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**THE INSURANCE OF BELLS.**

A resolution of considerable interest was passed at the recent annual meeting of the Kent County Association, which discussed the liability for the replacement of bells damaged or destroyed by enemy action. The motion put forward the view that, as the Government had ordered church bells to be rung in any area where enemy troops may land from the air, churches had become military objectives, and therefore any damage arising from the war should be made good by the Government. Copies of the resolution are to be sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops, Archdeacons and members of Parliament in the county of Kent. By this means it will be brought to the notice of those who can make themselves heard in the councils of State, and an even wider influence might be exerted if other associations would follow upon the same lines.

There is a great deal to be said in favour of such action. As far as is at present known, the Government have undertaken only to restore the fabric of such churches as may be damaged by the enemy, leaving the churches to cover by insurance the loss of the furnishing and other contents, which, of course, includes the bells. This may, for the most part, be an equitable arrangement, but the bells are on a different footing. They are reserved for a military purpose, as no other kind of church property is reserved, and as they have, so to speak, been acquired by the military, their replacement should be the responsibility of the Government if it happens that they suffer at enemy hands. If the restoration of the fabric of the church, in the event of damage, is to be the business of the nation, the bells, which to all intents and purposes are temporarily military property, ought also to be a charge on national funds. We hope, therefore, that other associations will take the matter up with their Bishops and Members of Parliament.

Until the Government undertakes this responsibility, however, ringers in their respective parishes should make every effort to secure the proper insurance of the bells. There is increasing evidence that in many parishes a totally inadequate sum is provided for their replacement. We know of one instance where a ring of twelve bells has been included in a policy at £200. It is true that the insurance rates are high, and that the parish in question is not a wealthy one, but to value the bells at such a figure is farcical; the amount will hardly provide one decent sized bell at the price which is likely to rule after the war. We have heard of other cases almost on a par with this, and in every parish where there is a ring of bells it should be the business of ringers not only to in-

(Continued on page 338.)

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quire into what has been done but to make the strongest representations to secure adequate insurance against a total loss, for it must not be forgotten that partial damage will only be paid for proportionately.

Another point to be borne in mind, and one which is of no little importance, is that, if eventually the Government can be persuaded to take over the restoration of enemy damaged bells, it is more than likely that they will limit their liability to the amount for which the bells are now covered by insurance, and they would be justified in basing the compensation upon a church's own valuation of its property. Whether or not the Government takes over the responsibility of the bells, however, it is the business of church authorities to see that they are forthwith sufficiently covered by insurance. It is easy to say that, taken by and large, the risk of damage to churches in all but target areas is small. Fortunately it is, but events have proved that even the most isolated places suffer with the rest, and incendiary bombs, blindly scattered by an enemy aircraft, may do almost irreparable damage. Bells are among the things that can be replaced, but that will not happen, at any rate in full degree, in those parishes where the church authorities have failed to include an adequate sum in their insurance policy. It is different, of course, where the bells have been dismantled and removed to a place of safety; in such cases it is logical to minimise the risk, but instances of this kind are comparatively rare. How many rings of bells have been damaged or destroyed we do not know, but there are still thousands of peals hanging *in situ* in the towers of this country. It is the duty of the church authorities to see that they are adequately insured, and ringers should do their utmost to see that this is done, because, as we have said, even if the Government does eventually take over the liability, it is almost certain to be on the basis of the current insured value.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 7, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,  
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, one each of Single and Double Court, Reverse Bob and Double Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 1-2 | \*JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 3-4

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5-6

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal of Minor in seven methods. First peal on handbells by the ringer of 3-4, who was elected a member of the association before starting.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 11th, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,  
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6

\*JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 7-8

Composed by W. S. COURT. Conducted by CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First handbell peal of Major.

## A 'MINOR' SUCCESS.

At 43, Grendon Gardens, Wembley Park, Middlesex, on Sunday evening, June 29th, a 'Minor' success was achieved by the following who rang 720 Bob Minor in 20 minutes: R. G. Spears (first 720 'in hand') 1-2, R. W. Darvill (first 720 'in hand') 3-4, E. B. Hartley (first 720 'in hand' as conductor) 5-6.

## 'THE GOOD OLD DAYS.' MORE REMINISCENCES.

### Peal Attempts Recalled.

Like most ringers, I have had to live in the past for a full year, and occasionally there occur to me some episodes which may be interesting both to those who shared them to recall, to remind them of happier days, and interesting perhaps to others as well.

I wonder if Jim Davis remembers the occasion at St. Magnus the Martyr when no steeplekeeper came to let us in, so Jim went to the churchwarden, who kept the public-house opposite, to see whether he had a key to the tower. He had not, but did we think we could pick the lock? We thought that would be possible, and one of the band, who came from North Shields, disappeared down a nearby alley, returning very soon with a crowbar. That peal was rung, but the steeplekeeper's reactions are not known, for afterwards we all had urgent business elsewhere.

Jim may remember, too, an attempt at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row. There the gas was turned off at the main, and as the evenings were drawing in we wasted some time endeavouring the find where to turn it on. This being unavailing, we started for the peal. It grew darker and darker until all that could be seen through a kind of cage in the tower was the white shirt sleeves of the ringers opposite. This made little difference in Double Norwich and we duly reached the last course. Success was in sight—then someone missed his sally, and another peal joined the great majority.

In those days the only hope of completing a peal at Leeds in Kent was by a liberal application of lard and castor oil beforehand. This was not always easy to do, as the steeplekeeper viewed such proceedings with deep suspicion so that it was customary for some of the band to take him down to the 'George' while the work was in progress.

### A PEAL INTERLUDE.

On one occasion I was assisting Jim and Fred Holden with the greasing when the latter called over, 'If the old so and so could see us now he would have a fit.'

Then came a voice from the doorway, 'Yes, the old so and so is looking at you.' We had not been quick enough.

One Bank Holiday we were ringing a peal of Stedman Caters at Maidstone, where the ninth was particularly bad going.

At that time there was living in Maidstone a formerly very prominent ringer who offered to come up to relieve Jim for a short time if necessary. He arrived about half-way through the peal, and as it was a warm morning and Jim, to quote his own words, 'didn't believe in killing himself,' gave over his rope and went down, Jack Cheesman saying as he passed, 'Don't be away long.'

Now the ringing was good, so what was more natural than that he should go a short distance away to listen. He found an ideal spot where, by good fortune, refreshment was also to be obtained, and so lingered awhile. Then in came a man evidently rather displeased with life, for said he, 'What they can see in kicking up that blank blank row since seven o'clock this morning I don't know.'

