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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1940.

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WAR EFFECTS.

We feel we need offer no apology to those of our readers who, in these weeks, may experience delay in the delivery of 'The Ringing World.' Many of those who have looked forward to its prompt appearance every Friday morning for nearly thirty years are, we are afraid, suffering disappointment, and no one regrets it more than we do, but the circumstances now prevailing upset all time tables, and no arrangements that can be planned are a safeguard against the contingencies of war. If, therefore, this journal does not turn up at the appointed time, we ask our readers to have patience and to believe that, as far as we are concerned, and those upon whom we rely for the production and distribution of the paper, nothing is wanting to secure prompt issue. But dislocation of posts and traffic consequent on air raids cannot be foreseen, and in this great upheaval delay is but a trivial matter compared with the stark tragedy with which many hundreds of people are constantly faced.

On every hand, indeed, we are face to face with this grim and deadly Battle of Britain, on the outcome of which depends the fate of our land and of our liberties. If ever anyone doubted what the result of this war may mean, unless this country triumphs and the enemy is finally crushed, they can now read it in the brutal subjection of the Continental nations, of innocent peoples massacred, of fair countries ravished to satisfy the greed of the intolerable Nazi lust for power. The ruthlessness of the enemy is now being expended in all its blind fury upon this land of ours and once more it is falling most heavily upon innocent victims. There are few areas in Britain which have entirely escaped the storm, and London, the heart of the Empire, is being battered day after day and night after night. But London is tougher than the Nazis imagined, and London will see it through. She is scarred in places, but a very long way indeed from being 'laid out,' as Hitler and his myrmidons had hoped. The spirit of the people is unconquerable, the power and the will to resist unquenchable, although it is a matter of deep regret that in his blind aggression the enemy has spared nothing. If he vents his diabolical hatred on the lives and homes of innocent people, slaying women and children at random, how much less can he be expected to spare any of our cherished possessions! Information as to several of London's important buildings which have been hit is now being released by the Ministry of Information, and the names of nine City churches have been mentioned as damaged. Some of these churches have been famous in ringing history, but as far as available reports go, their towers, with the bells, seem largely to have escaped. All the churches mentioned, except St.

(Continued on page 446.)

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Giles', Cripplegate, are buildings which were erected after the Great Fire, mostly by Sir Christopher Wren and, happily, in most cases, the damage is said to be of a minor character. Everyone in the land, of whatever creed, has heard with delight of the saving of St. Paul's Cathedral from the threat of a huge delayed-action bomb, which, it is now learned, would probably have razed the whole building to the ground had it exploded. A prayer of thanksgiving has gone up from thousands of hearts that this disaster has been averted, and in that thanksgiving we are sure the heroism of the men who saved the cathedral is not forgotten.

How long this wanton destruction will go on no man can say, but it is obvious that it is having exactly the opposite effect to what was expected by the Nazis. It is stiffening, not breaking, the spirit of the people, it is strengthening and not weakening the determination to fight down Hitlerism and all that it stands for. What one hopes is that when this comes London will still retain the cherished treasures to be found in its ancient buildings and that its famous landmarks may still be seen rising proudly over whatever else shall have suffered at the bloodstained hands of these remorseless foes whose creed is stark terrorism. And what applies to London applies equally elsewhere. Cities, towns and villages throughout the land are suffering, but the nation is stronger now than ever it has been, and no one doubts the issue. The bells will ring again, and ring for victory and peace. When that time arrives ringers will once again come into their own and they will not be found wanting.

CHARLES MIDDLETON.

THE AUTHOR OF A FAMOUS COMPOSITION.

Last Saturday was the fifty-fourth anniversary of the death of Charles Middleton, the composer of the familiar peal of Cambridge Surprise Major. His has been the curious fortune to have lived an unremarkable and uneventful life, to have done nothing which brought him any notice while he was alive, to have spent his old age in reduced circumstances so that he died in Norwich Workhouse, and yet to have left a name which will be remembered by some people at least for many years, perhaps for centuries.

He was born in 1813 at Marsham, a small village about a mile from Aylsham on the Norwich road. This was a centre of good ringing from early times, and as early as 1730 the Aylsham men claimed to have rung a peal of Grandsire Triples, though Thomas Melchior told them he did not believe it.

Middleton's first peal was 'a touch consisting of seven different peals each containing 720 changes, on December 14th, 1837.' The peals were London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Double Bob, Double Court Bob and Stedman Slow Course. On January 9th in the following year he rang the 6th to 5,440 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Aylsham. Two years later in 1839 he left Marsham and went to Norwich, where the Norwich Scholars were in the last phase of their greatness. Samuel Thurston, who had conducted the first peals of London Surprise and Double Oxford, and the second of Superlative ever rung, died in 1841, and though the company still continued to be one of the very best in England, they had reached their zenith. They rang, however, some good peals while Middleton was one of them, notably the 7,126 of Stedman Cinques in 1844. The others included Stedman Triples and Caters and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major. The list is not a long one, but the Norwich men were never very active peal ringers. They prided themselves on the quality of their striking rather than on the number of their peals. All the evidence goes to show that their standard of striking was a very high one indeed.

Middleton's peal of Cambridge is perhaps the one indispensable peal in change ringing, for there is a large number of Surprise methods in which it and its variations and adaptations are the only possible true peals. Middleton, of course, did not know that nor did his contemporaries. He may have composed the peal after a good deal of experimenting, possibly he tried to vary Reeves' peal of London in the 'Clavis' so as to make it suitable for Cambridge, more likely still he had a piece of good luck, the value of which he did not himself know. For there is nothing else he did in the way of composition which would lead us to suppose that he had more than quite ordinary knowledge of the science of change ringing.

Be that as it may, he has a niche in the temple of fame and has his place, if a small one, among the immortals.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Tuesday, September 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At PERRY FARM,*

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 42 six-scores in the following eleven methods: A six-score each of Earl Soham Delight, Hudibras, London, Gogmagog, Primrose, April Day and Old Doubles, six of Bob Doubles, one each of Canterbury Pleasure and Antelope, and 27 of Grandsire, with 10 callings.

*JAMES E. LILLEY 1-2 | *CHARLES R. LILLEY 3-4
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

Witness—E. H. Lilley.

* First peal in 11 methods, also by the Guild. It is over 40 years since the conductor rang the above methods. This peal is the result of a weekly practice.

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Friday, September 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
At 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

*WILL VIGGERS 1-2 | MAURICE HODGSON 5-6
PTE. JOHN FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. ... 3-4 | †PTE. RICHARD FULLER, Army Dental Corps... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal of Major on handbells. † First peal on handbells.

FELKIRK, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents called differently.

