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FRIDAY, JUNE 28th, 1940.

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COMMENTS AND WARNINGS.

The serious development of the war since last week's article for this column was written has brought the nation face to face with a situation more dangerous than any in its history, and every man and woman has to lend his or her energies to the fight to the utmost limit. In such circumstances it would not have been expected that much attention should be devoted to bell ringing by those who normally share in its delight and the service which it involves, but as far as the ringing of the church bells themselves is concerned, activity in that direction was already settled by the Order restricting their use, so that the sound of the bells was silenced before the full significance of the collapse of France in the war was realised. In the present situation, the ringing of bells for any purpose except that of notifying the church services would have been out of place, and no one would have desired to mock the feeling of public anxiety by any avoidable ringing. But that, as we have said, is a matter that was decided by the Army authorities and the Home Office, who ordered that no church bells should be rung except upon the arrival of enemy air invaders.

Concerning this, it appears still to be uncertain what the exact purpose of the ringing is to be, except to notify that a raid of this kind has taken place in the vicinity. We feel that some further instructions should be given so that the public may know exactly what they are expected to do when the bells are sounded. Unless such instructions are announced, the bells may, perhaps, only cause confusion. Inquiries among members of the Local Volunteer Defence Force go to show that even they have not yet received orders concerning the bells, and it is extremely important, when they have received their instructions, that they should be initiated into the technicality of ringing a bell, that they should know exactly how to get into the belfry and which rope to pull, if there is more than one. This plan of warning which has been adopted needs working out in much further detail and, on the face of it, it seems a pity that the ban was placed on the bells before someone in each area had been taught what to do, for a stranger, knowing nothing about church bell ringing, would be completely at a loss even when he got into the belfry. The best solution is that advocated by the president of the Central Council in the article in our columns last week, that local ringers, where possible, should be brought into the scheme. Where there are none available, the proposal, of course, loses its value until some one or more of the L.V.D.F. can be instructed in what to do. But these men, we imagine, will be more concerned with

(Continued on page 302.)

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rounding up the invaders than in running to the church or routing out the ringers or the verger. If the bells are to be an effective and the one recognised warning, action in this matter ought to be taken quickly. The ringers, we are sure, will only be too keen to render any help they can. Equally important is it that the public should know exactly what they are to do when they hear the sound of the warning church bells. If, as one imagines, they should act as in an air-raid warning, and take shelter or remain indoors, it should be made plain to them; if some other purpose is to be served, they should be told. Some further action on the part of the Ministry of Home Security seems called for, so that the Order may have its full use and effect. In the national interests everyone connected with bells and ringing accepts the directions of the authorities without murmur, but they would like to know that the steps to implement the intentions of the Order have not been overlooked.

RINGERS SHOULD NOT FORSAKE THEIR ART.

It is impossible at this stage to gauge the ultimate effect which the ban will have on ringing, but with or without the ban, ringers would in these critical days have placed a self-imposed restraint upon their activities. Common sense and decency would, in this hour, apply severe restraint upon church bell ringing, and ringers themselves, where they are not with the Forces, would in any case be directing their energies with the rest of the nation to the immediate task of winning the war. In whatever their sphere, the national claims demand their fullest effort, but that is not to say there should be no relaxation for mind or body. The Government has made it plain that in their scheme for mobilising labour, men and women must have moments of escape from their exacting duties and must have opportunities not only for rest but for recreation. There is good reason, therefore, for suggesting that ringers should not entirely forsake their art. If the bells cannot be rung openly, ringers can still find opportunity to interest beginners—who may be badly wanted in the belfries later on—by teaching them to handle a bell and to make a start with change ringing on handbells. Hundreds of ringers there are, too, who are experienced on church bells but who know little, if anything, of the delights of double-handed handbell ringing, and here, during this enforced silence of the church bells, is their chance to take up a very fascinating pastime. They will find the technique different to change ringing in the tower, but patience and perseverance will open up for them an entirely new aspect of the art, and they will find, as has already been pointed out, that this form of ringing is an excellent mental recreation and an antidote to the cares that may beset them. We do not know for how long the restriction on church bell ringing may last; but if the ban is long drawn out the art is bound to suffer severely unless those who are in a position to carry on maintain their own interest and endeavour to enlist the interest of others—a difficult task, it must be admitted, but one which ought not to be shirked.

THE FUTURE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

In the meantime we feel we ought to say another word about 'The Ringing World' itself. No one can foresee what lies immediately ahead, and it is just as well to utter a word of warning. In the first place, we invite our readers to send us articles or letters on any subject

relating to ringing. We hope to continue the journal in the interests of the Exercise, but we want ringers to realise that our pages can only be filled if they will provide some of the material. They may have subjects they will like to ventilate; contributions of value which they can make to the art if they will but try; some story of interest which they can pass on. On our part we hope to continue the instructional and historical articles which are now appearing, and provide space for all the news of ringers' activities that may be sent to us—and we believe there are lots of bits of news which correspondents might find, if they will but take the trouble. We hope 'The Ringing World' will continue to appear week by week, but if there are interruptions—and there is no use blinking the fact that there may be—our readers will know it is no fault of ours. Those who buy their copy of the paper through a newsagent should confirm their order to ensure that every number reaches them as and when it is published; those who receive 'The Ringing World' by post from this office can rely upon the copies being regularly sent to them as they appear. We hope sincerely there will be no break in the weekly continuity, but in the face of the threats which overhang our land, it is just as well our readers should be prepared for delays. For something like seventy years ringers have had a newspaper to serve them, to keep them in touch and afford mutual support, encouragement and help in furthering the art we all love. Never during these years has it been so essential that a ringers' journal should continue to exist, if the whole Exercise is not to disintegrate and the art to drift into the depths of neglect. We feel, therefore, we may call on all ringers to give us their full support and to aid us in maintaining the interest and usefulness of the paper.

MR. G. L. JOYCE AND THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK.

MR. J. A. TROLLOPE STATES SOME FACTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As you have printed Mr. Joyce's letter, perhaps you will allow me to give, in self defence, a few statements of plain fact.

There was nothing arrogant in my previous letter, either in intention or in fact. I pointed out that Mr. Joyce's criticisms of the new Surprise book were based on insufficient knowledge, and so they were. He has not read the book, he does not know what is in it, and yet he continues to make sarcastic and spiteful remarks about it.

The articles you have recently published were not taken from the book, and no one has said that they were, but the writer dealing with some of the things that the book deals with has, not unnaturally, used similar arguments and explanations, though not the same words.

There is not the slightest truth in the suggestion that I have taken Mr. Joyce's ideas and used them without acknowledgment. I have never read a line of anything Mr. Joyce has written about proof and false course ends. I know, of course, that he published some articles some years ago, but at the time I was not interested in the subject, and since I have deliberately refrained from turning them up, I have no reason to suppose that by so doing I lost anything. So far as the Surprise book is concerned, Mr. Joyce and his articles do not exist. Your article of May 10th, which gives the principles on which any system of proof by half-leads is based, is in substance, though not in words, the same as an article I published in 'The Bell News' as far back as September, 1914.

What Mr. Law James and Mr. George Baker said to Mr. Joyce is no concern of mine. I have never at any time discussed false course ends with Law James, and I am not interested in or influenced by what Mr. Baker has written on the matter.

