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PLAN FOR THE WINTER.

There is still gratifying evidence that, despite all the difficulties of the times, many associations are carrying on their activities within the limitations which are now imposed by war time restrictions. Reports of successful, if small, gatherings of ringers in many parts of the country continue to come to hand and to show that the fire of enthusiasm is still burning. The spirit of ringers is unquenchable, and we hope to see these meetings carried on wherever possible. The lengthening of the 'black-out' is going to add to the handicap, but it will be overcome, we are sure, by the stalwarts whose support is, and always has been, the mainstay of ringing meetings. The size of the gatherings during the winter may be smaller; indeed, there is no reason why they should not be definitely adapted to cover smaller areas. Districts might be unofficially sub-divided and smaller group meetings run by assistant secretaries — it would obviously be unfair to expect the district secretary to multiply his work two or three times, especially in these days. Neighbouring towers could, however, combine to their mutual advantage and endeavour to cultivate hand-bell ringing as well as the social side of the Exercise, without having to rely upon the presence of members from a distance to make the meeting a success. Even in country districts this could be done; in fact, country ringers could, perhaps, do better in a black-out than townsmen, for they have not been in the habit of having their steps lit for them, and there are still means of transport available. This is the time when a real effort ought to be made to plan a winter programme based, not so much upon ideas of numerical success as upon the desire for neighbourly help and fraternisation. These must be days of small things, but these small things can be no less valuable, both from the point of view of maintaining immediate interest and of securing future development. Because the long days of darkness are ahead, let there be no slackening of effort. Sub-divided districts can keep the art going as well as the larger organised areas under happier conditions.

Not all associations, at least not all the districts of many of the associations, have made a serious effort to keep the flag flying up to the present time; there have been a number of areas where activities have been allowed to lapse. There may have been good reason, but it certainly does seem in some cases that it has been due to a kind of defeatist spirit. It is in these districts, of course, that the greatest difficulty will be found in re-establishing organised life, and it might be a step to-

(Continued on page 470.)

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wards recovery in the future if, in those areas not too badly threatened by the raids of the enemy, something was done to inaugurate these group meetings. They may, as we have said, be only small, but they would serve to keep ringers in touch with one another and with the art, and they would instil life where no life at present appears to exist. What is needed is someone in each group prepared to undertake a little work to get a subsidiary organisation going; an organisation which will be content at first with small results. There is a great deal of room for these little groups to function in the approaching winter months. The fact, however, cannot be ignored that there are some areas so seriously and constantly menaced by the enemy's aircraft that it would be an extremely daring project to plan meetings of any kind. Apart from the risks of direct bombing, there is always the possibility that transport facilities may break down, while travelling on the public roads in itself may be dangerous. We are not going to suggest that in districts such as this ringers should not try to meet informally, but to attempt organised gatherings must be regarded as out of the question for the present. For those more fortunately placed, however, there is no reason why small scale meetings should not be planned even in the autumn and winter months, while in individual towers where effective black-out is possible, there still remains the opportunity of teaching beginners how to handle a rope and of instructing them in change ringing by the use of handbells.

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YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SELBY ABBEY.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on September 21st and was attended by over 20 ringers from Campsall, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's, Hemingbrough, Hessle, Howden, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York Minster and the local company. During the afternoon the Vicar, Canon Solloway, conducted those present round the Abbey and explained some of the interesting parts of the building.

Evensong, conducted by the Rev. G. Cooper, curate, took place at 4 o'clock, and the Vicar welcomed the association to Selby. Tea was served at the Olde Cross Cafe and was followed by the business meeting in the ringing chamber of the Abbey. As Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president was engaged in church, Mr. P. J. Johnson, the vice-president of the Western District, was asked to take the chair. Owing to the black-out, it was decided not to hold the meeting due in December, and the place of the annual district meeting in March was left in the hands of the vice-president and district secretary.

Mr. F. W. Dale proposed and Mr. H. Bradley seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness in conducting those present round the Abbey and for his welcome to the association, and the chairman spoke of his pleasure at visiting Selby once again. Mr. F. Cryer replied on behalf of the Vicar and the local company.

Mr. P. J. Johnson brought to the notice of the meeting the social gathering to be held at the Conservative Club in Leeds on Saturday, October 12th, and said he hoped as many as possible would be present. He stressed the importance of ringers keeping together as much as possible during the present time. The price of the tea at this gathering will be 2s. 6d., and it is hoped it will be a success.

Further handbell ringing in the belfry ended an enjoyable meeting, the only drawback being the ban on tower bell ringing.

SOME HANDBELL QUERIES.

HOW EXPERIENCED RINGERS COULD HELP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst tower bell ringing is suspended and many companies have split or disbanded, the question of handbell practices has become important. Where enthusiasm is to be found among one or two ringers, learners will be forthcoming, and if one out of every five would-be ringers becomes accomplished, the result is gratifying to the teacher. But handbell ringing presents special difficulties, and here are a few experienced by some beginners in this fascinating pastime—it being understood that many companies do not possess even one accomplished handbell ringer in their ranks.

Firstly, the handling of the bells and the monotony of continuous rounds to make the bells strike at hand and back each time. If the bells do not strike, the tendency is to swing the arm more energetically from knee to above the shoulder. Experienced handbell ringers don't want to be bothered by raw recruits, but how can correct handling and rhythm be attained unless somebody with experience keeps pegging away? A good tower bell ringer may be (and often is) an absolute 'dud' at first with a pair of handbells, even for round ringing. One disadvantage is that 'dumb' practice is out of the question where handbells are concerned.

Then there is the apparently simple method of hurting two bells through a course of, say, Grandsire Triples. Take 1-2; we are told to hunt up with the 2nd, the treble following and being one bell wide, and at the 7th's place position, when 1-2 come together, reverse the order, hunting down with the treble, the 2nd following one bell wide, and so on. Very good, but does this method help when a call is made? Surely there are other ways to help raw recruits?

One expert handbell ringer once told a recruit, 'Keep your hands moving and don't think.' This method was satisfactory after many practices, but the other three ringers in the band were accomplished ringers, and the recruit had only to 'fill in the gaps' and do as he was told. But it is not everyone's good fortune to have three experts when learning.

Two things appear obvious—keen sight and a sense of rhythm. To be able to watch the treble and spot when it is at lead in order to know when to dodge needs plenty of practice, and with this method what happens when the treble strays?

Some teachers advise 1-2 when learning Grandsire, others 7-8. Is Grandsire the best method for handbell beginners? Ringing 7-8 for Bob Major is supposed to be as easy as 1-2 or 7-8 in Grandsire, and also to give more scope for the advanced major methods.

Stedman is a first-rate method for handbells once the slow work is mastered, but how can a recruit master the half-turns with one bell whilst double dodging 6-7 behind with the other? Experts will say 'practice,' but how did they overcome these difficulties? Each probably has a pet method or trick and it would be most helpful if the advanced ringers would tell us some of them. There are no hard and fast rules laid down anywhere, I understand.

