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## THE BAN.

The difficulties in connection with using church bells for the purpose of an alarm in connection with any attempted invasion from the air is, we believe, beginning to be brought home to the authorities responsible for the Order imposing a ban on ordinary ringing. In individual cases local clergy have made it known to those upon whom would fall the duty of ordering the bells to be rung, that to give effect to the Order would not be as simple as it appears to the uninitiated, and on Monday two leading London newspapers voiced what 'The Ringing World' has continually been saying as to the absence of instructions and the risks attendant upon the use of the bells by inexperienced people. Apart from the doubtful effectiveness of the alarm, it is indeed remarkable that proper instructions have not been issued as to the action to be taken by the public when they hear a bell denoting the arrival of parachutists, and still more strange is it that even now, six weeks after the Order, hundreds, if not thousands, of parishes are without any information of the official arrangements for the ringing of the alarm bell. It is proof, we think, that the decision which led to the Order was never very well considered. The desire to give the public a distinctive warning was uppermost in mind, and church bells were thought to be a suitable means. What was really involved, however, can scarcely have occurred to those who had the 'brain wave' about utilising the bells. Ringers would be quite content with the silencing of the bells in the national interests, if they believed that proper arrangements existed for making effective use of them in the contemplated emergency, but as things are at present they realise how futile the whole thing is likely to be.

One of the first steps that ought to be taken by the authorities is to make proper plans in every parish to have a competent person always available to give the alarm. The writer in the 'Daily Telegraph,' whom we quote elsewhere, very adequately, as a layman, sets out the dangers of any attempt by an uninitiated person to try to swing church bells, and this information is one of the first things which the authorities should have obtained before they decided on church bells as an alarm signal. The information was there for the asking; indeed, we have good reason to suppose that it was given to a certain departmental staff before the Order was signed. Official knowledge, however, seems to have gone no further than that a bell has a rope attached, and if the rope is pulled the bell ought to make a noise, therefore

(Continued on page 362.)

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the church bell is the thing to use as an alarm, because there is at least one church bell in every parish. Beyond prescribing that bells shall be sounded only in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's forces, or the chief of police for the area, there are no instructions, either for the public or for those who supposedly are to ring the bells. Is it that the authorities are beginning to realise that the effectiveness of the scheme is questionable, and they are therefore no longer interested in making it function efficiently?

In consultation with church authorities and those who understand the technicalities of ringing, an alarm signal by means of the bells could have been arranged, for what it is worth, without stopping the use of the bells, at any rate for the Sunday services. There is no question that in innumerable places the absence of the bells on Sundays is keenly felt. Indeed, their usefulness for this purpose through long years is now being realised; for, despite the fact that this is an age of clocks and wireless time signals, there are more latecomers to the services than ever before. Incidentally, therefore, let it not be said again that bells are out of date for calling people to church. They will still have their part to play when wars have ceased and bells come once again into their own. In the meantime, however, there is no reason why representations should not be made to the proper quarter to get a modification of the ban, without in any way reducing whatever effectiveness in the way of an alarm the bells can provide. It is only a matter of organisation, in which ringers everywhere would be glad to co-operate. The idea behind the scheme was well intentioned, but the absence of any constructive planning has left it in a state of almost complete futility. Again, we ask, what are the public to do when the alarm is rung? They are no wiser now than they were when the Order was made six weeks ago. Why is there still no organisation which details the persons to ring the bells, or even to make the key of the belfry immediately available if it is needed? These and other questions must be answered if the warning, which the bells are intended to give, is to be of the least value.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15.

*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8
*EDWIN JENNINGS ... 9-10	

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

\* First peal of Royal on handbells. Edwin Jennings' 250th peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY, WHITECHAPEL,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

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

Composed by E. WHITEMAN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

**THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.**

**JOHN GARTHON'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.**

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The reputation of Norwich bells and ringers stood very high at the beginning of the eighteenth century. In 1723 a writer declared that the tower of St. Peter Mancroft contained 'eight bells, as perhaps have not their fellows, considering their musical notes and the persons by whom they are rung, who may challenge (without vanity) any eight men in England, for ringing is practised nowhere else for number of changes and truth of ringing.'

This pre-eminence the Norwich Scholars owed in large degree to their leader, John Garthon, who has earned an honourable place in the history of the Exercise as the first man to compose and conduct a true peal. Very little information about him has come down to us. We do not know what sort of a man he was, what his station in life was, or whether he was learned or illiterate. We know he died in June, 1728, and was buried in St. Gregory's Churchyard. You will not find his place of sepulchre to-day. Generation after generation of parishioners had been buried in that tiny plot until the surface of the ground was raised six feet and more above the level of the surrounding street, and the grass grew rank among the mouldering tombstones. And now it has all been cleared away.

The first actual performance in the city of which we have any notice was in 1710, when a half-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter's. The composition most likely was from the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia,' and during the next three or four years the whole peal was twice rung, almost certainly the same composition, for it was admitted that there was repetition of changes.

But now John Garthon set himself the task of composing a true peal, and on May 2nd, 1715, 'The Ringers called Norwich Scholars' rang 'that most Incomparable Peal caled Gransir Bob Triples,' 'the first whole Peal that ever was Rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever.' Garthon rang the treble and called the bobs.

Thomas Gardiner, who rang the sixth, was almost the last of the long line of Norwich bell founders. The ringer of the seventh was William Dixon, and nearly forty years later a Norwich ringer of the same name was the first man to call Holt's Original and ring at the same time. The other men in the band were Isaac Pearce, John Briggs, James Brookes, David Sanneville and Robert Woodcock.

The figures of Garthon's peal are lost, and we cannot be sure what was rung; but, though later generations of ringers, especially in London, professed to believe it was false, we can be reasonably certain of its truth; for there are sufficient indications to enable us to make a pretty accurate guess as to what it was like.

It was called Grandsire Bob and, though the name came, in time, to be used somewhat loosely, originally it was not just another name for Plain Bob. It was the title of that particular extent of Bob Minor which we now call the standard 720. We may, therefore, fairly assume that Garthon's peal of Triples was an attempt to extend the Minor composition to seven bells. Secondly, we may be certain that it was constructed by hunts. The treble was the whole-hunt, and the big bells, the seventh, sixth and fifth, came home at regular intervals.

