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FRIDAY, MARCH 28th, 1941.

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## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Central Council, and had the times been normal we should be looking forward to giving it on Whitsun Tuesday a fitting recognition.

This is not the first time that war has robbed us of the pleasure of celebrating a notable anniversary. Twenty-six years ago in May was the bicentenary of the first true peal ever rung, but it had to go by almost unnoticed. In the present case we need not be altogether deprived of our festival, for, though it is fifty years since the earliest councillors met at the Inns of Court Hotel in Holborn, the exigencies of war have in three years prevented any meeting from being held, and so up to the present there have been but forty-seven meetings in addition to the preliminary convention in 1890, which settled the constitution of the Council. The fiftieth meeting has yet to be held.

The celebrations of anniversaries are pleasant functions, and they have their uses too, for they give us a good opportunity of taking stock and seeing if, and how far, we are making progress. So far as the Central Council is concerned, we may fairly say, as we look back over the years, that it has proved its worth and justified its existence. To the younger members that may seem to go as a matter of course, but older ringers will remember that the Council did not come into being without a lot of active (and a still greater amount of passive) opposition. The question was repeatedly asked, What good will it do? And as the years went on the question changed to, What good has it done? Perhaps there are still some who are inclined to ask the question, and perhaps it would be difficult to give an answer satisfactory to them. Yet we know that the Council has been of enormous benefit to the Exercise, and we venture the opinion that the greatest good has resulted, not from anything that has actually been done, but from the mere existence of the Council. It has provided the Exercise with a visible head; it has drawn ringers closer together and shown them that they have common interests and a common brotherhood; it has done its share in killing the old cut-throat competition, which worked in the belief that one society could prosper only at the expense of another. How far the great advance in method ringing is directly due to the Council is not easy to say, but at any rate the expansion in six-bell ringing, which began it, could not have taken place without the Council's books.

We are very pleased to be able to publish this week an account by Canon Coleridge, who was one of the original members and has never missed a meeting. It will be

(Continued on page 146.)

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read with the greatest interest. We also print the first of a few articles which will attempt to describe the foundation of the Council and some of the earliest members. There were men of outstanding character and ability among them, and the work they did was sound as a whole and stands.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one extent of Oxford Bob, two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Bob Minor.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... .. 3-4  
HAROLD HOWSON... .. 5-6

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First peal in four methods by all.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*EDWARD F. COWPERTHWAITE 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 5-6  
\*CYRIL CROSTHWAITE ... 3-4 | †E. ROGER MARTIN ... .. 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

\* First peal in the method. † First peal on handbells. First peal of Major 'in hand' by all except the conductor. First handbell peal of Major in the district.

## SILCHESTER SURPRISE, MAJOR.

A CRITICISM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Silchester is one of the methods selected for the new Surprise Major book, but we are not quite sure that it really deserves a place.

The method has an attractive diagram, a good plain course, and a good name. It brings the bells up in 1-2 and 7-8 in their natural coursing order.

There are eight false course ends, A 32546, C 53624, D 46253, E 65432, P 34562, Q 62345, R 54263, and S 46325. These will allow only a fraction of the most musical courses to be used.

To produce a five-thousand, sixth's-place bobs must be used to cut away four leads of the work of the tenors, in every course. Sixth's-place bobs in a second's-place method are, of course, allowable, but they certainly are objectionable, and we should not care to recommend their use.

Whatever good qualities a method has, it seems to us to be largely condemned if no peal is possible in which the tenors do more than three leads of their full work.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE,  
ERNEST C. S. TURNER,  
The Methods Committee.

Ealing.

## WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD?

CAMBRIDGE AND BEDFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Woolley has brought out the great point of a method, the lengthening lead. While making a method more difficult, it produces the 60 course-ends in a little over 6,000 changes.

He also speaks highly of the contiguous places and to those who object they are covered up with beautiful double dodging, especially on the higher numbers.

Mr. Harvey has given the matter a thorough examination and goes on to say that Cambridge has Bedford soundly beaten in extension. I will give Mr. Harvey the mutations while the treble is in 3-4 as being part of the construction of Cambridge, but I cannot agree to bells laying still with the treble in 5-6 and 7-8 for Royal and Maximus, whereas Bedford, as Mr. Melville says, is pure changes.

Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

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## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL. THE BACKGROUND.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The first meeting of the Central Council, which was held on Easter Tuesday fifty years ago, was an event of the greatest importance in the history of change ringing. It was the culminating stage in the organisation of the Exercise, in itself a notable part of the reform movement which saved our art at a time when it seemed certain to pass away as a thing that had outlived its usefulness.

Change ringing had been practised for many years, and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was mainly a secular sport recognised as such by ordinary people who saw nothing amiss in it.

Soon after the first quarter of the nineteenth century a great decline set in all over the country, due to changing social conditions and to the fact that the class of men who had formed the backbone of the Exercise was no longer attracted to the belfry. This decline was almost universal, and was not contradicted by the existence here and there, in Birmingham, Sheffield and some other towns, of skilful bands whose performances are still recorded on peal boards. The decline reached bottom level about the decade following the year 1850, and at that time the general status of ringers was very low indeed. They had gained, and to some extent earned, a very bad name, and never was their reputation among the general people so bad.

At the same time there had been a very great alteration in the ideals and opinions of churchpeople, so that the gap between the ringers and the Church authorities, which had always existed more or less, considerably widened, and a state of affairs formerly tolerated or winked at became a scandal.

The opinion of most of the clergy was that their ringers were a nuisance. The case seemed to them too bad for reformation, and it was only the long tradition and the real vitality of the art which kept ringing alive at all. In the villages when the bells got unringable they were often left silent, and to the clergy it was rather a matter for satisfaction than not.

The general standard of ringing itself was declining, and to any acute observer, who knew the conditions throughout the country it must have seemed certain that change ringing was doomed.

But the sentiment and love of church bells, which in a most remarkable way had been for long ages a part of the very nature of the ordinary Englishman, was not altogether dead, and there still remained a minority among the ringers which gave hopes for better things to come. Especially there was a small group of men, some of them clergymen and some of them laymen, who set themselves to the work of reform. They faced the facts squarely, they recognised the magnitude of the task, they were content to proceed step by step, and to-day we reap the benefit of their labours.

The chief difficulty, and no doubt the ultimate cause of all the trouble, was the entirely secular nature of ringing, and the complete divorce between the Exercise and the Church. The clergy were nominally in control of and responsible for the bells, but in practice the ringers were quite independent and had their own ideals and their own supposed rights, rights which had existed for many a long year, and to which they clung tenaciously.

