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OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

One of the most encouraging features in these sombre days, when ringers must forgo all active participation in their beloved art, is the interest so many of them have taken in what we may call side issues. This interest is shown by the letters we have received from all sorts of people dealing with such things as ball bearings, death knells, the speed of ringing, minor fives and the rest. In normal times we should probably look on these and similar topics as quite interesting subjects to chat about when ringers forgather at their meeting places, but hardly of any importance in the real life and activities of the Exercise; but they remind us how very varied are the interests which are more or less closely connected with the belfry, and how very diverse are the attractions bells present to different people.

To some, method ringing and peal ringing are the great attractions; to others, composition and the science of ringing are all absorbing. Archæology and history attract some; and to yet others, the social life is the one thing which makes the whole worth while. To most of us perhaps these things appeal in varying degree, though we stress some and neglect the others.

In these dark days the life of the Exercise is largely at a standstill; but we have faith, and we look forward to the time (not, we hope, so very far distant) when we can resume our activities. But we shall not be able to do so if we simply sit still and wait. When the war is over there will be a new world, with new thoughts, new outlooks, and new interests. A cataclysm like this brings more fundamental changes than fifty normal years of peace. We found that out twenty-five years ago. Many things will pass away or be radically altered. Is there no risk that change ringing will be one of them? We hope not. We believe not. But we must do more than just hope; we must keep alive our own interest in the art and that of others. And to do so, we must use and foster all or any of the varied interests that centre round the belfry.

We may not ring the church bells, some of us cannot ring handbells, but there are many other things in which we can take an interest. Some perhaps are not of any great importance in themselves, but they will, at any rate serve to bridge the gap between the times that were and the times that will be.

Other things there are which are, and always will be, of vital importance to the Exercise, and chief of them the questions of composition and method construction. Many ringers look on these subjects as being beyond them, and calling for too great a mental effort to understand. Yet the effort is worth making if only to gain a

(Continued on page 98.)

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rough outline of the science of ringing. The man who now learns something about the way Cambridge is constructed, and why Middleton's peal is the only true composition in the method, will derive a lot more pleasure from ringing it in the happier days to come.

For these reasons we invite those of our readers who have opinions on any subject in any way connected with bells or ringing, to air them in our correspondence columns. Whether they be about composition, or methods, or bell hanging, or archæology, or organisation, or bob calling, or practical ringing, or any other thing, it does not much matter. Such opinions will not always be sound, but so long as they give readers something to think about (if it is only to disagree) they will do good.

Our thanks are due to those men who have already written to us. Some of them are men well known to all ringers (though they often prefer to be anonymous); others are comparatively new comers, but all alike are welcome.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

A NEW ORGANISATION FOR HANDBELL RINGING.

A year ago, on February 19th, 1940, some Swindon enthusiasts started meeting together for handbell practice, and they have marked the anniversary of their first practice by forming themselves into a society, to be known as the Highcliffe Society, primarily for the pursuit of change ringing.

An inaugural meeting was held at headquarters, and during the course of it the founder presented a report on the activities of the first year. He traced the birth and growth of the society from the Doubles and Minor stage, which was reached at the end of four months' practice, to the Spliced Surprise Major, which they were now practising. The present membership stood at four fully qualified members, but four others who had not yet qualified for admission—the ringing of an 'inside pair' to Major—were making good progress at a probationers' class.

At that class recruits, whose ages ranged from 7 to 17 years of age, were being trained by one of the society's members, who is fresh enough to the art to remember his own early difficulties; and a system of teaching was employed having many novel features, and which had been evolved in the light of experience gained by the seniors during their own preliminary stages.

Of the four who were now practising Surprise Major, two were youths of 13 and 16 years of age, and neither had done any ringing, either in the tower or in hand, a year ago.

The report further mentioned visits made to Christ Church, Swindon, where combined efforts have produced some enjoyable ringing to Caters, Royal and Cinques.

One peal had been accomplished during the year, a peal of Grand-sire Doubles rung after three months' practice as an 'appetite wetter.' Further 'tests of endurance' might be forthcoming in the future, but whatever peals or methods were rung, the report concluded, was of secondary importance. What really mattered was that the Highcliffe Society might be no flash in the pan, but that it might continue from year to year, and increase from strength to strength as the years went by.

After the meeting a 'dinner' was held, and in the speeches which followed, 'continuity of the society' was the hope expressed by more than one speaker. The proposer of the toast 'Church and State' pointed out that the public not only looked forward to, but expected the church bells to ring at all times of national joy or sorrow, and he regretted that the present ban on ringing did not allow of our bells being pealed for recent victories against the enemy.

The next toast was 'Prosperity and long life to the new society.' The speaker said he had watched the growth of the society during the last year under the careful and painstaking leadership of their founder, and although perforce he would soon have to leave them for other work, he hoped the society would continue to thrive for many years to come.

One more toast was drunk, and it was to 'The Allies.' Some good had come out of this war, declared the proposer, for if it had not been for the ban on tower-bell ringing, he, for one, would not have been so interested in handbells. He hoped the society would make a name for itself, and to that end he personally would have liked to have seen the qualification for membership raised higher; however, he thought they would all look back in years to come to that evening as a memorable occasion.

The rest of the evening was spent in fun and games, handbells, just for once, being taboo.