Neither Mr. Turner nor I have ever claimed any copyright in any ideas about proof, nor dreamt of doing so. The subject is not a very profound one, and a really competent investigator is almost sure to reach certain conclusions.

The Methods Committee wrote the Surprise book for the Central Council as one of a series, which includes the Minor, Triples and Plain Major books. The questions of publication and the financing of the publication are not their business, and if there is any 'cheek' in the matter (the word is Mr. Joyce's), it consists in his butting into matters which do not concern him.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 19, 1940, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

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

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6

ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4 | EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by J. PAGETT. Conducted by EDWIN A. BARNETT.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIAN.

TEST CRICKETER AND BELLRINGER.

The death was announced on Saturday at the age of 67 of Mr. M. A. Noble, who was a cricketer of world-fame and a bellringer.

Mr. Noble is generally considered to have been the greatest all-round cricketer ever produced by Australia. He was also regarded as one of the wisest and sternest captains of all time, and those who indulged in the pleasure of choosing teams of past and present cricketers almost unanimously elected him as captain of the team.

He was a batsman of inexhaustible patience who could with his long reach adapt himself to all circumstances, a medium-paced bowler of infinite variety and great accuracy, who was anything but dependent on a new ball, and a magnificent fieldman close to the wicket, more especially at point.

As a young man of slender but elegant physique he played against A. E. Stoddart's team in 1898 and first came to England in J. Darling's side of 1899. He at once established himself as a cricketer of the highest quality, his batting in the Test Match at Manchester and in the second innings of the game at the Oval being remarkable. Thereafter he was in every series of matches, whether in this country or in Australia, an outstanding player at a time which was rich in great names. He played, as an example of a score-sheet of those days, in a Test Match team at Adelaide in 1904 which was composed of V. Trumper, R. A. Duff, C. Hill, S. E. Gregory, M. A. Noble, A. J. Hopkins, W. W. Armstrong, H. Trumble, C. E. McLeod, J. J. Kelly and W. P. Howell, and he himself was first among his peers. He was in England in 1905, considerably helped Australia to beat A. O. Jones' team in 1907-08, and then came as captain to this country in 1909, when Australia won the rubber. In all, in Test Matches against England he scored 1,905 runs with an average of 30.72 and took 115 wickets at an average of 24.78.

In 1895, the late Mr. F. J. Cullum, sen., of Frith, was sent by his firm to Australia and spent a year there. During that time he used to ring at St. Mark's, Darling Point, which then had only six, and the one and only 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor Mr. Cullum ever rang was here and the conductor was M. A. Noble. On one of his visits to England with the Australian team, Mr. Noble, we believe, met the College Youths and rang at St. Paul's Cathedral.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I first took an interest in bells, just fifty years ago, I used very often to attend evensong on Sunday afternoons at Norwich Cathedral, and, before the service, go up into the triforium and chime the sixes on the back three bells, or if there were two of us we would chime the five.

The triforium of the Cathedral is not very far up from the ground, and, of course, is outside the tower, so there had to be about 100ft. of rope and the whole bulk of the massive tower pier between the chimer and the bells. Nevertheless, they chimed quite easily. The ropes were attached to the clappers and one sat down on a stool with a rope in each hand and a foot on a wooden lever for the tenor. I have often wondered how the ropes were brought down from the bells.

I never made any particular inspection of the bells themselves. They were very remote. On Sundays one did not go up to such places, and on weekdays there was a fee of sixpence, but I seem to remember the bells in a frame over on the far side of the bell chamber hung for ringing, but with the wheels removed. There is little doubt that they were rung as late as the middle of the last century. I have heard (or perhaps I have heard of) a man who said he had rung on them. I don't remember particulars. It may have been William Freeman, whom I knew quite well and who rang in the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. There was a ringing floor below the ceiling of the present lantern, which was taken away, I think, when the transepts were thrown open to the choir and other improvements made in the time of Dean Goulbourn. This is all rather hazy recollection and not necessarily correct in detail, but it should not be difficult to find out the facts.

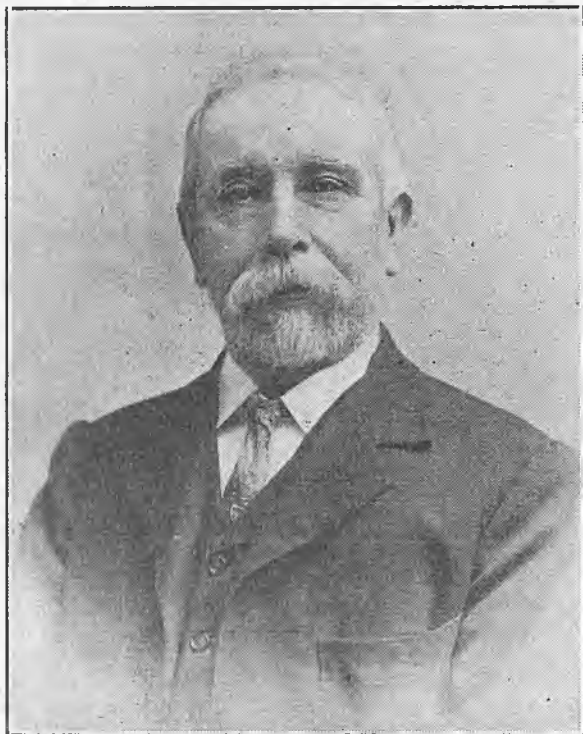
Samuel Thurston, who was a stonemason by trade, was employed at one time on the Cathedral staff. That would account for his name being scratched inside the tenor.

In my time all the rings of six in Norwich were ringable after a fashion, and some of us boys actually rang a peal on the five at St. Peter's, Permountergate. Even the many threes were all hung for ringing and were swung chimed every Sunday, and some were occasionally rung. The last time I was in the city I could hardly get into most of the belfries for the filth on the stairs. J. A. T.

A FAMOUS COMPOSER.

To-day is the one hundred and third anniversary of the birth of Henry Dains, which took place on June 29th, 1837, at the little village of Tibenham in Norfolk. His name is fast becoming only a memory and there are now thousands of ringers who probably know little of his very considerable contribution to the art and science of change ringing. His father was a ringer and he himself learnt to ring on the six bells of his native parish.

He migrated to London in early life and in 1872, he joined the Waterloo and St. James' Societies and soon after the Society of Cumberland Youths, with which he was associated during the greater part of his ringing career, and of which he was for many years the hon. secretary.



HENRY DAINS.

Henry Dains' first peal was one of Grandsire Triples, rung in 1873 and conducted by George Newson; and between that time and his death he took part in some 220 peals, which included what were then the standard methods—Grandsire, Stedman, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and London. The Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob were rung on eight, ten and twelve bells. It is indicative of the opinions of London ringers of half a century ago that no peal of Plain Bob was included in the list.

One of his most notable performances was 13,440 changes of Double Norwich Major at Romford in 1894, at the time the record length in the method. Less than a month earlier the band had attempted the peal at Brentwood, but had lost it just before the end through the breaking of the treble rope. The time taken in the failure was only two minutes less than in the successful peal.