The reformers recognised, perhaps more or less instinctively, that the thing most necessary was to bridge this

gap between churchpeople and the ringers, and that led to the formation of the diocesan and county associations which in the long run did have the desired effect.

Many a reforming parson in his own parish would have liked to make the belfry a part of the church organisation in the same way that the choir was, and many did try to do so. They drew up model sets of rules which they expected their ringers to observe, and we very often come across copies of these rules still hanging on belfry walls. This thing may have done some good, but probably not very much. The reform that was so badly needed had to come from within the Exercise, not from without, and the art could only live, not by changing the secular nature of ringing, but by maintaining it and using it for the service of the Church.

That is where the great territorial associations did so much good. They brought ringers in close touch with each other, widened their outlook and gave them higher ideals, brought them into better relationship with the clergy, attracted a better class of men to the belfry, and at the same time fully maintained the traditions of change ringing as a secular art worthy of being pursued for its own sake. When we say that the associations did these things, what we mean is that they made it possible for ringers to do them for themselves.

One result of the conditions under which the Exercise grew up during centuries was that ringers have never been a part of the parochial organisations in the way that choirmen, for instance, have been. Of course, when there is but one ring of bells in a place, the band has been compelled to confine its practices largely to one tower, but whenever they have had the opportunity, ringers have gone from belfry to belfry as fancy and convenience dictated. Especially has it been so in the large towns.

This and the secular nature of the art have made it possible and, indeed, necessary for the Exercise to be organised in an entirely different way from any other body of men connected with the Church. The Exercise is a collection of persons who have common interests and common aims not shared by outsiders, and it is in a real sense a whole.

It was natural and, indeed, inevitable, therefore, that as soon as the territorial associations had time to show their usefulness, men should think about some supreme organisation which should co-ordinate their activities and be the outward sign of the unity of the Exercise, able to represent it in the face of the Church and the general public, and capable of looking after the interests of ringers and promoting the art of change ringing.

The first public suggestion was made in 1883. In order to promote the interests of ringing and to further belfry reform, a meeting was arranged in connection with the Church Congress, which was held at Reading in that year.

The scheme had its origin among the members of the Oxford University Guild, with the Rev. Dolben Paul as its moving spirit. In order to widen the appeal, the assistance of some other and better-known men was sought, and the committee nominally consisted of five parsons—C. D. P. Davies, G. H. Harris, A. du Boulay Hill, F. E. Robinson and Wolmer Wigram—and three laymen—Jasper Snowdon, C. A. W. Troyte and Captain Acland-Troyte. Whether they were all equally interested and enthusiastic about the project may be doubted.

The meeting was a general one, open to the public, and about 125 were present, a large proportion of them



naturally being ringers. They included several of the ringing parsons of the time, of whom F. E. Robinson is best remembered to-day, and laymen like Captain Acland-Troyte, Gervase Holmes, Leonard Proctor, Captain Moore, J. Martin Routh, and John W. Taylor. More representative of the rank and file were John Nelms and William Baron, the Cumberlands, William Wakley, of Burton-on-Trent, Samuel Reeves, of West Bromwich, Edgar Bennett, of Beddington, and William Newell, of Reading. Lord Nelson presided.

The proceedings followed the custom at the official Church Congress meetings. First a paper was read by the Rev. A. du Boulay Hill on 'Bellingringing Associations, their object and organisation.' C. D. P. Davies followed with a paper on 'Change Ringing—what is it?' and then a general discussion was invited. In the course of it Gervase Holmes moved a resolution 'that a committee of five be appointed to draw up a scheme for the formation of a National Association of ringers for England.' The suggestion evidently was not his own and came from the promoters of the meeting, but he said that a grand national association which should combine the whole of the ringers of the country had been his hobby for the last ten years. Holmes was a Norfolk country gentleman and a Justice of the Peace. He, in conjunction with Captain Moore and an engineer named Mackenzie, had started a bell foundry at Harleston. They cast a few rings of bells, including the octave at Thorp next Norwich, and introduced several improvements into bell hanging, among them steel frames and spring clappers.

F. E. Robinson supported the proposal and said that if they had a national association they as ringers would be enabled to have a very pleasant time together, which was one of the first things to be considered.

The committee appointed consisted of Captain Acland-Troyte, the Rev. F. E. Robinson, the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, C. C. Child, James Pettit, John Nelms and Henry Johnson. The Rev. Dolben Paul was the secretary.

It is likely that the committee thought that all they had to do was to draw up a good scheme and publish it; the associations and the Exercise would then gladly welcome and adopt it, and all would live happy ever after. If they did think so, they were greatly mistaken.

In due course the proposed scheme was published. It suggested the formation of a body to be called the National Association of Bellingringers. It was to have an unlimited membership and was designed to include every ringer in the land. Individuals could join on payment of an entrance fee of five shillings after having been proposed and seconded. Existing associations were expected to join as bodies, and each would bring its own members in en bloc. They were to hand over to the central body 10 per cent. of their subscriptions annually. Each association would have a representative on the governing body, which would consist of a president, master, secretary and council.

Once a year a meeting would be held, and it would consist of a service in church, a lecture, a dinner, and ringing, one steeple being set apart for the use of a previously selected band. On the days before and after the meeting, arrangements would be made for peal ringing. The choice of the place where the meeting would be held was left to the council, and a local committee would be formed to arrange details. All these arrangements were

modelled on those of the Church Congress, which at the time was a popular and influential institution.

The general objects of the National Association, apart from holding the meeting, were to collect and publish information of interest to the Exercise and to offer advice on all matters connected with belfries and belfry reform. What machinery would be set up to carry out these objects was not specified.

The scheme never had a chance of success. It was dead, in fact, before it came to the birth, and what killed it was the apathy and indifference of the mass of ringers in the provinces and the active hostility of the London societies. These difficulties might have been expected, and, no doubt, it was to meet them that Pettit, Nelms and Johnson had been added to the committee. But their presence on it could never have been anything but a farce. They were totally out of sympathy with the other members and their opinions and ideals; and if they had not been, they could hardly have exerted any influence. It seems that none of them actually served, and in any case they did not sign the report.