The use of hunts was the greatest general discovery in composition during the seventeenth century, and men

used them to produce extents just as competent present-day composers use Q sets. Garthon's second peal, that of Grandsire Triples, is an excellent example of their use, and a few years later, when Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane were waging a wordy warfare in the columns of the 'Norwich Gazette' over the composition of Stedman Triples, Crane appealed to the memory of John Garthon, and asserted that all methods that are 'proper' 'bring their great bells home at the proper time.'

If, then, John Garthon attempted to extend the standard 720 of Bob Minor to Triples, using hunts, how did he set to work?

In the first place he took the seventh as the half-hunt and left the work of that bell undisturbed. Older composers would have taken the second, but it is pretty certain from the Grandsire Triples and from Crane's letter that Garthon took the seventh.

Next he must fix the work of the sixth as the quarter-hunt. That bell had to fall into every possible combination of positions with the whole and half-hunts and to come home at the end, which meant that the whole peal was divided into twelve equal parts corresponding to the twelve courses of Bob Minor.

We cannot be sure how he made the sixth complete its revolution, but if he studied the 720 of Minor he would notice that the normal thing is for a

bob to be made at every lead end	23456	M.	W.	R.
when the half-hunt is above	60000	—	—	—
fourth's place. If he did the same	00600	—	—	—
thing in Triples he would get exactly	06000	—	—	—
the block he wanted for his part.	00060	—	—	—

He has next to make the fifth, the	00006	—	—	—
half-quarter-hunt, perform its revolution,	00006	—	—	—
and here he could stick				

closely to the 720. There the 6th is called W.R.W. If in his five-course block he does the same thing (only since there are already bobs at every

lead end he must omit instead of	23456	W.	R.
calling), he would find that the fifth	45236	—	—
had performed its proper revolution	34256	—	—
and a 10-course block was produced			

which, five times repeated, with a single half-way and end would give him his complete and true peal.

It all seems to us now quite clear	642357	—	—	—
and simple, but we must not assume	52643	—	—	—
that it was equally clear and	36524	—	—	—
simple to Garthon. Simple truths,	53462	—	—	—
when they are unfamiliar, are not	452367	—	—	—

usually the most obvious. Garthon	624537	—	—	—
had to devote 'long study and practice'	34625	—	—	—
to the matter, and, although	56342	—	—	—
he undoubtedly did argue something	35264	—	—	—
like the foregoing, he reached his	423567	—	—	—

conclusion by a much longer route. His peal may have been somewhat more complicated in the actual working out, but all the indications seem to show that it was exactly as I have given it; for in essentials it is the same composition as that on which the original Plain changes were founded.

Since 1715 only one other peal of Bob Triples has ever been rung at Mancroft or, indeed, in any steeple in Norwich. I called it myself in 1896, and it is to me a very interesting coincidence that it was the same composition, though I did not know it at the time.

## BELLS AS AN INVASION ALARM.

### WHO WILL GIVE THE WARNING?

#### The Risks of Inexperience.

'The Daily Telegraph' on Monday directed attention to the absence of instructions from the Government on the subject of the use of church bells as a warning in the event of air invasion. In an article by their own reporter, this influential London newspaper, under the heading, 'Church Bell Problem: Experts Needed,' said:—

'Inquiry among the clergy shows that no precise instructions have been given on the Government order to discontinue the use of church bells except as an alarm against parachutists.

'It was stated that the bells would in future be rung only by the military or the Local Defence Volunteers. For the most part, however, the clergy have received no instructions and no requests for giving access at all times to the bells.

'Moreover, it appears to have been overlooked that the ringing of bells requires much practice and skill. When the anticipated emergency arises there is likely to be bewilderment and exasperation in the belfry when an inexperienced soldier or volunteer tries to give the alarm. He will pull the rope, but no sound will be heard. The harder he pulls the less likely he is to make the bell ring.

'On the other hand, the bell set for ringing can be made to speak with very little effort by the practised bellringer, but the novice who pulls the rope with the bell in its proper ringing position runs the growing risk of wringing his own neck.

'A bell rope whipping round the belfry with a ton weight of metal agitating it is like a live thing and very dangerous. It is also possible for the inexpert ringer to be carried up and to crack his skull on the belfry roof.

'It would seem a wise plan to have enlisted bellringers for the express purpose of sounding the tocsin. It is estimated that there are about 35,000 in England, almost all of whom would be only too glad to give their services.'

#### CENTRAL COUNCIL SECRETARY INTERVIEWED.

On Monday, 'The Evening Standard' devoted an article to the same subject, and one of the newspaper's reporters gave the result of several interviews which he had had. He wrote that the clergy throughout the country are asking the War Office to give more explicit information regarding the use of church bells as an alarm. 'They are faced with such questions as: What will happen if the church is locked and the Vicar is away? Will the military or police force the door open?

'The reporter interviewed the secretary of the Central Council, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, who told him he hoped that the authorities would employ some of the 40,000 ringers of the country on rota duties in churches.

Mr. Fletcher, who is in the Home Guard, said he had received no instructions that he should ring the bells if he considered it necessary, nor have arrangements been made with the vicar of his church.

Mrs. Fletcher, secretary to the Ladies' Guild, told the reporter:— 'Bellringers throughout the country are anxious to help. But at the moment instructions by the authorities are so vague that in many cases the clergy have not been told what to do.

'The ringing of a peal is a job for experts. Anyone uninitiated would find great difficulty in producing a sound, except with a small bell, and there is the danger of an inexperienced person being injured.'

The secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury informed the reporter that the whole question was a matter for local adjustment. If proper arrangements had not been made, the local clergy should see the military or the police and obtain an understanding. Preparations may have been made in some cases, but not in others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury advised the bishops of the dioceses, and it was left to the bishops to make arrangements in their own areas.

#### IF THE COLONEL BUMPS HIS HEAD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Has anyone thought what would happen if there is an alarm at night and police or soldiers have to go up into a belfry which has not been blacked out? It seems to me that either they would do damage or break their necks or fail in their object or break the law by showing a brilliant light across the country.

'They might do any or all of these things, and who would be responsible? Could the parson be held responsible for neglect if the policeman fell down the belfry stairs because there was no light upon them; and suppose the colonel himself went up to pull the bell, but instead was pulled up and cracked his head against the ceiling. What then? All the possibilities involved are worse than working out a method and would give one a headache. But not so bad a headache as the colonel would get.

F. H. SMITH.

#### L.D.V.'s AT THE CHURCH TOWER.

Dear Sir,—I feel it my duty to report to you that at Newcastle-under-Lyme the L.D.V.'s have been stationed at the church tower since Tuesday, July 16th.