It was as a composer that Henry Dains most distinguished himself and there he earned a place among the leading composers in the whole history of the art. He was especially successful in peals of Treble Bob Major and some of his compositions marked a distinct advance in the science of change ringing. His 5,056 in two equal parts with the 6th the extent in 5-6 placed at the last four course ends of each part was described as a 'gem,' and his 5,024's with the 6th the extent at home at seven, eight, nine and ten course ends, respectively, are models of construction in Treble Bob composition.

Treble Bob was perhaps the method in which Dains most distinguished himself, but it was not the only one. He did good work in Double Norwich, Superlative and London Major and in Stedman Caters.

Henry Dains' reputation has, we fear, suffered unjustly from a somewhat unfortunate habit of his. He would sometimes work out a peal, largely by experimental means, and then put the paper aside, intending to prove the figures fully at some future time. Later on he would come across the paper, and, not realising that he had not proved the peal, publish it, and so a number of false peals over his name got into print and his fame suffered accordingly. It would, however, be very unfair to judge him by this.

(Continued in next column.)

A TRULY REMARKABLE PEAL.

PROWESS OF THE RINGERS OF FENCHURCH ST. PAUL.

BY X.Y.Z.

In the articles on London Church Bells the writer has referred to many of the long peals rung in bygone years and to many of the famous heavy bell ringers of old time; he has told us of Philemon Mainwaring, and Samuel Muggeridge, and Joseph Monk; but in comparing their performances with those of more recent men like James W. Washbrook and William Pye, he appears to have entirely overlooked a peal which seems to me to be in most ways far more remarkable than any other which has ever been accomplished. I mean the fifteen thousand of Kent Treble Bob Major rung on January 1st, 1929, at St. Paul's, Fenchurch, in Lincolnshire.

At the time the peal was rung it did not attract the amount of attention it deserved. There was, I fear, some local jealousy, and the Lincoln Diocesan Guild did not book it because, so it would seem, some of the band had not paid their subscriptions and were not members. Indeed, though a peal board has been erected in the belfry there was some fear that the performance would have been quite forgotten had not the talented author of 'The Nine Tailors' given an account of it in her book.

That account is fairly full and complete, but it suffers by being mixed up with the history of other matters, such as jewel robberies, murders, floods and so forth, which, though not unimportant in themselves, are hardly germane to the art of change ringing. Readers, therefore, will no doubt welcome an account free from irrelevant details, and in giving it I wish to acknowledge my entire indebtedness to Miss Sayers for all the facts.

The Church of Fenchurch St. Paul is, as all know, one of those magnificent buildings which are the glory of the Fens. It possesses a stately tower 128ft. high, with a noble ring of eight bells, the tenor of which weighs 41 cwt. The bells, a mixed lot, are hung in an old wooden frame, which was repaired in 1887 by Taylor's, who recast three bells and rehung the others.

About 20 years ago the Rector of the parish was the Rev. Theodore Venables, a man who not only took a great deal of pride in his church and bells, but was himself a keen ringer. Most of my readers will be familiar with his famous book, 'An Inquiry into the Mathematical Theory of the In and Out of Course together with Directions for Calling Bells into Rounds, etc.,' as well as his 'Change Ringing for Country Churches,' though for some inexplicable reason a copy of neither is in the Central Council library. Some years ago Mr. Venables resigned the living, and as his name does not appear in the current issue of Crockford, the probabilities are that he is dead.

Encouraged by the Rector, a most skilful and remarkable band had been formed at Fenchurch, and on New Year's Day, 1929, they resolved to attempt a peal of 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major. Why Treble Bob? we may ask. And why fifteen thousand? The answer is that there was a copy of Troyte's book in the parish and that book set the standard and the horizon of the ringers' ambition. It is rather a pity that it was Troyte and not Shipway or Snowdon's 'Rope Sight' or even the 'Clavis,' for a talented band like this one was, would have found it just as easy to ring a seventeen thousand of London Surprise as a fifteen thousand of Treble Bob. But so it was.

On the eve of the peal attempt the man who should have rung the second, William Thoday, was taken ill by influenza, an epidemic of which was at the time devastating the parish, but fortunately his place was filled by a certain Peter Wimsey, who happened, apparently for no particular reason, to be the brother of a duke.

The peal was to start at midnight, and during the evening before the band met at the Rectory, and to make sure that they knew what Kent Treble Bob was like, they rang three leads and a double course on the handbells single handed. Then with one of those flashes of brilliant intuition which come only to great minds, the steeplekeeper, John Godfrey, remarked that as Lord Peter Wimsey was to ring the second, and as he was not so tall as William Thoday by a long chalk, it would be necessary to let the tuckings down a goodish bit. With that they all trooped across to the church and up into the belfry, where they pulled the bells up in peal, or at any rate all at the same time.

I have said that this was a remarkable band. It was, but none of them was quite so remarkable as Hezekiah Lavender, the conductor

(Continued on next page.)

A FAMOUS COMPOSER.

(Continued from previous column.)

Dains represented the Cumberlands on the Central Council from the year of its foundation until his death, and he was an active and well-known member of that body. He was one of the original members of the Methods Committee, and though not one of the most influential members, he took a great deal of interest in its work. He was a member of the Peal Collection Committee and was responsible for the Double Norwich Collection, but he was hardly the best man for such a job and the book cannot be said to be a successful one.

He did a good deal of research work in the British Museum among the older and, at the time, little known ringing books, and published copious extracts from them in 'The Bell News,' and in the many controversies of the time he was one of the keenest protagonists. He was a worthy representative of a school of composers which has largely passed away, but which in its time did most excellent work.

Henry Dains died during the last war at the age of 78, on April 6th, 1916.

THE END OF A STUPENDOUS FEAT.

(Continued from previous page.)

and tenor man. In bygone years he had been sexton, but he had got past that. He was old and he was toothless, and now in his eighty-third year he pulled up the two-ton tenor without help. More still, he clattered her up the right way. It was a feat which may fairly be said to be unparalleled in the history of ringing. Samuel Muggeridge could not have done it, nor William Pye. Even the writer of this article doubts whether it would not be beyond his own powers. But to these wonderful men it was so customary a thing that it passed without notice.

How then do I know that he did clapper it up the right way? I don't know really, but I can't believe that such men would have gone for a fifteen thousand with the clappers on the wrong side of the bells; and I do know that they did not turn them. For at that very moment there was up in the bell chamber a man tied to the bell frame. Tied, but not gagged, and with his arms free. He had been a ringer in the tower and knew very well that it is quite an uncomfortable thing to be tied up to a bell frame during a peal. We can hardly doubt that if anyone had come up to turn the clappers he would have called his attention to his plight and asked to be released.

Fortunately he was not released, for if he had been, though it would have saved his life, there would have been no 'Nine Tailors.'

After a few rounds the band dispersed with orders to meet again to ring for the service. Much against his will, the captain allowed them to leave the bells up. It was not, he said, to be taken as a precedent. The stout-hearted old fellow would have made nothing of whisking the tenor up again in an hour or so's time before starting for the peal, but he gave way to the younger men.

