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HANDBELL RINGING.

The prohibition which has been placed on the ringing of church bells has given a wider interest to change ringing on handbells, and in quite a number of unsuspected places there are little parties who are trying their prentice hands and becoming enthusiastic about it, too. Since the war began we have published two series of articles upon handbell ringing with the hope of encouraging greater numbers of ringers to take up this phase of the art. Now the subject has once more been revived in our columns and this week we print further very helpful letters on the practical side of handbell ringing. The subject is admittedly a difficult one upon which to give instruction and differs widely from tower bell ringing in the opportunities it offers for any coaching of the learner while ringing is in progress. A beginner at change ringing on church bells can have someone behind him to give him help, but that is impossible when he is ringing two handbells. Again, the conductor or other members of the band can help a beginner quite a lot when the ringing is on tower bells, but on handbells such advice might be more of a hindrance than a help.

The successful mastery of handbell ringing depends largely on the individual rather than on help that can be given to him during the actual ringing. Most ringers, we are convinced, eventually find their own way of mastering a pair in touch or peal, but that is not to say that there are not certain elementary principles which must be acquired. The secrets of success in handbell ringing are study and practice. One is of little use without the other. There is something different in handbell ringing when one tries to compare it with the application of the science on church bells. It is based on the same principles, but the ordinary rules do not always fit. The ringer himself will usually find his own way to apply what he does in change ringing in the tower to the double task of ringing two handbells.

Many a good ringer, if asked, could not lucidly explain how he rings a pair of handbells. All of them, of course, have a plan, but their plans vary. One 'sees' his ringing in one way, another 'sees' it from apparently a different angle—and yet there must be some coherent idea running through every plan to make it at all possible for three or four or more people to get together and put up a successful performance. In handbell ringing, more even than in tower bell ringing, the team spirit counts, and the outstanding success of certain companies in the past has been due to the fact that they have stuck together and practised regularly and often. Given the necessary ability, any four ringers might sit down and

(Continued on page 494.)

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score a peal; but the people who have really achieved fame at handbell ringing have been those who have had the opportunity of meeting constantly and thus become a unified whole.

The advice and help which has been offered on the subject in our columns will, we hope, be sufficient to induce many more companies now deprived of the church bells to devote serious attention to handbells. It is a fascinating pastime which can fill with interest many spare minutes. The articles and letters have been of an exceedingly helpful kind and, where there are beginners, should enable many of them to realise and overcome the initial difficulties. After that it is a question of practice and again practice. If the ultimate intention is to reach peal ringing standard, those who take up handbell ringing should realise that there is no royal road to success. It is just a case of sticking to it and profiting by mistakes. There are, however, plenty of ringers who do not aim at peal ringing, but who would find double-handed ringing a source of great pleasure and interest. It is for these chiefly that our articles have been written, and we hope that more and more of our readers will, in these dark days for ringing, find it worth while to take up the study and practice of handbells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PYRFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 13, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes.
At SOUTHOVER COTTAGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently.

*JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 1-2 | PTE. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. ... 3-4
†GNR. C. W. DENYER, R.A. ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

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

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
At 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently.

JACK N. A. POMPEREY... .. 1-2 | ALBERT RCUGHT 3-4
WALTER C. MEDLER 5-6

Conducted by WALTER C. MEDLER.

GOOD ROUNDS BETTER THAN BAD SCIENCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I do not mean in any way to discourage change ringing, but well struck 'stoney' is better than badly struck change ringing. I don't wish to discourage any young company, but I do say that no band ought to attempt a long length until they can strike a short one well; nor ought they attempt a more difficult method until they can strike an easy one well. In recent years facilities for learning change ringing are more abundant than they used to be when I began. In years gone by change ringers were much more seclusive than they are now. In those days young hands who were anxious to learn the mysteries of the art crept up to the belfry in 'fear and trembling,' not knowing whether they would receive a welcome or be 'kicked out.' Even when there, they often had to persevere for some years before they could obtain much information from the old hands. Now what was the result? Why this—that only those who had their heart and soul in the matter took the trouble to try to learn at all, and these going in a few at a time with old hands generally became good and careful strikers. But now young companies are formed and pulled through their first 720 of Minor in about six months, and a good length of some seven or eight bell method in less than a year; but with what result? Why, with a few exceptions they are miserable strikers, and, having once got into a slovenly habit of striking, they rarely improve. As soon as they can tumble through a bit of Plain Bob or Grand sire, they want to try Stedman or Treble Bob, which they generally manage to achieve after a fashion, but, as I said before, the striking rarely, if ever, improves.

'A VETERAN.'

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

FAREWELL TO THE PRESIDENT.

A War-time Review.

The attendance at the meeting arranged to say 'Good-bye' to the Rev. Hugh McMullan on Saturday, September 28th, was extremely gratifying, and it was decided to hold quarterly meetings in Norwich, the next to be held on December 14th.

Members were present from all four branches to express their appreciation of the enthusiastic services which Mr. McMullan has rendered them during his eleven years as Vicar of St. Peter Mancroft and four years as president of the association.

Ten more than had notified their intention of being present sat down to tea in St. Giles' Parish Hall, but the secretary's wife, now well used to such happenings, had catered on a bountiful scale and so each of the 37 went not empty away. No sugar was provided, but there was a comparatively large supply of butter, and Bob, in his usual mysterious manner, produced several lumps of loaf sugar, one of which was placed on exhibition. The Twins were in good form, there being now considerably more ozone per head at Yarmouth than formerly, and a corresponding sufficiency of other sustenance of a liquid nature.

Six of St. Giles' bells were available and several took part in their first 'touch' of 'silent' ringing, a member of the City Police and custodian of the bells being responsible for the security of the clappers. In the Parish Hall handbells were rung, and although they could be heard faintly outside the building, no one appears to have been arrested.

At the meeting which followed the tea, the president was in the chair, supported by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (vice-president), Mr. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), Messrs. W. L. Duffield and W. J. Lee (branch chairmen), J. G. W. Harwood and H. Tooke (branch secretaries), the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, R. W. Cooke, W. C. Duffield (members of the committee), G. P. Burton (hon. auditor) and members from Attleborough, Aylsham, Acle, Bergh Apton, Halvergate, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Giles', St. Miles' and St. Peter Mancroft), Reedham and Wymondham.

Letters of apology were received from Messrs. C. E. Borrett, A. E. Coleman, A. L. Coleman, W. J. Eldred, J. A. Godfrey and A. G. Harrison.

The general secretary reviewed the year's work. He said that in spite of the times, the association appeared to justify its existence. Six meetings, including the annual meeting, were held up to May 4th, when a meeting was held at Fakenham. Wroxham, Pulham, Yarmouth, East Dereham and, of course, Norwich were visited. The attendances, in view of the times, were good, except perhaps that at Fakenham, when very few took advantage of the characteristically hearty welcome ringers receive there. Membership had remained high, but the honorary members, for the most part, had withdrawn their financial support. However, in spite of this, and the loss of revenue from members in H.M. Forces, the association had a small balance in hand after having liquidated all liabilities. The stock of certificates had been replenished. Nine members had died during the year, four of them resident in the diocese. Few peals had been rung, of course, but the handbell band in the Aylsham district had gone from strength to strength. The Central Council meeting fixed for Cardiff on Whit Tuesday had been abandoned, but there was evidence that the Council had not gone to sleep for the duration of the war.