To prevent any system of clocking of the bells, I have been along to the tower and have given them a short instruction how to chime a bell.

As you already know, with having the clappers out of the front six bells, it was easy for me to instruct them.

ANDREW THOMPSON.

## CHURCH BELLS AS ALARMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think there is a great misunderstanding with a great many people as to what the alarm bell is going to be rung for. As I understand it is not being rung to warn the public, but the police and military. I am on duty two nights a week and our orders are to ring the bell if anything is seen to fall from an enemy plane until the police arrive and also inform them in which direction they have been seen to fall.

I cannot see why they should prevent us from ringing a peal of bells on Sunday. People would know the difference between one bell and a peal.

It is not Sunday unless we hear the bells, and we ringers are lost without some ringing at week-ends. I must say our tower is a very good look-out post. Standing on very high ground, it is a landmark for miles around.

E. C. GOBEY.

## SILENT BELLS.

### A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—'Let England hear the bells again.' I quite agree that safety first is most essential, but everything should be done to keep up the morale of the people, and, even if the ringing of our church bells was banned for peals, practices and meetings, if they could be rung for Sunday morning service between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m. it would have a very reassuring effect not only on the worshippers, but also on the general public. If an order was made and understood that the danger signal would be only when the tenor and treble bells were used together, then if those two bells were raised just enough to clapper on both sides and rung together, they would have a very distinguishing effect; they would be easy to manipulate, and, being the official signal and conforming to rule throughout the country, would be understood by all.

If the signal was wanted whilst ringing for the morning service was in progress it could easily be switched over to the danger signal at once.

WILLIAM HALE.

Roseleigh, The Leigh, near Gloucester.

## RINGING IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Even in peace time ringing in Scotland is not practised to the extent it is in England. There are only very few towers with ringing peals in the whole of the country, the public do not take kindly to the ringing of bells, and most of the towers are compelled to practice on a silent apparatus, which consists of small bells fixed on the wall of the ringing room.

Peal attempts are very restricted, the only ringing being Sunday service ringing and not too much of that.

This silent system of practice has always in peace time been considered a drawback, but now when all bells are silent it would seem that we Scottish ringers have an advantage, and I sincerely trust it will be made use of, for it means that all towers fitted with this system can carry on practices along with handbell ringing and so keep the good work going.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, the band has kept up its practices since the commencement of war, and even now are ringing every Thursday evening Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Boh Major, Treble Boh, and Cambridge Minor and Major, and on handbells from Plain Bob to touches of Stedman Caters.

There may be ringers who are stationed in this district, and the St. Mary's band extend a welcome to all visitors and men in the Forces to the Thursday practices at 7.30. If they wish to get in touch with the secretary, his address is E. A. Stafford, 77, Caldwell Avenue, Glasgow, W.3.

W. H. PICKETT, Master, Scottish Association.

## KENT RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

### CELEBRATION AT WICKHAMBREAUX.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Smith, of Wickhambreaux, Kent, have recently celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Smith, who has been so actively connected with Wickham for a great number of years, having lived all his life in the village, is a well-known and much respected member of the Kent County Association, and for a number of years was a representative for the Canterbury District of this association, where he worked among a wide circle of friends.

During his long ringing career Mr. Smith has been responsible for turning out many good recruits for the Exercise, and his activities have not been altogether confined to his 'home town' in this respect, as many other towers will testify with appreciation.

Although naturally saddened by the silencing of the bells, Mr. Smith takes pride in his past achievements and boasts of his 50 years' non-break festival ringing.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are still enjoying good health, and their many friends, particularly those perhaps who have been privileged to enjoy the hospitality of 'The cottage on the Green,' will wish them well and congratulate them on this grand anniversary.

**SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT MONK'S KIRBY.  
DOES HANDBELL RINGING ALARM THE PUBLIC?**

The quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Monk's Kirby on July 20th at The Denbigh Arms. Upwards of twenty members and friends attended.

In the absence of the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White) through illness, Mr. D. H. Argyle took the chair at the business meeting.

Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting, at which the hon. secretary was asked to express sympathy with Mr. A. Wilkerson, a former secretary, in his illness, Mrs. Beamish reported that she had received a letter of thanks from Mr. Wilkerson, who was progressing favourably. (Incidentally, Mr. Wilkerson has now accepted the position of vergier at Nuneaton Parish Church.)

The next item on the agenda, meeting places for August, September and October, provided much discussion, and eventually it was decided to hold the meetings monthly as usual in the form of social evenings with handbell ringing, etc., beginning at 6 p.m.

Mr. W. Stote spoke very strongly on the subject of handbell ringing and hoped the 'experts' would not monopolise them, but that everyone should keep in practice by ringing one bell each if necessary. Several members voiced their approval of this procedure, and a subsequent attempt for a touch of Grandsire Triples was successful, single-handed except for the tenors. Courses of Cambridge Minor and Major and Stedman Caters were also rung.

Rugby was fixed for the August meeting, Nuneaton for September, and Coventry for October.

Mr. E. Stone voiced the sympathy of the members with Mr. James George, a former Master of the Guild, in his serious illness, and the secretary is to inform Mr. George and wish him a speedy recovery.

The towers represented were Allesley, Bilton, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Rugby, Shilton, Stoke-in-Coventry and visitors from Croft.

The change ringing was interspersed with songs delightfully rendered by Mrs. A. E. Monk, of Chatham, who is staying with the hon. secretary for the 'duration.'

Just before the meeting the hotel proprietor informed the hon. secretary that the police had asked him to see that handbells were not rung as alarm might be caused. It was suggested that permission should be obtained from Rugby Police Station. A 'phone call was put through and permission sought. This was a real teaser. The constable said he would ask the sergeant. The sergeant wondered if we could possibly manage without the handbells. How loud were they? Could they be heard in the street? How long did we intend to ring? Finally the inspector was approached, who, after looking up regulation (his and paragraph that, said that we might ring if we took every precaution against alarming the public.

All these precautions to ring handbells in the upper room at the back of a small village hostelry!

D. E. B.

**CONSECUTIVE FIFTHS.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—No wonder 'Musician' was astounded at the idea of consecutive fifths in ringing: I hope he will not mind my trying to explain what they are, for the benefit of any who do not know. The term has to do with harmony (in its technical sense), when two or more notes are sounded at once, which cannot (or ought not!) to happen in ringing. A fifth is when the first and last of a series of five following notes are struck at once, and they produce a two part harmony: but if you strike one fifth immediately after another, you get a discord. Probably many readers who, like myself, cannot play the piano know the names of the notes: and if anyone will strike, for example, C G at once and follow it at once with D A or F C or another fifth, he will find that it produces a horrible discord. I am not learned enough to say why this is, but know it as a fact. The forbidding of consecutive fifths is one of the most elementary rules of harmony.