Jim, therefore, considered it wise to return, and it was as well he did, for although he had been away for three courses only, his deputy was on the point of collapse. However, the peal was duly rung and we saw no more of our eleventh man, but he left a rather large bill for us to settle at the 'Globe' for beer which he had consumed.

When Jim Bennett was a sergeant-major in the Marines he arranged many peals at Chatham, where the church adjoins the barracks.

We came down after one of these and were met outside by a marine, who enquired for the head ringer. We felt that here was a situation that required diplomatic treatment and said that we were all visitors, but would pass any message on. He gave us the message, 'The Adjutant presents his compliments and asks if you will let him know when the next competition takes place.'

### LOCKED IN A CATHEDRAL.

Diplomacy was in evidence, too, after a peal at Quex Park. It was customary after these events for the band to be shown round the museum at the house. Then the question would normally be asked, 'And what do you think of our little bells?' which normally brought some complimentary reply. But on one occasion Joe Sykes was there, and he answered, 'They are the finest peal of twelve I have ever heard for their weight.' (Surfleet in those days was a peal of ten.)

A few years ago we rang a peal at Canterbury Cathedral. One of the local ringers was supposed to let us out after the peal—the Cathedral by that time being closed. However, he did not arrive and our train went without us. There was another—the last—an hour later, but as time went on our prospects of catching it grew less and less. It looked like spending the night in the Cathedral, but meanwhile someone had groped his way down the nave to the main door, and by knocking and rattling attracted the attention of the watchman on Christ's Gate, who informed the verges. We just caught our train, but three of the band were unable to get farther than London that night.

About twenty years ago our bells were rehung, and when they were to be rededicated the then Rector insisted that he should be the first to sound them after the dedicatory prayers, after which we were to ring a short touch. In vain did we try to explain that if he were

(Continued in next column.)

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD. CONTINUITY OF MEETINGS.

### The Vacant Mastership.

A quarterly meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Guild's headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street. As all visiting ringers to Birmingham well know, the Guild's meeting room is ideal both for the business point of view and the social side which usually follows. But on a Saturday afternoon in perfect July weather much pleasanter places in the lovely countryside around Birmingham would have been preferred, such as, for instance, Solihull, Knowle, Hampton-in-Arden or Sutton Coldfield.

In normal times it would have been at one of these places that the meeting would have taken place and the bells would have pealed out over hill and dale. Later, tea, consisting of boiled ham and roast beef with green salad and all sorts of cakes, would have been partaken of, and, after further ringing, in all probability a convivial hour would have been enjoyed in the local hostelry before returning home. But these are not normal times, and so the meeting was in Birmingham, and The Tamworth Arms had to be specially opened for the purpose, otherwise it would have remained closed, for all forms of refreshment had been entirely sold out. In spite of this, however, and the fact that there was no ringing on the tower bells, quite a good number attended the meeting, including several visitors from Coventry, Cheltenham, etc.

The short business meeting was presided over by the Ringing Master, Mr. Frank Haynes. Apologies were announced from Cdr. A. Paddon Smith, Mr. Albert Walker and Mr. E. T. Alloway.

The election of a new Master to succeed the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett was discussed, and it was proposed by the chairman that this be left over until the annual meeting in January next.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. G. F. Swann suggested that the office of Master should be more or less on similar lines to that existing in the College Youths Society.

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

There were no new members proposed, but before the party dispersed one of the visitors expressed a desire to be proposed at the next meeting.

A suggestion that the next quarterly meeting be dispensed with did not meet with favour, and Mr. G. F. Swann proposed that this be held as usual on the first Saturday in October at a tower within easy reach of the city, and that, if possible, a tea be arranged.

This was seconded by Mr. A. Morris and supported by Mr. G. E. Fearn, who also made the point that it would be a pity to break the continuity of the quarterly meetings.

The Chairman also supported the resolution and stated that the present meeting proved the usefulness of these gatherings. He took the opportunity of thanking the visitors, Messrs. W. Williams and W. Yeend, of Cheltenham, H. E. Sibley, C. H. Webb and son, from Stoke-in-Coventry, for their presence.

Mr. John Jagger reported that he had visited Mr. James George at Quinton Hall during the past week. He was not very well, as he was suffering from the effects of a fall. He, however, wished to be remembered to all his old friends of the St. Martin's Guild.

The secretary (Mr. T. H. Reeves) announced that, with the approval of the officers of the Guild, Mr. Walker had removed to a place of safety in the country all the old peal books and records belonging to the Guild, and had made arrangements that by due notice these could be inspected if required. This action was approved and Mr. Walker thanked for his services.

This concluded the business. The handbells were then brought into service and several good touches were brought round, in which the visitors took part. Messrs. C. H. Webb and his son, with Mr. E. Mansell, delighted the company with their tune ringing.

## 'THE GOOD OLD DAYS.'

(Continued from previous column.)

to sound the bell it would have to be down, whereas when we rang it must be up. We found a solution. At that time the belfry was open to the church with a low iron screen for protection, the opening being covered by curtains. To the ironwork we tied an old rope, the end hanging down into the church. And at the appropriate moment the Rector tugged the rope, someone pulled the treble off for a couple of whole pulls; and then off we went into rounds. Thus everyone was satisfied.

The fact that the belfry was open to the church was not, however, always a blessing. Once we had rung over two hours for a peal of Norfolk, when the treble ringer suddenly set his bell, to the astonishment of the rest of the band. The reason? Well, during the peal someone was effecting repairs in the church and making quite a lot of noise, and the treble ringer thought one particularly loud bang was the conductor calling 'Stand.' I do not remember what was said to the workman, but at all events the latter never completed the job. He went straight to the Rector, drew his wages and disappeared.

E. B.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 328.)

### THE COLLECTION OF MINOR METHODS.

In 1907 the Methods Committee issued the first 'Collection of Doubles, Minor and Triples Methods.' On the whole, that book has had a greater influence on the development of the art of change ringing than any other publication of modern times. It directly led to the expansion of six bell ringing, it made spliced ringing possible, and it indirectly led to the great advance in the Major methods. Nominally the work of the committee, it actually was entirely the work of Law James, and it reflects his characteristics both in its good qualities and its many deficiencies. The idea of publishing an exhaustive collection of all the Minor methods which conform to the new standards was his. He was not the first man to think of working them out by using a pre-arranged system of places; the possibility of doing so had been mentioned long before by Heywood, but he was the first to turn a rather casual suggestion to practical use. Now that it is done it seems the obvious thing to do, but it was by no means obvious then, nor is it any serious reproach that other people discovered he had omitted a group of half a dozen methods. His proof reading, too, was excellent (if it was his) and there is not a single typographical mistake in the book.