Mr. Golden stressed the need for the continued support of 'The Ringing World,' which was, in view of the recent ban on the sounding of bells, of greater value than ever, in keeping together all those who called themselves ringers. It was to be hoped, and there was some cause for hope, that the ridiculous embargo on bells would be removed by Christmas. Touching on this matter, the secretary read an extract from a letter written by a well-known diocesan ringer, who did duty on alternate nights at his church, waiting to sound the welcome to Hitler's hordes.

Mr. W. C. Duffield thought that the association should write to the Central Council urging representations to the Government to remove the ban, and the meeting decided to take this course.

Mr. W. L. Duffield, on behalf of the association, then presented Mr. McMullan with a cheque and said that a silver bell inkstand, suitably inscribed, would be forwarded to him. Mr. Duffield said that Mr. McMullan had shown the keenest interest in the association's affairs and had been an immense help.

Acknowledging the gift, the Rev. H. McMullan said that but for circumstances arising out of the war, he would not now be leaving Norwich. The only gratifying thing to himself about his move to Epsom was that it was prompted by the present Bishop of his old diocese of Guildford. He felt very sad at leaving St. Peter Mancroft, where he had been most happy. He had been similarly happy with the members of the association. They paid him a great honour in electing him to succeed the late Archdeacon MacDermott as president of their association, and it had been a joy to do whatever he could to help forward bellringing in the diocese. He hoped that the tragedy of war would soon pass and that church bells all over the country might once more ring out a message of peace.

FUN IN WAR TIME.

HOW THE MILITARY AMUSE THEMSELVES.

At Aldershot in these days the fun is fast and furious. It must be because there is a 'camp' in campanology that it has become one of the foremost fortresses (of ringing) in the country in the past month or two.

To-day is a special occasion—an attempt for a peal 'in hand' by four serving ringers.

The excitement is tense from the word 'go.' Firstly, after an air raid warning lasting all night, Eileen and A.F.S. crawled to bed at 6 a.m. to awake at 11 o'clock. After a rush breakfast, dinner is just being consumed when A.M.P.C. turns up two minutes ahead of schedule. He is given some handbells to play with and a paper to read, and so, of course, being interested in handbells, he reads the paper.

Next to arrive is R.A.S.C., who, besides being a bellringer, is very proud of his voice and also of the fact that he has been issued with ear-plugs (carried in the alert position), whereas the others have not (no connection between the voice and ear-plugs is intended or implied). Neither of these two is to conduct the peal, so they take it easy and consume tea (soldiers don't usually get a cup of tea after dinner) and wonder where the others have got to.

Then A.D.C. arrives on his camouflaged push-bike (some of it is khaki paint, but some of it is rust) and mentions that he will probably be 'on the move' again soon. He's already been to many parts of the country, assisting in pulling out molars, and we think this is a bit unfair, as there seem to be plenty of soldiers in the immediate neighbourhood to practise on.

Then comes a surprise visit from R.A., who arrives in style on his motor-bike, can't stop a minute, but manages a cup of tea and a touch of Stedman Triples.

R.A.E. (who, by the way, knows a few funny things about Treble Bob) follows a minute or two after R.A., and as he is required as 'ump,' we are glad to see him.

While the Stedman is in progress R.A.M.C. is announced, and as he is the conductor and we've all been waiting for him, we are most delighted to see that the exigencies of the service have not kept him away altogether, but merely made him so late that (as R.A.S.C. has to be on duty at 6 p.m.) much rushing will be required if the peal is to be completed.

Then various conferences as to whether the peal should be rung (a) with or without coats, (b) with or without the electric fire, and (c) the best place to wear Army braces, and, after the chimes had been taken off (memories of a quarter-peal which the chiming clock tried hard to smash), the various members settle down. A start, first of all in the 'inverted home position' and then in the more correct manner is made, but this comes to grief after about 70 minutes' ringing. There is no time for a restart, but nobody seems to mind very much, so soon Caters and Royal are in the air.

A course of Grandsire Cinques is almost spoilt in the last lead by air raid sirens, who ring a course of 'Warbling Winnie Surprise' and then retire in peace. The bells stagger home and for a short while there's some 'do you remember at so and so?' and 'when I was at so and so'—as will always happen when ringers gather. Then a course of 'All Clear Treble Bob' and a good touch of Stedman Caters brings 'time for tea.'

Following this, various of us go to evensong, while others (having been earlier in the day) offer to wash up and generally make themselves useful about the house—and, of course, R.A.S.C. has to go where the 'exigencies' call.

After service various methods are rung and enjoyed, including some 'mixing' of various methods like Plain, Double, Reverse and Canterbury Bob (or should it be 'Bobs') by our chief 'mixer,' R.A.M.C. How it all comes round is a mystery to some of us, but apparently there's more in this 'bellringing' business than meets the eye. Then just to show how easy it is he mixes some Plain and Gainsborough and then some Plain and Little Bob and again it comes round.

Then after something warm to cheer them on their way, the various members of the party (except Eileen and A.F.S., who have no wending to do) wend their various ways through the very black black-out to give various excuses to various 'guards' for not having been in to time.

The peal? Well, some other day perhaps.

The key to the above is:—

Eileen and A.F.S.—Mr. and Mrs. Will Viggers.
A.M.P.C.—Pte. Len Fox, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps.
R.A.S.C.—Pte. Frank Shorter, Royal Army Service Corps.
A.D.C.—Pte. Dick Fuller, Army Dental Corps.
R.A.—Gnr. Charles Denyer, Royal Artillery.
R.A.E.—Mr. Maurice Hodgson, Royal Aircraft Establishment.
R.A.M.C.—Pte. John Freeman, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Warbling Winnie.—Well known to all.

And in case this meets the eye of any Fifth Columnist, they are not all stationed in Aldershot—no, not by a long way.

WIGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Friday, October 11th, at the Asperton, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, 1,260 changes: John C. Firth (first quarter-peal) 1-2, Albert H. Firth 3-4, Cyril Wander (conductor) 5-6.

OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

ANTHONY WOOD AND HIS TIMES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The art and science of change ringing was not the invention of one man or of one company; neither did it originate in any particular place. It was a natural growth which developed out of the 'pleasure' ringing of the sixteenth century, which, in turn, grew out of the ritual ringing of pre-Reformation times.

But, as with all other growths, though the seed was broadcast, the development was surest and most rapid where the soil was most favourable. Many things contributed, and it seems certain that by the end of the first quarter of the seventeenth century, not only in the larger towns like London and Norwich, but also in smaller towns and villages in different parts of the country, the first rudimentary stages of the art had appeared.

But nowhere was change ringing earlier practised or more quickly developed than at the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and among the students at the Inns of Court in London.

That is just what we should have expected. At those places were gathered together a number of young men, intellectually much superior to the average person, and just at that time of life when physical sports most appeal. And many of them, when their student days were over, took down into the country the love of ringing they had learned at Oxford or Cambridge and became propagandists of the new art; while the Society of College Youths owed much of its pre-eminence in the seventeenth century to men who had become ringers in their University days.

