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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1940.

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WAR-TIME FESTIVAL.

Lunching in the City of London, not far from a thoroughfare that bears some of the worst scars of enemy attacks, the Ancient Society of College Youths celebrated the 303rd anniversary of its foundation. Never before has the commemoration taken place under such grim conditions in our national life, and the mere fact that the anniversary was observed is but another tribute to the unconquerable spirit of the country. Even while the luncheon was in progress, London was under an 'alert,' and somewhere in the suburbs bombs were falling. It was not so much the lunch itself as the spirit which prompted it that is the striking feature of this year's celebration. London and the people in it are carrying on, with chins up, and, despite everything, it is amazing how much of London remains untouched. The College Youths have not ceased to hold their regular meetings throughout this war upon the city, and, as they have done without a break for more than three hundred years, they maintained their custom of celebrating their anniversary with a feast. True, during the last war the gathering was for various reasons limited to the inner circle of the society, but tradition remained unbroken and, despite the more trying times, it was heartening to see such a gathering on Saturday, held, as one member described it, during the 'Battle of London.' Hopes were expressed that historians of the future would look upon this gathering as not the least of the society's celebrations. In view of the circumstances, it ought to rank high among the festivals.

Two interesting matters were mentioned during the proceedings. One was that the scheme for the memorial to the late Mr. Challis Winney, one of the society's most notable members in the last half-century, has been advanced to the stage when the design awaits the final approval of the Rector of St. Clement Danes', in the ringing chamber of which church it is proposed to place the commemorative tablet. It will find there a fitting place, because Mr. Winney was associated with the tower for over sixty years. When finally the tablet will be erected is, presumably, a matter of uncertainty. The tower and bells of St. Clement Danes' are uninjured, but the church itself has suffered grievous damage in air raids, and it may not be either wise or practicable to fix the memorial until the danger from further bombings is past. However that may be, it is gratifying to know that a reminder of such sterling character and long and loyal service is to be preserved for future generations of ringers.

The other topic, one of present and future importance, that was touched upon was that of the ban. The hon.

(Continued on page 542.)

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secretary of the Central Council took the opportunity of explaining his recent approach to the Ministry of Home Security. Despite the refusal to lift the ban which was given last week in the House of Commons, this leads to the hope that at no distant date the matter may be reopened. At any rate, the correspondence does not finally close the door for the duration of war. Those who heard the Prime Ministers's review of the war situation, with the indication that grave events still threaten us, could hardly have anticipated any change of the military attitude towards the ban. There must be no relaxation of the vigilance and preparation, and the ban on the bells, except for their specially reserved purpose, is included in this. There seems, however, to be some confusion of thought as to the part which bells can effectively play, and we still think that those in authority who want to use the bells for air invasion alarm are without real knowledge of the limitations of this particular form of warning. It should be the business of someone on behalf of the churches, as well as of the ringers of this country, to explain to the War Office what little dependability there is in their church bells scheme, when minutes, and even seconds, may be vital. Stripped of its misconceptions, the scheme would reveal its ineptitude for the purpose for which it is designed. If this could be done, there might then be a different view taken in high quarters as to the usefulness of the ban. When the time is ripe, it needs a full statement of the weaknesses of the scheme laid before the responsible authorities through a channel which will ensure it reaching the quarters that matter.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At 37, HIGHFIELD GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5134 CHANGES;

CPL. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 1-2 | †PTE. F. C. SHORTER, R.A.S.C. 5-6
*PTE. L. FOX, A.M.P.C. ... 3-4 | WILLIAM H. VIGGERS ... 7-8

Composed by J. H. PILKINGTON. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal 'in hand' and first of Bob Major. † First peal of Major 'in hand.'

STOURBRIDGE RINGERS 'CARRY ON.'

NEW MEMBERS ADMITTED.

The annual meeting of ringers of St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, was held on October 21st in the Church Hall. The president (the Rev. Canon Newland, Vicar) presided, supported by the Rev. F. T. Bott (curate) and Mr. W. A. Horne (churchwarden).

The Vicar welcomed four new members to the hand, who were admitted at evensong at St. Thomas' on the previous Sunday.

This was a very pleasing ceremony, both to the ringers and to the congregation.

In spite of the present ban on ringing, the usual enthusiasm of the band was in evidence.

The retiring officers were re-elected, Messrs. F. V. Nichols, leader, A. L. Dunn, deputy leader, and E. S. Bushell, hon. secretary.

It was decided to continue the practice on handbells on Monday evenings in the Church Hall. Any ringer serving in or near Stourbridge will be welcomed to these practices.

It is interesting to note that several of the younger members of the band were congratulated on their rapid progress in handbell ringing by several veterans of the Worcestershire Association at a recent quarterly meeting.

After disposing of the routine business, the president thanked the ringers for their past year's services and remarked on their foresight in adding to their numbers in readiness for the time when the bells would be allowed to ring out again, which he hoped would not be far hence.

Greetings were sent to members serving in H.M. Forces.

Refreshments were served and touches on the handbells concluded another year for St. Thomas' band.

OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

ATTEMPTS FOR PEALS.

Friday, September 27th, being the anniversary of the death of William of Wykeham, the founder of New College and the festival of Saints Comas and Damianus, was a paid ringing day in Oxford, and another attempt for the peal was made. But it was a very poor performance. First, Richard Hearn, the treble man, would not start for the peal and the band had to be rearranged, Vicars taking the treble himself and Broughton, who otherwise would not have rung, being brought in. And then, when they met, three of their best men were 'much in liquor.' Perhaps that had something to do with Richard Hearn's refusal to ring.

The three offenders were Lloyd, Barnes, and (worse than all) Vicars, the conductor. In those days of heavy drinking, to take a drop too much was no great matter provided a man could carry his liquor. It might happen to anybody, and there was plenty of it among the dons and heads of the University. But on such an occasion, as Hearne said, the ringers should have been sober 'and indeed there can never be any true ringing but by persons that come perfectly sober.'

The ringing was bad from the start. Lloyd at the ninth was too drunk to strike his bell, and that, of course, upset the compass. Before they had rung two courses Vicars missed a bob. Still they went on. Whether they forced up the course end or not does not appear. At 600 changes they had a bad muddle and another at 1,100; another at 1,400, then a second missed bob, until at last they got into a hopeless tangle, and the attempt came to an inglorious end at the 2,714th change. Afterwards they rang a touch of 600 changes and finished for the day.

Altogether it was a pretty disgraceful exhibition. Hearne was quite ashamed of them; and so, too, were they of themselves, for they tried to keep quiet who had made the blunders. But Hearne had a genius for finding out details, and he very soon discovered all that had happened.

It would be interesting to discover how he knew about the missed bobs. It was not until some time afterwards that he found out what did happen in the belfry, and yet he records the omission of one bob on the day after the attempt was made. He had a very keen ear and quite likely he was following the calling from the outside.

Had they finished the peal and done it well, he had intended to transmit to posterity their names and their performance in one of his printed books, but as it was so bad (considering the reputation and skill of the ringers) he concluded that it would not be to their credit to have their names mentioned, nor to the honour of William of Wykeham to disclose who were the persons who performed so lamely on the day he died, adding that the day ought to be observed with all possible decorum, and the ringing should be as clear and true as can be. 'For which reason I shall pass over in silence what might be observed.'

It shows how keen was his interest in the ringing that, though it was raining the whole time, he heard every blow of it, walking up and down the parks on the east side of Wadham College.

