

No. 1,586. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 3d.

**GILLETT
&
JOHNSTON L^{td}.
CROYDON**

Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
Cast in England
and Carillons of the
BRITISH EMPIRE

in
**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**

Telephone
Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

BELL TOWERS OF THE FUTURE.

While we are wondering what is to happen in the future to replace the bells that have been damaged and destroyed in the war, we ought not to lose sight of the question of the rebuilding of steeples as well as the construction of towers in the new churches, which will inevitably spring up in fresh districts when the replanning of some of our cities takes place. There is always the possibility that, in the reconstruction, sacrifices, on the ground of expense, may be made, and the fine old towers of the past, now severely damaged, will not be rebuilt in all their earlier strength, to carry the bells which were once their proud possession. In some cities there is already a suggestion that redundant churches which have suffered in the raids should not be re-erected, but should be transferred to more spiritually necessitous districts. Much as the loss of the old churches would be regretted, the ecclesiastical authorities have to face the facts, and from that standpoint the mere loss of a peal of bells cannot be weighed against the pressing demands upon the Church for extended activity in the newly-populated areas. In some cases in the past the bells have been transferred and re-erected with the building, as was the case of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, which was removed to Kingsbury and rebuilt in all its old completeness. In contrast, when All Hallows', Lombard Street, was demolished and a new church built at Twickenham and equipped with the fittings from the city, only the stone exterior of the tower was transplanted, and it stands today a mere ornamental shell. The bells are to find a home elsewhere. In the rebuildings that must come after the war, other such instances as that of All Hallows' may be threatened, and there are likely to be cases where, though the tower remains, the bells are lost and no effort will be made to replace them. The only hope is that there will be some body of sufficient influence to cause the subject to be given full consideration, so that the loss of the bells does not go by default.

Similarly, we have to face the danger of an increasing number of churches being erected with towers merely for embellishment instead of for use. There was a growing tendency to this before the war, and the Central Council a few years ago passed a resolution condemning the practice. The utilitarian age which will follow the war is bound to lead to an increasing number of such structures, to which there is the risk of the added 'make-believe' of 'canned' bells. A correspondent this week urges that every effort shall be made to counter what he considers a definite trend on the part of certain sections of the Church to use this situation to stifle bells.

(Continued on page 396.)

WM. POTTS & SONS LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833)

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks
in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,

and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved
—as Illustration.

Oct. HALL MARKED GOLD .. 45/-
HALL MARKED SILVER .. 7/6
GILT OR WHITE METAL .. 4/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can
be engraved on the reverse side at a
small extra charge.



Exact size

**GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND
ENGRAVER,
6, PARK ST., MINEHEAD, SOMERSET**

METHOD SPLICING

*The Newest and Most Interesting
Development of Change Ringing*

Study this latest phase of the Art
and learn how to practise it.

The System is fully explained in
'METHOD SPLICING,' price 1/3 (post free)
from 'The Ringing World' Office,
LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING.

ESTABLISHED 1760

JOHN NICOLL,

*Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,*

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.W.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

While we have seen no definite evidence of this, it is more than likely that when the war is over there will be a tendency, where church building is undertaken, to provide only the bare necessities. What we want to try to avoid are the sham towers, and it would be a good thing if some approach could be made both to diocesan authorities and ecclesiastical architects, urging that towers, if included in church designs, should be of such a character that they can serve the purpose for which towers have been built through the ages, that of carrying a peal of bells which can be rung. As was urged in the discussion which took place at the Central Council meeting, if money is the consideration it would be far better, and more in keeping with the ideal of putting only the best into the House of God, to delay the building of the tower until funds permit the erection of a structure substantial enough to be used for the bells. Had the builders of old followed the modern trend and built for appearances only, few of the towers which still stand proudly erect over the ruins of bombed churches would have remained, like the stately piles of Bow and St. Bride's, on the war-scarred face of London. Above the sites of demolished churches, these and similar towers in cities like Bristol, Coventry and Southampton, to mention but a few, still point heavenward, a symbol of our faith and a testimony to their builders.

HANDBELL PEAL.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Monday, August 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 1886 CHANGES,

SIDNEY BRIGGS 1-2	ALBERT NASH 5-6
HAROLD CHANT 3-4	*ARTHUR GILL 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung in memory of Arthur Panther, for 40 years ringer at the above church and one time treasurer and afterwards secretary of the Barnsley and District Society, who died on July 21st, 1941.

NEW CUMBERLAND AND BRIGHTON SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In last week's 'Ringing World' you write, 'We get a similar shunt in "Brighton" and "Ashtead," which are more or less variations of "New Cumberland."'

According to arbitrary definition, 'Brighton' and 'Ashtead' are Surprise methods, whereas 'New Cumberland' according to arbitrary definition is merely an 'Exercise' method. For this reason only they could not possibly be variations of one another, as places in 'New Cumberland' are made at only one cross section out of three.

Evidently round blocks and transpositions in methods are beyond your mental capacity, but there is something more simple, the actual lead-heads of the hunting courses which contain the rows of 'Brighton' and 'New Cumberland,' and when I point out that there are only four lead-heads in 'Brighton' that correspond with the leads that contain the rows of 'New Cumberland,' perhaps you will realise you have made one more big blunder.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton 1.

P.S.—I shall be very surprised if you publish this.

FIRST PEAL OF OXFORD BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in this week's 'Ringing World' a request from the Methods Committee for particulars of the supposed first peal of Oxford Bob Major. I have looked up the Sussex Association reports and I find it in the 1889 report, not 1890:—

'Warnham, January 10th, 1889, a peal of Oxford Bob Major, 5,040 changes, in 2 hours and 52 minutes, by the Warnham Branch: G. Woodman treble, W. Charman 2, G. Charman 3, T. Andrews 4, W. Short 5, H. Cook 6, H. Burstow 7, H. H. Chandler tenor. Conducted by H. H. Chandler. This peal is supposed to be the first ever rung in the method.'

C. TYLER.

Henfield, Sussex.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. NORTH AND EAST MEETING AT STANMORE Government's Responsibility for Enemy Damage.

Many pleasant meetings have been held at Stanmore, a residential district in North-West Middlesex, which still retains some of its old-world aspect, and in the happy days of peace and bells which could be rung there was always a desire at these meetings to be in two places at once. The reason for this was due to the fact that the beautiful rectory grounds were usually placed at the disposal of members, so that it was only the most enthusiastic ringers and, of course, the ringing master who spent all their time in the belfry.

On Saturday last, however, the belfry remained empty, and everybody present was able to enjoy the gardens, opened for use by the genial Rector (the Rev. W. A. Hewett), who did not forget to welcome his visitors in person. Handbells were, of course, in evidence and many touches were rung (or perhaps we should say 'many were attempted, some were rung').