The art of change ringing began in Oxford much about the same time as it did in Cambridge, and in both places it developed on parallel lines. Both towns gave to the Exercise leaders and eminent ringers, and both produced compositions which have taken their places as standard methods; for if we owe Stedman's Principle to Cambridge, we owe Treble Bob to Oxford.

But the details of the early ringing we possess of the two places are curiously unlike. We know all the peals practised at Cambridge in the early and middle seventeenth century, but of the ringers themselves we know nothing. We have, it is true, one or two great names, but Stedman and Scattergood we know as composers only. With Oxford it is just the opposite. What little we know of the methods rung there comes to us indirectly and from other sources; but it so happens that the two men from whom we learn most of what we know of the ordinary life of the University in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries were both of them keenly interested in bells and ringing.

Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne were men who wrote on historical and antiquarian matters and each kept a diary in which he made shrewd comments on contemporary men and matters. In both, the references to ringing are few and cursory, as might have been expected from its relative importance in the general life of the University, but those remarks written by a master hand do actually convey more real information than pages written by some men.

Anthony Wood, or à Wood as he liked to call himself, was the fourth son of Thomas Wood, of St. John the Baptist parish, Oxford, by his second wife. Anthony

was born in an old house opposite the gate of Merton College, belonging to the college, and held by the Woods on a long lease, and here he lived for practically all his life.

He matriculated at Merton in 1647 and passed through the college without distinction, for he was but a dull scholar. The influence of his family would have been sufficient to procure him a Merton fellowship but for his notoriously peevish temper. His father left him a small annuity, which he refused to increase by going into business. He lived simply and frugally in two attic rooms of the family house and devoted his life to collecting and editing antiquities relating to the city and University of Oxford.

When he was an undergraduate he was taken seriously ill, and when he became convalescent he was sent to Cassington, a village six miles from Oxford, to recuperate; and there on the days he was well enough, he followed the plough, and sometimes ploughed himself. In the evenings he practised music, and he learned to ring on the six bells that had recently been put up in the steeple.

On his return to Oxford he practised ringing with his 'fellow colleagues' at Merton, and throughout his life he never lost his love for the sound of bells, though after a few years he did not ring himself.

Ringing in those days was a young man's sport, much as football now is; and he himself, writing about his uncle, Thomas, who was born in 1581, says 'he was a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was tall and bigge and in his younger dayes verie strong and active in manlie sports and recreations such as football, ringing, wrestling, etc.'

Besides ringing as a sport, which throughout the century was practised by the University men, there was a great deal of ringing and tolling of bells for official purposes, and it shows how much the sound of the bells, parochial and collegiate, was part of the ordinary life of the people, that Wood has over two hundred references to them in his diary. Their sound seems always to have been in his ears; as he took his walks through the city he listened for the tolling bells just as a man to-day turns to the obituary columns of *The Times* or the *Telegraph* to see who of those he knows has passed away. He records that 'he set down the obiits of the persons by the tolling of the passing bell.'

On every notable occasion there was ringing. In 1660 a new Parliament was summoned to meet at Oxford, and when on March 14th the King, Charles II., visited Christ Church 'what with the shouts and melodious ringing of the ten statlie bells there, the colledge sounded and the buildings did learn from its scholars to echo forth his majestie's welcome.'

The bell ringing was looked upon as indicative of popular feeling. In 1683 'most of the bells in the city and colleges rang for the Duke of York. Merton 8 rang at least an hour before he came.' Four years later the Duke had become King James II., and when the news came of the birth of the Prince of Wales, Magdalen were almost the only bells that celebrated the event. James, in his endeavours to further the interests of the popish religion, had by a series of arbitrary acts estranged the University, and only the Roman Catholics, whom he had intruded into Magdalen, saw any reason

for rejoicing in an event which seemed to preclude the possibility of a Protestant King of England.

In 1689 Wood relates that 'Dr. Henry Aldridge had the deanery of Christ Church bestowed upon him, whereupon next day the bells rang.' That was fitting; for Aldridge, by his popular catch, 'The bonny Christ Church bells' has made the ring better known to ordinary people than any other except Bow Bells in Cheap-side.

In like manner any important event, either public or personal, was marked by tolling or ringing, and in those commemorations Great Tom bore its share.

We should have liked to have known something about the ringers themselves, but there we are disappointed. Wood, in his notes, which were afterwards incorporated in the second edition of 'Athenæ Oxonienses,' gave a short sketch of Richard Duckworth, and included him among the writers of Oxford University on the grounds that 'he hath written Tinnallogia or the Art of Ringing,' and this is the only source from which we learn the real author of the book which for so long was attributed to Fabian Stedman.

The only other ringer mentioned is 'one Chilmead one of the town ringers,' who appears to have been a strong partisan in some dispute between the city and Merton College respecting Holywell; and when the city gained the legal victory he presented the mayor with wine and ale 'while the parish bells rang for joy occasioned, as 'tis supposed by the said Chilmead.'

Otherwise Wood has nothing to tell us about the ringers. In truth he was a solitary unsociable sort of person, who enjoyed the music of the bells but, except in his younger days, did not enter a belfry. 'He was,'

said a contemporary writer, 'a person who delighted to commune more with the dead than with the living, and was as it were dead to the world and utterly unknown in person to the generality of scholars in Oxford. He was so great an admirer of solitude and private life that he frequented no assemblies of the said University, had no companion at bed or board, in his studies, walks or journeys, nor held communion with any, unless with some, and those very few of generous and noble spirits.'

With advancing years his morose temper was accentuated by increasing deafness, though Benjamin Cole, a bookbinder, who worked for him, said 'he could when he pleased here very well, tho' he pretended to be very deaf always, and that he hath seen him several times walking under St. Marie's spire and at some other places when they have been ringing, on purpose to hear the bells which it seems he mightily delighted in.'

In the late seventeenth century Oxford had, as now, many bells, and it differed from Cambridge in that the principal rings were in the towers of college chapels. Many bells were ancient, but a process was going on by which old and heavy rings of five were being recast into lighter octaves, and we may perhaps see here an indication of the popularity of ringing as a sport.

A QUARTER-PEAL.

On Saturday, October 5th. at Hughenden, Bucks, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells as a birthday compliment to Miss Dorothy R. Fletcher: H. Wingrove 1-2, *P. Newton 3, *R. Lee 4, *Miss D. R. Fletcher 5, *R. Biggs 6, G. Martin (conductor) 7-8. * First quarter-peal on handbells. The remnants of the Beaconsfield and Hughenden hands meet regularly on Fridays and Saturdays, with friends from various towers in the district, for handbell practices, and will welcome all ringers who care to come and join them in their attempt to keep the ringing flag flying in the branch.