And then the ringers grieved him in that matter about which he felt more strongly than about almost anything else. For they started for the peal again on November 5th.

It is rather difficult to realise nowadays how much bellringing in the eighteenth century did voice the feelings and sentiments of the people. It was a time when the nation was sharply divided into political parties and when the controversies which centred round the Revolution of 1689 and the expulsion of the Stuarts had not yet burnt themselves out, least of all among the Jacobites and Non-jurors of Oxford, who felt all the more strongly because they were a rapidly declining minority.

The Fifth of November celebrations were a Whig, Low Church and Hanoverian demonstration by the supporters of the Government against the Tory, High Church and Jacobite party, of which Hearne was so staunch an adherent. He could not forgive the ringers for ringing on such an occasion. They were paid for their services, and so their personal views were really not in question, but even so three of them—George, Yates and Broughton—put principle before interest and refused to ring, thus gaining the approbation of Hearne, who said that so they avoided the censure of being poor mercenary ringers.

The defection of the three made room for Brickland, the schoolmaster, and also for William Crozier, a cork cutter and a new man in the company, 'and yet so skilful that he may deservedly be reckoned among the best Oxford ringers.'

The attempt, which was at Christ Church, was lost after 2,000 changes. On such a day Hearne would not dream of listening to the bells rung for such a cause, but he 'happened' to go through the White Walk and he heard several people say 'twas exceeding good ringing, and so when he came to the cloisters he did stand still, but only (as he is careful to point out) to see if the opinion was correct.

For sixteen minutes he listened, and as he did so he counted to his great satisfaction eighteen considerable faults, ending in a breakdown. 'Yet notwithstanding this they boast that 'twas extraordinary good ringing, and that they rang two thousand. I cannot say anything to the number of changes, nor for the goodness of the ringing before the last quarter of an hour and how bad that was I have fairly signified, and yet 'twas good enough for the day. I might likewise remark that the reward of these mercenary ringers was only 1s. 6d. a man.'

The contrast between the ringing at Christ Church and that at New disgusted Hearne. That the bells should have been rung disgracefully in honour of the two Catholic saints and the great medieval churchman, and excellently well in honour of William the Dutchman was more than he could stand. Vicars and his band were ashamed of what they did in September and proud of what they did in November, though they did not get the peal. So to punish them Hearne first of all found out who it was that blundered at New (though they tried to keep it secret) and then he set down their names in full that posterity might know and condemn. To-day we know about John Vicars' extra glass of beer and his two missed bobs as part of his punishment for having taken part in ringing on the wrong political side in 1734.

BOURNEMOUTH. — On November 4th, at 116, Alma Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes (ten six-scores and a 60—three callings), in 29 minutes: John V. Davis (aged 13), 1-2, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 3-4, Mary E. Davis (aged 10) 5-6. First quarter-peal 'in hand' for all.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. WAR-TIME LUNCHEON PARTY. 303rd Anniversary Celebrated.

In war-scarred London on Saturday, members of the College Youths celebrated the 303rd anniversary of the foundation of the Ancient Society. Following the precedent of last year, a luncheon was held and it was gratifying to find that even though the conditions are at the moment more difficult, a company of 34 attended the proceedings, which took place at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, in the heart of the city. The Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) presided, and among those present were the Rev. J. P. Pelloe, Messrs. A. B. Peck (hon. secretary), A. A. Hughes (hon. treasurer), G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary, Central Council), E. Alex. Young, E. P. Duffield, G. N. Price, J. E. L. Cockey, J. W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), J. A. Trollope, E. C. S. Turner, T. Groombridge, sen., Stafford H. Green, H. G. Miles, H. Hoskins, W. A. Hughes, W. H. Pasmore, J. Thomas, C. W. Roberts, H. Stannard, R. T. Newman, F. E. Collins, F. G. Cole, E. F. Pike, H. Reynolds, H. K. Markwick, T. Fox, H. Manning, M. Myers, H. Thompson, G. Murrell, W. Murrell and J. S. Goldsmith. Although there are rationing restrictions, they did not appear in the ample menu. During lunch the Master took wine with all who had been members of the society for over fifty years, but only Mr. R. W. Stannard, of Barking, could respond on this occasion.

The Master gave the toast of 'The King,' and then submitted that of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' They had met that day, he said, under trying circumstances and it was very nice to see such a gathering to celebrate the anniversary. Although they were comparatively small in numbers, the historians of the future would not be able to say that, even in the war, the society had broken its continuity (applause).

'Prosperity and Success to the Society' was drunk with enthusiasm. Mention was made of the fact that Canon Coleridge, whose absence was regretted, would be 83 on the following day, and that the birthday of the wife of a well-known member (Mrs. R. T. Hibbert) would also be celebrated on Sunday. The presence of Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon., was also noted, and the members were very pleased to welcome him among them again.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith conveyed to the gathering the greetings and good wishes of Mr. F. E. Dawe, one of the oldest members of the society. Mr. Dawe, he said, was ill and unable to write, but while he was not with them in the flesh, he was certainly with them in spirit.

Mr. F. G. Cole brought greetings from Mr. Alan R. Macdonald, now at Gloucester.

FIRST ABSENCE FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS.

The Hon. Secretary read letters from absent members. Canon Coleridge wrote that he did not remember missing a College Youths' November festival during the past 45 years or thereabouts, but he was afraid he had to give it a miss this year—to his great regret. He had promised to take the chair at a small dinner arranged by the Reading and Basingstoke College Youths, as he did last year. He managed it quite well on that occasion after the lunch in town, but rail facilities were not now what they were then, and he was afraid he would not be able to get back to Reading in time. He sent his hearty good wishes to the members, with congratulations to all who were endeavouring to keep the old flag flying. He was sorry to miss their cheering presence, but hoped better days may be in store for all.

Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere) wrote that he was very sorry not to be able, on account of other duties, to attend the lunch. It would be the first time he had ever missed a dinner or lunch since he became a member of the society. He hoped all who attended would have a happy time and he sent his best wishes, in the hope of a real reunion before long.

A letter, conveying good wishes and congratulations to the society on its 303rd anniversary, was also received from Capt. W. H. J. Hooton, now in Inverness-shire.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis, who had been expected, but who had been kept away by unforeseen circumstances.

The Hon. Secretary, in a short report, said the society had been trying to carry on despite the fact that church bell ringing had been entirely stopped. Before the ban they had been able to ring on Sundays. During the year they had managed to hold 25 meetings, at all of which they had made good use of handbells. They had made six new members during the year. It was a small number, but it was surprising that they had been able to make new members at all. Mr. Peck then mentioned the names of the members lost by death during the year, and the members stood for a minute in silence. The dead included many distinguished ringers. Their names are: Messrs. E. F. Poppy, C. F. Winney, A. Bowell, C. T. P. Brice, J. H. Cheesman, W. A. Cave, C. R. Goodburn, R. Rice, W. D. Smith, C. H. Howard, J. Holman, J. Chastey and H. Pankhurst. Mr. Peck concluded by saying that the society looked forward to the time when once again they would be able to ring the church bells of London (applause).

Mr. J. W. Jones said it was always a pleasure to him to meet the College Youths in London, where he never failed to receive the heartiest of welcomes. He said he did not suppose any gathering

in the whole country could be held under such circumstances as those under which they were meeting. What they used to undertake as a pleasure and a duty was now a crime. If they now ventured to ring a bell they would be up before the 'beak' (laughter). He hoped the ban would soon be removed and that they would be able to return to the towers (applause).