Assuming a ringer has progressed enough to ring touches of the simpler standard methods double-handed, it is an entirely different thing to attempt ringing Surprise methods. Four or five ringers who can ring, say, Bob Major and Kent, and know nothing of Surprise, will find a great deal of difference when starting on these advanced methods. The old question arises: Which Surprise method is the best to start with? Cambridge and Superlative on tower bells seem the methods, but handbells are probably a different matter.

If some of our well-known and practised ringers 'in hand' would help us by giving simple answers to these queries and also hints and tips in handbell ringing, there are many would-be handbell ringers whose gratitude would be unbounded. C. D.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AT ROTHWELL.

The September meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Rothwell on Saturday in the Church Institute. Handbell ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and after the first touch some remained inside while others made a tour of exploration of the district and church. Owing to improvements, renovations and renewals, not much of the original building is left, and, strange to say, the most ancient part is the roof. The interior is worth a visit, as each pew end has a carving of human beings, birds, beasts, fruit, etc.

The walk through the village and local park gave an edge to appetite, and full justice was done to a splendid tea provided by the local company and their wives at a very small charge.

At the business meeting after tea, the president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) occupied the chair, and members were present from Arnsley, Barnsley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's) and the local company. One new member (Mr. G. Homer, of Rothwell) was elected.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for permission to hold the meeting and to the local company and their wives for the tea and attention at the tea tables was proposed by Mr. G. Titterton and seconded by Mr. Dan Smith.

The Vicar replied and was supported by Mr. Wormald, churchwarden, and by Mr. T. Strangeway.

The next meeting will be held at Bradford Cathedral if possible. Members are asked to watch 'The Ringing World' for the notice.

THE DEATH BELL.

NOT EXTINCT IN SOMERSET.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the letter headed 'Traditional Uses of Bells,' written by Mr. J. A. Trollope. I am wondering where he gets his facts. The bell he calls the death bell or knell I take to be the ordinary 'passing bell,' rung immediately it is known that a death has occurred. I have not heard that this has ceased to be rung. Certainly we have it rung in Somerset.

Hardington Mandeville Rectory, Som.

R. F. J. SAWYER.

AN ILLUSTRATION FROM CHARLES DICKENS.

A STORY OF THE GORDON RIOTS.

If we want to know about the customs and habits of the common people of bygone days, we can often learn far more from casual statements in contemporary letters and books than from the pages of formal history. Reference has lately been made in our columns to the death bell, and the following passage from Charles Dickens' novel, 'Barnaby Rudge,' gives us a good idea of its use in the early part of the nineteenth century, when Dickens wrote.

The story relates that one evening in the year 1780 a group of old friends were sitting over the fire at the Maypole in Chigwell, an Essex village, when a stranger entered, who joined in conversation with them, and by some casual words and questions led Solomon Daisy, the sexton of the parish church, to tell his tale, part of which we now give in Dickens' words:—

'It happened that that night an old gentleman who lived in Chigwell Row and had long been poorly, deceased, and an order came to me at half after twelve o'clock at night to go and toll the passing bell.

'It was a dreary thing, especially as the gravedigger was laid up in his bed, from long working in a damp soil, and sitting down to take his dinner on cold tombstones, and I was consequently under obligation to go alone, for it was too late to get any other companion. However, I wasn't unprepared for it; as the old gentleman had often made it a request that the bell should be tolled as soon as possible after the breath was out of his body, and he had been expected to go for some days. I put as good a face on it as I could, and, muffling myself up (for it was mortal cold), started out with a lighted lantern in one hand and the key of the church in the other.

'It was just such a night as this; blowing a hurricane, raining heavily, and very dark—I often think now, darker than I ever saw it before or since; that may be my fancy, but the houses were all close shut and the folks indoors, and perhaps there is only one other man who knows how dark it really was. I got into the church, chained the door back so that it should keep ajar—for to tell the truth, I didn't like to be shut in there alone—and putting my lantern on the stone seat in the little corner where the bell-rope is, sat down beside it to trim the candle.

'I sat down to trim the candle, and when I had done so I could not persuade myself to get up again and go about my work. I don't know how it was, but I thought of all the ghost stories I had ever heard, even those that I had heard when I was a boy at school and had forgotten long ago; and they didn't come into my mind one after another, but all crowding at once, like. I recollected one story there was in the village, how that on a certain night in the year (it might be that very night for anything I knew) all the dead people came out of their graves till morning. . . . Thinking on in this way I began to think of the old gentleman who was just dead, and I could have sworn as I looked up the dark chancel that I saw him in his usual place wrapping his shroud about him as if he felt it cold.

'All this time I sat listening and listening and hardly dared to breathe. At length I started up and took the bell rope in my hands. At that minute there rang—not that bell, for I had hardly touched the rope—but another.

'I heard the ringing of another bell, and a deep bell too, plainly. It was only for an instant and even then the wind carried the sound away, but I heard it. I listened for a long time, but it rang no more. I tolled my bell—how and how long I don't know—and ran home to bed as fast as I could touch the ground.

'That morning Mr. Reuben Hardale was found murdered in his bedchamber and in his hand was a piece of the cord attached to an alarm-bell outside the roof which hung in his room and had been cut asunder, no doubt by the murderer when he seized it.'

When we look behind the unusual circumstances of the story—the wild weather and the murder—to the normal and usual circumstances, we can see what the death bell was. It was a bell tolled immediately after the death of a person, 'as soon as possible after the breath was out of his body,' to let people know that he was dead. It might be tolled at any hour of the day or night, and the sexton or clerk always had a double fee if it was tolled at night time.

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THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

ADVENTURES IN SPITALFIELDS AND HOUNDSDITCH.

Four days after the incident at Mitcham on Sunday, August 11th (which was described last week) the Ramblers went again to Camberwell to attempt the peal of Bob Major. They rang about three thousand changes and were stopped by the bad going of the tenor. Then they went to the Crown, had dinner and spent the afternoon playing skittles.

It was not until October 13th that they eventually succeeded in ringing the peal. The band was the same as made the attempt at Easter, except Trenell did not ring and Smallshaw stood in. Hayward was at the tenor, and the time was 2 hours and 55 minutes, which was quick ringing for a peal of Major in those days, though the bell weighed only 7 cwt. No record exists of any earlier peal in the steeple, but, as Laughton makes no claim, possibly some had already been rung there.

The success after so many failures was due, if we may believe Laughton, to the fact that Tom Clark one evening picked up an old horseshoe, which they took with them and nailed over the belfry door and so averted their bad luck—

for witch nor wizard cannot enter
nor o'er the threshold durst they venture
where're that magic charm is nailed.

The ringing of the peal, we are told, gave great offence to the Ramblers' enemies. 'Some are griped because they're done and out of spite have called us names,' but, says Laughton, magnanimously, 'we'll not call them so again blackguard scoundrels,' and he assures his readers that for his part he forgives them from his heart, but this much he must say, that the Ramblers behave themselves like men and are not 'afrointine' to anyone, and it's hard they can't be let alone; and after boasting that he and his friends always paid their reckonings, however large, he hints that it would be well if the same could be said of their critics. All of which is evidence of a very pretty little quarrel of which, however, since we know nothing about the other side, we can form no opinion.

