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FRIDAY, MAY 16th, 1941.

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SILENT APPARATUSES.

When, some weeks ago, we wrote about Silent Apparatuses in this column, we did not think the subject was more than one which would afford an interesting field of study and experiment among such mechanically and scientifically minded members of the Exercise as might need something connected with bells and belfries to maintain their touch with our art during the present silence enforced by the ban. We were, therefore, agreeably surprised to find from our correspondents that, not only has a good deal of interest already been taken in the matter, but that experiments have been made which have solved many of the difficulties involved, and we do not doubt that our satisfaction will be shared generally, and hopes and expectations formed of the invention of a really workable silent apparatus.

Already, if we judge aright, some of the important difficulties have been surmounted. It has been found possible to make a workable contact between the bell in the bell-chamber and the handbell in the ringing room, and to do it both by electrical means and by mechanical means. That is a great achievement in itself, for experience showed that the system of wires used in the old and fairly familiar device was very liable to fail in this particular. It has also been found possible to make a workable system of adjustment and to instal it in the ringing-chamber and not in the bell-chamber. How great an advantage that is only a little thought will reveal.

As these results are brought about by simple and inexpensive means, a great deal has been achieved, but one thing so far has baffled the inventors, and that is how to ensure that the handbell in the belfry will strike at the exact point of time that the clapper of the bell above would have done. The importance of this cannot be overstressed, and here perhaps will be found the ultimate test of the value of any apparatus. For unless the silent apparatus can reproduce exactly the striking of the open bells, not only will it prove of no value for teaching and learning change ringing, but it will be a positive danger. Approximation can be had, and it seems to be a matter of dispute how near the approximation is to the real thing.

It depends on the very complicated relationship between the swing of the bell and the swing of the clapper. When a bell is rung up does the clapper always strike the bell when it is in the same position, or is the position altered by the strength of the pull given by the ringer, and the rate at which the bell is rung? On this question opinion seems to differ very considerably, and all the

(Continued on page 230.)

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more so because at the present we are forbidden to test it by practical experiments. If the point of contact between the bell and the clapper is, for all practical purposes, a constant one, as one of our correspondents seems to maintain, we do not see why the perfect silent apparatus should not be invented. But, if it is not, as others say it is not, then the perfect apparatus will, we fear, belong to the realms of unrealised dreams.

More than one of our correspondents have sent us directions for making apparatuses which they have invented, and which they find successful to a greater or less degree. These designs have been generously placed at the disposal of the Exercise without any reservation of inventors' rights. In some cases the articles sent have been illustrated by diagrams, and we regret that it has not been found possible to reproduce them.

The whole question is one which calls for further investigation and experiment, and that can hardly be done fully while the ban lasts. When the war is over it may be possible for the Central Council to decide on one or two good and proven systems, and make them available to the Exercise by printing and publishing a short and illustrated pamphlet.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NORTHPREPS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of four extents each of Stedman, St. Simon's, Reading, Canterbury Pleasure Reverse and April Day, eight of Plain Bob and 14 of Grandsire. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*REV. E. WILLIAM BLYTH... 1-2 | †F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... 3-4
‡CYRIL POOLEY ... 5-6

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal: † First peal in seven Doubles methods on handbells.
‡ First peal in seven Doubles methods. First peal in seven Doubles methods on handbells by the association.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. JACK BRAY... 1-2 | JACK BRAY ... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ROBERT RICHARDSON.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. R. Richardson and Mr. Albert Walker.

ERIN DOUBLES.

ANOTHER FORM OF EXTENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is possible to obtain the extent of Erin Doubles without altering the Slow work in the following manner:—

A	Y	120
12345	12345	12345
21435	21435	24135 A
12435 S	12453	43251
14235 S	14235 S	35412
41235	41235	51342 A
42135 S	42153	14532 Y
24135	24135	
42315	42315	3 times repeated.

JAMES TOPP.

139, Queen's Road, Buckland, Portsmouth.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

C. D. P. DAVIES.

From the beginning the Central Council did much of its work by means of committees. That is the usual procedure of such bodies, and was inevitable, because the members as a whole had neither the time nor knowledge to deal with the questions of complexity and detail. The theory is that when some such matter has to be settled you select a few competent and able men who pool their knowledge and skill, and submit the result of their joint labour in a report which the Council debates, and adopts, amends, or rejects as it may see fit.

That is the theory, but the practice has not always worked out just so. For some things the committee



THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES.

system has been an unqualified success. The work of the present Analysis Committee is an example of how a long, continuous, and at times tedious task can be accomplished by the co-operation of several persons each of whom does his allotted share. In another way the Towers and Belfries Committee is a success, for their particular work is largely done by the members as individuals.

In the past, however, things have usually been somewhat different. As a rule the committees were too large. When the subject matter was an abstruse or controversial one it was found impossible to debate it in detail by all the members by post, and, as a result, the report was usually the work of one, or perhaps two men, the rest of the committee being tacitly ignored.

In this way one of the earliest published reports, that on 'recommendations as to calls,' was really the work

of C. D. P. Davies and bears the stamp of his personality and opinions on every line.

It arose out of a debate at the second meeting, held at Birmingham in 1892. H. A. Cockey moved 'that a committee be appointed to receive and classify all compositions of 5,000 changes and upwards, and to issue an annual report, in which all peals composed in the previous 12 months shall be published.' This was amended by a proposal to appoint a committee to consider the matter, and C. D. P. Davies, J. W. Washbrook and C. H. Hattersley were duly appointed. A further motion dealing with calls was then debated, and Davies persuaded the Council to refer that matter also to the new committee.

It was a subject in which he had taken a great deal of interest, and on which he had formed definite opinions, and it is not surprising that when the report did appear it strongly reflected those opinions.

Washbrook signed the interim report, presented in 1893, but retired from the committee before the final report was adopted. No reason was given for his action; but, since he was a man who had strong opinions of his own, it is at least likely that he did not see eye to eye with Davies. His place was taken by Nathan Pitstow.