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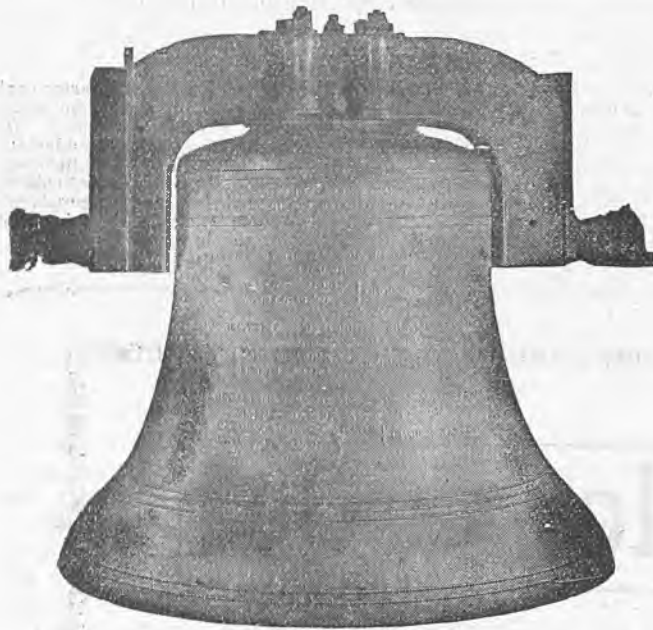
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among the buildings destroyed in recent air raids is the hotel where 50 years ago next Easter the first meeting of the Central Council was held. We learn that the Central London church mentioned in our last issue has again been damaged, but the tower and ten bells are safe. At St. Margaret's, Westminster, a fire started by an incendiary bomb was successfully fought.

Fifty years ago to-day eleven peals were rung. They consisted of 1 in seven methods of Minor, 1 of Bob Triples, 3 of Grandsire Triples, 1 of Stedman Triples, 1 of Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1 of Kent Treble Bob Major, 1 of Superlative Surprise Major, 1 of Stedman Caters, and 1 of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

The Maximus was rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, by the Ipswich men on a visit to London. James Motts rang the treble and conducted, and Mr. Frederick Tillet rang the tenor. The band included Isaac S. Alexander, William Motts, Robert Hawes, William Catchpole and Edgar Pemberton, as well as two well-known London ringers, James Pettit and Edwin Horrex. On the following Monday the visitors rang a peal of Double Norwich Royal at Fulham.

The Stedman Caters was rung by the Cumberlands at St. Luke's, Chelsea. George Newson conducted. The Superlative Major was at F. E. Robinson's church at Drayton. He rang the fifth, Washbrook called the peal and among the others were James H. Shepherd, Charles Hounslow, G. F. Attree (of Brighton) and G. F. Coleridge.

The Kent Treble Bob Major was at Warnham in Sussex and was Mr. James Parker's first peal. He was then living at Crawley.

Edwin Barnett called the Canterbury Pleasure Major at Crayford. The method—'Bob Major spoilt'—had a good deal of popularity about this time. Now it has dropped into a well-deserved oblivion.

John Brady, who rang the third to the peal of Bob Triples at Debenham, was blind, and it was supposed to be the first time that a blind man had taken part in a peal. That, however, was not so. John Incarsole, one of the Cambridge Youths, though totally blind, 'was remarkable for his extensive knowledge of the art of ringing and other musical professions.' On Christmas Eve, 1770, he rang the fourth to 5,610 changes of Grandsire Cinques, the first twelve-bell peal ever accomplished by a provincial company, and he took part in one or two other peals.

On October 16th, 1883, at Birmingham, John Carter called 10,176 changes of Grandsire Major 'in hand.' It remained the longest handbell peal until 1894, when 11,200 of Bob Major was rung at Norwich, conducted by Charles E. Borrett.

The first peal (one of Grandsire Caters) at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields was rung on October 17th, 1726, by the College Youths. Annable called the bobs and William Laughton was in the band.

On October 20th, 1794, George Gross called at St. Giles', Camberwell, Reeves' peal of Treble Bob, 6,720 changes, with the 60 course ends. Shipway, who rang in it, says it was the first time this composition was rung, but there is good reason to believe that the College Youths had already rung it at Kensington.

A FALSE PEAL OF TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you please insert a note in 'The Ringing World' to the effect that Peal No. 3,230 in the records of the Yorkshire Association is false. The particulars are as follows: 5,024 Kent Treble Bob Major, rung at SS. Peter and Paul's, Eckington, on Saturday, August 4th, 1928. Composed and conducted by Charles Severn. The repetition occurs between the Before and Wrong positions, in the fifth and ninth courses.

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER

A STORY FROM THE LATE MR. W. GIFFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The incident referred to in your issue of September 27th in a letter from Mr. E. Bankes James concerned a peal of Cambridge Surprise rung at Thame on September 29th, 1904, conducted by Mr. George Williams. The ringer who took down the figures from outside the tower was the late Mr. J. C. Truss, of Great Marlow, and it was rather remarkable that at that time he was not able to ring the method. He was possessed of a very wonderful ear and could take down anything from outside the tower. As a matter of fact, according to my recollection of what they told me, he and Mr. Gifford must have arrived back at the tower while the bells were in the plain course, for the first course end he took down was 23564 brought up by Before and Home. This probably accounted for his remark that a second start for the peal must have been made, and it would consequently not be finished for some three hours. He took down the rest of the figures of the peal.

G. N. PRICE.

AN ARMCHAIR 720.

On Saturday, Oct. 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor was rung on handbells at Southover Cottage, Pyrford, Surrey. The comfort of armchairs did not prevent the extent being rung in 13 minutes. The ringers were J. S. Goldsmith 1-2, Pte. J. Freeman (Lincoln) 3-4, Gnr. C. W. Denyer (Aldershot) 5-6.

HANDBELL RINGING DIFFICULTIES.

MR. C. W. WOOLLEY ANSWERS QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, C. D., has asked for a fairly comprehensive course in handbell ringing, and stipulates that the answers must be simple. This is not easy, since most handbell ringers have gained their experience over a number of years of practice and with a certain amount of hard thinking; for which answers to a few questions, hints and tips, however good they may be, are no substitute.

However, if it is of any help to C. D., here are my answers to his queries. First, as regards handling the bells. Long practice in rounds should not be necessary; nor would dumb practice seem to be an advantage, since it is the reverse which is desired. It must be realised that it is the check at the end of the stroke which makes the bell speak, not force, nor yet a long swing. Just the same applies in chiming a tower bell; once it is going a check only is required, not a vigorous pull, nor is it necessary to swing the bell to a great height. Most beginners on handbells are not nearly easy enough in action; by gripping the bell too tightly and swinging it with too much vigour they render difficult the very check which is needed. If the bells still will not speak when rung easily, it is well to look to the springs and bend them so that they hold the clappers just off the bells, but only just.

Secondly, the trebles in Grandsire after a bob has been called. It is certainly not sufficient only to be able to hunt them in course, but they must still be made to help each other, and not rung as two separate bells. This can only be done by a study of the various positions. These have been dealt with in various articles recently, some of which were perpetrated about a year ago by myself. A ringer who really knows the positions will not be bothered too much by the treble going astray, since he will know when he is due to dodge; provided, of course, that the treble consents to be put right. Even bell methods are better to start on than odd, since the positions are easier. Minor is probably the best, providing plenty of work without the confusion of having too many bells to watch. The tenors to odd-bell methods provide practice at handling two bells, but beyond that are clearly not very useful towards ringing a couple of bells in the work.

HARD THINKING NEEDED.

I do not think it fortunate to be told not to think. The aim is to be able to perform the various positions without undue effort of thought, in the same way that a pianist plays or a batsman bats; but it is necessary first to learn, and a great deal of hard thinking is required, although this may slow up the performance to begin with.

I do not advise a recruit to attempt to ring Stedman; it is not easy. When he has mastered the work of simpler methods he will have some idea of how it may be done.

