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THE CADRES OF THE EXERCISE.

It is the fashion in some quarters to talk about the apathy of ringers and to make doleful prophecies of what is going to happen to our art in the future. Few meetings, we are told, are being held, and those badly attended; while handbell ringing and 'silent' tower bell-ringing, which might do much good, are almost entirely neglected.

We do not believe that there is much apathy in the Exercise. At all times there is a certain proportion of ringers whose interest in the art is not very great, and who are a cause of disappointment and trouble to the more energetic. That we must expect. It is not about them that we need to bother at the present. The danger comes from the fact that the stress of the times and the national necessities have taken away so many of our enthusiastic members and have curtailed our activities to such a great extent. As the lady who signed herself 'Young Ringer' pointed out recently, it is not lack of enthusiasm, but lack of ringers which prevents more handbell practice; and as Mr. C. T. Coles says, meetings during the winter months in London and some other large towns have been neither possible nor advisable. After all, there is a war on, and these things cannot be helped.

But what of those who are still left?—the fewer and mostly older men who have not been called to the colours, and who still have some spare time which they could devote to ringing had they the opportunity? These, as they look round, often find themselves left too few in numbers to do much, either with handbells or with 'silent' ringing. To them there must sometimes come the temptation to put ringing on one side for the duration of the war, and to turn for the time being to other interests, fully intending to resume their activity in the belfry when happier days come. It is difficult to blame them, yet there is one thought which may be worth their consideration. It is easier to put aside an interest than it is to resume it, and if they are now too short of men to do any active things, yet they can take example from what happens in military matters.

In peace time when there is no fighting to be done the vast majority of soldiers are sent to their homes to forget all about warfare and to employ themselves in other matters. But the army is not broken up. At the depots are retained a comparatively small number of key men, and around these cadres, as they are called, the whole army can quickly be reconstituted when need arises.

We want something of the sort in the Exercise. In every association, in every belfry, if possible, we need

(Continued on page 134.)

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men who will look upon themselves as the cadres on which the reconstructed Exercise can be based. They are denied the normal activities of the belfry, and there is not often much that they can do; but they can look upon themselves as still in being and keep their interest alive. If the captain of the band does no more than meet the secretary or one or two other members now and then and talk about old times over a glass of beer, he may be ensuring the future of change ringing in his own tower.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF 24 MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES!

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| MRS. J. THOMAS | 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER | 5-6 |
| JOHN THOMAS | 3-4 | HAROLD HOWSON | 7-8 |

Arranged by I J ATTWATER.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal on eight bells.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES!

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| MAURICE HODGSON | 1-2 | HAROLD S. HOBDEN | 5-6 |
| SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. | 3-4 | WILLIAM H. VIGGERS | 7-8 |

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal 'in hand.' ‡ First peal in the method 'in hand.'

HANDBELL RINGING AND THE NOISES ORDER.

A LINCOLNSHIRE RULING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, the members of one of our towers came to me and said they wished to start handbell practices and proposed holding them in the local saddler's shop. The local police constable, however, had told them that if any sound could be heard outside he would have to take proceedings against them. They had made further enquiries from the Superintendent of Police, and he also said they would be liable.

Thinking this was a very serious matter, both for the Guild and for ringing in general, I immediately wrote to the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire and asked him for a ruling on the matter. He, very kindly, asked me if I would arrange a demonstration and he would send an inspector to report.

I made the necessary arrangements and gave the demonstration at Glyn Garth, going thoroughly into the subject with both closed and open windows.

The inspector appeared quite satisfied that the handbells could not be confused with either 'church bells' or any 'authorised signal.'

As a result of the inspector's report I have received a further letter from the Chief Constable (a copy of which I enclose), which no doubt will be of interest to the Exercise at large.

R. RICHARDSON,
Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

Surfleet.

Copy of a letter from the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire:—
County Constabulary Headquarters,
Lincoln.
13th March, 1941.

Ringling of handbells.

Dear Sir.—With further reference to your letter, dated the 24th February, 1941. I write to inform you that, in view of the report on the demonstration which you kindly undertook, there is no objection to the holding of handbell practices by members of your Guild. It is hoped, however, that similar precautions, which will make it impossible for the bells to be mistaken for any of the prescribed signals, will be taken by each team of bellringers wherever practices are arranged.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. FOOKS, Chief Constable.

R. Richardson, Esq.,

Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

SILENT APPARATUS.

THE ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY APPLIANCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Taking simplicity and efficiency together, I imagine the silent apparatus installed at St. Lawrence Jewry, and described in your columns last week by Mr. E. Murrell, is about the best up to date, and if the designer will give permission, it would be a good thing if other towers were to adopt it for use in the times to come when bells may again be used.

Obviously the success of the apparatus depends mainly on the correct adjustments, and, as Mr. Murrell himself says, it probably would be here that any improvements could be made.

There is one point, however, where I do not quite follow Mr. Murrell. He says that whatever the arc is through which the bell swings, the clapper will strike at the top of the swing, and he goes on to say that the contacts should be operated by the clapper. Is this correct? I should imagine that any attempt to use the clapper as a contact or trigger whether the apparatus is electrical or mechanical is foredoomed to failure.

The relation of the movements of the bell and the clapper seems to be very complicated, depending on the weight and diameter of the bell, the length of the clapper, and the different axis on which the bell and clapper swing. But really the point at which the clapper strikes is fairly constant and regular. It certainly is not at the top of the swing, and whether the arc is large or small, the bell speaks for all practical purposes at the same point in its swing. We regulate the ringing, not by allowing the bell to swing a greater or less distance, but by pulling it quicker or slower. The experienced ringer knows when he pulls his bell when it will strike. If he lets his bell run up or cuts it down, that affects the next pull. This should get rid of the chief difficulty that Mr. Murrell mentions. But it should not be forgotten that I am writing largely from theory, while Mr. Murrell has had practical experience. M. CLARKE.

AN IMPORTANT QUERY.

Dear Sir,—When bells are raised in peal they speak all the way up, on one side to begin with, later on both sides. I would be glad to know at what point in the bell's swing the Seage apparatus comes into action, and also from what part of the bell the movement is taken to operate the mechanism. Perhaps some ringer in a tower where such an apparatus is in use would be good enough to supply this information.

Of course, Seage's apparatus was in use long before electric lighting came into general use and the action is purely mechanical. To-day with electric lighting installed in so many churches it ought to be a simple matter to work the apparatus electrically. I have been turning the matter over in my mind and hope to evolve a simple mechanism. D. G. TAYLOR.

Somerset.

A GREAT SUCCESS AT CRAWLEY.