Charles Douglas Percy Davies was one of the most influential members of the Council, and earned an honourable and distinguished name in the history of the Exercise. He was born at Tewkesbury, on September 12th, 1856, where his father was Vicar for thirty-one years. His connection with bells began when he was eleven years of age, and after a period of stoney, somewhere about 1874 he began to introduce change ringing into Tewkesbury belfry. In 1876 he went to Oxford, where he had gained a scholarship of Pembroke College, and there he came into contact with several men who then and after played no small part in the movement for reform and improvement which has benefited the Exercise so enormously.

He never had the advantage of coming into permanent contact with a really first-class band, but he took what opportunities offered themselves to ring peals, and his record in his early days, judged by the standards of the times, was quite a good one. It included peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Kent Major and Royal, and Double Norwich, Double Oxford and Superlative Surprise Major. He rang in the first peal by a band of parsons. That was Stedman Triples, at Drayton in 1884, conducted by F. E. Robinson, and he called the first clerical ten-bell peal, one of Stedman Caters, at Warwick in 1910. He rang the second at St. Giles-in-the-Fields in 1884, when Holt's Original was rung non-conducted for the first time, and the seventh in the 13,054 Stedman Caters at Cheltenham in 1888.

Davies' chief claim to fame lies in the fact that he was the first man to attempt to deal with the composition of peals as mathematical problems to be solved by deductive reasoning. For many years composers had worked by experimental and hit or miss methods. Much good work had been done so, and continued to be done, and deductive reasoning can hardly have been altogether absent from the minds of men like John Holt and John Reeves. But there is no evidence that they used it consciously. They judged their work by results. A peal was a fact,

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

and if it was true, it did not matter whether there was a flaw in the reasoning by which they had produced it.

But experimental methods, though they may produce true peals, will seldom establish general truths, and, still more seldom, negatives; and there was one great question these old composers continually asked but could never answer. Is it possible to compose a peal of Grandsire Triples with ordinary bobs only? And if not, why not? Holt, and perhaps one or two others were, we can hardly doubt, sure that it was not possible; but they could not prove it, nor had they any answer to the retort which Jasper Snowdon in effect gave to Davies himself—because you cannot do it is no reason for saying that no one else can.

Davies went a long way towards solving the question, but he did not succeed. He had not the clear logical mind that W. H. Thompson brought to bear on the subject. Indeed, though to say it may seem unjust to a man who had come so near success, he was not a logical thinker. He was far too diffuse, and this defect is apparent in all he wrote. He was one who never used three words if five would do, and in his anxiety to make himself clear smothered his meaning in verbosity. This was strongly impressed on me when I wrote the last edition of 'Stedman,' following much the same lines as in his book, but having less than half the space at my disposal.

Nothing, however, can detract from the fact that as an expositor of composition he was the earliest pioneer. Other men followed and some surpassed him, but he had shown the way.

His great success in Grandsire Triples was, however, to some extent his undoing. Living in remote country districts and away from practical ringing and ringers, he lost touch with the spirit of the Exercise. While he was an active ringer Grandsire and Stedman were the important methods. He understood them far better than most people, but he made the mistake of thinking that rules and standards valid for them must be valid for all methods. Major ringing he neither liked nor understood, yet he tried to force it into conformity with what he thought were fundamental principles, but really were no more than individual prejudices and preferences. He had a rule of the succession of the nature of the rows which he proclaimed as the ultimate basis of ringing. Kent and Cambridge and London and Bristol refused to abide by it, and instead of seeing that there must be something wrong with his rule, he was quite prepared to reject them, and scores more, as illegitimate.

It was due largely to his being out of touch with practical ringing, but it was a great pity, for it marred much of what he wrote, and it obscured and detracted from the real solid merits of his books.

His 'Stedman' is a good book, marked everywhere with knowledge and painstaking thoroughness, yet because of his obstinate prejudice against any but old fashioned all-tittum peals, there is not in it a single one of Stedman Caters that an average modern conductor would chose to call.

Davies was not the only man who was old fashioned and prejudiced, and there is a good deal to be said for standing in the old paths and mistrusting new fancies

(Continued in next column.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

A NEW COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am pleased to be able to send you a peal, which seems to mark another advance in the art. It shows that what we all thought could not possibly exist only remained to be discovered.

I gather, from the joint letter of Messrs. Trollope and Turner, which you published, that someone else has thought our earlier idea might be wrong. Mine was based on the fact that so many courses of one method were false against the plain course of another. However, with a winter of black nights before me, this question of the existence of a peal of Spliced Surprise, with at least one full course of each method, intrigued me. I decided it was worth while to make a thorough investigation, and here is the result.

It will be interesting to learn that others have been equally successful.

On the three-part plan it is surprising to find that three courses each of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative exist true against each other. They seem, however, to be false against everything which joins them, even when the tenors are parted.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

A peal of Spliced Surprise Major in five methods, with a full course of each method, 5,024 changes. Each course-end is followed by leads of the various methods as shown by letters on the right, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, L for London, R for Rutland, and S for Superlative. Where X is shown, the lead may be rung either as Cambridge or Superlative. When no figure precedes the letter one lead is implied. The calling which produces each course-end is shown on the left.

M	W	H	23456	R	X	R
—	—	—	52436	R	X	R
—	—	—	42635	R	C	L
—	—	—	56234	7L		
—	—	—	25634	L	X	R
—	—	—	36452	R	X	L
—	—	—	45362	L	X	L
—	—	—	35264	L	X	L
—	—	—	46253	R	X	R
—	—	—	24653	R	X	R
—	—	—	65243	L	X	L
—	—	—	26543	R	4C	
—	—	—	42563	4C	R	
—	—	—	64523	R	C	R
—	—	—	52643	R	X	L
—	—	—	36245	7B	R	
—	—	—	43265	R	X	B
—	—	—	64235	2B	X	L
—	—	—	53246	L	X	R
—	—	—	23645	R	C	R
—	—	—	56342	R	X	R
—	—	—	35642	L	X	L
—	—	—	63542	R	X	R
—	—	—	45236	R	C	R
—	—	—	63254	L	X	L
—	—	—	26354	L	C	L
—	—	—	32654	R	C	R
—	—	—	56423	L	X	L
—	—	—	32465	L	X	R
—	—	—	46325	L	6R	
—	—	—	53624	R	C	L
—	—	—	62534	B	C	S
—	—	—	43526	R	S	R
—	—	—	54326	C	R	L
—	—	—	32546	L	X	L
—	—	—	45623	L	X	R
—	—	—	36524	R	X	L
—	—	—	25463	L	X	L
—	—	—	34562	R	X	R
—	—	—	53462	L	X	L
—	—	—	65432	L	X	L
—	—	—	34256	L	X	L
—	—	—	25346	R	C	L
—	—	—	42356	L	X	L
—	—	—	35426	4S	R	
—	—	—	23456			

Includes 320 changes of Bristol, 1,472 of London, 1,504 of Rutland, 1,728 of Cambridge and Superlative.