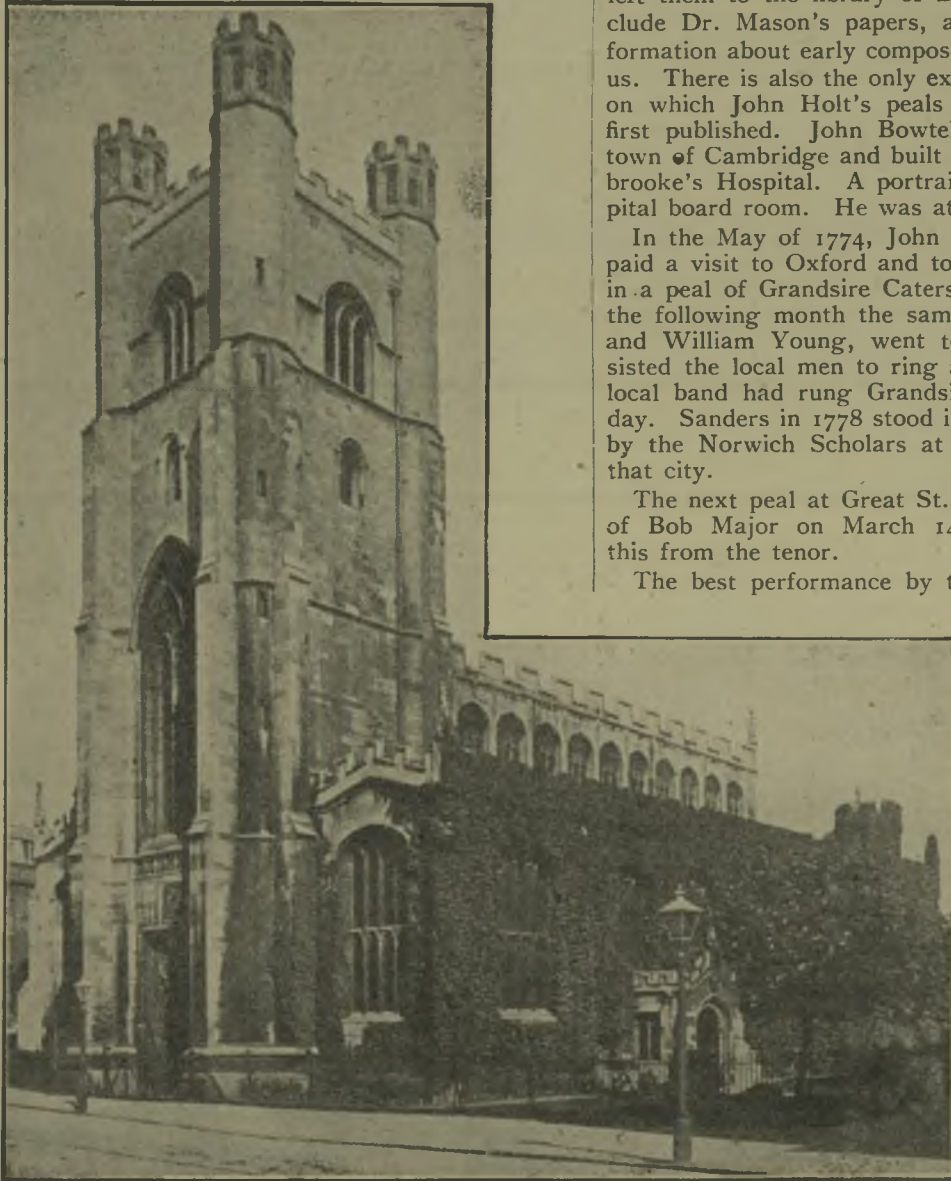
THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

A RECORD PEAL OF MAXIMUS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

(Continued from page 89.)

It was two and a half years before the next peal was rung at St. Mary's. The method was Bob Royal, and Charles Day was again the conductor, ringing the tenor. All the band had taken part in the previous peal except



GREAT ST. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE.

the ringer of the second, John Hazzard. He was an innkeeper and a member of the Cambridge Town Council. He became one of the most prominent of the Cambridge Youths.

In the next year, 1774, on November 10th, the society rang a peal of 5,130 Grandsire Caters. Day did not stand in this, and the bobs were called by William Young. Daniel Green, of Clare College, who apparently was not

a formal member of the society, rang the eighth, John Banyard, an ironmonger, rang the tenor, and John Bowtell, the bookseller, at the sixth, appears for the first time as a peal ringer. He had joined the society on October 21st, 1773.

Bowtell was something more than a prosperous tradesman and a skilful ringer. He had literary tastes which had led him to collect manuscripts, and he afterwards left them to the library of Downing College. They include Dr. Mason's papers, and thus some valuable information about early compositions has been preserved to us. There is also the only extant copy of the broadsheet on which John Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples were first published. John Bowtell was a benefactor to the town of Cambridge and built one of the wings of Addenbrooke's Hospital. A portrait of him hangs in the hospital board room. He was at one time Mayor.

In the May of 1774, John Sanders and John Hazzard paid a visit to Oxford and took part with the local men in a peal of Grandsire Caters at Magdalen College. In the following month the same two, with John Incarsole and William Young, went to Saffron Walden and assisted the local men to ring a peal of Bob Major. The local band had rung Grandsire Triples on the previous day. Sanders in 1778 stood in a peal of Bob Major rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, in that city.

The next peal at Great St. Mary's was 5,404 changes of Bob Major on March 14th, 1779. Sanders called this from the tenor.

The best performance by the Cambridge Youths was on January 21st, 1788, when they rang what they termed an 'exquisite' peal of Bob Maximus consisting of 6,600 changes, in 5 hours and 5 minutes. Charles Day conducted from the 9th, William Young rang the 10th, Hazzard the 11th, and Bowtell the tenor. The fifth man was Thomas Steers, who is described as 'an ingenious mathematician.' John Sanders did not ring, and in August, 1790, he died. He was about forty years old. His last peal was one of Bob Major in 1781, when the Cambridge Youths went to Ely to open a new ring of eight which Arnold of St.

Neot's had cast for St. Mary's Church.

The peal of Maximus at Great St. Mary's still stands as the longest length in the method, and is likely to stand for many years. The performance, which supplanted the 6,336 rung by the 'old' Society of London Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1758, was the third peal of Maximus achieved outside London. The Norwich

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES.

REMOVED TO A PLACE OF SAFETY.

A good deal of interest is being taken by the public in the bells of St. Clement Danes, and several newspapers have commented on the proposal to remove them to a place of safety for the duration of the war. A cutting from one paper has been sent us showing a photograph of two or three of them actually lowered to the base of the steeple.

'The Times' prints the following:—

It is generally known that the Church of St. Clement Danes in the Strand has twice received direct damage from German bombs. On three other occasions it has received the blast of bombs falling near, and on another night a fire bomb fell on the roof, but was put out.

But the famous old bells that figure in the nursery rhyme—'Oranges and lemons, say the bells of St. Clement's'—are undamaged. It has now been decided to safeguard the bells by lowering them and burying them in sand.

To protect them in this way and later restore them £200 will be needed; and as there are no funds for the purpose an appeal is made by the Rector (the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford) and the churchwardens. Contributions will be gratefully received by them, or may be paid into Lloyds Bank, 222, Strand, W.C.2.

St. Clement Danes, designed by Wren, was built in 1681 on the site of a much earlier church, traditionally believed to be the burial place of Harold Harefoot and other Danes. The tower which houses the old peal of bells was added in 1719 by James Gibbs, the architect of the other island church not many yards away—St. Mary-le-Strand.

When the bells were restored in 1919 the tune of the nursery rhyme was added to the carillon. From that time till the war began a children's service was held at the church at the end of March each year, and Danish children living in London observed a pretty custom of distributing oranges and lemons among the young congregation as they left. During the war the bells are perforce silent, as are all the other church bells in the country.

'The Church Times' says very much the same things.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS—continued from previous page.

Scholars had rung 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 1778, and the Birmingham men 5,280 changes of Plain Bob in 1779.

The Cambridge peal was claimed to have been excellently well struck and 'without a false change.' A reference to it in the peal book of the Union Society of Newport, Isle of Wight (now in the British Museum), says that 'the compass of the last 1,000 changes was equal to the first, there being no variation of time, which is the grand scope of ringing.'