The peal began at midnight, every man standing to his own rope, for in Fenchurch St. Paul they did not chop and change, but every man had his own bell and stuck to it. The Rector was not one of the band, but he was in the belfry. He had most thoughtfully provided a large jug of beer, and every now and then when one of the ringers felt that way inclined, he would hand his rope temporarily to Mr. Venables and go and help himself. Lord Peter took the opportunity to have a stroll round the churchyard. Only the tenor man, that great soul, scorned all such relaxation and went on hour after hour, turning in the great tenor and calling the hobs.

The end came at last and fifteen thousand eight hundred and forty changes of Kent Treble Bob Major had been rung in nine hours and fifteen minutes. It really was a stupendous feat. True the College Youths had in 1868 rung the same peal and in three minutes less time, but Bethnal Green tenor weighs 14 cwt. and Fenchurch tenor weighs 41 cwt. Moreover, the ropes at the latter place are 90ft. long

(Continued in next column.)

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STONE.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at St. Michael's Church, Stone, on June 22nd, when the following towers were represented: Stoke-on-Trent, Tunstall, Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Longton and Stone. Although the church bells could not be rung on account of the new Order, the time was spent in handbell ringing, and a few were able to ring their first changes on handbells.

A short service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector of Stone, the Rev. H. Lee, who gave an inspiring address. After the service the members, including the Rector and Vicar of Tunstall, the Rev. S. F. Linsley, visited the George Hotel for tea. The landlord of this hotel is a ringer from St. Michael's, Stone. After the 17 members had had a good tea, the Rector welcomed the visitors and remarked that it was unfortunate that the bells could not be rung, but he hoped and prayed that the time was not far distant when the association would carry on with its usual duties.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the welcome he had extended and to the ringers for the tea they had provided was proposed by Mr. C. H. Page and seconded by Mr. T. H. Forster.—Mr. H. Hodson, the leader of the Stone ringers, responded, and Mr. H. Procter, the landlord of the hotel, remarked that it was always a great pleasure to entertain any ringer who came to his hostelry from anywhere.

Mr. E. Steele proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had so ably attended to the needs of the table, and Mrs. W. Buckley responded.

After tea a committee meeting was held, at which the Rev. S. F. Linsley was chairman.

There was a mixed feeling regarding the future, but after careful thought it was proposed by Mr. N. Sargeant 'That we should carry on with the meetings which had been arranged and fixed for the year 1940.' This was seconded by Mr. T. H. Forster.

Mr. A. Thompson, the hon. secretary, remarked that he would shortly be joining the Forces and said the safety of the records books was at the present time a worry to him. The Rev. S. F. Linsley, clerical secretary of the association, offered to place the books in the safe at Christ Church, Tunstall, which was agreed to.

(Continued from previous column.)

and they had put on new ones specially to ring the peal. Truly a wonderful performance!

Stedman Triples is given in Troyte's book, and so, of course, the Fenchurch men rang a peal of it, but it was not a method Mr. Lavender thought much of. How should he? He was the conductor to the band, he always rang the tenor, and had done so for 60 years. What use had such a one for such a method? He was a marvellous man, and, take him on the whole, we shall not see his like again.

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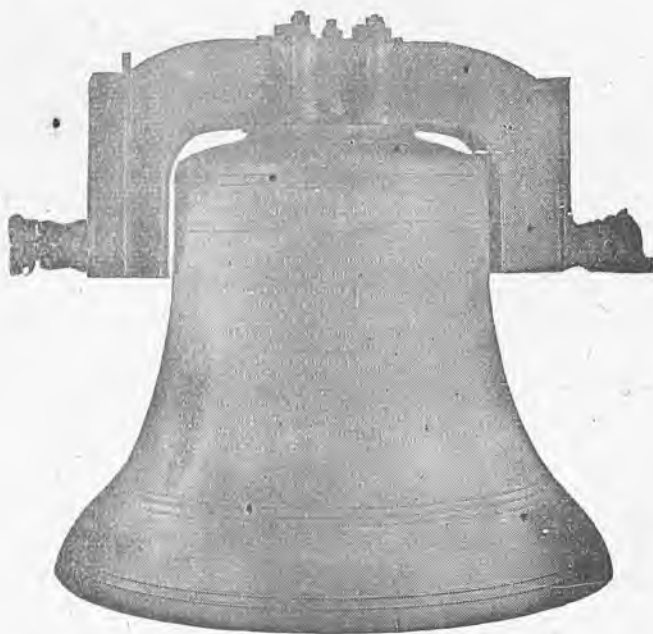
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BELL ROPES, MUFFLES &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Bob Pye's many friends will join us in congratulating him on his sixty-eighth birthday, which falls on Sunday next.

The ring of ten bells at Taunton was opened on June 25th, 1885, and what was claimed to be the first peal of Caters in Somerset was rung. It afterwards came to light that the peal was false.

Mr. James Morgan writes that the peal of Bob Major published in our issue of June 14th was called by him on February 7th, 1910. The late Rev. A. T. Beeston rang the fourth.

The old ring of ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, were rung for the last time on June 28th, 1885.

On June 30th, 1833, Elijah Roberts tapped on handbells at Birmingham 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques. Henry Cooper called the bobs and Henry Johnson witnessed the performance.

The first peal of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, Ilkeston Variation, was rung at Ilkeston on June 30th, 1921, conducted by E. C. Gobey. The method is Kent with Oxford Places inserted at certain places to keep the tenors out of the Slow. Mr. Gobey called a similar peal of Royal at Chesterfield in 1922.

For several years the bells remained silent, as it was held by architects that it was not safe to ring them in the lofty steeple. Then in 1927 a generous donor offered to pay the cost of recasting them into a chime of fourteen bells. The scheme met with a great deal of opposition, in which the Central Council took a leading part, but after a hearing by the Consistory Court the faculty was issued and the bells recast.

We are pleased to see that handbell ringing still flourishes at Bushey. We hope other handbell bands will not allow themselves to fall out of practice.

A RINGERS' REST HOUSE.

AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, through your columns of 'The Ringing World,' issue a warm invitation to any ringers in His Majesty's Forces who may be stationed in or near Oxford to make use of this address as a ringers' rest house. We have here a set of ten handbells, and doubtless many members of the Forces will be glad of the chance to get in some practice during their spare time, if any.

In passing, might I suggest that this could be done by ringers generally and thus keep the art going during the war?

R. A. POST.

54, Lye Valley, Headington, Oxford.

Many ringers, we feel sure, will be ready to follow Mr. Post's excellent suggestion, and we shall be pleased to publish their names and addresses.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

ASTON RINGING IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In connection with Mr. Trollope's article on Birmingham ringers and ringing, the following extracts may prove of interest to our Aston friends.

'Leicester Journal,' May 5th, 1792.—'We learn from Hinckley that a subscription has been fet on foot by the gentlemen of that place to defray the recasting of two of the old bells, and purchasing two new ones in addition. A gentleman well known for his mechanical abilities has likewise engaged to fet up an entire new fet of chimes.'

'Leicester Journal,' January 4th, 1893.—'On Friday last was rung at the parish church of Hinckley in this County by the Society of Youths of Afton, near Birmingham, a true and complete Peal consisting of 5264 changes of Bob Major which was completed in 3 hours and 20 minutes being the first peal ever rung there in that method.'

'Leicester Journal,' May 18th, 1793.—'We learn that on Whit-Monday the St. Peter's Youths of Afton near Birmingham will ring at the parish church of Hinckley, a complete peal of eight bells in the newest method, which is expected to surpass everything of the kind ever heard in that place.'