Divine service was held at 4.30, conducted by the Rector, who spoke of the many happy meetings of the past, and whilst he regretted that on this occasion the bells could not be rung, he was full of hope that it would not be long before peace reigned once again and we could return to our ringing.

Tea was a squeeze, due to the fact that the secretary could not correctly guess how many members, and others, had forgotten to advise him that they intended to be present. Despite this, the management did well, and ultimately all were served—quite a miracle for war time. There is a moral, however, which is especially applicable in these days of food rationing.

At the business meeting, in the absence of the district secretary (Mr. T. J. Lock), the services of the general secretary were called upon, and Mr. C. T. Coles once again found himself in the position he occupied for some 28 years. Mr. G. W. Fletcher (vice-president) was also unavoidably absent on Home Guard duties, and Mr. J. A. Trollope took the chair in his stead. Before the minutes of the previous meeting were read, the company stood in silence for a few moments in respect to the memory of Mr. P. Buckell, of the local band, who was accidentally killed whilst undergoing training in the Army. By his death the Stanmore band lost an enthusiastic and promising member.

There were no new members for election, and the chairman took occasion to remind leaders of towers to make every effort to keep their hands up to strength during the present difficult times.

As regards the next meeting, it was decided to hold this at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, about the middle of September, if possible.

MILITARY OBJECTIVES?

Mr. C. T. Coles referred to resolutions recently passed by two associations as to the responsibility of replacing bells destroyed by enemy action. He said there was a growing feeling that, in view of the fact that bells could now be rung only as a warning of invasion, both the bells and the towers had become military objectives, and the Government should, therefore, accept responsibility for damage done. He asked members carefully to think about this matter, so that a resolution, if put before the annual general meeting, would receive proper consideration.

Ultimately it was decided that the general secretary should take such action as he thought fit to get this matter considered by the committee and by the association.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for his address at the service, and for the use of his garden for recreation and handbell ringing; to Mr. E. J. Leversuch for making arrangements for the meeting; and to Mr. Barker, the organist. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. C. T. Coles welcomed the many visitors present, especially mentioning Mr. C. Bailey (Leiston), whom they all hoped to see when it was possible to ring the bells again; Mr. P. A. Corby, who was up on a visit from Nottingham; and Messrs. C. Kippen and D. Cooper, of Croydon, whom they were delighted to see once more.

This concluded a very happy meeting, which was attended by about 40 members and friends, most of whom afterwards spent some time in the rectory grounds ringing handbells or talking, which seems to be the most popular pastime at meetings nowadays.

The handbell ringing included Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques; Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus; Double Norwich and London Major; and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques. The last, however, started well, but did not reach its appointed end.

WINCHESTER.—On August 4th at 6, Cathedral View, on handbells, in honour of H.M. the Queen's birthday, 720 Grandsire Doubles, six different callings: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice (conductor) 3-4-5-6.

BELL ROPES

MADE FROM ITALIAN HEMP, OR ITALIAN FLAX.
SOFT AND Pliable IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.

Cheap Quotations. Established 150 years. Phone 203.

DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM

A HANDBELL MEETING.

VISIT TO A SURREY VILLAGE.

A few members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild tried an experiment on Saturday, when an 'invitation' meeting for handbell ringing was held at Chiddingfold. It was a development of a local activity at Guildford, where for some time a party has been meeting weekly for practice on Saturdays. Chiddingfold provided not only a change of scene, but brought a renewal of interest, which it is hoped will have further results among some of the Chiddingfold band. It was an entirely successful little party.

There were ringers from five towers and they began very tentatively with Grandsire Triples, but before the day was out Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Caters had been rung. The 'beginners' had improved and the old stagers had rubbed off a bit of the rust which has accumulated through the years. The success of the ringing was due chiefly to the guidance of that master of the art, Mr. Alfred Pulling. Without his aid it is certain that a number of touches would have failed to materialise; his conducting saved many a threatened collapse.

But the ringing was not all that made the gathering worth while. It provided a rare opportunity for old friends to meet in one of the most charming villages of Surrey, and to get away, as it were, for a few hours from the drive of the war. In addition, the ringers were able to give pleasure to one of the oldest members of the Guild, Mr. Tom Attwell, who is now 84 years of age, and has a long record of service with Chiddingfold bells. He lives hard by the church, so the handbells were taken to his house after tea and some touches rung which gave him and his wife great pleasure. They are the oldest married couple in the village, Mrs. Attwell being now 82.

The remainder of the ringing was done in the ringing chamber of the church, and the ringers were visited by the Rector, the Rev. Michael Bruce, who welcomed them and expressed his regret that the church bells could not be rung. Mr. Bruce has been Rector of Chiddingfold for nearly a year, and, apart from the clock chimes, has never yet heard the sound of his bells.

ESSEX MEETING AT LOUGHTON.

NEED FOR ACTION STRESSED.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th, when about 20 members were present from Leytonstone, Brentwood, South Weald, Wanstead and the local band. Touches on the handbells were rung until 4 p.m., when the Rev. M. N. Lake, the Rector of Loughton, conducted a most inspiring service in the church.

The party then proceeded to the Church Hall for an excellent tea. The business meeting followed, the Rev. M. N. Lake taking the chair and being elected an honorary member. It was proposed that the next meeting, which would be the annual district meeting, should be held at Bomford in January next. The District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, said how pleased he was to see that their secretary, Mr. J. H. Crampin, had rung his first handbell peal at Preston, and he wished on behalf of all present to congratulate him.

Mr. J. Rann expressed the hope of the local band that after the war the District Master would see that help is given to teach the younger generation. They were getting on in years and it was only right that someone else should carry on the work. Mr. R. Heazel, replying, said we had to look ahead. Wherever there was a peal of bells they should not be allowed to stand idle for the want of a band to ring them, and it was up to all ringers to give their help. He further stated that service ringing should be first and foremost and peal ringing should take a second place.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. M. N. Lake for conducting the service, to the organist for accompanying the hymns, to the ladies for providing the tea, and to the local band and verger for having everything in readiness. Various touches on handbells were rung during the evening.

OLD FRIENDS REUNITE.

On Thursday, July 31st, at 20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent, old ringing friends met to wish 'good luck and a safe return' to Derek M. Sharp, who reported for training as a sergeant pilot in the R.A.F. on August Monday. Those present were A. Hall, A. Williams, H. Hoverd, N. Summerhayes and J. E. Bailey, and, of course, the life and soul of the party, Derek Sharp. Handbells were in evidence and touches were brought round in various methods from Doubles to Maximus.