Another man, Peter Spenceley, now came forward and took the lead. He was an engineer by trade and had joined the society in March, 1783. With him as conductor, three peals were rung—6,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 1790, 7,002 changes of Grandsire Caters in 1791, and 5,039 changes of the same method in 1793. Day rang the sixth and Bowtell the tenor to both the long peals; Hazzard rang in all three.

The last peal by the society in the eighteenth century was on June 2nd, 1797, when James Bartlett, of Kensington, called Holt's Original on the back eight. Spenceley rang the seventh, and John Hazzard the tenor. After that the art declined in Cambridge, though, of course, the large amount of paid ringing was sufficient to keep together a band of some sort. Incarsole died in 1777, Young in 1761, Laughton in 1804, Charles Day in 1806, Spenceley in 1807, Hazzard in 1807, and Bowtell in 1813. The last had resigned from the company in 1810. They left no successors of the same class as themselves, and when, in 1821, Samuel Lee was writing to Samuel Lawrence to invite him to visit Cambridge, he says, 'You will find a good peal of bells here. The ringers are very far inferior to your Birmingham friends. They ring Bob Royal, Treble Ten, and Caters, but rather in an inferior style.' It is significant that Lee speaks of the bells as being ten in number. Evidently in his time the full twelve were seldom or never rung, nor have they often been since.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED BY FIRE GUARDS.

At tremendous cost the lesson is being learnt that our churches with their steeples and bells can largely be protected from incendiary bombs if they have organised fire watchers. That alone saved St. Paul's Cathedral on that fateful Sunday night last December.

A representative of 'The Daily Telegraph,' in the course of a description of a recent visit to Coventry, writes of the Cathedral as follows:—

The tower and spire, among the loveliest in Europe, still soar 294ft. skyward, and even the blackened walls have such grace of line that it was with a little pang I learned they will have to be levelled to the ground.

The sad thing is that, given a few more fire-fighters and a little more luck, the Cathedral might have been saved. The Provost, the Very Rev. R. T. Howard, and three volunteers risked death from high explosives. They climbed dizzy heights to put out incendiaries, and for an hour they held their own.

Then bombs crashed through the leaden roof on to the dry oak roof beneath. It took more skill and strength than the elderly and exhausted men possessed to hack away the lead and get at them, and when four bombs fell together they knew that they were beaten.

The fine Perpendicular parish church of Holy Trinity still stands, saved by the Vicar's fire squads.

UNCOMMON RINGERS' NAMES.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Looking through recent copies of 'The Ringing World' I noticed the names of the ringers who took part in peals during the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of them are very uncommon.

I have consulted the London Telephone Directory, as the B.B.C. did in a recent parlour game, and failed to find the following: Ather, Bartell, Garthon, Ibbot, Inville, Melchoir, Merryarts, Mot, Sonneville and Trenell.

Is it too much to ask your correspondents to trace the descendants of the above, if there happen to be any?

In those bygone days, when few people could read or write, perhaps most men had nicknames, and if they had sons they may have had nicknames also, thus losing connection with the 'family tree.'

Probably those who were slightly educated spelt the name phonetically, which would be pronounced differently in various parts of the country. For instance, Garthon was spelt Catharan in Lincolnshire when a peal of Triples was rung.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

SILENT APPARATUS.

WANTED, AN EXPERIMENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have no doubt that most of your readers when they read the letter from Mr. C. Chambers, of South Africa, about putting an electric mechanism in each tower, to act as a silent apparatus, thought as I did at first, that it was not practicable under present conditions. Of course, it could be done, but the apparatus would have to be elaborate and costly and there is no chance of getting it made.

But I have been wondering whether it would not be worth while for some of our young and clever members to try and experiment to see if they could not do something. Nothing really good could be done, but something like an electric bell in the ringing room with an apparatus by which the bell above could push the switch might be possible.

If our young friend wants to experiment he must first get hold of an ordinary electric bell, as good as he can get, but any one will do for an experiment. Then he must take away the gong and fix in its place a handbell. It would require special fixing and be capable of adjustment, but that would not be difficult. Wires would connect the electric bell in the ringing chamber to the bell above, and the switch would have to be operated by some stud on the wheel. That is where the inventor's ingenuity would come in. The switch could not be of the ordinary press stud type, but would have to be made by a rubbing contact. Also the stud on the wheel would not itself form the electric contact, but must act so as to bring together two pieces of spring brass or bronze. In theory that should not be difficult, but the switch must operate only when the wheel passes one way and there must be two switches, one for handstroke and the other for backstroke. Perhaps something like the gadget used in the Hastings stay might serve the purpose.

Once the switch is invented, the problem of placing it so that the bell strikes at the proper time would be a simple one.

All the preliminary and really difficult experiments could be made at home. If the apparatus were successful it might not be a very good substitute for the actual sound of the bell, but the problem is an interesting one and both in cost and difficulty should be well within the capacity of any clever young man who knows a little about electricity and knows how to use his brains and his fingers.

M. CLARKE.

ARE RINGERS APATHETIC?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—After serving several months in the Forces, I am home on leave and have just looked through a few copies of 'The Ringing World.'

I must confess I am disappointed to note the apathy which exists in the Exercise, and I can only foresee our art sinking into the deepest of depths by the time the war has ended.

What amazes me is the fact that the ban has really very little to do with the activities of ringers, and it only prohibits the sound of the bells. Actually, at this time, there is a glorious opportunity for the building up of our art, and I am at a glorious loss to know why the Exercise has failed to take the opportunity.

Now why cannot all the tower captains and secretaries either remove the clappers or tie them up securely and carry on as if there were no ban at all. How this can best be done is for each steeplekeeper to find out, but it can be done if there is the will behind it.

The ringers would return to the towers and to the meetings in order to enjoy this novel method of ringing.

Here, as I see them, are opportunities that can be taken advantage of if the clappers are tied or removed: To train beginners; to learn to ring two bells; to encourage and improve rope-sight; to practise the higher methods; to gain experience of bell control on all numbers and weights; to prevent stagnation, by continual practice; to keep the hands and body muscles in trim; to keep the bearings and other fittings in proper working order.

Those who desire to ring 'silent' peals should be encouraged to do so and the records of such peals should count as before.

I feel sure things would soon liven up if the ringers were able to get behind the ropes once again.

I have duly read the letters on bearings and am disappointed to note that interest faded before the question in the original letter was properly answered. Perhaps this is another case of apathy, and in years to come we shall be ringing on bells that are pulling us, and not as hitherto, with us pulling the bells.

I, for one, do not derive pleasure in the speed the bells are rung. Most of us can ring slow, moderate or fast as the occasion or fancy demands. But, like thousands of others, I get great pleasure from ringing a bell, great or small, which responds to that extra ounce when required and will rise or fall always at will, rather than a bell which wants to swing at one regulated speed, and which, if it turns over the dead centre a fraction of an inch, wants to run away like mad and pull you through the ceiling.