As things were, any scheme which depended for its success on the assent and co-operation of the general mass of the ringers was foredoomed to failure, and this particular scheme was not one which was likely to appeal to the active minority who could have forced it on their fellows. What good to ringers of the North or the Midlands would be a meeting be, held at Brighton or Cambridge? In those days twenty miles was a long way for a countryman or a working man of the towns to travel. F. E. Robinson and people like him would, no doubt, every year get their 'very pleasant time together,' but why should all the ringers of England have to pay for it? The average country ringer, if he thought at all about the matter, which is unlikely, probably considered it an attempt by a few parsons of whom he knew nothing much to gain control of the Exercise for their own ends. And that, of course, was true, though the ends were high and worthy ones.

The London societies would have nothing to do with the scheme. They considered it an infringement of their prerogatives and rights. They were quite satisfied with things as they were and wanted no change. The following letter was written by George Muskett, at the time the secretary of the Society of College Youths. He was replying to an anonymous correspondent (actually Benjamin Keeble), who had advocated the National Association scheme in 'The Bell News.'

'I can inform Nil Desperandum that the society of College Youths have been in existence for a quarter of a thousand years, and it is in as good a position now for strength both mentally and financially as it was two hundred years ago. We can boast of some of the best ringers in the land, we transact our business in a consistent and proper manner, we do our duty without being found fault with, we ask nothing of anyone, all our records and peals are intact from 1627, and we stick up for our character and rights; and in St. Paul's Cathedral tower on a Sunday morning stands a body of respectable ringers who are the freehold, the backbone, and the brain power of the College Youths Society, who are willing and ready to oblige a country friend or coach a youngster; and, pray, what more does Nil Desperandum want? I will tell him at once that we don't want a National Association and, what is more, we won't have one.'

This letter is a very valuable piece of historical evidence. Its defects of tone and temper are glaring and on the surface, but it was straightforward and honest. It said quite plainly what its author thought, and not only he, but other College Youths and the rest of the London ringers. They definitely stood for things which the promoters of the new scheme knew and cared very little about. For we must remember that behind all the activities of the Exercise there was going on, and had for many years being going on, silently and almost unnoticed, that struggle between the old ideas and the new. We know now that the old ideas were largely bankrupt, and that the salvation of the Exercise lay in its being able to adopt the new, but there would have been a grievous loss if a clear cut had been made with all the old traditions and ideals; and for them the College Youths and the Cumberlands stood.

Things, however, within those societies, and especially the College Youths, were by no means as rosy as the picture painted by Muskett. The College Youths of two hundred years before would have been very considerably surprised and amused at being compared with their successors, but history was not Muskett's strong point. The real objection to his point of view was that the state of London ringing in 1885 was bad, even by the standards of the time. There was a strong and growing feeling among the younger members of the society that it was desperately in need of reform; but the older members saw no cause for complaint, and they put down the revolt with a high hand and expelled the rebels by the application of rule 10. How much the society suffered from their action is difficult to say. The College Youths still

(Continued in next column.)

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**

**ANNUAL MEETING AT DUDLEY.**

The annual meeting of the Dudley Guild was held at Dudley on March 13th, when a good muster was present.

The service in church was conducted by the president, the Rev. Dr. A. P. Shepherd, Archdeacon of Dudley, who gave a very inspiring address. After the service the Archdeacon unveiled a peal board in the belfry recording a peal of Grandsire Caters rung half-muffled to the memory of Mr. H. Sheppard, hon. secretary of the Guild for 27 years.

At the business meeting, held in the School Hall, the President said how pleased he was to see so many present under the circumstances and without the use of the bells.

The vice-presidents were re-elected en bloc. On the proposition of Mr. B. C. Ashford, Mr. C. H. Woodberry was elected Ringing Master, Mr. J. Goodman was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. H. Shuck hon. treasurer, Mr. F. Colclough Central Council representative, and Mr. G. Guest and Mr. T. Justice auditors.

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held jointly with the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association at Hagley.

The best thanks of the meeting were accorded to the president for his address and for presiding at the meeting, to the organist for the musical part of the service, and to all the officers for their work during the past year.

It was decided to send a message of sympathy to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith in his severe illness, with hopes for a speedy recovery.

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Bellringing, though a recreation chiefly of the lower classes, is not in itself incurious or unworthy of notice.—Thomas Faulkner, the antiquary, A.D. 1813.

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(Continued from previous column.)

continued to enjoy their prestige as the first society of the land, but the real leadership of the Exercise passed definitely away from London to the provinces.

Thus the first attempt to give the Exercise a controlling body and a head proved a dismal failure, but it had made clear, at any rate, that a feeling did exist in a small but influential minority of ringers that such a thing was necessary, and it showed what the difficulties were and what mistakes had to be avoided.

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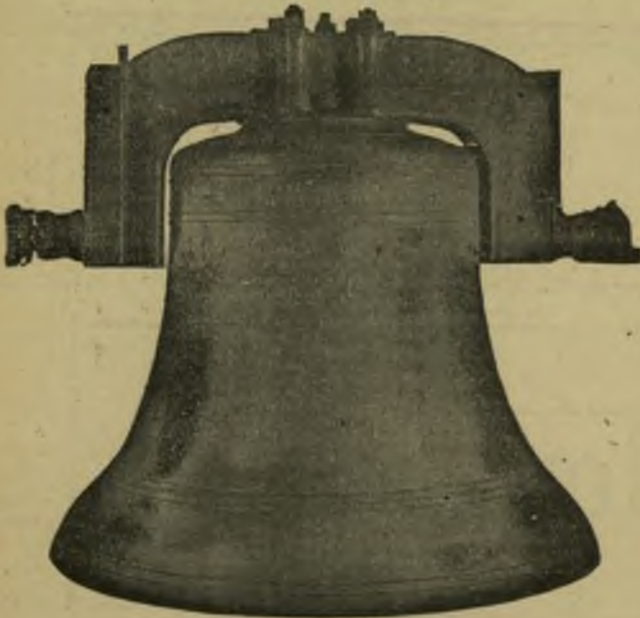
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## THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was successfully operated on last Wednesday, and is progressing quite favourably. It will be a few weeks before he has quite recovered.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are sorry to hear that Major J. H. B. Hesse has had an accident and broken his ankle. His many friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

The Ministry of Information has announced that, up to the end of February, 282 churches in England and five in Wales, belonging to the Church of England, have been destroyed or seriously injured by enemy action. The numbers of those less seriously damaged are 1,070 in England and 30 in Wales. Coventry and St. Paul's Cathedrals have been badly damaged, and Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey more or less slightly damaged.

The zeal and energy of the Lincolnshire police are beyond praise. We have been asked what would happen if a visitor went into the Mermaid at Surfleet on a Sunday and asked for a drink. The answer is that the special constable would be mobilised and the offender thrown into the river.