I cannot agree that it is an entirely different thing to ring a Surprise method than to ring a simpler standard method. It is a much greater step from ringing 7-8 in course in Bob Major to ringing a non-coursing pair, than it is from, say, Double Norwich to Cambridge, which are very similar methods to ring in hand. Admittedly it is a step up to ring methods with internal work produced by places made when the treble is away from the front, but it is not such a big step if simple methods are tried at first, and Surprise ringing follows by the same system. The more the internal work in a method, the longer the practice required before touches and peals can be rung; and Surprise methods, having twice as long a course as plain methods, have more of this work. There is also room for more complicated work, though some plain methods can easily be more difficult than some Surprise methods.

For Surprise ringing, Superlative or Cambridge are as good as any for a start. The work in each is very regular, and the places are all made 'right' (at hand back), so there is no backward ringing. Many non-standard Surprise methods are in this class and would be just as easy; but Superlative and Cambridge are more familiar to most ringers, which is an advantage.

I hope that these answers, which are merely expressions of opinion, may be of some help to C. D., and I would like to wish him success.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

MORE 'TIPS.'

Dear Sir.—The following hints may be of some value to your correspondent C. D. with regard to handbell ringing. While I do not claim to be a 'well-known and practised ringer "in hand,"' I have had, during the last three years, a wide experience in teaching ringers of all ages the rudiments of handbell ringing.

First as regards position: sitting is undoubtedly better than standing, and a chair of suitable height should be chosen to enable the wrists to be rested comfortably on the knees. The ringer should always take advantage of this opportunity to rest his arms after each 'back-stroke' blow, for, apart from improving the striking, a ringer who is trained in this habit will be far less tired after a long 'touch' or peal than one who is not. Then as regards holding the bells, they should be grasped firmly by all four fingers round the strap, and the thumb left free to support the bell when it is at 'back-stroke,' not on the rivet which fastens the strap, but on the leather cap over the crown. It is not advisable to put the little finger through the

strap, as this will soon cause soreness between the fourth and fifth finger.

The actual ringing of the bell is done by a twist of the wrist, rather than keeping the wrist rigid, and moving the whole arm from the elbow. The forearm will, of course, be moved, but the necessary jerk to make the bell ring comes from the wrist and not from the arm. Care should be taken to see that the bell is brought well back at handstroke, so that the clapper comes to rest at the upper or near side of the bell.

When the beginner is sitting properly and can ring his bell, he should be given No. 3 to ring in rounds. The number of bells rung will depend on the number of ringers available, but four or six are quite sufficient at first. By using his ears and his eyes he should then keep the same distance behind No. 2 as the latter does behind the treble. When he can manage that all right he should try Nos. 3 and 4 together, and after that 1 and 2. When ringing the leading pair he must be careful to keep the handstroke leads open; but this will have been pointed out to him before he tries it himself.

The beginner will now be sufficiently advanced to try change ringing, the meaning and theory of which should first be carefully explained on paper, following a method like Plain Bob, and then perhaps a demonstration by two or three ringers on the bells.

It is matter of opinion whether a beginner should learn to hunt with two bells right from the start, or to begin with only one. Personally I always start him with only one, and let him ring the treble progressively on 4, 5 and 6 bells. The other bells can be rung all plain hunt at first, and then later to Grandsire and Plain Bob. When he can see what hunting involves while he is ringing only one, then he can attempt two bells, and in this respect it is better for him to ring 1-2 to Grandsire Triples rather than Doubles or Minor, for in doing so he will be given longer, before he gets to the front or the back, to see how one bell comes between him at each change.

MASTER THE RUDIMENTS FIRST.

Your correspondent asks whether Grandsire is the best method for handbell beginners. I do not want to start a controversy over the respective merits of odd and even bell methods, but I ask, why learn to ring any particular method at first? Why not learn the rudiments of double-handed ringing first, and then apply it to particular methods? This is what I mean: if the ringer writes out the twelve changes produced when six bells all plain hunt, and examines the rows thus produced, he will find that certain pairs of bells are related. For instance, let him write out six separate sets of twelve changes, and on each set draw a line through one of the following pairs of numbers: 1-2, 1-3, 2-4, 3-5, 4-6, and 5-6. He will find that all six pairs of lines are related; in fact, they course. This means that one bell (different each time) is ringing between the pair at each change, except at the front or the back, when the pair itself changes places in the positions 1-2 or 5-6. In other words, the two lines cross each other in 1-2 or 5-6. I call this the 1-2 (or 5-6) position. Similarly he will find, on preparing further sets of changes, and drawing in further pairs of bells, that the following pairs are also related: 2-3, 1-4, 1-5, 2-6, 3-6 and 4-5. These pairs have one bell coursing between them, and the lines drawn through them always cross in positions 2-3 and 4-5. This I call the 2-3 (or 4-5) position. Finally he will find one other relationship, and that is between the pairs 3-4, 2-5 and 1-6. These pairs always cross in 3-4, and the two lines are symmetrical in relation to each other. I call this the 3-4 position.

There are thus only three different positions for a pair of bells to fall into in Plain Minor: the 1-2, the 2-3 and the 3-4 positions, and when the beginner has mastered these three positions, then he has gone a long way towards ringing Bob Minor accurately. So let him first of all examine these on paper, and then ring them with the bells; and he need not always start the 1-2 position from rounds. Let him ring bells 1-2 from the following starts: 142635, 516234, 431625, etc. Or, while learning the 2-3 position, let him start with his own bells in the other related places as well as 2-3.

PAPER WORK NEEDED.

The beginner is now in a position to write out the whole of the plain course of Plain Bob Minor, and to mark in the lines of the bells 1-2 in two different colours. Personally I always keep to red for the right hand (whether it is 1-2 or any other pair). And here may I stress the value of a plentiful supply of squared paper. With a little practice the lines only, and not the numbers as well, can be drawn out, thus saving a lot of tedious labour. On examining the two lines, the beginner will find that, of the five leads in the plain course, the bells are in the 1-2 position in the leads one and five; the 2-3 position in the leads two and four; and in the 3-4 position in the middle lead. It is the dodging in 3-4 and 5-6 which causes the working bell to change its relationship to the treble, from one to another of the three foundation positions.

Similarly the work of the other two pairs can now be examined and practised. Bells 5 and 6 will be found to remain in the 1-2 position throughout the course, except for the parted lead, when they fall into the 2-3 position; but the bells 3 and 4 will be found in the 3-4 position for the first and last lead, and the 2-3 position for the other three leads. Before attempting to ring any pair, however, the lines they follow in the plain course should be carefully examined. It is only in doing so that dodging 'in-step,' such as 5-6 do, and 'scissor' dodging, carried out by 3-4, can be thoroughly understood.

(Continued on next page.)

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FULL MOON PRACTICES.

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Kinver on Saturday, September 28th, members being present from Brierley Hill, Clent, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Wolverley, Cradley and the local tower.

The proceedings opened with handbell ringing in the ringing chamber, which is conveniently situated on the ground floor and opens into the church, and an excellent course of Grandsire Caters was brought round immediately before the service.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. A. Mercer, himself a ringer, and in the course of an excellent address he dealt comprehensively with the traditional uses of bells through the ages.