Ball bearings are all right for perpetual motion and sometimes serve the purpose on a few bells, but for general use give us plain bearings.

'NUMSKULL.'

TREBLE BOB.**MR. C. W. WOOLLEY REPLIES TO CRITICISM.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent who signs himself 'A Country Ringer' would do well to read letters from others more carefully before he ventures on criticism. He thinks that what I said about Treble Bob should be contradicted. If he will look again he will see that I mentioned Treble Bob twice only. The first time was to remark that many ringers could not have heard contiguous places (meaning, of course, those made by a pair of working bells during the ordinary work of the method) made in any other method.

Since such places do not occur in any *standard* method except Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, this statement cannot be denied. The second time was to say that Treble Bob possessed one redeeming feature. If he denies even this he is welcome, to his opinion, but I still think that the lengthening lead is a point in favour of any method, giving as it does various obvious advantages which I need not go into.

If what he really means is that Treble Bob possesses other redeeming features, apart from those it enjoys by reason of being a method on the lengthening lead plan, I shall be interested to have his considered opinion as to what exactly they are.

Further, if he will read my letter with more care he will discover that nowhere in it did I say anything which might be taken as an expression of opinion on the merits of Cambridge Surprise, so he has absolutely no grounds for saying that I seem to think so much of it.

Finally, I would point out that he makes all his assertions as though they were statements of fact, whereas they are really no more than expressions of his own opinion. Such expressions might be of some value if he were to sign his name. There are many 'Country Ringers'—I am one myself.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

HUGHENDEN.—On Saturday, February 15th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3-4, W. Lee 5-6. The first 720 'in hand' by all the band. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. W. Fletcher, of 11, Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield.

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

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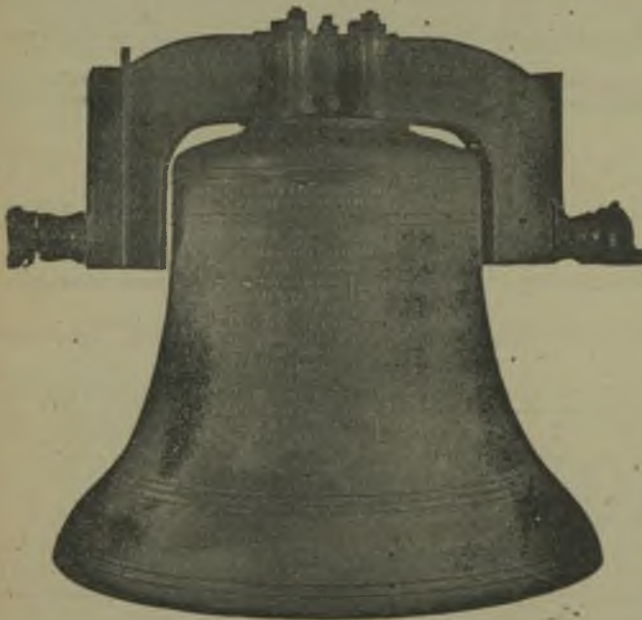
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith wishes us to convey his thanks to the many friends who have expressed their sympathy with him in his present illness.

The latest report is that his condition is quite satisfactory. He is being prepared for the major operation which will be performed in a few days' time.

AN APPRECIATION.

FROM THE ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY, IPSWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At handbell practice this morning the members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society were greatly concerned and sorry to learn that the Editor, Mr. John S. Goldsmith, was unwell and had undergone a slight operation, with a major one to follow. They instructed me, as secretary, to write this letter of sympathy with him and trust that in due time he may be restored to good health.

Mr. Goldsmith honoured St. Mary-le-Tower Church steeple with a personal visit when a new peal board, containing the first peals of Surprise Maximus in five different methods, was unveiled.

We all agree that great credit is due to Mr. Goldsmith and his contributors for the excellent manner 'The Ringing World' has been kept so very interesting, and we extend our heartiest congratulations

G. T. SYMONDS, Hon. Sec.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to hear that Mr. W. E. White, of Cotgrave, who for so many years held office in the Midland Counties Association, has been confined to his bedroom for the past six or seven weeks with heart trouble. We wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. White tells us that he is resigning the treasurership of the association at Easter.

In spite of the difficulties of travel, black-out and the calling up of members to the Forces, the 'stalwarts' of the Hughenden and Beaconsfield bands hold joint practices at Beaconsfield on Fridays at 7.30 and at Hughenden on Saturdays at 4 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these practices. The band had a setback when Rolly Biggs was called up, but they are glad that their loss is Reading's gain, and would like to congratulate that band on their recent performances.

The Cathedral Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, so well known and so famous in the history of change ringing, was injured in a recent air raid. Happily the damage was not great.

Grandsire Major is nowadays considered to be an 'irregular' method, and its practice has been formally discouraged by the Central Council, but it has had from time to time a fascination for some good bands. On February 25th, 1889, John Carter called 10,272 changes at Rowley Regis. It remains the record peal in the method, and superseded one of 10,176 changes on handbells called by John Carter in 1883.

The Cumberland Youths rang 6,129 changes of Stedman Caters at Shoreditch on February 26th, 1805. It stood as the record in the method for nearly forty years.

A peal of Bob Royal was rung at Abingdon on handbells on February 26th, 1777. If it was on bells 'retained in hand' it would rank as the first handbell peal in any method, but the account is doubtful.

John Briant, bell founder and clock maker, of Hertford, died on February 27th, 1829.

Several interesting anniversaries fall on to-day's date. Henry Johnson was born on February 28th, 1809, and Edwin Horrex in 1838. In 1801 John Noonan called at Spitalfields the second peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal ever rung. In 1881 the Birmingham men rang 9,238 changes of Stedman Cinques, the then longest in the method.

The late Thomas T. Gofton, of Whitley Bay, who a few years ago was one of the leading ringers in the North of England, rang his first peal as conductor (one of Bob Major) at St. John's, Newcastle, 50 years ago to-day. He was then a lad of 18 years.

On March 1st, 1889, the band at Warnham rang 13,440 changes of Canterbury Pleasure Major. In those days peals could be rung at Warnham at any hour and every hour of day or night.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Minor in five methods 1.

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of a peal of Stedman Cinques rung by the College Youths at St. Giles', Cripplegate. It was conducted by James Pettit and was the first in the method by Mr. Henry R. Newton and the late William T. Cockerill, who rang the eleventh.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING AT LEEDS.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, January 25th, when upwards of fifty members were present.

Canon C. C. Marshall, president of the association, was in the chair and was supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer and the peal secretary, Mr. W. Barton. Apologies for absence were read from Messrs. G. Lewis, F. W. Dale, R. B. Smith, J. H. Blakiston and W. Ambler.