To carry out their intention of ringing at every tower where the bells could be rung, the Ramblers went to two churches where there were only three bells. The first was Holy Trinity in the Minories, where Laughton, Greenwood and Benson rang fourteen dozen sixes. They raised the bells, rang them, and ceased them without standing. The ropes were small and had no sallies, so the ringers had to chalk them to know where to catch.

The other three-bell tower was St. Bartholomew-the-Less, then, as now, the church of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and there Bennett, Benson and Laughton rang seventeen and a half dozen sixes, or 1,260 changes, the longest peal ever rung on three bells.

They had to make two attempts, the first coming to grief after six and a half dozen sixes through the tenor slipping wheel.

Though three-bell ringing seems to us nowadays very tame stuff, we must remember that change ringing began on that number, and the men of the seventeenth century got a good deal of sport out of it. But Laughton had rung Maximus, and it is rather difficult to understand the pride he seems to have taken in these performances. He himself said that perhaps his tale might make his readers laugh, and some might say it was a childish

thing to do. But his answer was that they did it to please themselves, which, after all, was a sufficient answer; and there is good sense in his plea for variety in ringing—because there are peals of twelve in town, must the fives and sixes never be rung?

On one Sunday in October William Laughton and his friends walked to Tottenham, and while the more energetic of them went to the steeple and rang 720 changes of Cambridge Surprise, the others went to a 'boozing ken' and drank gin; thirteen quarterns, says Laughton, 'was fairly drunk.'



ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY,
Whose bells deservedly earned Laughton's praise.

On the way back that night they chanced upon a merry Quaker. 'By Jove, he was a boozing friend, but we stitched him up,' for after supper and talk, 'much upon religion,' the Quaker proposed to toss for gin, and lost. And then — whether because he had begun before the others, or because he had not so strong a head—he succumbed, and the Ramblers left him snoring on the kitchen bench while they continued their homeward journey.

On another Sunday in November they went to Hackney, and the day being the anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth, which was still observed as a ringing day in many churches in Protestant London, they rang a 720 of Cambridge Minor, the first that ever was rung there. More than a score of them afterwards sat down to supper at the Rising Sun, where they had a merry time until ten o'clock, when they started for home with two links (torches made of tow and pitch) before to give them light. Coming through Spitalfields eight or

nine of them called at a spirit shop kept by a Frenchman, and had a second supper with beer and spirits, but when Monsieur's wife wanted to charge them two shillings a pint for the spirits they flatly refused to pay. High words ensued, and after they had 'squabbled about the matter,' they paid just what they thought proper.

Laughton's adventures that day were not yet finished. He and his friends set out for the George in Houndsditch, the landlord of which was Edward Davis, one of the 'odd' members of the club, and, it seems, one of the party. To get there they went through some narrow lanes behind Petticoat Lane, where they lost each other in the dark, and where Laughton stumbled and got over shoes in filth.

The district was a slum inhabited by low class Jews and foreigners. In those days the best streets of London were badly paved, badly lighted, badly drained, and, especially in wet weather, filthy. The lanes in the slums literally stank, and the memory of that tumble in the dirt so incensed Laughton against the 'sluttish tribe' that lived in 'those horrid cribs' that he devoted thirty or forty lines to an indignant description of their mode of living, and especially of what they had to eat. However, in the end he got to Houndsditch, where he sat down and drank a pint of special tippie and so finished for the day.

The Ramblers had now visited every five and six bell tower in town and a good many in the suburbs, and they began to turn their attention to eight-bell steeples, though much of their ringing was still Minor. On the back six at St. Lawrence Jewry, a ring that Laughton deservedly praises, they rang a 720 of College Single. William Coster, whose membership of the club had up to then

(Continued in next column.)

FRICION AND RINGING SPEED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As the reader who asked the question about ringing speed in your issue of August 23rd, I wish to thank those gentlemen who have so kindly expressed their viws, which have been most interesting, and certainly no 'mere chaff and druff,' to quote Tennyson.

As, however, there is as yet nothing conclusive, I respectfully suggest that a purely mechanical experiment might be tried, one where none of the 'subtleties' which are said to affect ringers can come into play.

My suggestion is that half a dozen ringers of standing, one or two of whom know how to do a little job, shall visit a belfry where there is a bell of, say, 20 cwt., with a perfectly true wheel, having no wobble. The skilled men should devise and fix some reliable braking apparatus, so that the wheel may be efficiently braked on the rim throughout the bell's revolution. This done, they should raise the bell and a reliable man ring her at a set speed previously agreed upon, say at 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28 blows per minute. While this is being done two impartial men should stand by the bell, and after assuring themselves that the right beat is obtained, mark the wheel rim, level with the top of the frame, exactly when the bell completes her swing and turns. Arrangements should be made with a strap rope if necessary, for two men to ring the bell, and a few experiments made with the brake, first getting it to work right, and then applied in earnest, so much so that the two lusty Fellows below have all their work cut out to tackle her and keep a true beat as before. The two markers, with the same meticulous care and with a different coloured chalk, should then mark the wheel as she turns.

If the Rev. E. S. Powell is right, and the bell, through increased friction, travels on its combined downward and upward swing at a slower speed, she will, in order to strike at the same rate, have to be shortened in her swing and rung perceptibly lower.

I await the report of the men who make the experiment with interest.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

(Continued from previous column.)

consisted in being the landlord of the tavern where they frequently met, showed what he could still do in the way of heavy bell ringing by turning in the 32 cwt. tenor. They also rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise and, on another visit, a 720 of Morning Exercise, on the largest six bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields. As Hayward rang the fifth, and Trenell the tenor (44 cwt.) single-handed, these were notable performances.

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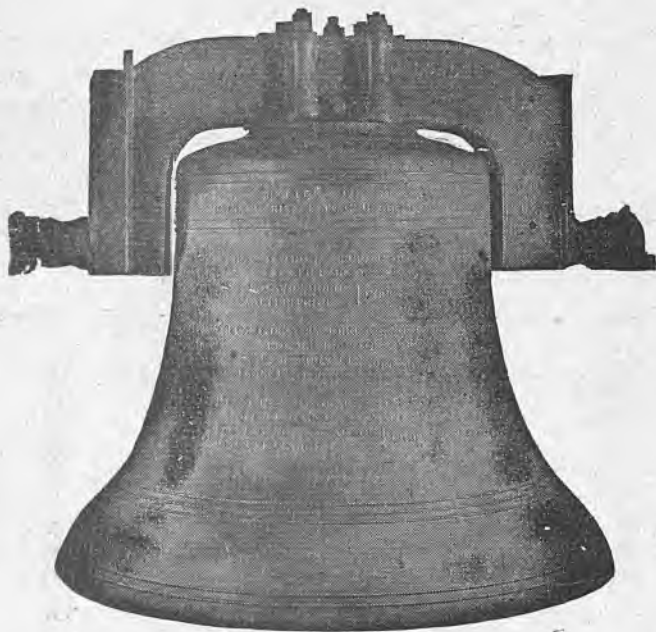
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. W. Dyer asks us to say that if there are any ringers serving with H.M. Forces in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, the local ringers would be very pleased to welcome them at Cook and Withington's, almost opposite the Boys' Grammar School in the High Street, on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. Handbells, including tune ringing, will be practised. Those who get tired of this can enjoy a game of darts or sit down and sip their 'lemonade.'