But, beyond working out and arranging the methods, Law James had very little idea of what a good collection should be. He sent the figures to Davies to be printed without any preface or introduction, and had to supply one at the last minute.

I have said that the book was solely his work. Indeed, he made no pretence of consulting the committee, and several features both of commission and omission gave a good deal of offence. He was at the time interested in a particular extension of Superlative Major to Royal and Maximus, and, carrying out the idea, he introduced a mongrel six-bell method which he named Superlative Minor. That called forth a strong protest from John Carter, who threatened to refuse to allow the book to go forth with his name on the title page. In pursuance of another idea James excluded Reverse Bob.

Nothing was said about the proper bobs and singles to be used, and no compositions were given.

The methods were published without names except in the case of those which had already appeared in standard text books. In several instances the naming of these latter was inaccurate and occasionally perverse. It was, for instance, merely provoking unnecessary hostility to label new variations College Single and Canterbury Pleasure just for the sake of telling the people who rang the old variations that they were wrong.

Why the bulk of the methods were not named I do not know. It may have been that it never occurred to James that they needed names, or it may have been a deliberate act on his part. The committee had no say in the matter. Had it been thoroughly discussed the Exercise might have been saved a good deal of trouble, inconvenience, and misunderstanding which lasted down to quite recent years. Perhaps it was as well that he did not attempt to do the naming, for his taste in such matters was not a very sound one. He tried to justify the omission afterwards by the assertion that the Exercise recognised the exclusive right of the band who first rang a method to give it a name. No such right exists

or ever has existed. Any band or any person can call anything what he pleases, but he cannot compel anyone else to accept his names. The names of methods have been given in a variety of ways, as the names of other things have been given, and there is no rule but that of convenience and common sense.

To support his opinion James appealed to a passage in Jasper Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' where, on the authority of the 'Clavis,' he says that, when the Union Scholars had rung the first peal of Treble Bob Major in 1718, 'in accordance with a custom prevailing at the time the Society called the method after their own name—Union Treble Bob—as they considered themselves entitled to do by reason of their being the first company who accomplished a peal in the method.'

There can hardly have been a 'custom' in this matter for it was the only peal which, so far, had been rung in any method other than Grandsire and Plain Bob.

The actual words in the 'Clavis' are as follows: 'It is remarkable that when a new system is first broached, and several companies are contending for the first peal, the successful champions generally claim the privilege of giving it a name.' The authors did not, however, accept the claim, for they go on to say, 'Allowing every set or body of men that merit which is their due, we may venture to affirm that whoever was in possession of a lead of treble bob on six could certainly be at no loss or find much difficulty in producing that on eight, ten or twelve bells.'

The number of instances in early days where companies gave new names to methods after they had rung the first peal is actually very small, and the names have as a rule not been accepted by the Exercise generally.

Oxford Treble Bob Major was for a long time usually called Union Bob in London, but less frequently so in the country. The Cumberland Youths were the society who most claimed the supposed right. They rang Real Double Bob Major and called it Cumberland Bob, and Real Double Grandsire Cinques and called it Cumberland Cinques. Grandsire Major and Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, they also called after their own name; but in all cases the Exercise declined to accept their naming.

A better reason for leaving the Minor methods unnamed was that it would be an inducement to bands to practise them if the first to ring a 720 could call it what they pleased. That did some good, but in the event the plan of leaving the methods unnamed was proved to be a mistake.

So far as the 'Collections of Methods' are concerned there is only one thing that really matters, and that is the general convenience of the Exercise. The only use of a name is for purposes of identification. If it is necessary at all it is necessary in a book. The inconvenience and trouble directly caused by the omission of the names from the first Minor collection were so great that the committee decided that they would never again be responsible for a similar thing and when the 'Collection of Plain Major Methods' appeared names were supplied. It was received with general approval, or at least without the slightest adverse criticism.

HUGHENDEN.—On Tuesday, June 24th, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Pte. R. Biggs (first quarter-peal in the method on handbells) 3-4, Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, R. Lee 7-8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal arranged for Pte. R. Biggs, who was home on leave.

### NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. THE INSURANCE OF BELLS.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stone on Saturday week, when 25 ringers and friends from Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Stone and Newcastle-under-Lyme sat down to tea at the Falcon Hotel.

Although little time was given to handbell ringing, the meeting was very enjoyable. A vote of thanks to the Rector (the Rev. H. Lee) and the ringers for the very great welcome they had given to the visitors, and to Mr. H. Proctor, of the Falcon Hotel (also a ringer of Stone) for the use of rooms was proposed by Mr. C. H. Page and seconded by Mr. A. D. Steel.

The hon. secretary said that there was a balance in hand of 4s. 1d. from the fourth annual dinner. This was very satisfactory, as only 23 attended.

The secretary asked all towers in the association to let him know whether their church councils were insuring the bells against enemy action. In case they are not, he intends to write to their town councils to ask if they would do so, since the bells are closely attached to their civic functions.

### EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

#### DEATH OF A VICE-PRESIDENT.

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, June 21st, when members attended from Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch, Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst, Uckfield and Wadhurst. Mr. A. Ryman presided over the business meeting, and referred to the Guild's great loss in the death of the Rev. H. A. James, Rector of Hartfield. He was, said the chairman, one of the Guild's most enthusiastic vice-presidents. He always took great interest in their activities and made all ringers welcome when they visited Hartfield.

The secretary (Mr. C. A. Bassett) was instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mrs. James. It was also unanimously decided that a donation of one guinea be made to the fund being raised to provide an annuity for Mrs. James.

The question of future meetings was discussed. The secretary said that he thought it was time members in the western part of the Guild's area had a meeting arranged for them. Balcombe was therefore selected, the meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. It was also decided to try and fit in another meeting, probably at Wadhurst, before the end of August.

This concluded the business, and the rest of the time available was pleasantly spent in handbell ringing.

### WEDDING OF BERGH APTON RINGER.

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12th, at Rockland St. Mary's Church, of Miss Winifred Ethel Jordan and Mr. Herbert Charles Boggis, of Bergh Apton, Norfolk. The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, Rector of Bergh Apton, officiated, assisted by the Rev. G. Dawson, Rector of Rockland St. Mary.

The Bergh Apton ringers rang touches on the handbells in church and afterwards at the reception in the Village Hall.

As the bride and bridegroom left the church six of the bridegroom's lady pupils formed a guard of honour with handbells. Mr. Boggis has been leader of the Bergh Apton company since its formation in 1935, and it is largely due to his efforts and patience that Bergh Apton now has 21 members in the Norwich Diocesan Association.