After a long discussion on the place and date of the next meeting, in which the uncertainties and difficulties of the times were thoroughly debated, Mr. P. J. Johnson moved that no further general meeting be arranged until the next annual general meeting in 1942. This was seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood and carried.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, then presented the balance sheet. He pointed out that on balance the position was very satisfactory, having regard to the times. Although a loss for the year of £10 17s. was shown, it was largely due to expenditure that was not likely to recur, namely, £13 19s. 6d. the cost of the president's badge and case, and £7 3s. 11d. for officers' attache cases. He had estimated the cost of the reports at £35, whereas he was agreeably surprised to find that the actual cost was little more than £25. Taking these items into account, the loss of £10 17s. was arrived at, but exclusive of them a gain of £20 6s. 5d. would have resulted. Mr. W. O. Talbot, representing the auditors, proposed the adoption of the balance sheet, remarking that it had been a pleasure to audit the accounts. This was seconded by Mr. T. W. Strangeway and carried. A hearty vote of thanks to the auditors for their services was carried unanimously.

In presenting the annual report, the President pointed out that it was very necessarily a war-time report; many institutions and activities having suffered owing to restrictions placed upon them, but none probably more so than the art and exercise of bellringing. At several of its meetings the committee had considered the ban on the ringing of church bells, and, as representing the ringers of Yorkshire, urged upon the authorities the careful consideration of whether it would not be possible partially to lift the ban, so that service ringing for at any rate Sunday morning services should be allowed. Such a concession would be welcomed not only by ringers, but by the people of our land, and would in addition prevent the frames, bearings, etc., from falling into disrepair from continued disuse.

Other things had to be taken into consideration, especially the danger which would arise from the use of a part of our churches for military purposes, and the committee would do all in its power to bring about some modification of the ban consonant with the safety of the Realm.

THE LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION MAINTAINED.

With regard to membership, it was gratifying to find that it had not suffered as severely as might have been anticipated, seeing that only seven new members had been elected during the year, and that both the 'deceased' list and 'lapsed' list are unusually large. 37 having passed away and 49 lapsed. The membership now stood at 1,206, compared with 1,285 last year.

During the year it had been possible to hold only one general meeting, namely, the annual general meeting at Hunslet Parish Church in January, when very cold weather and the difficulty of travelling prevented a large attendance.

Reports from the districts showed that it had been possible to hold a certain number of meetings throughout the county, and it was gratifying to note that the life of the association was being maintained in these difficult times. The district secretaries are to be congratulated upon the manful way they have set themselves to overcome the difficulties.

The peal secretary's report showed that 13 peals were rung during the year, eight on tower bells and five on handbells. There were six instances of a first peal in a particular method, including instances where members had rung peals previously in the same method, but not on the same number of bells. Three members rang their first peal on handbells. It was disappointing to note the small number of handbell peals, especially as the ban had now put a stop to tower-bell peals, and the committee hoped to see an increase in the number during the next year.

(Continued in next column.)



CANON C. C. MARSHALL.

BALL BEARINGS AND PLAIN BEARINGS.

A COMPARISON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been looking for an answer to Mr. Warrington's query, in your issue of January 17th, re preference of ringers for plain bearings, and, as no one better has volunteered, I will endeavour to do so.

My contention is that in plain bearings the seat of friction is smaller and concentrated, thereby giving you a definite point of balance. Ball bearings are alive or fluid, and the ringer has to hold the bell farther back, especially in ringing of a slow speed, to make sure of control. My experience is that ringing bells, either light or heavy, with ball bearings is infinitely more tiring than with plain bearings. It is not so bad if ringing is fast (and regular), but in slow ringing (especially if with a long draught) plain bearings are to be preferred every time, all other things being equal.

Of course, plain bearings require conscientious care and attention, whilst ball bearings only require attention at long intervals, hence some steeplekeepers advocate the latter when rebanding is contemplated.

'INTERESTED.'

A BELL RINGING CHALLENGE.

NORWICH VERSUS EYE.

Mr. C. E. Borrett sends us another most interesting quotation from the early 'Norwich Gazette.' The date is September 27th, 1729. Readers of our recent articles on the Norwich Scholars and the first peals of Stedman Triples will remember the names of most of the ringers mentioned.

'Whereas the Ringers of Eye deny that they ever challeng'd us to ring, yet they have introduced a fresh challenge to prick from five to twelve, which we have never mentioned in our advertisement; this is therefore to let them know, that we shall not trouble ourselves to contend about the Art of Pricking, but we will Ring with them for Ten Guineas the following Number of different Peals, viz., 6 Peals on 5 Bells, 6 on 6 Bells, 6 on 7, and 6 on 8 Bells; they that ring best, and with fewer Mistakes, to win the Money; they to chuse 3 Peals on each Number, and we to chuse 3, and each Company to ring all the 6 Peals: And in order thereto we will meet them at Mr. Browne's, at the White Lion in Beccles, on Monday the 6th of October, to article and put down the money; where we expect then to see them.—John Briggs, Thomas Gardiner, William Callow, Thomas Melchior, John Harvey, Edward Crane, Robert Crane, Richard Barnham, Thomas Barrett, John Forster, John Webster, etc., etc., etc., etc.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

(Continued from previous column.)

Actually 14 peals had been rung, but unfortunately the composition of one of them turned out to be false. Canon Marshall had rung his first handbell peal, and thus gained the distinction of being the first president of the association to ring a pair of handbells through a five thousand.

The peal rung at St. Matthew's, Northwram, and published in last year's report as 'Airedale Surprise Major,' was in the same method as had previously been rung by the Guildford Diocesan Guild as 'Chiltern Surprise Major.' Therefore, 'Chiltern' should be substituted for 'Airedale' in all instances where this peal is mentioned.

In these days of curtailed ringing, the committee wished to pay tribute to the value of 'The Ringing World' and to the service it continues to give to the whole Exercise under increasingly difficult conditions, and strongly urged the members to give the Editor their practical backing by becoming subscribers, and taking a copy weekly, which would be found both interesting and instructive.

Mr. J. W. T. Holgate moved the adoption of the report, Mr. A. Gill seconded, and it was unanimously adopted. All the officers were cordially thanked for their work.

The President stated that the committee recommended the re-election of the retiring secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, and thanked him for his services during the past three years.

In reply, Mr. Morris said he wished to thank the members for their appreciation and confidence, and, like their worthy treasurer, he would be willing to carry on as long as he was able.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood moved and Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded the re-election of Mr. W. Barton as peal secretary, paying tribute to his skill and energy in this important work. This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Barton, thanking the members, said he would be pleased to undertake the work for another year.

Mr. George Homer, of Rothwell, was elected a member of the association. A hearty vote of thanks to the president was moved by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who referred to the wonderful concession the president had been able to obtain regarding the cost of the reports. It was seconded by Mr. W. Barton and carried unanimously.

This concluded the business and the members then partook of an excellent meat tea, followed by a social evening until 8.30 p.m. Among the local talent that contributed were the president, Miss L. Askham, Mr. Kershaw Thomas and Mr. Sutcliffe. Handbell ringing was interspersed and contributed to a very successful and enjoyable meeting.

