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**HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS**

Most of our readers have been following, we do not doubt with sympathetic interest, the career of a number of handbell enthusiasts, of whose doings accounts have lately appeared in our columns. Starting from scratch (for a year ago no more than two had done any ringing either in the tower or on handbells), they have made such progress that they have already reached Spliced Surprise Major, and recently during one afternoon they rang courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus, including Bristol and Double Norwich, and half a course of Grandsire Sextuples (*i.e.* Grandsire on thirteen bells). We feel sure we are right in saying that never before in the whole history of the Exercise has one band at one time rung such a wide and varied selection of methods.

Reports of such phenomenal progress were bound to be greeted in some quarters with a certain amount of scepticism, and we should have been rather surprised if we had not received some letters hinting at leg-pulling and the desirability of pinches of salt. It is all quite good-natured, and when half a dozen or so young people form themselves into a 'society,' hold an inaugural 'dinner' with toasts and speeches, and give 'at homes,' they do rather create the impression that they are living on an ideal and fairyland plane where common values do not hold. It may be—we do not know—but it may be that the difference between the Highcliffe Society and (shall we say?) the Society of College Youths, is some measure of the difference between double-handed Spliced Surprise as it is rung at Swindon and double-handed Spliced Surprise as it is rung at Bushey. Be that as it may, all ringers will wish these people success and good luck.

Even more striking than what has been achieved is the means by which the result has been obtained. Hitherto the small and very select number of men who have rung the more complex methods on handbells have accomplished their ends by constant practice, close application, and a thorough knowledge of ringing in general and the special methods in particular. All this, we are given to understand has largely been made unnecessary by a new system of teaching.

We all know that what particularly distinguishes change ringing is that it calls for such a long probationary period, and that the beginner has to go through such a lengthy training before he can reckon himself even a novice among ringers. The result is notorious. Of those who are induced to enter the belfry only a small proportion remain to join the Exercise. Many are called

(Continued on page 158.)

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but few are chosen. This is a great cause of disappointment, and sometimes of despair, to those who try to train new bands and fresh recruits to old bands. Surely they will welcome anything which will eliminate or shorten the interval between the time when the beginner first joins and the time when he is fully qualified to take his place among the band.

Yet when we take the longer view, do we really desire that the barriers which hedge our art should be thrown down and entry to the more skilled bands made easy? At present no one can reach the top until he has passed the most searching tests. Perhaps it is better so. The best ringers may be 'few,' but they certainly are 'fit.' And when all is said and done there is no value in any of the so-called higher methods apart from the fact that they are difficult and do call for the exercise of the best the ringer has to give. Natural aptitude and knowledge and skill and patience and perseverance. Eliminate the need for these and you destroy the value of the methods.

Suppose it were possible by some new method of teaching to make it as easy for a band to ring Spliced Surprise as it now is to ring Bob Major or Grandsire Triples, would anything be gained? Most certainly not. Rather, there would be a grievous loss, for in everything except that which takes place in the ringer's brain, Bob Major and Grandsire Triples are far superior to Spliced Surprise.

The glory of our art lies in the fact that however skilled a ringer or a band may be, and however much they have done, there is still such a lot to be done and such vast tracts still to be explored. Progress is essential and rapid advance is good, but only when they follow the hard and beaten track. It is the overcoming of difficulties that matters, not the evading of them.

But perhaps we need not worry. After all there does not seem any real fear that double-handed Spliced Surprise will become cheap, or be rung (as it should be rung) by any but those who are prepared to undertake the necessary trouble, and to pay the necessary price.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 24, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT 88, GRAINGER STREET,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6088 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 11 in G.

WILLIAM H. BARBER ... .. 1-2	DRIVER C. HETHERINGTON ... 5-6
ERNEST WALLACE ... .. 3-4	*ALFRED GREENWOOD... .. 7-8

Composed by F. CLAYTON.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

\* First peal 'in hand.' Arranged for Driver Hetherington, home on a short leave.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT MR. WALTER C. MEDLER'S HOUSE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in B.

ALBERT ROUGHT... .. 1-2	F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... .. 5-6
*JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 3-4	WALTER C. MEDLER ... .. 7-8

Composed and Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

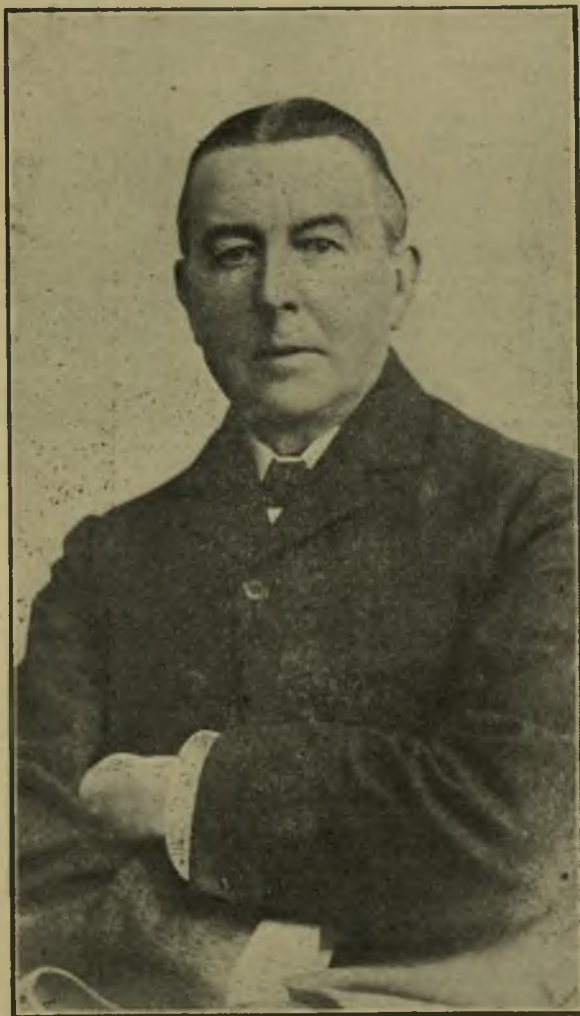
\* First attempt for Major away from 1-2.

HORNSEY.—At the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes), being 10½ different six-scores in 34 minutes: J. G. Nash (first quarter-peal as conductor 'in hand') 1-2, Mrs. R. Franklin (first quarter-peal) 3, K. Robinson (first quarter-peal of Doubles) 4, G. W. Blee (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 5-6.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

### II. THE FOUNDER.

After fifty years' existence the Central Council seems to fill such a natural and useful place in the organisation of the Exercise that we are tempted to suppose it was always so. But the fact was otherwise. At the beginning the Council was neither particularly desired nor welcomed by the great majority of ringers, and it made good its position only after the lapse of some years.