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. Three of them were Grandsire Triples at Bushey, Hertfordshire, Waltham Abbey and St. David's, Exeter. One was Kent Treble Bob at Handsworth, near Birmingham, and the other was seven methods of Minor at Sandhurst, Berks. Two of the peals of Grandsire Triples were Holt's Original and one Taylor's Bob and Single.

Fifty years ago on Sunday next Mr. E. B. James rang his first peal of Treble Bob Major. It was conducted by his brother Henry.

On October 1st, 1907, the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells was rung at Romford. William Pye conducted and the others in the band were his two brothers, Ernest and Bob, and William Keeble.

On the same date in 1793 the Aston men rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major, conducted by Joshua Short. Reference to this peal was made in a recent article in 'The Ringing World.'

The first peal on the bells of St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, was one of Bob Major on October 1st, 1749, by the Society of Eastern Scholars.

Thomas Hattersley, of Sheffield, was born on October 5th, 1839, and on October 6th, 1849, his grandfather, William Booth, died. William Booth was one of the Sheffield band which was the first to ring peals of Oxford Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus on handbells.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques, 6,204 changes, was rung on October 6th, 1788, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields by the College Youths, conducted by Thomas Blakemore; and on the same date in 1902 the first peal at Exeter Cathedral was rung. The method was Grandsire Caters, Mr. George Williams conducted, and Canon Coleridge rang the tenor with help.

THE FIRST RING OF EIGHT BELLS IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his recent book on the Church Bells of Berkshire, Mr. Frederick Sharpe says that John Wallis, of Salisbury, by installing a ring of eight bells at Bishop's Canning, Wilts, in 1602, had the honour of hanging the first octave in an English parish church.

Apparently, however, the claim is not a sound one. In the British Museum there is a letter to H. T. Ellacombe from a man who was at one time foreman to Warners, the bell founders, in which he says that he had seen at St. Andrew's, Holborn, a manuscript book with the account and list of subscribers to a peal of eight, with a tenor of 28 cwt., cast in 1587 for St. Andrew's by Robert Mot, of White-chapel.

There is some outside confirmation of this, including the sanctus bell, which was by Mot and has that date and still hangs in the steeple. Whether the manuscript still exists I do not know. I have not heard of any other octave as early as the sixteenth century, for the statement sometimes made that there was a ring of eight at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in pre-Reformation times will hardly stand any test.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

DISTRICT MEETING AT ARDLEIGH.

On Saturday a district meeting of the Essex Association was held at Ardleigh attended by 17 ringers from Colchester, Rushmere, Ipswich, Thorington, Mistley, Great Bentley, Ardeigh and Dedham.

Ring on handbells began at 3 p.m. A service was held in the Parish Church at 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. A. Parker-Mason, who afterwards invited the ringers to tea at the Vicarage. At the business meeting, the secretary, Mr. L. Wright, read a letter from the Master, Mr. G. Waterman, expressing regret at not being able to attend owing to duties in the police force.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of the late Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, who passed away suddenly on August 29th.

After a discussion, Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Miss D. M. Andrews seconded that meetings should be continued, and it was carried.

Mr. Alan Andrews proposed and Mr. J. Jennings seconded that it should be left to the secretary to arrange the annual meeting early in December at St. Peter's, Colchester, if possible, or somewhere else in the town.

Mr. Henry J. Millatt proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, conducting the service and for kindly providing the tea, and to the organist for her services.—The Vicar replied and said he hoped it would be possible next time to ring the tower bells and for him to provide a more substantial repast. As things were now that had been impossible.

The ringers then took to the handbells again. During the day 10 methods were rung, viz., Kent Treble Bob Major and Minor, Bob Major and Minor, Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Double Grandsire Triples, York, London and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

AIR RAID DAMAGE AT IPSWICH.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SAFE.

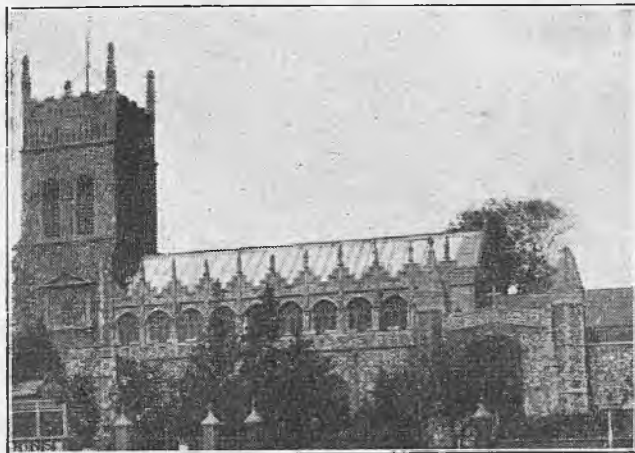
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed letter was printed in the 'East Anglian Daily Times' of September 21st, and refers to an Ipswich church with a peal of eight bells.

The steeple is quite all right and the clock is still going. I looked round last Sunday and found one small section of the wall and railing blown into the churchyard and two windows on the south side broken. The concussion entered the porch and forced the windows on either side outwards, bending the leads. A nearby public-house had the roof practically blown off. The church was far from being 'demolished,' as broadcast.

I have received a letter from the Midlands hoping it was not St. Mary-le-Tower that had been damaged. I am thankful to say St. Mary's is not affected.

G. E. SYMONDS.



The Ipswich Church which was NOT demolished.

AN M.P. ON RUMOURS.

The following is the letter referred to by Mr. Symonds:—

Sir,—On hearing the B.B.C. announcement that a church in Ipswich had been 'demolished,' I hurried in to see what damage had been done. Many of your readers will know by now that no church was wrecked, but that some glass in a church was broken.

I rang up the B.B.C. to prevent a repetition of a false report, only to receive the reply, 'We are glad the church was not "demolished," but we cannot alter our report as the Air Ministry states it has been!'

So I rang up the Air Ministry and explained the position, including the fact that I had spoken to the B.B.C. The Air Ministry official replied with equal relief that the church had not been 'demolished,' but complained that he could not alter the B.B.C. announcement as the Ministry of Home Security had told the Air Ministry that the church had been!

There I left it—tired of the old Civil Service game of 'passing the buck'; but surely when we are all being urged to avoid rumours and stop inaccurate reports we are entitled to know who told the Ministry of Home Security that the church had been 'demolished.' Who did?

R. R. STOKES, M.P. for Ipswich.

LONDON CHURCHES DAMAGED BY AIR RAIDS.