On Thursday, August 7th, another gathering welcomed two visitors, George Butcher, of Northfleet, now serving with the Royal Navy, and J. M. Bailey, of Leiston, Suffolk. Others present were H. E. Audsley, H. Hoverd, A. Hall, A. Williams, Mrs. J. E. Bailey and J. E. Bailey. A pleasant evening was spent with the handbells, interspersed with memories of 'before the war.'

Any ringer in the Forces whose duties bring him to the Dartford district is invited to call at the above address, particularly on Thursday evenings, when there is usually a muster for handbell ringing.

CLENT.—On Sunday, July 20th, in St. Leonard's belfry, 720 Bob Minor: John Walter (first 720) 1-2, William Short 3-4. B. C. Ashford (conductor) 5-6.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 376.)

SOME EARLY MEMBERS.

In the attendance lists of the early meetings of the Council there is no more interesting name than that of Leonard Proctor. It sounds like an echo from the dim past. No doubt many of the names—Heywood and Bulwer, and Dains and others—strike the present generation much in the same way, but Proctor belonged to the remote period when there were no railway trains and when soldiers went into battle with muzzle-loading weapons. The illusion of remoteness is increased by the fact that, though he lived entirely in the nineteenth century, he was in a real sense a belated representative of the eighteenth century, just as some of the others were early forerunners of the twentieth.

Few particulars of Proctor's life and career seem to have been preserved, and it was characteristic of the way 'The Bell News' was conducted that no mention of his death and no obituary notice appeared in the paper.

He was born some time about the date of the battle of Waterloo, he belonged by class to the small country gentlemen, and he was educated at Cambridge, where he joined the Cambridge Youths as an undergraduate in 1835. His home was at Benington in Hertfordshire, where he increased the ring of six to eight in 1838, and where he formed one of the most famous bands in the history of the Exercise.

Proctor's first peal apparently was one of Grandsire Triples by the Cumberland Youths, when the new octave was opened. To that he rang the tenor, but he set about the task of getting together a good local band, and with such success that eventually they became the best method-ringing company in the country. Among their performances were Double Norwich Major in 1849, Kent Treble Bob Major in 1851, Superlative Surprise in 1855, 6,048 Superlative and Stedman Triples in 1865, 6,048 London in 1870, and 5,600 Cambridge in 1873. These were at the time the longest peals in each of the Surprise methods, and the Cambridge (Middleton's full composition) was the first true peal in the method. The Benington men were the first band to accomplish a peal in the three standard Surprise methods.

A list like that does not seem very remarkable to-day, when more is done in a week's ringing, but any comparison is futile. This was the only band then making progress. Everywhere else the art of change ringing was declining, and in many places had practically died out. The old active societies which the enthusiasm of the eighteenth century bequeathed to the nineteenth, had mostly lapsed, and even in the big towns, where there were still societies with long traditions, there was stagnation where there was not actual decay. Before the year 1870 the famous old Norwich Scholars were practically a thing of the past, the St. Martin's Youths, of Birmingham, had lost much of the enthusiasm they showed in the great days of Thurstans and Lates, and in London the Cumberlands and the College Youths rang Stedman Cinques and looked down with lofty contempt on all others and anything else.

Proctor's band was made up of villagers, men who worked on the land, and the majority of them could neither read nor write. Proctor himself seems to have been a modest, unassuming man, a typical countryman to judge by his portrait. Though he was, of course, the undisputed leader of the band, he left the conducting to

others, except that he always called the bells into changes.

Besides peals and touches in separate methods, the Benington band rang on several occasions long lengths made up of many methods. In 1873 they rang at Galleywood, by Chelmsford, 5,060 changes, consisting of 336 Grandsire Triples, 420 Stedman Triples, 336 Bob Major, 336 Double London Court, 1,008 Double Norwich Court, 576 Oxford Treble Bob, 704 Kent Treble Bob, 448 Superlative Surprise, 448 Cambridge Surprise and 448 London Surprise. This was not spliced ringing, but consisted of separate touches. It was, however, a most remarkable performance at the time, and included every method then generally known. No other band could have achieved it.

One of these touches in January, 1872, consisted of three courses of each of the three Surprise Major methods, and a report of it appeared in 'Church Bells.' A correspondent wrote to the paper to congratulate the band, and said that in his opinion 'it was more to be commended than long peals in plain methods, which at the most are only an evidence of unusual physical endurance, while such ringing as that at Benington is a special display of consummate skill, acquired by intense study, diligent practice and steady perseverance.'

This provoked a characteristic letter from George Muskett, the then secretary of the Society of College Youths. After talking about what that society had done throughout the ages, he went on: 'What have the Benington gentlemen or any other gentlemen done to make void what is already recorded on tablets in church belfries and College Youths' books? I can only say the College Youths can hold their own against any company in England. The bare idea of comparing 2,000 changes of Surprise ringing on a light peal of eight to a good 5,000 of Stedman Cinques or Treble Bob Maximus, tenor averaging from 36 to 50 cwt., is simply absurd. Therefore, I hope, or rather we College Youths hope, we shall hear no more such comparisons.'

This is good evidence of the general opinion of ringers towards progress in method ringing.

When the Council was founded, Leonard Proctor was an old man with his life's work behind him. His presence added to its authority, but naturally he took no part in its actual work.

I met him shortly before his death, but the great gap between us in years and importance prevented me from gaining any personal impressions of him.

I have already mentioned Frederick W. J. Rees as the man who very likely brought the problems of change ringing to the notice of William Henry Thompson. He too was one of the earliest members of the Council, representing the Winchester Diocesan Guild until 1894, and being an honorary member from 1896 until his death.

Rees began to ring when he was at school at Shrewsbury and continued as an undergraduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. During his twenty-five years in the Bengal Civil Service, to which he was appointed in 1862, he occasionally sent letters on ringing matters to 'Church Bells,' the only journal apart from 'Bells Life,' the sporting paper that then published anything about the art. When he came home he lived at Guildford for a time, and afterwards, I believe, at Stoke-by-Nayland in Suffolk. He gave the two trebles to S. Nicolas', Guildford, to complete the ten, and, while he was connected with

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

the belfry, he rang a few peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Rees took a good deal of interest in the history of change ringing, and compiled and published in 'The Bell News' a chronology from the earliest times. It was, of course, not nearly so full as more recent research has made possible, but it was an excellent and accurate piece of work. I found it very useful when writing early articles.

He also attempted, and to some extent carried out, a survey of the rings of bells throughout the country, and the methods that were rung on them. This he published in 1885. Frederick Rees died on November 5th, 1903.