'Leicester Chronicle,' June 13th, 1793.—'His Majesty's Birthday was celebrated at Hinckley in this County, with every mark of loyalty and attachment. The morning was ushered in with ringing of bells etc. At Ten o'Clock a number of young men assembled with their muffets at the Nag's Head, from whence they went in procession (accompanied by a select band of music with flags flying) to the church, where being met by the Society of Ringers, they all ascended the tower, and performed Handel's Coronation Anthem in honour of the day, which was followed by three volleys fired from off the Tower. They then returned to the Inn, where an elegant entertainment was provided, several loyal and constitutional songs having been sung, they paraded the town, firing volleys in different parts of it. The day concluded with the utmost harmony.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

P.S.—To assist me in local research, can any Aston ringer inform me (privately) of details of the transfer of the ancient chancel screen from St. Margaret's, Leicester, to Aston, and if it is possible to get a photo or drawing of this?

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

THE UPKEEP OF UNUSED BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It would surely be helpful at this time for steeplekeepers to be given some advice on how to look after the bells during a long period of disuse, and I would respectfully suggest that the opinions of some or all of the leading bellfounders be sought and their suggestions embodied in an article in 'The Ringing World.'

Many of us are familiar with the difficulties to be encountered when visiting towers where the bells, normally in good order, have been silent and unattended, even for only a few months, whilst the effects of years of neglect may be experienced at numerous London churches.

There are certain to be many towers where the bells will be allowed to go to rack and ruin, as there are numerous places where, in normal times, the bells are oiled only because they have begun to go very hard and not because, in such towers, regular attention is regarded as a necessity. In such cases it is probably hopeless to expect that anything will be done to the bells until after the war.

It might perhaps be possible for the Central Council to prepare a leaflet on the care of bells whilst in disuse, which could be circulated by the associations to every tower in the kingdom—even those towers not in union with the associations.

P. A. C.

REMOVAL OF BELL CLAPPERS.

Sir,—Is it entirely a practicable proposition to take out the clappers of bells, as Mr. Lewis suggested in his article in your last issue? Granted that this is the most effective method of preventing any risk of accident when using the bells for instructional purposes I venture to think there must be hundreds of towers where it would be almost impossible to move the rusted nuts on the clapper bolts of old bells. And if all the bells are wanted for use in this way, what a business it would be to go up and replace a clapper every time, in order to make a bell ready for use as an alarm.

I think the method suggested in your article for beginners of lashing the clapper securely, with a piece of leather inserted between the lashing and the lip of the bell to prevent chafing, would prove equally effective and there would be no risk, if the lashing were inspected before use each time. But best of all, I believe, is the employment of wooden clapper stays, which are bolted to the shaft of the clapper just above the ball and effectually hold it in position in the centre of the bell. They are quickly and easily adjusted. L. W. BUNCE.

A SILENCE THAT CAN BE FELT.

COUNTRY CHURCHWARDEN'S SYMPATHY.

Sir,—I am not a ringer, but I know the ringers of our village church and that is how I know there is a 'Ringing World,' and it is to express my sympathy with the ringers of all this land of ours that I write to you. For years and years, ever since I can remember, and I am not a young man, the ringers at our church have faithfully carried out their duties Sunday by Sunday, ringing twice a day to call us to church and reminding even the careless, who never go to church, that Sunday is a day different from other days; that there is a God and that there are spiritual things which call for man's attention, even if he neglects them. The bells for generations have been such an established institution in our village that their silencing has come as a great blow to us and especially to the ringers, who, I know, love their job—two of them have loved it for more than fifty years. They have enjoyed their Grandsires and their Bob Majors, but they have done more, they have given their services heartily as unto the Lord. But on these last two Sundays our bells have been silent and it has been a silence that could almost be felt. It has struck a blow at our Sunday life such as I should never have thought possible. Even folk who have previously seemed indifferent have spoken about it; and there are those who have said it is a shame that we should have to be without the bells on Sunday, although, of course, they are prepared to admit that if it's going to help beat the enemy, then it is necessary. As I passed up through the village street with cottage gardens aglow with flowers in the sunshine on that first Sunday morning of the silence and realised the reason for it, I felt that war was nearer to us than I had imagined. In our little backwater, war had seemed still a long way away and the boys who had left us had gone on a crusade to a distant land. But now it has made its presence felt even here. For centuries never a Sunday had passed without the sound of the church bells; but the war has changed even that. It has given us a real pang of sorrow this loss of our beloved bells, and old Tom and his companions of the belfry are inconsolable. They have the sympathy of all the villagers here, but we are only typical of scores, aye hundreds of other villages in this land of ours where they have the same feeling towards the bells, and so I send my sympathy and that of our ringers to all the ringers of England who have been deprived of their bells and of the opportunity of continuing their service to the Church. With them all, we long for the day when our bells may ring out again—for victory and peace.

'A COUNTRY CHURCHWARDEN.'

RINGERS ON DUTY.

The ringers at St. Mary's, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, have enrolled for duty to assist the Local Volunteer Defence Force. They are taking turns to do duty night and morning in the belfry ready to give the signal by ringing a bell if the watchers on the top of the tower give warning.

SHOULD CLOCK CHIMES BE STOPPED ?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Since the order to stop church bellringing, I have been continually asked why I have not stopped the church clock from striking. It chimes every quarter and strikes the hour, as well as playing hymn tunes at certain times during the day. As one of our ringers remarked to me the other day, 'When it strikes midday we might as well ring a quarter-peal!' The parson told me not to stop the clock striking unless we were ordered to do so, but I should be pleased to know if there is any definite ruling on this matter.

'SEXTON.'

BARNSELY SOCIETY TO KEEP GOING.

The Barnsley and District Society has had to cancel the annual shield contest, which should have been held at Silkstone, but a meeting has been arranged at Monk Bretton on July 6th, the chief object being to dedicate a board recording two peals rung by members of the society. One was rung fully muffled in memory of those who lost their lives in the explosion at Wharnciffe Woodmoor Colliery in August, 1936, and the other in honour of the Coronation of their Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth in May, 1937.

It is hoped to arrange other meetings to keep the society going and encourage handbell ringing and the ringing spirit.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

There are indications that some of the associations hope to carry on, even if in limited measure. The Oxford Diocesan Guild's annual meeting is to be held, if all's well, in Oxford on July 30th, and except that there will be no tower-bell ringing, the proceedings will follow the usual course. Business of importance will be brought before the meeting, and it is therefore hoped there will be a good attendance.

St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, hopes to keep interest alive by holding quarterly meetings. The next will be at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, on July 6th. Handbell ringing and a social evening is to follow the business meeting, and it is hoped in this way to assist many young members to become proficient change ringers on handbells.

Two peal boards are to be unveiled at Monk Bretton by the Barnsley and District Society on July 6th.

On the same day a board recording a muffled peal rung in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard is to be dedicated at Great Baddow.

CANCELLED MEETINGS.

The following meetings have been cancelled:—

TO-MORROW, JUNE 29th:

Lincoln Diocesan Guild, at Bigby.
Worcestershire Association, at Claines.
Midland Counties Association, at Anstey.