Dear Sir,—My experience of the Seage apparatus is that it is an excellent arrangement for practising new methods and teaching beginners, doing away with the many objections you hear about. There are very few people who object to bells when there is good striking.

Mr. James Parker, of Edmonton, and myself are the only two left of the old Crawley band who owe their success in the early days of Surprise ringing to the Seage apparatus. The church is situated close to the shops and great tact was required for peal attempts.

I well remember, after a few practices on the apparatus, Mr. 'Jim' Parker called bobs at random for his own practice, thinking we should soon break down, but after ringing about an hour he called 'Stand,' saying he was run out of bobs. It was decided to start for the peal the next week, and it was rung at the first attempt. On December 21st, 1893, a little difference in the falseness of a bell occurred, but probably this could have been adjusted. F. DENCH.

Saffron Walden.

A CONVERTED SEAGE APPARATUS.

Dear Sir,—We have had the Seage's apparatus at Sedbergh for many years, and used it a good deal. As it took so much time fixing for practice, I 'electrified' it and now leave the rockers on always. It is only necessary to switch on after raising the bells and switch off before lowering them.

The apparatus consists of a large iron U-shaped bar, which is pivoted at the lower end. There are two stops to prevent it going too far. A pin on the bell stock hits first the left-hand top of one arm at, say, backstroke and the right-hand top at handstroke.

All I did was to attach an arm carrying a stud connected to 'earth.' This stud moves over a plate made of insulating material with a flush contact in the middle. This contact goes to the bell solttery. It works quite well.

With regard to methods, we rang Duffield for a little, but found the short courses monotonous, and, of course, it gives the conductor such a lot to do. Cornwall seems to be a very musical method. I've rung about 140 Surprise methods on my machine and was very much pleased with the sound of Cornwall. It keeps the heavy bells well together. G. P. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

SOME RULES FOR TEACHING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—When, in writing the account of the inaugural meeting of the Highcliffe Society, we mentioned that 'a system of teaching was employed having many novel features,' we expected that someone would write and ask us to explain these methods that others might profit by them, and 'Young Ringer' has not disappointed us. While we do not blame 'Young Ringer' for, apparently, jumping to the conclusion that we have discovered something revolutionary in handbell ringing, we would like to point out to him that 'there is nothing new under the sun,' not even in bellringing, and the methods we employ are ordinary commonsense methods—explanations which the beginner really needs, but which many teachers so often forget all about.

In the first place, everything depends on the age of your pupils, and whether they have had any previous experience of change ringing in the tower or not. Most of our pupils are young, some not in their teens, and one only seven, and none has had any previous experience of ringing. It is absolutely no use in such cases giving them a book on ringing and telling them to study it: you would sicken them right at the start and defeat your own ends.

What they want is a practical demonstration and explanation of what changes mean, and how 'original' on all numbers can be produced on paper. After that they can learn what 'plain hunting' involves, not by ringing their bell up and down among the others, but by identifying themselves with their bell, and moving, after each change, among the other ringers. Let, for example, half a dozen learners with a bell each sit or stand against a table, in a straight line. Explain that the bells are always rung in order from right to left, and wherever they happen to be standing they always ring after the person on their right. Then after ringing each change, they move one place either to the right or to the left, according to the direction they are going. When they get to the end seat, they always stop for two rings in that seat.

When they can ring 'original' you can then explain Plain Bob, by getting the person in No. 2 seat to stop there for two rings when a certain person, the ringer of the treble, is in No. 1 seat. After that can come Oxford Bob, by getting the person in No. 4 seat to stop there while the treble ringer moves from seats 3 to 2, or 2 to 3.

You will find that your beginners have not been playing this game long before one or more discovers that he always turns the same person out of the end seats: he has thus learnt for himself what 'coursing-order' and 'course-bell' mean. Also such a method of ringing demands that a wary look out should be kept for the treble man in order to know when to make a place. Thus the beginner is preparing the way for the more difficult methods where the only satisfactory way of ringing them is by watching the treble and knowing when and where the places are made.

When ringing in such a manner do not trouble about 'hand-stroke' or 'back-stroke'; it is quite sufficient for the learner to make his bell ring by holding it straight out in front of him.

As this game is only a means to an end, do not make too much of it, but get on as soon as possible to the normal method of handbell ringing. And here, with regard to position, holding and ringing the bell, the number of bells to start on, and such matters, we are permitted to refer the reader to an article written by one of our members under the pseudonym of 'Marylebone' in 'The Ringing World' for October 18th, 1940.

In that article the various positions into which two bells can fall for Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples were explained, and we will not repeat any of that matter further. However, on the advice of the late Mr. Stephen Wood, we have decided to change our nomenclature a little. Instead of speaking of the 1-2, or 2-3, or 3-4 positions, we now speak of 'coursing,' or 'one-between' or 'two-between' respectively. This means that, for example, in Bob Major, when ringing in the 'coursing' position, no bell is coursing between, and the two bells will dodge in step, and behind together; in the 'one-between' one bell is coursing between the two, and this bell is the one which leads or lies behind while the pair are crossing over in 2-3 or 6-7; in the 'two-between' two bells course between the pair, and these two lead or lie while the pair cross over in 3-4 or 5-6.

And now an important word with regard to progress. Young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off, and the teacher should be on the look out for this. Give your pupils enough ringing, but not too much of it: keep them always in the state of being anxious for more; and never keep them pegging away at one method or touch until they get heartily sick of it. In our own case, before we could ring touches of Bob Minor properly, we started to learn Kent. Before we could ring that properly we went on to Grandsire Triples and Bob Major; and before we could ring the latter properly we were practising Double Norwich. Because the beginner is always kept moving, his interest is kept alive, and every practice means something fresh to accomplish. We can safely say that since we have started eight-bell ringing six months ago we have not let a practice go by without ringing something (be it only one lead of a new method) which we had not done previously.

We hope that these hints will be of some use to 'Young Ringer,' but if he has any other specific problems, we are sure, Mr. Editor, that you would be willing to re-address any letters he may care to send to us. THE SECRETARY.

Highcliffe Society, Swindon.

THE PEAL BOARDS OF LONDON.

WESTMINSTER AND SOUTHWARK

(Continued from page 125.)

When we turn to the belfries of Westminster, Southwark, and the inner ring of London suburbs there is evidence of much loss. At **St. Martin's-in-the-Fields** the two oldest and most valuable boards were for long hung on the stairs leading to the gallery of the church, but they are now in the crypt. They are in good condition. One board in the belfry is illegible, but probably records either the 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus by the ancient Society of College Youths in 1785, or the 5,088 Stedman Cinques by the Society of College Youths in 1792. Both peals were at one time recorded, but one board has disappeared. The board which records the 7,325 Grandsire Cinques by the St. James' Society is in good condition, but needs cleaning.