SIR ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

The account of the first attempt to form a National Association showed how it was killed by the apathy of the provincial ringers and the active hostility of the old societies. The suggested scheme was a faulty one and did not deserve to succeed, but that was not the real cause of its failure. Had Dolben Paul's committee proposed the scheme which was ultimately adopted they would have had no better success, for they lacked the necessary influence and authority. A central body could be formed only if some one man were found strong enough to ignore the opinions of the mass of the ringers. If he could create such a body out of the small and active minority which did desire it, the Exercise might accept it, though probably with indifference, and in time might

welcome and respect it. That is what actually did happen.

The one essential need was a leader who possessed the necessary qualifications; and, fortunately, he appeared in due time in the person of Arthur Percival Heywood.

Heywood occupies an altogether unique position in the history of the Exercise. To some degree he was the last of the gentlemen patrons of the art, and in the line of Henry Smythe, Henry Brett, Theodore Eccleston and John Powell Powell. But he was much more than they were. There was no one quite like him in earlier times, and it is pretty certain that there will be no one quite like him in times to come. No other man could have founded the Central Council. It was his creation, it bore his impress, and we shall not understand its rise and early history unless we know something of the man and his character.

It would be a mistake to suppose that Heywood was ever a popular or trusted leader of the Exercise in the way that Jasper Snowdon was. He never evoked the personal affection that the other did, nor when he died was there any such feeling of loss as when Snowdon died. Snowdon wielded an influence on individual ringers far greater than Heywood ever did, but Snowdon, had he made the attempt, could not have carried through to a successful issue the plan for forming a Central Council.

Arthur Percival Heywood, the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Percival Heywood, third baronet, was born on December 25th, 1849, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, taking the B.A. degree in 1871, and the M.A. degree in 1874. He first learned to ring when he was twelve years old, but for long he did nothing beyond call changes. In 1872 he married and settled at Duffield in Derbyshire, where there was a ring of six. In February, 1884, it was increased to eight, and Heywood then took a greater interest in change ringing. The local band were taught Bob Triples, and Heywood called the first peal by them all in the following July. The band then went on to Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Oxford, and Double Norwich. Meanwhile Heywood had taken advantage of the nearness of the famous and skilful company at Burton-on-Trent, and with them he rang peals not only of Double Norwich, but also of Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise. He also took part in peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, and of Duffield Major, and Royal, a method which he had himself produced. Many of these performances he conducted, and for two or three years his was one of the most frequent names in the peal records of 'The Bell News.' About 1885 he began to study composition, and in the next year he published the first of many articles dealing with the science of change ringing, the most important being those very excellent and elaborate 'investigations' into the composition of Stedman Triples which were afterwards reprinted as an appendix to C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman.' He had thus before the year 1890 made good his position as an outstanding authority on both the practical and the theoretic sides of change ringing. As he was at the same time a man of wealth and social position, he seemed eminently fitted to take the lead in the Exercise. These things, however, would not of themselves have been sufficient to have enabled him to form a Central Council. It needed a man with certain marked qualities of character, and those he possessed in an eminent degree.

(To be continued.)

## SILENT APPARATUS.

THE ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY APPLIANCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I still consider that Mr. Murrell's apparatus is, all things considered, the best for ordinary use, and I rather think he has over-estimated its defects so far as correct striking is concerned.

An electrical apparatus worked by the clapper would be the best if certain very great difficulties could be overcome, and if cost were no object, but Mr. Murrell's is not only cheap, but easy to instal and without anything complicated to get out of order.

It is said it was a great success at St. Lawrence's, but Mr. Murrell tells us he was not satisfied with the striking. Was not that due very largely to the peculiar circumstances? The bells of St. Lawrence's were a heavy lot, nearly 30 cwt. I believe. The tenor most certainly was tucked up (I seem to remember a photograph of it on Mowbray's Church Calendar with a big horseshoe built-up steel stock), and that would affect the relation of the swing of bell and clapper. Suppose Mr. Murrell instals his appliance on an ordinary set of bells with a tenor of about 12 cwt., would he have the difficulties he complains of, or if he had, would they be insuperable?

Two points. The first, that we need not bother about the apparatus not working properly when bells are raised in peal. Second, the clapper does not strike the bell when it stops at the greatest amplitude of swing, but considerably earlier, and the slowness of ringing and the height to which the bell is swung have little to do with the actual point in the swing at which the clapper strikes. This point is in bells of average weight fairly constant when bells are rung to changes.

Mr. Murrell's apparatus is a better one than he tries to make out, but to have a fair chance it should be tried on a light ring of bells and one where the draught of rope is not long, so there may not be any trouble from the cords stretching or being altered in length by the changes of weather.

An apparatus which depends on copper wire and cranks on the style of the old-fashioned door bells needs a very expert workman to instal it or most of the power exerted by the bell will be wasted in slack wires.

MAURICE CLARKE.

### LIMITATIONS FOR TEACHING.

Dear Sir,—In the year 1889 I was learning change ringing at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, on Seage's dumb apparatus. It is, I believe, still in use, and from a mechanical point of view I have no fault to find with it.

If, then, we only want, as seems from what has been written, something that will roughly produce in the belfry everything that we get from open ringing, why here we have it. Moreover, it is lasting and not very expensive. I should think any of the firms of bell-hangers would be glad to instal it, for a few pounds a bell, even in war time.

Why then is it not more used? It consists of a 'trigger' which is pulled by the bell every time it swings either way. By a succession of wires and bell cranks, this pull rings a handbell, fixed over the ringer's head, roughly at the time when the bell would sound if it were not silenced. (The pull is like that of an ordinary door bell: the latter, however, is hung on springs, so that it sounds more than once.) The snag lies in this qualification which I have inserted—roughly.

Wires (necessarily of differing lengths and of differing numbers of cranks and joins) vary, not only at different temperatures, but for other reasons not under the ringer's control. Thus while the ringer is learning how to control his bell, he is not at the same time learning how to synchronise the sound, for that is beyond his control. That is to say that he is not learning to strike as he should, at the same time as he learns how to manage his bell. The result has been that I do not strike correctly as I should, without thinking of it. I have to do so consciously, which is not quite the same thing. I think that most of us who have learnt on this apparatus have concluded that it would really have been better if the bells had been merely silenced and no apparatus had been used. Another conclusion is not to use silenced bells too much. They have their use, but it must not be overdone.

It will be understood that I was anxious to find a way by which the more instantaneous action of the electric bell could be substituted for the uncertain strokes made through wires and bell cranks. I even hung one or two house bells, in both ways, in order to learn more thoroughly the practical difficulties of the problem. I came to the conclusion that the uncertainty of delays could not be overcome, especially with wiping contacts, such as all seem agreed would be necessary. The actual structural difficulties could, I think, be overcome by those who are cleverer than I was—but not that of accurate timing.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

### THE ORIGINAL MAKERS.

Dear Sir,—I well remember this apparatus being put in St. Paul's, Burton, about 1880, when there was serious illness near the church. It was fixed to the frame with a small roller on the headstock, and every time the bell was rung at hand or back it would ring a handbell fixed in the belfry. If Mr. Davis goes to the Richmond Hotel at Bournemouth some Saturday night (this is where I used to go for my 'nightcap') and asks for Mr. Sutton, he would, I am sure, be very glad to explain anything about it. He was the man who made them at Seage's Foundry at Exeter.