An excellent tea was provided by the churchwardens at the Woden Cafe, after which the Vicar presided at the business meeting.

There being no alternative nominations, the officers were re-elected en bloc, viz.: Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd; Central Committee representative, Mr. John Bass; secretary, Mr. B. C. Ashford.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Stourbridge on Saturday, January 11th, 1941, and practice meetings at Belbroughton on Saturday, November 16th, and Brierley Hill on Saturday, December 14th, next, the three dates each coinciding with the full moon.

The Secretary referred to the activities of the branch during the past year. Meetings have been held at Wollaston, Wordsley, Halesowen, Hagley, Wolverley and Belbroughton; all of them were well attended considering the circumstances. He thanked the members for their support, and reminded them of the handbell practices at Clent on Saturdays at 3 p.m., which were in the able hands of Mr. William Short. As the clappers had been removed from seven of the tower bells, there was an opportunity also for silent practice. Members who did not already do so were urged to take in 'The Ringing World' to enable them to keep in touch with what was doing, in addition to which they would find it a very instructive and entertaining journal, well worthy of the fullest support of the Exercise.

Mr. C. H. Woodberry informed the members of the marriage of the Association Ringing Master, Mr. S. T. Holt, a few days previously, and it was decided to send him a letter conveying their good wishes.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, Mr. Basterfield, and the churchwardens were heartily endorsed and the meeting was then declared closed, the members devoting themselves to the social side of the proceedings with change ringing and tune playing on handbells.

HANDBELL RINGING HINTS.

(Continued from previous page.)

What I have said with regard to Bob Minor applies equally to Grandsire Triples; here, too, there are only three positions for the pairs of bells to fall into when hunting. They are: (1) the 1-2 position, where they cross in 1-2 and 6-7; (2) the 2-3 position, crossing in 2-3 and 5-6; and (3) the 3-4 position, crossing in 3-4 and 4-5. This point was explained most carefully in 'The Ringing World' of August 9th, 1940, and needs no further elaboration on my part.

Finally I would urge C. D. that, however simply hints and instructions are put, they will never be understood unless the beginner is prepared to take a lot of trouble with pencil and paper. Do not wait until practice night, but learn all you can at other odd times during the week. Only in this way can the practice be of most help, and you will waste neither your own nor other people's time at the actual practice over explanations which ought to have been done at other times. 'MARYLEBONE.'

THE OPINION OF ANOTHER EXPERT.

Sir,—To be quite honest, is it possible to teach handbell ringing? You can instruct a man how to hold the bells, but the one thing you cannot teach him is 'sight.' It is said that no two persons see ringing on tower bells alike; that is truer with handbells. Each ringer picks up different ideas in his own particular way. The one ringer I know who may be able to help is the Rev. E. B. James. Some twenty or so years ago he had some good boys at his school, and Mr. C. W. Woolley was one. I am sure he would agree it was the foundation he received at that time which gave him the sight to reach the Surprise stage.

Both C. D. and Mr. Brown have yet to learn that a remark passed between friends looks entirely different in cold print. 'Keep moving and do not think' was a favourite expression of mine. It may have been foolish, but none of my old friends would say I refused to help them. Is it so foolish? If one has the idea of a beat and can swing his bells to it, that will help him to sight, and generally the biggest trouble is not how to think. You cannot split your mind to find out what each bell is doing; you have to find some way yourself. My advice always was to hunt each bell to watch the treble and to dodge back when it leads. It is simply practice.

I wonder how many hours the Pye brothers, the Bailey family and others here and there spent before they mastered it. What would Mr. Brown have called us if he had seen four men sitting in a railway carriage with no handbells, but ringing with their thumbs up. It did not matter when or where we met, Stedman had to go, bells or no bells. I can assure anyone that once you can ring handbells, it is worth all the time and trouble.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

THE ANGELUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I had fully considered the cases cited by Mr. Sawyer before coming to the conclusion that the Angelus was not generally rung in English parish churches in pre-Reformation times.

I have not got the text of the injunctions issued by Archbishop Arundel in 1399, but they appear to have ordered the saying of one Paternoster and five Ave Marias at dawn each day. No bell was ordered to be rung specially, and, indeed, such was not necessary, for the early morning bell had already been rung for centuries.

Mr. Sawyer refers to Dr. J. J. Raven's book, 'The Bells of England.' This is what Raven says—'an order came forth from Archbishop Arundel commanding one Pater Noster and five Ave Marias to be said at dawn. To bring this to mind a bell was rung called the Angelus.' This is an almost verbal transcript from Thomas North's books, but Raven, by the alteration of two or three words, conveys the impression that the bell was called the Angelus in the fifteenth century, which North does not say, and for which there is no evidence at all.

Dr. Raven's book is an excellent one in many ways, but a good deal of its detail is inaccurate and slipshod.

In the inventories made in the year 1552 of the goods and ornaments of the parish churches throughout England, the small extra bell which usually is called the saunce bell is, in the case of the Norwich churches, called the Gabriel bell. I have been through many of these inventories in the Public Records Office, but do not remember the term being used elsewhere than in Norfolk. It would be interesting to know why these bells were called Gabriel bells, but it is hardly likely that they got the name (as Dr. Raven suggests) because they were used for the Angelus. When any ringing was done which more or less remotely resembled the Angelus, the saunce bell was not used.

The negative evidence against the Angelus being generally rung is very strong. In the orders for the duties of the clerks at Coventry in 1462, where detailed and precise instructions are given for bell-ringing, no mention is made of the Angelus. Neither is there any in the orders for ringing the bells at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, which were deliberately drawn up in 1467 in accordance with the 'good custom of the City of London.'

It is extremely likely that attempts were being made to introduce into England the custom which had become popular in France, and of this the bequest of the parson at Cropredy in Oxfordshire referred to by Mr. Sawyer is an example, but if it proves anything it proves that the ringing of the Angelus was a custom some people would like to introduce, not one which had already become general.

Probably if it had not been for the Reformation the custom of ringing the Angelus would have become common here as it did in France, but there was not time enough for it to become established; and when the Church of England dropped the system of indulgences and all that is implied in the Roman Catholic doctrine of intentions, the real motives of the devotion came to an end.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should be very glad if any of your readers could give me information about peals (if any) accomplished at St. Germain's Parish Church, Peel, Isle of Man.

During a holiday on the island in August, 1939, I paid a visit to this church one Sunday evening, having heard previously that it possessed the only peal of bells in Man.

Having obtained access to the belfry, I found a ring of eight bells, cast about 1887, by Warner; the tenor I estimated to be about 8 or 9 cwt. in A flat. The bells, though hung for ringing, are now chimed by Ellacombe's apparatus, the former ringing ropes being used for chime ropes. For a ring cast at that period they are quite good except that the tenor was a little flat (or so I thought). Under the Cambridge clock chimes they sound quite pleasant and musical.

Pursuing my enquiries, I found that according to a local churchwarden Peel had at one time a fair band of ringers who could 'ring Bob Major as well as anybody,' but in 1916 the tower showed signs of weakness, the lofty spire was removed and all ringing stopped. What became of the ringers is difficult to say. One of them is at present official 'chimer,' but as he was ill at the time of my visit I was not able to make his acquaintance. At the request of the churchwarden, I usurped his duties that Sunday and 'went to it' with right good will to the great satisfaction of the good churchfolk of Peel, by some of whom I was thanked most profusely. Rounds, 'Queens' and 'Whittingtons' went down very well.