(Continued from previous column.)

which may be but of a day, but the writer of a text book on such a thing as ringing should aim at giving what the Exercise as a whole has found to be worth while, and should put aside his own personal preferences.

**DEATH OF MR. WALTER FRANKS.
LEADER OF THE BATTLE COMPANY.**

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Franks, which took place on March 19th at the Buchanan Hospital, Hastings.

Mr. Franks learnt to ring in 1881, he joined the Sussex County Association in 1885 and had been leader of the band at St. Mary's, Battle, since 1888. He took part in 64 peals, of which he conducted 27.

His interest in change ringing never wavered and he taught many bands among them being Brightling, Iden, Blacklands, Sedlescombe, Salehurst and St. Clement's, Hastings. When the war silenced bells it seemed to him a definite break with the past, for he had seldom been absent from ringing for morning and evening services at St. Mary's, Battle, during 60 years, and the proudest moment in his career was when on Christmas Eve, 1938, he was able to conduct a touch with seven of his sons and daughters standing in.

Mr. Franks, who was 75 years old, had worked at the local tanyard for 58 years, and was a familiar figure in Battle.

The funeral was on March 22nd at the Parish Church. It was conducted by the Dean, the Rev. W. W. Youard, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Catterick. The hymns and psalms were sung by past and present members of the church choir.

DEATH OF ESSEX LADY BELLRINGER.

The death is announced of Nurse Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, Essex, which took place on Monday, May 25th, at the early age of 25, after a very brief illness.

At the beginning of the war Miss Caton undertook nursing duties at Colchester Hospital. It is feared she contracted her fatal illness in the course of her duties.

The funeral at St. Mary's, Mistley, was attended by a large and representative congregation. Many members, men and women, of the St. John Ambulance formed a guard of honour, and many members of the Mistley G.F.S., Rangers and Guides were present. The ringers included Mr. G. W. Moss, Mr. A. Fuller, Mr. A. Honeywood, Miss D. M. Andrews and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, of St. Mary's, Mistley, and Miss V. Frost, of Tendring. The Essex Association was represented by Mr. L. Wright, the hon. secretary of the North-Eastern Division.

Miss Caton was one of six ladies who learnt to ring at Mistley in 1936 under the guidance of Mr. G. W. Moss, and she gave the tower loyal support for Sunday ringing.

She had taken part in three peals, all at Mistley, and was the first lady to ring a peal on the bells.

Much sympathy is felt by all for her parents, ex-Police-Sergt. W. H. Caton and Mrs. Caton, in the great loss they have sustained.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

MEETING OF THE EXETER BRANCH.

A meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild was held at St. Thomas', Exeter, on May 3rd. More than twenty members were present in the afternoon. Some of the members assembled in the belfry for handbell practice, and before the service a 168 Bob Minor was rung by J. E. Lilley 1-2, C. R. Lilley 3-4, and Preb. E. V. Cox 5-6. The Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Price, welcomed the company and conducted the Guild office. His address, though short, was much appreciated. It was based on the words, 'Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King.'

Mr. Biffin, with the help of lady friends, arranged the tea in the Scouts' Hall, near the church, and the chairman, Mr. E. J. Ryall, was supported by the Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox, the Rev. K. R. Martin and the treasurer and secretary of the Guild. Mr. A. E. Searle sent apologies for absence.

Mr. C. R. Lilley reported that satisfactory progress was being made with the handbell practice.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Tedburn St. Mary on August 16th.

The Vicar, responding to the vote of thanks to himself and the ladies for providing the tea, expressed his pleasure at the meeting being held in St. Thomas' and invited the company to take a stroll round the Vicarage garden.

Those interested in the welfare of the Exercise do feel that this meeting helped to keep alive and stimulate interest in change ringing. It is at least a thread which links the happy past with the happier days we hope will come soon.

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the correspondence about endowment for bell ropes, the following may be of interest:—

In the year 1361 Mr. John Hamden, of this parish, gave by deed six shillings a year for ever to be paid out of his lands in this parish to the churchwardens for the time being, towards the maintaining of the bell ropes.

The above is one from a list of endowments printed upon a board and hanging in the belfry of Swarden, Kent, Church, but although I was attached to the tower for some years, I have no recollections of any funds being administered for that purpose.

Incidentally, the land referred to forms part of a farm near the church, and is called 'Bell Ropes' to this day.

F. S. MACEY.

Bram Lea, Sutton Valence, Kent.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

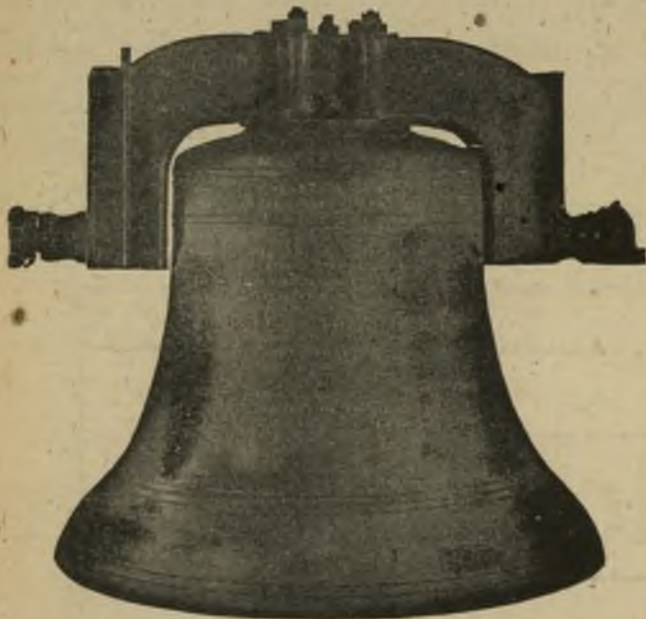
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is still in hospital, but hopes to return home before long, when all his friends will be informed.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

A famous London church, well known to ringers, which had previously been damaged once or twice in air raids, has now been gutted by fire and only the walls are left standing. Some time ago the ten bells were taken down from the steeple and put in a place of safety.