W. C. B.

**MUSICAL EFFECTS.**

Sir,—Although I have not had much experience of tall changes, Mr. Drake's arguments against them appear to me to be very unconvincing. The one leading to the conclusion that the better they are struck the worse they sound seems to imply that all changes, by themselves, are unmusical, and while it must be admitted that some are less musical than others, I am of the opinion that the majority, whether produced by call changes or otherwise, are pleasing to the ear, some very much so, and will not only bear repetition, but sound all the better for being well struck.

The statement with regard to consecutive fifths or thirds is unintelligible, to me, at any rate. Far from being discords, these intervals are recognised as the most perfect chords obtainable in music, and the objection to consecutive fifths (I have never heard of any to consecutive thirds, which are very common in music) is in no way due to their being, considered discordant. In any case, fifths in the sense implied, either consecutive or otherwise, are never produced in bellringing, because they involve two notes being sounded simultaneously, whereas in changes each blow (assuming good striking) is struck separately, the difference being that between harmony and melody. It would be interesting to know what the lady meant by 'ringing consecutive fifths.' Titlums on eight bells (15263748) might perhaps come under that description (although not in the sense which 'musicians especially dread'), but could not, I am sure, be considered unpleasant or discordant, even if repeated a number of times.

G. A. PICK.

Claygate, Surrey.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Holman, of 15, Elm Lane, Sheffield, who on Sunday celebrate their golden wedding. They were married on August 4th, 1890, at St. John's Church, Waddingborough, Lincolnshire.

John Holman has, for many years, been one of Sheffield's most prominent ringers, and has many friends in the Exercise outside as well as in the county of broad acres.

Mr. W. F. J. Cope, hon. secretary of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, has been transferred from P.O. Telephones to the Admiralty and is now stationed at Gosport. The affairs of the Guildford District have been temporarily taken over by Mr. G. L. Grover, hon. secretary of the Guild.

On August 3rd, 1735, the new ring of twelve bells which had been cast by Samuel Knight were opened at St. Saviour's, Southwark, by the College Youths.

A notable record was set up on August 5th, 1929, when 15,312 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 11 hours and 33 minutes by a mixed band drawn from various parts of the country. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. It still remains the longest peal of Maximus ever rung.

As we go to Press, we learn with great pleasure that Mr. James George has had a marvellous recovery from his late serious operation. He has already been out on crutches for a short time, and it is expected that he will be leaving the hospital shortly.

## CHALLIS WINNEY MEMORIAL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sending an amended list of subscribers to the Winney Memorial Fund, to all of whom I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation.

A. B. PECK.

J. H. B. Hesse, Haslemere, £1 1s.; St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich (per G. E. Symonds), 10s.; T. Haslam, Kendal, 5s.; W. J. Nevard, Great Bentley, 2s. 6d.; E. J. Rowe, Warminster, 2s. 6d.; W. H. Lawrence, Little Munden, 1s.; T. Groombridge, sen., Chislehurst, 2s. 6d.; T. Groombridge, jun., Crayford, 5s.; E. Jennings, Bushey, 2s.; F. White, Tunbridge Wells, 5s.; C. George, Watford, 2s. 6d.; J. C. Mitchell, West Norwood, 5s.; W. H. L. Buckingham, St. Albans, 5s.; E. H. Lewis, Brasted, 5s.; George Williams, Eastleigh, 5s.; E. A. Young, Bromley, 10s.; Rev. W. P. Bickford and Mrs. Bickford, St. Clement's, £1 1s.; Miss Doris Bryant, St. Clement Danes, 5s.; Mrs. Wilkins, Clifton, Bristol, 2s. 6d.

## LANCASHIRE RINGER'S SILVER WEDDING.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. GARSIDE.

Ringers of St. George's Parish Church, Mossley, Lancashire, accompanied by their wives and other friends, spent a pleasant evening on Saturday, July 20th, at the invitation of Mr. Ernest Garside, one of the ringers, and Mrs. Garside, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding day. Supper was served at Clayton's Cafe, and afterwards Mr. Harold Jackson proposed the toast to Mr. and Mrs. Garside. He expressed the good wishes of his colleagues and spoke of the positions which Mr. Garside had held in connection with the church and school. Mr. S. Hirst, a friend, also congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Garside.

Mr. Henry Pickles, the ringers' secretary, in a happy speech, made a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Garside on behalf of the ringers. The gift was an electric reading lamp.

In accepting the present, Mr. Garside remarked that he and his wife were married in war time, but never thought that they would have their silver wedding in another war time. He thanked the ringers for the beautiful present and mentioned that on their wedding day 25 years ago the ringers had presented them with a clock. The clock, which was a replica of a church, had *not cost* them ten shillings in repairs in all these years.

The rest of the evening was spent in a social manner. Mr. Garside told of some humorous experiences which had occurred in his life, which greatly amused the company. Community singing was indulged in to the music of two accordions, played by two of the friends present. Mrs. Garside then cut the silver wedding cake, which was distributed to the company.

The proceedings terminated at 11.30 p.m. with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

## AN OLD NORWICH TENORMAN.

A correspondent writes: 'I was much interested in the musings of "Old Ringer" and had no difficulty in recognising the portrait of the old tenorman. George Smith certainly was a very fine example of a heavy bell ringer, and for grace and ease of style can have had very few equals. A tall man, with a strong physique, and a placid and even temperament, he knew Mancroft tenor thoroughly, and though it was by no means an easy bell to ring, he could place it perfectly with the minimum of seeming effort. He had inherited the splendid tradition of good striking which came down from the old Norwich Scholars, who always boasted that their striking was "old and regular." How he would have fitted into a modern band with their smarter style of striking is a question.'

**RELEASE OF LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR.**

'THE RINGING WORLD' SECURES REMISSION OF PART OF SENTENCE.

As a result of representations made to the Home Secretary by the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' the Rev. R. G. Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, who was convicted at Spilsby Police Court on July 15th and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for a breach of the Control of Noise Order by ringing a church bell for an unauthorised purpose, has been released from prison.