Among the many London churches damaged by air raids is one very well known indeed to ringers, and the headquarters of one of the old Metropolitan societies. It can be identified by its association with a familiar nursery rhyme.

We understand that the early 18th century painted glass windows have suffered severely, but the tower and bells are unharmed.

To the list of damaged City churches given in our last issue must be added St. Mary Abchurch, which has been rather badly hurt. It has at present only one bell.

We are informed that a Devon church, of which a well-known ringing parson was at one time vicar, has been destroyed. The bells were saved by the fact that they hang in a steel frame.

PUDSEY'S SCHEME.

BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest and some amusement the letter of 'Ringer and Home Guard' in the last issue of 'The Ringing World,' in which he rather flippantly criticises the arrangements which have been made at Pudsey for the ringing of the bells in case of an air invasion.

Whether we like it or not, the Government says that church bells have to be used for that purpose, and until the order is rescinded, however much we object to it, we shall have to grin and bear it and do what we can to make the scheme effective, bearing in mind the care of the bells and the safety of the ringers.

These two conditions were uppermost in my mind when I made the arrangements with the local commander of the Home Guard at Pudsey. Obviously it is unnecessary to stress the danger of having bells rung by the uninitiated to a ringer, but as the commanders of the Home Guard do not appear to have been chosen from our ranks, and as they have been given unlimited power over the bells, of which, in the main, they know nothing, it is very necessary that we insist that only trained ringers should be allowed to ring the bells.

The arrangements which we have made may appear to be cumbersome—I do not claim that they are ideal—but I do contend that they are the best that could have been made under the circumstances. It does ensure that the bells (if they are needed) will be manned by ringers and at the same time it frees the ringers from irksome rota duties in the tower.

Four of our band are in A.R.P. services other than the Home Guard and so would not be available to ring the warning, the others live and work a considerable distance from the church and (this is where the motor-car comes in) would waste valuable time in getting to the belfry if they were not transported there. I can assure 'Ringer and Home Guard' that there was no ulterior motive such as a 'camouflaged practice' in my mind when I asked that a car should be provided, although I do not doubt that such a practice would be appreciated by those who could take part in it; being one of the excluded four I should have to be content with listening.

I have no idea where 'Ringer and Home Guard' 'hangs out,' but by the places he mentions in his letter he evidently knows the geographical position of Pudsey. Perhaps he lives not far away! In that case I would like him to know that we (the ringers) meet on the last Thursday evening in each month, not at the Rose and Crown, as he suggests: the name on the sign-board is rather more prosaic, but sounds just as inviting after a peal, and I give him a hearty invitation to join us and will willingly escort him there. The brew is good, the room warm and comfy, and the company congenial. Perhaps he will be able to expound a better scheme than the one we have arranged, in which case I'll invite the local commander to meet him. Better still, he may be able to suggest some other means of summoning the Home Guard which will be acceptable to the Home Office; if he can do that he will have earned the eternal gratitude of all the ringers in the country.

WILLIAM BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

A REPLY TO 'ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The views expressed by your correspondent, 'An Association Secretary,' do not appear logical. First he states that he is content to leave the question with the Central Council, with whose efforts to get the ban lifted he therefore agrees, and then goes on to approve the wisdom of the Ministry in imposing the ban.

Further, the specific purpose of the ban was not to prevent disturbance of those who needed rest, neither did my letter suggest that if the ban were lifted *all* church bells must be rung. These matters, therefore, are beside the point, as far as the letter I wrote is concerned.

J. OLDHAM.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. SEAR.

A meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on Saturday, September 21st, twenty-two members being present from Drayton Parslow, Newton Longville, Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford, Weston-Underwood and the local company. Handbells were made good use of.

The business meeting was held at the Rectory, and in the absence of the chairman, the Rev. J. F. Amies took the chair.

Very little business was transacted, but a discussion on the desirability of lifting the ban on Sunday service ringing ended in the hope that there may yet be a scheme submitted which the Ministry of Home Security would accept.

The chairman then, on behalf of members of the branch and with their best wishes, presented Mr. Walter Sear with a wristlet watch in recognition of his 25 years' service as secretary of the branch, which were completed on his resignation in June last.—Mr. Sear very suitably acknowledged the gift.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and to the Rev. J. L. Milne for the welcome and the hospitality given ended a very happy little gathering.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S**'COLLEGE YOUTHS'****A History of the Society**

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THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

DESTRUCTION OF A WEST COUNTRY CHURCH.

It is one thing to read or hear in the news that, as the result of an enemy air raid, 'a church and some houses were demolished.' It is another thing to move among the actual ruins and watch and talk to sad-hearted villagers sorting out the debris. Hitler's ruthless hand spares nothing, and even the peaceful little country village, far from any military objective, is in a few hours deprived of its heritage of 700 years and holds only the blackened ruins of it.

I turned off the main road in the west country a few days ago to such a village, where a well-known clerical ringer had once been the incumbent, and spent some moments looking around a scene of utter destruction. All that remained of what had been a beautiful little sanctuary were the walls and tower. From the top of the latter the weathercock had fallen and lodged half over the parapet, the poor bird appearing to cast a dismal eye over the wreckage below.

The floor of the church was piled high with masses of broken stone from arches, pulpit and roof; every vestige of woodwork, including some of the most beautifully carved pews in the country, had been consumed; jagged bits of stained glass hung from scarred window mullions, and ironwork and pipes were bent and twisted in all directions. An incendiary bomb had fallen direct upon the organ and very quickly the whole church had become a raging furnace, from which nothing could be saved.

Remarkably enough, however, some marble plaques carved with the Stations of the Cross and inset on the walls were intact and perfectly free from any blackening. Also, one could look right up the tower, a mere skeleton, and there was the ring of six bells still in place in their steel frame. Ropes and wheels, of course, had gone, and had the frame been of timber, the bells must have come hurtling down to their destruction. As it is they are probably undamaged and will undoubtedly be salvaged and rehung. It is not so very long ago that these bells were augmented to six and the first peal rung on them.

A magnificent instance of the spirit and hope of the British people faced me as I passed out through the lychgate. With the ruins scarcely cold there hung a large improvised collecting box, headed 'Restoration Fund'. What visitor will resist that? The villagers certainly will have their church again, though not quite the same; and the bells, maybe, shall ring for the triumph of freedom—symbols of the one thing the devil's agents in the world cannot destroy.

C. C. C.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT BOLTON.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Bolton on Saturday, and although the numbers were not large, 21 towers were represented as well as the Police and Ladies' Guilds. In the course of a happy little service in Holy Trinity Church, the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. Norton) apologised for the absence of the president, who was detained on parochial business. He gave those present a welcome and in a short address expressed the hope for the future, and said that although we were barred at present from ringing, it would not be long before we were clashing for victory.

Owing to the rationing, arrangements could not be made for tea, and the business meeting was proceeded with. The committee reported that the number of members was about the same as last year, 37 new members had been elected, death had claimed 19, seven of them life members, and 24 members had joined up, one of whom, Mr. C. Forcett, Bowness, is reported missing.