A most distinguished member of the Central Council was Thomas Leslie Papillon. He was born on April 12th, 1841, and educated at Marlborough, whence he went to Oxford as a scholar of Balliol College. His University career was a distinguished one. He took a first-class in classics and was elected Fellow of Merton and also of New College. After a year as assistant master at Rugby, he returned to Oxford as tutor and dean of New College. From 1884 until 1909 he was Vicar of Writtle, near Chelmsford, and from 1909 Honorary Canon of St. Albans Cathedral.

While at Oxford he learned to handle a bell, and when he was appointed to Writtle and found there eight bells and no ringers, he determined to form a band and to make one himself. He was successful in getting together a company to ring the bells on Sundays and good enough to score peals without outside help. Papillon himself rang three or four peals of Grandsire Caters, and some

of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. He did good work as the hon. secretary of the Essex Association.

Papillon enjoyed a reputation outside ringing and clerical circles. He was a leader writer for 'The Times' and a recognised authority on education. He was the author of a commentary on Virgil and a frequent contributor to 'The Guardian' and suchlike periodicals. Through the medium of 'The Guardian' he did his best to interest the clergy in their ringers and, though results in such a thing are difficult to assess, it is almost certain he did much good in that way.

His most lasting work was the article on Bells, Change Ringing and Bell Literature in the eleventh edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' which has been reproduced in all the subsequent editions. It replaced the very unsatisfactory article by H. R. Haws, who could see no good in English bells and ringing, and led a crusade in favour of the introduction of Belgian bells and carillons. It was through his influence that the Belgian bells at Kilburn, Boston, Cattistock, Lower Beeding and some other places were put up.

Papillon's article is a sound and thoroughly authoritative one. The history of the London societies needs some revision in the light of recent research, but that was only to be expected.

Canon Papillon died in 1926.

QUARTER-PEALS AT READING.

The following quarter-peals have been rung recently at Reading: On July 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples at St. Laurence's Church: A. Wiggins 1-2, R. T. Hibbert 3-4, A. Diserens 5-6, T. Lanaghan (first as conductor) 7-8. At 18, Manchester Road on July 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Cyril Burgess (first quarter-peal on handbells) 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. Lanaghan 7-8. On August 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Burgess 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, Miss Winifred Hunt (first quarter-peal) 7-8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

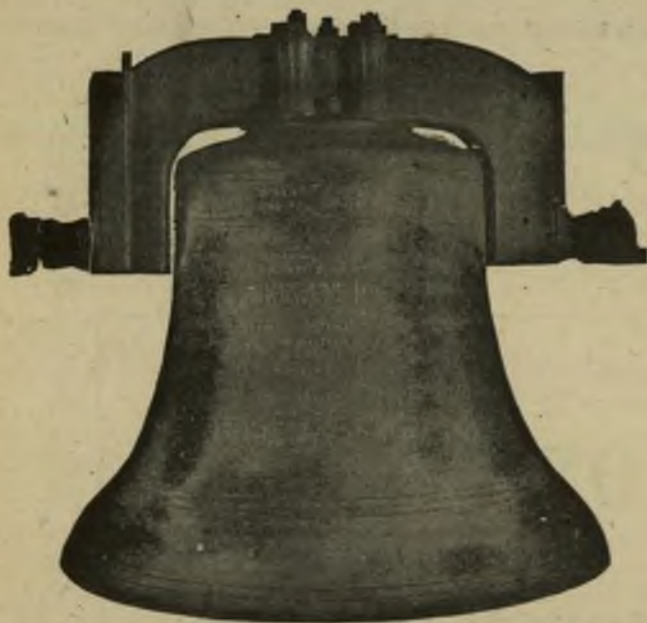
LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570
(12th year
of reign of
Elizabeth).

**Bellfounders &
Bellhangers,
32 & 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD,
LONDON, E.1.**

Telephone Bishopsgate 8849



SHERBORNE ABBEY RECAST TENOR.
48 cwt. 0 qr. 5 lb.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

for

Recasting Retuning and Rehanging

HANDBELLS

in sets of any number.

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, who reached his 73rd birthday last Tuesday.

The many friends of Mr. Thomas Hurd will be sorry to hear that he has had to go to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary for treatment for internal trouble. They will wish him a speedy recovery.

Official figures have been given of churches injured in Devon by enemy action. Fifty-six have suffered in all. Of these 14 have been destroyed, three are unfit for use but repairable, and 39 are damaged in more or less degree. Most of this damage is in the Plymouth area and includes Charles Church with its ring of ten bells. Nearly a year ago the village church of Clyst St. George in East Devon was destroyed. This was the home for many years of H. T. Ellacombe, the famous bell archaeologist, and in recent years the Rev. E. S. Powell held the living for a time.

Mr. Isaac Emery successfully underwent an operation in Bromley Hospital last week. He wishes to be remembered to all his many ringing friends.

William Pye was born August 14th, 1870.

On August 12th, 1749, John Holt called at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields a peal of Bob Triples for the Society of Union Scholars.

On August 15th, 1908, James Motts called at Ipswich the first peal of Cambridge Maximus. The three brothers Pye and Bertram Prewett took part.

Ten thousand changes of Double Norwich Major were rung at Henley in Suffolk on August 16th, 1902.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. Both were Grandsire Triples.

BLOCKING TOWER WINDOWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With what you say about publicity and complaints about ringing I quite agree; but I cannot agree that there is no opportunity at present of any constructional work. Not only is such work being done in this church at the present time, but there are enough bricks and money in the country for every church tower to be properly blocked now, if we try in the right way.

If we try to get the sound of the bells properly modulated, we shall find after the war, just as before it, that the Church authorities are apathetic or worse. But if we ask for the draught to be stopped in case of fire, as a war-time precaution, both Church and State will eagerly listen to us. The cost will soon be forthcoming from the very people who object to spending a penny towards hearing the bells better.

When the windows are once blocked, the large ones with bricks or roofing felt, and the small ones in the staircase with glass, we can take care how they are uncovered, and we must manage things badly if we do not get the work so done as to make the bells sound better than at present.

Now here is work we ringers can do at once. Impress on every incumbent, every churchwarden, and everyone we meet, the importance of blocking the draught in towers at once. For a change, we shall be listened to. Few people know much about towers themselves, but at least they know that we do.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

RECONSTRUCTION.

NEED FOR ACTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have read in the daily Press recently many suggestions regarding what the country is going to do after the war.

I consider it is time that the members of the Ringing Exercise took stock of the situation in their sphere.

Nobody knows when the war will finish. It may be in a few weeks, it may be next year; the fact remains that it will be much more difficult to restart ringing than it was to stop.