*DANIEL SMITH 1-2 | HAROLD CHANT 3-4
*PETER WOODWARD 5-6

Conducted by H. CHANT.

Witness—Raymond Ford.

* First peal 'in hand' and first attempt. First peal of Minor 'in hand' by the conductor.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Friday, September 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At PERRY FARM,*

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 42 six-scores as follows: 120 Morning Star, 120 London Doubles, 40 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles.

JAMES E. LILLEY 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY 3-4
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Sunday, September 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
At PERRY FARM,*

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 42 six-scores of Grandsire, with 10 different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY 3-4
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EPISODE.

One of the most prominent of the early London ringing societies was the Union Scholars, and one of the most important men in the company was William Coster. Although not one of the foundation members, his name is the first that appears in the following year. He held the office of steward in 1716 and of master in 1717; and, being a strong, lusty fellow, was the first man that ever turned a tenor in to a peal of Major. In the year 1733 he was the landlord of the Bell, a tavern in Angel Alley in Little Moorfields, a network of narrow streets, the site of which is to-day occupied by the Moorgate station of the Metropolitan railway.

Thither, as was natural, many ringers resorted, and as Coster belonged to an earlier generation and had rung his peal when Annable and the leading College Youths were but boys, he had both the opportunity and the excuse to talk about the great things he had done when he was young.

Prominent among his customers was William Laughton, who had for some time been nourishing an increasing feeling of soreness with Annable and the leaders of the College Youths. He was himself not the least man in that society, had been steward, and had actually taken part in more peals with the company than anyone else, not excluding Annable. But he was of a roving disposition, his loyalty to the College Youths sat lightly on him, and at any rate was no barrier to his ringing peals with other bands, or consorting with the lower class men who belonged to none of the leading societies, and formed the underworld of the London Exercise. A year or two previous he had taken part in fourteen eighteen-scores on the six bells in the old steeple of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, a non-society peal and a most interesting performance, for it is the earliest six-bell peal of which we have any record. What methods were rung, and other particulars, we do not know, except that one of the ringers was James Newcombe, who joined the Union Scholars in 1729. He was a steeplekeeper at the Abbey, and one of those who showed the tombs to visitors. He died on February 2nd, 1734, and was buried in the Dark Cloister.

The immediate occasion of Laughton's quarrel with Annable does not appear, but the general cause is apparent. Laughton was an excellent ringer, but he was temperamentally unstable and fond of his glass; and, as Thomas Hearne pointed out, a man 'in liquor' will make mistakes, 'and indeed there cannot be any true ringing but by people that come perfectly sober.'

Annable was no puritan, he could appreciate the social side of ringing in its proper place, and even himself sing a comic ballad; but he held that when a man was in the belfry, his business was to ring and not make trips; and we have the testimony of Hearne as to how high his standard was. There was the sharp rebuke for the man who blundered. 'But,' said Laughton, 'whoever rings as well as he can, ought not to be blamed by anybody. If they could tell a mistake before it's made, I'd say they were lucky, but they know no more than the pope o' Room who'll make a fault before it's done, and what signifies calling out then, when the person knows it as well as they do. It only serves to set people fretting and making more mistakes, and too often I've seen the consequences when I've been ringing.'

(Continued on next page.)

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THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

(Continued from previous page.)

Many another ringer before and since has thought the same thing as Laughton, and often enough he harped on this chord among his friends at the Bell, and especially one evening in November, 1733. There were present six others besides himself and Coster. Three of them were College Youths—John Monger, John Dearmor and Richard Spicer—all of them good ringers, but perhaps of not such importance at the society's meetings at the Barley Mow as they were in the belfry, and so not sorry to be in the more unconventional and unrestricted atmosphere of Angel Alley. The other three were boon companions of Laughton—Jeremiah Gilbert, Thomas Clark and John Chapman.

The suggestion was made — no doubt it arose in Laughton's fertile brain—that visits should be paid to the lesser belfries in the City and suburbs, with the result that an informal club was formed which lasted for sixteen months, met weekly, rang three peals, and many touches at 35 different towers.

Laughton afterwards wrote an account of it and in his epistle dedicatory to Mr. George Carbery he reminds that gentleman—'You are not insensible (being one of those worthy members yourself) that a company of us made an agreement to ring on all the peals of 3, 4, 5 and 6 bells within the City of London and bells of mortality, which we should find ringable, and to ring at a different place every time of meeting if we should think proper.' This has somewhat the air of an afterthought; probably the beginning was a good deal more informal and casual, and it was not until the success of the club was assured that the full programme was agreed upon. The members did not give themselves a name, but adopted one which was bestowed on them in good-natured derision — the Rambling Ringers' Club.

Laughton again would like his readers to believe that the club, having done what it set out to do, had fulfilled its purpose and naturally and voluntarily came to an end. That we may very well doubt. Much more likely it is that it succumbed to outside pressure and opposition.

Laughton's account was never printed, probably there never was much intention or chance of printing it. But it was written in book form and circulated in manuscript among those people who were interested in it and in what it had to say. Little seems to be known about its history. In 1799 it was the property of James Wakefield, of Romford, and it is now in the Guildhall library of the City of London.

The manuscript is in a small volume $6\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size, and is written in a neat and minute hand with as many as thirty lines to a page. By trade Laughton was a watchmaker, and his eyes and fingers were trained to work on a small scale.

The account is valuable because it is the only diary written by an eighteenth century ringer that has come down to us; it is the only account we have of the ordinary week by week doings of the old London ringers. It gives a description of all the meetings of the Ramblers, the names of the men, where they went and what they rang. Nevertheless, it is a very disappointing document. It tells us much, but little that we really want to know. It is, I suppose, unfair to compare it with Hearne's diary (the education and circumstances of the two men were so unlike) and yet the comparison is in-

evitable and is the measure of our disappointment with Laughton. But, after all, he wrote to please himself and his friends, not us, and most of what we want to know, they already knew. Hearne deliberately wrote for posterity.

Laughton unnecessarily hampered himself by the medium he used. He chose to write the greater part of his book in verse. There have been many people who suffered from the delusion that they were poets, or, at any rate, versifiers, but none surely more pathetic than Laughton. He had not a single quality necessary for the task. His subject did not readily lend itself to poetic treatment, and in the few instances where he tried to be poetical he only succeeded in being banal. Of any rules of prosody, scansion, or rhyme he was totally ignorant.

Yet it is clear that he himself thought that his verse both rhymed and scanned, and, in fact, as he read it, it did rhyme and scan, at any rate near enough to satisfy his ear. Take his opening couplet which is as good as anything he wrote and far better than most.

As ringing is a branch of music

Let none despise those men that use it.