THE STANDARD METHODS

AND THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is an old tale of a woman who, when a visitor called, told her little daughter to take the lady into the best room. 'Why, mother,' said the child, 'we've only got one!' 'Well,' said mother, 'that is the best, isn't it?' This would seem to apply, more or less, to those Standard methods we call 'Surprise.'

Take Cambridge, for example. The first peal (a false one) was rung in 1780, when no other Surprise method was known. Superlative appeared for the first time in the 'Clavis' in 1788. The first peal of London was not rung till 1855, although it seems to have been known earlier. Bristol did not appear till 1897 with its first peal in 1901.

Cambridge, therefore, appears to have become a standard method very largely for Mother's reason, and with all due regard to Mother, that hardly seems a good one. It is undoubtedly attractive, and I confess that I enjoy ringing it, but nothing can make it a good method. Its music is poor, and if it were the merest shade more false, there wouldn't be a single peal left to us without dividing the tenors. To make the best of a bad job, it would probably be a good thing if the original version were discarded altogether and Heywood's variation adopted as the orthodox form.

The method, it is true, extends perfectly, but how many bands are capable of taking advantage of that? This quality is of about as much use to the Exercise as a whole as a tall hat to a man who only wore it at his own wedding and died before his wife. It is virtually certain that there are better methods amongst the hundreds which will appear in the new book.

EXPERIENCE AND TRADITION.

Your article says 'there is only one safe test, and that is the general experience and tradition of the Exercise through the centuries.' I agree that experience will sift the wheat from the chaff, but it is often a very long process, and it is surely wise to get to work on the most promising material first, without wasting time on what is only second rate in quality. The sifting process assumes that the wheat is there. Given little wheat, we may sift as we like and the result is still poor. That was the position 50 years ago. Ringers rang what there was to ring, they had little or no choice. The mills of experience had so little grist that they could turn out very little good meal. Now, however, the harvest is so abundant that, as in the case of world commerce, we are in grave danger, unless we are careful, of being smothered under a plethora of good things.

Ringers are perhaps, on the whole, too conservative. This is under certain circumstances a useful quality. At other times, as in so many other walks in life, it may become a danger. We live in a rapidly changing world, in which we have to deal with situations quite without precedent. The fact that those responsible for the new book have examined many hundreds of new methods is only one of the many indications that the mental development of the race has taken a big step forward in the last half century. I am far from despising the value of experience and tradition. I sometimes look back with longing to those old quiet days, when we lads could safely play cricket or hockey on the public roads; but we must not allow a past generation, who had not our opportunities or our problems to deal with, to fetter our activities or vitiate our conclusions. Just as in the major field of the nation, and the still larger field of the world, we must carefully examine our traditional ideas if we would deal effectively with modern problems, so in relation to our particular art tradition alone may fail us and conclusions based upon it be untrue. To rely upon these alone would be like the case of the farmer (even more conservative perhaps than ringers) who refused to sow a new and improved strain of wheat because it was not the standard grain sown by his predecessors during the centuries. He would probably suffer bankruptcy. Although, if we follow his example, we may escape such a catastrophe, we shall not be immune from loss.

ARE WE APATHETIC?

I don't pretend to explain why it is, but I fear too many of us are not as enthusiastic as we might be. It may be due to inertia, which affects us all more or less, but I wonder how many good ringers have been lost because their home company refused to progress. What should we think of the musician who, year after year, played nothing but the same old tunes? But too often we are content to go on ringing the same old methods interminably, all unconscious of the fact that, no matter what the art or subject may be, it can only be a living thing so long as it commands our interest, and this interest and the satisfaction it brings with it is in direct ratio to the effect put forth.

It is undoubtedly true that we, in common with the world at large, cannot stand still; either we progress or we fall back. The three

(Continued in next column.)

WEIGHTS OF BELLS IN A RING.

IS THERE A DEFINITE SCALE?

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to your article on fictitious weights of tenors, I have no doubt most bell lovers have heard these tales. They, however, are not confined to sextons, sometimes they get into print.

I believe the Bath and Wells report of 30 years ago gave Wedmore tenor as 39 cwt.—about 9 cwt. too much.

More interesting, I think, is the actual weight of the next bell in the scale, the other 'tenor.' This is to me sometimes amazing.

I have before me the article 'Bell' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' (12th edition), and read as follows: 'It has been calculated that for a peal of bells to give the pure chord of the ground tone or key-note, third, fifth and octave, the diameters are required to be as 30, 25, 20 and 15; and the weights as 36, 41, 24 and 10.' The above scale gives the sixth in a ring of eight as forty-one eightieths of the weight of the tenor, and I have read elsewhere that the seventh should be two-thirds the weight of the tenors.

I know a fairly heavy peal, where the back three bells were cast in different centuries, and they run pretty true to this, but, looking over the weights I have jotted down from time to time, it would appear that founders have any amount of liberty. Mancroft tenor 37½ cwt., 11th 29 cwt., 10th 22 cwt., eleventh more than three-quarters the weight of tenor; Wrington, tenor 37 cwt., ninth 20 cwt. 3 qr, 10 lb. 9-16ths weight of tenor; St. Woolos', Newport, eleventh three-quarters the weight of tenor, and I am told that the eleventh at St. Mary Redcliffe is only 25 cwt. or half the weight of the tenor.

Some time ago I picked up either an engineering or metallurgical periodical in our local library, and saw there a formula by which bell-founders apportion the weight of a clapper to that of the bell, the writer mentioning his indebtedness to a well-known firm of bell-founders for this.

Could one of the bell firms (or each of them) be induced to contribute an article on bell-founding, tuning, modulation and hanging to 'The Ringing World'? Something really authoritative would be appreciated by readers. The founders need not divulge any special features of their own.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

BELL FRAMES.

WHICH IS THE BEST DESIGN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read Mr. G. P. Elphick's article with much interest, but I had looked forward to reading how to construct a bell frame with wood on a progressive plan.

In my opinion, a bell frame should be constructed of wood cill, top rail and corner posts with cast-iron struts or braces. Struts made of wood are a failure because the splayed shoulders shrink. The wood can be oak or teak or other suitable wood. Each strut should have four 5-8th bolts at each end. No diagonal bolts are needed, neither are vertical ones except at the four corners. Such a frame will keep rigid and does not require a spanner in the summer.

One of the most interesting bell frames I have ever seen was at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. It was built diagonally in the tower and constructed of good English oak. A very fine frame indeed. It is a great pity it is no more.

JAMES HUNT.

Taunton.

(Continued from previous column.)

stages in life are growth, zenith and decay, and although the individual may not hope to escape the operation of this law, we, fortunately, as a national organisation, may avoid the slippery slope of decadence for many years to come, provided we are prepared to make that effort. It is because I want us to do this, and to do it as far as possible as a whole, that I should like us to add to the number of Surprise methods we call standard.