Another church destroyed is in South London. It was here that the Waterloo Society had its headquarters in the few years before it came to an end. The eight bells in the tower have, we fear, perished. The society's property had been moved back to St. John's, Waterloo Road, by Mr. J. E. Davis, and shared in the fate of that building. The handbells and peal book are, however, safe.

Among the churches destroyed in raids in the North of England was one which had the oldest iron bell frame in the country. The bells are unflashed.

The handbells used in the peal rung at Northrepps on May 3rd are a much travelled set. They have been to Burma and were used in India by ringers in the Forces during the last war.

On May 14th, 1924, a peal was rung at Whitley Bay which forms a landmark in the history of change ringing, for it was the first time that more than one Surprise Major method had been included in a five-thousand. The methods were Cambridge and Superlative, the composition was by Mr. Joseph W. Parker, and the conductor was Joseph A. Gofton. Six of the band belonged to the talented Gofton family. It was not until more than three years later (June 11th, 1927) that Mr. Alfred Pulling called the peal in which the four standard Surprise Major methods were spliced for the first time.

John Cox called 6,485 Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes' on May 14th, 1845.

Yesterday was the anniversary of two notable long peals. On May 15th, 1837, the St. James' Society rang 12,096 changes of Grand-sire Caters at Fulham with Thomas Tolladay as conductor. They thought it was the longest length, but 20 years earlier the Painswick men had rung 12,312.

In 1894 a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was accomplished at the Parish Church, Loughborough. The composition was by Nathan Pitstow, who conducted, and it was the longest that had so far been produced in the method. One of the few peals on the recently destroyed octave at St. Lawrence Jewry was 5,040 Double London Court Bob, rung by the College Youths on May 17th, 1735. Richard Spicer conducted, and it was William Laughton's last recorded peal.

Thurstans' four-part peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on May 18th, 1846. Henry Johnson conducted, and the composer was not in the band.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. One was Stedman Triples, the other Kent Treble Bob Major. On the following Monday (Bank Holiday) 22 peals were rung. They consisted of Grand-sire Doubles 1, Triples 4, Stedman Triples 4, Caters 1, Bob Major 1, Canterbury Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 6, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Minor 2. One of the peals of Kent was Mr. George Williams' 100th peal. He took part in the first Sussex 'ringing week' from May 11th to May 15th, in which three peals of Stedman Triples, two of each Double Norwich and Superlative, and one of Kent were rung. Washbrook called six of the peals and F. E. Robinson two.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting on Saturday, May 10th, was well supported and was quite a happy gathering. H.M. Forces were represented by the brothers Len and Tom Fox, home on leave together. Other very welcome figures were Mr. H. R. Newton, now one of our oldest meeting members, and Mr. H. Hoskins. Mr. E. A. Young reported that he had seen the finished C. F. Winney memorial tablet and he was very pleased with its appearance.

Stories of the past and handbell ringing brought another meeting to its end.

Greetings were received from R. T. Hibbert, Congrieve Pridgeon, F. E. Darby and G. H. Myers and all absent friends were remembered.

WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £19 12s. 6d. Further donations received: Canon G. F. Coleridge, 10s.; Raymond G. Cousins, 5s.; Percy W. Cave, 5s.; J. A. Trollope, 2s.; George R. Newton, 2s. 6d.; Douglas S. Archer, 1s.; Anon., 2s. 6d.; R. Edwards, 5s.

Will any other ringer desirous of associating himself with this memorial kindly forward his donation without delay, as the fund will be closed on Saturday, May 24th. Thanking all subscribers on behalf of the committee.—A. B. Peck.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association was held last Saturday at St. Andrew's, Kingsbury. This is the North Middlesex church which was removed stone by stone a few years ago from Wells Street, one of the streets leading out of Oxford Street. That district has suffered severely in the air raids and it may be that the removal has been the means of preserving St. Andrew's from destruction.

It is a fine building and one of the best examples of late Gothic architecture erected in the nineteenth century. The bells are famous as being a full maiden peal not touched by the tuning lathe in any way. The founder cast over twenty before he got eight that satisfied his ear. The ancient Church of St. Andrew, a tiny building, stands beside the new church. It has three small bells, one the oldest in Middlesex. They are, however, inaccessible.



ST. ANDREW'S, KINGSBURY.

The meeting on Saturday was well attended. Choral evensong was at half past four, with an address by the Rev. E. C. Bridgwater, curate-in-charge. Before the service a course of Grandire Triples was rung in the choir gallery by Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Messrs. C. W. Woolley, H. G. Cashmore and E. C. S. Turner. With such a band it was quite good ringing, and would have been better still if it had been ever so much slower.

At the tea in the Parish Hall the chair was occupied by the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, supported by the Rev. E. C. Bridgwater, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. Ball (churchwarden) and Mr. Oram. The gathering was a very representative one, though, of course, not nearly so large as it would have been in peace times. Fifty-two sat down to tea, among them being Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Goodship, Mr. Edwin Barnett, Mr. A. Cutler, Mr. George Kilby,

Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, and all the officers of the association except the president and Mr. George Fletcher, who sent apologies. Mr. Fletcher was engaged on Home Guard duties.

Mr. C. T. Coles mentioned the names of the members who had passed away during the year, and paid a special tribute to the memory of Stephen Wood, killed on duty in a Bristol air raid. His death, he said, was a grievous blow to the whole Exercise.

Mr. Coles stated that no printed report will be issued this year, and he read a short report which was circulated among the members by means of copies kindly typed and duplicated by Mr. and Mrs. George Fletcher.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The report was as follows:—

The ban imposed on the ringing of church bells by the Minister of Home Security has caused the cessation of ringing since June. Despite many appeals, the Minister has so far refused to modify or withdraw the order, and consequently our bells remain silent. We all look forward to the day when we shall ring the bells for the victory that will surely be ours.