MASTERS OF CENTURIES AGO.

Mr. E. A. Young introduced a silent toast to the memory of Masters of the past. He mentioned particularly James Durrant, who was Master in 1840, William Pickard, Master in 1740, and Mathias Burnaby, who was in the chair as Master 300 years ago. He thought it was a commendable practice to recall these men at their annual festival, with the friendships they must have made and their possible misunderstandings, for it helped to embellish the past. James Durrant of a hundred years ago came into the chair, he said, at a time when there were no outstanding activities to recall, but William Pickard was Master at a brilliant period of the society's history, and his name was included among those who took part in some notable performances. He was made a member in 1730, elected steward in 1735 and Master in 1740. When they went back another hundred years, into the misty distance of the seventeenth century, he could not tell them much about the Master. Mathias Burnaby was one of the first group of five members elected when Lord Breerton was gathering ringers round him at the foundation of the society. He was inclined to think they were five officers and that the names of the generality of the members had been lost. At the Church of St. Martin Vintry, where the College Youths used to ring, a churchwarden for several years in the first quarter of the seventeenth century was John Burnaby, and it pleased him to think that that churchwarden was perhaps Mathias' father. Mr. Young concluded by asking the company to drink to the fragrant memory of the Masters of 100, 200 and 300 years ago.

The toast was honoured in silence.

CENTRAL COUNCIL ACTION ON BAN.

Mr. G. W. Fletcher, in expressing regret at the absence of the president of the Central Council, whom he had expected to see present, referred to the action which had been taken on behalf of the Council in connection with the ban on church bells. Various steps had been taken to obtain some modification of the ban. They had from September, 1939, endeavoured from the Council's point of view to maintain a friendly atmosphere with the Ministry of Home Security. In this they were successful until the 'blitzkrieg' started and the War Office stepped in and demanded that the bells should be used for one purpose only, to give warning of invasion. As late as November 5th he was in communication with the Ministry endeavouring to obtain some modification. He had pointed out that the defence of the country had, since the ban was imposed, been organised, and that the danger from surprise attack had receded. This particularly applied at week-ends, when most of the Home Guard was mobilised for training. He had received a reply from the Ministry of Home Security, which pointed out that the ban was imposed at the request of the War Office, and only that day the Minister was answering a question in the House whether church bells can sound again. 'I understand,' continued the letter, 'he is to say that he has consulted the Secretary of State for War, who desires that the present arrangements shall continue. I fear, therefore, that no useful purpose would be served by passing on your letter to the War Office to-day, but if you feel disposed to take the matter up at any subsequent time, I would suggest that you should write to the War Office direct.' Mr. Fletcher said he took that as an invitation to write to the War Office at some early date. If he could do anything in the matter they could depend upon it that he would endeavour to do it (applause).

Mr. A. A. Hughes said they all owed a debt of gratitude to the secretary of the Central Council for his efforts to get the bells rung again, if only on Sundays. He (Mr. Hughes) was perfectly certain that if anything more could be done, Mr. Fletcher would do it (applause).

'THE BATTLE OF LONDON.'

Mr. J. E. L. Cockey proposed a vote of thanks to the Master and congratulated him upon recovering so completely from his illness. He also congratulated Mr. Fenn on the successful way he had carried out his duties in these extraordinarily difficult times. He hoped when the historians of the future were writing the history of his period of the society's existence, that day's meeting would rank not least among all the meetings which had been held. They had met in the grave and critical times of the Battle of London, and he thought they might say, with all reverence, 'Where two or three are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them' (applause).

The business meeting of the society was then held, the Master presiding and 'strangers' being permitted to remain.

Among the letters read by the secretary was one from Mr. James George, forwarding a donation to the Challis Winney Memorial. He recalled that Mr. Winney, with both Mr. Peck and himself, were in the notable performance at Sherborne Abbey. Mr. George thanked the society for their kind letter upon his illness, and said that, although he now had only one leg, he was feeling as well as could be reasonably expected at the age when, on November 27th if he still survived, he would be 87.

In response to the request for information of members who had joined the Forces, (replied from Mr. Harold Frost and Mr. Clement

(Continued on next page.)

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

(Continued from previous page.)

Glenn were received. The latter wrote that since the last war he had been in business in France, but was now back again in the Navy. His interest in ringing was as keen as ever, and when this war was over he hoped, all being well, to get back to the ropes (and handbells) again and renew acquaintance with old ringing friends.

Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham, in thanking the society for good wishes conveyed to him, sent his kind regards and good wishes to the members. He added, 'My thoughts are often of you and of the happy times we have had in the past. I am glad to say that I am feeling better now, but, of course, anno domini will tell.'

Mr. G. W. Cecil (junior steward) sent his apologies for absence from the meetings of the society, owing to duties which kept him out of London.

Mr. W. H. Pasmore brought greetings from Mr. Tom Hibbert and Mr. W. Hibbert, and also announced, to the great pleasure of the meeting, that his nephew, Mr. Bert Pasmore (son of the late Mr. H. R. Pasmore), who is a prisoner of war in Germany, was quite well, when he wrote to his mother some few weeks ago.

Mr. T. S. R. Harris, of Shirehampton, Bristol, was elected a member of the society.

The nomination of officers, which had been adjourned from the last meeting, took place, and all the retiring officers were renominated: Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes; hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck; senior steward, Mr. J. Waugh; junior steward, Mr. G. W. Cecil.

Mr. H. R. Newton was again nominated as one of the trustees, and Mr. H. R. Miles was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. C. F. Winney.

Messrs J. E. L. Cockey and G. N. Price were elected auditors.

Mr. W. H. Pasmore suggested that, as there was no competition for any of the offices, the election should take place that day, when there were far more members present than were likely to attend the next meeting.

When the question of breaking the rules was raised, the secretary replied that they had already broken the rules by postponing nomination day, and, in any case, that meeting was the first after the annual dinner, which was the meeting at which the elections should take place.

It was thereupon unanimously resolved to elect the nominated officers.

It was also decided to hold the next meeting at the headquarters (the Coffee Pot) that day fortnight (November 23rd) at 3 p.m.

This terminated the business and many of the members went on to the headquarters room, where handbell ringing was indulged in.

CHALLIS WINNEY MEMORIAL.**TABLET FOR ST. CLEMENT DANES' BELFRY.**

Progress in connection with the Challis Winney Memorial was reported at the annual meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday. It is proposed to place a tablet in the ringing chamber of St. Clement Danes' Church, Strand, and the wording has been settled. The tablet will be surmounted by a plaque bearing Mr. Winney's portrait in relief.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that the Rector of St. Clement Danes' had sanctioned the idea in principle, and all that now remained was to get his approval of the design. A draft of the inscription had been submitted to Dr. F. C. Eales, secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Churches, who had made some very useful suggestions, and one of the members of the Memorial Committee, Mr. E. A. Young, had prepared the sketch. The tablet would be in bronze with the letters in relief. The artist for the plaque was Miss Muriel Hiley, who made the exceedingly fine bust of their late secretary, Mr. Cockerill.