JOHN JAGGAR.

(Continued in next column.)

## SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Under the above heading in your issue of Friday last, March 28th, appears a letter of criticism signed by two well-known members of the Methods Committee of the Central Council.

After describing its merits and demerits of numbers of false course ends, etc., the last paragraph reads: '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.'

This rather startled me, and I at once wondered how 'they squared this' with the ringing of 'spliced peals.' As I understand English, this paragraph applies 'equally' to both. Personally, I cannot take it too seriously, but as put out as a feeler for further correspondence.

I have no fear of Mr. James being able to defend his method, and would recommend young enthusiasts to another of his Surprise methods, 'Berkeley,' much more difficult to score a peal than spliced ringing, which, to my mind, is not at all difficult, merely a busy job for the conductor.

I hope these few remarks will bring out all the 'pros and cons' connected with this 'three lead system.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

## POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.

ARE THEY GOOD TERMS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice some of your correspondents, and notably Mr. E. S. Powell, use the words 'positive' and 'negative' to describe the nature of rows. I do not say such use is wrong, but there is nothing in the nature of rows analogous to what is meant when the terms are used in connection with mathematics, electricity or in general literature. The best terms to use to distinguish the nature of rows are 'odd' and 'even,' which are simpler, and do exactly explain the difference between the two kinds of rows.

When we are speaking of ringing or of a block of rows, the proper and historical terms are 'in-course' and 'out-of-course.' But no rigid conformity to rule should be expected in the use of terms. It is, for instance, convenient to speak of the two sets of courses in Stedman Triples as 'direct' and 'reverse.'

X.Y.Z.

## ODD STRUCK BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With much respect I differ from Mr. Lewis Wiffen. It is easier and nicer to ring a bell when it is rather slow at back-stroke. The idea expressed by some ringers that the open lead helps you to ring a bell slow at hand is all fudge. That is all allowed for when we say a bell is even struck.

It is natural to ring a bell quicker at back than at hand. Pull up one and ring it singly and see how you do it. A big bell slow at back can be controlled easier than a bell slow at hand, provided one condition is observed. As soon as the ringer has pulled the bell off at hand, he must be able without thinking about the matter to slip his hands along the tail end to the exact spot, so that when the bell runs up at back the rope, the man's arms and his whole body (resting on the balls of his feet) are stretched in one taut line at the exact and infinitesimal fraction of time when the backstroke pull should begin. Then he can do what he likes with the bell, and, of course, there is a much longer and stronger pull at back than at hand. The secret of ringing a tenor at back is to know how to pull her at hand and how to shorten or lengthen the hold on the rope.

'COUNTRY RINGER.'

## SILENT APPARATUS.

(Continued from previous column.)

A YORKSHIRE EXPERIMENT.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I experimented in this silent apparatus business. The bells were a new ring with iron headstocks. Under the spindle the casting was square for an inch and a half or more, and to this I firmly bolted a piece of angle iron of a section small enough to pass easily between the headstock and frame, firstly cutting out of the protruding flange, in the centre, about an inch and an eighth.

I made a lever, pinioned it at one end, and underneath I placed an ordinary electric push button so that when I pressed the lever at the end it rang an electric bell. I then made a bracket, bolting it firmly to the frame with the bolt that held the bearing in place, and on this I fixed the lever arrangement, placing the point of the lever over the centre of the spindle in such a position that the angle iron would, when the bell was pulled up, depress the lever and cause the electric bell to ring at the same time as the tongue of the tower bell struck. This took place at the point of the angle iron where I had cut out the piece. The bell continuing its motion allowed the lever to rise through the hole to its original position.

On the bell being pulled off for the other stroke, the lever rode on the outside of the flange of the angle iron to the end and was then pulled back into its original position by a spring ready to be depressed and repeat the signal on the other side.

I have another device which can be made of much less material. I have not tried it out, but its action is as obvious as the one just described.

G. W. S.

**SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read the Rev. H. Drake's emphatic denial that spliced ringing had ever been mentioned at a Suffolk Guild meeting.

Although I cannot remember for certain the year the meeting was held, I think it was 1929. As I was only 15 years old then, and it was my first 'annual,' there will be excuse if my account is not strictly accurate.

The meeting was at Ipswich. As far as I can recall, Mr. Drake himself moved a resolution to the effect that spliced peals would not be recognised by the Guild.

I distinctly remember one speaker in support said he thought ringing spliced was like stopping in the middle of a soccer match to switch over and play rugger.

Mr. C. W. Pipe was the only opponent to the motion, and I believe his was the only vote recorded against it.

I believe it was at this meeting that Mr. J. C. J. Haggart first undertook the duties of technical consultant to the Guild.

In the years previous to this meeting I believe peals had been rung which were not 'spliced' in the sense that we think of it now. It may have been that the meeting had these peals in mind when the resolution was passed.

I know that the merits of spliced ringing have long since been realised by Suffolk ringers, and no doubt when happier times are with us they will prove themselves worthy exponents of it.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent. J. E. BAILEY.

**WANTED—A SET OF HANDBELLS.**

A REQUEST FROM NORTHAMPTON.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—May I make an appeal through the medium of 'The Ringing World' for the gift (or loan for the duration) of a set of handbells, of any number, from any person or church who has a set not in use, for service in the church to which I belong.

We have here an enthusiastic company of the Boys' Brigade whom I am anxious to train in the art ready for when happier times come.

The taking over of our Parish Hall by Government authorities unfortunately debar us from raising the purchase money by the ordinary means of socials and the like, and we are not a rich parish.

I have no doubt that there may be many a set laying idle, particularly in the areas where churches have suffered damage by air raids. Such a set (if only loaned) would be doing a greater service than at present. Any offer I should greatly appreciate.

P. AMOS (Bell Sec., St. Andrew's Church).  
2a, Beverley Crescent, Northampton.

**A SUSSEX VILLAGE BAND.**

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

In the year 1884, Thomas Geering, shoemaker and 'oldest inhabitant' of the little town of Hailsham in Sussex, who was born in 1813, wrote down his recollections of the parish as it was in his boyhood days. He chatted agreeably about the men and the things he used to know, and he gives an interesting account of the ringers. There were only five bells in the steeple, but the band was thoroughly typical of the village bands of the time and the old gentleman evidently thought things were far better when he was a boy than they were in 1884. 'Looking back,' he says, 'we may note a few features and changes. To begin with our church ringers. Then the master tradesman thought it no degradation, but rather an honourable distinction to be one to minister to the rites of the belfry. To be a ringer was a privilege. I remember but one new hand and he carried his election by force of prescriptive right and family interest. His father had been one of the fraternity and his brother stood then the foremost man as leader.