On March 24th, 1784, the Society of College Youths rang 5,160 changes of Real Double Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Two days later at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the rival 'ancient' Society of College Youths rang 6,048 changes of the same method.

The Cumberland Youths rang their famous record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 12,000 changes, at Shoreditch on March 27th, 1784, and on the same date in 1825 the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal was rung at Wakefield.

To-day is the one hundred and ninety-first anniversary of a peal of New Bob Triples rung by the Cumberlands at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The method is worthy of the attention of a good modern hand. It is given in the Central Council Collection.

The first authenticated single-handed peal of Grandsire Caters of over ten thousand changes was rung at Fulham on March 27th, 1762, by the College Youths. There is no record of the performance in the society's peal book.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Oxford Treble Bob Major, was rung. Fifty years ago on Sunday (it was Easter Monday), 24 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 7, Caters 3, Union Triples 1, Bob Minor 2, Major 2, Royal 1, Stedman Triples 4, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Maximus 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

Fifty years ago the Cumberlands spent a week-end at Quex Park. On Easter Sunday they rang a peal of Stedman Cinques and on the Monday a peal of Grandsire Caters and another of Treble Bob Maximus. George Newson called all three peals and the band included Henry Dains and Mr. George Williams.

The Rev. M. Melville, of County Road, Swindon, would like to get into touch with Mr. W. A. Stote and Mr. Wilfred Williams.

Among the peals rung on Easter Monday, 1891, fifty years ago on Sunday, was one of Grandsire Triples at Romford. William Pye rang the seventh and his brother, George R. Pye, rang the third. It was Bob's first five thousand. He has rung hundreds since, many of them records and of outstanding merit, but a first peal has a value and an interest all its own.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Gabriel Lindoff is not well and was unable to be present at the annual meeting of the Irish Association, which was held at Kilkenny on St. Patrick's Day. We wish him a speedy recovery.

To-day, Mr. George Henry Coombes, of 25, Swanmore Road, Ryde, the veteran ringler of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, celebrates his 98th birthday. He is still hale and hearty and is hoping that 'peace peals' will be recorded in 'The Ringing World' long before he reaches the double nines (99).

## GLoucester and BRISTOL Diocesan Association.

### HANDBELLS AT ROdbourNE CHENEY.

A pleasant and profitable evening was spent on Saturday, March 15th, at Rodbourne Cheney by a small number of members of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Representatives of three towers were present, and they were pleased to meet members of the newly-formed Highcliffe Society.

Practically all the time available was spent with the handbells and some good ringing was heard, while several made a little progress along the 'double-handed' path. One member of nearly three score years and ten scored his first course of Stedman Triples on 7-8, and others rang two working bells to Stedman for the first time.

The methods rung were Plain Bob Minor, Major and Royal, Stedman Triples and Caters, Kent Major and Grandsire Caters and Cinques.

The party dispersed about 8.30 p.m., and the fixing of another meeting was left in the hands of the secretary.

Visitors to Swindon may like to know that there is handbell ringing in Christ Church vestry on Tuesday evenings at half-past seven o'clock.



## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

### A MESSAGE FROM CANON COLERIDGE.

With a reminder that the Central Council of Church Bellringers keeps the 50th anniversary of its first meeting on March 31st, it has been suggested that a few lines from the oldest member of the Council would be welcome, if addressed to the officers of the Council in particular and to all ringers in general; making use of 'The Ringing World' for easy conveyance.

I can certainly claim to be an old member (in more than one sense), seeing that the Oxford Diocesan Guild did me the honour of electing me as one of its representatives 50 years ago, an honour which has been continued every third year up to the present, enabling me to attend every meeting of the Council, north and south, east and west, as well as Midland centres; as well as serving for many years on the Standing Committee and as president for nine. My knowledge of the mass of work done by the Council during these 50 years enables me to justify myself to write as an 'old member,' but the lapse of years causes blanks in what should be indelible memories, just when a clear brain is most needed.

Though it would not be right to say that nothing remains in the memory of the first meeting of the Council, there must be omissions, as at the present time I cannot look up records owing to the war and all that a war entails on a parson: still, I am as clear as the day over preliminary meetings for launching the Council—especially do I recall one at Birmingham—possibly because on that occasion I first met Henry Johnson, and had the privilege of ringing with him at Aston Parish Church. That is a memory not likely to fade, but as regards the first meeting of the Central Council much has faded away. It was held at the Inns of Court Hotel in the afternoon, an arrangement which lasted for several years till the Central Council had got into its stride, and members become more prone to speak.

Of course, this meeting was largely occupied in electing officers. There was no doubt about the president, Mr. A. Percival Heywood, the originator of the Central Council. He held the presidency till over-strenuous work in the Great War caused his untimely death. It was not easy to select a secretary. Mr. Attree, of Brighton, and Mr. Thornton having declined nomination, a vote was taken between Mr. F. E. Dawe and Mr. A. Strange. Mr. Dawe was elected, and was succeeded the following year by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, who for many years proved a tower of strength to the Council.

It was at this first meeting that a committee was formed for drawing up a report on the preservation and the proper equipment of towers, and, incidentally, the shirts of ringers—flannel and not cotton or linen, 'to preserve them from chills when seated in church after ringing. That committee, which still exists, has proved its value over and over again. The only discussion which I can call to mind was on the ringing of Triples—should it be reckoned a true peal if rung on seven bells only? Logically 'Yes,' but proper music demanded a covering bell. As far as I can recollect, such a peal should be counted as true, but a suggestion added, 'Don't do it again.' So much for the first meeting of the Central Council, closing with a general stampede of members anxious to get a pull on a rope or pint pot—probably both.

During the 50 years of its existence, the work and publications of the Council have proved of inestimable value to ringers. With such a president and secretary as we have now we may with a good heart face the grievous setbacks from which we are suffering, and go forward with increased energy as soon as the opportunity permits. It only needs the whole-hearted support and co-operation of the various associations, guilds and societies in brotherly collaboration not only to restore that which is broken down, but to lift the Council to a still higher stage of usefulness and estimation in the Exercise.

May I conclude these discursive remarks by offering my best wishes not only to the president, secretary, officers and members of the Central Council, but also to the great body of ringers who give support to it.

Finally, I would wish to convey my deep sympathy to all ringers who may be 'suffering in mind, body or estate' as a result of this terrible war, not least to those in South Wales, who have borne many heavy raids with marvellous heroism—bombs falling on them with heavy explosions, so different to the quiet and peaceful entry of the members of the Central Council who had hoped to accept the invitation to visit Cardiff for last year's meeting at Whiteutide.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

The Vicarage, Crowthorne, Berks.

## BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### BIGGLESWADE DISTRICT.

A very successful meeting, held by the Biggleswade District of the Bedfordshire Association at Henlow on March 22nd, was attended by 16 members from Blunham, Tempsford, Northill, Clifton, Maulden, Moppershall, Sandy, Hitchin and the local band. Mr. A. Joppy, of the R.A.F., and two enthusiastic members serving in H.M. Forces and now home on leave, were also present.

The tower bells, although silent, were in great demand and were kept going from 3 o'clock until 7.30 in various methods from Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise Minor. All agreed that the meeting was a success, and it was proposed to hold another at Henlow in the near future.

## THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th, and was attended by about 45 members and friends, representing most of the district towers, and Chertsey, West Grinstead, Guildford, London and Lincoln. The Army was also well represented.

Handbells were rung in the tower before a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head. As the Vicar had to leave early he was thanked for conducting the service and for welcoming the association to his parish.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master. The members stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect to two old members, Mr. A. H. Bundle, of Carshalton, and Mr. C. H. Reading, of Mitcham, who had died since the last meeting.

The meeting heard with regret that Mr. F. G. Woodiss, who has been in ill-health for some time past, is now confined to bed, and the secretary was instructed to write to him and express the meeting's sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

Two new members were elected—Dr. C. St. L. Finney, of Kingston-on-Thames, as an honorary member, and Miss J. Cole, of St. John's, Croydon, as a ringing member.

The committee's report for 1940 was read and adopted. The year had begun very promisingly, ringers had almost entirely recovered from the difficulties caused by the outbreak of war, and with a few exceptions ringing had been carried on almost normally at the district towers, at least for Sunday services, while at several towers practices had been maintained throughout the winter months. The prohibition of church bell ringing was a devastating blow at progress, but within a very short time the keener members began handbell practices which in many cases proved highly successful. It was extremely fortunate that hardly any of the churches represented by members had received more than minor damage. The number of members known to be serving in His Majesty's Forces is sixteen.

During the year two members were lost by death: Mr. E. Acock, of St. John's, Croydon, and Mr. John Beams, of Ewell. Only this year Mr. Beams celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his joining the association, and throughout that long period he had been a very keen member. He rang many peals for the association, and conducted two during the year. He had also served on the District Committee at various times, and during many years he wrote the association's peal books.

Five meetings were held during the year—at Beddington, Epsom and Ewell, Banstead, Leatherhead, and Kingston-on-Thames. Attendances at the first three (with tower-bell ringing) averaged 45. The Leatherhead meeting, held jointly with that district of the Guildford Guild, consisted of a hike from Box Hill to Leatherhead, followed by handbell ringing, and was a great success. It is hoped to have a repetition if circumstances permit.

Four peals were rung in the district: two of Grandsire at Ewell, and one each of Cambridge Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters at Beddington. Two members rang their first peal, and five others their first in the method.

The membership at the beginning of 1940 was 195. Twelve new members had been elected and one transferred from the compounding list. Two deaths had been reported, eleven members had been transferred to the compounding list, twelve had allowed their subscriptions to lapse, leaving a membership as at December 31st of 193, a net decrease of twelve from previous figures. There are now seven honorary members, 151 members representing 17 towers, and 25 unattached members.

Although the full effects of the ban on bellringing and the calling up of members will have to be faced during 1941, it is hoped with the continued support of members to keep the association going until the war is over.

The statement of accounts for 1940, showing a balance of £13 14s. 11d. (an increase of 18s. 3d.) was adopted.

The arrangement of meetings during the year was left to the committee's judgment, but it was agreed to hold the customary ringers' gathering at Leatherhead at the beginning of August.

The following officers for the district were elected: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. H. N. Pitstow; representatives on committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Mr. C. Potheary and Mr. F. G. Woodiss.

The general officers of the association were renominated as follows: Vice-presidents, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Croydon and Mr. Arthur Dean; Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

Mr. F. E. Collins conveyed to the meeting the good wishes expressed to this association, among others, by Mr. Albert Walker at the Henry Johnson Commemoration Luncheon at Birmingham.

Votes of thanks were passed to those who had arranged the meeting and to the organist.

Various courses of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, etc., on varying numbers of bells were rung, including courses by the representatives of the Army, the old 'uns, and the local band. Those present then adjourned to the less roomy but more attractive bar downstairs.



**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.****REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940.**

In these difficult times the problem which is just now facing most of the leading associations is whether it is advisable or even possible to issue the usual printed annual report, or whether it must be forgone until happier days. More fortunate than some others, the Norwich Diocesan Association has been able to print and issue its report for 1940, which is now in the hands of its members.

It is not, of course, the book which has been so familiar in past years. The detailed lists of members are omitted and the peal records have shrunk to meagre dimensions, but the essential features are there.

'We adopt,' say the officers of the association, 'no defeatist attitude; we have discovered that meetings are possible, although church bells cannot be rung. We look forward with confidence to the future of bellringing when peace comes again, if those who can will rally round now and help us to keep alive in these dark days the vital spark of our ancient art. If we lose contact with one another, if we lose interest, if we neglect our belfries, peace will come with our bells silent and forlorn and the return to normal times will be difficult and slow.'

During 1940 eight general meetings were held, three being in Norwich, and all were comparatively well attended. The two in Norwich after the imposition of the ban were especially well supported. In addition, several branch meetings were held.

The total membership of the association is given as 914, but of them 292 are non-resident life members and 187 Suffolk non-resident life members, leaving 387 ringing members and 42 honorary members.

Twelve peals were rung in 1940, six of them on handbells. The tower-bell peals were Superlative Surprise Major on the recast light ring at Hetherset, Kent Treble Bob Major at Wymondham, Minor at Somerleyton, Bergh Apton and Stratton Strawless, and Doubles at Haddiscoe. The six handbell peals were all rung by the same band and were one of Bob Major and five of Minor.

The officers are to be congratulated on the general standing and activities of the association.

**CLOCKS WHICH PLAY TUNES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Since the scarcity of ringing news, we have had numerous items of interest relating to bells. What about clocks which play tunes on the bells. As far as I can recollect, we have three in Shropshire, or rather two in actual use. At Norton-in-Hales there is a clock with carillon by Thwaites and Reed, of London, which plays a tune every three hours. Sunday, 'Sicilian Mariners'; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 'Home Sweet Home'; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 'Nae luck about the-boose.'