SATURDAY, JULY 13th:

Barnsley and District Society Shield Contest at Silkstone.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

PICNIC TEA AND HANDBELLS.

The Northern Branch met at Hagley on June 15th as arranged, although not in such strength as would have been the case had there been no suspension of ringing on the tower bells.

Three sets of handbells were available and were made good use of, both for change ringing and for tune playing.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Robert Burns, who gave an excellent address, which, judging by the comments afterwards, made a deep impression upon the members.

By kind permission of the Viscount and Viscountess Cobham, a picnic tea followed, in one of the many sequestered beauty spots of Hagley Park, when the members were joined by the Rector, who afterwards presided at the business meeting.

It was decided to hold meetings as usual, but instead of a bi-quarterly meeting it was agreed to hold two meetings, to give increased opportunities for joint handbell practice, in between the usual quarterly meetings, the first to be on a Saturday in July at Wolverley. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for Kinver on September 21st.

The Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector, which was carried unanimously. The Rector replied and hoped to have the pleasure of welcoming the Northern Branch to Hagley at a not far distant date and under happier circumstances, and urged them as churchworkers not to let the present ban on ringing damp their enthusiasm. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Hagley Scouts and their Scoutmaster, Mr. E. M. Ashford, brother of the branch secretary, for the excellent way in which they had arranged the picnic tea and the plentiful supplies of good things provided, after which the meeting closed.

As Hagley Park is private and situated half a mile away from the main road, the members were able to indulge in all the handbell ringing they wanted. This included Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by the young handbell band from Stourbridge St. Thomas, who have only been practising for three months. Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Major by the more seasoned veterans, and an excellent selection of tunes by the Brierley Hill and Wollaston bands.

BIRMINGHAM BELLS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

What seems to have been the first peal at Aston was one of Grandsire Triples rung on July 15th, 1776. Phineas Smith called Holt's ten-part from the second, and the band was made up from the regular St. Martin's company.

A fortnight later the first peal was rung at Deritend—5,040 changes of Bob Major. The band included three or four of the older men and one or two new and interesting names. Stephen Hill, who rang the sixth, was a Kidderminster man who earned some amount of distinction by his adaptation of Holt's ten-part, which contains only one single and runs to 5,012 changes. Several attempts were made to get rid of the singles in a peal of Grandsire Triples by shortening the peal to less than 5,040 changes. Hill's attempt, which is given in Shipway's book, is the one which comes nearest success, though George Gross claimed to have composed and called at Edmonton a peal without singles which ran to 5,025 changes. How he did it, and whether it was true or not, we do not know, for the figures are lost.

The man who rang the tenor at Deritend was James Dovey, of Stourbridge. Apart from the peals he rang, nothing, I believe, is known of him, but he must have been a man of some means and standing, since he was able to travel about the country in pursuit of change ringing, and since he was invited to join the College Youths when they went to Shrewsbury to ring the first peal on the new twelve bells at St. Chad's. It may be no more than a coincidence that the Rector of Birmingham, in the year that the ten bells were installed, was Richard Dovey, but it is at least possible that he and James Dovey were father and son or in some other way related.

Many years after the time we are dealing with, Dr. Samuel Lee, who had learnt to ring at Shrewsbury and was then a learned professor at Cambridge, writing to Samuel Lawrence, remarks that 'Mr. Dovey I find is as much as ever in the science,' and he asks Lawrence, 'When you see Mr. Riley or Mr. Dovey, I would thank you to remember me respectfully to them.'

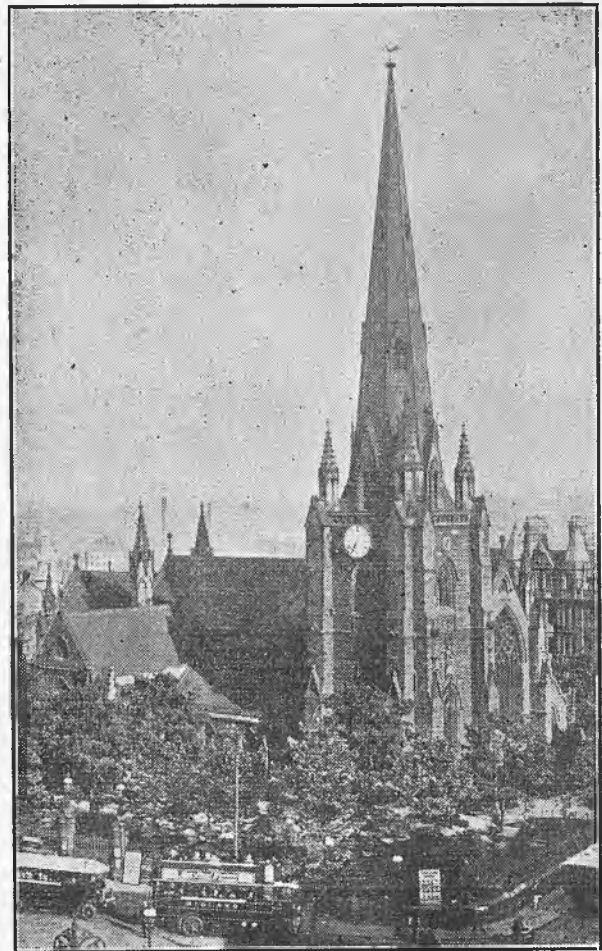
The peal at Deritend was conducted by John Miles, who now took his place as one of the Birmingham bob callers. He also conducted the next peal at Deritend, one of Grandsire Triples in the following September.

The first peal of Bob Maximus at St. Martin's was rung on October 25th, 1779. It was the first in the method accomplished outside London, but the Norwich Scholars a little more than a year before had rung their 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Mancroft. The band at St. Martin's consisted of Joseph Neale, Arasmus Wilson, Richard Newman, Joseph Littlewood, Stephen Hill, Thomas Hadley, Philip Heath, John Bristow, Daniel Veisey, Samuel Green, Phineas Smith, James Dovey and John Miles, the last two ringing the tenor between them. Philip Heath was a Shrewsbury man and a member of the Union Society of that town. The peal was composed and called by Phineas Smith.

The next recorded performance by the St. Martin's Youths was one of Tittum Bob Royal on May 20th, 1780, at St. Michael's, Coventry, the first peal on the bells which had been cast in 1774 by Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel. These were the bells which, in after years, enjoyed so high a reputation and were recast not so long

ago, despite a vigorous attempt by the Central Council to save them. Phineas Smith called the peal, and the band was made up of the regular members of the St. Martin's company, including Stephen Hill.

Two and a half years later, on October 7th, 1782, the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Martin's by a band made up largely by the same men. Samuel Brooke rang the fourth. He was the last of the company who took part in the Bob Major of 1755 to stand in a peal.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, BIRMINGHAM.

John Miles called Bob Major at Bewdley in 1782, and Phineas Smith the same method at King's Norton in 1783, and after that neither seems to have had any particular ambition to conduct peals, although both continued to be active ringers. The next performance at St. Martin's was by a band of young men, none of whom seems to have been a member of the regular company, but more than one of them were to be active peal ringers in the future. The peal was Holt's Ten-part, and was conducted by John Black from the second. Apparently it was the only occasion on which he called a peal. Charles Shuter rang the seventh. Soon after, he took Phineas Smith's place as the leading bob caller in Birmingham.