Therefore, we ought to take such opportunities as are available to us in the training of beginners, such as teaching recruits on silenced bells, and by teaching them the first elements of change ringing on handbells.

To obtain such recruits I would suggest that ringing masters and instructors should get in touch with local youth organisations, such as Boy Scouts or Church Lads' Brigades.

I would like to have other ringers' opinions on this subject.

R. SUCKLING.

11, Alice Cottages, Bocking Church Street, Braintree.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very much interested to read Mr. Barnett's letter about the bells of St. Michael's Mount. A few months ago I was stationed on St. Michael's Mount and was very pleased to find that there were six bells in the church.

I was told that the biggest was about 10 or 12 cwt., but they were not hung for ringing as the tower is not strong enough. I met the man who chimed them and he said that hymns were chimed regularly in peace time every Sunday morning.

F. H. HICKS.

Hailsham, Sussex.

ANCIENT TOWERS AND THE VALUE OF TRADITION.

THE STABILITY OF WREN'S STEEPLES.

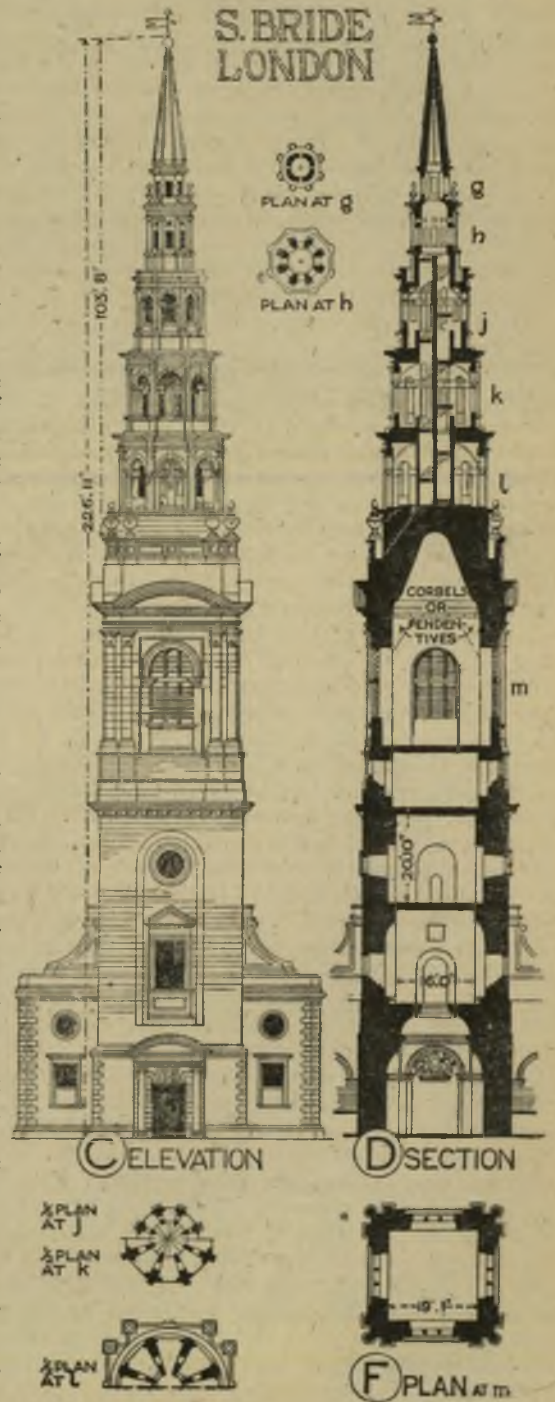
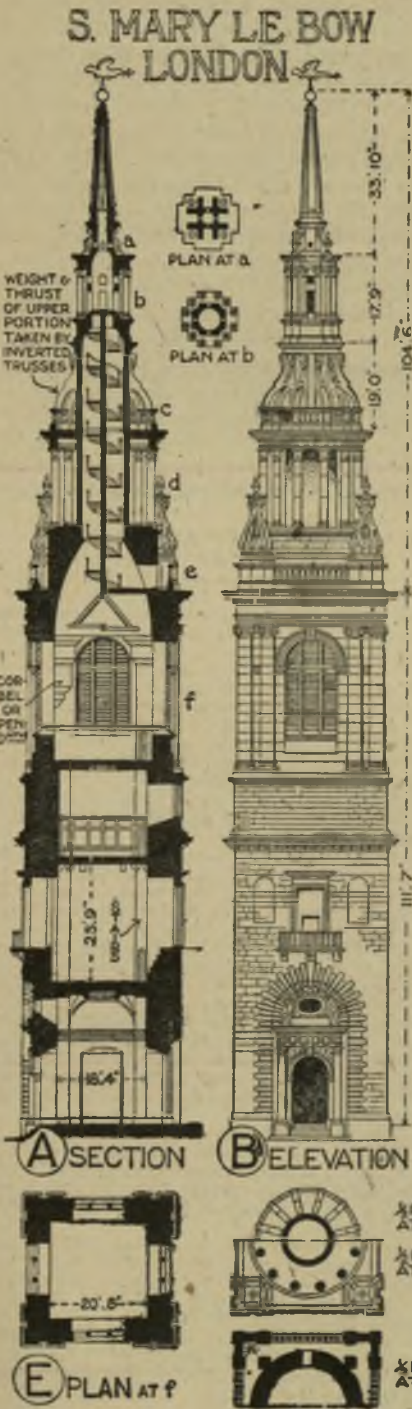
By E. ALEXANDER YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.

We all regret the damage to and loss of hundreds of churches and towers throughout the country, and Londoners especially deplore the destruction of their city churches. We ringers feel acutely the loss of our famous 'Bow' and 'Bride's.'

In view of the damage which has been sustained, the following extract from a chapter which I contributed to Sir Arthur Heywood's book on 'Bell-Towers and Bell Hanging,' may be of interest to your readers. The illustrations are reproduced by kind consent of Sir Banister Fletcher, P.P., R.I.B.A., from his 'History of

Architecture' (9th edition), and of his publishers, Messrs. B. T. Batsford, Ltd.