The annual general meeting was held at St. Mary's, Acton, on April 27th. The sermon was preached by the Rector (the Rev. P. Gough).

At the business meeting the committee were given powers to decide in what form to issue the annual report, because of high costs of printing and paper shortage. As the position is now worse in both respects it is considered advisable to issue only a very abridged report until such time as our activities are normal. Care will be taken to collect all records, which will be printed in the first post-war report.

It was also decided that the application of Rule 3 should not be insisted upon in the cases of members serving in His Majesty's Forces. Further, any ringer serving in the Forces and coming into London for training purposes could become a member for the period of the war on payment of one year's subscription.

District meetings were held at Upper Clapton, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Stepney and St. George-in-the-East. Also at Heston, Brentford and Kuislip. The attendances were generally very good. The association visited Stepney for the first time and received a cordial welcome.

Twenty-two peals were rung, with one exception all being on handbells. The only tower-bell peal was rung at Willesden. There were 24 ringers and six conductors in these peals. Most of the handbell peals were rung by members of the Bushey band and friends.

A few quarter-peals have been reported. These include three at Kilburn, and one each at Clerkenwell and Twickenham.

New members during the year were, of course, much below the average number. However, one honorary and 13 ringing members were elected.

We deeply regret the loss by death of several members, many of long standing and good worth. Their names are H. Barton, C. H. Howard, W. A. Cave, W. D. Smith, G. B. Lucas, G. Dent, J. Holman, A. Howell and S. H. Wood. The last named was killed during an air raid on Bristol in November, whilst on civil defence duties. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives. In a later report we hope to make further reference to these deceased members.

We are sorry to lose the services of the Rev. A. S. Roberts, who came into the county a few years ago, when he took up a curacy at Edmonton. Mr. Roberts has now charge of a parish at Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

One of our vice-presidents, too, has left the diocese. The Bishop of Willesden, who on more than one occasion has preached to us at our annual meetings, has been appointed Bishop of Leicester.

DAMAGED CHURCHES.

A list of churches in the diocese which have been damaged in air raids, and which contain peals of bells, is being prepared, with special reference to those affiliated to this association. This record will be printed in a future report. Will tower secretaries and others interested please keep a record of damage done, and later report it to the hon. secretary? Meanwhile, we desire to express our deepest sorrow at the loss of so many churches and peals of bells.

We also regret the loss of many valuable ringing records and treasures when the headquarters of the A.S.C.Y. was destroyed on December 29th, and accord to the members of that society our deepest sympathy.

The books belonging to this association, which have hitherto been kept in the belfry at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, have, together with a complete duplicate set of reports, been removed for greater safety to North Mimms, to the home of Mr. T. J. Lock.

It is hoped that the list of members serving in His Majesty's Forces will be kept up to date, for publication in a future report. All information should be sent to the hon. secretary.

In conclusion, we trust that all members will keep in touch with their belfries and with the association. To assist this a few meetings will be held during the summer and autumn months. We *must* keep ourselves ready for the day when peace comes, when we may carry on our work with renewed vigour.

The statement of accounts was presented by the treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram, and passed.

The officers were re-elected en bloc, namely: President, the Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane; vice-presidents (active), G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope; Master, H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, W. H. Oram; hon. secre-

(Continued on next page.)

BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A friend tells me I ought to say something in reply to Mr. Drake. Many readers, he says, do take an interest in composition and method construction, and we should give them all the explanations we can.

I am not quite sure about the matter. I think when we try to do too much in the way of explanation we only muddle people and make them believe things are difficult when really they are very simple. After all readers have got brains and can think for themselves, and some can even see a church by daylight. Still, I'll do what I can.

Suppose your clock ran down at (shall we say?) five minutes past two, and you set it going again at twenty to seven. You would have to alter the hands, and to do that you would move the minute hand from left to right, first to a quarter past the hour, then half past, and so on till you had moved it right round the dial back to the place you started from, and round and round as long as you wished. If I asked which way you moved the hand you would say, 'Forward,' and if I asked, 'Why forward?' you would say, 'Because it is the way the hands usually move.'

But you could have moved the hand in the opposite direction from right to left, and instead of putting it from five minutes past to a quarter past, you could have put it back to the hour, then to a quarter to, and so right round the dial till you came back to where you started from, and you could go on moving it round and round as long as you liked. If I asked you which way you moved it this time, and you had enough patience left to go on answering silly questions, you would say, 'Backwards,' and backwards because it was in the opposite direction to that in which the hands normally move.

Movement in change ringing is exactly similar to the movement of the hand of the clock. If you are ringing, say, the fourth to eight bells, and you were told to start plain hunting and keep on, you would first go into third's, then second's, then to the lead. After that you would go up behind and then down again till you reached the place you started from, and you would go on, round and round, until you were told to stop. That would be forward hunting.

But you could have gone in the opposite direction. Instead of moving from fourth's to third's, you could have gone to fifth's, then up behind, then down to lead and so round and round until you were told to stop. That would be backward hunting, and 'backward' only because it is the opposite to the normal direction.

All the ringing we do is made up of these two kinds of movement. When you ring the treble to Bob Major all your movement is continuous forward plain hunting. When you ring the second or the third it is nearly all forward plain hunting, but every now and then you take one step backwards. We call that dodging.

In any Major method, produced by backstroke work only, we never get more than single steps of backward movement among the forward movement, but in the more complex methods, which have handstroke places, there are usually fairly long stretches of backward hunting. There is never any continuous unbroken backward hunting like the forward hunting of Bob Major, but in London Surprise a bell for the greater part of its work is hunting backwards with such variations as are needed to allow it to avoid falling foul of the Treble Bob path of the treble. Study the method and see for yourself.

Shipway produced a method which he called Imperial Place Major, and the Cumberlands rang a peal of it. It consists entirely of plain forward hunting by the treble and plain backward hunting by the other bells. The way the two movements are reconciled is by place making alongside the treble's path, and there is not a single dodge in it.