Among the many presents was a suitably engraved silver bell in-stand from the Bergh Apton ringers. It was greatly regretted that the members serving with the Forces were unable to be present.

### EARLY MEMORIES.

#### A VILLAGE CURFEW.

I was strolling through the meadows one summer evening in a real glimmering landscape when the last rowing boats were returning to their hired mooring places and the pleasure steamer was gliding down the river on its last daily trip, when in the quietness of that evening a bell sounded out from the village church which nestled among the trees on the rising ground. For ten minutes it spoke and then ceased. The curfew, I thought, and after the clock struck eight first one and then each of the other bells rang out for a minute or so and stopped. Then they all spoke out together, slowly, yet steadily, they seemed to strike, and clearly too. I counted them—six bells—and I observed there was a pause in the striking which seemed to give some effect. (How one does hate to hear bells leading without making the proper pause at hand stroke.)

I listened intently and was attracted by the changing order of their striking. 213465 was different to 123456: then 124365 was again different; and again they changed to 214365. The next change, I thought, must be made in some manner, but I could not follow it further; it was too much after the third change for me to pick up, but I still listened to the repeated permutations.

Since then I have rung in peals from Minor to Maximus and in methods up to London Surprise. I have rung with the best ringers in the country. I have even called peals; but my mind goes back to that village church where I saw the cattle grazing and where the countryman plodded his way home after his daily toil. And in the waning twilight those bells spoke messages which are more impressed on my memory than all the elaborate methods I have rung in. H. D.

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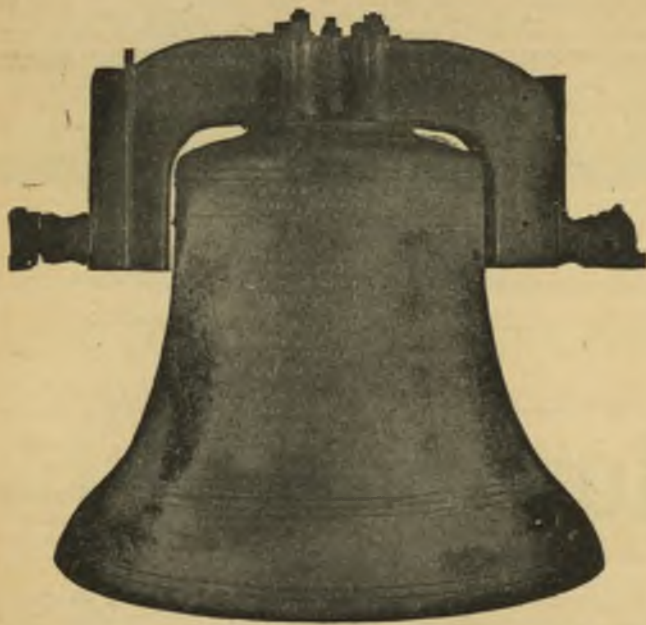
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We were pleased to notice lately that the damage caused by air raids to Wren's beautiful little church of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, though large, is not so bad as we feared at first. Repairs are being done and it is hoped that services can be resumed in the not far distant future. The bell in the steeple, which survived the great fire of 1666, is, we understand, safe.

The meeting of the Sherwood Youths, which had been arranged for July 26th at Vernon House, Friar Lane, Nottingham, has been postponed.

One of the earliest peals of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Leeds in Yorkshire on July 15th, 1830. It was then called New Treble Bob Royal. The first peal in the method had been rung some years before at Leeds in Kent.

The opening peal on the twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, was rung by the College Youths on July 18th, 1798. An account of this appeared some months ago in our columns.

Next Sunday is the twenty-ninth anniversary of a performance which, though it was only Grandsire Triples, was one of the milestones in the history of the Exercise. On July 20th, 1912, eight ladies rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, Poplar. The conductor was, of course, Mrs. Fletcher, Miss Edith K. Parker she was then. The Ladies' Guild was not founded until the following October.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, one Stedman Triples, one Stedman Caters, and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

## THE LATE MR. GEORGE LADD.

### PROPOSED MEMORIAL AT PINCHBECK.

It has been decided to provide in the Lincolnshire church of Pinchbeck, with which he was connected all his life, a memorial to the late Mr. George Ladd. Committees of the Pinchbeck Parish Church Council and the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild have jointly decided to furnish the side altar of Pinchbeck Church with brass altar furniture (cross, candlesticks and vases) and to place a mural bell metal tablet in the tower. Not only was Mr. Ladd secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch for 30 years, but had a large circle of ringing friends throughout the Lincoln Guild, of which he was one of the foundation members. His friends will be glad of the opportunity of providing a permanent memorial to one who did so much for ringing in the county and diocese. They should send their contributions either to Mr. Rupert Richardson (Master of the Guild), Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding, or Mr. Allen Richardson (hon. secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch), Glen Side, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

Mr. Ladd died suddenly on October 31st last, at the age of 74 years. He was born in Pinchbeck and had lived there all his life. He had been a ringer for 55 years and churchwarden for 20 years. He was one of the very few remaining members who attended the inaugural meeting in the Chapter House at Lincoln Cathedral in 1899 when the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was formed. During the 30 years that he so faithfully filled the office of secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Guild he did not miss a single meeting. He was one of the prime movers in securing the augmentation of Pinchbeck bells from six to eight and was captain of Pinchbeck band for nearly 40 years.

## ISAAC GEORGE SHADE.

To-morrow is the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Isaac George Shade, who met his death in a tragic manner by being knocked down by a motor-car in the Blackheath Road on his way home from a ringing practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on July 19th, 1926.

Isaac Shade was one of the best known ringers of his day, and at the time of his death had rung more peals than anyone else except William Pye. His total, 1,450, has since been exceeded by Messrs. George R. Pye, George Williams and Frank Bennett.

Isaac Shade's peal list was remarkable not only for quantity but for quality too. For many years he was one of the band which centred round the leadership of William Pye, and he stood in many of the outstanding performances of that great ringer. Among them were the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, the 15,072 Double Norwich Major at Erith in 1899, and the 15,264 Bristol Surprise at Hornchurch in 1912. Of his peals, 276 were Superlative Surprise Major, 133 London Surprise Major, 237 Stedman Triples, 88 Bristol Surprise Major and the same number of Stedman Cinques.

He was one of those rare men to whom change ringing was more than a hobby or a recreation. It was the one passion of his life without which he could scarcely have existed. For many years he belonged to the band at St. Alphage's, the Parish Church of Greenwich, where his father had been a ringer before him. The service of the two covered a period not much short of a century. St. Alphage's is one of the churches which have been practically destroyed in the air raids on London.