This performance was the beginning of a period of active peal ringing, and the year 1786 was an eventful one in

the history of the Birmingham Exercise. On February 12th, Charles Shuter called his first peal, one of Grand-sire Triples, at King's Norton, and about the same time Samuel Lawrence became a frequent visitor to Birmingham.

The band which had been formed at Shifnal, with Andrew Peake as conductor, contained several excellent ringers, but by far the most energetic and enthusiastic among them was Lawrence. He was born in the town in 1762, and was a farrier by trade. His family must have been the owners of a very prosperous business, for though, no doubt, he himself worked at the anvil, he had both the means and the leisure to spend visiting the belfries of the neighbouring towns and villages in pursuit of change ringing, to which he was passionately devoted. It was natural that he should journey to Birmingham as often as he could, and both at St. Martin's and at Aston he was so frequent and so welcome a visitor that he was looked on almost as one of the local band. It was at Aston on September 27th, 1784, that he called a peal for the first time—one of Oxford Treble Bob Major. In 1786 he called, at the same church, 6,016 changes of the same method, and when the St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal at Solihull he called 5,184 changes of Bob Major.

At this time the College Youths paid a very famous visit to Birmingham. The party was made up from both the companies into which for thirty years the society had been split, and this visit was part of an attempt to reunite the two sections into one.

The London men arrived in Birmingham towards the end of October, 1786, and on the 24th twelve of them started at St. Martin's for a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. It was a first-class band, made up of some of the best ringers who have ever belonged to the Society of College Youths, including John Povey, who probably was conductor, John Reeves, Robert Patrick, the bell founder, William Lyford, Joseph Holdsworth and Samuel Muggeridge. They rang for two hours, when the tenor clapper broke, and so the peal was lost. Then the St. Martin's men, to show what they could do, went to Aston and rang 5,120 changes of Treble Bob Major. Lawrence rang the tenor and conducted, Phineas Smith the seventh, John Miles the sixth, Daniel Veisey the fifth, William Newman the third, Thomas Hadley the second, and William Kendall the treble. The fourth was rung by a man named John Cox, who does not appear to have taken part in any other peals.

Next day the damage at St. Martin's was put right, and the College Youths made another attempt for the peal. Outside, listening, was a young member of the Aston band, William Hassall by name, and in after years he used to talk of the ringing and say how excellent it was. All went well for nearly three hours and a half, and a peal seemed certain, when Muggeridge set the tenor and went and sat down, saying he was tired and would ring no more. He had been opposed to the fraternisation with the ancient society, and did not like ringing with some of its members, so some of the others in the band thought he had spoilt the peal purposely. A heated altercation ensued, during which William Jones, who had been outside listening, came into the belfry. He had been a prime mover in the scheme of joining the two companies into one, and when he heard what had happened, in his anger and excitement he pulled the treble rope so hard that the bell was thrown over, smash-

(Continued in next column.)

CALL CHANGES.

DO THEY HELP OR HINDER THE BEGINNER?

By the Rev. Herbert Drake.

When I was taught change ringing by the late Rev. H. Law Jones, he impressed on me never to ring call changes, as, he said, they only formed bad habits, and especially bad striking. In the greater part of the country the use of call changes is, I know, condemned, but here in East Anglia it is practised; and several times lately I have noticed it advocated in your columns. It may therefore be well to examine this practice, to see if it does good or harm.

Now first it is said that the practice is good for this or that. I have heard it advocated for a good many things, so many indeed that it would be waste of time to enumerate them. As a matter of fact, I have noticed that it is no good for any of them. Moreover, there are other and better ways of attaining the desired end, in every case. Thus I think we may say call changes can do no good.

Why then are they practised? For one thing, because they allow people who do not want to do anything more to do something on the bells. They are a sort of anodyne to prevent real progress. For another thing they allow an instructor to look after several beginners at once. Although tempting, this is a thoroughly bad habit. The rule should be one pupil at a time. This does not mean that there can be only one learner at a time—though this would be the ideal. It means that, while others may be able to look after themselves, the instructor should concentrate on one at a time.

Now for the effect on striking. In good striking you have to place your bell in the row you are about to help to ring, at a certain distance from where it struck last. And the excellence of your striking depends on your judging this exactly. It must not be slovenly executed, nor made a little too short or too long. Now supposing these two places are in two call changes: you know that there will be at least half a dozen rows before there is another call; there is no hurry. If you move a quarter of the right distance, you will have got right by the time you have rung four rows, and this will probably be as much as is expected of you. I do not say that everyone knowingly argues like this, but it is pretty certain that this is what is at the back of one's mind. It certainly is of mine. And it would be difficult to imagine anything more likely to cause bad and slovenly striking. It undoubtedly has had that result in my own case. It will, of course, be said that this need not be so, and would not, where the beginner is properly taught. But, in fact, this is always the result. Perhaps, if one spent more trouble than in teaching proper changes, it might be possible to get call changes well struck. But in that case what is the good of it? Time is saved by teaching properly from the first.

But more important (though never in the mind of the ringer himself) is the effect on the outside listener. When in the tower we are so occupied in the work of ringing that we never stop to think how it sounds to an outsider. We clergy often hear complaints that ringers do not. Some of these seemed very strange to me, especially those of musical persons, but one day I was not able to be in the belfry and had to listen to the others ringing call changes. They were not badly struck—if I had been there, changes would have been rung—but I understood why musical people object to such ringing; nor do I ever want to hear call changes from outside again.

I will try to explain. In other music there is a succession of concords; or of discords which are quickly 'resolved' into concords. But the music of ringing is in a succession of rows. In some of these rows the sound is pleasant; in some it is indifferent; in the rest it is not so pleasant. The succession, however, is so speedy that the latter are not dwelt on, but are practically 'resolved' into the two other kinds. If the first kind predominate, we call it 'good music.' But the essence of it is the speed and rhythm with which the rows follow one another. Therefore, if call changes were at their very best, they would hardly be endurable. It would be like the playing on an instrument, the first note of a tune a number of times, and then the second, and so on. But they never are at their best; for what happens is this. When a good row is called, the melody helps the ear and it is soon rung well. It is no longer good practice, and another call is soon made. On the other hand, if a bad sounding row is called, the very sound makes it difficult, especially for beginners, to pick up the rhythm. As it goes badly, it is long before a call is made, as the caller, to justify himself, wants to get it to go well before he makes another call; the result is that the bad rows always predominate, and call changes always are musically intolerable.

I must admit that this does apply so drastically to numbers over eight. When some of the notes of the octave are duplicated, the ear is not so wearied by the reiteration of a row, especially if the calls are made frequently. But in other cases if call changes are felt necessary by the instructor, they should, for the sake of the ordinary listener, always be practised on silenced bells.

(Continued from previous column.)

ing the stay and ceasing itself, no one paying any attention to the flying rope.

Thus the Birmingham visit, instead of being the means of healing the thirty-year-old schism in the Society of College Youths, proved a decisive factor in the break-up and final disappearance of the ancient branch.

FOR BEGINNERS.

A START IN CHANGE RINGING.