I fully appreciate the great labour involved in the task of selection, and I'm sure we are all deeply grateful to the men who have so freely given their valuable and expert services to the accomplishment of the task so far as it has gone. There must be some good reason why one method is better than another. Trial and error is all very well in its way, and is no doubt necessary at times, but these are generally in the early days of a science, and if hundreds of methods are placed before the Exercise without comment, not one in a hundred will stand a chance of a real try out.

Therefore, I say, let them be examined with regard to the principles well known to the experts, and some of them, at least, will have a chance of being judged. From them the final choice will, no doubt, be made by experience, and in course of time a new tradition will be created.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baldon, Yorks.

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THE STANDARD METHODS. EARLY ATTEMPTS AT RULE MAKING.

In our comparison of ringing to a journey we notice that often in our walks abroad we are quite ready to sacrifice a good deal of variety and rapidity of movement for the sake of comfort, and so we are in peal ringing. There may not be much variety in the work of Grandsire or Treble Bob, but there is a real charm about ringing when the method makes few claims on the close attention of the ringer, and he can go along comfortably, putting his bell just where it should be put, and lulled into a pleasant frame of mind by the steady and familiar rhythm of the music.

But why, we may ask, should not Treble Bob prove monotonous when Forward, which is so very similar in its work, is intolerably monotonous? The answer is that the constantly varying position of the treble in coursing order, and the slow work, which some have thought to be musically a defect, do really give just that amount of variety and relief from sameness which both the music and the work require. This is a point worth considering.

The more complex methods consist usually, in addition to ordinary hunting and dodging, of groups of work, each of which is treated as a whole. Such, for instance, are the Slow Work of Stedman, the Front Work of Bristol, the Cambridge Places, and so on. For reasons which are not easy to explain, some of these works appeal to ringers and some do not. A band we are acquainted with once rang a peal of Little Albion Major. In it successive handstroke places have to be made at 3rds, 4ths, 5ths and 6ths. There is nothing difficult about it, but the band were unanimous that it utterly spoilt the method. Also William Pye's band, previously mentioned, all agreed that the 5-6 places in New Gloucester were the most awkward thing (not by any means the most difficult thing) in their Spliced Surprise Major peals.

These things are of the greatest importance in deciding whether a method is a worthy candidate for the standard group, but how they can be judged except in actual practice, we do not know.

There is the equivalent of good companionship in peal ringing. When you are ringing a tenor you would much rather meet the seventh or the sixth in 1-2 and 7-8 than you would the second or the third; and when you do meet the seventh, you want him to be friendly and not strike you the wrong way. It is nice, too, when you are ringing any bell, to meet your course bell and your after bell at stated places, and to pass the time of day as you go on your journey.

There remains the last quality, that of difficulty. One of the greatest incentives to peal ringing is the urge to do something which both the ringer himself and other people recognise as very difficult, and which, as we say, 'will take a bit of doing.' It is one of the great universal motives which impel men to action. For no other reason do they try to climb Mount Everest or to reach the Poles.

The result is that some methods are highly rated just because they are difficult, and for no other reason. To get difficulty, ringers are quite content to forgo many other qualities they value and, indeed, it is a general law that difficulty can be obtained only by the sacrifice of some desirable things.

What constitutes difficulty we may perhaps see fairly clearly when we come to deal with individual methods.

This general survey of method ringing as it appears to the individual ringer shows us that the qualities which appeal to him are not only very varied but are often contradictory to each other, and we are warned at the outset that there is no one standard to decide the goodness of methods. All we can look for are varying compromises between different standards.

Ever since the art has been practised, we may be sure that ringers have been forming and expressing opinions about what are the best methods, and what qualities are necessary in a good method, and our views to-day are very largely made up of those opinions come down to us in the form of tradition.

But it was not until about fifty years ago that any attempt was made to draw up definite and precise rules on the matter. There was at that time a little group of very clever men who set themselves the task of reducing to order what they thought was the confused and unsatisfactory state in which the art and science of ringing had grown up. Rules were to be drawn up to settle every question which might arise, whether it was in connection with peal ringing, or what bobs and singles might be used, or what meaning should be given to technical terms, or any other, similar thing; and naturally these men sought to decide what should be considered a good method.

The most prominent and influential of them were Arthur Heywood and Henry Earle Bulwer. C. D. P. Davies also was very active.

Heywood gave a good deal of attention to method construction, and as early as the year 1886 he published articles on the subject. In 1899 Bulwer brought the matter before the Central Council, and laid down two or three propositions which he said might be adopted as guides in estimating a method. It is safe to assume that he was expressing not only his own views but Heywood's as well.

These are his conditions. First, in methods for any number of bells it is essential that they should run true for the whole possible extent of the changes on numbers below eight, and above eight to such an extent as will render at least 5,000 true changes possible. Secondly, that methods should lend themselves to composition of extents without necessitating the use of other than legitimate calls, according to the decision of the Council. Thirdly, Triples, Caters and Cinques should be produced by continuous triple, quadruple and quintuple changes. Fourthly, as a corollary of the last proposition, no bell should strike more than two consecutive blows in one place. Fifthly, that a method should be at least decently musical in its ordinary working, a provision which is lamentably transgressed by the undue separation of the heavy bells.

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LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT LIVERSEEDGE.

The February meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Liversedge last Saturday.

Handbells were rung before and after the business meeting, which was held in the Old Oak Inn, owing to the church rooms being otherwise engaged.

The president was in the chair and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Headingley (St. Michael's), Shipley and the local company. One new member, Mr. G. Bardon, of Liversedge, was elected. The vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. P. J. Johnson and seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall.

Mr. Johnson said that Liversedge was well known for its ringing and striking and he hoped that the present company would stick together and not be discouraged because they were not able to ring their tower bells, but by seeing it through would be ready for the time when the ban on ringing is lifted.

The President, in putting the vote of thanks to the meeting, said he would like to remind those members who had not been to the meetings lately that pleasure and happy friends were still to be found at our ringers' meetings.

Mr. Fred Hodgson acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The next meeting, which will be the annual nomination meeting, will be held at Bramley on March 29th.

DEATH OF MR. H. C. MARTIN.

PARISH CLERK OF HIGHAM FERRERS.

The death is announced of Mr. H. C. Martin, of Higham Ferrers, who recently passed away at his home at the age of 76.

Mr. Martin was a founder member of the Raunds, Wellingborough and District Association, which was the forerunner of the Central Northants Association and the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. For nearly 60 years he had been a keen ringer, and had taken part in over one hundred peals. For long he was a member of the committee of Wellingborough District of the Diocesan Guild.

In 1919 he was appointed parish clerk, and for 30 years he served as second officer in the local fire brigade. He had been an Oddfellow for 55 years. Although he has been ill for three years, he had only taken to his bed for a week.