The case was reported in our issue of the 19th inst., but before it appeared the Editor of 'The Ringing World' had already written to the Home Secretary on the subject, pointing out in effect that if the report was correct and the offence alleged actually took place on June 16th, there must have been a misunderstanding, because the Control of Noise (Defence) Order was not made until June 19th. It was assumed that this was the Order under which proceedings had been taken, because up to that date church bells had been freely rung throughout the land on the strength of a Home Office ruling that they were specially exempted from any restrictions under the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order of October, 1939. The following was the letter addressed by the Editor to the Home Secretary:—

16th July, 1940.

The Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for  
Home Affairs,  
Whitehall, London, W.C.1.

Sir,—I have read in the 'Daily Telegraph' to-day of the prosecution and conviction of the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, who was sentenced by the Spilsby magistrates for an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) Order.

The newspaper, in reporting the evidence of the police constable, says he stated that on June 16th he saw the Rector sitting in the belfry pulling the bell rope.

If the date quoted by the 'Daily Telegraph' is correct, may I respectfully ask that the matter should receive your attention, in case there has been a miscarriage of justice, in view of the fact that the Order is dated the 19th of June.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. S. GOLDSMITH, Editor.

On Tuesday last, the following reply was received from the Home Office:—

Home Office,  
Cleland House,  
Page Street, S.W.1,  
July 29th, 1940.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 16th July regarding the conviction of the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that Graham was convicted of an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939, and not of an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1940. Nevertheless, in view of all the circumstances, the Secretary of State has thought it right to advise the remission of the remainder of Graham's sentence, and he was discharged from prison on the 27th instant.

I am, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) E. CORDES.

The Editor,  
'The Ringing World,'  
Lower Pyrford Road,  
Woking, Surrey.

It is a matter of great satisfaction, therefore, that the Rector of Old Bolingbroke has been released, although there still remains the question of whether there has not been some miscarriage of justice in a conviction under the Order of October last.

Before the reply of the Home Secretary was received the Editor had taken the matter up with the Bishop of Lincoln and had made inquiries of the clerk to the Spilsby Justices as to the date of the offence (as, having had to rely upon a newspaper report, there was always the chance of an error). The clerk, in his reply of July 25th, confirmed that the date of the offence was June 16th, but pointed out that the prosecution was taken under the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order and not under the Order of June 19th.

On the strength of this reply, the Editor has called the attention of both the Home Secretary and the Clerk to the Justices to the letter of November 10th, 1939, from the Home Office to the Editor, which was published in our issue of November 17th last, and was in the following terms:—

Home Office,  
Air-Raid Precautions Department,  
Horseferry House,  
Thorney Street,  
London, S.W.1.

November 10th, 1939.

Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of November 7th, I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say that it is intended that the use of church and chapel bells should be exempted from any restrictions by virtue of Clause 1(b) of the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) R. L. POLAND.

The Editor,  
'The Ringing World.'

The liberation of the Rev. R. G. Colvin Graham is, we think, only the first measure of justice to which he is entitled. The matter ought not to rest until the conviction has been quashed, unless it can be held that every ringer who has rung a bell since October 31st last has rendered himself liable to imprisonment, despite the ruling which is given in the Home Office letter of November 10th, which we quote above.

**ANOTHER PROSECUTION.**

At Cambridge on Saturday, the Rev. John George Langhorn Swann, Vicar of Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, was summoned for having caused a church bell to be sounded otherwise than for giving warning of enemy landings from the air.

A constable said the Vicar told him that the bell was pulled three or four times by the lad who usually rang it, until he was told to stop on account of the restriction.

Defendant told the Court that his wife stopped the boy. He was preoccupied, as he had a service to take, and any thought of an offence never entered his head.

The case was dismissed on payment of 4s. costs.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****DECISION TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS.**

The monthly meeting of the Leeds and District Society was due to be held at Drighlington on Saturday, and by kind permission of the Vicar and local company the tower was open to the members for a meeting to discuss the future policy and welfare of the society.

Two or three sets of handbells were available for all who wished to try and ring various methods.

The president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) was supported by the three vice-presidents, and if all the towers had sent only one ringer, a larger measure of success would have rewarded the efforts of those present.

After discussion on the future policy, it was decided to hold monthly gatherings while the evenings were light enough and then to hold afternoon gatherings, either monthly or quarterly, according to whatever success attends the efforts. It is the intention of the committee to ask some eminent conductor or handbell ringer to explain his method of proving peals or ringing them, etc.

The next meeting is due to be held at Calverley on August 31st, and, failing that, the next tower on the list will be approached.

All members are urged to support the efforts to keep alive the life and interests of the society.

## CALL CHANGES.

'THE DISADVANTAGES OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES.'  
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is it not rather curious for change ringers to be so emphatic in support of call changes? And the more emphatic the less logical? A second correspondent now writes about 'rows and changes,' but apparently neither writer sees the obvious connection; as I did not mention them, the only purpose seems to be to draw a red herring across the trail.

Mr. J. E. Bailey writes of a suggestion that East Anglian ringing is inferior to that of any other part of the country. I made no such suggestion, nor do I think this to be the case. Mr. Bailey alone has introduced the matter, and apparently it is a product of his own imagination.

Nor did I speak of 20 years ago, but 50; when he speaks of five a year I suppose he means five a month; nor did I 'assume that all beginners stick to ringing.' Call changes certainly do not.

I do not want to stop him or anyone else from teaching call changes, if they like them. I do not, nor do I intend to. All I ask is that they shall not annoy the casual listener, by teaching them in such a way that he can hear, and stop us, as he is now doing, from ringing well-struck call changes.

Another letter is headed 'Call changes help to produce good striking'; of course they do; if they did not they would never be used. What I have said is that they also produce bad striking. No one can deny this. To do so they would have to deny my existence. What I am asking is that the same end shall be obtained by other means. Mr. Smale and Mr. Street give excellent suggestions for doing this. All your other correspondents seem helplessly bound to call changes. One wonders why they ever ring real changes at all.

Would it not be better to read a letter more carefully before attempting to reply to it? 'Old Ringer' seems to think that, in speaking of ringing a quarter of the right distance away, I praise what I condemn. And 'Musician' attributes to me the words which I quoted of my musical hostess of 50 years ago. She evidently did not know anything about ringing or ringing terms. Nor do I know what she meant by 'consecutives.' It evidently was call changes she heard; and it evidently annoyed her very much, simply because it was call changes. I have never forgotten her words; I think they were justified. I hope every ringer will take them to heart: if we do not we shall never be allowed to ring again; and the ban will be right. She said, 'I do not claim to waste their time. Why should they waste mine?'

