was only two hours and fifty-five minutes, evidently it was on the front or middle eight. Phineas Smith called from the second, a pretty sure indication that the composition was Holt's ten-part. We know from 'The Clavis' that it was 'usual in most parts of the kingdom for the bob caller to ring the observation and call by the position of his own bell,' and it was that book which popularised the plan of calling by the bobs Before.

For nearly three years after these peals we have no record of any performances in Birmingham. No doubt some unsuccessful attempts were made for Maximus, and no doubt there was a good deal of activity among the younger and more energetic members. It was the installation of the new rings at Aston in 1775, and at St. John's, Deritend, in 1776 which gave a great stimulus to peal ringing in the district. At Aston, a band was formed, but the belfry was open to the St. Martin's Youths for peal ringing, and at Deritend the younger members had opportunities which were free from the restrictions imposed by the weight of metal and the vested interests of the older men at St. Martin's and St. Philip's.

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.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, June 22nd. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Stone, on Saturday, June 22nd. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Hodson, 43, Church Street, Stone, Staffs.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—North Midland District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter-at-Gowts, Lincoln, on Saturday, June 22nd. Business meeting 3.45. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but will anyone hoping to attend please let me know in case of cancellation?—A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Garsington (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m.—Miss M. R. Cross, Hon. Sec., The School House, Radley, Abingdon, Berks.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Owing to the Government order prohibiting the ringing of church bells, it has been found necessary to cancel the quarterly meeting arranged to be held at All Saints', Pontefract, on Saturday, June 22nd.—Horace S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Owing to the recent order by the Ministry of Home Security, regarding ringing, the meeting at Bexley, Kent, on Saturday, June 22nd, has been cancelled.—George H. Cross.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Owing to defence regulations, the meeting arranged for Braunston, on Saturday, June 22nd, has been cancelled.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The joint meeting arranged to be held to-morrow at Sawley has been cancelled.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Ratby and Groby). Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, June 29th. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 25th.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, June 29th. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—A meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Bigby on Saturday, June 29th. Service 4.15. The address will be given by the president of the Guild (the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln). During the service a peal board to commemorate the record peal of Minor will be dedicated and unveiled. Tea on Rectory lawn, weather permitting, 5 p.m. Please bring your sugar. Those requiring tea, which will be at a moderate charge, must send their names to the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, Bigby Rectory, Barnetby, not later than Wednesday, June 26th. All ringers welcome.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, July 2nd, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Speldhurst is the place chosen for the next meeting, and Saturday, July 6th, the date. As usual, ringers welcome from anywhere, and special attention paid to learners. Tower open 2.30. Divine service 4.30, followed by tea (at 1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting. Please notify me for tea by Tuesday, July 2nd.—Alec. E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual shield six-bell contest will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, July 13th. Open to all. Entrance fee 6s. per band. All entries must reach me not later than June 29th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—The annual salmon supper of the South Forest Branch will be held at the Angel Hotel, Ruardean, on Saturday, July 13th. Particulars of price and tickets from William W. T. Scott, The Lawn, Ruardean, Glos. Please send applications before Saturday, June 29th.

APARTMENTS.

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