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THE PEALS ANALYSIS.

The peals analysis tables for the year 1939 have just been made available for publication. The delay in their appearance has been unavoidable, for the members of the responsible committee of the Central Council, like other people, have now more urgent calls upon their time, but the many ringers who are interested in these statistics will welcome their publication, although six months have elapsed since the close of the period which they cover. The Exercise owes a debt of gratitude to the committee for carrying on their useful work year after year, and few people realise the painstaking care with which the figures are compiled. The preparation of the analysis is one of the duties which those who undertake the task have to carry on with systematic assiduity throughout the year and, in normal times, it takes up a great deal of the committee's leisure. Without hesitation it can be said that the Analysis Committee give more time to their work than any other committee of the Council. Their labours have provided a standing record of the progress of the art through more than thirty years, since the time when the work was taken over, after having been carried on privately for nearly twenty years by Messrs. G. F. Attree and George Baker, of Brighton. Thus for something like half a century there has been a regular and particularly careful analysis of the peals that have been rung, and these details remain as a matter of recorded history which ringers of the future may consult. If for no other reason, the work of the Analysis Committee is worth doing, but there is, in the results which they publish, always an interest for a large section of ringers.

The tables which we print to-day cannot very well be compared with past years, but if the war had not come upon us there is fair reason for thinking that 1939 would have proved almost, if not quite, as good a year for peals as 1938. Up to the end of August, 1,246 peals had been rung against exactly 1,300 in the same period of the previous year, and it would have been easily possible for the balance of 54 to have been made up before the end of December. One has only to examine the comparative figures to see how the monthly totals go up and down, and fifty peals could quite well have been balanced in a single month. Thus judged, 1939 was showing excellent promise. Actually, the year ended with only 1,338 peals, against 2,035 in the preceding twelve months, 92 peals only having been rung from September to December. There is little purpose in attempting to compare details between the two years, but it is noteworthy that, despite the general advance that has been

(Continued on page 326.)

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made in method ringing, there is still revealed an exceedingly large proportion of peals rung on five and six bells in one method only. The present, perhaps, is not the time to stress the point that ringers ought to attempt to reach a higher standard in this respect, for there is now little opportunity to do so, although, where handbell ringing is seriously taken up, something might be done in anticipation of the time when church bell ringing may again be possible. Looking back, however, there does appear to have been a lack of enterprise on the part of many ringers. One association, for instance, out of eighteen peals of Minor and Doubles, rang only four peals in two methods, and all the rest in one method only. There may, of course, be good reason for this, but it seems to show that there is room for much improvement. One gratifying feature of the analysis, however, is shown in the increase in the number of handbell peals rung. There were 105, as against 91 in 1938. It may be hoped that, with the present prohibition upon church bell ringing, handbell ringing will increase vastly in popularity, and that interest in it will not only be maintained during war time, but will continue to grow when ringing once more comes into its own.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, June 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

IN THE PARVIS OF ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Conducted by WILLIAM H. DEACON.

Witness—Sydney Flint.

The first peal on the bells and the first 'in hand' in the parish.
The band would like to thank Mr. Flint for the use of the bells.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

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

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 50th peal on handbells.

HISTORICAL RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to historic records of ringing in Birmingham district given in last issue, can Mr. Trollope tell me how he reconciles the length 6,218 Bob Major at Deritend and 6,074 at Aston in this method? My sole reason for asking this is that while searching for local data (quite apart from ringing) I have unearthed the record of a long peal of Caters and a peal of Royal at York Minster. These, from my limited knowledge gained during two years' sojourn in that city, were unknown or lost sight of.

Neither of these records (from a Midlands newspaper of the period) seem to conform to the method as regards number of changes, and I don't want Mr. Trollope to 'pull this to pieces' in his typical manner when dealing with history, and say 'This is impossible and cannot be allowed.' It is here in cold print. I know full well that old composers used to depart from the method to get a certain number of changes (especially so with 'date' touches) and also to get up rounds—like Lockwood's Single in Kent Treble Bob Major to bring round his 9,000 which was rung at Quorn, Leicestershire.

I have discovered a lot of hitherto unknown peal records, written in the quaint and 'flowery' language of the period, and shall be pleased to forward same for publication if you, sir, will give me the necessary space.

ERNEST MORRIS.

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your interesting leading article, 'Comments and Warnings,' I am of opinion that the authorities concerned with silencing church bells have acted in the best interests of the community, especially in view, as you point out, of the serious development of the war since the Order came into effect.

As far as we are concerned at St. Martin's, Birmingham, we have had no communication up to the present as to the procedure to be adopted or by whom the bells are to be rung. I take it that when this does happen it is really intended, when there are several bells, to chime or toll two or more, and not attempt to ring the bells in the orthodox manner as we ringers understand it. Of course, there is a risk, even with chiming, to the inexperienced, and this is where ringers whose circumstances permit can assist the authorities by volunteering to carry out these duties and so prevent possible damage to the bells and fittings.

While tower bells are silenced it is for ringers to take advantage of learning handbell ringing, and as one who, previous to the last war, was unable to ring a pair of bells, I can write with experience. Wherever possible the services of experienced double-handed ringers should be obtained and an endeavour made to master the art of ringing two handbells in changes. This reminds me of an excellent booklet on double-handed change ringing prepared at the request of the Central Council, written by Mr. Chris. Woolley, one of the foremost handbell and tower bell ringers in the Exercise. No doubt had times been normal this booklet would have been available, and I suggest that the Standing Committee of the Council should take the earliest opportunity, in conjunction with the author, to get this handy and useful booklet published, either as a whole or by weekly articles in 'The Ringing World.'