Directly it is seen, either in print or in script, the imperfect scansion of the first line and the faulty rhyme of the second are at once apparent. But if one reads it aloud and fairly quickly, the faults are not nearly so obvious. So it is with the 'poem' throughout; if it is read aloud and quickly, as no doubt Laughton expected it to be read, some sort of metre and some sort of rhyme can be found in it.

The burden of Laughton's song, the object for which he wrote was the praise of the Ramblers, what fine fellows they were, what skilful ringers and how superior to all others in every way. But two other themes run through it, neither of which is of any particular interest to us now. One is the praise of the food they had to eat, the other a querulous complaint of the disapproval of Annable and the leading College Youths.

In the eighteenth century eating and drinking were much more openly and consciously classed among the pleasures of life than they are now, and for Laughton they were almost the most important things. He boasts that he and his companions 'loved their bellies, as you may see,' and no small part of his verse is taken up with a detailed description of what they had for supper and how it was cooked and served. It is amusing and quaint at first, but very speedily becomes a bore.

The allusions to Annable are much more interesting because indirectly they throw a lot of light on the position he held in the Exercise at the time and the general condition of the London societies. Annable is never once mentioned by name. For all that is ostensibly said there might not have been such a person, but as we read we cannot doubt that he was Laughton's bugbear and that Laughton was afraid of him. He gives the impression of a rebellious schoolboy who has broken away from authority, who knows he has done wrong, and is shouting to keep his courage up.

For there is no doubt about it—the Rambling Ringers was a defiance of authority. The old rule of the Esquire Youths by which every member undertook not now nor hereafter to have anything to do with any other company was the rule of all the London societies, whether written or understood, and the man who went off and formed another band was not only guilty of disloyalty to his

fellows, but might easily do them mortal harm. It is not to be wondered at therefore that the official College Youths looked askance at the doings of the Rambling Ringers. At first, when Laughton and his party were meeting at five and six bell towers, where no one else particularly wanted to go, and where there was little ringing but what was paid for, they professed to treat them with contempt. 'Five fools rang at Batses [St. Bartholomew the Great] last week,' said one of the wits at the Barley-Mow, and naturally Laughton heard of it. He was loud in his protestations that he and his did not trouble their heads about 'snarling criticks,' or what people said, but it is quite evident that he did trouble himself very much, and he had not sufficient sense of humour to see that the criticism was a tribute to the success of the club. For successful it was, and from the first. Dearmor dropped out of the party after the first three meetings and Monger and Spicer soon after (it may be under pressure from headquarters), but their places were taken by others, and speedily the club grew in numbers. Only two of the College Youths besides Laughton himself were really active members—John Trenell and John Hayward—but there were some who belonged to other societies or to no society.

A prominent member was George Carbery, to whom, as we have seen, Laughton dedicated his book. He does not appear to have been one of Laughton's close friends as Tom Greenwood and Jerry Gilbert were, and we must conclude that socially he was rather in a better position than the rest. His name does not appear as a member of any of the leading contemporary societies, and the temptation is to suppose that he belonged to the London

Scholars, who, there is reason to think, still existed though nearing their end.

In all, thirty-nine different ringers took part in the meetings, besides three men who were 'odd' (*i.e.*, honorary) members. Many of them came out of curiosity once only, including three prominent College Youths—John Ward, John Pearson and William Pickard—the last two of whom shortly afterwards held the office of master. For the most part the College Youths held aloof, not merely the gentlemen like William Skelton and William Gardiner, but also John Cundell, John Hardham, Matthew East, and the recruits who at the time were joining the society. The majority of the club belonged to none of the leading companies, and with them it was very popular. It had an unconventionality and freedom from restraint which strongly appealed to them. There were no officers, no rules, no ordered ritual, no election for membership. A man had but to turn up at one of the meetings and he was treated as a full member. After a few weeks the social side was developed, a supper became a regular part of the proceedings and towards the end, said Laughton, 'we've scorned to meet unless we had something good to eat.' Often one or another of the members provided the supper. Laughton calls it a 'hang-up,' which was, I presume, at the time a slang word for a treat. I have not come across the expression in any contemporary books or writings, nor does it seem to be noticed in any dictionary of slang words and colloquialisms, but it is interesting to learn from the Oxford English Dictionary that eighty years ago 'hang-out' was a slang term for a celebration, and as late as 1893 was an American expression for a feast.

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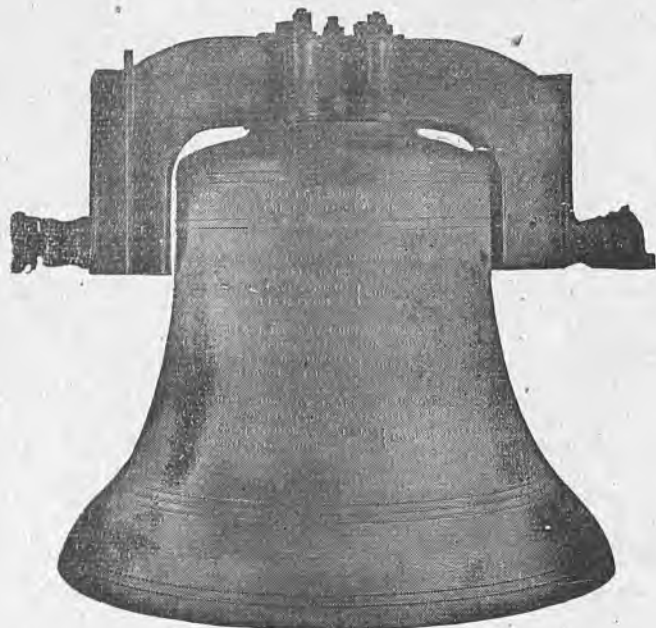
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The prayers of his ringing friends are asked for the Rev. K. C. Davis, who is to be ordained priest by the Lord Bishop of Bristol at Bristol Cathedral on Sunday next, September 22nd.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who reached his eighty-ninth birthday on Wednesday. Mr. Brundle is one of the grand old men of the Exercise. For many years he has been one of the very skilful band at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, who earned fame by their fine performances in Surprise Maximus and other twelve bell peals. Mr. Brundle was one of the band who rang the 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Debenham in 1892, and in 1933, when he was in his eighty-third year, he took part in a veterans' peal at St. Olave's, Hart Street, conducted by Challis F. Winney, in which the combined ages of the band totalled 612 years. He was the senior member of the party.