It appears that a restoration is not out of the question, as the tower has been strengthened and the walls braced with steel struts, but lack of funds is the great stumbling-block.

Incidentally Peel and St. Thomas' Church, Douglas, are the only ones in the Diocese of Sodor and Man which have more than one or two bells. St. Thomas' has a very fine chime of eight bells, tenor 12 cwt., by Taylor, which replaces a ringing peal of eight destroyed by fire. The present bells (which I have had the pleasure of chiming) are a grand job, well worthy of the Loughborough Foundry.

WILFRED E. BOX.

THE 'EXTREME.'

HOW YORKSHIRE RINGERS USED IT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent C. T. B. opens up a very interesting subject in his enquiry about 'Extremes,' as this term seems to embrace a diversity of unorthodox calls. Although his query relates to Grandsire, I think it is permissible to point out that, at one time, such a call in Treble Bob Major was generally accepted as proper and correct in the West Riding of Yorkshire, especially in the Heavy Woollen district, and although it has now fallen into disuse, I am not at all sure that, in some respects, its going is unregrettable; it is such a useful call. From a composing standpoint, Treble Bob is sluggish in mobility, certain placed bells cannot be switched from one position to another with ease (for instance, a 5th's place bell cannot be transferred to 6th's place in a full course without parting the tenors). This, together with the length of the natural course, limits the number of short touches which can be obtained by ordinary calling; but by the use of extremes the scope is considerably widened.

An Extreme in Treble Bob Major is actually a sixth's place bob. I have heard ringers argue that it is the proper bob for the Kent variation of the method, cutting out as it does the four consecutive blows in 4th's, which are made at the usual bob, a thing which is tolerated but at the same time condemned by method purists. However, as I have no desire to start a controversy on that subject, I will make no further comment on it.

At the Extreme, 6th's place is made as the treble leads, causing the two back bells to long dodge and the bells under 6th's to continue their work undisturbed; so that, if an extreme is called when the tenor is dodging at home, the 5th's place bell becomes 6th's place bell by a single call. By this it will be seen that a variety of short touches can be produced which are unobtainable with ordinary callings. A very simple touch, favoured by some of the old Treble Bob ringers when they wanted to wind up a meeting or fill in a few minutes, is bob Before, Extreme at Home, giving an eight lead course with the 6th four leads at home and four leads in 5th's.

Extremes can also be used to apply touches of Minor to Major; any touch of Treble Bob Minor can be rung to Major by using the same observation bell, calling the bobs as in Minor, and calling Extremes at, what would be, every plain lead end. This has the effect of keeping 7-8 dodging behind at every lead-end (a most objectionable practice I can imagine some will say). Two courses of Minor become 320 of Major, and a 720 of Minor will run to 960 of Major, with 30 'course-ends'!

Sottanstill, in his book, makes free use of Extremes, both in touches and peals of Treble Bob, sometimes exclusively and at other times in conjunction with fourth place bobs. Whilst many of the peals are of little merit, others are decidedly interesting. One of these compositions, a 5,040 with all Extreme calls, was rung at Christ Church, Liversedge, on January 1st, 1864.

A unique but altogether unorthodox peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by J. E. Jenkinson, was rung at St. Stephen's, Lindley, on March 25th, 1905. In this peal, a 5,040, there are no fourth's place bobs, but there are two types of Extremes, one, the ordinary Extreme at which 6th's place is made as the treble leads, and the other a 'Treble Extreme,' which, as its name signifies, is made by the treble. The treble, after dodging in 5-6 up, makes 6th's place and dodges in 5-6 down, 3-4 down and so on, cutting out its journey into 7-8. By using two of these calls in certain courses the composer produces a three lead course of 80 changes. The peal is really a freak and, beyond the fact that 7-8 are out of the slow hunt in the short courses, has no outstanding merit either from a constructional or musical standpoint.

The recording of this peal in the Yorkshire Association's report bears this footnote, 'Whilst there can be no doubt as to the skill and care demanded in the above performance, the committee trust that it will not be repeated,' which shows that, whilst the committee of that day were prepared to give full credit to those who rang in the peal, they were equally strong in their condemnation of the unnecessary mutilation of the method. The performance has not been repeated!

By the natural extension of a method an Extreme in Royal should be made in 8th's place. I have no knowledge, however, of such a call ever being used, but Thomas Pollitt, of Bradford and Halifax,

FALSE COURSE ENDS.*(Continued from next page.)*

Although the false course ends in each of these groups are definitely related to each other, they are not related in the same way as are the members of the groups of four we first mentioned. The presence of one member of the group does not necessarily imply the presence of all the other members. If one false course end appears its complementary false course end will also appear, but there need not necessarily be any other. If we get A we shall also get D, but we need not get B or C or E. B 24365 can appear by itself and indeed is the false course end most frequently met with.

who composed many good peals of Treble Bob Royal, used, in some of his compositions, a 6th's place Extreme. This was used in only one course and for one purpose—to shift the 7th to 6th's place and cause it to course before the 8th. By this method he produced what he termed the 'Titums Caters' position; why this name it is hard to say (as the bells are coursing in the order of 7, 8, 0, 9 they can hardly be said to be in the titums), unless it was to distinguish it from the recognised titum position in Royal produced by a bob 'before,' in which the back bells course in the order of 0, 9, 8, 7; a position which Pollitt used extensively in peal composition. A peal in the 'Titums Caters' position was rung at St. Peter's (now the Cathedral), Bradford, on Saturday, December 20th, 1890, composed by Thomas Pollitt and conducted by J. H. Hardcastle.

Another use of the term 'Extreme,' hardly as commendable as those mentioned above, but nevertheless effective, was made by a conductor of my acquaintance when calling a service or practice touch. If he was mixed up in his calling or couldn't get the bells round in time, he just waited for the treble to come to lead (in any method) and then called 'Extreme'; his conferees, knowing exactly what was expected of them, then brought the bells nicely round, usually with little or no semblance of a jumble or bell out of place. It was far more effective than an unexpected 'that's all.' When a stranger was in the band, however, well—the result will be better imagined than described.

WILLIAM BARTON.

Pudsey.

AN OLD LINCOLNSHIRE CUSTOM.

Dear Sir,—Having read in the letter to you from C. T. B. re the 'Extreme,' I would like to tell you that in a village near here 40 years ago the local band used to ring Grandsire Doubles and what they called St. Dunstan's. In it there was a call at every treble head. I remember quite well when I visited that tower seeing them ring the six-score and hearing it called: Bob, Single, Bob, Extreme. Like C. T. B., I enquired how it was made and this is it. There are 32 six-scores obtainable by the use of this Extreme.

54132

51423

Extreme 15432

15342

51324

53142

It is quite a job for the conductor to call the 32 six-scores with a call at every lead. It alone will keep him from going to sleep.