If I may give advice to those who are anxious to learn double-handed change ringing, I would suggest starting with Major or Triples (in plain methods), with, if possible, three experienced double-handed ringers. Learn first to ring each pair correctly in a plain course before attempting touches. This will give valuable experience in learning how to 'part your hands' as the two bells traverse through their various positions from coursing one another, or with two, three or more bells in between. Especially is it necessary to keep eye and ear on your course bells.

Even-bell methods may be the best for the learner to start with, but there is very little in it. Incidentally, we in Birmingham meet each Tuesday evening, 7.30 to 9 p.m., in a room at The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, where ringers who have little previous knowledge are having good practice with the more experienced handbell ringers, which augurs well for the future in Birmingham and district. We shall be very happy to welcome visitors interested.

With regard to the latter part of your article, 'The future of "The Ringing World,"' it is up to every one of us to assist the Editor by providing some useful material which will help to keep the paper going and to be of benefit and interest to the ringing exercise.

ALBERT WALKER.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As Mr. Edwin Barnett states in the last issue of 'The Ringing World,' it was mainly due to Henry Dains that the Cumberlands added the word Royal to their title. He was supported by Henry S. Thomas, of Battersea, who tried to get its use officially recognised. In this he was unsuccessful, which, no doubt, is the reason why the title adopted was The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, and not The Royal Society of Cumberland Youths.

I have always thought that the change was a mistake and it is a great pity it ever was made. There is more than a touch of snobbery about it, and it may suggest the totally unwarranted idea that the society has, or has had in the past, some royal patronage. The only excuse for the word is that the Duke of Cumberland, from whom the society took its name, was the second son of George II. So far as the younger son of a reigning king is royal he, of course, was royal, but there was nothing much about him to make anyone proud of having anything to do with him. He was a German soldier with a German soldier's outlook on things. History knows him chiefly for his ruthless suppression of the Scottish Highlands after the rising of 1745, from which he gained his unenviable title of 'The Butcher.' He had no personal contact with the Cumberlands' Society, and no sentiment for bells.

If I had any influence with the Cumberlands I would get them to remove the word Royal from their title as well as the sub-title they use—'late the London Scholars'—which calmly states an untruth, for they never were the London Scholars.

The title of the society for 150 years was the Society of Cumberland Youths. It is historical and quite sufficient. The society would do well to use it and nothing more.

'HISTORICUS.'

STONE, STAFFS.—At St. Michael's Church on Sunday, June 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): *L. Buckley 1, H. Hodson 2, J. Moulson 3, C. Templeton 4, H. Buckley 5, J. Head 6, A. Rowley (conductor) 7, *H. Proctor 8. *First quarter-peal. Rung as a compliment to Mr. C. Mathews, who had completed 50 years' service in the choir and also reached his 70th birthday on the same day.

CALL CHANGES AND GOOD STRIKING

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After an absence from the columns of 'The Ringing World' for nearly twelve months, I should like to comment upon some of the very interesting subjects which ringers are raising in recent issues.

First of all, striking and call changes. The article on page 315 of this week's issue is one of the best I have yet read on the causes of bad striking, and I would like to add one important tip. That is, try and make one's body and rope feel in absolute unison. Be as supple as possible, and *bend* with the rope. So often one sees ringers who could be quite good handlers, but mar their efforts by their absolute rigid stance. Instead of pulling the rope with a straight downward action, they appear to be pushing outwards, as if the rope was a stiff piece of wire. In ringing a heavy bell the above advice is absolutely essential, with the addition that it is most helpful to cultivate the habit of shortening and lengthening, as the case may be, one's tail end when doing a dodge and coming from the back to the front. With one or two exceptions (and these men of exceptional strength), I have never seen a really good heavy bell ringer who did not automatically do this every time it was necessary. Our first class 'light weight' heavy bell men usually do this to excellent advantage, as if they didn't they would be unable to ring and strike the weight of metal which they do.

Regarding call changes. I have rung with a large number of call change companies, but I have never come across but very few where the striking was up to that high standard which one is led to believe does exist in call change companies. Invariably one thing spoils them. Their tenor ringer is usually too slow at handstroke or backstroke (or both sometimes!). Mind you, in Devonshire, amongst six-bell companies, I have heard absolute perfect striking, but on light rings. Usually amongst call change ringers, where they are all 'old hands,' the striking was excellent, but where youth predominated, then there was the same carelessness as is displayed in many change ringing companies.

Regarding the future of 'The Ringing World,' I hope as many ringers as possible will contribute some article or bring up some controversial subject, as now is the opportunity to discuss matters which in normal times would be regarded as a waste of space. It would be a thousand pities if the paper had to cease, so it's up to everyone now to support you, Mr. Editor, in keeping people in touch with one another.

In conclusion, for the time being, I should like to send all good wishes for the future to my friends and acquaintances all over the country, and hope that when we do pull through these difficult days we shall all meet again in the belfry somewhere. I shall be very pleased to hear from anyone at my address, though expect to be called up very soon now.

A. PATRICK CANNON.

99, Cranbury Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

ADVANTAGES OF CALL CHANGES FOR BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Rev. Herbert Drake in your issue of June 28th asks, 'Do call changes help or hinder the beginner?' and goes on to argue that because, in his opinion, they are musically hardly endurable to outside listeners, they should not be rung.

In my humble opinion this does not answer the question. When learning to ring we are told, among other things, to listen for the sound of the bell we are pulling. It is, I think, in the use of our ears that call changes can be of great assistance. Both the sight of the ropes and the sound produced by change ringing are to the beginner a jumble, which he often despairs in his attempts to unravel. But if he can be helped by a good dose of call changes, which, after all, are only a variation of rounds, he will hear clearly the effect produced by his attempts to pull after bells of varying weights and will thus obtain experience of the greatest importance to him when he can handle his bell sufficiently well to begin his efforts at change ringing on the tower bells.