The difference between forward and backward hunting is a real one, and every practical ringer, who has had experience of any of the more complex methods, knows it. The whole thing is extremely simple and elementary, and I feel rather ashamed of myself for taking up so much of your space writing about it. J. A. TROLLOPE.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

tary, C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, E. C. S. Turner; auditor, G. W. Fletcher; trustees, W. H. Oram, C. T. Coles and E. C. S. Turner.

Mr. Coles referred to the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and expressed the sympathy of the association with him as well as congratulations on the way the paper had carried on.

In putting Mr. Coles' motion to the meeting, the Chairman said that during his connection with the paper he had been much impressed by the many tokens of regard towards the Editor, which had come from ringers in all parts of the country. He pointed out that the production of a ringing paper during war time was attended by many difficulties and hoped readers would not be too censorious.

A resolution was passed of goodwill towards members serving in His Majesty's Forces, and the thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Bridgwater, Mr. Ball, the local company, and Mrs. Collier and her lady helpers. Mr. Collier suitably replied.

During the afternoon and evening there was handbell ringing, most of it of a high order. A fairly long touch (about 400) of Spiced Surprise Major by E. C. S. Turner 1-2, C. W. Woolley 3-4, H. G. Cashmore 5-6, and C. C. Mayne 7-8, was noticeable, and so was a course of London Major, in which Mrs. Fletcher took part.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association was held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Forty-three members were present from Southover, Wadhurst, Hastings, Warnham, Rotherfield, Balcombe, Eastbourne (St. Mary's), Storrington, Pulborough, Arundel, Burgess Hill and the Brighton towers.

New members were elected from Southover, Lewes, being the Misses M. Carpenter, M. Monk and M. Uridge.

The Master's report and the balance sheet were circulated and accepted. It was noted that although the sums received from affiliation fees were reduced by some £20, expenses had also fallen, and the balance, therefore, was not greatly depleted. It is hoped that with due economy the present position will not greatly depreciate.

The divisional officers were re-elected except in the case of the Western and Eastern Divisions, where the secretaries are absent on national service. Mr. E. Treagus consented to act as secretary during Mr. F. Meeten's absence in the Western Division, and Mr. J. Downing consented to act as substitute for Mr. C. Levett in the remaining vacancy. Committee members were also re-elected, with the exception of Mr. W. Franks, of Battle, who had passed away a few weeks previously. The Master gave a short appreciation of Mr. Franks' services, and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected, as were the general officers: Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. D. Stone; hon. general secretary, Mr. S. E. Armstrong; hon. peal secretary, Mr. F. I. Hairs.

The peal secretary read his report and stated that only one peal had been rung during the year, Minor in four methods at West Grinstead, conducted by Mr. A. J. Steele; who thus ranks as the champion conductor for the year. The peal secretary made a plea for the further use of handbells as a substitute for the tower bells, now unfortunately silent. A discussion ensued, and it was agreed that meetings for handbell ringing should be arranged during the summer months, the peal secretary kindly offering accommodation for one meeting. The opinion of the members was asked as to the suitability of holding meetings on Sundays, using the handbells as a part of the ordinary evensong at the church selected. Many members are not now available for meetings on Saturdays, and it was decided to arrange at least one such meeting if the incumbent were agreeable.

A discussion also took place regarding the safe disposal of the association records, and it was decided that a copy should be made of the peal reports, and this and other documents should be placed in the strong room of St. Peter's. The question of payment of rail fares to divisional meetings was also considered, the committee having recommended their suspension for the ensuing year. The main part of the association balance is invested in Government bonds and at the present not easily or advisably realisable, the cash balance being relatively small, and after expressions of opinion on both sides of the subject, it was decided to let the committee recommendation stand for the year and be reconsidered next year.

Mr. Rapley proposed that the general secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Goldsmith expressing the association's best wishes for his complete recovery from his illness. This was carried with enthusiasm.

During the course of the afternoon the tower was visited by the Vicar of Brighton, the Rev. Canon G. H. Warde, who remarked on the depression ringers must feel at the sudden ending of their activities on the tower bells, an event unprecedented in history, and the more deplorable now that the conflict was so evidently one between the forces of materialism and Christ's teaching. In such circumstances anything which tends to lessen the call of the Church is to be regretted, and the sound of the bells was one of those things which had in times past been greatly associated with the call to religion. We must, however, place national requirements in the forefront of our efforts, for only by such a wholehearted devotion can a speedy victory and a just peace be attained. It is up to the ringers to prepare for that time, and if the suspension of tower-bell ringing is a means to the desired end, it must be accepted in a willing spirit.

During the afternoon the handbells were rung to methods which included Grandshire Doubles, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich.

AN OLD RECORD FROM WAKEFIELD.

May 12th, 1788. On Monday last was rung at Wakefield by the Ringers of that place a New Composition Peal of Tripple Bob Tripple called Wakefield Delight Consisting of 5040 in 8 courses complete. The same set of Ringers without changing a man or setting a bell, began another Peal of Oxford Single Triples in Twelve Courses consisting of 5,040 called Wakefield Surprise. Both these peals consisted 10,080 changes were performed including the Raising and Settling the bells in Seven Hours and One Minute, and were rung with a exactness and nice distinction, as instance never before Done in Ye Kingdom. What adds to the singularity of this performance is—There were Two Fathers, Five Sons, Five Brothers, Four Cousins, One Uncle, One Nephew, yet only eight Persons and only two names.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to work out the relationship.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

'EALING SURPRISE.

We gave Cornwall as probably the best of all the easy Surprise Methods. We now come to another very similar method, which, though not quite so good when everything is taken into consideration, is fully worthy of taking its place as a standard method.