Isaac George Shade was 75 years old when he was killed.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

### A YEAR OF PROGRESS.

#### Ladies in Membership.

The academic year which has just ended, although the second of the war, and the first of a total ban on tower-bell ringing, has been one of the most successful yet experienced by the O.U.S.C.R. The reason for this is that up to last June, unlike the Cambridge University Guild, the society concentrated on tower-bell ringing. Now few men are at a university for more than three years (and then only for half each year), and there are so many distractions at Oxford that unless a member was very keen, or a ringer before coming up, it took the full three years before he was much good. Consequently, except for a few peak periods, the society was rarely able to manage more than Grandsire Doubles. With the imposition of the ban, the society had, perforce, to turn to handbells, which it had before used only for teaching the rudiments of change ringing, and progress has been far more rapid in this direction.

Last October, about four active old members were still up, but of these, only one was a double-handed handbell ringer. Recruits were obtained and practices started; in these early stages, the assistance of Miss Cross, who has always been ready to help, and who has entertained members of the society on many occasions, and of Gerry Bromley, a past member and a blind ringer, was invaluable. Gradually a system of teaching was evolved, the main principle of which is to make the beginner ring two handbells almost from the start. This system has been very successful; for instance, one beginner rang a course of Bob Major on 1-2 after only five practices, and understood what she was doing.

Some idea of the work done may be gleaned from the following facts. During the year, twenty to thirty undergraduates in all have been members at various times, and all of these could at least ring 1-2 or 7-8 to courses of Grandsire Triples; many of these have dropped out, as always happens with would-be ringers, but at least they now know something about the Exercise. Some 15 of these advanced far enough to ring 1-2 or 7-8 to Bob Major, and at the end of the year the O.U.S.C.R. included seven reasonably competent handbell ringers among its members. The general level of performance is shown by the fact that several well-struck courses of Grandsire Cinques have been rung.

Permission was obtained for the removal of the clappers at New College, at the beginning of the year, and all recruits have been taught to handle a bell. No great stress has been laid on silent tower-bell ringing, however, as it was considered that extensive practice would probably do more harm than good, as far as ringing on open bells was concerned. The city ringers have practised on these bells, and the O.U.S.C.R., Oxford Society and the local branch of the Diocesan Guild are jointly bearing the cost of an electric striking apparatus, now being experimented with.

For the last three Sundays of the summer term, handbells were rung before evensong at St. Mary's, the University Church. Plain courses of Grandsire Caters on a heavy ten in fairly slow time were brought round, and the effect on the congregation is perhaps indicated by the fact that the organist gave up his voluntary on one occasion, so that there might be more ringing. The O.U.S.C.R. has lost no opportunity of interesting laymen in change ringing, several lectures on campanology having been given to various other societies in the university.

The salient point of the society's policy has thus been to introduce as many people as possible to the art of change ringing, and very good work has certainly been done in this direction. For this reason opportunities for intensive practice by a single band with a view to peal attempts have been strictly limited. Nevertheless, several such attempts have been made, the most successful being one for Bob Minor, which came to grief in the fifth 720. Two quarter-peals of Grandsire Doubles were scored and have been reported in 'The Ringing World.' Also, a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung at New College on Tuesday, June 24th, by W. L. B. Leese 1-2, Miss G. Mossop (first quarter-peal) 3-4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5-6, Miss W. Laws 7-8. Miss Laws and Miss Mossop knew nothing whatever about ringing before last October.

War conditions permitting, next year should be even more successful. Unfortunately, four of the best ringers will no longer be up, but with the nucleus left and the experience which has been gained, it is expected that another strong band will be built up. J. E. S.

## LONDON AND PROVINCIAL CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. J. E. Bailey says I have apparently made up my mind quite definitely that London churches are nothing like churches. And by quoting comparisons (which even Mr. Bailey himself does not attempt to dispute) I consider I have sufficiently substantiated my remarks. I rather suspect that Mr. Bailey is moved more by sentimentalism than he is by fundamental facts. Would he or Mr. Young like to write and tell me that any one of the London churches I have referred to (or the Parish Church, Daventry, which is like them) is equal to that of, say, Melton Mowbray or Whiston in Northants? These are just humble village and town churches, but whose design is typical of a true English church, and I again repeat there is no town hall or corn exchange appearance about them; they are designs to be admired and to be copied for the future. 'TOURIST.'

## FIRES IN CHURCH TOWERS.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following has been sent to 'The Times,' but was crowded out:—

As a ringer, my advice has been asked about the letter which Mr. W. A. Forsyth wrote to you, and you may perhaps allow me to supplement it

Most of his suggestions are costly and could be undertaken by few churches in war time, but there is a good deal which we can do now that will cost only a few shillings, or even nothing at all.

He suggests a brick vault or concrete floor above the nave level. But this could easily be by-passed by the flames, if a door in the tower stairs happened to have been left open. It would cost nothing to see that every door is always kept locked. The keys should be in a bunch in the lowest door, so that anyone could go up at once in case of need. The tower itself should be kept locked from the church.

It may cost a few shillings to make all doors fit closely and to glaze the small stair windows; these should be protected by wire netting outside and a sandbag inside. All small openings and windows in the tower itself may be closed in the same way.

We now come to the great difficulty—the large windows at the top of the tower. If these can be bricked up inside the louvres, it should be done, and this will be a permanent improvement. For it has been found that a small opening high up, and exactly the same on each of the four sides, is quite sufficient, and, indeed, gives an improvement to the sound of the bells. This opening can be left at the top of each of the windows, and for the present filled with a sandbag.

If, however, these windows cannot be bricked up, sheets of asbestos, or even of some kind of roofing felt, may be nailed on the louvres to stop the draught.

Unless the tower has been cleaned this year, it should at once be cleaned from top to bottom. This ought to be done every spring before birds begin to build their nests. Examination should then be made to see that all holes are still effectually closed, and that all wire netting is sound. This should be the strongest procurable.

It is remarkable how many inflammable things will be found stored away for years in towers. At the present time there are in different towers to my knowledge heaps of old hassocks, old cassocks, books, papers, broken seats, odd boards and many similar hoarded rubbish dumps.

Some towers I know of are full of birds' nests. Others, especially small towers and flèches, act as traps for the birds, and have many of their dead bodies. It is difficult to credit the amount of dried sticks a pair of jackdaws will bring into a tower in a few days. This will make a trail of tinder that would cause the building to be a fiery furnace in a very few minutes.