Call changes on silent bells would be of little help, for what does it matter which rope we pull after when we cannot hear the result of our efforts.

As for call changes for service ringing, is it not far better to have well-struck call changes than the hopeless banging about which so often results from a beginner's efforts, and is surely preferable to allowing the bells to remain silent.

Do the public really realise the difference between call changes and change ringing? I think not, as I have often been congratulated upon good ringing, which has, in fact, been merely Churchyard Bob or whatever you may like to call it.

I hope no one will get the impression from this letter that I am a call change enthusiast.

Chelmsford.

L. J. CLARK.

THE REV. H. DRAKE'S REPLY.

The Rev. Herbert Drake's reply to our article last week will appear in our next issue.

RINGING IN THE MIDLANDS. DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Not only in Birmingham itself, but also in the neighbouring towns and villages, there were during the closing years of the eighteenth century, considerable ringing activity and a number of good bands, and, as there was a fair amount of intercourse between them, they reacted on each other and by emulation and to a certain extent co-operation did much to encourage peal ringing.

At Stourbridge was a company called the Chapel Youths, from the fact that St. Thomas' Church was originally a chapel of ease to the ancient Parish Church of Oldswinford. These men, on October 12th, 1775, rang at Walsall 'single handed the first true peal of Bob Major in 3 hours and 10 minutes to the Great Satisfaction of the Inhabitants.' The bells, a new ring by Rudhall, had just been opened by several bands from Birmingham and elsewhere.

Two years earlier, on November 8th, 1773, the society rang at their home tower 'a quarter-peal of Bob Majors, 10,080 changes, in six hours twenty minutes.' Samuel Green conducted and James Dovey rang the tenor, Dovey evidently was the leading man in the company, and he called 6,608 changes of Bob Major in 1774 and 5,088 changes of Treble Bob in 1778.

The Chapel Youths probably had other performances to their credit. In a letter to 'The Ringing World' of December 11th, 1931, Mr. A. J. Skelding informed us that their records survived until recent times, but the book has been lost sight of.

The most notable among the Stourbridge ringers besides James Dovey was a man named Thomas Edwards, the earliest of the long line of famous composers who have arisen in the Birmingham district.

He was the first man to produce a peal of Stedman Triples which we definitely know to have been true. It was rung in 1803 at St. Mary Abbots by the Kensington men, who also rang a peal of Grandsire Triples by him with a call—bob, single or double—at every lead end. The 6,608 of Bob Major which Dovey called was obviously the extent of the method with the tenors together and without bobs. Such a peal could then have been produced only by an exceptionally clever man. John Reeves had composed one which was rung by the London Youths as early as 1766, but until the 'Clavis' appeared in 1788 it is hardly likely that his compositions were known in the Midlands, and it is more probable that the Stourbridge peal was by Edwards. He does not appear to have stood himself in any peals, and we look in vain for his name among the local records. The Stedman Triples is said to have been composed in the year 1792.

At Oswestry there was a company called the Anacreontic Society, which was typical of a number of societies that existed in the eighteenth century. Founded probably as a ringing company by leading townsmen (it included three or four clergymen and three or four army officers), it existed very largely as an ordinary social club, 'a band of jolly fellows who met together at the George Inn and used to discuss the topics of the day.'

The society rang at least one peal—Holt's ten-part of Grandsire Triples on March 3rd, 1785, conducted by Robert Salter. The seventh was rung by Baldwyn Lloyd,

a clergyman, probably the brother or relative of Robert Lloyd, of Shrewsbury, who was an honorary member of the club, as also were Richard Cross and several of the Shrewsbury men, as well as Samuel Lawrence and others from the surrounding district.

Similar in its constitution to the Anacreontic Society, but much more important was the Union Society of Shrewsbury. As early as 1701 Abraham Rudhall had supplied ten bells with a tenor of 28 cwt. to St. Chad's in that town, and ringing was a popular pastime among the better-class parishioners and townsmen, so much so that, for their convenience, a new belfry floor was erected within the arches of the central tower, notwithstanding the disfigurement it caused to the interior of the building. Such a thing was not uncommon at the time.

A similar gallery was removed from the west end of Shrewsbury Abbey Church in 1814, since when the bells apparently have never been rung, but by that time ringing had ceased to be practised by 'respectable' persons.

There are several important churches in England where belfry floors, put up in the eighteenth century for the convenience of ringers, have since been removed to improve the internal appearance of the building. Notable instances are Hereford and Norwich Cathedrals, Merton College and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. (I do not know when the original floors in the two cathedrals were erected.)

On January 14th, 1714, the Union Society was founded at Shrewsbury for the practice of change ringing and incidentally as a social club. It was composed of good-class townsmen, and on its social side was so great a success that it attracted many men who had little interest in the art of ringing. A rule had to be passed that 'no townsman be admitted into the company of this club but by a member of the same, which member shall first obtain the master's consent and pay sixpence for him at his entrance into the room to be annexed to and expended with the club members.'

The annual feast was the great event of the year, and, as was the case with the St. Stephen's Society of Bristol and the Hertford College Youths, it became an excuse for many of the leading men of the town and district to meet together once a year and enjoy a good dinner. A list is preserved of fifty-two members who were present at the feast in 1795. One or two can be identified as practical ringers, and others, no doubt, were also ringers, but the majority were there to enjoy themselves for that evening, and any other excuse would have served just as well as ringing.