"A well-known civil engineer, in addressing the members of his institute, once said that when he was called upon to design an important public structure, he first drew out what his practical experience demanded and what his eye told him was right. He then investigated the principles involved, and if theory demanded more strength than practice, he gave it; but if, on the other hand, it assented to less, he still allowed his original design to stand. So that if the buildings of those who have gone before us have stood the tests of time and use, our experience based upon them is our first asset, and is, further, most valuable to us in considering the design of any similar structure which may have to fulfil the same purpose or use. The architect has to make himself familiar with the steeples of mediæval and renaissance times, which have been fitted with bells for ringing as they are rung to-day, and these buildings will be his best guide. Among them, not the least important are those erected by that great architect, Wren, whose steeples have withstood every test during the past 200 years. So, too, have many of our towers and steeples which have come down to us from Gothic times; but, of course, many of these are characterised by their massive proportions, which are



BOW AND ST. BRIDE'S STEEPLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

rather beyond present-day work and, indeed, hardly called for. One finds in our old church towers walls whose thickness is one-fifth or more of the tower breadth, thus giving a ratio of solid to void of almost three to one. When these towers are of no great height, they have an enormous reserve of strength, even though built of flint or random rubble.

Taking the English mediæval steeples—*i.e.*, a tower with its surmounting spire—these were generally built for the use of bells, and are an obvious prototype for the revived gothic of to-day. It is much to be feared, however, that the first gothic revivalists of the early nineteenth century copied far more the outward form than they did the interior strength, and are responsible for the just complaint that many of their towers are unsuitable for a 'ring' of bells of even moderate weight.

An interesting table might be given of the proportions and areas of some of the principal gothic and renaissance steeples; a general proportion, however, of height and breadth would seem to be about 8 to 1, with the spire springing at about half the height.

Returning to the gothic steeples, an interesting plate, showing the section of that at St. Andrew's, Heckington, Lincolnshire, is given in Fletcher's Handbook, and the building described as a typical English church. The tower here has a height of 175ft. and a breadth of 25ft., or a ratio of about 7 to 1. The walls of this tower are some 4ft. 6in. thick, and equal the breadth divided by 5.5. There are, of course, many well-known steeples of greater height, notably St. James', Louth, and St. Michael's, Coventry, both having ratios of about 11 to 1. It is interesting to compare, coming to rather later times, the two famous London steeples of St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Bride's, both erected by Wren in the English renaissance style at the close of the seventeenth century.

Wren, owing to his remarkable gifts, had been able to take the gothic tower and spire and clothe them in the garb of the new style, then, as we know, lately arrived from the Continent, and here, too, he achieved some of his happiest results. Artist as Wren certainly was, he is, of course, yet more famous as a scientist. He may, indeed, as a skilled mathematician himself, have had his interest awakened in the new branch of the science of permutation, which had in his time recently come prominently before the public. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that both these towers of Wren's are eminently fitted for their purpose, and approximate very closely to each other in proportion. Each contains a 'ring' of 12 bells, hung at a height of about 80ft., which is about two-fifths of the total height of some 220ft.

An examination of the plans and sections of the two last quoted churches shows that the ratio at St. Mary-le-Bow is about 6.6 to 1, whilst the walls are in thickness about the breadth divided by 4.4. At St. Bride's, the steeple being loftier, the ratio is about 7.6; the walls, however, remain about the same, *viz.*, 4.3. It is worthy of note that St. Bride's has always had a lighter peal than 'Bow,' and was probably intended for 8 or 10 bells only. Contrasting these with the mediæval steeples we, of course, miss the massive buttresses of the latter; but this is compensated for in Wren's typical ones by more massive proportions, thicker walls, and, as a rule, fewer openings.

It should be observed, too, that the sixteenth century ashlar masonry was usually better built than the coursed rubble of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The mortar was probably much the same in both, as Wren's masons carried on the practical traditions of the previous age. As regards mortar and cement, modern work has undeniably a very great and important advantage over the old, especially in its use of Portland cement.

All the old steeples were laced together very liberally with heavy beams, generally of oak, at frequent intervals, the walls thus not being weakened by lofty chambers. The lower part was often vaulted, a valuable addition to the tower both for adornment and strength. Openings and voids were sparingly used, the chief of these being the four great windows immediately above the bells; the latter an eminently logical conclusion, for there the tower no longer requires that strength of cross-section which is necessary from the bell-frame downwards. On the æsthetic side, too, the louvred windows proclaim to the onlooker the purpose of the structure, and their beauty and lightness emphasise and contrast the 'reserve of strength declared by the plainer wall surface.'

The illustrations here produced of Bow and St. Bride's give the elevation and section of each side by side. They are of interest to all, and especially to-day to ringers. Architects are struck by the recognition, on Wren's part, of the importance of foreshortening (he probably designed in true perspective first). Ringers ponder on the position of the bells, whether they will ever be replaced, and, if so, how much lower down the towers, so as to minimise the stresses. The towers are there and not beyond repair!

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

JAMES GEORGE AND TOM MILLER VISITED.

The Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association held a well-attended practice meeting at Belbroughton on July 19th. Six bells were available for 'silent' practice and were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, the methods ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise. An excellent tea was provided by mine host of the 'Shoes,' after which handbells were well to the fore. Members were present from Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley, and their best thanks were tendered to Mr. E. Calcutt, the local leader, for having everything in readiness.

On Wednesday, July 30th, a few members of the Worcestershire and Districts Association kept a 'date' which had been on the boards for some little time. The party consisted of Messrs. William Short, William H. Barber, John Bass, John Walton and Bernard Ashford, and the occasion was a visit to Messrs. James George and Thomas Miller, at present staying at Quinton Hall, near Birmingham. A set of handbells (including some semi-tones to give Tom Miller a chance of finding a peal with a tenor which pleased him) accompanied the party, and the proceedings opened with a well-struck course of Grandsire Caters by John Bass 1-2, William Short 3-4, William H. Barber 5-6, Thomas Miller 7-8, James George 9-10. The ages of these ringers are 61, 73, 65, 83 and 88 respectively, and it is interesting to recall the following performances by St. Martin's Guild in which the four last named took part together over 42 years ago:—

On Saturday, May 20th, 1899, at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5,017 changes: George Salter treble, Gabriel Lindoff 2, William Short 3, Thomas J. Salter 4, William H. Barber 5, R. R. Cherry, Q.C. 6, James George 7, Thomas Miller 8, John Barber 9, John Buffery tenor. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by William H. Barber.

On Sunday, May 22nd, 1899, at the Church of SS. Augustine and John, Dublin, a peal of Bob Royal, 5,040 changes: George Salter treble, W. F. Hartshorne 2, William H. Barber 3, Thomas Miller 4, Thomas J. Salter 5, William Short 6, John Buffery 7, James George 8, Gabriel Lindoff 9, John Barber tenor. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by William Short.

After chatting over old times, a few tunes were rung. Then more reminiscences were followed by another course of Grandsire Caters by the same band, the proceedings eventually finishing up with two courses of Bob Major by John Bass 1-2, William H. Barber 3-4, Thomas Miller 5-6, Bernard C. Ashford (conductor) 7-8.