Ealing S.	Leatherhead S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7	1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5	2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5
<hr/>	
2 4 1 3 6 8 5 7	2 4 1 3 6 8 5 7
4 2 3 1 8 6 7 5	4 2 3 1 8 6 7 5
2 4 1 3 8 6 5 7	2 4 1 3 8 6 5 7
4 2 3 1 6 8 7 5	4 2 3 1 6 8 7 5
<hr/>	
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	2 3 4 6 8 1 7 5
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	3 2 6 4 1 8 5 7
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	3 6 2 4 8 1 7 5
<hr/>	
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1
6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5	4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5
3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1	4 2 6 3 7 8 5 1
<hr/>	
6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1	2 4 3 6 7 5 8 1
3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
<hr/>	
3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8	6 3 4 2 5 1 7 8
2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7	6 4 3 2 1 5 8 7
2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8	4 6 2 3 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
<hr/>	
2 4 6 1 3 5 7 8	2 4 6 1 3 5 7 8
4 2 1 6 5 3 8 7	4 2 1 6 5 3 8 7
2 4 6 1 5 3 7 8	2 4 6 1 5 3 7 8
4 2 1 6 3 5 8 7	4 2 1 6 3 5 8 7
<hr/>	
4 1 2 6 5 3 7 8	4 1 2 6 5 3 7 8
1 4 6 2 3 5 8 7	1 4 6 2 3 5 8 7
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
<hr/>	
1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7	1 1 2 6 3 8 5 7

In construction Ealing is a very simple variation of Cornwall. If we turn to the figures of the latter (they are given in our issue of April 18th) we shall see that the middle change of the first section

is	21436587	
	12346578	
		and
at the second cross section	42316587	
	24361857	

In both of these changes 5, 7, 8 are in the three hindmost positions. In the former the 5th makes sixth's place; in the latter the 7th makes eighth's place.

Now it is obvious that this place-making can be transposed, so that the 7th makes eighth's in the former change and the 8th makes sixth's in the latter. The result will be the same. This variation, with the cor-

responding one in the second half of the lead, and seconds at the lead end are all that are needed to produce Ealing from Cornwall.

But, though the difference is so small, there is enough distinction to make the two separate methods in actual practice. Cornwall has a clear proof scale and sixty full natural courses available for composition. In it the Oxford places in the first two sections are made by bells widely separated in coursing order. In Ealing there are no Oxford places in the first section, and those in the second section are made by a pair of coursing bells. That means that we have the false course end B 24365, and only thirty full natural courses available for composition. Of these thirty, however, twenty-seven have either the 4th, 5th or 6th in sixth place at the course end, and so plenty of musical peals can be had.

Cornwall has 3-pull and single dodging; Ealing has 4-pull and single dodging, and this is not an improvement. Ealing, in fact, is one of those methods which raise the question of the desirability of 4-pull dodging. In theory it ought to be too long; yet Ealing is not only interesting to ring, but is very musical. The method was one of those included by the talented Bushey band in their spliced handbell performances, and when they gave a touch at the College Youths' dinner Ealing sounded by far the best of all the methods they rang, better than Rutland, better even than Bristol, and much better than Cambridge or London. That, of course, is not a conclusive test, for only a couple of leads were rung.

Below the treble Ealing is the same as Cornwall and shares its excellences.

If we turn Cornwall into a second's place method we get excessive dodging behind; with Ealing the second's place gives a method which not only meets the requirements of those people who prefer second's place to eighth's, but one which is very useful for splicing. So far only two peals have been rung of it, but it has been included in several spliced peals.

At the lead end it has 3-pull dodging in 3-4. We are not quite sure whether that is a very desirable feature, but it is not very objectionable, and it is inevitable in any second's place Treble Bob method with a clear proof scale in the first section.

The eighth's place variation of Ealing is for all ordinary purposes quite as good a method. In the new Surprise book it has been given the name of Horsham, the title under which Ealing itself was known to some people before it was rung to a peal.

We pointed out that a variation of Cornwall can be had by substituting two backward plain hunting courses for the one Treble Bob hunting course on the four bells below the treble. A similar variation of Ealing gives Leatherhead, which, though inferior, and rather more difficult, has many good points.

MR. FREDERICK G. WOODISS.

We regret to announce that Mr. Frederick G. Woodiss died suddenly at Banstead on Sunday last. Mr. Woodiss was one of the best known among Surrey ringers, and we hope to give more details of his ringing career in our next issue.

THE MUSIC OF STEDMAN CATERERS.—Of all methods on nine or more bells, Stedman Caterers, when properly treated, lends itself to produce the best variety of musical combinations. As commonly rung with the treble a fixed bell, it is small wonder that critics decry the music as inferior to that of Grandsire.—Sir Arthur Heywood.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY. ANNUAL MEETING.

The sixty-ninth annual general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College on Wednesday, April 30th. The attendance was fair, and in the absence of the president the Master took the chair.

The treasurer's report was adopted, and the Master gave an account of successful activities during the Hilary term. Though the silent-bell practices in New College tower had not evoked a lot of enthusiasm, handbell ringing (double-handed, of course) had been popular. There were six competent ringers in the society, and every member could ring at least 1-2 or 7-8 in a course of Grandsire Triples. Two quarter-peals had been rung during the term.

Officers were elected for the next year as follows: Master, J. E. Spice (New College), second term of office; secretary, W. L. B. Leese (St. John's), second term of office; treasurer, Miss E. Macnair (Somerville).

Meetings for the term were arranged for Thursday evenings on silent tower bells, and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m. for handbells. It was decided to have a society photograph taken during the term.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Spice for the kindness he had shown as Master, for the loan of his premises for handbell practices, and for the food he had given the society on many occasions.

THE FIRST PEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA. A LETTER FROM MR. JAMES PRIEST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the letter by Mr. E. Barnett in 'The Ringing World' of January 3rd, may I say that it was Mr. Gardom who gave me my first lesson in change ringing. Later I got to know other ringers, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Green being my closest friends. When Mr. Barnett went to Monmouth he invited me to come, as he was instructing a band, and about twelve months afterwards we were able to ring the Monmouth peal.

I left England on May 24th, 1890. Mr. Green had left twelve months earlier, and we were at Woodstock when the bells arrived, so got together a band and struggled along until we succeeded in ringing the Woodstock peal. Mr. Alfred Pye paid us a visit and did a bit of ringing. Mr. Green retired some years ago after taking the trip to England, and is now settled here in Cape Town.

J. F. PRIEST.

Lunsdown, Cape Flats, South Africa.