Among them was Sir William Pulteney, baronet, and Member of Parliament for the borough. He was a very important person, reputed to be the wealthiest commoner of the day, who, when he died, was buried in Westminster Abbey and left behind him a funded estate amounting to the then enormous sum of nearly two million pounds.

One of the society's engraved dinner tickets is preserved in the British Museum. It is dated June 27th, 1808. The meeting place was the Talbot Inn, and the time half-past two in the afternoon. They began their festivities early in those days, and kept them up for many hours.

But there was also in the society a genuine and enthusiastic interest in the art of change ringing. 'In 1796,' says a man writing in 1828, 'respectable gentle-

men of the town considered it no ignoble amusement to join in a peal. The society consisted almost exclusively of the local gentry and leading merchants and traders.'

Fourteen Shrewsbury men were subscribers to the 'Clavis' in 1788, including Thomas Groves, the warden to the society, Robert and Thomas Lloyd and Charles Clark, whose names appear in the 1795 list, Philip Heath who, as we have seen, rang in the first peal of Maximus at Birmingham, and Richard Cross, for many years the conductor to the society.

In 1776, Pack and Chapman hung a new ring of eight in St. Mary's steeple. They were opened on March 4th, and on the afternoon of the same day a peal of Grand-sire Triples was rung on them.

On October 16th, 1781, the vestry of Shrewsbury Abbey Church resolved 'that the two trebbles should be recast with the addition of two to make ten bells, of which the Union Society have agreed to pay forty pounds.' This was altered on November 29th to 'The parish allows £40 towards the rehangng and purchasing two bells and the Union Society agree to pay all additional expenses.' The two new bells, however, were never supplied.

Early in the year 1788 several cracks were noticed in the north-west pier of the central tower of St. Chad's, and, as they gradually increased in size, they caused some alarm, and some holders of pews in the vicinity refused to use them. The churchwardens were inclined to make light of the matter, but after a while they sought an opinion from Thomas Telford, so well known in later years as a distinguished engineer.

Telford inspected the building and reported that the structure was in a very dangerous condition. Owing to the digging of graves near the north-west pillar, the

main support of the tower was endangered, and the whole north side of the nave likely to collapse. He recommended the pulling down of the tower without any delay.

To the vestry this report seemed a gross exaggeration. The tower had stood for some hundreds of years; why should it not continue to stand? As for the cracks, they had been there, so people said, as long as men could remember.

Then a certain stone-mason made a suggestion. He proposed that the defective stones in the lower part of the faulty pier should be cut away and replaced by new stones. He was entrusted with the work and put his men to it, no one apparently thinking it might be necessary to shore up the building during the operation, even supposing such a thing had been possible.

Meanwhile services were held as usual in the church with crowded congregations. The Union Society had arranged to attempt a peal, but, on the day, Richard Cross, who had some fears for the safety of the tower, stayed at home, and the other ringers meeting short had to abandon the attempt.

The next day the sexton went up into the belfry to ring a knell. He noticed that the floor was covered by particles of mortar, and as soon as he began to pull the tenor up a shower of stones descended and a cloud of dust. In panic, he let go the rope and took himself out of the church as quickly as he could, carrying off the service books and as much of the furniture as his alarm would allow him to collect.

At four o'clock the next morning a man in the neighbourhood heard the clock chime, and as he turned his eyes towards the steeple the whole fabric collapsed in ruin.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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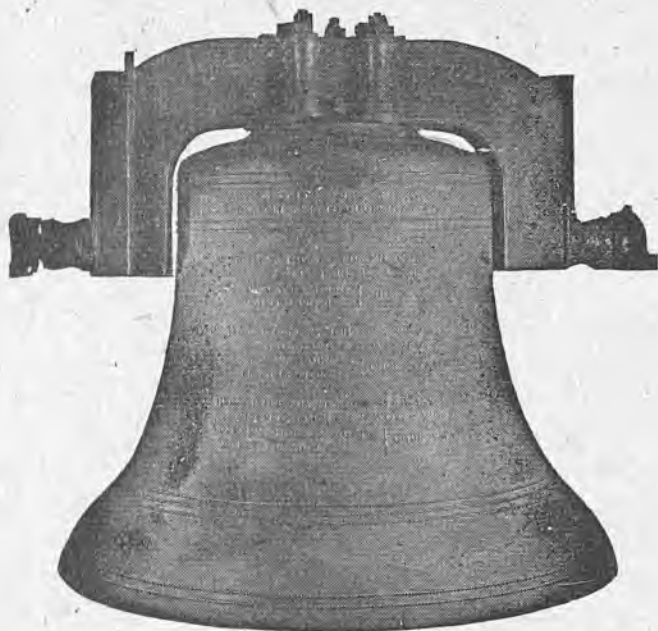
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to record the death at Hersham, Surrey, of Mr. Alfred Woodrow. He was one of the original members of Hersham band when the bells were installed in the new tower, and for many years rendered loyal service to the band. The funeral took place on Tuesday.

The death is announced of Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton, of Quex Park, Thanet. He was a collateral descendant of John Powell Powell, the man who built the Waterloo Tower in his park and hung the ring of twelve bells there. Major Powell-Cotton had been a great traveller and hunter, and a splendid collection of stuffed animals and birds, all of them shot by himself or Mrs. Powell, exists at Quex Park. The bells in the tower have always been well cared for, and visiting ringers have always readily been granted permission to attempt peals.

One of the earliest recorded peals was rung on July 8th, 1734, when 'the whole peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes,' was rung in 3 hours and 10 minutes at St. Laurence's, Reading. The expression 'whole peal' may usually in these old records be taken to mean the false composition in the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanologia.'