Each bell had its regular hand. There was the hatter, glover, tailor, shoemaker and blacksmith in succession, and a few others—odd men to take a turn as occasion required—and one who was always needed to fetch the beer from the tavern. They were all professionally earnest, devoted men, and, to do them justice, as a rule—and what rule is not more or less broken?—they were sober men. But the potent god bred of malt and hops at times got possession of the brain, and then was the time to take note of the work of the features and lips as the ropes flew up and down.

No wedding was allowed to go unringed or uncared for. On practice nights and rare occasions they would treat the outside world with a set of changes. Four bells allowed but little variation, yet with the steady and even pull of the tenor by the tall blacksmith, George Huggett, and the clear unerring lead of the hatter, Samuel Jenner, the old-fashioned peal was considered to be eclipsed by the change of four-and-twenty.

The great treat of the year was, when I was a boy, to be awakened on Christmas morning by the early chatter of the bells, and to lay awake watching until midnight on New Year's Eve to hear the Old Year rung out and the New Year rung in; and during the whole of my life I have never once upon these occasions been beyond the reach of these gladdening sounds.

I have hoped to live to hear a fuller peal. I have importuned those in authority upon the subject, but with no success, to add a sixth.

Our old ringers would yearly make a house-to-house call and accept any gratuity as an acknowledgment for their services. What master tradesman now among us would do the like?'

**John Taylor & Co.**

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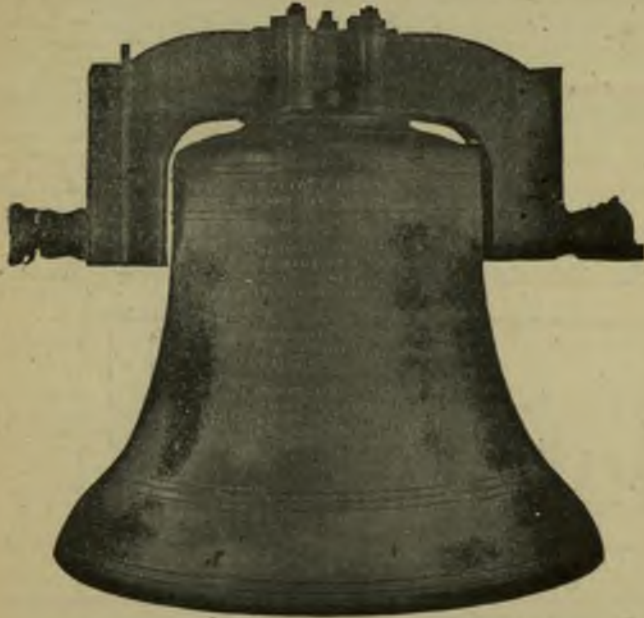
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## THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to say that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's operation has been completely successful, and his condition continues to be very satisfactory.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

That 'apathy' is not the main cause of the present inactivity among ringers is shown by the following extract from a letter we have just received: 'Ringing is at a very low ebb here, as we are all working in Crewe seven days a week and 12 hours a day, so you will see we haven't time for anything in the ringing line.'

The famous old London bell foundry which so narrowly escaped last December has again received attention from 'Jerry' planes. One incendiary fell in the foundry and one inside the house roof. Both were put out, but it was no joke crawling over the roof in the dark with 'Jerries' overhead. The stirrup pump tubing, we are told, would keep getting in the way.

On April 1st, 1727, eight members of the Society of Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, the 'quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in, or the Union Bob consisting of 10,080 changes.' It was the first ten thousand ever accomplished.

William Pye called the then longest peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 15,092 changes, at Erith in Kent on April 3rd, 1899. It was beaten by Washbrook's 17,024 at Kidlington in the following month. The truth of the latter peal is, however, disputed. In 1904 Mr. William Willson called 17,104 changes at South Wigston, and the band as a practice peal rang 11,008 changes on April 4th in the same year.

Henry Dains died on April 6th, 1916, aged 78 years.

George Newson, another prominent Cumberland Youth, died on April 7th, 1896.

On April 7th and 8th, 1761, James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent the full extent on eight bells, 40,320 changes.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 3, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

## IMPORTANT.

Owing to Good Friday falling in next week, 'The Ringing World' will be published on Thursday. Notices and all other communications must reach 'The Ringing World' Office by Monday next.

## DEATH OF P.C. ALLAN TREVOR.

KILLED ON DUTY.

We regret to learn that, during the early hours of Thursday, the 13th ultimo, Police Constable Allan Trevor, of the Liverpool City Police Force, a member of the National Guild of Police Ringers, was, together with a comrade, killed in consequence of enemy action whilst they were both carrying out their duty.

P.C. Trevor was a native of Prees, Shropshire, where he learned to ring, and he joined the Liverpool City Police Force in April, 1926. He was 37 years of age and extremely well liked and respected by all his comrades and by all who knew him. He leaves a widow and child, with whom deepest sympathy is felt.

## TWO FAMOUS LONDON RINGS.

SOUTHWARK AND CRIPPLEGATE.

All ringers will bear with relief that the famous bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, have been taken down from the steeple by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and are now stored in a place of safety.

We have also news of another famous ring of twelve, that of St. Giles', Cripplegate. As has previously been announced, the church was completely destroyed in the great fire raid last December and the steeple was burnt out. Fortunately, however, the bells were hung in an iron frame, and this has, we hope, saved them. The tenor, which had an iron stock, still hangs. The rest had wood stocks and they fell to the ringing room, but they were saved from crashing to the ground by the massive stone vaulting which surmounts the western porch. They are now being removed from the tower and we trust will be found to be undamaged and uncracked.

Recently a very prominent church in South-East London was gutted, but the tower, ten bells and clock remain intact.

The news from Plymouth is bad. St. Andrew's has been burnt out. The tower stands and perhaps the fine ring of ten is safe. We hope so, but we fear the other ring of ten in the town, that at Charles Church, has perished.

## THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT KILKENNY.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association, held in the Diocesan Rooms, Kilkenny, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, was attended by 88 members from Arklow, Bray, Dublin (Christ Church Cathedral, SS. Augustine and John, St. George's and St. Patrick's Cathedral), Kilkenny and Waterford. Among the guests were the Dean of Christ Church, the Dean of Ossory, the Dean of Waterford and Mrs. Stevenson.

The chair was taken by the president, Mr. J. S. Gibb, and the secretarial duties were carried out by the assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Dukes, in the absence through illness of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

Apologies for absence were read from the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Limerick, the Bishop of Ossory, the Very Rev. Father White, the Rev. Canon Campbell, the Rev. J. R. Crooks and Mr. W. Chamney. A letter was read from Mr. Lindoff saying that it was a great disappointment to him to miss the meeting, but the doctor had said the risk would be too great. He wished the meeting every success and happiness.