Whatever work is done to the tower it should be remembered that the tower is there to hold the bell or bells, and that the ring of bells is probably the most costly article in the church. Although the bottom of the tower is probably the strongest place in the church, the bells should not be taken down unless they can be well sandbagged or otherwise really protected: they are very easily cracked. In St. Clement Danes' the historic peal was lowered to the floor at a cost of £200. This alone was no protection, and many of the bells have been broken to pieces by the falling masonry. Had the money been spent on isolating the tower, both it and the bells would probably now be saved; while the fire in the church might have been kept more under control. In Coventry Cathedral, in spite of the raging inferno in the rest of the building, the tower was untouched, and the clock continued striking. Here the tower is connected with the rest of the structure by two small wooden doors, at the ground and high up; but these were kept shut and no fire reached the tower.

Besides old rubbish, inflammable stores are sometimes kept in the tower. It is quite usual to find the supply of burning oil kept under the stairs, together with brushes, dusters and many other old cloths. Nothing could be better arranged to turn a small fire into a disastrous one. In some towers I have to clamber over the coals to reach a short ladder to the ringing chamber. I have pointed out to several incumbents that a small expenditure would make the excellent stone stairs available, but nothing has been done. The first thing that anyone called in to advise should insist on is that all oil and fuel should be kept outside the church as soon as possible, and until then it should be kept as far from the tower as may be.

Ufford Rectory.

HERBERT DRAKE.

## THE LONG PEAL AT MOTTRAM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice you refer in your paper to the long peal, 16,800 changes of Kent Treble Bob, rung at Mottram in 1906. The performance was challenged at the time on the grounds that the conductor missed a bob, that the bells were fired for twenty minutes without stopping, that the first course end of the fourth part never came up and that the peal was called from manuscript.

The conductor denied the missed bob and the firing, but admitted that he had a slip of paper with an occasional course end on, 'not for assistance,' but to assure himself that all was right.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

### SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

COMPOSITION WITH FULL COURSES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is rather late to refer to your editorial on spliced peals in the issue dated June 6th, but I have been busy with the possibilities of the two-part plan. This effort has resulted in a peal with two full courses each of the four standard Surprise Major methods. In fact, two more courses of London seem possible, but with these included, I have been unable to get more than 4,992 changes. Perhaps one of our younger composers may do better.

So far my work has shown that the fifth method is indispensable. The value of Rutland in this connection is because of the difference from London in its relation to the other three methods. Its first and seventh leads not only do not repeat with either of the same leads of London, but while these leads of London may be false against other methods, those with the same course-head in Rutland are often true. Then sufficient true first and seventh leads of London or Rutland may be there, with the full courses, to complete a peal. I have not yet found, in any case, that enough of these two leads of London only remain true to join up full courses.

Then, if it be impossible to obtain a peal in the four standard methods alone, proof seems to be out of the question. The falseness between the methods, say, London against the other three, is far from constant, and the varied number of changes of each method which would fulfil the condition further complicate the matter. It seems to me that a satisfactory proof of the non-existence of such a peal cannot be set out. And it may be said further that the production of such a peal is likely to be the only proof of its possibility.

In thanking Messrs. Turner and Pitman for their congratulatory letters, I hope they will succeed in their efforts in this direction.

One of my correspondents says that the greater portion of my peals are made up of three lead courses, which is true. It may be thought that I have not acknowledged my indebtedness to the discoverer of that plan. The fact is that the late H. Law James sent his first peal on the plan to me to check his figures. At the time I paid tribute to his genius, and up to now have not found any way of including full courses of the four methods in a peal without the aid of his discovery.

I enclose the two-part peal and hope you can publish it. The two further full courses which it may be possible to include as London are headed by 52643 and 62534. JOSEPH W. PARKER.

#### THE PEAL.

A peal of Spliced Surprise Major in five methods, 5,120 changes, with two full courses each of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. Each course-head is followed by leads of the various methods shown by letters on the right. L for London, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, S for Superlative and R for Rutland. Where X is shown the lead may be rung as Cambridge or Superlative. Where no figure precedes the letter one lead is implied. The calling on the left produces the next course-head.

M	W	H	23456	L	X	R
			42356	L	C	R
			53624	L	C	L
			25634	R	S	R
			63254	L	X	R
			26354	7C		
			32654	R	X	R
			45623	L	C	L
			24653	L	X	L
			36452	L	X	L
			43652	7B	3S	
			65432	L	X	L
			24536	L	S	L
			63542	3S	C	R
			53246	R	X	R
			42635	L	S	L
			62534	L	C	L
			52436	L	X	L
			63425	7L		
			26435	L	C	R
			43265	L	C	L
			24365			

Repeated.

Contains 1,984 changes of London, 704 of Rutland, 448 of Bristol and 1,984 of Cambridge and Superlative.

### CONVERSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear. It was not so much the method as the process that I was thinking of. Maybe the two are not so very distinct. If the process (of exchanging bob and plain leads) is to be called conversion, the method will be 'converted.' This would apply to all suitable methods, and not, as 'Owd Bob' seems to imply, to Plain Bob only.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FAMOUS RING TO BE TAKEN DOWN.

Before the meeting of the Lancashire Association at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday last, touches were rung on the front eight tower bells and on handbells. The tea was at the Prince Cafe. The meeting was presided over by the Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. D. Railton, who extended a very hearty welcome to the visitors and particularly to the members of His Majesty's Forces. Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, was elected an hon. life member of the association. Several letters were read by the hon. secretary, those of chief interest being from the Archdeacon of Liverpool, the Rev. D. N. Spafford, the Rev. G. T. Weston and the Rev. D. P. Roberts.

The nominations for the association's officers were as follows: Vice-president, P. W. Cave; ringing secretary, T. Wilson; hon. treasurer, C. I. Davies; auditors, A. Barnes and E. C. Birkett; Central Council representatives, P. Crook, G. R. Newton, W. H. Shuker and T. B. Worsley. Branch officers were elected as follows: Bell adviser, J. Martin; Ringing Master, L. L. Gray; representative on committee, T. S. Horridge; branch secretary, G. R. Newton.

Two places were proposed for the next meeting, Huyton and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and, on being put to the vote, St. Nicholas' was chosen, the date being fixed for August 16th.

As a token of respect to the late Mr. W. Bibby, of Frodsham, the meeting stood in silence.

Ringers were present from Standish, Southport, Wallasey, Rochdale, Milnrow, Oxtan, Bebington, Chester, Accrington, Sefton, Tettenhall and St. Nicholas', Liverpool. The members of H.M. Forces were Lieut. L. W. Purdom, Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key and Staff-Sergt. W. Kennedy.