On the same date in 1750 John Holt called 5,040 changes of Double Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster, for the Union Scholars.

On July 8th, 1817, James Barham, then 91 years old, took part in a touch of Treble Bob Major at Leeds in Kent. He died on January 14th, 1818.

William Sottanstill, of Sowerby, the author of a book on change ringing, was born on July 9th, 1800.

A notable handbell peal was performed on July 10th, 1917, when four members of the Society of College Youths rang Carter's odd bob composition of Stedman Triples non-conducted.

The first peal of Erin Caters was rung at North Shields on July 12th, 1909, conducted by Mr. W. H. Barber.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

Following up on the news which we received last week of the serious illness of Mr. James George came information that he had been removed from 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, where he had been staying, to Northampton General Hospital. There it was found necessary to amputate his left leg. The latest report of his condition is that he is as comfortable as can be expected.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LIBRARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As I have been called upon to rejoin the Royal Artillery in the near future, I have handed over the sales department of the Central Council Library to the Rev. E. S. Powell, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry. At the request of the officers of the Council he has very kindly undertaken this work and has a supply of publications.

The library itself has been put into store, and I regret that the loan of books will not be possible for the present. I should be glad if those who have books and to whom I have not written would return them to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

W. H. J. HOOTON, Hon. Librarian.

Homefield, Bilton Grange, Rugby.

THE LATE CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A tablet to the memory of the late C. F. Winney is to be placed in the ringing chamber at the Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, London, by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, M.A. As Mr. Winney was a ringer at St. Clement's for more than 60 years, it was considered a fitting place for this memorial. No doubt there are many friends up and down the country who would be desirous of associating themselves with the commemoration of this illustrious ringer. A small committee has been formed, consisting of Messrs. G. N. Price and E. A. Young, the Master, treasurer and secretary of the society, by whom donations will be thankfully received.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

THE LATE M. A. NOBLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I say that on the occasion of Mr. M. A. Noble's visit to Nottingham for the Test Match, mentioned by Mr. White, I had the honour of being one of those who rang with him. He rather discounted his ringing ability, but knocked off Kent Treble Bob Major as well as the best of us. Afterwards he joined us at our headquarters and indulged in handbell ringing till closing time. A splendid fellow in every way—ringing as well as cricket has lost one who was very proficient in the art, and I am sure all lovers of cricket of Mr. Noble's day will regret that he has heard his last 'That's all.'

Having mentioned St. Peter's, Nottingham, may I say that although the tower bells are now stopped by the military authorities, the band meets every Sunday 10.15 to 10.45 a.m. and 6 to 6.30 p.m., and also Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9, for handbell ringing. Any ringers now in the Services who happen to be staying in our city are heartily invited to join us, as well as any other ringers.

Nottingham.

H. R. COBBIN.

LORD MOTTISTONE & SILENT BELLS. APPEAL FOR RAISING THE BAN.

In the House of Lords, on Wednesday week, Lord Mottistone made an eloquent appeal for the raising of the ban now placed on the ringing of church bells. In a speech in which he moved that his Majesty's Government should take action forthwith to increase the offensive power and equipment of the citizens of this country, he said that the problem of the invasion of England should be approached not with the idea of hiding behind tank traps and barbed wire but with the spirit of fighting adventure—(hear, hear)—determined to apply common sense to the problem.

After condemning the defeatist spirit and urging the greater expansion of the L.D.V., he continued: We must abandon altogether the faint-hearted policy wherever it was found. What folly was this to tell our people not to ring the bells, because bellringing must be kept for some particular occasion. Who was the timid soul who suggested that? The sound of the bells of Westminster Abbey heartened everyone. He had reason to believe that the Minister for Home Security had said that the obvious thing to do if the War Office wanted to use the bells was to use one single bell. Restore the carillons. Let England hear again the bells. As had been proved not far across the Channel, the troglodytes were doomed. The people who sought safety by digging deeper and deeper were doomed to extinction. Why not be joyous, and meet death with a smile if it must come?

Lord Croft, Under-Secretary of State for War, in the course of his reply to the debate, said he would convey Lord Mottistone's suggestion in regard to the bells to the Minister of Home Security.

BAN EXTENDED TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

It has been announced that church bells in Northern Ireland must not be rung for any purpose except in accordance with directions given by an officer of His Majesty's Forces or a District Inspector of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, as a signal that enemy forces were attempting to land or were approaching.

THE EXERCISE AND 'THE RINGING WORLD.' WAR-TIME SUPPORT ESSENTIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I appeal to the members of the Exercise to continue to support 'The Ringing World' during these troublous times. It is our intention to carry on with the fortnightly meetings, and our members who are now scattered about the country either in H.M. Forces or otherwise will be able to ascertain through your notice columns the exact date of these meetings. Two country members present at our last meeting were enabled to enjoy a pleasant meeting with touches of Stedman Caters, etc., on the handbells through this medium. If change ringing is to survive, our ringing paper must be kept alive.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

SILENT PRACTICE ON CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should like to make the suggestion that towers with more than six bells should take six clappers out, and continue to keep the bands together that way. We at Newcastle-under-Lyme are going to do this and leave four bells to be rung if necessary.

A. THOMPSON.

PLEASANT MEMORIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of July 5th, 1940, Mr. W. T. Elson mentions the name of Mr. Ernest Behan, of Australia. When Mr. Behan first visited this country he sent a notice to 'The Bell News' (I think it was) that he would like a pull somewhere while in England. Mr. Arthur Dean at once wrote to say that Ashted and Leatherhead would be at his disposal any time, with ringers to oblige. Mr. Behan paid us a visit one Sunday. It was lovely weather, we had some good ringing, and, needless to say, a happy time. My best wishes for Mr. Behan's recovery.