I do not suggest that I am musical, nor have I said anything that would cause anyone carefully reading my letter to suppose that I am. But a word crept in that ought not to be there; 'other' ought not to have been before 'discords.' For this mistake I apologise to your other readers; but not to 'Musician'; for were he really a musician he would know that fifths and thirds being the fundamental concords, cannot in any position be discords; and that therefore there must have been a mistake. I may also point out to him that abuse is not argument; nor does foul abuse become charity by calling it so.

If Mr. Smallwood looks at my letter again he will see that I did not say that I 'cannot recognise the tune of the National Anthem.' What I said was the exact opposite.

However, call changes do not make all the votaries of them misquote everything, for the letters of Miss Ashbrook and of Mr. Clark are excellent, as far as they go; the only trouble is that they do not go far enough. For instance, they cannot get call changes out of their heads; they seem to think that there is nothing else. Miss Ashbrook actually says that her tower would have been silent if it were not for call changes. This is expecting us to believe too much. There are really other things. I have even heard of a row called 'rounds'; and besides there is another called 'tittums,' not to speak of 'Queens' and 'Whittington'! What do those towers do, where call changes are never heard? After all there are large parts of England where they are actually looked down upon. I am not by any means alone in disliking call changes.

Miss Ashbrook seems to have been surprised that on ten bells call changes were not so bad. I have, I think, three times in your columns explained why this is so, and, therefore, will not repeat it now.

Mr. Smallwood asks how I can presume to give advice on good striking. Well, I have not done so yet. But does he not think it is about time he or someone else did? Never once have I heard, in the belfry or out of it, anyone explain how bells can be well struck. Often enough people have declaimed about bad striking, but never have they said how it can be improved. Do they not know? Is it not about time they found out? It certainly will not be by call changes, of which it has been said the better they are struck the worse they sound.

HERBERT DRAKE.

## GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

WANTED A TEN-PART COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have been told more than once recently that there is in existence a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with common singles at half-way and end. I have not been able actually to get the figures, though I have spoken to people who say they have them or have seen them. If anyone has this peal it would be to the interests of the Exercise if it was sent to 'The Ringing World' for publication.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

## HEAVY BELL RINGING.

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN OLD-TIME AND MODERN FEATS.  
To the Editor.

Sir,—In comparing heavy bell ringing in older times with that of to-day, I rather think that your correspondent has missed the real point.

The contrast is not between bells hung in plain bearings and bells hung on balls or rollers, but between old style hanging and modern style.

Nowadays stocks are fitted to bells in the foundry, the gudgeons are fixed by iron plates and bolts and the whole is trued up in the lathe, perfect alignment and perfectly fitting bearings being produced. In olden times the gudgeons were round pieces of iron or steel driven into the ends of the stock and fixed by wedges. What amount of truing up could be done was done by hand with a file.

The brasses were let direct into the wood frames instead of being fixed in iron cages as in modern hanging.

Naturally the quality of the work varied enormously. There were bell hangers who were excellent craftsmen and who did their work well and there was also a lot of work done by the village blacksmith which with luck answered its purpose very well. But in nearly every case no bells and especially no heavy bells went at all well until they had been rung for some time and the bearings worn a bit slack or had become a bit loose in the frame.

A perfectly fitting bearing is, of course, an excellent thing so long as the frame is quite rigid and the bearings and gudgeons are dead true. But if one of them is the least bit out of alignment the gudgeon will bind and the bell go badly. If the bearing has worn loose and the gudgeon is a sloppy fit, or if the bearing is not quite rigidly fixed to the frame, this binding is to some extent counteracted.

Then there is the trouble caused by the shrinkage and alteration of the wood stocks and frames due to weather. Nowadays a wood frame old or new can be tied together by iron rods with plates and bolts. In the olden times there were no means of cutting a thread on a bolt, and so wedges and keys had to be used, which, of course, made the work far more difficult.

With big bells there was the great difficulty of getting a piece of elm large enough and strong enough to carry a heavy bell without sagging.

Modern hanging gets over most of these difficulties. The value of ball bearings is not that they make the bells go better, for plain bearings will do that when they are properly fixed, but that they are not affected by faulty alignment of the gudgeons unless it is excessive.

Most men who have had experience of all sorts of heavy bells will probably prefer plain bearings when they are at their best, but take things on the whole and there is not the least doubt that bells to-day go infinitely better than they did, say, fifty years ago. There are dozens of heavy bells which to-day are turned in to peals by people who then would not have been able to ring them behind to a course. Yet those bells were rung to peals.

X.Y.Z.

## BALL BEARINGS HAVE COME TO STAY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A letter by 'Dorken' in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World' refers to ball bearings. Ball bearings are here for good. Why? They are here, I think, particularly for commercial reasons. After all, the fittings have been prepared in the workshop; it does not require a man of much experience to fix ball bearings. That is not the case, however, with ordinary plain bearings. Here an experienced hand is best suited for the job. Gudgeons and bearings for good going must be in perfect alignment. Another reason why ball bearings have come to stay is this. Any bell founder may hang a peal, no matter of what number, 6, 8, 10 or 12, on plain bearings. The job is satisfactory at the time in heaps of cases, but after about 12 months the bells don't 'go' as they did. Why? Gudgeons and bearings have got like a man's throat after ringing a heavy bell for a peal—dry and parched. The steeplekeeper has got tired of the new job. Result, the bell founder gets blamed. I have known cases where the steeplekeeper thinks that it is only necessary to oil bells once a month or once every three months, and light bells about twice a year. The result is that gudgeon and bearing rub metal to metal and small particles of metal get under gudgeons. The bell won't 'go'; besides, it wears out the bearings.

In my opinion, if a peal of bells, with a tenor of 16 cwt. to 25 cwt., is rung twice on Sundays and on practice night, the back bells should be oiled once a week and the front bells once a fortnight, with a special oiling for a peal. Old wood frames should be kept free of grease under the sliders, as this only acts as so much glue, and the bell gets checked before it has completed its circle.

If ringers can do anything at all as regards bells and frames, they should insist on cast iron frames. The churches in about another 25 to 30 years will have far more trouble with frames than they have had. Heaps of steel frames will have rusted out with neglect, all for want of a little paint. In a lot of cases the steel is against the wall and cannot be got at. Next to a good wood frame, choose cast iron. In my opinion, provided there is a good, rigid frame, plain bearings are best for all kinds of ringing. It is steadier, but for the reasons I have given we ringers had better stand by the ball bearing.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.