The sketch of the tablet and the plaster model of the plaque were passed round the meeting for inspection. The tablet is to bear the dates on either side of the portrait: 'Born May 17th, 1858. Died January 16th, 1940.' The subsequent wording is as follows:—

CHALLIS FREDERICK WINNEY.
OF STOKE-BY-NAYLAND
SUFFOLK

A TALENTED RINGER AND CONDUCTOR
AND AN ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBER OF THE
ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TOWER FOR
OVER 60 YEARS AND FOR 50 YEARS WAS
A MEMBER OF THE BAND OF RINGERS AT
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, LONDON

THIS TABLET
IS ERECTED BY HIS BROTHER RINGERS AND
OTHERS IN LIVELY APPRECIATION
OF HIS HIGH STANDARD AS A
CHURCHMAN, FRIEND AND BELLRINGER

FOR ALL GOOD MEN
PRAISED BE
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.
AMEN.

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(12th year
of reign of
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

If Hitler still thinks that Londoners are panic stricken and starving he should have visited the City on Saturday to meet the College Youths. They celebrated their anniversary with a feast and there wasn't any sign of panic, except when it was announced that draught beer was running out.

As to starvation, well, as one member put it after he had finished his meal, 'They say there's a war on, but you wouldn't think it after this lunch.'

Not far from where the College Youths lunched, there was another similar gathering—of less importance. The new Lord Mayor was entertaining his guests, and the Prime Minister was making an important speech.

We are very pleased to say that Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford, continues to make an excellent recovery after his recent accident. He was discharged from hospital last Saturday.

Many happy returns of the day to our leading lady ringer, Mrs. George Fletcher, whose birthday was last Tuesday; and also to Mr. Harry Chapman, who was born on the same day of the month in 1863.

For many years John Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major was considered the longest peal in the method with the tenors together, but John Thorpe eventually produced a 8,544, which was rung at Liversedge in Yorkshire on November 15th, 1873.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. One was in seven Minor methods, one was Grandsire Doubles, three Grandsire Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major, one Kent Treble Bob Royal, and one Duffield Royal. The Kent Royal was at St. Giles', Camberwell, George Newton conducted, and the band included Henry Dains, Arthur Jacob, Benjamin Foskett and other well-known Cumberland Youths. The Duffield Royal was at Aston, with A. P. Heywood as conductor. William Wakley and Joseph Griffin from Burton took part, and Birmingham men (among them Henry Bastable, Thomas Russam and Thomas Reynolds) made up the company.

Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal of Major ever rung by men of either university. It was a 5,040 of Bob Major on handbells at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was the first peal in hand by A. H. F. Boughey. H. Law James conducted.

The anniversaries of four interesting Norwich peals fall in this week-end. On November 16th, 1737, Samuel Thurston's 7,360 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, with the thirty 7-8's before, was rung at St. Andrew's; on November 17th, 1760, the first peal of Imperial the Third Major was rung at St. Giles'; on the same date in 1835 the first peal of London Surprise was rung at St. Andrew's; and on November 18th, 1824, Reeves' 8,448 Treble Bob Major was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany. John Webster, who was mentioned in our recent articles on the Norwich ringers, was in the Imperial and at its conclusion he ceased his bell and fell down dead.

Mr. C. A. Phillips tells us that the idea of asking for three of the older members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild to come to the branch annual meeting prepared to give their reminiscences, to fill up the time between handbells, was suggested by the particularly interesting editions of 'The Ringing World' of this past year.

The apparatus used in the belfry at Glasgow Cathedral consists of a clapper stay across the mouth of each bell secured by a wing-nut, with a tripper attached to the headstock, and a half-moon fixed on the wall, connected by a wire to a small bell in the ringing chamber. It is not a war-time innovation, as open practice has never been allowed. It is quite a satisfactory arrangement. A practice meeting is to be held at the Cathedral on November 23rd.

AIR INVASION WARNING. AGREEMENT IN THE DOVER AREA.

To the Editor.

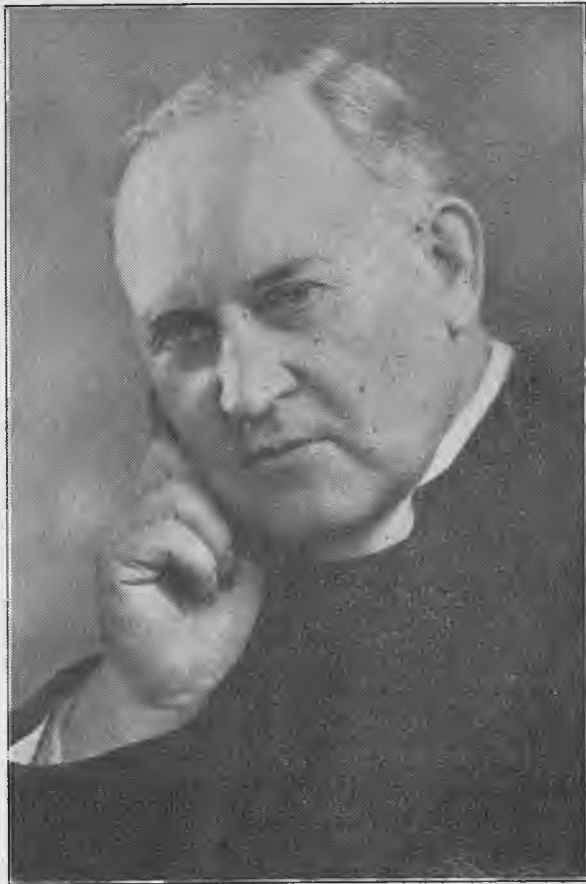
Dear Sir,—Reading an account in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' of Bristol's plan for use of church bells in connection with air invasion warning, may I ask if a further discussion can be given. In view of the ideal of church teaching and the aim of all associations in the past, that the church bells should be put to their proper use. What does this proper use mean? Are we to believe that the bells were ever placed by our forefathers in the towers to alarm the people of England? I cannot think any ringer would believe it. They are England's greatest gift, let us stand by it. The difficulties were put to the authorities here in Dover in the early stages and of the damage that might occur, etc., and complete agreement was arrived at.

It was further pointed out that it was not required that ringers should be assembled to ring a full peal of bells, although at first the Ministry of Security thought that it might be the best method of alarm. To-day we can see clearly that a peal of bells should not be used. If bells are required, by all means let one bell do the duty. If the full volume of sound is required in any district, pull the bell up. That will meet the situation, but keep assemblies down as far as is possible. The best and most effective alarm is the bugles. Buglers could be moved much quicker by motor-cycle or car and there would be no need for unlocking and locking churches, gates, etc. Valuable time would thus be saved, but I am hoping now that no such action with the church bells will ever have to be taken.

CHARLES TURNER.

Dover.

THE LATE ARCHDEACON PARRY.



The Ven. Archdeacon Parry, Rector of Bigby, whose death we recorded last week, was vice-president of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and a member of the Central Council.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT MEET AT KINGSTON.

Despite an extremely small attendance and inclement weather, a few members of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association spent an enjoyable time at the district meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday. After ringing a couple of courses of Grandsire Triples on handbells, those present attended a short evensong, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. B. Scrutton.

Eight members of the district, accompanied by the Vicar, sat down to an excellent tea at the Zeeta Cafe, in the course of which the Vicar welcomed the visitors to his parish.

The company then returned to the tower, where a short business meeting was held, presided over by the District Ringing Master, Mr. D. Cooper.

The Chairman referred to the sad loss to the association of Mr. J. Beams, of Ewell, who died on August 3rd. Mr. Beams had been a member of the association for 50 years and during that time he had been of great assistance to the association.

The problem of the safety of the association's peal books, most of which are in Reigate Church, was next discussed, and finally it was resolved to request the General Committee to consider the matter of a safer depository for these valuable records.