The oldest board at St. Margaret's is the one which commemorates the first performance of John Holt's Original in 1751. It was restored half a century ago and now hangs in the church porch. The only other eighteenth century board in the steeple records 5,165 Grandsire Caters by the College Youths in 1779. The woodwork is sound, but the writing is almost illegible. There are two or three early nineteenth century boards in the belfry.

St. Clement Danes' has no tablets older than the nineteenth century. Of the many interesting boards at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the earliest records the 5,040 Bob Royal by the Union Scholars in 1738, when Philemon Mainwaring turned the 52 cwt. tenor in to a peal single handed for the first time. Other eighteenth century boards are for three peals of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus—5,136 by the Cumberlands in 1766, and 5,040 in 1758, and 7,008 in 1784 by the College Youths.

The board for the last performance was restored and rewritten in 1874 and the wording altered. A tablet which recorded the then longest peal of Maximus, 6,336 changes, rung in 1758 by the 'old' Society of London Youths, disappeared more than one hundred years ago.

Any old boards there may have been at St. Olave's perished in the fire which destroyed the church and there are none at St. George's or Christ Church. St. John's, Horsleydown, had at one time two of more than ordinary interest. One of them recorded the first peal of Stedman Caters ever rung, the other 10,421 changes of Grandsire Caters in the closing hours of the eighteenth century. When some time ago I visited the belfry the walls were bare. Now the church has been gutted and the bells so far as can be seen completely destroyed.

St. Giles'-in-the-Fields possesses two valuable late eighteenth century boards, one for the peal of Grandsire Triples by the College Youths in 1791, when James Bartlett called the Original and was thought at the time and long after to have been the first man to do so and also to take part in the ringing; the other for Noonan's peal of Stedman Triples rung by the Junior Cumberlands in 1799. Both have been restored and are in excellent condition, but four other old boards have disappeared. They were for London Union Triples in 1782, Cambridge Surprise in 1783, Bob Major in 1785, and Oxford Treble Bob Major in the same year.

The oldest board at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, commemorates 5,040 New Doubles Triples by the Cumber-

lands in 1750, but the two most important are in the vestibule of the church. One, on a copper plate in gilt writing on a black ground within a gilt carved frame, commemorates the 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the Cumberlands in 1784; the other in gilt writing on a black ground within a carved wood frame commemorates the two long peals in the same method by the College Youths in 1777. Photographs of these with descriptions are given in the Survey of London issued by the London County Council.

Two other boards formerly at Shoreditch are now in the belfry of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

When St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, was burnt in 1859 four boards were destroyed recording Grandsire Major, 8,448 Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob, and Superlative Surprise. I have no definite information as to the present fate of the bells and belfry, but the church was gutted.

When Christ Church, Spitalfields, was burnt in 1836 an unknown number of boards perished.

The first peals on Hackney bells were rung in the old tower which still stands. One board recording a peal of Reverse Grandsire Triples by the Cumberlands in 1782 has been removed to the new steeple.

St. George's-in-the-East and St. Dunstan's, Stepney, have no boards older than the nineteenth century, and the belfry walls at Clerkenwell are bare, though there were several tablets there at one time.

One eighteenth century board was at Islington, but what has happened to it is at present uncertain. Chelsea Old Church has a peal tablet, though the ring of bells was broken up a century ago. A photograph of the tablet is given in the County Council Survey of London.

St. Paul's, Hammersmith, and St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, are pleasing exceptions to the long tale of destruction. Both churches were rebuilt in the nineteenth century, but in both cases the peal boards were preserved and re-erected in the new belfries. The Kensington boards include one which commemorates the ringing of the first peal of Stedman Triples we definitely know to have been true.

All Saints', Fulham, has four eighteenth century boards, the oldest recording 10,080 changes of Bob Major rung by the Fulham Youths in 1735. The other performances commemorated are, 10,098 Grandsire Caters in 1762, 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal in 1776, and 5,220 Plain Bob Caters in 1783. There is also a very elaborate board recording the long peal of Grandsire Caters by the St. James' Society in 1837.

At Lambeth there are two boards dating from 1777 and 1778, and at Battersea two dating from 1782 and 1790.

In the outer ring of London suburbs there are early boards and tablets at Hillingdon (1730), Greenwich (1732), Richmond (1742), and Twickenham (1749). Later eighteenth century boards are at Ealing (1798), Edmonton (1788, 1794, 1795, and 1797), Isleworth (1770), Twickenham (1785), Mortlake (1761 and 1776), Harrow (1780), and Richmond (1767).

Many of the belfries I have mentioned as well as churches like St. John's, Waterloo Road, Holy Trinity, Newington, and All Saints', Poplar, have nineteenth century boards, some of them of great interest.

A good deal of the destruction of ancient boards which occurred before the recent air raids was caused by fire

and the pulling down of steeples. That was unavoidable, but much was caused by neglect. So long as boards remained on the walls of the belfry they were safe enough, but when alterations were made or the belfry walls cleaned, there was usually no one to see that the boards were replaced. The result was inevitable. For a while they would stand on the floor, then they would get broken, then they would be carted away as rubbish. I have a strong suspicion that at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields a later set of stoney ringers painted out one or two records to replace them with their own 'peals.'

A little time ago the Central Council undertook to collect particulars of peal boards throughout the country. Much work has been done by Mr. Wilfrid Wilson and his committee, and what I have written above shows how necessary such a survey is. In several towers it has already led to a greater interest being taken in peal boards and in giving them attention and cleaning.

I have not been able to pay a personal visit to all the belfries and am not able to guarantee that every one of the boards mentioned still survives.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM STEGGALL.

WELL-KNOWN EASTERN COUNTIES RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Steggall, of Scole, near Diss, Norfolk, which took place on February 24th at the age of 66.

He was an old member of the Norwich Diocesan Association with which he had rung 76 peals, and a life member of the Suffolk Guild, with which he had rung 38 peals. He was a good striker and had been an active member of St. Mary-the-Virgin Society, Diss, for many years. After the death of the late John Souter, he was mostly seen on the tenor box. He rang the 7th to the 'William' peal at North Lopham on May 7th, 1938. For some time he had been in failing health and had taken no active part in ringing for about 18 months.

The funeral was on February 27th at All Saints' Church, Dickleburgh, where he had been Ringing Master for many years, and he was laid to rest near to the tower and the bells he had so often rung.

ERIN DOUBLES.

A CLEVER SIX-SCORE.