When we planned this course of articles for beginners we had no idea that a sudden ban on the ringing of all church bells would fall upon the Exercise, and make 'open' practice out of the question. But the fact that the bells have now to be 'silent' will not, we hope, lead those who have just taken up ringing to abandon their study of the art or to imagine that there is nothing which can be done which is likely to interest them.

Of course, a great deal will depend upon the person who has sought to bring them into the belfry. If he (or she) has initiative and imagination, there is much that can be done to preserve the interest of pupils and to extend their knowledge ready for the time when their services can be fully utilised.

There is the 'silent' practice, to which we referred last week, in which the beginner can obtain mastery of a bell, and a progressive practice by which he can go on to acquire that rope sight so essential to change ringing. Many people, however, find that their first steps in change ringing are easier if they are made on handbells and, with the restrictions now in force, attention should be directed to this kind of tuition as much as possible. Even those who have some skill in change ringing on church bells will find it a pleasant and profitable way of passing an hour to learn to ring a couple of handbells to a simple method, while their new pupil takes one bell, preferably the treble, to begin with.

As this article is specially for the beginner, however, it is to the hunting of a bell in method ringing that we would specially direct attention now. First of all, let it be understood that in change ringing on handbells the bell has got to be used in a particular way. The bell must be struck upward to represent the 'hand stroke' of the church bell (which is the technical term used when the rope is pulled by the sally), and after the handbell has been thus struck it must be kept up momentarily until it is used in the next change, when it is struck downward to represent what is known as 'back stroke' (which, with a church bell, is the stroke when the bell is pulled by the rope end. The two strokes, hand stroke and back stroke, constitute a whole pull.) When the back stroke has been rung, the handbell is kept down until the next hand stroke. These movements need to be well defined actions, for any sort of half-and-half style will quickly put the beginner, and the other ringers, out of their calculations. The actual technique of striking the handbell can best be explained by anyone who has had some experience.

Now let us suppose you have got your handbell party together, with two or three of the older ringers to ring the other bells, and you endeavour to 'hunt' the treble, how are you to set about it? Here are the figures of a lead of Grandsire Doubles, which, if your ringing is to be on five bells, is likely to be the method your instructor will choose.

This is a variant of the figures we asked you to write out and study last week, and if you compare them you will find that they still consist of the changing of two pairs each time, the two front pairs and the two back pairs alternately, with the change made with both the front and back pairs in a different position—actually the

first change in each block of ten rows, instead of the sixth. That block of ten rows is called a lead, because it comprises the complete path of the treble from front to back and back to front.

If you examine the figures you will notice how regularly the treble moves up and down among the other bells—just one place at a time, until it gets behind all the rest, and then back again one place at a time until it leads once more. The other bells make deviations, but throughout the Grandsire method on any number of bells the treble always follows this straight track. Because it has a simpler path, however, it does not mean that the treble is a less important bell than the others. Indeed, it may be said to be the most important of all the bells, for upon it the others base their work, and if the treble goes wrong it is much more likely to put the rest out than if one of the others makes a mistake.

The principle involved in hunting the treble is the basis of all the complicated as well as the simple work which is to be found in method ringing. It is the foundation upon which bells move from place to place among the rest. As we pointed out last week, no bell moves more than one place up or down at a time. It may remain for two blows (or a whole pull) in one position, but when it moves it is always into the adjoining place.

Thus, in plain hunting with the treble, when you start you can move only into 2nd's place; that is, only one other bell can strike in front of you. That bell must be the one that was previously striking immediately after you, the reason being that he, too, can only move a place at a time, and, as he is hunting down, he must change places with the one in front of him. In fact, as far as the treble is concerned, that is what happens every time, while he is hunting up. At the next stroke he will strike after the bell now striking after him, so that if while he is making one stroke he looks for the bell that is coming after him, he will know exactly who to follow at the next stroke. Again, when he strikes in 2nd's place he will have only one bell in front of him, when in 3rd's place there will be two bells, in 4th's three bells, in 5th's four bells. He will, in fact, then be behind them all.

In hunting down he will follow the reverse process, namely, strike next time in front of the one now in front of him. But that is not so easy, and the best thing to do at first may be to count the bells in front. When hunting up you continue to increase the number of the bells in front of you until, in Doubles, all four strike before you do. When you hunt down you begin by having all four in front of you, then you omit the one you are striking over and strike after the other three. Again, omit the two you have struck over, and strike after the other two. Once more, ignore the three you have struck over, leaving only one for your attention, and then, having struck over him, lead with your own bell.

In order to do this accurately, when practice is possible on church bells, you must have perfect command of your bell, and you will find that when hunting up you must hold your bell up a little, and when hunting down, pull it in a little, because in hunting up, the interval between your striking places is longer, and when hunting down it is shorter. Moreover, if you are ringing on a heavy peal of bells you will find you will have to allow just a little more time, that is you will have to hold your bell off a fraction of a second longer when pulling after the bigger bells. It is these little allowances which make all the

(Continued on next page.)

1 2 3 4 5
2 1 3 5 4
2 3 1 4 5
3 2 4 1 5
3 4 2 5 1
4 3 5 2 1
4 5 3 1 2
5 4 1 3 2
5 1 4 2 3
1 5 2 4 3
1 2 5 3 4

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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

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

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The meeting of the above branch advertised for June 29th is now cancelled. Details and date of next meeting will be announced later.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The Grimsby District meeting, which was to have been held at Bigby on Saturday, June 29th, has been postponed.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting at Anstey on June 29th is cancelled. It has been decided to hold a general committee meeting at Leicester on July 6th. Will all members of various district committees and local secretaries please meet at St. Margaret's Church at 3.30 p.m.? Agenda: To transact current business and discuss future plans.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

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.—The Rev. J. N. Mallinson, Rector of Speldhurst, intimates that he will be glad to meet members and friends at Speldhurst on Saturday, July 6th, and extends an invitation to the Rectory gardens. Divine service 4.30, followed by tea (George and Dragon, at 1s. 3d. per head), and business meeting to discuss future activities of the district. Please try and attend, and notify me for tea by Tuesday, July 2nd.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Members are invited to attend the dedication on Saturday, July 6th, at 5 p.m., of a peal board at St. Mary's Church, Great Baddow, recording a muffled peal rung in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard, formerly Master of the association. Handbells will be available during the afternoon. Will all those requiring tea please inform Mr. G. Green, of 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, as soon as possible?—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting at St. Clement Danes, Strand, in choir vestry, at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, July 6th.—O. L. Ashbrook, Acting Gen. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, July 6th, at 6.30 p.m. Business meeting, handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, July 6th, when a peal board, recording two peals rung at this tower, will be dedicated by the Vicar. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at nominal fee at 5.15 p.m., followed by short business meeting and handbell ringing. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than July 3rd. A good attendance is hoped for as all are welcome.—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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each to members, 3s. each to non-members. It is earnestly requested that application for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should reach general secretary not later than Tuesday, July 16th, after which date the business will be in the hands of the caterers. Should the abnormal times in which we are living cause the dinner to be cancelled, all moneys sent will be refunded. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED, Second-hand set of handbells, eight.—Write, stating price, to Rev. F. S. Ford, St. James' Vicarage, Teignmouth, Devon.

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FOR BEGINNERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

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