Ludlow has a clock which plays a different tune for each day of the week.

At Newport there used to be a carillon machine in the middle of the ringing chamber, worked by the clock, the rope-sight being by no means ideal. A few years ago, as it had got out of repair, it was disconnected and moved against the wall out of the way.

I once heard a clock at Tiverton in Devonshire which struck 'Queens,' 'Tittums' and 'Rounds' for the quarters instead of the usual Cambridge chimes, and very nice it sounded on those beautiful bells.

At Leominster, Herefordshire, there is a carillon machine attached to the clock. Some years ago, when I was calling a peal of Grandsire Triples on the fine back eight, we had just passed the half-way single when the clock started off with much whirring and clacking, two of the band not knowing what it was, thought something had gone wrong with the striking mechanism and the weight was running down. They started to laugh, and the more the old clock rattled the more they laughed, so we did not score a peal that day.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees Green, Prees, Salop.

**LONDON CHURCHES.****RESTORATION AND REBUILDING.**

The future of the damaged churches of London continues to engage the attention of architects. In a letter to 'The Sunday Times,' Mr. Morley Horder makes the following points:—

Most of these churches were rebuilt after the Fire of London and stand on mediæval foundations, and are therefore doubly sacred. To remove any more of them to make room for office buildings is therefore an architectural sacrilege.

He says that looking through a collection of a hundred or more etchings and engravings made in 1820 by John Coney and others, after a tour of the City to note the damage, he was glad to note that all the really fine towers are undamaged. The reconstruction of the building of this period is not difficult: the loss of so much beautiful craftsmanlike woodwork is the main difficulty.

In the new world we are planning these towers may yet be seen from the green belt that Evelyn loved and knew. Already St. Paul's is being seen more as Wren saw it, and Ludgate Hill may become a street worthy of such a vista. These towers were built as inspiring Christian landmarks, and may yet be needed even in the City for prayer and praise.

**SPliced RINGING IN SUFFOLK.****NOT BANNED BY THE GUILD.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—The Guild to which Mr. J. E. Bailey refers is evidently the Suffolk Guild. As spliced ringing is older than the Guild, that Guild obviously cannot have put a ban on it, 'when splicing was first practised.'

I have been present at all the committee and other meetings of the Suffolk Guild, and I can safely say that so far from the Guild putting a ban on it, it has never been mentioned once. If a spliced peal were rung by the Guild we should, like any other Guild, be glad to record it. I know of no member who has spoken against spliced ringing, though few members trouble to practise it.

For myself, theoretically, I object to it, because it infringes the canon which forbids more than two kinds of call. Practically, I must admit, from our experience here, it imparts a certain liveliness to the ringing. You have to keep your wits about you; one cannot go to sleep while the ringing is spliced.

H. DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

**HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.****A BAD PLAN.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There were some of us who rather fancied that the Highcliffe people were pulling our legs, but apparently they are quite serious.

Every attempt to teach beginners should be praised, but it is hard to see what good can be done by trying to make children 'not in their teens,' and without previous experience of ringing, try to ring Double Norwich double handed after a few practices. If these 'young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off' they will never make handbell ringers and it is a waste of time trying.

If it is true that these people do not let a practice go by without ringing some method which they had not done previously, it is pretty certain that they have attempted a lot and done nothing well.

This seems a perhaps harsh judgment, but the plan was put forward as one for other people to copy.

L. W. BUNCE.

**HOLT'S TEN-PART PEAL.****AND REEVES' VARIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—At Gravesend several years ago after an unsuccessful peal attempt, the conversation turned to 'out of the ordinary' methods, and a well-known member of the Central Council suggested Double Grandsire Triples as worthy of attention. This appealed to my father and a date was fixed there and then for an attempt. Something was said that care would have to be taken in the selection of a composition, and Holt's Ten-Part was suggested as one that would probably do.

Knowing that a peal of Double Grandsire had been rung a century or more before, I turned up 'Shipway' to see what he said about it and found that the peal given there by Holt was not his Ten-Part. This I sent on to the gentleman who was to call the peal, expressing doubt as to the Ten-Part running true. In his reply, he said that it would not, but that Reeves' Variation would, and he added, 'and this raises an interesting point, does the variation really belong to Reeves or did Holt make the alteration in order to adapt his Ten-Part to the double method?'

There is this to be said, that Shipway's remarks do not lend themselves to this theory, but whether the variation is by Reeves or Holt, it is, as our friend said, 'an interesting point.'

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

**ERIN DOUBLES.****HOW A SIX-SCORE WAS COMPOSED.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In answer to your correspondent's request, I furnish the following details as to the procedure I adopted to obtain an extent of Erin Doubles:—

I typed out the 30 sixes in pairs (positive and negative) and tried to form plain courses from them. This proved impossible.

After experimenting I came to the conclusion that calls would have to be made at the six-ends if an extent was to be obtained.

The question of calls was the next question to be answered. I took the usual Stedman single and placed it at the end of the six, and by this means built up the block of sixes which forms the first half of the extent and two smaller blocks of four sixes each leaving over the two last sixes of the plain course. The plan I adopted was to exhaust the combinations of any one bell in 4-5, and if the 10 six block lies examined it will be noted that this contains all the combinations with the 3rd in 4-5.

The problem now resolved itself into joining these blocks together, and I employed Stedman's original single, but placed at the six-end to achieve this.

It should be pointed out that none of the blocks mentioned is in itself a round block, but the whole can be fused into one round block.

The improved 'single' published in your issue of March 7th overcomes the fault of the original one in that it only affects the work of two bells.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.



## THE STANDARD METHODS. MUSIC.

It is quite easy to write a lot about music in connection with bellringing; it is not at all easy to write anything which will be of any use in a discussion like the present.

Music in bellringing, like music in general, is very largely a matter of taste and preference. Some people like one thing, some like another, and when two men differ strongly on the subject it by no means follows that one of them must be wrong.

Most of us know quite well what we consider good music, and usually our taste is sound; but what we say about it is not always either sound or sensible, and, indeed, quite a lot of nonsense has been talked on the matter.

This is especially so when men judge the musical qualities of a method of a peal composition from the figures. A good example is the familiar and much abused claim that 'the second and third are never in sixth's place at a course end.' To some people that is everything necessary to distinguish a musical peal from an unmusical one. They assume that what is good for one method is equally good for another, without ever stopping to examine the changes the peal actually produces. Composers of Superlative, for instance, are always anxious to keep the second and third away from sixth place at the course ends, and yet the fourth's place bell, which they ignore, strikes exactly the same number of blows over the tenor in 7-8 as the sixth's place bell does. The musical value of a 6-2 course end in Bob Major is totally different from the same in Double Norwich. We could give many other examples, but perhaps the most glaring is the claim, at one time quite common, that in peals of Royal and Maximus the second and third are never in sixth's place. As if it mattered a jot whether they are or not.