The Rector stated that St. Nicholas' bells would shortly be taken down and sent to a place of safety. He acknowledged his indebtedness to the Bishop and the Archdeacon of Liverpool for their efforts in making it possible.

A sum of £2 17s. 6d., the result of a collection organised by the local company, was given to the church restoration fund. Thus ended a meeting well worth while.

### CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.

MR. FREDERICK SHARPE'S NEW BOOK.

As will be seen from an advertisement in our notice columns, the fourth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' has been published and is now on sale.

It is a continuation of the parts already published and carries on the detailed account of the bells in the different parishes from Earley to Grove, covering 20 churches. These contain one ring of eight, four of six and one of five. Seven churches have two bells, and six have one; two churches have tubular bells.

The tubular bells of Earley St. Peter have a somewhat interesting history. Made by Harringtons, of Coventry, about 1887, they hung in the belfry of the College Anglais at Douai in France until 1903, when, owing to anti-clerical legislation, the community had to leave the country and came to England, where the new Douai Abbey has been built at Woolhampton, near Newbury. The tubes were not rehung, and after lying idle for some time, were bought in 1919 by the Vicar of Earley to supplement the one bell in his tower.

The makers of these tubes used to advertise them as 'richer in tone and decidedly more musical than ordinary bells,' and the comparatively low cost attracted a number of church authorities. Sets will be found here and there up and down the country, but we believe they have not been made for a number of years.

None of the rings is well known to ringers, and not many have any exceptional archaeological interest, but of the tenor at Fawley Mr. Sharpe remarks that it is an exceptionally interesting early fifteenth century bell from the Wokingham foundry. The tuning is of especial interest to campanologists, and this example from the Wokingham foundry would have delighted writers such as the late Canon Simpson. The bell is fairly long waisted, with the hum note approximately an octave below the strike note and a minor third as the chief harmonic. Those who prefer the 'old standard' tuning to mediæval or 'Simpson' tuning will note with satisfaction that the owners of the Wokingham foundry changed their style later in the fifteenth century to the flat seventh hum note and major third harmonic; and, therefore, the change was a matter of choice, and not due to mechanical reasons resulting from the introduction of change ringing in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as it is so often stated to be. Numerous fifteenth century bells exist to prove this claim.

The illustrations include a most interesting photograph of an original sixteenth century half wheel and sketches of four different types of baldricks showing the changes in the way clappers were hung in bells from mediæval times to the nineteenth century.

To the compilation of such a work as Mr. Sharpe's, an immense amount of time, skill and learning must be devoted, and everyone who is interested in bell archæology should not fail to secure a copy.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Wednesday, June 25th, at Stedman, Sketchley Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Jordon (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 1-2, A. Ballard (first of Grandsire 'in hand') 3-4, F. Measures (conductor) (first quarter-peal of Triples with an inside pair) 5-6, W. Clough (first quarter-peal of Triples 'in hand') 7-8.



## THE STANDARD METHODS

### STEDMAN AND SOME OTHERS.

The system of hunts was explored and thoroughly worked out on mathematical and scientific lines in the Plain Changes, and when Cross Peals were introduced in which all the bells shared the movement, it still dominated composition. It could hardly have done otherwise for, however they are produced, all changes other than the Hunting Courses, must contain hunts in some form or other.

The early composers used hunts consciously and deliberately. The idea so familiar to us of treating a method as a plain course which can be extended by bobs at the will of the conductor, did not appear at first. At the beginning each touch was a complete peal in itself, and what we now call plain leads and bobbed leads were equally parts of the 'peal.' Grandsire Doubles, for instance, was what we now know as the old six-score, and Grandsire Bob Minor what we now know as the standard 720 of Bob Minor. Each was a system of hunts. Old Doubles and Trebles and Doubles on six bells were particular extents of what we now call Plain Bob.

It was inevitable, therefore, that when men began to develop methods they should do so round the whole hunt, and that is how we get our familiar style of method with a Plain or Treble Bob treble and working bells. No other plan could have been devised which would have served its purpose nearly so well.

But though the old composers deliberately used hunts and fully recognised their value, they did at times try to break away from them and to compose 'peals' in which every bell 'has a course alike.' They did not find it an easy job, and when Fabian Stedman produced his Principle he was considered, and not without reason, to have accomplished a notable achievement.

From the first, Stedman Doubles had a great reputation, and seems to have been practised extensively by the more skilful bands, but on the higher numbers the method was slow to receive recognition, except by the Norwich Scholars, and it was not until after the famous visit of the ancient Society of College Youths to the East Anglian capital in 1785 that Stedman Caters and Cinques became the most esteemed method in London, from whence it was taken to Birmingham and eventually to the rest of the country.

During the nineteenth century Stedman enjoyed a reputation on the whole greater than any other method, odd or even, and it still is one of the most popular. Yet to some extent it has proved a dead end. It has not led to any developments. It is not unlikely that the very small progress that has been made in odd bell methods compared with even bell methods is directly due to the popularity of Stedman.

In view of the great reputation enjoyed by Stedman, it was inevitable that men should try to find some method which would be its equivalent for even-bell ringing. All such attempts have failed, but it is worth while having a look at one or two of them.

The first we know of is Shipway's attempt to adapt the method directly to Major and Royal. The difficulty was, of course, that on eight or ten bells there is an odd number of bells above the Slow, so that when they pair off to do the double dodging one is left over. It could lie for six blows behind, but that would be deplorable, so Ship-

way got over the difficulty rather well by making each bell lie for three blows in fourths as it goes in and out of the Slow.

### STEDMAN MAJOR.

12345678  
21346587  
23145678

32416587  
23415678  
24316587  
42361857  
43268175  
34261857

43628175  
46321857  
64328175  
63482715  
36487251  
34682715

43867251

The effect is that the double dodging behind does not coincide with the Sixes in front, but that is no great matter. As we do not now allow a bell to lie for more than two blows in any one position, Stedman Major cannot be admitted as a method, and, in addition, the alternate quick and slow works break up the natural coursing order and make any decent music impossible. On odd numbers of bells we get a similar effect on the coursing order, but there the covering tenor redeems the situation.

Shipway gave nearly all the methods in his book with their reverse and double variations. In addition to Stedman Major and Royal he gave Reverse and Double Stedman Major and Royal. The double variations are curious and interesting.