Excellent use is being made of the opportunities provided for handbell ringing at Aldershot, and a peal of Bob Minor has now been followed by a peal of Bob Major. The unfortunate thing is that this handbell ringing is being done by a 'floating population,' which floats a little too much, and John Freeman, who has been a tower of strength to the party, is now under orders for another place. But if any ringer is in the Aldershot district and would like to have some practice he should communicate with Mr. Will Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

On September 17th, 1896, the Oxford Diocesan Association rang 11,328 changes of London Surprise Major at Drayton in Berkshire, of which parish the Rev. F. E. Robinson was Vicar. It was the longest length in the method, beating the 6,720 rung at Burton-on-Trent in 1888. The Drayton peal was made possible by the discovery by Mr. P. Dench that when bobs are made at In and Fifths in every course the method has a clear proof scale, and James W. Washbrook took advantage of this discovery to compose the possible extent on the plan. He rang the tenor and conducted. Robinson rang the seventh. The peal stood as the record length until 1903, when William Pye called 14,112 changes at Kings Norton. A still longer length by Henry Law James has been attempted, but not yet rung.

Matthew A. Wood was born on September 22nd, 1826. On the same date in 1894 the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol, by the St. Michael's Juniors, of Gloucester. The composition was by Mr. E. Bankes James and the conductor was Mr. John Austin. Henry Law James rang the ninth.

The Australian tourists, whose departure was referred to last week, rang the first peal of Bob Major at sea in the Eastern Mediterranean on September 23rd, 1934. The band was Mrs. Rupert Richardson 1-2, Rupert Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Rev. E. Bankes James 5-6, and John S. Goldsmith 7-8.

IPSWICH LADY RINGER MARRIED.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

Miss Phyllis E. Tillet, one of the brilliant young ringers at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich, was married at St. John's Church, Ipswich, on Saturday, September 7th, to Mr. Cecil Marriott. The bride is the daughter of Mr. John F. (Ben) Tillet, and granddaughter of Mr. Frederick J. Tillet, who are both well-known ringers at the famous Ipswich belfry.

Miss Tillet achieved extraordinary distinction quite early in her career. She took part in the peal of Bob Major at Crayford, Kent, some few years ago, when a band of young people put up a new juvenile record, as the youngest band to ring a peal.

But her claim to distinction in ringing rests on more than this. Before she was 17 years of age she had rung peals of Cambridge from Minor to Maximus, Superlative and Rochester Surprise Maximus, Grand sire and Stedman Cinques and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. She was the first lady to serve the office of Master of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, a graceful compliment paid to her by a company of veterans in recognition of her skill and competence.

She has taken part in peals with her father and grandfather, but the family connection with church bell ringing goes back much further than this, for on the maternal side she can claim descent from John Naunton, of Ipswich, who was ringing peals 130 years ago.

Miss Tillet, her father and grandfather, and the bridegroom are all employed by the well-known Ipswich firm of agricultural engineers, Messrs Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.

Several members of St. Mary-le-Tower Society were present at the wedding ceremony, and rang three leads of Treble Ten on handbells as the newly-married couple came down the church. Miss Tillet was also the recipient of a present from the society, together with the best wishes of the members.

PRESENTATION TO NORTH LINCS RINGER.

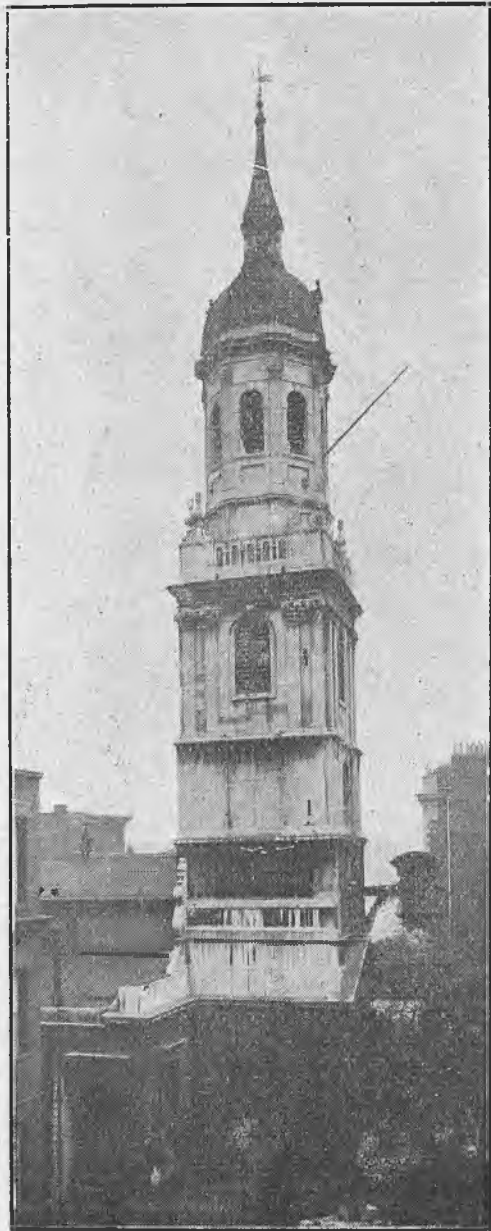
Mr. Ernest Brittain, who has been a valued member of the Burton-on-Stather company for ten years, has left the village for another part of Lincolnshire. He has been one of the mainsfays of ringing in the area in which he lived, and to show their esteem the Burton ringers, joined by friends from Scunthorpe, have presented Mr. and Mrs. Brittain with a silver-plated cake basket.

Although there are no bells where Mr. Brittain is going, the ringers in North Lincolnshire will look forward to seeing him at ringing meetings when happy times return.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

DAMAGED BY ENEMY ACTION.

The 'ruthless and indiscriminate bombing of London has destroyed or damaged many churches, and it has been disclosed that among those who have suffered are



THE FINE TOWER OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR.

nine of the City churches, though, happily, none of them is seriously damaged.

ST. MAGNUS THE MARTYR, which used to stand out so prominently overlooking London Bridge until it was smothered by the vast bulk of Adelaide House, stands on a site where has been a church from very ancient times. In Stow's time it was a fair parish church which contained the tombs of many men of good worship, but whose monuments were for the most part utterly defaced. There were then 'vj belles commonly

used to be ronge v belonginge to the chyme and a clock bell and a saunce bell.' It was close to St. Magnus' that the Great Fire of 1666 started, and the church was one of those destroyed. The present building, which is among Wren's best, was finished in 1698 except for the tower. The old tower was left standing for a time and was pulled down and rebuilt about 1705. Richard Phelps supplied a ring of ten bells in 1714, the two trebles being the gift of two ringing societies, the Eastern Youths and the British Scholars. Seven of Phelps' bells are still in the tower. The tenor weighs 23 cwt.