I think 'The Ringing World' is very interesting now.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

Edenham, Lincolnshire.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

WHO CALLED THE FIRST PEAL?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In my search among our records for items of general interest to ringers, I discovered the following extract in the late Mr. W. T. Cockerill's handwriting:—

'Grandsire,' p. 138.—Holt, as has already been related, called his one-part peal from a manuscript copy and did not take any other part in the performance. We may be sure that many a conductor would feel ambitious to call the peal without such assistance, but it was not until 40 years after its first performance that this object was attained. On Sunday, October 23rd, 1791, the College Youths rang this peal at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, when it was conducted by James Bartlett, who rang the treble, and thus gained the honour of being the first man to conduct the peal and take part in the ringing.

As this conflicts with the fourth item in 'Belfry Gossip' of August 23rd, I should be glad to know which of the two statements is authentic.

A. B. PECK.

It was for many years thought in London that James Bartlett was the first man to call the Original and ring at the same time. The claim is made on the peal board in the belfry of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. But researches by Mr. Samuel Slater in East Anglian papers proved that Bartlett had been forestalled by at least two men.—Editor.

WADHURST, SUSSEX.

RESTORATION OF THE BELLS.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have now completed the rehanging and repairs to the bells and frame at Wadhurst Church, and on October 1st the ringers had the opportunity of trying them before the clappers were fixed. Everyone was delighted with the go, and after years of hard work it is now a pleasure to ring, especially at the back end.

During his brief stay in Wadhurst, Mr. John Thomas gave valuable assistance to the local ringers, who, under the able tuition of Mr. H. Statham, are steadily progressing, with the handbells, in single-handed ringing.

The band were just able to ring plain courses of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor, but at his third and last practice Mr. Thomas got them through 240 of Grandsire. Of course, the striking was by no means perfect, but the boys are steadily acquiring the rhythm.

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

In every regular Treble Bob or Surprise Major method there are 60 in-course rows with 1, 7 and 8 at home. These form the natural course ends of the method, and from each of them a full independent natural course can be pricked in the same way that the plain course is pricked from rounds. The 60 natural courses form the total amount of material we have to work with when we compose peals with the tenors together.

If the method has a clear proof scale all the sixty natural courses are available, and composition consists in selecting certain of these courses, or parts of them, and joining them together into one round block by means of bobs.

But if the method has one or more false course ends then there is a certain amount of repetition of rows between these sixty natural courses, and before we can compose a peal we must know what that repetition is so that we can avoid falseness.

If there is one course which contains rows which are also contained in the plain course, then, for every one of the sixty natural courses, there will be one which is equally false against it. If, for instance, the natural course 24365 contains rows which are also in the plain course, then the natural course 62435 will contain rows which are also in the natural course 64253; 45623 will be false against 46532; and every other one of the sixty will be false in the same way. This will automatically reduce the number of full courses we may use from sixty to thirty.

When the method has two false course ends, then for every one full natural course we use there are two others which we may not use. When there are three false course ends, then for every one full natural course we use there are three which are debarred from use. And in the same way the greater the number of false course ends the greater are the limitations in the material for composition.

At first sight this would seem to make a true peal impossible when the number of false course ends is greater than one. We might conclude that when there are two false course ends, since the total number of available courses is only sixty and for every one we use we are debarred from using two others, we shall have only twenty true courses to work with, whereas at least twenty-three are needed for a peal. Fortunately, however, that does not always happen; it depends on what the false course ends are. In some instances there may be as many as five, and yet thirty true full courses are available.

False course ends fall into certain well defined groups and according to what group or groups its false course ends belong, so has a method a greater or lesser capacity for producing true peals. Let us see what these groups are, and then how they affect the truth of compositions. A good deal of what we are now going to say has been covered by previous articles, but it is well to have the matter stated as a systematic whole.

In the first place false course ends always exist in pairs, each one in a pair being complementary to the other. This is due to the fact that in a symmetrical method the rows are produced from 2345678 going forwards, and in the same way from 2436587 going backwards; and therefore, if there are two incourse rows

which create a liability to falseness, there will also be two out-of-course rows with a similar liability. These two liabilities are similar, but one depends on 2345678 and the other on 2436587, so we must bring them to a common denominator. To do this we transpose 24365 by the false course end which depends on 2345678 and then transpose the result by 24365. Thus, supposing we have the false course end 32546, we transpose 24365 by 32546 which gives us 42635, and that we transpose by 24365 which gives us 46253, the complementary false course end to 32546. Notice that it does not matter which of the pair we start with; the result will always give us the other.

We have said that false course ends always exist in pairs, but to this rule there is an apparent (not a real) exception. Four false course ends, viz., B 24365, O 25634, L 26543, and 23456 are each complementary to itself and exist in both positions. If we transport any one of them by the rule just given we shall see that it comes back to itself.

The reader may be surprised that we have included 23456 among the possible false course ends. How, he may ask, can the plain course be false against itself? Well, it is not easy in practice, but it is possible; and in theory there is no reason why the plain course should not have the same row twice over.

The second division of false course ends is into those which are in reciprocal relationship with rounds and those that are not. Two rows are in reciprocal relationship when A is to B in all respects as B is to A. For instance, as 24365 is to 23456, so is 23456 to 24365. This relationship is important because everything in the natural courses which depend on the course ends is also in reciprocal relationship. There are sixteen rows which are in reciprocal relationship to rounds. In every one of them one bell (and one bell only) is in its natural home position. The false course ends which occur in almost all the methods suitable for ringing are included among these reciprocal rows.

The forty-four false course ends which are not in reciprocal relationship with 23456 consist of eight groups of four and six groups of two. If in any method one member of a group appears, the other members automatically appear also.

The fourteen groups last mentioned are of little practical interest and we turn back to the sixteen false course ends in reciprocal relationship with 23456. These fall into four groups, and outside them are three false course ends (which we have already mentioned) that stand by themselves. The three are O 25634, L 26543 and 23456. None of these three is of any practical interest and we need not discuss them further.

The other thirteen false course ends fall into four groups, two of them consisting of five members and two of three. One false course end B 24365 is common to all four groups.

The groups are:—

A 32546	B 24365	B 24365
B 24365	F 32465	H 45236
C 53624	G 43265	I 32654
D 46253		J 63542
E 65432	B 24365	K 56423
	Y 54326	
	Z 64352	

(Continued on previous page.)

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

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. — Preliminary Notice. — The meeting following the above will be held on November 9th, when it is hoped to commemorate the 303rd anniversary of the society by an informal lunch at about 1.30. Further particulars later.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The October quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Grey Friar Inn, Grey Friar's Lane, Coventry (situated at rear of G.P.O.; five minutes' walk Coventry L.M.S. Station; also Pool Meadow bus station). Private room available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Light refreshments served during the evening. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—All ringers are invited to a meeting at Whitwick on Saturday, Oct. 19th. Handbells in School (near Market Place bus stop) from 3 p.m. Short service in Church at 4.15, followed by tea at 4.45. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Bradford Cathedral. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in the city. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Roads, Leeds 12.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—It has not been possible to arrange a meeting for October as proposed. Members are asked to watch these columns for notices of any arrangements that may be made.—C. A. Bassett, Assistant Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western and Southern Districts) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Chertsey District). — A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Handbells, etc., also available after service. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, not later than Tuesday, Oct. 29th. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—It has been decided that, owing to circumstances over which we have no control, it would be inadvisable to arrange the projected annual meeting, which was to have been held at Tunbridge Wells. — (Signed) Alec E. Richardson, Dis. Sec.; Tom Saunders, John Medhurst, District Representatives.

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