JOHN HOYLE.

Ashted, Surrey.

CHURCH TOWERS AS OBSERVATION POSTS.

In the July issue of the 'Guildford Diocesan Gazette,' the Bishop of Guildford refers to the silencing of church bells and the use of towers as observation posts. He says: 'It will obviously be the desire as well as the duty of the clergy in the parishes to carry out the Government's orders. As to the use of church towers, it will be useful also to reprint the following words. The Secretary of State for War has made the following communication: "In the existing conditions of possible invasion the use of church towers as sites for observation posts would be of considerable military value, since many such towers would be ideal for use as observation posts for Local Defence Volunteers and others in obtaining early information of the arrival of enemy parachutists or troop-carrying aircraft. There would definitely be no question of using these towers as sites for machine guns or other weapons. The only equipment which it might be necessary to use would consist of telescopes and signalling devices."

'As to church bells, it will be a real deprivation not to ring them for summoning the services, but this must be faced in support of those who have the great responsibility for the defence of the people. It may perhaps be useful to add, in view of doubts which have been expressed as to the difficulties that might ensue from the ringing of the bells by persons without adequate skill and knowledge, that in some of our parishes a person or persons with the requisite knowledge and skill have been enrolled in the Local Defence Force for this purpose.'

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEET AT LEICESTER.

A very successful and well-attended meeting of the General Committee of the Midland Counties Association took place last Saturday at Leicester. Owing to the cancellation of all ringing and the consequent postponement of all ringing meetings, the general officers thought it wise to hold a committee meeting to clear up current matters and discuss future plans. Each of the association's centres was represented except Chesterfield, from which distance and transport debarred attendance, members being present from Burton, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham.

The meeting took place in St. Margaret's choir vestry, and in the absence of the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert), who sent an apology and letter of good wishes, the vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) took the chair, supported by the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. E. White) and secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris).

The secretary pointed out that several of the honorary members had not paid their subscriptions this year, and after discussion it was suggested that each local secretary should do his utmost by personal appeal to retain their interest and support. In the matter of increased postage costs, each local secretary was asked to assist by cutting down as much as possible and as circumstances would permit without interfering with the work of his district. The recent resignation of the Nottingham district secretary was discussed, and in accordance with rules the committee appointed Mr. Fred A. Salter to this position until the next local annual meeting, Mr. Salter agreeing to do the work.

Regarding the association's future plans, a long discussion on the various and extremely difficult points of 'carrying on' was held, most of those present joining in with suggestions for and against. Under existing arrangements Newark was chosen for the next general quarterly meeting in September, but this, of course, may have to be left over owing to present ban on ringing. Ultimately it was decided to leave matters as they are for two months, when the officers would decide if a meeting was possible, and where.

There is no reason, however, why local branches should not hold meetings for social intercourse, handbell ringing, etc., as and when they find it convenient or possible.

The general secretary appeals to all who have not paid their annual subscriptions to do so *at once*, and to leaders of companies to urge all their members to do likewise.

Due notice will be given as soon as future meetings can be arranged.

BELLS ABROAD.

A correspondent writes: 'In these days there are many ringers serving in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy, and these men (especially those in the latter service) call at foreign ports all over the world. A lot of these ports have peals of bells, and it would be of great interest to all ringers who are sailors if you would publish in your columns a list of the towers fitted with bells hung for ringing in ports abroad. It would be a great joy to a sailor who had not touched a bell rope for many months to know that there was a chance for him to have a pull when he goes ashore in a foreign land. Such a list would, I am sure, also be of interest to ringers in general.'

Unfortunately there are very few ports abroad where ringers, now serving on the seas, are likely to be able to obtain any ringing.

Melbourne and Sydney in Australia, Hobart in Tasmania, Christchurch in New Zealand, and Victoria and Vancouver on the Pacific Coast of Canada are the only ports we are aware of where the opportunity of ringing is at all probable, and we are unable at this time to say whether ringing is being carried on at all of these places. There are also bells in Boston, U.S.A., but it is very unlikely that they are now rung.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

TOWER BELL PEALS OF MINOR & DOUBLES, 1939.

Table with columns for Association, MINOR (Number of Methods, Total), DOUBLES (Number of Methods, Total), and Grand Total of Peals. Lists various associations like Anc. Soc. Col. Y., Bath and Wells, Bedfordshire, etc.

a-12 methods. b-one in 57, one in 46, one in 39, two in 29, one in 20, one in 17, one in 14, one in 10, and one in 9 methods. c-one in 34, and one in 32 methods. d-two in 14 methods. e-8 methods. f-one in 125, one in 104, one in 102, one in 100, one in 70, one in 60, one in 30, one in 21, two in 14, one in 9, and 1 in 8 methods. g-one in 14, and one in 10 methods. h-one in 12, and two in 8 methods. i-one in 30 methods. j-one in 10, and one in 9 methods. k-one in 20, one in 17, and one in 14 methods.

HANDBELL PEALS, 1939.

Table with columns for Association, CINQUES (ROYAL, CATERS), MAJOR (Stedman, London Surprise, etc.), TRIPLES, MINOR, DOUBLES, and TOTAL. Lists associations like Bath & Wells, Cam. Univ. Gld., etc.

(Notes to this table are in the next column.)

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

INTERESTING FACTS ON THE YEAR'S PEAL RINGING.