The first peal on the bells was 5,088 Grandsire Caters on February 15th, 1725, by the College Youths. It was composed and conducted by Benjamin Annable, and was the first by William Laughton. The Eastern Scholars rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters in 1734. The College Youths rang the first peal of Royal on the bells in 1759, and the first of Stedman Caters nearly a century later. In 1778 the Cumberlands rang the first peal of Real Double Grandsire Caters accomplished anywhere. The roof and ceiling of the church have been damaged by enemy action.

ST. AUGUSTINE, WATLING STREET. At the time of Edward VI. there were 'v greate bells and a little bell hanging in the Steple.' Destroyed in the Fire of 1666, the church was rebuilt by Wren in 1680-87 at a cost of £3,145, the spire being added in 1695. It has now but one bell. The damage from the raid is not great.

ST. DUNSTAN'S-IN-THE-EAST. In medieval times the church was spacious and well endowed. In Edward VI. time there were 'in the Steaple v greate bells and a saunce bell and also a clock bell.' The church was extensively repaired and almost rebuilt in 1633 at a cost of £2,400. It was almost destroyed in the Fire of 1666, but was repaired by Wren, who in 1698 rebuilt the steeple. This is one of his most celebrated works. The spire of stone stands on four arches and is very light and graceful in appearance. Its general design is similar to the spires of Newcastle Cathedral and Faversham Parish Church. The body of the church was rebuilt in 1817 at a cost of £36,000.

The bells, a ring of eight with a tenor of 24 cwt., were cast in 1702 by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, and since then several of them have been recast. They are a very fine peal, though their reputation does not stand quite so high as the others cast by Rudhall for London churches—St. Bride's, St. Martin's and All Saints', Fulham. At the time they were 'in the opinion of the ablest judges, the best peal of bells in England.' At St. Dunstan's on September 12th, 1718, the Union Scholars rang Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples under the name of Hick Triples, and this was, except for the London Scholars' peal of Caters at St. Bride's, the first known peal in London. Three months later the same society rang the first peal of Major ever accomplished, 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob. William Coster turned the tenor in single-handed, and Robert Baldwin was, probably, the composer and conductor. A board was erected to commemorate the peal, but when the church was rebuilt in 1817 it was taken down when the belfry was painted and whitewashed and not replaced. The Eastern Scholars rang the third known peal in 1734, one of Grandsire Triples, and very likely the false composition from the J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia. The same society rang the next peal, Bob Major, in the same year,

(Continued on next page.)

ANCIENT BELLS OF THE CITY.

(Continued from previous page.)

and after that there is a blank until 1752, when the Cumberlands rang Bob Major. The College Youths rang Oxford Treble Bob in 1770, and no more peals are known to have been rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century. The bells were restored in 1817 and the Junior Cumberlands rang Grandsire Triples on them, followed by 5,264 Bob Major four years later. Meanwhile, the senior Cumberlands had rung Treble Bob in 1819.

The present damage to the church is reported to consist of broken windows.

ST. CLEMENT'S, EASTCHEAP. This was, says Stow, 'a small church void of monuments.' The Edwardian inventory has the following entry—'Bells. Item, in the stepull of the saide Churchc iij great bells and one sanctus bell.' The building was destroyed in the Fire of 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1683-87 at a cost of £4,362 3s. 4½d. There is at present only one bell. The damage is said to be 'minor.'

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE. We gave an account of this church in our issue of January 5th last. It has suffered considerable structural damage, but the bells and tower are unhurt.

ST. MARY, WOOLNOTH. Which stands on one of the most prominent sites in the Empire, was founded not later than the thirteenth century and was rebuilt in 1438. At the time of Edward VI. there were 'in the Steple fyve greatt bells and a littill bell wth a clock and a chyme and ropes to the same.' In 1526 it was ordered 'the Clerke to have for tollynge of the passinge bell for manne, womanne, or childe, if it be in the day 0. 4d. If if be in the night for the same 0. 8d.' On the death of Sir John Rudston, Lord Mayor in 1531, three shillings and fourpence was paid to the sexton 'for knellyng of the bell at his departyng to God.'

In 1666 the Great Fire destroyed everything that could be burnt, but only the north wall and part of the east wall were rebuilt. The rest was patched up as the parish was eager to get the church ready again for divine service; but in 1711 the building was found to be very unsafe, and, as it was feared it would fall, it was pulled down and rebuilt. Hawesmoor was the architect and the design has considerable merit. The steeple contains three bells by William Eldridge, the treble and tenor dated 1670, and the second 1672. The present damage is not great.

ST. MARY-AT-HILL. About 1490 the church was rebuilt and the three bells from the old tower were increased to five, one bell being given by Sir John Plomer and another by John Duckling. Duckling was a fishmonger and a prominent parishioner, who evidently took a great interest in the bells, for in 1492 the churchwardens paid him twenty-one pence for 17 lbs. of rope which he had procured for the bells. When he died in 1499 the parish received 6s. 8d. for half a day's knell on the great bell. In 1508 the parish employed a man named Smith to tune the bells, but he made a bad job of it, and Master Green was paid 1s. 8d. for counsel 'how to take action for the cutting of our three bells.' A plaint was entered and Smith was arrested, but, though 'the matter was pleaded to an issue,' the result is not stated. It seems that Smith was ordered to recast at least one of the bells and a scrivener was employed to draw up the indentures of an agreement between him and the parish under the direction of two arbitrators. An

inventory made in 1496-7 gives 'Item v grete belles and a sanctus bell of which v grete belles, the iijth great bell was clere of ye gifte of John Ducklyng flysshmonger as is graved vpon ye bell.'

The Edwardian inventory of 1553 gives 'Item a bell carlled a sacaring bell. Itm. in the steple v gret belles & one Santes bell.'

More information survives about these bells than of those in most of the pre-Fire City churches, but they were all destroyed when the building was burnt in 1666. Wren restored the church, but the old stone tower stood until 1780. Two bells were hung in it after the Fire, and they were replaced by a ring of three from Whitechapel in 1787. Not much damage has been done by the air raids.

ST. SWITHIN, CANNON STREET. In Edward VI. time the church possessed 'iij foure bells and a saunce bell.' The church was destroyed in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1677-87 at a cost of £4,687 4s. 6d. It has now two bells, one of them by James Bartlet being dated 1680. The damage to the church consists of broken glass panels.

Another church of which the interior has been badly burned is stated to be St. Alphage, Walbrook, but there is no such church. The only church in Walbrook is St. Stephen's, a beautiful little building showing Wren at his best. In the steeple is a bell which survived the Great Fire of 1666. It is to be hoped that this church has not been seriously harmed.

ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL GREEN.

A FAMOUS EAST END BELL TOWER.

Last week we referred to one of London's churches famous in ringing history. Our readers may be interested to have some further particulars about it.