After some discussion it was decided to leave the arrangement of future meetings to the committee.

Mr. E. G. Talbot drew attention to the suggestion in 'The Ringing World' of a week or so ago regarding the holding of meetings of a few neighbouring towers for handbell practice with a view to keeping interest in the association alive in each locality. The meeting considered the suggestion a useful one.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar for welcoming the association and for his presence at tea, and to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne for making all arrangements. Members then dispersed, taking advantage of the last hour of daylight to make their way home.

THE BAN.

HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION.

The following is from the Official Report of the Debates in the House of Commons on the subject:—

Sir J. Jarvis asked the Home Secretary whether he will now permit the church bells of England to ring again.

Mr. Mabane: No, sir. I am advised by the military authorities that the grounds on which the original order was made still hold good.

CHURCH TOWERS AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested to read your leading article in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' on the refusal of the Home Secretary to remove the ban on church bells.

There is another point of view, which to my mind is a very important one, and one the Home Secretary has probably overlooked.

By making the church bells of England a signal for invasion, every church tower in the country has been made a military object of the 'first water,' and the enemy is quite justified in bombing every one of them to pieces. If an army was going to make a surprise attack on a fort, the first object would be to silence the sentinels who were responsible for giving the alarm. That is what our churches are to-day, 'sentinels,' and under the circumstances the enemy are justified in attacking them.

I do not think it will make a scrap of difference whether they are military objects or not, with all the indiscriminate bombing that is going on, but I should like to see the excuse for bombing such 'national treasures' removed.

R. RICHARDSON.

Surfleet, Lincs.

ASSOCIATIONS TOO DOCILE.

Dear Sir,—The report of the Midland Counties Association meeting at Nottingham in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World' makes good reading, especially the part which reports that the secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council regarding the rescinding of the ban on church bells.

My own feeling regarding the ban is that our Diocesan Guilds have generally been inclined to accept the ruling in far too docile a manner, and it is unfortunate that the Central Council has not been called together to discuss the whole position, and, if thought necessary, give a lead to the various Guilds, in addition to a direct approach to the Ministry of Home Security.

The many difficulties attending the use of church bells in the event of invasion are already well known to all readers of 'The Ringing World,' but it is very doubtful whether those responsible for making the Order have yet been convinced of such difficulties, or have been offered alternative suggestions which are more workable. That is where the Central Council comes in—and in spite of the view that during war time church bells are not vitally important, I think the Central Council should recognise not only the wishes of a large body of ringers, but also a strong feeling on the part of the public, especially in country districts, that the bells should be rung for service on Sunday at least.

It would be easily possible to use the present 'Alert' sirens to give warning of the landing of parachute troops—by varying the signal. At Dover they already do so to differentiate between air raid 'Alerts' and shelling 'Alerts.'

Whilst we may be able to maintain interest in ringing by the use of handbells, etc., there is no gainsaying the fact that our art will be very seriously handicapped by this unreasonable ban. We shall be unable to obtain the necessary recruits—and if we could, we cannot properly teach them.

I am glad, therefore, to note the growing tendency towards more definite action by responsible bodies to get this ban lifted. I hope it will continue to grow, and if we make noise enough I believe we shall succeed. The people who hate the sound of the bells have laughed at us quite long enough!

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

Bath, November 3rd, 1940.

Mr. Smallwood's letter was written before the question put in the House of Commons on the subject. That question, as our readers know, brought a refusal to lift the ban, but the statement of the hon. secretary of the Central Council at the College Youths' luncheon leads to the hope that the door is not entirely shut against reconsideration of the matter in the near future.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

KILLED IN AN AIR RAID.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED BACON

We regret to record the death of Mr. Alfred Bacon, at a Norfolk village, at the age of 57 years. During an air raid, a bomb crashed through the roof of the Church Room, of which Mr. Bacon was caretaker, scoring a direct hit on the billiard table, under which he had taken shelter.

By his death, the Wisbech branch of the Ely Diocesan Association has lost a valued member. He was elected in 1919 and regularly attended the meetings of the branch, which he served for some years as Ringing Master. Although he was always willing to take part in peal attempts (having rung about 200), he was perhaps at his best when teaching beginners, for which he had a natural aptitude.

The association was represented at the funeral by the district secretary (Mr. W. Cousins) and Messrs. E. Barker and J. Buckenham, of the District Committee.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SOCIAL EXPERIMENT PROVES GREAT SUCCESS.

Instead of holding the usual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, a meat tea and social evening took place in Leeds on October 12th. The General Committee at their previous meeting had decided to try the experiment in view of the fact that the Snowdon Dinner was abandoned for the duration of the war, and also having regard to the ban placed on ringing. It was decided to commence the proceedings at the early hour of 4.30 p.m. in order to reduce to a minimum the difficulties and inconvenience caused by the black-out.

That the committee's decision was fully justified was abundantly proved, as no fewer than 51 sat down to the excellent meat tea provided at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, and more still attended as the evening wore on. Among those present were Canon C. C. Marshall (president of the association), Mr. L. W. G. Morris (general secretary), Mr. W. Barton (peal secretary), Messrs. P. J. Johnson and F. Cryer (vice-presidents), Messrs. R. Rayment and H. S. Morley (district secretaries), Messrs. G. Robinson, J. A. Teale, T. W. Strangeway, H. Lofthouse, J. Hardcastle, H. Davison, W. Woodhead, F. Seager, A. J. Taylor, J. F. Harvey, F. G. Sherwood, W. O. Talbot, Mrs. J. Cotterell, Miss L. K. Bowling and Miss N. Askham.

Afterwards the president explained the purport of the gathering, pointing out that the General Committee in deciding to hold it had in mind the great need for keeping alive the interests of the association in these difficult times. He was glad indeed to see so many present, and it was also a very great encouragement to the officers of the association to note that interest was being maintained so well. Continuing, the President said he hoped all present would enjoy the evening's programme, which, incidentally, consisted of entirely local talent. It would be a 'free and easy,' and all present would have the opportunity of fraternising just as they wished.

The programme commenced with an excellent course of Grandsire Caters on handbells by Miss L. K. Bowling 1-2, W. Barton 3-4, P. J. Johnson 5-6, L. W. G. Morris 7-8, W. O. Talbot 9-10. Among members who contributed to the programme were Miss N. Askham, who delighted the audience with 'I heard you go by,' 'A little coon's prayer,' 'For you alone' and 'Billy Boy.' Mr. John Allison (violin) gave excellent renderings of Fugue (Tartini-Kreisler), Variation on a theme by Corelli (Tartini-Kreisler), Nocturne by Chopin, and 'Souvenir' by Drdla. Mr. Sutcliffe (tenor), a member of St. Chad's choir, Far Headingley, was greatly applauded for his charming renderings of 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes,' 'Linden Lea' and 'Passing by.' Mr. Kershaw Thomas (conjurer) mystified the audience with a large variety of tricks. The more simple he tried to make them appear, the more mysterious they became until one began to wonder whether one was in Leeds or Bradford, or both. More handbell ringing was interspersed among the items, mingled with social chat, and everybody enjoyed the evening immensely. As usual on such occasions, time passed all too quickly, and a memorable and most successful evening was brought to a close by an excellent contribution by the president, entitled 'The Skye Boat Song.'

YORKSHIRE VETERAN PASSES ON.