The possibility of producing an extent of Erin Doubles still excites interest among composers. Mr. T. B. Worsley sends us two ingenious six-scores obtained by the use of two Singles in a Six. The device is, of course, quite legitimate, but is excluded by those people who say that no extent is possible. Here is one of Mr. Worsley's six-scores:—

| | | |
|-------|---|-------|
| 120 | | |
| 12345 | | |
| 21435 | S | 54321 |
| 12435 | | 45312 |
| 14253 | | 43521 |
| 41235 | | 34521 |
| 42153 | S | 35412 |
| 24153 | | 53412 |
| 42513 | | 35421 |
| 24531 | | 53421 |
| 25413 | S | 54312 |
| 52413 | | 45321 |
| 54231 | S | 43512 |
| 45231 | | 34512 |

Repeat four times.

AN 'EXTENT NOT POSSIBLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago, I tried to find a six-score of Erin Doubles. As there are two ways of moving from six to six, and as each six can be rung in six different ways, the task does not seem insuperable. If, however, my memory does not fail me, I found, to my own satisfaction, that if 18 sixes *could* be put together, there were two sixes which would not fit anywhere. I discussed the matter with the late Mr. W. A. Cave, who gave me the following touch of 72, which is probably not the maximum length:—

12345

45213 S at 2, five times repeated.

Chilcompton.

J. T. DYKE.

Dear Sir,—'Puzzled' wants to know why an extent of Erin Triples can be composed, but not an extent of Erin Doubles. The answer is that the conditions are not the same in both cases. Oxford Treble Bob will give an extent of Minor, but not of Major. No six-score of Double Grandsire Doubles is possible.

X.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

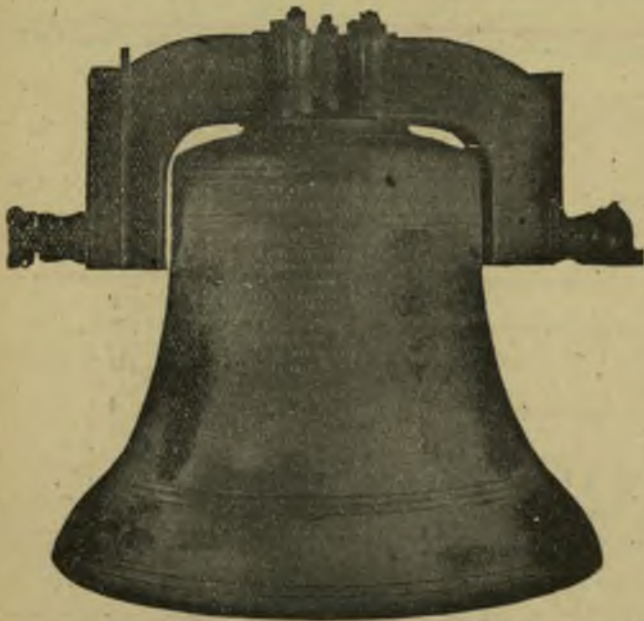
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THE EDITOR.

The Editor wishes once more to express his sincere thanks to the large number of friends, not all of them even personally known to him, who have sent their sympathy and good wishes to him in his illness. It is not at present possible for him to acknowledge their messages individually.

The further operation which was necessary was to be performed on Wednesday.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Monday is 'The Ringing World's' thirtieth birthday. It first appeared on March 24th, 1911.

Bristol has suffered severe damage to her churches during numerous air raids, and last Monday night seven more churches and chapels were either burnt out or severely injured. A church in which many people were sheltering received a direct hit, but only one person was killed, though several were severely injured. Details of damage to the buildings and the bells are not yet available.

The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, speaking of the London which will arise after the war, said of the city churches: The London skyline would be dull without them. They should not be removed to the suburbs. London must retain Wren's steeples.

On March 16th, 1778, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Mancroft. It was the longest length in the method and for a time gave the record to the Society of Cumberland Youths, who were then in the middle of their historical long length contest with the College Youths.

Challis F. Winney was born at Nayland in Suffolk on March 17th, 1858.

On March 17th, 1844, the Cumberlands rang 7,025 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Poplar. The peal was composed and conducted by Henry Haley and contained sixty full tittum courses between singles. In the next year John Cox composed a 6,701 without singles, which had the sixty in-course course ends, but in which one course necessarily was incomplete.

The culmination of the long and keenly fought long-length contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was reached on March 22nd, 1802, when the latter society rang 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, single handed, at St. Saviour's, Southwark. They had already secured the ten-bell record by their 12,000 at Shore ditch in 1784.

Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on March 22nd, 1901, at St. Peter's, Brighton.

A peal of Grandsire Cinques, 9,020 changes, at St. Martin's, on March 23rd, 1887, gave the Birmingham men the record for the method, which since 1735 had been held by the College Youths.

On the same date in 1837 at Liverpool Elijah Roberts tapped on handbells, 19,440 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus; and in 1898 Bernard Witchell called on handbells for the Birmingham men 8,888 changes of Stedman Caters.

The College Youths rang 5,020 Plain Bob Caters at Fulham on March 23rd, 1783. They claimed it as the first peal in the method, but two, both 6,480, had already been rung at Leeds in Kent.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

THE LONDON CHURCHES.

A PRECIOUS HERITAGE.

In an article on the churches of London, 'The Sunday Times' protests against the suggestion to rebuild them in the newer suburbs where they may be thought to be of more use.

The churches of London, as and where they stand, provide the great corpus of English classical architecture from which all who pass through the imperial capital may learn the precepts and observe the growth of the national style. That style originated with Wren, working on the academic foundations laid by Inigo Jones.

The Fire of London gave Wren his opportunity and the inspiration of his cathedral and his nucleus of churches held good for a century and a half, through Gibbs, Hawksmoor, Dance, and their like, down to the architects of the Greek revival. Thus England was endowed with a tradition of good building, eloquent, gay and just, which has no equal outside Italy. Every church erected between the Fire and the Gothic Revival is intrinsically precious. But still more precious are they in conjunction with one another, on the sites where they were built, circumscribed by lanes of Saxon origin and enlivened by what Dr. Johnson called the full tide of human existence. For it is these circumstances that explain their form and scale. Transport such a church to the middle of a suburban merry-go-round and the virtue goes out of it.

When people speak of dispersing the London churches, they speak not only to the detriment of London as a city, but with glib and treacherous indifference to the preservation of the English architectural tradition.

CHURCH BELLS AS WARNINGS.

FOR LOCAL AND RESTRICTED USE ONLY.

The widespread uncertainty about the part church bells will play as warnings in the event of an enemy invasion is set at rest by a leaflet which will be distributed to the general public during the next few days.

The people are given full and detailed instructions of what they are to do; and they are told that there will be no attempt to rouse the nation by ringing bells in the way that the country was called to arms by fire beacons when the Armada came in 1588. Such a thing is, of course, out of date, though many people seem to have expected it. If church bells are rung at all, it will be as a warning to the local troops that the enemy have been seen landing by air near the church. It will not concern anybody else, and if members of the general public hear any bells, their duty is to take no notice. They will have other things to attend to.