## QUEX PARK. A UNIQUE PEAL OF BELLS. Shipway as Instructor.

On August 4th, 1819, the twelve bells which had been erected in a new tower in Quex Park, Thanet, were opened.

The owner of the park was a man named John Powell Powell, who lived at Park House, Fulham, where ap-



THE WATERLOO TOWER.

parently he learned to ring. After he had inherited Quex Park he became a very wealthy man, and was enabled to indulge his hobby by erecting a brick tower and installing in it a peal of twelve bells cast at Whitechapel.

The tower is circular in form with four round turrets, one at each corner; if we may be allowed to speak of the corners of a round building. On the top is a cast-iron spire copied more or less from Faversham Church steeple.

The bells are rung from the ground, and as there are two or three floors between the ringers and the bells, and the bells are hung in

two tiers, the hearing is not good. In fact, to hear the trebles it is necessary to leave the belfry windows open.

From a musical point of view the bells are a failure, and at first sight it seems difficult to say why. The front five are quite a good five well in tune; so are the middle six; and the back eight are quite of an average goodness. But when the twelve are rung they do not so much sound out of tune, but as if they did not belong to each other in any way. Perhaps the explanation is that old style bells were tuned by their strike notes and the hum notes were roughly a flattened seventh. With ordinary bells this did not matter, in fact it was to some people an improvement, but with small bells the hum notes are as prominent as the strike notes, and, as they are wild, the effect on the musical quality of the peal is disastrous.

When the bells were opened a fete was held in the park, to which the people of quality from the neighbouring town of Margate were invited. The actual ringing was done by a band from each of the two leading London societies. First each of them rang a touch of Grandsire Cinques about 900 changes long, and then the Cumberlands rang what is said to have been a 'fine' peal of 5,213 changes of Cinques in 3 hours 19 minutes.

The younger George Gross rang the treble and called the bobs, and the band included such well-known ringers as William Shipway, John Hints, and Joseph Riley, the man from the Midlands who was mentioned in the recent articles on Birmingham and Shrewsbury.

The College Youths did not attempt a peal, but contented themselves with ringing touches. Most of them were getting to be elderly men and they had largely outgrown their ambitions in the matter of peal ringing.

John Powell Powell was himself a ringer, but, like his bells, he was not quite the real thing. He did ring one peal, but that was Grandsire Triples and then he rang the tenor.

He did his best, however, to get together a good band. William Shipway was induced to go to Birchington to act as instructor, and practically every man on the estate was persuaded to try to become a ringer. How far all of them really wanted to learn is another thing, but when the squire expressed a strong wish it was a difficult thing to refuse.

During the years Shipway lived in Thanet he did much to foster the art of ringing in the steeples of the district. He called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Canterbury in 1824, and peals at St. John's, Margate, and other neighbouring towers.

No doubt Powell did his best to make Shipway comfortable, but the latter very soon got tired of his country life, and pined for London and his ringing friends among the Cumberlands. At last he broke away and returned to London, notwithstanding all Powell could say.

Powell had ambitions to be a composer, and under Shipway's tuition set himself to learn the construction of Stedman Triples. He evidently devoted an immense amount of time to the matter and pricked many thousands of figures. The result was some touches and a variation or two of the peal Joseph Tebbs, of Yorkshire, had composed. How much of the composition was Powell and how much Shipway we cannot now say. Powell had all his peal and touches printed in a book and copies presented to each of the leading ringing companies in the country. Several copies of it are extant and in the hands of different ringers.

Since Powell's death the bells have been maintained by his heirs and successors, and any hands who applied have always readily been granted permission to attempt peals. At one time a record of every peal rung in the tower was put up in the belfry, but as the number multiplied and the space on the walls began to be filled up, only selected performances such as the first peals in methods were recorded.

A rather remarkable record at Quex Park was made by Mr. J. R. Sharman. He made twelve visits to the tower, rang twelve peals, and when he had completed the twelfth found that without design he had rung every bell to a peal.

Besides the ringing bells, there is at Quex Park a rather finely cast bell brought from foreign parts, and the clock over the stables of the mansion strikes on an ancient bell which once hung in a Canterbury church.

As announced lately in our columns, the owner of the park and the bells, Major Powell Cotton, died recently. He had been a great traveller and sportsman in his time and he was very proud of the very fine collection of stuffed birds and beasts in the museum at the house. They included an elephant, lions, tigers, rhinos and the like, and one warthog whose beauties Major Cotton delighted to point out. All the beasts had fallen either to his gun or to that of Mrs. Cotton.

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## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING. FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

Before we go on to examine the work of 5-6 in Grand-sire Triples we want to say something in general about plain hunting with a pair of handbells.

First, write out a plain hunting course on eight bells, that is the first lead of Bob Major; only instead of making second's place let the bells come round at the lead end. To make a better illustration, write the sixteen rows out three times in succession. You will, of course, get repetition of changes, but that does not matter for our present purpose. Now examine the combinations of work of the different pairs of bells.

Take 1-2 first. These you will see follow each other in parallel paths, striking with one blow between them and crossing each other in 1-2 and 7-8, striking together first at backstroke and then at handstroke. This work we described in connection with Grandsire Triples in our issue of July 19th.

Next examine the work of 1-4. These also follow each other in parallel paths, but they strike with three bells between them and cross each other in 2-3 and 6-7, striking together first at handstroke and then at backstroke.

Next examine the work of 1-6. These are widely parted in rounds, and during most of their hunting, while one is moving up, the other is moving down, so that they come closer to each other, pass, and get separated again. They pass in 3-4 and 5-6, striking together, first at backstroke and then at handstroke.

Then examine the work of 1-8. In rounds these are parted as widely as they can be parted. When changes begin they approach each other by a regular progression, one striking in second's while the other strikes in seventh's, then one in third's and the other in sixth's. They meet and cross in the middle positions (4-5), striking together first at handstroke and then at backstroke. One then goes to the front and the other to the back, and while one leads a whole pull before, the other lies a whole pull behind.

Diagrams should be drawn of the work of these four pairs of bells, for they represent all the combinations of plain hunting which are possible with a pair of bells. The work of any other pair will be the same as one of these four pairs. The work of 7-1 is the same as that of 1-6. The work of 5-1 is the same as that of 1-4. The work of 3-1 is the same as 1-2. In a similar way the work of 2-4 is the same as that of 1-2, 2-6 is the same as 1-4, and any other possible pair is an equivalent of one of the first four pairs.