Bethnal Green was originally a pleasant hamlet in the parish of Stepney. It was made a separate parish in 1743, and St. Matthew's Church, designed by George Dance, was opened in 1746. We have no particulars of the first bells that were hung in the tower, but evidently there was a ring in 1752, for in that year Francis Wood was appointed steeplekeeper.

In 1785 there were eight bells. They may have been installed in that year, or relung and made available for peal ringing, for on May 7th the Junior Cumberlands rang the first peal in the steeple, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. In the same year the senior society rang Oxford Treble Bob and the juniors two other peals, one of Plain Bob and one of Treble Bob.

In the next year the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,440 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. George Gross rang the tenor and conducted, his son rang the fifth, and William Shipway the third.

It was the first peal in the method achieved in London, but it probably was false, either in the composition or in the ringing, for when two years later John Reeves called 5,040 changes for the senior society, the peal was claimed as the first true one 'ever rang in London in that method.' One man, Anthony Cavalier, took part in both performances.

The belfry at Bethnal Green was for many years associated with the family of Wood. Francis was steeplekeeper from 1752 to 1784, his son held the post for 14 years, and his grandson Matthew for almost the whole of his ringing career. Consequently St. Matthew's took a prominent place in the history of London ringing, especially during the nineteenth century.

The Woods were of Huguenot extraction, their name being originally Dubois. Matthew lived for many years in a house in Church Row near the church and his name is still on the door. Hard by was the Whittington and Cat, for very long a favourite meeting place of ringers, and where several handbell peals were rung, both lapped and retained in hand. In the closing years of the eighteenth century it was the headquarters of one of the branches of the Society of London Youths.

Among the more important peals rung at St. Matthew's during the nineteenth century were 5,152 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and 8,448 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1848, and 5,600 changes of Superlative Surprise Major (the first peal of Surprise in London) in 1850. These were by the St. James' Society. On April 27th, 1868, the Ancient Society of College Youths rang 15,840 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 9 hours and 12 minutes, at the time the longest length by any one set of men. The composition was by Thomas Day, of Birmingham, and the bobs were called by Henry W. Haley, who rang the treble. The others in the band were William

(Continued on page 454.)

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED BOWELL.

AN IPSWICH BELL FOUNDER.

As we briefly recorded last week, the death of Mr. Alfred Bowell, the well-known East Anglian bell founder and bell hanger, took place on Thursday, August 29th, and brought to a close a life of great activity, after only two days' serious illness. He had not been quite himself for some time, but there had been nothing to suggest that his end was so near. He caught a chill while attending to his small garden, and although medical attention was early obtained, pneumonia set in and he passed away peacefully during the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Bowell was 66 years of age and a native of Ipswich, and his death took place at his residence in Wykes Bishop Street, a street in which he had resided 63 years and in which he started his business. There in a small house he used the copper stove for a forge and the kitchen as a workshop. At the age of 13 he went with his father, the late Mr. Henry Bowell, to help him with his first bell work. Not being satisfied to let other people cast the bells for him, Mr. Bowell decided in 1896 to try casting them himself, in spite of the fact that he had never seen inside any foundry or worked for any other firm. After a few attempts he cast one of the existing bells at Old Newton Church, Suffolk, and in 1897 was entrusted with the casting of the five new bells to make a ring of six for Mistley Church, Essex, using an old bell removed from the old church as the sixth bell. This was to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. Since that time he had cast over 400 bells, which are to be found scattered over 18 counties, and one for Madras, India.

MR. BOWELL'S PROUD BOAST.

It was Mr. Bowell's proud boast that he had personally poured the metal for every bell cast in his works and that he could personally undertake every branch of the trade, from inspecting towers, making drawings and designs, moulding, casting and tuning the bells, do all the woodwork and ironwork; in fact do everything there is to do in setting up a peal of bells except make the ropes. When finished he could also ring them to Doubles or Maximus in all the old standard methods. For some time he also cast many peals of handbells, but of late years he had let go this branch of the business.

In the course of his career he had rung in 762 churches in 24 counties, but he had no great ambitions as a peal ringer, and his total did not exceed 30 spread over 50 years. His first peal was 7-8 to a peal of Bob Major in hand (conducted by James Motts), at the age of 15 years, and shortly afterwards he scored his first tower bell peal, by ringing the treble to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Ipswich. He was for some years a member of the St. Mary-le-Tower company and was one of the band who rang three peals on twelve bells in three methods in one week—two being at Ipswich and one at Cambridge.

Business later kept him from further peals, but he was always, when able, to be found at St. Clement's tower ringing Minor and helping anyone along. With this tower he had been connected for over 50 years. He was one of the few change ringers who have ever rung on the well-known ring of five at East Bergholt Church, Suffolk, which are hung in a wooden cage in the churchyard and are rung by catching the end of the headstocks, there being no wheels or ropes. As the tenor weighs 25 cwt., it is no easy task, and now only the local men are allowed to manipulate them. Mr. Bowell had also rung in the Imperial Institute and at Quex Park, Kent, and was a member of many associations, including the College Youths.

CLOCKS WERE A HOBBY.

Among some of the best known works he carried out was the rehanging in new oak frame, with all new fittings, of the heavy eight at Stowmarket, Suffolk (tenor 24 cwt.). Included in this job also was the restoration of the heavy spire of the tower and the restoration of an old-fashioned carillon machine in the tower. This was carried out with only local help in 1894 when Mr. Bowell was only 20 years of age, and nothing great has been done there since, although the bells were always rung twice every Sunday for many years. In 1914 he carried out the work of rehanging the heavy ring of eight at Warminster, Wilts, in steel frames. He was never a great lover of ball bearings, but was always willing to use them if required, but he rehanging the tenor of 31 cwt. at Ipswich many years ago with steel headstock and plain bearings, and ringers know well the many peals that have been rung on these bells in recent years. Bramtree, Essex, were rehanging in steel frames and ball bearings.

In 1922 Mr. Bowell carried out the work of recasting the existing six, adding two more bells, and rehanging in steel frames the peal at All Saints' Church, Maldon, Essex. This tower is the only triangular one in England and the job called for much scheming, as the tower was already full with the old six. The present eight are, however, on one level with a perfect circle in the church below.

Mr. Bowell's greatest hobby was his work, and he took no interest in sports, but a lesser hobby was church clocks. He did all the alterations, reconstructions and additions wherever he did the bell work, and some few years ago, when he rehanging the eight bells at Halesworth and the old-fashioned clock, which had the ding-dong chimes, was also in need of repair, he entirely reconstructed the whole

(Continued in next column.)

BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I have a few lines in which to reply to your two correspondents?