The balance sheet, which is incomplete, shows a loss of £6 15s. on the year's working, chiefly due to subscriptions not being collected. Only about 500 out of 900 members have paid.

There was only one nomination for president and general secretary, and the Rev. A. Scott and Mr. W. H. Shuker were re-elected for another term of two years. It was decided to leave over the question of the alteration of rule re Central Council representatives until a better meeting could be arranged. The place of the next annual meeting was left in the hands of the committee.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and the church authorities.

AN ENTHUSIAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reports of meetings, etc., often state that a set of handbells was provided by Mr. C. W. Taylor, of Watford. Your readers may be interested to hear more about Mr. Taylor, as he is surely one of the most unique personalities of the Exercise.

He is not a ringer, but is passionately fond of bells, in particular of handbells, and has several sets, comprising in all nearly a hundred. To say nothing of tubes, gongs and sets of bicycle bells. He possesses a few of the more expensive books on bells and ringing, and these, with his handbells, are always at the disposal of any ringers who care to ask.

He travels miles to meetings and in one way and another must have spent much of his income on his beloved pastime. His enthusiasm should put many a ringer to shame, as he takes two copies of 'The Ringing World' per week, just, as he says, 'to help the circulation.'

RICHARD G. BELL.

Watford.

AN EARLY RINGING TOUR.

FAMOUS RINGERS' VISIT TO EAST ANGLIA.

Fifty years ago next Monday was the start of one of the earliest of the peal ringing tours which have become so popular in recent years.

It was arranged by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer in Norfolk and Suffolk, and the band consisted of some of the most prominent ringers of the time.

The first peal of the week should have been Stedman Cinques at St. Mary-le-Tower, but illness prevented a start, so a wagonette was hired (it was in the days before motor-cars), and the party drove to Coddham, where the first peal of Stedman on the bells was scored. The band was J. W. Washbrook (conductor), N. J. Pitstow, Charles Hounslow, P. E. Robinson, J. W. Taylor, E. A. Pitstow, G. F. Coleridge and Capt. A. P. Moore. It probably would have been difficult to have picked a band more representative of the best elements in the Exercise. Canon Coleridge is the only survivor.

Next day Double Norwich was lost at Woodbridge owing to the bad going of the bells and a shift, and later on in the day Stedman Caters was lost at Yarmouth also through a shift.

On Wednesday, Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Aylsham and Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. It was the first peal of Maximus by the two Pitstows, John Taylor, P. E. Robinson, Hounslow and the future Canon. Four local men stood in, including Frederick Knights and George Smith, two first class heavy bell men. Washbrook rang the tenor and conducted.

On Thursday two peals were scored on two of the best rings in the Eastern Counties—Double Norwich at Diss, and Stedman Triples at Redenhall. On Friday, Superlative was lost at Redenhall and Double Norwich was rung at Eye, and on Saturday a second attempt for Superlative at Redenhall was successful.

The band then broke up, but Washbrook, Hounslow and the two Pitstows went on to Cambridge and rang a peal of Stedman Caters with the local men. Two resident members of the Cambridge University Guild rang the 5th and 8th. They were E. B. and H. L. James.

DEATH OF MR. J. WILKINSON.

LIVERPOOL'S LOSS.

The Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association has sustained a severe loss by the death of Mr. John Wilkinson, which took place on September 19th.

Some years ago he underwent a serious operation, which slowed down his ringing activity, and he found peal ringing imposed rather a strain on him. Recently he had to enter hospital again for a further operation and from it he never recovered. Before the interment at Kirkdale Cemetery on September 23rd, a service was held at the Church of St. Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill, where he had rung for so many years. It was attended by many relatives and friends and by his fellow-ringers. At the graveside were many brother Freemasons of his lodge.

Mr. Wilkinson began his ringing career at Walton-on-the-Hill in 1907, and in August rang his first peal at Frodsham in seven methods on the old six. He rang upwards of 100 peals for the Lancashire Association, a large number for the Chester Diocesan Guild and several for the Yorkshire, Irish and other societies. He took part in the first peals of Cambridge Royal and Maximus for the Lancashire Association and the first and only peal of London Surprise Major that has been rung in Liverpool. He conducted several peals of Treble Bob, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, one of the latter being rung on the front eight at St. Nicholas' Church and was the first in Liverpool. Notable among his peals was a non-conducted peal in seven Surprise Minor methods at Walton-on-the-Hill in 1913. His last peal was one of Stedman Caters at St. Nicholas' on November 5th, 1938.

Although Mr. Wilkinson was associated with St. Nicholas' company in many of their best achievements, he always remained loyal to his own tower at Walton-on-the-Hill, where until the recent ban he very materially helped to maintain Sunday service ringing. He was for some years one of the auditors of the Lancashire Association and always carried out his duties with zeal and attention. John Wilkinson had a most lovable and genial disposition and was well known in many parts of the country. He was an excellent ringer on all numbers of bells, and his place will be hard to fill. Much sympathy is extended to his widow and family in their heavy bereavement.

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A CANADIAN CELEBRATION.

GOLDEN WEDDING OF VICTORIA RINGER.

On Sunday, August 4th, Mr. A. C. Melhuish, one of the ringers at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia, celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. Melhuish has been a ringer for 54 years, and before leaving for Canada was a member of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association. He has rung in 13 peals of Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Major and Plain Bob. The last ringing he had before his departure for Canada was a 2½-hour attempt for Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Prescott.

Mr. Melhuish was a member of three companies of ringers in Bath, i.e., St. Andrew's, Christ Church, Twerton Parish Church and Bath Abbey.

Mr. Melhuish is now vergier at Christ Church Cathedral and has taken a very active part in training young ringers and keeping up the interest of the others and improving the art of change ringing.

A touch of 840 of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of Mr. Melhuish's golden wedding, the ringing taking place just before the evening service. The ringers were W. Boniface, — Roberts, Arthur Izard, R. Lane, A. King, A. B. Lomas, E. W. Izard and E. Lake.

Ringings continue regularly at the Cathedral and there is practice at least one evening per week. A full band of eight can always be arranged.

There are many visitors in the belfry, some coming from the United States. One visitor, a very celebrated organist, remarked that the bells and method ringing was the most interesting thing he had ever seen, and the least advertised.

The bells at Christ Church Cathedral have an interesting origin. The back six were the gift of Mrs. Mary Geraldine Mozley, wife of Canon Mozley, in memory of her brother, Capt. Charles Raymond Nutt, and the trebles were given in memory of two honoured citizens of Victoria. The bells are the counterpart of the ring at Westminster Abbey, and, like them, were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, where they were blessed by the late Bishop of London (Dr. Winnington Ingram) as president of the British Columbia and Yukon Church Aid Society.

By consent of Queen Mary, the tenor was given the name of King George V. and also bears the words, 'Christ, Heaven's King, be pleased with this ring.' Queen Mary also permitted her own name to be given to the seventh. The sixth is named 'Charles Raymond,' and the fifth 'Edward of Westminster.' The latter bears the English translation of the inscription which appears in Latin on two Elizabethan bells in Westminster Abbey, 'Praise the Almighty Father with the sounding bells.'