The report for the year 1940 was adopted, and the following are the main points:—

The attendance shield was won by St. George's Society, Dublin, with 99.88 per cent. With regard to this competition, a general slackness is noticed. Only one sheet was returned within the specified time, and that, with a second returned later, was the sum total. It can only be presumed that the remainder were so bad that they were useless for competing. Every sheet should be returned, good, bad or indifferent, as they become a means of judging the health of the association.

Owing to the troublesome times, any renovations that had been contemplated have been postponed.

One peal of 5,040 changes was rung, Grandsire Doubles by the St. George's Society.

The number of members on the books is 267. The balance sheet shows a balance in hand of £6 14s. 1d., and the Belfry Repairs Fund shows a balance in hand of £67 2s. 3d.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, the Very Rev. L. G. Stevenson, Dean of Waterford; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson; hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Dukes; Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy. One honorary and 24 ringing members were elected.

Arklow and Waterford Societies invited the association to hold its next meeting at their respective places, and, on a vote being taken, Waterford was selected.

The time for ringing before Sunday services was discussed in connection with the Shield Competition. The rules state that the bells shall be rung for a minimum of 15 minutes. The committee is of the opinion that with most companies, instead of 15 minutes being the minimum, it is becoming the maximum, and recommended that the time should be increased to 20 minutes. During the discussion the following proposals were made: 'That the rule remain unaltered.' 'That the 15 minutes shall not include the last few minutes for tolling, as is the practice of some societies.' 'That the rule read: A full team shall ring for at least 15 minutes before service.' 'That the matter be referred back to the committee for redrafting of the rules.' The last proposal was eventually adopted.

As the Attendance Shield has been in use for nearly 30 years and all the discs were full, it was decided to have the shield enlarged and more discs added.

Mr. Dukes said that Mr. Lindoff was now well on the road to recovery and should make his appearance again in a few weeks' time. He was instructed to write to Mr. Lindoff regretting his absence for the first time in 43 years and to convey the sincere wishes of the members for a speedy recovery. He was also instructed to write a letter of good wishes to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' for his complete and speedy recovery.

### GOOD STRIKING COMPETITION.

Five teams took part in a very keen contest on the bells of St. Canice's Cathedral for the Murphy Cup for Striking. The judges, Messrs. R. S. F. Murphy and D. Kennedy, reported a marked improvement on previous years in the standard of striking. The winner's striking was well timed and excellent. The cup was awarded to Waterford Society, who scored 85 per cent. St. George's, Dublin, came second with 75 per cent. Arklow, Kilkenny and Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, also competed. The winners rang call-changes, as did Kilkenny and Christ Church, Dublin. St. George's and Arklow rang Grandsire.

Tea was kindly provided by the St. Canice's Society, at which the Murphy Cup and the Attendance Shield were presented to Waterford and St. George's, Dublin, respectively.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Dean of Ossory, the St. Canice's Society and ladies for so kindly making the association welcome; to the judges of the striking competition, and to the outgoing president for so ably managing the meeting. The Dean of Ossory and the president replied and welcomed the members to the historic city and Cathedral of Kilkenny with a hope that they would soon return.

## GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

About thirty members attended the annual meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, which was held on March 22nd at the Vicarage, Mangotsfield.

The chairman and secretary of the branch, Mr. C. Harding and Mr. C. Gifford, were re-elected for another year and the former was elected representative on the Management Committee. Mr. Harding thanked the members for the confidence placed in him, and remarked that although the past year had been one of little activity in bell-ringing, quite a lot of work had been done behind the scenes trying to keep the bands together. He thanked the secretary for the way he had carried on.

The meeting stood in silence as a token of respect to Douglas Lewton, a member of the Coalpit Heath band, who had been killed by enemy action, and to Mr. George White, of Olverton.

The Chairman expressed pleasure at the presence of Mr. R. Harding, a member of the local band, who was home on leave.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings at Almondsbury in June, Henbury in September, and the next annual meeting at St. Ambrose in December.

Tea in the Parish Room was very kindly served by Mrs. Wise and other lady helpers. Some members enjoyed handbells and others told stories of bell-ringing days. All hoped we should soon again be standing at the rope's end. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the room, and to Mrs. Wise and the ladies for serving the tea, brought a very successful meeting to a close.

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DEVIZES BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Southbrook, Devizes, last Saturday. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. W. Douglas), and tea was arranged in the Parish Room by Mrs. T. Weeks, an honorary member of the Guild. Owing to the war conditions the attendance was small.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. E. F. White, who asked those present to stand as a mark of respect to the memory of three departed members, Mr. W. S. Burbidge, of Melksham, who had done much hard work for the branch; Mr. T. Weeks, who was a ringer at Southbrook for over 30 years and captain of the tower for 10 years, and Mr. Wheeler, of North Bradley, another very keen member.

The accounts and report were passed and the officers all re-elected for the ensuing year. Thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the Church Room, to Miss Trumper, the organist, and to Mrs. Weeks for the tea. They suitably replied, saying it was a great pleasure to meet ringing friends again.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### NOMINATION MEETING.

The annual nomination meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Bramley on Saturday, and members were present from Arnley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Shipley, Bramhope and the local company. Handbells were in use at the Church Schools soon after 3 o'clock until tea, which was at a neighbouring cafe.

The president, Mr. J. F. Harvey, took the chair at the business meeting. After discussion it was proposed and seconded that the officers should be asked to carry on for another year. A vote of thanks to the priest-in-charge and the local company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. George Titterton.

The next meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on April 26th, notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

## THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

### 'AT HOME' WITH HANDBELLS.

The first 'at home' of the newly-formed Highcliffe Society was held at Swindon on Saturday, March 21st, the guest of honour being the Master of the Oxford University Society (Mr. John E. Spice). Other visitors were welcomed from Oxford and Swindon.

During the morning early arrivals rang a 720 of Bob Minor. In the afternoon courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus were rung, including Bristol and Double Norwich, while an interesting experiment was the ringing of half a course of Grandsire Sextuples. This, together with Stedman Cinques, Treble Twelve and Bob Maximus, were the first attempts in hand by all those present.

One of the visitors, who has watched with keen interest the growth of the infant society, considered that the progress of the young ringers fully justified the methods of teaching employed.

During tea the gramophone record of Spiced Surprise Major made by the Bushey handbell ringers was heard: afterwards one of the audience remarked that the ancient gramophone produced a 'woolley' effect.

RUSTICUS ET URBANUS.

## WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS YOUNG.

### MORE REMINISCENCES.

'When all the world was young, lad,  
And all the trees were green.'

If, fifty years ago, one had enquired into the occupations of London ringers, I wonder how many tailors we should have found. At a later date, Miss Dorothy Sayers seems to have found them fairly numerous, there or elsewhere. Anyway, two of the best ringers I knew as a boy were London tailors who had migrated to the quiet old town of Hertford.