The following is an extract from the leaflet:—

What does it mean when the church bells are rung?

It is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question.

Church bells will *not* be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has taken place. The ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

RECORD MEETING AT HETHERSETT.

What the Rector of Hethersett, the Rev. J. M. La F. McAnally, described as the most successful meeting of ringers he had known in his parish at any time was held on Saturday, March 15th. Referring to the ban on the ringing of church bells, he said this was particularly sad for the people of Hethersett, because only a few months before they had completely restored their bells. As a non-ringer he could not understand why the ringing of the bells with their clappers lashed would be of interest, and he had been at some pains during the day to assure his parishioners that the bells would thus be rung that afternoon.

Supporting the Rector, who took the chair at the business meeting, were the Revs. A. St. J. Heard and A. G. G. Thurlow, Messrs. J. G. W. Harwood and H. Tooke (branch secretaries), Mr. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), and members from Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Fornsett, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Miles), and St. Peter Mancroft), Wymondham and the local tower. Two new members, Mrs. M. A. L. Ames and Mr. B. Jermy, of Bergh Apton, were elected, bringing the total strength of this six-bell tower to 20 members, a tribute to the combined efforts of the Rev. A. St. J. Heard and Mr. H. C. Boggis.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Norwich on Saturday, April 19th, to take the place of the usual Easter Monday meeting. It is hoped there will be silent practice on St. Giles' bells, handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry, a service in the latter church and tea in the Parish Hall.

The Rector of Hethersett was heartily thanked for his kindness in allowing the use of his bells and for conducting the service, the organist for her helpful part and Mr. Albert Bracey for securing the clappers of the bells. Mr. George Bell, his wife and daughters were not forgotten for their heroic efforts at the King's Head in coping with the additional numbers for tea.

The success of this meeting is a further indication of the healthy state of the association in war time, as was the decision to print a report for 1940 and the steady influx of subscriptions. There are defaulters, of course, but the great majority of the members of the Norwich Association are genuine supporters.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LITTLE CLACTON.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Little Clacton on Saturday and was attended by fifteen ringers from Mistley, Dedham, Great Clacton, Tendring, Kirby-le-Soken, Rushmere, Thorington, Halstead and Little Clacton.

During the afternoon and evening eleven methods were rung on handbells, including Double Graudsire, Graudsire, Double Court and Oxford Bob Triples, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob Minor, Bob Major, Single Court, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor (single handed) and Stedman Doubles.

Service was held in church at 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Max Sewell Wontner, who gave an address and a warm welcome to the ringers. At his request handbells were rung before the service by Miss H. G. Snowden 1-2, Alan R. Andrews 3-4, G. A. Andrews 5-6, H. J. Millett 7-8.

Owing to a misunderstanding, the arrangements for tea had come to grief, but the secretary had advised those intending to be present to bring food, and tea was supplied by Mrs. Wright.

A letter was received from Mr. W. J. Nevard's son saying that his father had hurt his leg and was unable to be present. The meeting sent condolences to Mr. Nevard and hoped he would soon be all right again.

Ramsey was chosen for the next meeting, to be held in June. Mr. C. A. Andrews moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for having the meeting at the Vicarage and for the beautiful service, which was much enjoyed; to the organist and blower, and the members of the choir for their services.

SIR HENRY TULSE.

ROYALIST AND CHURCHMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one holding the memory of Sir Henry Tulse in much regard, I had great pleasure in reading Mr. Trollope's article on Tulse and his Times, which you published; perhaps I may be allowed to add a few comments.

Sir Henry was born about 1620. He was a country gentleman living in the New Forest and was returned to Parliament in 1640 as a member for the nearby Christchurch. In successive Parliaments he is described as of Hinton Admiral (not of London), and he left a large sum for the poor of that parish (Sopley), which charity still exists. Thus with a London home with its interests also, he had a full life and apparently threw himself wholeheartedly into parochial, civic and national affairs. And then there was his recreation of bellringing, so strong indeed that, despite the claims of his mayoralty, he determined not to forgo the concurrent Mastership of the College Youths.

The above was aptly dealt with by the Rev. Canon Tatlow, as Rector of the parish, in giving his address after the unveiling of the Tulse Memorial in St. Dionis Backchurch Courtyard. He said that such devotion to affairs was indeed typical of British character in all periods and especially so when the 'times are out of joint,' and, continuing, said, 'Public service entered largely into his life, and turning to the social and political environment of those who, like Tulse, lived in the last half of the 17th century, we know that it was conditioned by the great readjustments which followed the Renaissance and the Reformation, of which indeed the then recent Civil War was but a part. England was recrystallising and was to emerge from the final revolution of 1688 as we know it to-day.'

Throughout these stirring times Sir Henry was both spectator and actor and he played his part well. He had to react to the intrigue and subtle cross play of Charles II. and then to the impatient bigotry of his successor James. It is more than interesting to observe that he was "King's friend" when nominated as a Royalist Mayor to a disturbed city, just dispossessed of its ancient Charter, and, again, that Tulse was to pose as Church's friend when James II. removed him from the Aldermanic Court (with others) for obstruction. But the final act was when, in 1688, William and Mary restored with honour Tulse and all those Alderman, of whatever party, who had been ejected.

It was 10 years before his Mayoralty in 1683-4 that Tulse was knighted when, having just been elected Alderman and Sheriff, the King bestowed that honour upon him publicly at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. (There is a contemporary reference to 'jollity and splendour.') The King probably knew his Tulse and his City of London too, for we must remember that for years after Cromwell's death it was a stronghold of Republicanism. So fiercely did the currents of political and religious strife run that even Pepys (though a friend of the King) was committed to the Tower, and was for months in danger of his life on a perjured charge. His great preferment afterwards was partly a royal requital. Mr. Trollope gives an admirable summary of all this, but I should like to add that 'packed juries' on one side were as obvious as 'packed benches' on the other. There were over 100 towns involved in this 'quo warranto' business, and London submitted sullenly, but it was not so with many and some towns even offered to spontaneously remit their Charters, as a Royalist gesture.

I will only add that Tulse's portrait hangs at Clandon, Lord Onslow's home near Guildford. (He has kindly promised that I shall see it at some time.) He is, by the way, not a descendant of Sir Henry's son-in-law, but a co-lateral relative. And in regard to the alleged tragic end of Tulse's daughter at Croydon, this is mentioned in 'Beaven's Aldermen' under the year 1673. She was not married until 1676 or so, and there is no other reference to the tragedy so far as I know, so, as the old lady said, 'let's hope it isn't true.'