The name given to the fourth is 'Paul, of London, England,' and it bears the same inscription as Great Paul, 'Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel.' The third bell is named 'Our Lady, St. Mary'; and the trebles are respectively inscribed, 'In memoriam, John Samuel Henry Watson,' and 'In memoriam, John Robert Meredith Watson.'

When the bells reached Victoria, they were hung in the north-west tower of the Cathedral under the supervision of Mr. E. W. Izard, who, 25 years before, had done a little ringing in England. As a responsible executive officer in a big Pacific coast shipyard, Mr. Izard brought his engineering knowledge and his latent love of bells to bear upon the task, and a first class job was made of the hanging. Mr. Izard also got together a band of ringers and the bells were properly rung on the occasion of their opening.

Ever since, a company of ringers has been successfully maintained and they have frequently broadcast over the Canadian network. Mr. Melhuish has been one of the English ringers living in the far west who has been able to renew his contact with ringing, and has thrown himself heartily into the work of setting up and keeping together a band at this distant outpost of the art.

RINGERS' YARNS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in your leading article of September 13th, especially your appeal to those members of the Exercise able to write on subjects of interest. While not professing to be among the above, may I venture to suggest that amusing stories of ringing exploits would be much appreciated. Letters from 'Yokel' and 'Countryman' are far too few. In these days, when we need all the cheer we can get, I have many pleasant recollections of stories of ringing exploits (many unfortunately not printable) heard during the social hours after a peal attempt.

Who could fail to get a laugh out of the story of four ringers who were attempting a handbell peal and had a well-known ringer as umpire? As the ringing progressed he kept edging nearer and nearer the circle, head craned forward, until he is almost among the ringers, one of whom is not leading as he should. It goes on for some time, and the conductor in his exasperation stamps his foot, bringing it with full force upon the umpire's pet corn. Of course, the peal was lost, and unfortunately the remarks which followed are not fit for print, but I guess most ringers can well imagine them.

There must be lots of ringers who could put many good ringing yarns on paper. I should like to see them in 'The Ringing World.' I am sure most ringers would enjoy them.

'WEST COUNTRYMAN.'

EARLY DAYS.

A PICTURE OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL BELFRY.

'Oh, there are the Cathedral bells!' Two small boys, aged seven and five, spring up from the breakfast table and throw open the Deanery windows. They are called back to the table, but are listening to the rise in peal.

The rise was worth listening to. I have often heard it said that the Devon ringers are wonderful at the rise. I have heard them and know that to be true; but the old Crypt Youths in Gloucester were as good as any I have heard. (George Wankelyn was their conductor and he always raised the treble. Ben Etheredge and Joe Clerk came from Maismore, Jack Thomas and Frank Hart were natives of Gloucester, Joe Yates and Alf Waite were Barnwood ringers, Joe Gough came from Churcham, and Harry Eaketts was a tenor-man. But we are keeping the little boys too long at table. They are let free at last and off they go; through the cloisters, across the nave into the south transept, and so up the spiral staircase to the bell chamber. Seven dashes up at a great pace, but five has to climb all those many steps on all fours; and so at last they both reach the gloomy ringing chamber.

The ringers are all in one corner, and right in front of them, as they come through the door, is the hour bell, Great Peter, majestic in his 63 cwt. And now they watch the dancing ropes, as the ringers lap off a perfect touch of Grandsire Triples, and admire and wonder. They little know that they will both be in the first peal of Stedman and the first of Double Norwich on those bells. Three years later both seven and five were up again to see Great Peter being rung up muffled for the funeral of Canon Sir John Seymour. No light task that! It took eight men to ring her. She was rung from the ground floor, and 80 ft. of slack rope had to be kept under control. There were six tail ropes spliced on to the end, and George Wankelyn stood to catch the sallie. Another man stood by the wheel to steady her in when she had to be set. It was a three-quarter wheel and she would only set at hand. When John Taylor examined her some 20 years later he said that he would never have dared to hang a bell of that size on such small gudgeons. That was the last time she was ever rung up (1878).

Now turn we to the jubilee year, 1887. Seven and five are now at Malvern College. The Priory bells are to be increased from six to eight, and so are St. Michael's bells (the iron church) at Gloucester. Seven is busy drawing up rules for a new society, which was afterwards launched under the name of St. Michael's Juniors, on September 8th; and Sydney Romans was the first Master. Seven afterwards combined all the Lincoln societies in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, of which he became the first Master. E. BANKES JAMES.

TRANSPOSITION FOR FALSE COURSE ENDS.

AN ENQUIRY AND EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter from 'Much Interested' published in 'The Ringing World' of September 6th, and your reply to same, also a further reply from Mr. E. C. Turner in the issue of September 13th, I, too, have often wondered how the lead heads and lead ends of a method can be found out from the half leads. I was, therefore, very pleased to see it explained so clearly in your column.

There is also another point in the article mentioned by 'Much Interested,' which has proved too much of a puzzle for me, viz., that of transposing the table of lead ends by the third row (Example 4), and to find the results given by you. Those of the lead heads transposed by the first row are easily found, but not so with the lead ends.

I should be grateful if you would explain exactly how to find the results there given. 'VERY MUCH INTERESTED.'

The following is the explanation asked for by our correspondent:—

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| A 12345678 | B 2345678 | C 4628375 |
| 21354762 | 4263857 | 6847253 |
| 12537486 | 6482735 | 8765432 |
| 21573468 | 8674523 | 7583624 |
| | 7856342 | 5372846 |
| | 5738264 | 3254768 |
| | 3527486 | 2436587 |

A is the first section of the method.

B is the table of lead heads.

C is the table of lead ends.

The first row of the section is 12345678, and the rows in table B transposed by 2345678 will give the same rows.

The third row in the section is 12537486, and the rows in table C transposed by 2537486 will give:—

| |
|-----------|
| E 4867253 |
| 6785432 |
| 8573624 |
| 7352846 |
| 5234768 |
| 3426587 |
| 2648375 |

The fourth row in table B is 8674523, and the third row in table E is 8573624. A comparison of these two rows will give the false course end, B 24365.

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

AN EXPLANATION BY EXAMPLE.

In our article of September 6th we examined the first and third rows of the first section of our sample method, and we found that they gave one false course end, viz., B 24365. Later on we examined the first and third rows of the second section, and they gave two false course ends, A 32546 and D 46253. We will next turn 12345678+ back to the first section and examine the 21354768- second and fourth rows. First we trans-12537486- pose the lead heads of the method by 21573468+ 2354768 and then the lead ends by 2573468.

We compare the results and we get the row 8647253 from the fourth lead head and the row 8537642 from the third lead end.

When we examine these two rows we find that we have got something different from what we found in our previous examples. Then we saw that, in addition to 7 and 8 being in the same position, one other bell was also in the same position, and the other bells were transposed in pairs. But now, although 7 and 8 are in the same positions, every one of the other bells is displaced, and in no instance do two bells exchange positions between themselves.