MR. WALTER POPPLEWELL, OF CALVERLEY.

Calverley, a village on the outskirts of Leeds, has lost by death another of its old and valued ringers. Earlier in the year Charles Pratt, doyen of Calverley ringers, passed away; now his most able lieutenant and close companion, Walter Popplewell, has been called to rest. He died on Sunday, November 3rd, after an illness of only four days.

Mr. Popplewell (or 'Walt' as he was more familiarly known) was an excellent ringer and conductor. Keenly critical of bad or indifferent striking, he was, nevertheless, a most likeable man and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a staunch supporter of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society and was a member of the local company at Calverley for nearly fifty years.

Although he was not a prolific peal ringer, his list covered a variety of methods. Amongst them are London Treble Bob, Prince Albert and Rose of England, methods which, although little known and rarely practised in these days, were great favourites of the old Calverley company. He also rang peals of Cambridge and Superlative, in addition to the 'standard' methods. His modest total of 41 peals (11 of which he conducted) is by no means an indication of his abilities either as a ringer or as a conductor.

Mr. Popplewell will be remembered by many members of the Central Council as one of 'Tom Maude's party,' and rang in what is believed to be the only peal on the bells at Stratford-on-Avon, when the party was on one of its Whitsuntide tours.

The funeral took place at Calverley Parish Church, and many ringers were there to pay their last respects to an old comrade. The towers represented were Arnley, Bramley, Pudsey, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Guiseley, Shipley and Idle. Four members of the local company acted as bearers.

The president of the Yorkshire Association (Canon C. C. Marshall) assisted the Vicar at the funeral service, and four members of the Yorkshire Association, Messrs. J. Thackray, E. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler, rang a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells in the nave of the church at the close of the service.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LADD.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD'S GREAT LOSS.

The Lincoln Diocesan Guild has lost one of its oldest members and most ardent workers through the death of Mr. George Ladd, of Pinchbeck, who, as recorded last week, passed away rather suddenly on Thursday, October 31st, at the age of 74 years. Although he had been in failing health for some time, he had not been laid up. On the morning of his death he cycled to Spalding, and while there was taken ill and brought home by car. He lay down on the couch and very shortly afterwards passed away.

A native of Pinchbeck, Mr. Ladd had spent the whole of his life in that village, where he carried on a business of painter and paper-hanger.

At the age of 20 he started to ring at Pinchbeck, there being five bells in the tower at that time. As he felt he was not making sufficient progress there, he used to attend the practices at Spalding, where he learnt to ring Grandsire Triples and by perseverance soon became master of other methods.

He was one of the very few remaining members who attended the inaugural meeting in the Chapter House at Lincoln Cathedral in 1899, when the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers was formed. About that time he was elected captain of the Pinchbeck belfry, which office he held until the time of his death. Always willing to teach, he was never so happy as when he could get a youngster on the end of a bell rope and teach him the rudiments of the art.

For the past 30 years he had faithfully filled the office of secretary to the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Guild, during which time he had not missed a single meeting.

In June, 1936, to mark his achieving 50 years of bellringing and in appreciation of his services as secretary, the members of the Elloe Deaneries Branch presented him with a grandmother clock, suitably inscribed.

Altogether he took part in upwards of 180 peals and was one of the pioneers of peal ringing in the early days of the Guild, when peal ringing was peal ringing and often meant cycling 20 or 30 miles each way on an old cushion-tired bicycle. On one occasion he missed the last train at Heckington and had to walk 19 miles home, arriving about 2.30 a.m. to find his wife waiting up for him.

He was appointed people's warden at St. Mary's Church, Pinchbeck, in 1920 and was chosen Vicar's warden in 1937. During that time he did a great work for the church.

He was one of the prime movers in the scheme for the augmentation of St. Mary's bells from six to eight, and one of his last jobs was to paint the framework of the bells he loved so well.

For over 50 years Mr. Ladd had also been an Oddfellow, being a member of the 'Haven of Happiness' Lodge (M.U.), Pinchbeck, and for the past 30 years had been permanent secretary, always keeping his records in a very efficient manner.

The funeral took place on Monday, November 4th, at Pinchbeck. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. Cresswell Gee, who is president of the Elloe Deaneries Branch, assisted by Canon B. G. Nicholas, R.D., a vice-president. The service was fully choral, and the hymns, 'Let saints on earth in concert sing' and 'Jesus lives; no longer now,' and the 23rd Psalm were sung.

In addition to the family mourners, the service was attended by numerous friends, including many Oddfellows and representatives from practically every tower in the branch.

Being of a genial disposition, Mr. Ladd made a host of friends, and his loss will be felt for a long time to come. He leaves a widow and one son, to whom much sympathy is extended.

R. R.

EWHRUST LOSES TWO RINGERS.

LONG ASSOCIATION WITH A SURREY TOWER.

Ewhurst, Surrey, has been very unfortunate in the belfry lately, having lost two of its ringers by the death of Mr. Frank Francis and Mr. David Girling. Mr. Francis was knocked down by a car and badly injured. He died as a result in Guildford Hospital on October 22nd. He was interred at Ewhurst on Saturday, November 2nd, when Mr. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) represented the deceased's ringing friends.

Mr. Francis was an old 'Winchester' member, having joined that Diocesan Guild in 1896. He started to learn to ring at Ewhurst at about the same time as Mr. Whittington in or about 1876, and both rang their first 720 of Bob Minor together at Ewhurst in the year 1878, there being at that time a band at Ewhurst capable of ringing several Plain Minor methods.

Frank Francis (like Mr. Whittington) was the eldest of three brothers, all six becoming later on ringers at Ewhurst, and many 720's were rung on Ewhurst bells by the brothers of the two families. The Francis family had been closely connected with Ewhurst bells for many years, as Frank Francis' father and grandfather were both sextons at Ewhurst and ringers. The father had on several occasions related to Mr. Whittington the circumstances in connection with the fall of the spire in the year 1837, of which he had a vivid recollection, with the four bells of that date lying in the churchyard.

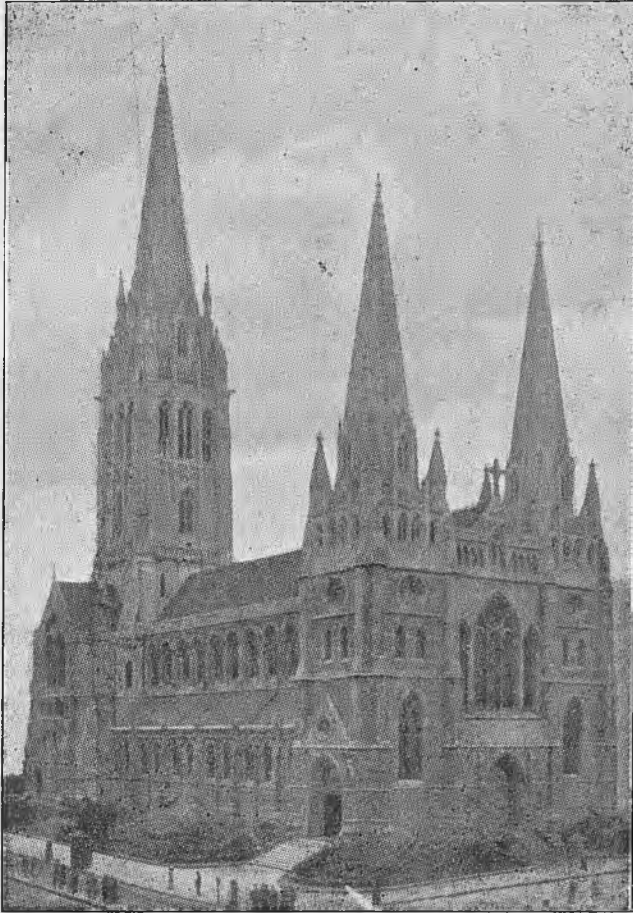
David Girling was the verger at Ewhurst Church. He was a R.M. reservist, and was killed by enemy action at Deal. He was a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, a very cheery soul, and will be much missed at Ewhurst.