The funeral was at Higham Ferrers on Wednesday, February 12th, when representatives of his many activities were present. The ringers present were Messrs. G. D. Deighton and Brown (Higham Ferrers), F. Barber (Wellingborough), W. Perkins and A. Bigley (Irthlingborough), B. Morris (Warkton) and Miss E. Steele (Bedford). Among the beautiful floral tributes were one from his fellow ringers at Higham Ferrers and one from the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

DEATH OF MR RICHARD HICKTON.

A FOUNDATION MEMBER OF THE M.C.A.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Hickton, of Sawley, who passed away at the age of 79 years on Tuesday, February 11th, after only a few days' illness.

He had been a member of the Midland Counties Association since its inception in 1882 and had rung 19 peals for the society. He maintained his interest to the last, although of late years he had not been able to take any active part in the Exercise.

The funeral took place on Feb. 15th at the Church of All Saints, Sawley, where he used to ring and was at one time Ringing Master. The service was conducted by the Rector, and Mr. Charles Hutchinson (organist and ringer) officiated at the organ. At the end of the service in church a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Mr. A. Ward (Derby) and Messrs. J. Ward, Charles Chasty and R. Drage (Long Eaton). The coffin was borne to its last resting place near the west door by local ringers.

Mr. Hickton leaves two daughters and two sons, one of whom is Mr. R. Allen Hickton, a well-known ringer in Nottingham district.

In addition to the family mourners and the ringers mentioned above, the Midland Counties Association was represented by Mr. F. Salter (hon. secretary, Nottingham District) and Mrs. Salter, and Miss I. B. Thompson, who also represented Mr. W. E. White (hon. treasurer, Midland Counties Association).

So was laid to rest, near to the tower and bells he loved and cared for in life, yet another of those pioneers to whom this generation of ringers owe so much.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on Saturday week and proved a very successful affair, 23 members being present from Bagshot, Banstead, Beddington, Clandon, Croydon, Epsom, Guildford, Leatherhead and Lincoln.

In the absence of the Vicar, who is still indisposed, the service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Chapman, who, in a short address, said that if the ban on ringing had done harm, it had at least shown how great a part the bells played in our English life and customs.

After a good tea, provided at the Duke's Head, the usual business meeting followed, with Mr. Chapman in the chair, supported by Mr. J. Corbett (Guild treasurer), Mr. G. L. Grover (general secretary), Mr. A. Harman (Ringing Master) and officials and friends from the Surrey Association.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of two members whose deaths had occurred since the last meeting, Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, and Mrs. S. G. Walsh, a life member of Cobham.

The balance sheet showed that, although receipts had fallen, the expenditure had also been low, resulting in an increased balance of £9 10s. 8d.

The brief report commented on the fact that the ban had apparently killed what little interest did exist in some towers—half of the year's income had come from Cobham, and concluded with a reminder to members of the part that they would be expected to play when the ban was lifted, urging them to utilise handbells to keep them in trim so they could give of their best when the time came. Both report and balance sheet were adopted.

The retiring district officers were re-elected, the retiring general officers of the Guild were renominated, and it was left to the Ringing Master and secretary to arrange what meetings the circumstances warranted.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Chapman for his services at short notice, and to Mrs. Arnold, who officiated at the organ. In replying, Mr. Chapman said that it was a new experience for him and he had enjoyed it, and hoped that they would remember him if ever they needed a deputy again.

The handbells were then brought into action and were soon going to Plain Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques.

DEATH OF MR. C. H. READING.

RINGER AND CHURCHWARDEN AT MITCHAM.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles H. Reading, which took place on February 13th at the age of 73.

For many years he was assistant secretary of the Surrey Association, and his good work was apparent to all, especially to the members of the Christ Church, Mitcham, band, in whom he took a particular interest.

The annual ringing outings which he organised will long be remembered, and a permanent memorial to him is the splendid collection in the belfry of framed photographs of practically all the Surrey churches, taken on these outings.

He was churchwarden of Christ Church for many years, and he interested himself in any good work which he thought would benefit his fellow men.

Modest and unassuming, he was held in great respect by all with whom he came in contact, and his death will be regretted by all the ringers who had the good fortune to work with him and to know his splendid qualities.

The funeral took place at Mitcham Parish Church on Monday, February 17th, and was attended by many friends. By his death a much valued servant is lost to the cause to which he devoted himself for many years.

IN PRAISE OF RINGING.—'Among other diversions and recreations practised by and delightful to the inhabitants of this island none is more diverting, ingenious, harmless and healthful than the art of ringing. And although it be esteemed by the generality of people to be a mean and mechanical exercise, yet were it duly weighed and considered by a judicious and impartial person, it would be found to be very artful and not to be attained but by an ingenious and thoughtful undertaker.'—'Campanalogia,' 1702.

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NOTICES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, March 1st. Six 'silent' bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells also available. It is necessary to elect two members for the general committee, so members please make an effort to be present. Please see that we have a better attendance than at the annual meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Bell Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 1st. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe, Promenade, Cheltenham. Will friends meet at above from 4 p.m.? Tea 4.30 sharp. We hope to have some good handbell practice, as some of our London friends are in the district.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, March 1st. Tower bells available with the 'Seage silent apparatus' from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and meeting.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 3 o'clock at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 1st, for the usual monthly meeting. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Albans Abbey, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells with a new kind of apparatus available from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea at McMeekans at 4.15. Business meeting in the tower at 6.15. Further ringing on handbells and tower bells 6.30 onwards. Come and try something new in 'silent' tower bells.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—

The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. No charge to those who send in names by Tuesday, March 4th, to Mr. F. W. Dixon, 1, Greenshaw Terrace, Guiseley. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for all who notify me not later than March 7th. Six silent tower bells will also be available if required. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Welcome to Hethersett, March 15th. Six tower bells from 3 p.m. and handbells in church. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 at the King's Head, followed by business meeting and more handbells. Reports to hand. Subscriptions gladly received.—F. Nolan Golden, Sec., Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Little Clacton on Saturday, March 15th. Handbell ringing at the Vicarage (opposite church) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Blacksmith's Arms 5.15 p.m. Business meeting and more ringing at the Vicarage afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 11th, please. Neighbouring friends in Suffolk are cordially invited. There is a good bus service from Ipswich and Colchester passing the church, but visitors coming by car must get a permit before entering the coastal defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Further details will be announced later.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—For the duration of the war, Mr. Albert Walker's address is 86, Scribers Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. J. CHALK.

Mr. J. Chalk, the Master of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, had a narrow escape when some time back two high explosive bombs fell within a few yards of his home. The house was completely wrecked, but fortunately Mr. Chalk with his wife and daughter were in an Anderson shelter at the end of the garden. To lose a cherished home was a heavy blow, but Mr. Chalk is thankful he has come out sound in limb, and is looking forward to making another home.

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