When we learn change ringing on tower bells, the first thing we are taught to understand and to master is the plain hunting of the treble. In a similar way, when we learn double-handed handbell ringing we should first understand and master these four combinations of plain hunting; for just as plain hunting is the basis of all the work that a tower bell is called upon to do, so these combinations of plain hunting are the bases of all the work a pair of handbells is called upon to do.

Obviously, then, it will pay the beginner to devote some time to the study of these combinations, and this he can do by himself and by means of figures and diagrams.

We have taken eight as our example because there the bells work from the front and from the back in a perfectly symmetrical manner. With an odd number of bells, Grandsire Triples, for instance, certain modifications are necessary because, while the whole pulls at the lead are at hand and back, the whole pulls behind are at back and hand; but the beginner who studies the figures and diagrams will have no more difficulty in reconciling double-handed plain hunting on odd numbers of bells with plain hunting on even numbers of bells, than he has when he is ringing in the tower.

The main point is to get to know and to understand all you can about the combined hunting of a pair of bells before you turn your attention to dodging and method ringing.

When an entirely new band is being formed it will be a good plan first of all to practise the hunting course on eight bells, ringing it over and over again and shifting the pairs of bells among the four ringers.

In ringing Grandsire Triples on handbells there is one pair which is in quite a different category from the others. The man who is ringing the tenors has not to concern himself about the combinations of the work of his two bells. He rings the bell in his right hand (the seventh) by exactly the same rules as he would ring a single bell in the steeple, and with the bell in his left hand (the tenor) he simply covers each change. A man who is a competent tower bell ringer should find, when once he has mastered the knack of striking a handbell, no particular difficulty in ringing the tenors to a double-handed touch of Triples or Caters.

It must not, however, be thought that the tenors can be rung, as they should be rung, without practice or the exercise of a considerable amount of skill. For here comes in the question of striking, and you will never get good striking on handbells, any more than you will get it on tower bells, unless you have a good man on the tenors.

Striking is one of those things to which the majority of ringers pay far too little attention. For the most part they are content with a standard which is much lower than it might and ought to be. They do not realise the vast difference between good striking and really first-class striking. There is a quality about really first-class striking which is difficult to describe and which certainly cannot be taught, but which can readily be appreciated by people with sensitive ears. One thing really good striking is not. It is not clockwork striking, though that is a favourite expression with some ringers. The charm of ringing from the point of the listener depends on rhythm, and you cannot have rhythm when every note strikes the ear equally as it would do with clockwork striking. There must be some accentuation, that is, there must be some notes which impress the ear more than

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others, just as in metrical poetry, and, indeed, in good prose writing there must be some syllables which are stressed more than others.

But how, you may ask, is it possible to get such accentuation in change ringing? To some extent the method you are ringing will give it, and that is the reason why some methods are more musical than others. No Spliced Surprise Major ringing, for instance, however 'clockwork' the striking may be, will ever give, or ever can give, the musical effect that Kent Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, or Bob Major will give.

In Triples ringing the covering tenor supplies a certain amount of accentuation, but by itself not quite sufficient, and it does not help to give that variety of rhythm which is necessary to satisfy the ear and to prevent monotony. On the other hand, unless it is skilfully and artistically rung, it can hinder badly. On tower bells, Triples and Cater ringing is often spoilt by the tenor being rung just a shade too closely.

A really first-class man ringing the tenors on handbells can, and (if he has a sensitive ear) usually does, stress the accentuation of the rhythm, not only by *where* he strikes his bells but by *how* he strikes them. But here is the snag. If he consciously tries to do so he will almost certainly overdo it and spoil the effect.

The moral of all this is that you can only learn to be a good striker by cultivating a sense of rhythm and never resting satisfied with the way you strike until you know that you have reached a high standard.

Handbell ringing differs from tower bell ringing in that, as a rule, the ringers ring to satisfy their own ears and not those of any listeners. But now and then a band does ring changes for the benefit of other people. On such occasions, at a concert, for instance, or occasionally in church, they usually make the mistake of failing to take into account the musical effect that change ringing has on an ordinary listener. What sounds good to them when they are ringing together in a room will, they think, sound good to other people in a concert hall or in a church, and almost always they ring too long and too fast.

A touch of Stedman Caters or a course of Stedman Cinques seems to the men who are ringing to take very little time, but to ordinary listeners the charm has dissolved into monotony long before the end comes. We remember a very striking instance of this. At the memorable service in St. Paul's Cathedral, at the time of the College Youths' tercentenary, a touch of Stedman Triples was rung from behind the high altar. The band was a first-class one, and the striking was excellent. And yet, in the opinion of many people, the artistic effect would have been three times as great if they had rung no more than three leads of Grandsire Triples and at a much slower rate.

#### NOTICES.—Continued from next column.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

#### GOLDEN WEDDING.

**HOLMAN—REYNOLDS.**—On August 4th, 1890, at St. John's Church, Washingborough, Lincolnshire, John Holman to Elizabeth Ann Reynolds. Present address, 15, Elm Lane, Sheffield, 5.

#### NOTICES.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint gathering will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30 p.m. to walk through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by handbell ringing and social evening at the Duke's Head, at 5.30. If wet, handbells available in Leatherhead Church belfry from 3 p.m. All members are requested to give this venture their fullest support. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton, and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—We hope to see you at the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, August 3rd, for handbell ringing, and to decide on future arrangements. Please do your best to come along and help keep the guild alive.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Thrapston Branch.—A meeting will be held at Thrapston on Saturday, August 3rd, at the church. Service at 6 p.m., followed by meeting. Handbell ringing from 5 p.m. and after meeting.—All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 10th, at the Institute, Bushey, at 3, for social gossip and handbells. Open to all interested in ringing.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at St. James' Church, Milnrow, at 7 p.m. Members, please note date and place. Handbells will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

**BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells available in Church House at 3 p.m. Service in church 4.30 p.m. Tea at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each, followed by business meeting and handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Sometimes known as the Model Village, correctly, Leigh, is to be the scene of the next meeting. The date, Saturday, August 10th. Tower open! Beg pardon, handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 1s. per head, and business meeting. One train only from Tonbridge, at 2.15 p.m. Bus leaves twenty minutes to the hour (No. 101). Please notify me for tea by Wednesday, the 7th. Come and enjoy a brief respite from the worries of the day.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells from 3.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Kindly notify for tea to A. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 13th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

(Continued in previous column.)

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