### DOUBLE STEDMAN.

Major.	Royal.
12345678	1234567890
21435768	2143576980
12453786	1245367908
14257368	1425639780
41275638	4126593870
42157683	4215639807
24175863	2416593087
42715836	4261539078
47251386	4625193708
74253168	6425917380
72435186	6249571308
27453816	2645917038
24735861	2469571083
42375681	4296517803

It will be seen that all the bells do the full quick and slow works both in front and behind, except the fifth, which never gets away from 4-5.

If there were no necessity to pay any attention to music these would be interesting methods to ring, but for practical purposes they are hopeless. Shipway did not tell us how he proposed to make bobs in the double

(Continued on next page.)

## THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

variations, and did not attempt to give any touches or peals, and probably they have never been rung even to plain courses, but the Birmingham men rang peals of the single variation of both Major and Royal and a 720 of Minor. We do not suppose anybody wants to ring another.

Stedman on even numbers is obviously a makeshift, and Shipway tried to get what would be the equivalent for Major and Royal rather than the direct extension. He called it by his own name.

### SHIPWAY MAJOR.

12345678  
21436587

12463857  
14268375  
41623857  
46128375  
64213857  
62418375  
26143857  
21648375

12684735  
21867453  
28164735  
82617453  
86214735  
68127453  
61824735  
16287453

61278543

This method is chiefly interesting as showing how unsuitable Stedman is for adaptation to even numbers of bells. It has never been practised except that in 1900 one peal of it was rung at Kidderminster, more as a curiosity than anything else.

### BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather sorry to see the letter from Mr. C. A. Levett in last week's 'Ringing World,' and I hope it does not represent the ideas of many people.

Let us be quite sure about the matter. Whether we win the war or lose it (and I am quite certain we are going to win it), but however it goes we shall not be able to make the Germans pay for the damage they have done. We tried to do so after the last war and the result was disastrous. An enormous bill was sent them, and in the end England and America had to lend them more money than they paid in reparation.

It is not a case of being soft-hearted. The truth is that there is no means by which a nation can extract great wealth from another nation without doing itself irreparable harm; unless perhaps it turns them into a nation of slaves with a permanent army of occupation. Such a thing, for us at any rate, is out of the question. X.

## BRISTOL SURPRISE.

THE PROBLEM OF EXTENSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of July 6th, 1934, there is a letter from the Rev. E. Banks James regarding Bristol Major, Royal and Maximus, together with an example of a block of eight changes of Bristol Major and one lead of Bristol Maximus, arranged by the late Arthur Craven.

An examination of the front four bell work in 1234 shows that Bristol is composed of three blocks of eight changes each:—

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
1234	1234	1234
2143	2143	1324
1234	2413	3142
2143	4231	3412
2413	2413	4321
4231	2143	3412
2413	1234	3142
4231	1324	1324

The first eight rows are composed of number one and two; the second eight is composed of number three and one, which brings the treble to eighth place completing the whole method. The third block is composed of number two and one, and the fourth block is composed of number one and three, which completes one lead and repeated seven times completes a plain course.

We must note the order of the bells leading from one to the sixteenth change; the second part is the reverse of the first part bringing the treble back to lead. We must also note the order of the places made at each row.

All this ground work is necessary to enable us to extend the method to Royal and Maximus. The Bristol Surprise Royal arranged by the late Arthur Craven in 1922 does not keep the blocks of eight changes intact.

In Royal, Mr. Craven uses No. 2 block for the work in 5-6-7-8 for the first eight rows, but in the second block the 7 and 4, and 9 and 2 cross over at the 6th and 8th row, which is certainly not Bristol. The 3rd block is even worse, where 2 and 9, 7 and 4, and 5 and 6 cross over.

In Maximus, the 8th row in the first block in 5-6-7-8 should be 5768, not 6587. That block should be No. 2, with the last row retaining the 5th in 5th place. In the 2nd block 5 and 6, and 8 and 9 cross over and the composition of all three blocks are not Bristol.

To extend the method to Royal, the four bell work in front remains the same, and for the places in 5-6-7 and 8 we have the three blocks of eight changes each. Using No. 2, and then No. 1, for the first 16 rows, brings up the row 678109, and the first row of the 3rd block brings up 5870-19.

We now require four rows to the half-way change with the treble in 10th place, and we must choose a block that does not make any places between the 4th and 5th rows, or repeat over the bell in 4th place:—

4th place bell	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
6	5870	5870	5870
3	8507	8507	5780
3	5870	8057	7508
2	8507	0875	7058
3	8057	0785	0785

No. 1 make places in 1 and 4, 8507, 8057; No. 2, 8 and 8 repeats over 3 and 3 in the front work, leaving No. 3, which we find is correct: this brings up the row—6432-7058—91. The work now reverses from the half-way line, bringing up the row 4623-0785—91. The 9th remains with the treble, which is usual in many Surprise methods, and at the treble lead, second's place is made.

To extend the method to Maximus we can use three blocks in full:—  
No. 1, No. 2 and No. 1 for the first 8 rows  
No. 3, No. 1 and No. 2 for the next 8 rows  
No. 2, No. 3 and No. 1 for the next 8 rows  
which bring the treble to 12th place.

For the next two rows, owing to the full lead of the 2nd in front, we must reverse with a full lead of the 3rd, which causes the 11th to remain with the treble in 11-12, the same as in the Royal, and at the treble lead second's place is made.

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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. 'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held in the Parish Church Hall, Ulverston, on Saturday, July 19th. Service in church at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., meeting after tea.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Woodhouse Eaves on Saturday, July 19th. Handbells at

church from 3 p.m. Other arrangements as usual. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea at the Carlton Café, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 o'clock. All those requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Thursday, July 24th. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Sapcote on July 26th. Bells (silent) at 3.30 p.m. No tea. Handbells during evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged for those who notify Mr. W. Feather, 41, Craghill Road, Thackley, by Thursday, July 24th.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—A 'silent' practice meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday, July 26th. Bells ready at 2.30. A cordial invitation is extended to all ringers who are at liberty to renew their acquaintance with this tower. We regret that we cannot provide the usual repast, but will endeavour to supply tea if you can bring along your own sandwiches.—F. G. Bradley, Chief Ringer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch. — A meeting will be held at Henley on Saturday, July 26th. Handbell ringing in the Chantry House, adjoining the church, from 3.30 p.m. Own arrangements must be made for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, July 26th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.—A practice will be held at St. James' Church on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells (6, with silent apparatus) available from 2.30 p.m. Also sets of handbells. All welcome.—R. Leigh, Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—A joint meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, August 4th. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30, to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Eight bells (silent) and handbells available at Leatherhead belfry from 3 p.m. and after tea. Names for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Wednesday, July 30th. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

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