One of them, named Crawley, was an expert with the handbells. If my memory isn't cheating me, he could ring two in each hand in Stedman. He was the organer at old All Saints', and taught an older brother of mine to ring. On the rare occasions when the family exchequer would stand it, he made my clothes; generally my mother made them out of the cast-offs of a well-to-do uncle. Unfortunately old Crawley died when I was a child, but even then there were few things I loved better than climbing the old wooden stairs to the ringing chamber and having a swing on the tenor rope. The old stairs were a homely, short flight like going upstairs to bed, and also led to the west gallery, so that from the comfortable ringing chamber one looked right down the church.

Alas, that homeliness and comfort contributed to the catastrophe which happened in 1890, when the old church was completely burnt out, and the lovely peal of ten destroyed.

I used to pass through the churchyard every day on my way to school, too young as yet fully to appreciate the extent of the disaster, but I well remember how old Canon Wigram, our Rector, mourned their loss. 'Oh, that lovely tenor bell,' he lamented. The gaunt, fire-blackened walls of the old church, with its empty tower, will always be a sad memory of my boyhood. The new building of Runcorn stone which replaced it can never have the same appeal.

### TWO RINGING TAILORS.

So if old Crawley occasionally made my clothes, he never taught me to ring. For this I shall always be indebted to the other tailor. He came from Edmonton, a little wiry man, who, I fear, at times, went on the beer, but a first-class ringer, and very patient with me. When I had progressed far enough to attend the weekly practice at St. Andrew's, it was always old Matt. Ellesmore who rang the fifth, a bad bell, both cracked and false, and which I threw over, I remember, on more than one occasion. He often used to speak of the peals of Superlative he had joined in in London. All Double-Dutch to me!

From that time onwards nothing could keep me away from bells and belfries. My people used to chaff me, and say I was mad on ringing. The sound of a bell had an irresistible attraction; it drew me like a magnet, and Troyte's book formed a constituent part of every meal. The marvels of Grandsire and Stedman were fascinating and the struggle to master them a delight.

Canon Wigram was a fine old fellow, albeit a bit of a martinet. I suffered under the lash of his tongue on more than one occasion, but he was very kind to me. He was a keen ringer, but owing to the fact that he hadn't the slightest ear for music, a shocking striker.

Once when he happened to be in the tower when I, later on, was teaching some youngsters and stressing the fact that they must listen to their bells, he said, 'Well, you know, Jim, I've never heard mine.' What a horrible deprivation! That being so, it was amazing how keen he was. Somehow or other his book on the subject never caught on. I well remember one particular evening sitting with him in his study, chatting about the inevitable subject. 'Ah, my boy,' he said, and I can hear to-day the almost reverential tones of his voice, 'you should study Double Norwich and Superlative, two princely methods.' That was something of a flattener for a lad in his early 'teens, and struggling with Grandsire Triples. But he lent me Snowdon's diagrams and I did my best.

### CANON WOOLMORE WIGRAM.

At that time the band was not very strong and a bit of Stedman was the best they could do, but there is an old Eastern saying, 'When the pupil is ready, the Master appears,' and certainly in my case the ancient sage was justified. Within a few months, old Squire Proctor having died, the Benington band broke up. Two of them named Warner came to live in the town, and Superlative became just a possibility if the youngster was roped in. 'Well, lad, what about it?' I was asked. 'What about it?' 'By golly, not half!'

And so I have to thank old Canon Wigram for one of the red-letter days of my life. Right out in the heart of Hertfordshire is the little village of Eastwick, with the church well away from the main street. Here was the ideal spot for a band to hammer out the new method and master the odd place first or last. And hammer it out we did, hour after hour, with an interval for tea, all afternoon and evening. And then followed the long drive home through the beauty of the summer evening, with dear old Steve Knight handling the reins, and a lad up beside him with aching arms and blistered hands, but a heart aglow. But much wants more! On the way home we passed our own church. 'Why not go up, and have another pull?' someone suggested. No sooner made than agreed to. What mattered those sore hands and tired arms. He scorned them both!

On that great day Superlative had its bonny back broken, and within a very few weeks the Warners were being chaffed, 'How's that for Benington?'

### PAID RINGING AND STAGNATION.

I've often wondered if, on the whole, payment for Sunday ringing is a good thing. No doubt it makes for punctuality and regular attendance, but I fear it also makes for stagnation. On the hill above Hertford is the village of Bengoe, where there was a light ring of six, since, I believe, augmented to eight, and in the quiet evening their music was very sweet floating across the valley. As a lad I was always very shy, and, normally, the least discouragement from any source was enough to frighten me off. But wherever bells were ringing, there I had to be, and in spite of, at first, a very cool reception, I frequently turned up on practice nights, as well as on Sundays when there was none to be had at my own church. I have always put that lack of courtesy down to the fact that the ringers were paid, and that they looked on any possible addition to their numbers with disfavour. That, with no reserves, the company was always in danger of being broken up, seemed to trouble them less than the possibility of losing a few coppers at the month end. So long as the bells were kept going they seemed to be satisfied. I hope others have had a different experience.

Perhaps these checks to one's enthusiasm are salutary, but certain it is that the belfry gives us, especially when young and keen, many disappointments to balance the happy hours we spend there.

But there was another six-bell tower right out in the country at Little Munden, where my friend, Will Lawrence, was training a young band, and there I was always welcome. Cycling over on a summer evening was a delight, in spite of the return journey in the dark through rough and narrow country lanes. Cycling in those days had its drawbacks. I remember one dark night colliding with an unusually hefty stone and being pitched head-first into a holly bush. But the exuberance of youth makes light of such trifles; we take life's little ironies in our stride.

About this time (1897), the fine peal at St. Paul's, Bedford, had been increased to ten, and Will and I used to ride the thirty miles each way to practise Stedman Caters. One day the conductor, Charles Clarke I think, invited us to try for our first peal in that method. I still have a clear picture of my old friend on his bike, turning out of the side road at Watton, where we were to meet, dead on time like the hero he was. We rode over thirty miles, and we got our peal, but there remained that other thirty still to do. Fortunately it was a warm moonlight night, for at Woburn Sands we felt we needed a rest. So on the heath by those lovely pine woods we called a halt, and for a couple of hours slept the sleep of the just. It was well into the small hours when, weary and worn, but far from sad, we got home to bed.

### ROWING VERSUS RINGING.

The only recollection I have of our friend Mr. Fussell, of Slough, is of being in a boat with him out from Folkestone over forty years ago. How we got there I've no idea. I suppose we didn't walk, but that except we were both in camp at Shorncliffe, I can't at all say how we met. No doubt he had an intuition that some time he might want to take a longer voyage, and that a little preliminary practice would be useful. Of course, he really has me to thank for the confidence with which he embarked on that long journey to the other side of the world. He has, no doubt, remained quite unaware of this all these years, but that simply goes to show how forgotten experiences may have far-reaching effects.