The Rev. E. S. Powell says that the retardation of speed of a bell in the second half of the swing is increased by friction, and that it is greater than the acceleration in the first half. This is true. Then he states, without any reasoning whatever, 'So much so that the combined times of downward and upward swing will be more than in the ideal frictionless bearing.' This statement I say is incorrect.

Perhaps I can help Mr. Smith. He is right in supposing that the extra energy of the bell is taken up in overcoming friction. But the bell has this extra energy only if its speed is greater, and if its speed is greater its time of swing must be less.

The Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

R. O. STREET.

EFFECT OF FRICTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In a letter to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Street stated that although ball bearings reduce friction, they tend to make a bell go slower. I don't pretend to be an expert in physics, but on looking through a modern text book on mechanics I saw the laws of friction written down. The first one is: 'Friction always tends to oppose motion, and is sufficiently great to prevent motion altogether, up to a certain limit.' Thus the motion of a plain bearing bell will be opposed more than that of a ball bearing bell, and if the motion is opposed more the bell will go slower. The extra pull that may have to be given to the bell on plain bearings will be used in overcoming the force of friction, not in increasing the speed of the revolution of the bell.

A simple illustration may convince Mr. Street of his error. The frictional force between the runners of a toboggan and a road surface is great enough to prevent motion altogether, but the friction between the runners and a snowy surface is very small, and the toboggan is capable of great speed.

Surely all this is commonsense.

CHRISTOPHER T. BROWN.

THE BELLS OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

THE OPENING RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice in 'The Ringing World' of September 6th it is stated that the Junior Society of College Youths opened the bells at Bishop's Stortford on September 2nd, 1820. May I be allowed to correct that, for an extract from the history of those bells I have in my possession says that in the year 1820 John Briant, of Hertford, was employed to cast two new and additional treble bells and rehang the whole ring.

The local ringers were provided with a dinner and beer at the cost of £3 1s on the 19th day of July, 1820, and on the following day, when the bells were opened by them, the Constable, John Sayer, received 5s. for keeping order in the churchyard; ten new bell ropes, weighing 55½ lb., cost, with 9s. for sallies, £4 12s. 3d.; and John Briant appears to have received at various dates, terminating in 1820, £89 for his share of the work.

On September 2nd, 1820, the Junior Society of College Youths of London rang a complete peal of Grandsire Caters of 5,039 changes upon the bells, which was conducted by Henry Symondson, sen. This peal is recorded by a tablet in the belfry, which is in good preservation.

HENRY J. TUCKER.

2, Gordon Villas, The Broadway, Summersdale, Chichester.

THE LATE MR. ALFRED BOWELL.

(Continued from previous column.)

clock and added the Westminster quarter chimes. For the last 21 years he had had charge of a large carillon machine of old design near Ipswich, which plays on 16 hemispherical bells (tenor 10 cwt.), besides the carillon at St. Clement's Church, Ipswich.

The funeral, which took place on Monday, September 2nd, in Old Cemetery, Ipswich, was attended by many old friends and neighbours, among them members of his staff who had been with him many years and some of whom are well known throughout the country, Messrs. H. G. Welham (40 years' service), R. Smith (30 years), V. E. Waters (22 years), A. V. Middleditch (12 years), etc. One employe was unable to be present, as he was too far from home, but he had been with Mr. Bowell for 36 years. The chief mourners were the widow and son (Mr. H. Bowell) and other relatives, Mr. William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, a life-long friend, who also represented the Essex Association, and Miss E. B. Reeve, representing the Suffolk Guild. Owing to difficulty of giving notice in time, few ringers were able to be present. Mr. George Smith represented St. Clement's Church, and Mr. Fred Keeble the firm of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd., for whom deceased did work for three years in the Great War and also in the present.

TWO FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

A NEWSPAPER CONTROVERSY OF THE YEAR 1813.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett sends us the following extracts from a Norwich paper printed in 1813, which will be read with interest as showing the relations between two famous ringers. Four years after these advertisements appeared, Chestnut called the first peal of Double Norwich Maximus, and Thurston rang the tenor (with assistance).

Norwich, April 23rd, 1813.

Mr. Samuel Thurston having challenged any man in England to ring with him for one hundred pounds, the company of ringers belonging to St. Peter's of Mancroft, Norwich, in order to prevent any person from being imposed upon by fallacious pretences, feel it incumbent on them to accept the challenge, although, at first, they were inclined to pass it over with the silent contempt it merits. They therefore announce to Mr. Thurston that they have appointed one of their company to meet him at any twelve-bell steeple, not less than one hundred miles from Norwich, and, in order to secure the utmost impartiality, they propose that eleven men shall be selected from London to ring with each party, and to decide on their respective merits. All expenses to be paid by the losing party, in addition to the wager.

May 6th, 1813.

In which it appears Mr. Chestnut has a very happy knack (called in some places throwing the hatchet) in declaring that S. Thurston would not meet him upon fair and equitable terms; on the contrary, he offered to ring with Mr. Chestnut, for correctness with his (the St. Peter's company) for one hundred pounds, which offer Mr. Chestnut refused, observing there were not six in the company could ring any difficult peal (therefore he has not much to boast of respecting the character of the St. Peter's ringers, which for a considerable time has gone by), S. Thurston will leave the public to judge whether it would not have been a stupid thing in him to have been at any expense in getting ringers from London to supply their deficiency.

S. Thurston, on moderate terms, will wait on ladies and gentlemen with the most musical peal of handbells ever heard in Norwich any evening after seven and on Saturdays from three in the afternoon until eight. Please to direct for him at Mr. King's, the sign of No Where, St. Margaret's.

Norwich, May 13th, 1813.

Mr. Chestnut's name having been introduced to the public in last week's paper by an ambiguous, vulgar and ridiculous advertisement, apparently sanctioned by S. Thurston, but which, from its being totally destitute of sense or meaning, does not admit of being regularly answered, he is under the necessity of referring to the statement of the Saint Peter's ringers, inserted in the papers of the 1st of May instant, and re-asserting the truth of the position therein advanced, that S. Thurston did, as he still does, refuse to meet a person appointed by their company, 'on fair and equitable terms.' The former part of S. Thurston's last advertisement, which it is presumed originated 'No where,' is perfectly beneath Mr. Chestnut's notice, but, in order to expose gross and absurd misrepresentation, it may be necessary for him thus publicly to declare that the whole of that elegant composition is positively and scandalously false. Mr. Chestnut now openly and candidly announces to Mr. Thurston that he is ready and willing to accept his challenge if he (Thurston) will either accede to, or propose, a rational and proper method of obtaining an equitable decision; for this purpose he recommends to Thurston to change his present advocate for one who has sound pretension to understanding and respectability, by whose assistance an arrangement may be formed for bringing the dispute between them to a fair issue; and Mr. Thurston can run no risk of exhibiting to the public a greater instance of 'stupidity' than he has already done by misunderstanding the first address of the 'St. Peter's' ringers to him to convey any thing like an intention of 'getting' ringers from London.