It is quite a frequent thing to find people expressing opinions on the musical qualities of methods for similarly absurd reasons based on paper qualities which have no real relation to the actual music produced in the belfry.

When we express opinions as to the musical qualities of methods our statements are usually general and vague, and that is inevitable because we are intentionally dealing with a general and vague subject, but a statement, which may be perfectly true in a general and vague way, can be very false and misleading when it is used in a precise and particular way.

For instance, some people lately have been saying that Treble Bob is a musical method, while others have said it is nothing of the sort. We know what these people mean, and we have no objection to their use of the expression. But, strictly speaking, Treble Bob as a method is neither musical nor unmusical; it is quite indifferent to either. All we can say, strictly, is that under certain circumstances Treble Bob can (or cannot) produce good music. But any method which can produce good music can equally well produce bad.

Most people studying a new method will judge its musical qualities from its plain course. That is quite fair and reasonable up to a point, but it does not go far enough. There are some methods which have excellent plain courses and perhaps one or two others beside, but are quite unable to produce a musical five thousand. If the plain course of Cambridge were as musical as the plain course of Double Norwich, which it decidedly is not, the two methods could not rank as equals, since Double Norwich has so many more good courses available than the other.

The plain course of Superlative contains what is probably the most varied selection of good music in a short space that we possess in common use. There are two other courses of about equal value, but little can be said for the musical qualities of the rest of the method.

When we are judging, from a musical point of view, a method's claims to rank as a standard method, we must consider not only its plain course, but all the other courses it has available for peals.

An important point which should not be lost sight of is that musical values are not the same to the listeners outside as they are to the ringers in the belfry. When we are ourselves ringing, we take note of many more delicate harmonies and rhythms than are noticed by the outsider. They do not listen with the intentness that the actual ringer does; usually they do not consciously listen at all, and it is only the bolder and more pronounced harmonies and rhythms which strike their ears. But it is on these bold rhythms that the effect of ringing depends so far as the general public is concerned, and it would be foolish to neglect their value.

Let us see, if we can, what really does constitute music in change ringing, and which methods are most likely to produce it. But first we will hazard a guess at what are the three or four short lengths of ringing which by common consent best give what is generally considered good music. They are, the plain course of Superlative Surprise Major, the plain course of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, three leads of Treble Bob Royal and the two or three Sixes before and after a Tittum course end with the sixth behind the ninth in Stedman Caters.

There are many people who would agree with this selection and yet would strongly dissent from the opinion that either Superlative or Treble Bob as a whole should be included among the most musical methods.

### MR. W. J. NEVARD. SERIOUS ILLNESS.

The many friends of Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, will learn with regret that he is at present seriously ill. On Saturday morning, March 8th, during a visit to Colchester on his usual business, he had a bad turn, but managed to complete his business and get back to his train. After leaving Great Bentley Station he had a fall and was found lying helpless in the roadway. He says he is very sadly and would like all his friends to know what has happened to him, as he is unable to write. He cannot read 'The Ringing World,' but his daughter reads it to him and it gives him such joy to hear the news. Everyone will join with us in extending sympathy and best wishes to him.

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## SILENT APPARATUS. THE PROBLEM OF CORRECT STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The queries raised by Mr. Clarke are not easily answered in the space of a letter, as I found when trying to explain the St. Lawrence Jewry appliance. As I may not have expressed clearly what I intended to convey, I will try to clarify the points he raises. As regards the apparatus itself I do not claim 'perfection,' but only a fair compromise, due to the fact that it depends for its action not on the clapper, but the movement of the bell—two very different things.

For the sake of this explanation a bell may be taken as a combination of two pendulums, the outer one, i.e., the bell itself, being pivoted on the gudgeons and the inner one (the clapper) on the crown staple, the pivotal point being *outside* the gudgeon line. The difference between the pivotal points is the 'throw.'

On being raised from the down position the first sound is made by the bell being pulled against the (stationary) clapper, the 'throw' not operating until the movement becomes great enough to overcome the initial inertia of the clapper, which then will strike on both sides of the bell, the actual moment of striking being when the bell having stopped (at the greatest amplitude of swing) the clapper runs on to make contact. The 'double blow' will be sooner with smaller bells, later with larger ones. The striking will now be regular, but the higher the bell the slower it becomes. This difference may be plainly heard on 'raising.'

From the foregoing two deductions may be made. A contact apparatus which does not operate until the bell is 'frame high' would be useless for 'raising' in peal, and also would not reproduce the appreciable difference in time of striking between 'frame high' and 'set pull.' An exceedingly small error in time is required to make the difference between what is termed good striking and bad. Take a peal of eight bells as example and a rate of striking of 25-27 changes per minute, or 4.8 seconds for a whole pull approximately. This means an interval of .3 second between bells or near enough so for practical purposes. If the interval be diminished between any two bells there follows a corresponding gap, and an error of only .05 second will make good striking into bad. There is this difference between positions of 'frame high' and 'set pull,' if not more as we found in actual practice, and on a contact apparatus the endeavours of the ringer to 'strike well' cause the 'work' I mentioned in my previous letter. When Mr. Clarke says he regulates the ringing by pulling his bell quicker or slower, he is voicing the same thing as myself when I said 'held it down' or 'pushed it up.'

May I say in conclusion that there are no 'patent rights' to the apparatus.  
E. MURRELL.

## USE OF SILENT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Having seen reports in 'The Ringing World' that various churches are carrying on 'ringing' silent, we approached the Rector with a view to keeping the band together by the same means at our church. We met with a blank refusal.

Could you inform us as to whether any instructions have been issued officially—by the Government or by the Church—that bells must on no account be *touché*—silent or otherwise.

If such is the case it seems strange that quite a number of towers are having silent practice which is denied to others. Has the official ruling—that bells shall not be *sounded*—been altered to—shall not be *touché*?  
A. BALLARD.

Burbage, Leicestershire.

The official order is perfectly clear. Church and chapel bells may not be rung except by the direction of the appointed authority. There is no restriction on any silent use of them, but certainly it would be most improper to instal any silent apparatus which would hinder their use as warnings. It has been explained that one bell is sufficient for the purpose. In our opinion, all the bells in the tower should never be silenced at the same time even temporarily.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

## BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. MEETING AT FELKIRK.

Owing to the bad weather the attendance at the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Felkirk on March 8th. was rather small, members being present from Eastwood, Wath and the local company.