AN HISTORIC PERFORMANCE.

FIRST PEAL OF CINQUES IN AUSTRALIA.

Last Monday was the anniversary of one of the outstanding performances in the annals of ringing. On Armistice Day, November 11th, 1934, a commemorative peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne—the first peal on twelve bells outside the British Isles. It was the culminating achievement of the tour which the party of English ringers made to the Commonwealth in connection with the Melbourne centenary.

Much, of course, had happened between the tourists' first arrival in Australia and this triumph at Melbourne. The voyage had been a pleasant and interesting one. The ringers had enjoyed their first sight of Eastern lands, and the sea had been extremely kind all the way—well, very nearly all the way. There were, of course, some occasions when some of the party were not quite so happy, but for the most part they thoroughly enjoyed the novel life.



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

The bells are in the south-west tower.

The overwhelming hospitality which they received in Australia began as soon as they touched land at Freemantle, and it lasted until they finally left the shores of the Commonwealth. The tourists will never forget the kindnesses lavished upon them by all whom they met, by Governors of States, Lord Mayors, Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and laymen alike. It wasn't just a ringing excursion; it was a triumphal march.

The ringing which had been done at Perth and Adelaide was of very limited character, on account of the short stay which the ship made in port, but there are some things, some of them quite minor things, which are still vivid in memory, such, for instance, as the oscillation of the brick tower of Perth Cathedral, the strenuous day in Adelaide, with the broadcasting from Walkerville, and that fairy-like view of the city at night, with thousands of street lamps twinkling below us in the miles of tree lined streets.

Then there was the landing at Melbourne with the enthusiastic reception from those great-hearted people who, during our short stay, took us to their hearts and whom we still count as our warmest friends. Things happened so fast in Melbourne that time went like the wind, and, having scored the first peal of Boh Royal in Australia

and made two abortive attempts for Cinques, we went on to Hobart in Tasmania, where the whole city seemed to take us to its bosom. Two peals and two rather unfortunate losses marked the principal ringing, but the days on the island were unforgettable for other reasons, and one still marvels how new friends could have crowded so much hospitality into so short a time.

And then back to Melbourne, where the principal task of the whole tour lay before the party. It was part of the original plan to attempt a peal on Armistice Day—the day when the Duke of Gloucester was to open the Shrine of Remembrance, which is Victoria's tribute to the 18,000 men and women of the State who went forth in the Great War of 1914-18 and came not back.

It was not until our arrival and a preliminary practice that we dared think of attempting a peal of Cinques, and as our hopes rose of getting out of the Australian ringers and the visitors a band capable of twelve-bell ringing, so the chances of fitting a peal into the Armistice Day programme began to recede, for Armistice Day fell on Sunday. That was the reason we tried to ring a twelve-bell peal before we visited Tasmania. The first attempt was lost, after ringing an hour and a quarter, through a shift course occurring; the second came to grief after just an hour through the breaking of the clapper shaft of the eleventh.

So it was we returned from Tasmania, hoping against hope that we could start once more for the peal on Armistice Day as originally designed. It was found that there was just a sufficient interval between two of the services for an attempt. And so, after ringing with the bells half-muffled for the Armistice service, the muffles were removed, and the peal, the greatest ambition of all the band, was rung.

With all reverence, we felt that a special Providence lay behind our success. This peal on this day was the great goal of the great adventure. Our previous efforts, precipitated by serious doubts as to the possibility of an Armistice Day attempt, had come to nought. Success was kept for the great commemoration, but without the two earlier attempts our efforts on November 11th would inevitably have been frustrated. They served the purpose of fitting the band the better for the task, but, more than all, without them the Armistice Day peal would have been lost by the breaking of the eleventh clapper. Never had ringers more justification to be proud of a peal. Remember the circumstances and the conditions, the journey that had been made, the unique composition of the company—half from England, half Australian, with one lady from the homeland, one native born—and, above all, the occasion. 'This performance,' I wrote at the time and still think, 'cannot but rank as one of the historical performances in the whole annals of peal ringing.'

It may not be out of place to recall the names of the band who took part in the peal: J. S. Goldsmith (conductor) 1, Mrs. R. Richardson 2, C. Sharples 3, Miss Frey Shimmin 4, J. L. Murray 5, A. A. Savage 6, W. H. Fussell 7, J. W. Spencer 8, G. Martin 9, F. Boughton 10, R. Richardson 11, E. B. Knott 12. The ringers of 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 belonged to the Melbourne band. Miss Shimmin, an eighteen-year-old Australian lady, had never rung a peal before. Mr. Jim Murray had called the first peal ever rung in Australia, which was at Sydney on April 9th, 1890—44 years before. J. S. G.

'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN,' AN ELIZABETHAN LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letters in your last two issues on the subject of the 'Nine Tailors' are exceptionally interesting. The concrete evidence produced by Mr. Hibbert disposes of Mr. Trollope's philological objection to the use of the word 'tellers' as applied to the strokes of the bell. On the other hand, Mr. Trollope's discovery of the French proverb appears quite conclusive in refutation of the theory that 'tailors' is a corruption of 'tellers,' as there is no French word that could conceivably give rise to a similar corruption.

At the same time, by a curious irony Mr. Trollope's quotation from a play dated 1607, while it serves to expose a modern fallacy, tends to confirm an ancient legend of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have exercised her royal wit in addressing a deputation of *eighteen* tailors with the words, 'Good morning, gentlemen *both*!'

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

IN USE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

Dear Sir,—Mr. R. T. Hibbert's letter is very interesting, but I hope he will not mind my pointing out that it does not in any way affect my statement that the proverbial saying about nine tailors making a man had nothing to do with the death knell and its tellers. What happened 60 years ago cannot throw much light on the origin of a saying which had been in general use already for hundreds of years.

It is pretty certain that parish clerks and sextons did call the three times three strokes 'tellers,' but we must remember that it was an ordinary English word which meant 'counters.' There is no evidence that the word was in any special way associated in the minds of ordinary people with the death knell; at any rate, it does not appear in that connection in any printed book. Further, Mr. Hibbert does not suggest that ordinary people did go about saying that 'Nine tellers mark a man' (or 'mean a man'), though, of course, they knew what the three times three strokes signified. And if they did know, why should they be such unmitigated asses as to say that nine tailors make a man?

J. A. TROLLOPE.

THE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS. PEALS IN METHODS WITH ABCDE FALSE COURSE ENDS.

In the last article on Surprise Major methods we examined the groups of false course ends which we gave in our issue of November 1st and we showed that when we are composing peals in Surprise methods which have the false ends ABCD and E and are using full natural courses joined together by bobs at M, W and R (or 1, O and F) we are limited to thirty particular courses, contained in six similar groups, and to fifteen Q sets of bobs.