E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

Italian Villa, Bromley, Kent.

BIG BEN.

AN INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPH.

The B.B.C. Handbook for 1941 contains a most interesting and unusual photograph of Big Ben, the bell that so many millions have heard and so very few have ever seen.

As all ringers know, the bell is cracked, but the photograph shows it to be worse cracked than most of us imagined, and right in the centre of the sound bow a big square hole has been cut to stop the crack from going further. No wonder the tone is far from pure, but should we really wish our old friend to be recast? The main reason it has never been done is, we understand, that to get a new bell into the tower would mean the costly and inconvenient job of dismantling and refurnishing several rooms which occupy the space in the tower below the bells. It would be easy to get the old bell down, for it could be broken up first.

The design of the massive iron work on which the five bells hang will be of interest to those who have studied bell frames. It is like nothing to be found elsewhere.

We are indebted for the copy of the handbook to the courtesy of Miss Beatrice Hart, the Editor of the B.B.C. Supplementary Publications, who is a ringer at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, and secretary of the local guild.

ISAAC JOHN BENJAMIN LATES. CONTEMPORARY'S SKETCH OF AN OLD BIRMINGHAM CELEBRITY.

One of the best known of the early Birmingham ringers and one of the men whose names will always be associated with the composition of Stedman Triples is I. J. B. Lates, one of whose peals is still frequently rung. John Day, another Birmingham celebrity, wrote many years ago his recollections of the ringers he had known in his young days, and the following is his sketch of Lates.

Mr. Lates (I. J. B.) was a native of Walsall, his father being a professor of music, and organist of the Parish Church of St. Matthew. Both father and mother were victims of the terrible cholera plague of 1832, and were, I believe, both buried on the same day.

He was an upholsterer by trade, having, as I always understood, learned that business at Oxford, in which city his earlier peals were rung. He was of rather spare habit, about 5 ft. 8 ins. high, a bit of a dandy in dress, and very gentlemanly in manner.

He had an impediment in his speech, which I cannot very well describe. It was not a stammer, but as if the tongue was too long, and got into the way of the words he wished to utter.

As a ringer he was not very remarkable, and his manner of handling a bell was peculiar and somewhat awkward. When ringing he stood very erect with his legs close together, seeming to pull entirely from his elbows, with little or no movement of the body, consequently the bell he rang had to go fairly well.

He rang and conducted several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob on eight and ten bells, but I am not aware he rang peals of Stedman.

There can be no doubt that he had great ability as a composer. He was the first to produce a peal of Stedman Triples with only two extremes, that is, Doubles, and from 1842 to 1846 it was rung many times. Many excellent peals of Stedman Caters by him were rung, and the earliest peal I can find with the 5th or 6th behind the 9th and the treble in 2nd's place at the course-ends throughout was composed by him and rung in September, 1844. In Treble Bob Major his 5,024 stands unsurpassed, and in short, there are good peals of his in each of the standard methods, since he always aimed at excellence.

Lates was especially clever as a listener to ringing, and while so engaged he would make imaginary figures on the palm of the left hand with the forefinger of the right. He would make the Bobs as they were called, and say what the next course-end should be so that he would very soon have the whole plan of a peal before him by simply listening. His memory, too, was wonderfully perfect in these matters, as he would go home and commit to paper anything that particularly struck him. This gift of his was very well understood by the best men of the Exercise, from since time to time he gave numerous proofs of it.

One of his peculiarities used to be somewhat of a puzzle to us at that time, and still remains a puzzle to me at the present time. Every now and again he used to surprise us by bringing an account of a peal, either Trebles or Major, rung at the village of Christleton, in Cheshire. In the band there were several brothers named Mayers, and a Mr. J. Porter who conducted, and Lates used to describe them as 'devilish clever fellows who could ring anything.'

Several of his peals of Stedman Triples were said to be rung there, and that, too, when they were not so easy to conduct as they are now. When my uncle was practising for his Treble Bob Triples, Lates, by listening and chatting about it, soon found out how it was worked, composed a peal of it, and got it rung at Christleton. Afterwards a peal of Double Norwich of his was supposed to be rung there. This sort of thing caused Lates to be disliked. My uncle was very annoyed about the Treble Bob Triples, and after speaking pretty freely to Lates about it, let it fall through.

From what I really know and from what I have heard from time to time I have small doubt that he was guilty of sharp practice on more than one occasion and very likely he was not alone in such practice.

At one Michaelmas fair, several of the Christleton ringers came to Birmingham, when we considered them no better than ourselves, in fact hardly so good. In after years, when the late W. Snowden wrote to that place for information respecting some of the peals rung there, he could get none. He was particularly anxious about the Double Norwich reported to have been rung there in 1846, and wrote several letters on the subject. To one he got the reply that they knew nothing about it, and to his last letters no reply at all.

When stricken down in his last illness in 1857, Lates sent for Chattell and gave him his MS. books and papers. Later on, when Chattell was going to the home in Harbourne, he gave them to Mr. J. Perks, who in turn gave them to Mr. H. Bastable. They were in my possession for some time, and while perusing them I discovered the peal of Double Norwich before-mentioned, marked as having been rung at Christleton in 1846. On making this discovery I took the papers to Mr. H. Johnson so that he might be able to examine the peal and he did so, but could not make it out to his satisfaction. There are four Singles, two made in the ordinary way and two in four-five; this was afterwards explained by Mr. A. P. Heywood.

These MS. and papers were in Mr. Johnson's possession for some time, and when I received them from him I addressed him somewhat as follows: 'Well, Harry, you have now seen what he has left behind him.' I often think of him as he put his hand on my shoulder and looking me full in the face, replied 'John, he was a clever fellow.'

Lates was always courteous and gentlemanly in manner. He died on March 22nd, 1858, in his 60th year, and was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard.

ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK. NARROW ESCAPE IN AIR RAID.

Twice recently Southwark Cathedral has had a narrow escape from destruction by enemy action. On the first occasion a bomb fell within a few inches of the Lady Chapel, penetrated the ground and burst beneath. Ominous cracks have appeared in the wall of the retro-choir, but the extent of the damage cannot yet be known.

More recently a very heavy bomb fell in the roadway between the Cathedral and the Borough Market, where so many ringers have stood to listen to the famous bells. The blast was terrific; six people in the vicinity were killed, all the painted windows on the south side of the church were broken, and the stone work battered and chipped.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

THE STANDARD METHODS.

PLACES.

When we are studying a method, the first thing we usually do is to examine its place-making. As we explained in our article of December 15th, 1939, a knowledge of the places will enable us to prick the full lead of any method, and when we know what places it has we know a very great deal about the method itself.