However, the important thing to us that day was that, suddenly, we heard bells being raised. Now rowing was pleasant enough, but it was just nowhere beside ringing. Back to the harbour we raced, jumped ashore, and hurried up the steep hill to the parish church. I'll be bound he couldn't go at that pace now, not if the picture I saw in 'The Ringing World' is anything to go by. I can see him now, tall and (comparatively) thin, ringing the tenor. And I've never seen him since. Nor have I the friend, of my own age, who was with him, whose name I can't remember, but whom I'd love to see again. Who was he, and where is he, Mr. Fussell? I remember your saying what a fine heavy bell ringer he would make.

Those were the days! Ah, well, perhaps it was too much to hope for many such. It is said of a great Eastern potentate who, when asked if he had had a good life, replied that throughout those many years he could only remember five days when he had been supremely happy. I am grateful for those I have had. Leonardo da Vinci once said that pleasure and pain are twins, and stand back to back like the two sides of a coin. Dark days, especially dark days like these, certainly provide the contrast which he maintained was necessary to a full appreciation of life; but surely that contrast need not be so severe. We now look forward, across the valley of the shadow, to, we hope, the better days to come. May they come soon! In the meantime such memories help us to endure. H.

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## THE STANDARD METHODS. MUSIC AND CHANGE RINGING.

Before we attempt to decide how far a method is capable of producing good music we ought to try to understand what good music in change ringing really is.

When ordinary average people (and they include the mass of ringers) think or speak about music they usually mean vocal and instrumental music, such as songs and hymn tunes, and dance music, and the orchestral music we hear on the wireless and sometimes listen to. Now all that music consists of two things, melody and harmony. Melody is produced by a succession of notes following each other, harmony is produced by two or more notes sounded simultaneously. Some music is all melody and no harmony; some is all harmony and no melody; but a great deal has both melody and harmony. People who are not musicians and know nothing about the theory of music, but who (as they say), know what they like in music, do actually judge it as melody and harmony, and it is only natural that similar tests should be applied to the music of bellringing.

Well, then, how does change ringing, looked at broadly, stand such a test? The only possible answer is that it stands it very badly indeed. Harmony does not exist in change ringing, because we never intentionally strike two bells at the same time except when we use firing at weddings, and whatever effect firing may give, it certainly is not harmony or music.

Melody does to some extent enter into change ringing, but the restrictions imposed by the very nature of the art make anything more than a very meagre sort of melody impossible.

All this is, of course, obvious and most of us have come across people or writings which have attempted to contrast the 'real' music of the carillons of Belgium and elsewhere with the 'crude stuff' served out by the steeples of England. Judged by their standards, change ringing is far inferior to carillon playing.

But do we accept that as a sound judgment? Do we really think carillon music is superior to an English ringing peal? We ringers certainly do not. Many of us who have good musical ears and taste, and who can appreciate the 'Eroica' or the 'Unfinished' Symphony think carillon music is detestable, while well-struck changes are glorious. We are prejudiced, it may be said. Perhaps we are, but people in general have found, and still find, music in our bellringing, and it is significant that change ringing became one of the most popular forms of music in England just at the time when England really was a musical country. The man who in the seventeenth century wrote that—

There's no music played or sung

Like unto bells when they are well rung—

was no doubt carried away by his enthusiasm; but old Bishop Hall, of Norwich, was addressing the general public, not ringers in particular, when he wrote that 'when every bell keeps due order and time what a sweet and harmonious sound they make; all are charmed by that common music.' He would not have written thus if he had not known that his readers fully agreed with him.

No, we hold that not only is change ringing music, but it is, within its own sphere, a very high sort of music, and our justification for making this bold claim is that it has the power at times of influencing the emotions and touching the feelings of the listener. We must not pur-

sue the thought further. Our point is that if change ringing really is fine music, and if it is not harmony and but poor melody, it must have some other vital quality. And so it has. The basis of the music of ringing is neither harmony nor melody, but rhythm.

Rhythm is one of the great principles which lie at the root of all good things in human life and activities. It is one of those things which are far easier to understand than to explain. It is essential to vocal and instrumental music, but it is a quality which exists quite apart from what the ordinary man looks on as music, and we want our readers to judge the music of bellringing as something entirely different from ordinary vocal and instrumental music.

We shall best understand the nature of the music of change ringing and the effect it produces, not by comparing it to vocal and instrumental music, but by comparing it to the metrical lines in poetry. There is music in the use of words as real, as varied, and as complex as any produced by strings or pipes, and it is almost exactly this sort of music that we find in change ringing when it is performed as it should be. Listen to this line—  
'How art thou fallen from heaven! O Lucifer, son of the morning.'

Does not that reproduce exactly the charm of a well-struck change of Maximus with 12-10 behind?

Almost anyone who has any feeling for the musical value of words will recognise what a splendid line it is, quite apart from any meaning it may convey. Indeed, to most of us it probably has no meaning at all. Its effect is purely music and rhythm.

We picked it as a rather extreme example, for, of course, the rhythm of the line is a very delicate and complex one, not to be properly appreciated until it is studied and the ear trained. The same thing happens in change ringing. The good qualities of twelve-bell ringing necessitate not only first-class striking but also first-class hearing.

But the rhythms of poetry are usually very much simpler than that of the line we have quoted, and equally so the rhythms of six and eight-bell ringing are far simpler than those of twelve-bell ringing, and can be much more easily appreciated by the ordinary ringer. We will leave the more complex rhythms of both poetry and change ringing and consider only the simpler and more obvious.

In English verse the necessary effect is produced broadly speaking, by two means, one of which is called blank verse, the other rhyme.

In blank verse, the words are so arranged that the stress falls at regular intervals; in rhyme two following lines have nearly the same sound, but not quite. Almost the identical effects are produced in change ringing. The tittum music of Grandsire Caters will stand for the equivalent of blank verse, and the dodging of Double Norwich Major for the equivalent of rhyme.

It is on these two things that the music of poetry and change ringing depends, but it is qualified in each case by two things. One is the quality of the individual words or the individual bell; the other is the harmony between the sounds of two words or two bells which follow each other. Also, though the main structure of the rhythm both of the line and of the change is maintained, each is capable of a great amount of variety.

In order to obtain these two effects in a method there must be, broadly speaking, two things. One is that the

(Continued on next page.)

**HANDBELL RINGING AND NOISES ORDER.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Perhaps it may be useful to give to ringers, who have any difficulty with the authorities in the matter of handbells, a hint of how we got over the difficulty in the Oxford University Society, of which I was secretary for several years till lately. If we wanted leave for practice in a man's rooms in college, we would explain that the bells were muffled. Most people who know nothing of ringing think, when they hear of handbells, of the loud clanging made by the town crier.

W. C. B.

**'MORE DIEHARDS'****FROM 'THE WILTS AND GLOUCESTER STANDARD.'**

If there is one class which more than another is suffering from the restrictions imposed by the war it must be the campanologists.