The six tower bells were rung without clappers during the afternoon in a variety of Minor methods, and although striking could not be criticised, everyone taking part enjoyed having a pull.

At the tea in the Schoolroom the Vicar, the Rt. Rev. J. H. Dickinson, offered a hearty welcome to all. Mr. S. Briggs presided at the business meeting which followed. Apologies for absence were received from the president, Mr. E. Brookes, and Mr. A. Panther, vice-president. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Darfield on April 5th.

Ringing on handbells followed in the following methods: Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Bob Major, Plain Double and Little Bob Major Spliced and Plain and Gainsborough Spliced. The methods rung on tower bells were Plain Bob, Double Bob, St. Clement's and Oxford Treble Bob Minor.

## ERIN DOUBLES. WHICH CALLS ARE ALLOWABLE?

To the Editor.

Sir,—There is no real difference between Mr. Lewis and myself as to the possibility of obtaining a six-score of Erin Doubles. Where we differ lies in the question whether the 120 rows produced by him in his first variation are or are not Erin, and whether the combination of calls in his later variation is permissible.

To answer this question we must learn what are the functions of calls in all methods, and what particular form these calls may take in the method concerned. Long ago it was laid down in effect that a bob is a variation in the regular working of the method resulting in *three* of the bells changing in their mutual coursing order, while the single alters the C.O. of *two* bells only. In most methods this result is obvious, but in some (of which Grandsire is an outstanding example) the rule applies, though its working is concealed. (Holt's single is a special case and, moreover, its use is strictly circumscribed.) To prove the fact with regard to Grandsire, write out two leads of Doubles (or, better, Triples) to obtain the lead ends 253746 and 275634. Now write out one lead with a bob at the end for 752634. Is it not obvious that the C.O. of 2, 7, 5 has been changed, while that of 6, 3, 4 has been unaltered?

Further, the common Grandsire Single is not a single operation. It consists of a bob made on the handstroke lead of the treble and a single at the backstroke.

Bob	Single	Thus the single, strictly speaking, only affects
5172634	5172634	7 and 5. For convenience only one audible call
1576243	1576243	is given, though really the common Grandsire
1752634	1572634	single is a form of bob-single.

Again it has long been universally agreed that a method shall employ only two kinds of call, one of which is to be a bob and the other a single. While different forms of these calls may be used, one form alone of each may be employed in any particular extent. Anyone can see that all three calls used by Mr. Lewis are singles of different kinds, and he has to use two varieties for a 120. This in itself condemns both his variations. It may be argued that what is written above is inconsistent with the employment of bobs, singles and extremes in 120's of Grandsire Doubles; but it is to be remembered that the introduction of the extreme was an artifice introduced to enable 42 different six-scores to be got for a peal. It is hardly believable that this would have been recognised as allowable if no six-scores could be had with bobs and singles only. Thus in a sense the extreme is on a par with Pitman's and Morris' 240's.

Once more let it be remembered that an extent consists of a number of rows of which half are positive and half negative. When the plain course consists of all double or cater changes all touches produced by bobs contain positive changes alone. If half the extent can be got by this means the whole can easily be obtained by the use of two singles. If the half is not obtainable in this way (and this applies to Erin Doubles) it is impossible to obtain an extent by the use of one kind of single, at any rate without breaking up the whole construction of the method, and thus in effect destroying the method as such. An analogous case with Erin is Double Grandsire.

In my opinion, Stedman's Single is quite legitimate, though inferior to the modern Single in that it breaks up the slow work. *But* both forms of single must not be used in the same six-score.

Staverton Vicarage.

E. S. POWELL.

## ODD STRUCK BELLS. OLD HANGING AND NEW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One would have expected more replies to Mr. Turner's queries of March 7th about odd struck bells.

In my humble opinion, it is easier to ring a bell when it is slightly quick at back-stroke and correspondingly slow at hand, and probably you will find a majority in favour of this. The reason is not far to seek. The open hand-stroke lead gives more time, and consequently the little bit of extra time can be put to good use if the bell is slow at hand. Occasionally you meet someone who prefers it the opposite way, why, it is hard to understand. Generally speaking, this question affects the back end, especially the tenor in even bell ringing, and becomes more important as the weight of metal increases.

I am afraid it is a difficult matter to correct a false striking bell. My opinion is that the suggestion to adjust the bell on the stock would not mend matters. Occasionally I have inspected a false striking bell, and I have found what I expected, namely, that it was caused by the crown staple, whence the clapper swings down, not being dead central in the bell.

This can be tested by measuring from the ball of the clapper to the very place where it strikes the bell, making sure that the bell is level, in the direction in which it swings.

The old bell founders cast the crown staple in the bell, and once it was there nothing could alter it. The founders of to-day are more careful in drilling the necessary holes for the clapper fitting, consequently you seldom find newly-hung bells as false as some of the old ones.

I cannot remember ever having noticed what effect it has on a bell when it has been rung with the clapper on the wrong side, but would hardly expect it to be injurious to the bell.

LEWIS W. WIFFEN.

Melrose, Clock House Way, Braintree.



## 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.

### 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, Farringdon 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 handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

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. Please bring all unpaid 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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held in the Chapter House at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 5th, at 3.30. All committee members are requested to attend, if possible.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Durfield on Saturday, April 5th. Handbells in the reading room 3 p.m. Tea at Cross Keys Hotel 5.15, followed by business meeting and handbells. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Belgrave Church (8 bells) on April 5th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Tea at Hotel Belgrave at 5 p.m. for those who notify me by April 2nd. A meeting will follow. Will all members make a special effort to attend? Visitors heartily welcomed. Handbell ringing during evening.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Brown Edge on Saturday, April 5th. Handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Ringers are requested to make their own tea arrangements in future at our meetings. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 14th, at St. James' Church Schoolroom opposite Cardiff Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, at 4 o'clock.—John W. Jones Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryon Road, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street. Those who want tea must advise me not later than the 17th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield; Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (p.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.

### MARRIAGE.

PARFITT—SMALLWOOD.—On March 20th, at All Saints' Church, Weston, Bath, by the Rev. L. W. Fussell, Pilot Officer Leslie W. Parfitt, R.A.F.V.R., to Miss Margery Smallwood.

The first peal of Major by the Winchester Guild, a single-handed handbell peal of Plain Bob, was rung 50 years ago yesterday.

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