Messrs. George and Miller will be very pleased to see any old friends who are able to look them up. Visitors should go by Birmingham Corporation bus to Quinton (Service No. 8), as this service has its terminus at the gates of Quinton Hall.

ANTI-BELL ADVOCATES.**UTILITARIAN CHURCHES OF THE FUTURE.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Anyone who read the Rev. A. M. Samson's letter in 'The Ringing World' of July 25th could scarcely fail to have noticed that the first part of the question which I asked, very strangely in the same issue, is as good as answered. The question was, 'Can it be that the influence of those who dislike the sound of bells has spread to sections of the ecclesiastical authorities and to the Ministry of Home Security?' Under the disguise that the new or rebuilt churches after the war will have to be 'strictly utilitarian,' it is fairly evident that these people intend to use this as one of their 'front line weapons' in order to gain their own way.

Is the ringing fraternity alive to this 'bogy'? If the Exercise is to come back after the war it must be the duty and business of every ringer now to break this utilitarian policy. Let the words of that well-known hymn ring in every ringer's ears, 'Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armour on.' Recent years has seen the utilitarian church spring up in many places, the principle of which seems to be to spend a lot of money first of all upon a mission church, to be followed by a permanent 'jerrybuilt' structure in red brick which will be slums in less than a hundred years, whilst many of our old Saxon, Norman and early English churches will be still retaining their solid stately appearance and true utility, that is—serving every branch of religion and shutting God out from none, not even the man in the street who fails to enter the church to hear the Gospel message. 'The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword,' yet it is remarkable that in times like these, when many of our religious leaders are preaching to everybody that these are days of opportunity for the Church, the same people are quite willing to shut this word or thought of God out from our bellfries in order to satisfy a few and, as I see it, to cheapen religion.

Ask these same individuals to buy a cheap, shoddy suit or pair of shoes and they would very promptly reply, 'Oh, no, I must have something lasting.' Tell them that the cash they wished to tender was insufficient and they would soon reply, 'I'll wait until I've got enough.' Yet it is remarkable in a land where thousands of pounds can be found in a few minutes for war weapons (and by these very same people) how they will use 'the lack of finance argument' to put up cheap, shoddy churches everywhere.

Mr. Samson says, 'It is only too well known that the great majority of our churches have the utmost difficulty in making financial ends meet.' I am, sir, in full sympathy with what was said recently in a certain Midland town, at a great gathering of Anglicans, Free Churchmen and Roman Catholics all meeting under one roof, by Dr. Berry, Deputy Mediator of the Free Church, 'that too often in the past the watchword of many of our ministers and church leaders has been "Go!" rather than "Come!"; that the churches are to blame for their own failure. Another speaker expressed similar views by saying that the cause of empty churches to-day was not external but internal; that where things were right internally a great work was still being done despite all the difficulties.'

We are told that after the war a greater sense of community will have to be realised, and this, to my mind, applies in no small measure to many of our present-day clergy and is one of the primary causes of empty churches and lack of finance, which Mr. Samson complains of. Too many of our parsons to-day try to run the church on their own, but be it remembered that no vicar or one person constitutes a parish. In many cases the Parochial Church Council is looked upon as an outside interfering body. What is wanted is not a weakening of the parochial system but the reverse, and a body who will influence the Church Assembly and Parliament to introduce a measure whereby a parson who is found acting in a way detrimental to the spiritual welfare of the parish should be removed. Not only bellringers, but all who have the Church and the cause of religion at heart should unite and rise to the occasion.

The verger has often been blamed when he has failed to get the church comfortably warm, but there has been little energetic complaint when the spiritual atmosphere has been so low that growth is absolutely impossible. Some of the finest Christians I ever met are those whose eyes twinkle merrily. The world needs to-day a glad, hearty, cheering message, and the Church is the only organisation which can satisfactorily give it. I ask Mr. Samson and those of your readers to recall the first days of the ban upon the bells and what Sunday without them felt like. There are thousands in our land to-day suffering from 'spiritual dyspepsia'—this ultimately must mean ruin for the Christian Church: 'preachers are cold and anæmic.'

Bishop Theodore Woods, in 1920, when Bishop of Peterborough, said, 'If people won't go to church, the church must go to them, both in thought and deed, and it is in the former where the value of our bells comes in.' To shut them out (as our utilitarian friends advocate) is, in my opinion, a crime upon religion equal to that of the 'fifth columnist' in the present national struggle. Writing in 'The Chelmsford Diocesan Chronicle' on July 21st, the Bishop of Chelmsford said, 'I could shake hands with a non-praying Stalin, but I should beg to be excused from doing so with a Petain, Darlan, Mussolini or Weygand who can go happily to Mass with selfishness, trickery and dishonour in their hearts. It is more religious to repudiate openly all religion than to manipulate it or fashion it to

*(Continued in next column.)***EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.****A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.**

The East Grinstead and District Guild held a very enjoyable meeting at Balcombe on Saturday, August 2nd, when members attended from Crawley, Hartfield, Uckfield, Wadhurst, West Grinstead and the local band. Mr. Amos Clark (Croydon) and two other welcome visitors from the London area, who did not divulge their identity, were also present.

Six silent tower bells were available and proved the biggest attraction of the day. Everyone found that they had not lost their touch and methods up to Cambridge Minor were rung. The experiment of another ringer striking a handbell as the rope was pulled did not meet with much success; opinions varied as to when the handbell should be struck.

It was suggested that someone should take a look at the bells, and instead of the usual one or two the whole company clambered up into the tower, not only to see the bells, but to give them a tap.

When enough could be persuaded to leave the ropes the handbells were brought into use, and as there were several experts present the striking was excellent. Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major were brought round successfully. Just before tea two enthusiasts started tune ringing with four bells each, but it was left to Amos Clark and Reg Johnson to polish things off with an excellent rendering of 'The Blue Bells of Scotland,' in harmony too.

After tea a business meeting was held, when those present heard with much regret of the death of two old members, Mr. Charles Holman, of Balcombe, and Mr. Arthur Cansley, of Buxted. Both were regular ringers at their respective parish churches, and were always to be seen at guild meetings. The funeral of Mr. Holman had taken place just previous to the meeting that day, when the local band rang a course of Grandire Doubles on handbells as a mark of respect. Mr. Cansley had been sub-postmaster at Buxted for the past 40 years and will be greatly missed in that village.

The business being concluded, the company again repaired to the tower for more ringing, silent and otherwise, and before the gathering broke up a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. A. Laker for the excellent arrangements, especially the tea. It was truly the Guild's best meeting of the year.