I have known several of these people in my time and have been amazed by their enthusiasm and their dauntless spirit. They go anywhere at any time to try out another peal of bells, while their annual outing is a real 'busman's holiday,' the trip usually comprising visits to at least four other bellries to enjoy 'touches' on the local ring. These men must be suffering untold torments through being withheld from contact with the bells they so dearly love.

But enthusiasm such as theirs is not easily daunted. I remember that some years ago, when the bells of Cirencester Parish Church were undergoing repairs, the ringers refused to be denied their time-honoured custom of ringing a peal in the early hours of 29th May in honour of the restoration of the Monarchy. They mounted a scaffold outside the tower and from that airy perch rang the customary peal on handbells. What will they do about it this year, I wonder? There is a legacy connected with that peal.

What prompted this recollection was a similar incident in Water-moor Church on a recent Sunday.

Mr. H. C. Bond, for long the leader of the Cirencester band of ringers, visited the church to attend the christening of a grandchild, and, the bells of the church being out of the question, the occasion was marked by a peal on the handbells being rung in the church by Mr. Bond, a son from Brighton, and Mr. F. J. Lewis and his brother.

Bond and Lewis are names which have been long connected with bellringing in Cirencester. Mr. Bond's brother, as great an enthusiast as himself, died a year or two ago. Mr. Bond's own family were scattered by the last war, and Mr. Bond no longer has his home in Cirencester. But the name of Lewis remains, and while it remains the art of campanology in Cirencester is likely to survive.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**

In conjunction with the meeting of the Dudley and District Guild at Dudley, reported in our last issue, a meeting was held of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Members attended from Brierley Hill, Cradley, Clent, Selly Oak, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley.

**THE STANDARD METHODS.***(Continued from previous page.)*

natural coursing order of the bells should be kept as much as possible throughout the course; the other that there should be a sufficient amount of dodging.

It is not possible to lay down definite and precise rules concerning these things. Like all the good things we find in a method, they can only be had by compromises between contraries. When we introduce dodging we necessarily break to some extent the natural coursing order, for Bob Major is the only method which retains it throughout the lead unaltered. Moreover, alterations from the natural coursing order are necessary, not only to give us that variety of 'work' which we saw in an earlier article is so desirable, but also to give us variety of rhythm. It is the same thing in blank verse. The schoolboy is taught to scan the lines in jog-trot five-foot manner, but that is not how Shakespeare's or Milton's verse really reads.

What we have written will no doubt strike some readers as novel and somewhat 'high-brow,' but we hope it is a reasonable explanation of what ringers have for long been groping after, rather blindly, perhaps. Some there are who try to judge the musical quality of a method by counting the number of bells which separate the blows of the tenors. That is a purely fallacious test. What matters is the number of changes in which the natural coursing order of the bells is maintained. Others there are who talk about 'clockwork' striking, but there is no rhythm in a clock.

**ERIN DOUBLES.****MR. WORSLEY'S SIX-SCORES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Worsley is to be highly congratulated. Some purists might object that his six-score lacks something on grounds of orthodoxy, but surely it is generally agreed that in five-bell methods the end justifies the means, or (more politely) the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

This discovery appears to provide a valuable addition to the repertoire of five-bell ringers, especially as the number of different 120's available is a large one—indeed, very large if singles be made at backstroke as well as at hand. For example, here is an alternative for the last two sixes of the composition given by Mr. Worsley.

54321  
45312  
43512 S  
34521  
35412  
53412 S

This alternative can be used in one or more of the five parts.

Note.—The conductor will need to announce his calls always at exactly the same point in the stroke, or they will be made on the wrong stroke, and the touch will be false.

35421 B  
53421 S  
54312  
45321  
43521 S  
34512

The most serious snag that I can see lies in the difficulty of ensuring that 120's called are true. A conductor who does not understand thoroughly the difference between positive and negative rows may easily shift the place of a single and introduce one or two false changes without altering the composition as a whole.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

**A LONG PEAL ATTEMPT.****FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

On Easter Monday, March 30th, 1891, eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association met at Debenham in Suffolk and attempted Thomas Day's peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, which at the time was the longest length composed in the method.

They started at 6.35 in the morning and rang 9,024 changes in 5 hours and 35 minutes, when a shift put an end to the peal. The band consisted of James Motts (conductor) 1, William Motts 2, William Crickmer 3, William Garrett 4, Robert H. Brundle 5, David Collins 6, Edgar Collins 7, Frederick Tillet, tenor, 20 cwt. About half the band happily are still alive. In a district where good striking was traditional, these men were noted for the excellence of their striking. The peal ultimately was accomplished on Whit Monday in the following year.

**SIX BELL RINGING.****A REQUEST AND A COMPLAINT.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Might I, as a lover of six bell ringing, appeal for something further to be published on Minor ringing, so that our knowledge of this modest branch of the art might be enhanced?

After all, we have become a little battle stained of late, at the merciless hands of those enthusiasts who love to dance with consummate glee on the corpse of a six-bell ring, when it has to undergo the agonising metamorphosis to an eight or ten, without the shedding of even a tear.

When the Collection of Doubles and Minor Methods was in the press we were much revived by thoughts of the production of a classical volume, as judged from sketches in 'The Ringing World.' But this was to be but short lived, since we were presented with only a mutilated and disembowelled shell, a simulacrum of what might have been. How anserine were our hopes: we were wrecked in the Scylla of finance.

Yet was this immolation not enough since now we often weary of reading of the birth pangs of a Major method or the vacillations of the experts on some peal of Stedman.

We know that we are 'like a tale that is told,' doomed to vanish into nothingness as our towers get less and less. Yet even at the eleventh hour we crave for a little sop so that at our final passing we can cry out, 'We happy few, we band of brothers.'

VERNON TAYLOR.

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

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## 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.

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. The annual business meeting will follow 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.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12th. 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.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church) on Saturday, April 12th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. All welcome for a social afternoon.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

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.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, April 19th. Tower Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tower bells and handbells available afterwards. Social evening to follow. Please send numbers for tea by previous Wednesday. All welcome. Combined meeting with Western Branch at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.) on Saturday, May 10th. Details later.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.—A meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, April 19th, at 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided at the Battle Axes Hotel at 4 o'clock. All are welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General annual meeting at Nottingham on Saturday, April 19th (12th not available). Handbells at St. Peter's from 2 o'clock. Committee meet 2.45 in St. Peter's vestry. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and general meeting. Notice for tea must be sent not later than 12th to F. Salter, 110, Noel Street, Nottingham. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 19th. Committee 3 p.m. General meeting 3.30.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 19th. Service in All Saints' Church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting St. PAUL's Parish Room 4.45. Handbell ringing in All Saints' tower, 3.15 and after tea. Notification for tea *not later* than April 15th. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 19th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; tea, St. Peter Mancroft Hall, 5; business meeting 5.30. Names for tea by April 9th, please.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec., 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary notice. Annual meeting to be held at Wellington on April 26th. Details will be published later.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec., 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

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.

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