The following is the report of the Peals Analysis and Records Committee for the year 1939:-

Owing to the outbreak of war, peal ringing on tower bells practically ceased in September, and it is, therefore, not possible to give comparative figures which would be any guide as to the progress or otherwise of peal ringing. Up to the end of August, the total tower-bell peals amounted to 1,175, which was considerably less than up to the same period in 1938. The total in that year was 1,300, so it would seem that had circumstances remained normal, there would still have been a considerable drop in peals.

The following table shows how the year's total of tower-bell peals is made up:-

Table showing peal counts: Maximus ... 16, Cinques ... 32, Royal ... 44, Caters ... 61, Major ... 454, Triples ... 186, Minor ... 317, Doubles ... 123.

On handbells peals increased by 14 and comparative figures are given below:-

Table comparing handbell peals for 1938 and 1939: Maximus ... 1, Cinques ... 3, Royal ... 9, Caters ... 7, Major ... 36, Triples ... 11, Minor ... 17, Doubles ... 7.

As will be seen, the increase was in peals of Major, there being five more Surprise peals and the rest various plain methods.

ASSOCIATIONS.

One association only reached 100 peals, viz., the Essex Association. Next in order come the Kent County with 98 and the Midland Counties with 94.

NEW METHODS.

- 5,056 Queensbury Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, January 19th. 5,088 Pinner Surprise Major, by the Middlesex County Association, January 28th. 5,056 Zetland Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, February 4th. 5,024 Bedford Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, February 9th. 5,280 York Surprise Maximus, by the Suffolk Guild, February 11th. 5,040 Erith Little Bob Royal, by the Essex Association, February 11th. 5,020 Checkendon Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, March 4th. 5,060 Northrepps Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, March 11th. 5,024 Napsbury Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, April 1st. 5,024 Goudhurst Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, April 27th. 5,056 Double Coslany Court Major, by the Middlesex Association, May 13th. 5,056 Wallasey Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, May 20th. 5,056 Cheltenham Bob Major, by the Kent County Association, June 16th. 5,152 Fulbeck Bob Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, June 24th. 5,008 Spliced Plain Bob, Fulbeck Bob, Double Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, July 1st. 5,056 Tring Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, July 15th. 5,008 Gonville Bob Major, by the Chester Guild, August 5th. 5,152 Airedale Surprise Major, by the Yorkshire Association, August 5th. 5,000 Winton Court Bob Royal, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, August 7th. 5,072 Spliced Kent, Oxford and Granta Treble Bob Major, by the Chester Guild, August 12th. 5,040 Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples, by the Hertford County Association, August 26th.

(Continued on next page.)

NOTES TO HANDBELL PEALS.

a-Oxford Treble Bob. b-Plain Bob. c-Little Bob and Gainsboro' Little Bob. d-Plain Bob. e-Grandsire. f-Stedman. g-Erin (1), Stedman (1). h-London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. i-Six methods: Original, Reverse, Double, and Gainsboro' Bob, Little Bob, and Plain Bob. j-One method. k-Seven methods. m-Fifty methods. n-One method. o-Two methods. p-One in 1 and one in 2 methods. q-Four methods.

ANALYSIS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(Continued from previous page.)

HANDBELLS.

- 5,060 Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Royal, by the Lincoln Guild, October 17th.
- 5,040 Wellington Little Court Bob Major, by the Middlesex County Association, October 31st.
- 5,040 Spliced Original, Reverse, Double, Gainsborough, Little and Plain Bob Major, by the Lincoln Guild, December 29th.

GENERAL.

The outstanding performances of the year were the peals of Minor by the Lincoln Guild in 100, 102, 104 and 125 methods, the last named a length of 6,480 changes. These created a record. The same Guild also accomplished a peal of Minor 'in hand' in 50 methods. The Chester Guild rang a peal of Surprise Minor 7,200 changes in 10 methods. This was the longest length rung during the year.

The following are the number of peals rung during each month in 1939 and 1938:—

Month	1939	1938	Month	1939	1938
January	137	165	July	139	138
February	144	189	August	153	164
March	147	140	September	2	162
April	188	188	October	16	166
May	192	158	November	23	173
June	146	158	December	51	234

FOOTNOTES.

The number of ringers who have scored their first peal is 354. The number who rang their first peal in a different method or method on a different number of bells is 1,017. Ringers of their first peal inside number 41; away from the tenor 8; Maximus 6; Cinques 3; Royal 17; Caters 17; Major 93; Triples 27; Minor 81; Doubles 18; on twelve bells 17; ten 40; eight 43; six 1; Surprise 19; in hand 37; in method in hand 32. New conductors number 52; conductors in new methods number 118.

Other footnotes show that 27 were the first on the bells; 94 the first in the method on the bells; and 9 since restoration or augmentation. Ten peals were rung for royal birthdays; 29 for church festivals and dedications; 65 for weddings (including silver and golden); welcome and farewell 43; muffled and half-muffled 35; anniversaries 27; Empire Day 3; Armistice Day 3.

We give below the number of peals rung in each of representative years since 1881, the total for the whole period being 73,981:—

1881	156	1921	1,632
1898	1,002	1932	2,199
1905	1,519	1934	1,784
1913	2,359	1937	1,863
1917 (war year)	130	1938	2,035
1919	1,048	1939	1,338

(Signed) G. L. GROVER.
 GEORGE R. PYE.
 CHARLES DEAN.
 WALTER AYRE.
 EDITH K. FLETCHER.

THE LATE MR. W. A. CAVE'S PEALS.