JACKDAWS VERSUS SUMMER TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One day last week our parish church clock was found to have lost six minutes. The steeplekeeper climbed the steps to ascertain the trouble, but apparently the clock was going perfectly and is always recognised as a perfect timekeeper. However, the following morning the clock was found to have lost 20 minutes in the night. This seemed to cause quite a dislocation in the village life. The school girls missed their bus, and so had a day's holiday. The farmer in his usual way consulted the trustworthy timepiece and patted himself on the back that he had 20 minutes in hand. The farm worker, however, discovered the fault and uttered most disparaging remarks. The steeplekeeper again went to the tower to make investigations and found it was the work of the jackdaws. On closer investigations to the dial case it was found that a long briar was encircled round the small hand and had caused the retardment of the clock, also large quantities of sticks lay on the roof below. Evidently the jackdaws don't hold with this extra hour of summer time.

With best wishes to the Editor for a speedy recovery and good wishes to all ringing friends. May the day not be long before normal times are here and we are in the 'plain course' again.

C. T. H. BRADLEY.

Folkingham, Lincs.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.—Through the tact and energy of Sir A. P. Heywood, Bart., the Central Council of Church Bellingers was founded in 1890, some members of existing societies thinking it unnecessary, and asserting that they could manage their own affairs without any such extraneous help.—F. E. Robinson.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT HOWDEN.

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, May 3rd, and was attended by about a dozen ringers from Goole, Hessle, Hull, Kirk Ella, Selby, York and the local company.

A short service was held in church, at which the Vicar, the Rev. A. Waring M.A., gave a most interesting address on religion and character, and prior to the service some handbell ringing took place in the nave.

Tea was served in the Manor House Cafe, a former residence of the Bishops of Durham at a time when Howden formed a part of that diocese. The tea would have done ample justice to peace time, there being a good supply of everything.

The business meeting, over which the Vicar presided, followed, and the district secretary (Mr. H. S. Morley) was re-elected for a further period of three years on the motion of Mr. S. Steel, seconded by Mr. F. Cryer. Messrs. F. W. Dale and F. Terry were re-elected on the District Committee, the first named on the General Committee, and Mr. S. Steel, of York, was elected to the vacant place on the District Committee, all for a period of three years.

Mr. Steel invited the district to hold the next meeting at York in July, and this was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Cryer proposed and Mr. Steel seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, an old friend of the ringers, who gave up the whole of his Saturday afternoon and evening in order to be with them. It would be a good thing if all incumbents made themselves as homely and entertaining as does Mr. Waring.

In his reply, the Vicar said he was glad to welcome the company to Howden and how pleased he always was to be with them.

Mr. R. B. Smith replied on behalf of the local company.

A collection for the association's bell repairs fund realised 7s. 6d.

Further handbell ringing concluded a most enjoyable if small meeting on a lovely spring-like day.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, of Sherburn-in-Elmet, and from Mr. J. W. Thompson, of Howden.

EDWIN BARNETT AND JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Emery's letter on the peal at Chislehurst is interesting.

At the time when father and I were discussing Thurstans' Reversed, he told me that he asked Mr. Washbrook what peal it was, saying, 'You had the bells out of course the very first six.' This must have been the following day at Erith, as had he been outside all the time at Chislehurst he would undoubtedly have taken the whole peal off, thereby setting our minds at rest as to what actually was called.

I do not think there can be any doubt that the composition was the Four-Part, and not the One-Part as Mr. Emery suggests, for, having started with a single at 2, the second single would come at 14 in that course, and father would have detected it immediately the bells came in course again if it had been the latter.

Father also told me this was the only occasion he found anyone able to ring four in hand with him. They rang a touch each of Grandsire and Siedman Triples, a course of Bob Major and half a course of Treble Bob, when Mr. Washbrook, who was ringing 5-6-7-8, had to give up, having rubbed the skin off his fingers.

Thirty years ago I paid a flying visit to Ireland, and while there I called on Mr. Washbrook at Arklow. He recalled this and said, 'Had it been possible for your father and me to get a little practice together, we should have rung some peals.' I firmly believe they would.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that many ringers have been most interested in the letters about silent apparatus which have appeared in your pages, and I hope some good will come of them. It is good to know that these clever people are making experiments, and though it is too early to talk about it now, perhaps when the war is over steps will be taken to see which is the best, and the Central Council might prepare and publish full directions, with illustrations and diagrams, so that bands could take advantage of it where practice is objected to or restricted.

HAROLD SMITH.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS' A History of the Society.

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NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, May 17th. Service at S. Nicolas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall (next to the church) at 5 p.m.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clendon, near Guildford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Saturday, May 17th. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, will probably be available from 2.15 p.m. and again in the evening for payment of subscriptions, distribution of reports and handbell ringing. Owing to catering difficulties, it has not been found possible—up to the moment—to arrange for tea. Will members please provide for themselves? — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 24th. 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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. — The annual general meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Meeting in Ringing Chamber 6.15 p.m. Six 'silent' bells available afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, May 24th. Tower open 3 p.m. for tower and handbell ringing. Service (if possible) 5 p.m. A tea will be arranged if possible. A good muster is hoped for, as the President, the Rev. Arthur Scott, intends to be present. Intending visitors please notify.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. It will greatly assist the caterers if those intending to be present will forward their names to J. W. Cotton, Overseal, by Wednesday, May 21st. Subscriptions are now due and reports ready. A good attendance is necessary.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available. Owing to catering difficulties those attending will have to make their own arrangements for tea. Ringing from 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. Teas can be obtained for ringers who forward their names by Tuesday, May 27th. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Those requiring tea are particularly requested to notify the general secretary not later than Wednesday, May 28th. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Tea, free to all resident members who are clear on the books and who apply to the general secretary for tickets on or before May 24th. Non-resident members and non-members 1s. 6d. each, to be sent with application for tickets. No application for tickets will be entertained after May 24th. This will be strictly adhered to. Bring sugar if required. Bells (6) (silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

MR. A. J. HARRIS wishes to thank the many friends who have written to congratulate him on the honour recently conferred on him by H.M. the King. He will take an early opportunity of replying personally by letter. His address is 86, Stoughton Street, Leicester.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—On Thursday, April 24th, at 35, Woodstock Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: G. H. Spice 1-2, Betty Spice 3-4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5-6, Mrs. G. H. Spice (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 7-8. Is this the first quarter-peal 'in hand' by father, mother, son and daughter?

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