To determine the false course end produced by these two rows we must put the bells of the first row into the position of the corresponding bells in the second row—6 will occupy the position of 5; 4 will occupy the position of 3; 2 that of 6; 5 that of 4; and 3 that of 2. This will give us 34562 as the false course end, and we know that in the second half of the third lead of the course 34562 there will be a row which is contained in the first half of the fourth lead of the plain course. Here are the actual changes.

| From 23456. | From 34562. |
|-------------|-------------|
| 18674523 | 81647253 |
| 81647253 | 18674235 |
| 18462735 | 81762453 |
| 81426753 | 18726543 |

But as the course 34562 is false against the plain course, so is the plain course false against another course. Up to now in the cases we have examined we have found that this liability to falseness is reciprocal. For instance, as 24365 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 24365. And as 32546 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 32546. But in our present example this reciprocity no longer holds. As 34562 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against another course, but it is 62345 and not 34562. This gives us a second false end, and we know that in the second half of the third lead of the plain course there will be a row which is contained in the first half of the fourth lead of the course 62345. Here are the actual changes.

| From 23456. | From 62345. |
|-------------|-------------|
| 81537642 | 18573462 |
| 18573624 | 81537642 |
| 81756342 | 18356724 |
| 18765432 | 81365742 |

We have now got two false course ends. P 34562 and Q 62345. But, as we explained in our article of June 7th, each of them has its complementary false course end. S 46325 is complementary to P 34562, and R 54263 is complementary to Q 62345. We shall get them if we transpose the table of lead heads by the fourth row of the section, and the table of lead ends by the second row. As a check it is well to do so, but otherwise it is not

necessary. If we do we shall produce the row 7648532 from the fifth lead head and the row 7538264 from the fourth lead end, showing that the second half of the fourth lead of the course 54263 contains a row which is also contained in the first half of the fifth lead of the plain course; and the second half of the fourth lead of the plain course contains a row which is also contained in the first half of the fifth lead of the course 46325. Here are the actual changes.

| From 23456. | From 54263. |
|-------------|-------------|
| 17856342 | 71456832 |
| 71865432 | 17465823 |
| 17684523 | 71648532 |
| 71648532 | 17684352 |

| | From 46325. |
|----------|-------------|
| 71325864 | 17825634 |
| 17352846 | 71852364 |
| 71538264 | 17583246 |
| 17583624 | 71538264 |

Thus the relationship of the second and the fourth rows of the first section give us four false course ends, P 34562, Q 62345, R 54263, and S 46325. These four form a group, and whenever in any regular method you get one of them, you inevitably get the other three.

The actual repetition of rows with these four false ends is no more than when only one (such as 24365) is produced, but it is spread over four courses instead of being confined to one course. The general law always holds good; whenever the relationship of two rows is such that there is a repetition of one row between the plain course and another natural course, there are always three other repetitions, no more and no less.

There are seven other groups of false course ends which have the same peculiarities as P Q R S. One of them, which consists of T 65243, U 46532, V 36524 and W 52643, turns up now and then in a method, but the others, fortunately, are rarely met with. It is obvious that if in a method there are four courses we must not use in full for every one we do use in full, there will be little scope for peal composition, especially as in these cases we cannot put the sixty courses into groups that share each other's false course ends as the groups A B C D E and B F G do.

We might suppose at first sight that every false course end in which every bell occupies a different position from what it does in 23456, would be a member of one of these groups of four, but that does not always happen. For instance, we might get M 36245 as a false course end, and as M is false against the plain course, so is the plain course false against N 42563. Each of these will have its complementary false course end, but when we work them out we find that the complementary false course end to M is N, and the complementary false course end to N is M. We still get the four repetitions, but two of them occur in different leads of M and two in different leads of N.

We have now established that the first section of our method gives five false course ends—B 24365, 4-3, 5-4, P 34562, 4-3, Q 62345, 3-4, R 54263, 5-4, S 46325, 4-5. If in our peal composition we use the plain course in full we may not use any one of these five in full, and for every natural course we use in full there are five others which we may not use in full. At first sight that would seem to make a true peal impossible, but there are two things which point to a way out of the difficulty.

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.

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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.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Barton Seagrave on Saturday, October 5th. Handbells. Service 4.30. Tea (and sugar) after. Please notify me if you are coming.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C. If possible, there will be ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry at 3 p.m. for about an hour preceding the meeting, and handbell ringing after the meeting.—A. B. Peck.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, October 5th, at 3.30 p.m. Social talk, handbells and business. Election of officers, etc. Please make special effort to attend. Members of H.M. Forces welcome.—Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Quarterly meeting fixed for Oct. 5th at Shiplake. Handbells from 3 p.m. at Plowden Arms. Tea, 1s. per head, at 5.15 p.m. If numbers warrant it, a service will be held at Shiplake Church at 4.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On account of the Snowdon dinner being postponed, a meat tea (2s. 6d. per head) is being arranged to take place at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, at 4.30 p.m. prompt, on Saturday, October 12th, followed by a social evening until 9 p.m. Tower secretaries are asked to make these arrangements as widely known as possible, and let me know how many of their members intend to be present not later than Saturday, October 5th. The committee hope that all members who are able will come, as it is more necessary than ever that the interest and life of the

association should be maintained through these difficult times.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Oct. 12th. Handbells available in Parish Room at 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 5 p.m. for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, Oct. 9th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, nr. Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at Nottingham. Committee meet 4 p.m. in St. Peter's New Parish Hall. Tea at nearby café 5 p.m., followed by meeting and convivial, handbell ringing, etc., in above hall. All members invited to attend and any ringers in H.M. Forces in and near Nottingham are specially invited to spend a pleasant hour together.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—It is hoped that the society will be able to continue its activities during the forthcoming year. Attention will have to be concentrated on handbells, of course, but silent practices at New College will be resumed if permission can be obtained for the removal of the clappers. Any ringers coming up next term are asked to get into touch with either J. E. Spice, New College (Master), or W. Leese, St. John's College (secretary).—J. E. Spice.

THE 'EXTREME.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One Sunday before the ringing ban was imposed, I visited a six-bell tower in Somerset to ring for morning service. We rang some Doubles, and in the last touch of Grandsire the conductor suddenly called 'Extreme.' Not knowing what to do, I made a bob, but the touch broke down and the conductor called the bells round.

When he had 'stood' the bells I enquired about the 'extreme,' and although it was explained to me in detail by half a dozen rich Somerset voices, I failed to grasp it properly.

Has it anything to do with the 'Hics' that John Garthorn used in his early peals of Grandsire Triples?

Would you explain this, please?

C. T. B.

In Plain Changes, the earliest form of change ringing, the treble alone was hunted, all the other bells lying still except when they had to move to let the treble pass. But when the treble lay its whole pull behind or in front, the two bells which were furthest from it changed places and this was called an Extreme, and after cross peals were introduced the term was for many years used as we now use the term Bob. The band referred to by our correspondent probably practised some traditional variation of Grandsire Doubles with a special call.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

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