We set these out in detail, and now we want our readers to understand exactly what the groups of course ends, with the dashes for bobs alongside, mean. The groups are not round blocks made up of courses joined together by the bobs shown beside them. Nor do we mean that in our peal the course ends will necessarily be brought up by the bobs which we have marked. What then, do we mean?

We assume that the reader will know what composing by natural course ends is, but if he is in doubt he can turn to the article of March 15th last, where it is explained.

We will now suppose that we want to compose a peal in a Surprise method which has the ABCDE false course ends. The tables which have been printed give us the natural courses which are the material from which we can construct our peal, and they also give us the bobs which we can make. It does not matter what our method is, whether it is a second's place method, or an eighth's place method, or in what order the positions of the bobs come. But for the sake of explanation we will assume that the lead ends and bob making positions are the same as in Bob Major, the Wrong coming first, then the Middle, and then the Right to bring up the course ends.

We shall require three columns to work out our peal, one for the Wrong, one for the Middle, and one for the Right.

We start with the plain course. Turn to the tables and see whether there is a bob marked W after 23456. There is; so we transpose 23456 by 52436 (which is the natural course end produced by a bob W), and write the result in the first column.

We are now in the natural course 52436. It occurs in the group FI. See if a bob is marked after it in the table. There is; so we transpose 52436 by 43652 (the natural course end produced by a bob M) and write the result, 42635, in the second column.

A bob R is shown in the table after the course end 42635; so we transpose by 42356 (the natural course end produced by a bob R) and write the result, 64235, in the third column.

No bobs at Wrong or Middle are shown after the course end 64235; so we write that row unaltered in the first and second columns, and as there is a bob R we transpose by 42356, and write the result, 26435, in the third column. So we go on, making bobs or not, accordingly as they are shown or not shown in our table.

			W	M	R
52436	42635	64235	—	—	—
64235	64235	26435	—	—	—
26435	26435	42635	—	—	—
34625	64523	56423	—	—	—
	etc.				

After we have gone on like this for some time we shall come back to rounds, and still not have included all the thirty courses from the table. To get the remainder we take any one of them from the table (it does not matter which), treat it as we have just done, and we shall produce all the missing courses in one round block.

When we are transposing with the Middle in front of the Wrong we shall find that one of the two blocks we produce is Middleton's peal of Cambridge, and we shall have something more to say about that later.

If we examine the bobs of the two blocks we produce, whatever the method, we shall find that they consist of the fifteen Q sets we gave in our article last week.

The noticeable thing about these Q sets is that whenever in any course two of the five bells are next each other in their natural coursing order and a bob can be made without disturbing them it is made. Otherwise no bob is made. For instance, if the second is a third's place bell and the third is a fifth's place bell a bob is made at the Middle. Or when the fourth is a sixth's place bell and the second is a fourth's place bell a bob is made at the Wrong. In reckoning the coursing order the seventh and eighth are ignored and the fifth's place bell taken as being next after the sixth's place bell.

These things suggest (they do not prove) that composition in methods with A, B, C, D, E false course ends will be on the 5-part plan and that the part ends will be the five rows in which 23456 are in the same coursing order, that is the five rows in group A 1. We shall find that this actually is so and there is little doubt that not only the general characteristics of the composition but also the ability of the method to produce true peals, notwithstanding the number of the false course ends, is ultimately traceable to the Bob Major lead ends and the symmetry of the methods.

If we bob all the possible fifteen Q sets we shall find that they join the thirty true courses into two Round Blocks. They differ in appearance and size according to the lead ends of the method and the order in which the calling positions W, M, R or I, F, O come, but the composition is the same and in every instance the two blocks can be joined into one by the omission of one Q set at either W or M involving the loss of one course.

In methods which have a Clear Proof Scale and therefore sixty available true courses there are sixty possible Q sets to be made. If all are bobbed either twelve or thirty round blocks will be produced according to the order in which the bob making positions come. To produce the maximum length of fifty-nine courses, only 29 Q sets are necessary, though a larger number may be used. Therefore, it is possible to select a great variety of Q sets from the available sixty to produce peals, and this variety is much increased when compositions of no more than ordinary length are required. But with methods which have A, B, C, D, E false course ends every Q set is required except one, with the result that there is but one composition, the omission of a Q set at W instead of M giving only the reverse variation and the particular Q set at M or W omitted only varying the particular parts of the five part blocks in which the two Round Blocks are joined together.

Having got the possible extent of twenty-nine courses we can reduce it in various ways to the twenty-three courses required for an ordinary length peal by the omission of Q sets or the calling of the extra bob men-

(Continued on next 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.

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

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 2.15 p.m. Six 'silent' tower bells also available. Service in church 3.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Will all members please make a special effort to be present at this meeting?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A comfortable room at the Plough, Shilton, will be available on Saturday, Nov. 16th, from 3 p.m., for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Please bring own tea and 'eats.' — D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting, Saturday, November 16th, at St. James', Poole. Handbells in the Old Rectory from 3. Service at 4; address by the Rector, Rev. E. C. Harris. Tea at 4.45, in the Old Rectory, followed by usual business. Reminiscences by Mr. Martin Stewart, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Forfitt and others.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

tioned earlier. We can also effect reduction by the use of bobs Before or Home, as in the familiar case of Middleton's peal of Cambridge. These reductions and variation will depend on the particular lead end of the method, but they do not constitute anything more than variations of the original composition and, broadly speaking, there is but one composition for all the methods with A, B, C, D, E false course ends. This does not, however, exclude the possibility of producing distinct peals by using true parts of false courses in methods where the incidence of the falseness allows of its being done.

There is one point which, to avoid confusion, we have not yet noticed. We said that in composing peals we are restricted to the six groups A1, B1, C1, D1, E1 and F1. That is true; but it is conditional on A1 being used as the first and fundamental group. We can put any one of the other five groups in the place of A1 and that will give us different sets of six groups for our use, and different course ends to our peal, but it will not alter the composition. All that happens is that our peal will start from a different course end. If we want cyclical part ends we must put group C1 in the place of A1.

[This article is based on one of the chapters in the new Surprise book and it shows that a very large number of the peals which have been rung for new Surprise methods are really the same composition. For instance, if we bob the fifteen Q sets shown (less one at the M or at the W) we get the long peal of Maximus that was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne.]

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.

OXFORD GUILD.—Newbury Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business meeting.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting, followed by social evening, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Meadowcroft, of Newhey, to commence 6.30 p.m. Ringers and friends welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

BUSHEY, HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at the Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 2.30. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice (whether learner or professor) in all methods, as well as social chats. Tea can be arranged. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—A ten-bell practice, with the apparatus, will be held on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m., tenor 32½ cwt. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Regular weekly practice, Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m.—Ernest A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at Earl Shilton Church on November 23rd at 5 p.m. for a silent tower-bell practice, followed at 6.30 by handbells, etc., at the nearby Plough Inn.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—F. G. Cole is now living at 114, Elmbridge Road, Gloucester.

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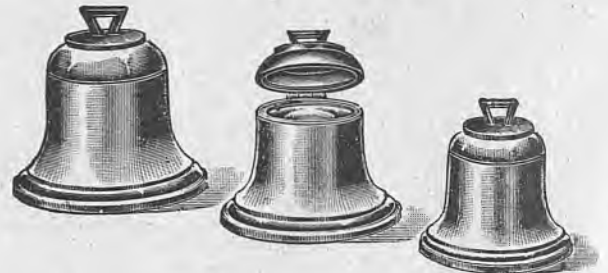
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