Mr. Chestnut, in justice to himself and the company of St. Peter's ringers, has been induced thus far to trespass upon the public, but he declares that he will by no means further degrade himself by taking any notice whatever of any other illiterate and vulgar composition which may hereafter issue from 'No where,' nor will he hold any further communication with Mr. Thurston through the means of so contemptible an agency.

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MR. FREDERICK SHARPE,
DERWEN, LAUNTON, BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE.

AIR INVASION WARNING.

PUDSEY'S SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read of the arrangements made for ringing in the event of air invasion alarm at Pudsey. From the ringers' point of view, the scheme may be satisfactory, provided sufficient ringers can be collected, and they can turn it into a sort of practice. As I understand it the procedure will be:—

First, the verger will be notified by the Home Guard that an air invasion has taken place, or is imminent, and he will accordingly proceed to the church and await orders to ring.

Second, if the invasion has taken place or is imminent, he will in due course receive orders to ring the treble bell.

Third, the local commander of the Home Guard (who presumably will have been responsible, first, for the issue of the instructions to the verger to stand by and, second, issued the orders to the verger to ring the treble bell), on hearing the bell which he has instructed the verger to ring, issue instructions for a motor-car to collect the ringers from their homes or their work.

Fourth, the ringers having first been found (if they are at home or at work—what will happen if they are not at either; that is if they happen to be, say, at the pictures or the Rose and Crown when they are not told), will then be conveyed to the church.

Fifth, having arrived at the church, they will proceed to ring to warn the Home Guard (whose commander has already issued instructions to the verger, who has already rung one bell to warn the commander that he must send for the ringers), that an air invasion has taken place or is imminent.

Sixth, the ringers having rung for a stated period (apparently unstated at present, as far as one can gather from your report), will cease ringing.

Seventh, the car (presumably the car which brought them to the church) will be available to take the ringers home again, or to their work.

This statement seems to me quite fairly to set out the procedure which has been agreed upon for Pudsey, and which your report says, appears to be the best arrangement made so far. I wonder!

All this appears to me to be a sheer waste of effort—unless, as one might hope, it is to give the ringers the opportunity of some camouflaged practice. If that is the case—well, from the ringers' point of view, it is undoubtedly the best arrangement that I have heard of yet, for among other things they will have the advantage of being taken to the church by car, and taken home by the same means when they have done their ringing. But one cannot imagine that this is the object behind all these arrangements, and if the purpose is to call out the Home Guard, it seems to me not only to be a waste of effort, but a waste of valuable time as well. To begin with, while the ringers are being collected the Commander of the Home Guard might equally well collect his men; and what is the purpose, anyway, of having a bell rung to warn the Commander of something of which he is already aware? The Germans who land on Ilkley Moor will be in Leeds or Bradford—or Halifax—long before all this procedure can be carried out in Pudsey.

It is all the inevitable delay in and the ineffectiveness of the use of the bells as an alarm which makes us ringers so dissatisfied with the complete suppression of ringing in order to provide a feeble and uncertain warning. All of us hope that your endeavours to get the representative bodies of ringers to move will, before long, have its effect.

'RINGER AND HOME GUARD.'

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

CELEBRATED WITH HANDBELLS AT BEACONSFIELD.

On Saturday, August 31st, the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, Rector of Beaconsfield, and Mrs. Routh celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding day. As the ban on ringing prevented an attempt for a peal to mark the occasion, a handbell practice was held in the belfry at Beaconsfield. During the course of the practice, a touch, consisting of 336 changes of Bob Major, was rung by H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, W. Lee 7-8.

Several methods were rung, and an attempt was made for 504 of Grandsire Triples, in which the Rector and his two sons took part.

A handbell practice was also held on the previous Wednesday, when a 720 of Bob Minor was attempted to celebrate the 47th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher's wedding day.

ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL GREEN—Continued from page 452. Cooter, James Pettit, Henry Booth, Richard Hopkins, Edwin Horrex, Matthew A. Wood and John Murray Hayes.

The record was not beaten until 1883, when the Ashton-under-Lyne men rang 16,608, although in 1872 a band at Earlsheaton claimed to have rung the latter length in 9 hours and 48 minutes. The men did stand the time, but when the bells should have come home they were not in a position to do so, and were jumped into rounds.

In 1859 St. Matthew's Church was destroyed by fire and the bells and peal boards perished. It was restored and given the appearance which was familiar to many of our readers, and a new ring of eight with a tenor of 14 cwt. was supplied by the Whitechapel foundry. To-day the tower still stands and the bells are intact, but whether it will be safe to ring them again after their recent vicissitude cannot at present be said.

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells from 5 p.m. Short business meeting, including former secretary's presentation, at 6 p.m. A good attendance specially requested.—R. H. Howson, Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells will be available. Service in the Abbey at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. Names, please, by Sept. 18th. The Vicar, Canon Solloway, D.D., will conduct those present round the Abbey. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at Nuneaton on Saturday, September 21st. A room in the Parish Hall, Vicarage Street, will be available from 4 to 7 p.m. Tea and light refreshments provided (please bring own sugar). It is hoped that there will be a good muster.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 21st. Service in the Church at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m., charge 1s. 9d. — Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — North-East Division. — Hello, everybody! This is the district secretary calling you to a district meeting to be held at Ardleigh on Saturday, Sept. 28th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by a light tea, kindly provided by the Vicar. Ringing will have to be done on handbells, but, never mind, come along and try your skill. Remember this is as much for the single-handed ringing folk as those who have acquired the skill to ring two. Let it be a social gathering as well. It is sincerely hoped that all who can will come and then we can hear your views about such gatherings in the future. There is a good rail and bus service. Send your names to me by Wednesday, Sept. 25th.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome. Tea can be arranged if required.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Saturday, September 28th. Service at 4 p.m., business immediately after. As the business is important will as many as possible turn up.—W. H. Shuker, T. Wilson, Hon. Secretaries.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Shinver (D.V.) on Saturday, Sept. 28th, 3 p.m. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting for election of officers, etc., when outstanding subscriptions should also be paid. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. and after meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells, etc., in the Church Institute from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for all those who notify Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, Leeds, not later than Wednesday, Sept. 25th. Business meeting to follow tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A business meeting to discuss the future proceedings will be held in the Schoolroom at Hinton-on-the-Green at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28th. It is hoped that all towers in the branch will be represented.—J. E. Newman, The Cross, Hinton-on-the-Green.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Business meeting at 6 p.m. prompt, to be followed by handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

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