The following is the list of peals rung by the late Mr. W. A. Cave, of Bristol, as far as can be ascertained:—

Peal	Rung	Conducted
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	5	1
Cambridge Surprise Royal	40	14
Cambridge Surprise Major	50	29
Stedman Cinques	20	8
Stedman Caters	85	35
Stedman Triples	67	32
London Surprise Major	15	7
Clifton Surprise Royal	2	1
Bristol Surprise Major	7	5
Superlative Surprise Major	7	2
Double Norwich Major	40	19
Forward Major	1	1
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	1	1
Kent Treble Bob Royal	3	1
Kent Treble Bob Major	4	4
Grandsire Cinques	2	1
Grandsire Caters	11	5
Grandsire Triples	8	4
Plain Bob Maximus	1	1
Plain Bob Royal	2	1
Plain Bob Major	4	4
Spliced Plain and Little Bob	1	1
Total	376	165

The non-conducted peals in which he took part were one each of Cambridge Surprise Major, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples, and his peals on handbells (included in the total) were Stedman Caters 1, Grandsire Cinques 1, which he conducted, and Grandsire Caters 2. The Stedman Caters included a 7,023, which he conducted.

The peals were rung for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association 253, Bath and Wells Diocesan Association 65, Salisbury Diocesan Guild 33, Winchester Diocesan Guild 11, Ancient Society of College Youths 4, Devonshire Guild 3, Lancashire Association 2, and St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, Essex, Llandaff, Truro and non-association 1 each.

HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

In these days when practice on the tower bells is denied us, bands can spend time very pleasantly and profitably with the handbells, ringing them single-handed. In this way they can learn new methods and more difficult ones than they have been accustomed to ring on the tower bells. Also very useful work can be done in teaching beginners. Single-handed ringing should not be despised. It has its uses, and it is by no means so tame as some men think it is.

But when we talk of handbell ringing we usually mean double-handed ringing, which has a fascination all its own and is in most respects quite different from single-handed ringing. In our issues of Oct. 20th and Nov. 17th and 24th we printed some articles on the subject by Mr. Christopher Woolley, which we strongly recommend to the attention of those who wish to take up this branch of the art. Meanwhile, in response to requests from some of our friends, we will say a few words about the fundamentals of the matter.

There are two things that you should get into your head clearly at the start. One of them is that it is not much good learning (say) a course of Grandsire Triples by heart as you would a tune. That is by no means a difficult thing to do, and as a matter of fact very many people do ring handbells in this fashion. You will quite often come across a band, especially a young band, who will ring a course of Grandsire Triples or Bob Major and ring it respectably well. They think they are double-handed handbell ringers, but actually they scarcely know the beginnings of the art. Call a bob or even get them to ring a course on eight bells not tuned in the major scale, and you will soon find it out. Whether they recognise it or not, whether they admit it or not, they ring by ear and by the tune, not by the method.

The second thing is that you must realise from the start that you have to ring not two separate bells, each with its own work, like the works of two tower bells, but you have a pair of bells which work in combination with each other and help each other.

When we learn a method for practice on tower bells, if we are wise, we draw out a skeleton course and study that. A skeleton course is a line drawn along the path of one of the bells in the plain course, showing clearly the work the bell has to do. It can be drawn without figures, but the best plan is that of the Diagrams in Snowdon's 'Standard Methods,' a book, by the way, which every ringer should possess. When we learn, say, Double Norwich Major, we turn to the Diagrams and we get the 'blue line' thoroughly into our minds and our memories, so that when we start to ring the method in the tower we have a mental chart of the work we must do. If we want to ring two handbells to a method, we must go through a similar process. We shall, of course, attempt at first one of the simpler methods—Grandsire or Plain Bob—but we use the blue line just the same.

But here is the difference between single-handed or tower-bell ringing and double-handed ringing. In double-handed ringing you must not consider that you have two separate bells, both ringing the same method (that is, the same blue line), but in different leads; you must consider that you have two blue lines working in combination, and it is the combination you must study.

It will pay you to take a little trouble in this matter and study it with pencil and paper.

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.

LADIES' GUILD.—The annual general meeting has been abandoned. Members are reminded that subscriptions became due on July 1st, and to save postage, members are asked to forward their subscriptions to the district secretaries without waiting to be written to.—Edith K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec.

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.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The meeting arranged for Turners Hill on July 13th has been cancelled. The committee would like all members' views on future policy. Please drop me a card as soon as possible.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Halewood on Saturday, July 13th. Handbells from 3 o'clock until 4.30 and after tea. It is hoped to hold a short service, followed by the business meeting. An effort will be made to provide tea for those only who send notice to Mr. J. Robinson, 3, Rock Hill Road, Woolton, near Liverpool. Please turn up in good numbers. There will be plenty of handbells for all who wish to try their skill in this fascinating art.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Isham on Saturday, July 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Handbells before and after.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, on Tuesday, July 16th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the business meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The July quarterly meeting will be held at Monk's Kirby on Saturday, July 20th. Business meeting 6 p.m. at the Denbigh Arms. Social evening to follow. A good attendance is requested.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

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.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The meeting at Cheadle has been cancelled.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

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

APARTMENTS.

LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES.—Superior board-residence or bed and breakfast; 2 minutes sea, tennis courts, bowling green and park.—Mrs. Brown, Avonholm, 24, Queen's Road. Telephone 6965.

LANGLEY MARISH, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 5th, for Confirmation service by the Bishop of Buckingham, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: G. H. Gutteridge 1, Sgt. A. Ford (Grenadier Guards) 2, C. A. Burgess 3, B. O'Neill 4, W. Henley 5, G. Gilbert 6.

ABERAVON, GLAM.—At a practice meeting, when only eight ringers were left, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung: D. Thomas (first attempt for a quarter-peal) 1, T. M. Roderick 2, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 3, E. Stinch 4, H. Boyce 5, A. W. Wright 6, A. Hannington 7, A. E. Bacon 8.

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