It is only natural, therefore, that composers and method builders should have come to look on the places as the essential things in a method, and should have tried, from time to time, to lay down rules to regulate their use in method construction.

Sir Arthur Heywood's views were expressed in the dictum that 'it is of the first importance that each bell should at backstroke occupy, when possible, a different position to that in which it struck at handstroke, thus carrying out the first law of change ringing that every bell that can must change its place each stroke, or, in other words, that there should be as little place making as possible, in which term whole pulls in front and behind are included.'

In Major ringing he advocated an unbroken sequence of alternate quadruple and triple changes. 'Less place making than this is not possible; more is not necessary.' He further, stated that 'the places made at any one change should not, if it can be avoided, adjoin one another.'

Heywood based his opinions on what he held were musical requirements, for he always professed to treat the production of music as the one essential condition in a method. With that side of the question we are not for the moment concerned, but his opinion influenced many other men, who accepted his conclusions as valid for method construction apart from music. There are still those who think that adjoining places are bad, and who look on places made wrong (*i.e.*, at back and hand) as evils, necessary evils, perhaps, in some cases, but still evils.

There was at one time a group of men who held that places are the only things that really matter in a method. 'Get the places right and everything else follows automatically. Places are the method.' Henry Law James was one of the leading men of this group, and the controversial opinions which, as older readers will remember, he so persistently and so ably expressed about the extension of Superlative and other methods, were based on these views.

Places are important things in method construction, but they are important only as convenient means by which we can understand what a method is. In themselves they are of no greater importance than any other work. It is right to say that we can deduce the whole of the work from the place making. It is wrong to say that the other work depends on, or is caused by, the place making. It is often said, for instance, that in Bob Major the making of second's place when the treble leads 'causes' the bells in 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 to dodge. As ordinarily used, the expression is harmless enough, but it is not really true. The place making no more 'causes' the dodging than the dodging 'causes' the place making. Each is necessary to the other, and both are parts of one operation, for place making, equally with hunting, is movement, place making is in fact a part of hunting.

We can best illustrate the work places do if we compare a method to the elaborate company drill which was an important part of army training in the old days. Company drill consisted of a number of complex movements by which soldiers in one formation were moved into another, and during the evolutions some of the men had to mark time for so many steps. Unless they did so properly, the others could not fall into their right positions. As we used to sing with great conviction on the march in France—

If the odd numbers don't mark time two paces,
How the hell can the rest form platoon?

Places are the equivalent of marking time, and just as, if you restrict the times when the soldiers may mark time, you will make the more complicated evolutions impossible, so, if you say you will have only so many places in a method and only those of a certain sort, you are saying in other words that you will not allow whole classes of complex methods.

The movement which is change ringing can be divided into two kinds—forward hunting and backward hunting. Forward hunting is when the odd bells go up and the even bells go down, and when the leading and lying are at hand and back. In the first lead of Plain Bob Major all the bells are forward hunting.

Backward hunting is when the odd bells go down and the even bells go up, and the leading and lying are at back and hand.

| Forward. | Backward. |
|----------|-----------|
| 123456 | 123456 |
| 214365 | 132546 |
| 241635 | 315264 |
| 426153 | 351624 |
| 462513 | 536142 |
| 645231 | 563412 |
| 654321 | 654321 |
| 563412 | 645231 |
| 536142 | 462513 |
| 351624 | 426153 |
| 315264 | 241635 |
| 132546 | 214365 |
| 123456 | 123456 |

These two are essentially the same thing except for direction. Each is a round block, in each every bell has a cyclical path, and the whole pulls at the front and behind are a part of that path.

All the movement in every method, even in the most complex, is made up of a number of similar blocks or combinations of them. Sometimes all the bells are involved, but more often only some of them. As a simple example, write out the hand and back rows of a course of Bob Major when the treble is leading and you will see that the seven working bells go through a backward hunting block among themselves. Or 5678 write out the four back bells in the first two sections of Bristol, and you will see that they take 6857 among themselves three steps of forward hunting and then three steps of backward hunting. 6857

In the majority of methods the movements are not so obvious, but they are always there. 5678

The Q sets into which the bobs of a peal composition are grouped form one class of this cyclical movement, and we can say that the plain course of every method is constructed by a number of more or less complicated Q sets. We know a great deal about a method

(Continued on next page.)

TREBLE BOB.

IT IS A MUSICAL METHOD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When 'Country Ringer' gets to heaven (as he seems to anticipate) and rings that 22 cwt. tenor to Treble Bob, perhaps he could squeeze me in when the gatekeeper isn't looking, for I would like to ring one of the other bells.

Treble Bob (especially the Royal) is far better to listen to, to my mind, than some of the 'higher' methods. True, the Wrongs, Homes and Middles produce repetitions of back-bell music with the back bells in coursing order, creating monotony, but that is what most of your recent correspondents seem to prefer in the discussion on 'What is a good method.' They don't seem to like more than one bell between the tenors, so Treble Bob should fill that requirement in part.

The real music of Treble Bob is in those very leads that are complained of, namely, when the four back bells are going through the slow, in Royal, and the two back bells in Major. If the 'beat' of the bells is perfectly maintained throughout these leads, with properly open leads, this is music equal to the best, for those who can appreciate something more than humdrum course-end stuff.

I like to hear a good tenor nobly leading, lying second's and leading again, with the 7th (or 9th) working away from her, and then working down again, to change places and reverse the music. Unluckily, striking sometimes goes to pieces in these leads, for ringers generally don't like the music, and lose the rhythm and the musical effect by lack of attention.

There is a place in Cambridge Major where the tenors are momentarily reversed in 5-6 with two smaller bells above them. Should these smaller bells be weak or rung too close over the tenors, the effect is the same as a course-end of Minor with reversed tenors. Treble Bob never produced anything as ugly as that.

I hope 'Country Ringer' will forgive me if I don't go quite so far as he does when he says that Treble Bob is a first-class method. Say rather that it is a grand fundamental method on which a lot of glittering frills have been tacked, namely, the Surprise group, but don't forget that they all, Treble Bob included, have got to round up their music to fit the familiar standard lead ends.

Mr. R. D. St. J. Smith refers to tenors 'pounding away on the front for a whole lead each.' Those bells strike no louder there than elsewhere. Has he ever considered the five-pull dodge in Superlative? That has been considered one of the best methods in its time. Some composers seem to shudder at the thought of having the 2nd in 6th's place, but if it is a good bell, capable of holding its own among the back bells, I can't see why it shouldn't dodge with the tenor for one or two courses in a peal, the musical interval is wide, but gives variety, and one gets the sense of homecoming as the 6th comes in front of the tenor once more.

May I drop a brick at the end of this letter? I make the statement that the most beautiful part of a course of Stedman Caters or Cinques is in the middle of the course when the small bells are working under the tenor. But it should be heard on handbells to really get the best of it. Best wishes.

PETER LAFLIN.

25, Hallam Street, Stockport.

THE TERM BOB.—'The word "extream," we must confess, is the most proper, but there now is, and for some time has been, a word called "bob" instead of extream. Upon what account the word was changed we know not; yet, nevertheless, for fashion's sake we advise everyone to use it.'—'Campanologia,' 1702.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

if we know its place making, but we know far more if we know its Q sets.

Now if the leading and lying whole pulls are a part of hunting, as they assuredly are, then the places which are involved in any one of these other movements are a part of hunting also. For instance, in the example from Bristol given above the sixth takes three steps forward and then three steps backward. So does the fifth. In one case it results in the two places which form the whole turn; in the other the single blow behind. Both are part of the same operation, and we cannot have one without the other.

All this shows us that we must not treat places as if they were things which stand by themselves, and such rules as those Heywood tried to lay down are bound to prove mischievous. We will not judge a method simply because it has few or many places, nor whether they are made at hand or back, nor whether they are together or not. We will take the method as a whole and judge it by what it gives us.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have been much interested by the letters that have been published on the subject of Surprise methods. Some years ago I took much pleasure in them, working to try and find the best that I could, and the best that I managed to find was Silchester, which was published in the Bristol District's book. It keeps the tenors well together and runs in three lead courses, which enables us to get many short touches and a great variety of peals.

Let me say in passing that Bristol Surprise is an older method than it is generally supposed to be. I discovered it when I was up at Cambridge in 1891. I first found Peterborough, and from it deduced Bristol.

E. BANKES JAMES.

Endsleigh, Tavistock, Devon.

12345678
21346587
12435678
21453768

24157386
42513768
24153678
42516387

24561378
42653187
46251378
64523187

46253817
42635871
24368517
42638571

46283751
64823715
46287351
42678315

24768135
42671853
46278135
64721853

46712835
64178253
46718523
64175832

61478523
16487253
61842735
16847253

16482735
Bob
18674235

A RINGING MATCH.

IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

'Norwich Gazette,' January 27th, 1733.
'January 27th, 1733. This is to give notice, That the Company of Five Bell Ringers, who go by the Name of Garboldisham Ringers in Norfolk, do challenge both Suffolk and Norfolk to ring the Best of Ten several Peals with them, for the Value of Five or Ten Guineas, to the Time and Truth of Ringing; the Ringers Names are as follow, and the Wager to be accepted by public Notice within Three Months from the Date hereof.—William Clarke, Crispin Taylor, Robert Hull, Robert Collings, John Dove.'

'Norwich Gazette,' March 17th, 1733.
'Saturday, March 17th. Whereas the Ringers at Garboldisham have in a late Advertisement challenged any Five Ringers in Norfolk or Suffolk to ring the Best of Ten several Peals on Five Bells to Time and Truth, for a Wager of Five or Ten Guineas; This therefore is to let them know, that we Five Norwich Ringers, whose Names are under-written, do accept their challenge; And pursuant thereto we desire them to meet us at the Red Lion in Bunnill in Norfolk on Monday the 2nd April next ensuing, at 10 a clock in the Fore-noon, and bring their Ten Peals pricked at Length with them; there to Article and put down the Money, and ring for it the same Day.—Robert Crane, John Harvey, William Callow, Edward Crane, John Webster.'

'Norwich Gazette,' April 7th, 1733.
'Saturday, April 7th. I am credibly informed, That the challenge lately given by the Garboldisham Ringers, to ring 10 Peals on 5 Bells for a Wager, and accepted by the Ringers of this City, has been decided in favour of the latter; They rung for 5 Guineas, and both Sides performed to Admiration, the Garboldisham Ringers erring only in the 9th Peal; and what redounds too to their Credit, was the treating each other with the utmost Civility.'

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.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6, silent), also handbells, available, commencing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Walgrave, Saturday, March 22nd. Usual arrangements. Bus leaves Derngate 2.40. — J. Dean, Hon. Sec., 4, Court Road, Northampton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch. — A meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 22nd, at 3 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage.—H. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., Diamond Jubilee House, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh, Chipping Sodbury.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 22nd. Service, St. James', at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Handbells will be provided.—W. C. West, Branch Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farrington Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether close bell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual nomination meeting. — The next meeting will be held at Bramley on Saturday, March 29th. Handbells in Schools 3 p.m. Plain tea will be arranged for all who notify Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warrels Avenue, Bramley, by Wednesday, March 26th. Business meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. in the Church Room. Service in St. Augustine's Church at 4 p.m. Tea about 4.30, notice for which must

be given to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2. (telephone Hampstead 4510). Please bring all un-paid subscriptions.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at the Railway Hotel, Hinckley, on Saturday, March 29th, at 6 p.m. Plenty of handbell ringing. All welcome and the hotel is just outside the station entrance. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Subject to national exigencies, the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing. Tea (bring your own sugar) at 4 p.m. at a charge of about 1s. per head. It is essential that notice for tea should be sent to the undersigned not later than March 29th. The annual business meeting will follow the tea. Annual committee meeting in the hall at 3.30 p.m. prompt. The undersigned's light peal of eight handbells will be available. An urgent appeal is made for the payment of subscriptions, especially by unattached members. It is hoped that the meeting will be well supported.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Tel. Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

DEATH OF MR. H. J. HUNT.

The death is announced at the age of 75 of Mr. H. J. Hunt, of Camberley, which took place on January 19th.

A good tenor ringer and a lover of good striking, he started his ringing career at Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, and at Chippenham, under the tuition of Mr. Sidney Hillier, the Ringing Master of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. He then went to Reading and Caversham and afterwards to Hungerford, where he found the tenor without a clapper, but, being a machine and engine smith, he got permission and forged and fitted a new one to the bell.

Next he went to Chirton, Wilts, where he taught a young band of ringers and was a member of the choir. Then in 1916 he joined the band of ringers at St. Michael's, Yorktown. He rang several peals on the tenor to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and at 70 years of age rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on the treble at first attempt.

ST. MARY'S, SWANSEA.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many ringers will hear with regret that the bells of St. Mary's Parish Church, Swansea, have been melted by the heat of the fire when the church was burning. Only one bell seems to have been left at the base of the tower. As towers with rings of bells suitable for ringing are few and far between in Wales, this loss will be felt more than usual, especially as Swansea not so many years ago was the centre of ringing west of Cardiff. There is another ring of eight in the town, but these are not popular with ringers in general.

Swansea.

L. A. HOARE.

J. A. TROLLOPE'S

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