OXFORD GUILD'S LOSS.**SUDDEN DEATH OF V.W.H. BRANCH CHAIRMAN.**

The chairman of the Vale of White Horse Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (the Rev. A. J. de D. Denne) died suddenly from heart failure on Saturday, August 2nd. He was buried on August 5th at Brimpsfield, Glos. Parish Church.

Mr. Denne was chairman of the branch for nine years and vice-chairman for two years previous and took a great interest in the branch.

A memorial service was held in his Parish Church at Shellingford, Berks, on Saturday last, when members of the branch were present.

LIGHT PEALS IN LIGHT TOWERS.*(Continued from previous column.)*

one's own liking.' This is what our utilitarian anti-bell advocates are doing, and there is no question about it.

The Exercise has been 'disarmed,' and it is now that our 'enemies' are likely to strike their hardest blows—like all dictators, they will go for the weakest first. Propaganda is now becoming a 'weapon' of first rate importance. Can the Exercise do better than to quote the large number of churches everywhere, where bell restorations and augmentations have been carried out and willingness with which the people have given? Two years ago I had the task of making a house-to-house collection towards a bell fund in a parish of 600 houses, out of which 391 gave, and the Free Church and Roman Catholic claim a big proportion of the inhabitants. This is propaganda in itself, I consider, to our utilitarian anti-bell advocates.

Where the utilitarian church of a permanent character with tower has sprung up, or is likely to, there is another line of attitude the Exercise can take. I have heard it said that the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn was a staunch advocate where such towers were to be found, of light peals such as will be found at St. Ebbe's, Oxford (3, tenor 4½ cwt.), Tetworth, Bucks (6, tenor 4½ cwt.), Bidston, Cheshire (6, tenor 5¼ cwt.), Bosley, Cheshire (6, tenor 5½ cwt.), Moreton, Derbyshire (6, tenor 4½ cwt.), or even peals like the Foundry Campanile at Loughborough, in preference to one bell. There are not many of these utilitarian churches whose towers will not take a peal of such dimensions or even the last six or five of this number. Much as we deplore the idea of such light peals and tell people that they are not worth while, they are better than one bell. We cannot have it both ways, where the church is determined upon such towers being built. We must remember that these peals are an answer to our utilitarian friends, who will constantly make the excuse 'that the tower won't stand a peal' or that there is insufficient room. I invite some of these people to go to Woodston, near Peterborough, and see the tiny tower there, in which is hung a ringing peal of six (tenor 8 cwt.), and they are hung with every safety. From outside the tower does not look big enough to hold two bells.

'ANTI-SILENT.'

**JOINT MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.
HANDBELLS AND SILENT TOWER BELLS.**

A joint meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Leatherhead on August Bank Holiday, at which about 35 members and friends attended. The programme should have started with a ramble from Box Hill Station through Norbury Park to Leatherhead, but owing to the unsettled state of the weather the ringers went direct to Leatherhead, where handbells and eight silent bells were available at the Parish Church.

A short service was held at 5 o'clock, followed by tea at the Duke's Head, when a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to all those who had combined to make the meeting a success.

The tower was again visited in the evening for more silent ringing and handbells. A good many of the ringers present had the first opportunity of handling a bell since the ban was imposed, and it was a pleasant surprise to some of them that they could still manage a bell and remember the methods.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The August meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, August 9th, when members were present from Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rotherham Parish Church, Sandal, Sheffield (St. Marie's) and Wath.

Handbell ringing began at 3 p.m. and continued until 5.30 p.m., when tea was served. The business meeting followed, with the president, Mr. E. Brookes, in the chair. The members tood in silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. A. Panther, whose death had been reported in 'The Ringing World.' Best thanks were given to the secretary for making the arrangements and were accepted gratefully.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, September 13th.

More handbell ringing followed until about 9 p.m. The methods practised during the afternoon and evening ranged from Minor to Royal, and included a lapping course and rounds on twelve.

THE BELLS OF MAYFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' there is some doubt as to who cast the 5th bell at Mayfield, Sussex.

On looking through Amherst Daniel-Tyssen's 'Church Bells of Sussex,' page 23, 1864 edition, I see he mentions this bell, with two others, as cast by Thomas Giles, one at Mayfield, 1602, one at Oving, 1613, and one at South Bersted, 1614.

C. TYLER.
High Street, Henfield, Sussex.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

MR. NEVARD'S CLAIM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' that Mr. G. Williams is called the oldest member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, being elected on August Bank Holiday, 1885. I was elected in February, 1885, at Long Melford, Suffolk, on the occasion of a peal of Bob Major arranged for my birthday by S. Slater, of Glemsford. The band was John Slater treble, Zachariah Slater 2, Oliver Garwood 3, Samuel Slater 4, Frederick Pitstow 5, Percy Charles S. Scott 6, William J. Nevard 7, Ernest A. Pitstow tenor. Composed by S. Slater and conducted by F. Pitstow. It was my first peal. Only E. A. Pitstow and myself are still living.

I am in my 86th year. I had a serious illness this year, but I am very well again now, I am glad to say.

W. J. NEVARD.
Hall View, Thorington.

CAMBRIDGE COURT MAJOR.

BY CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

5,024.				
23456	O	H	P	I
34256	—	—	—	—
62453	—	—	—	—
32456	—	—	S	—
24356	—	—	—	—
43256	—	—	—	—
62354	—	—	—	—
62435	—	—	—	—
23465	—	—	—	—
34265	—	—	—	—
52463	—	—	—	—
45326	—	—	—	—
32564	—	—	—	—
25364	—	—	—	—
53264	—	—	—	—
42365	—	—	—	—
42536	—	—	—	—
23546	—	—	—	—

A 23654

Repeated.

Rung on handbells at the Royal Masonic Junior School, Bushey, on June 23rd, 1941, conducted by the composer.

REMINISCENCES.

BY ONE NOT TOO TOUGH.

One of the first things I remember was the five bells of St. Mary's Church, Brome, Suffolk, standing in the churchyard in 1886. A tall man from Norfolk came to work in the village. He picked up a hurdle stake and placed it in the canons of the treble, lifting it from the ground; then he did the same thing to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. On attempting to lift the tenor, the hurdle stake broke, and he would not try again.

As soon as the bells were opened at Christmas in 1886, I began to ring on them. The draught of rope was so short that the sallies went on to the wheel at back-stroke. A neighbouring parish, Stuston, with four bells had only half wheels, about this time, and bells chimed only frame high. Once at Oakley four of the bells were lowered and tenor left up. Not enough ringers turned up to ring for service, so they decided to chime two each. A hefty man put his foot in the tenor rope and started, as he thought, to chime; luckily his foot slipped out just in time to save any disastrous results.

In 1886 I was ringing in London and conversing with many notable men such as Matt Wood, J. Rogers, Mansfield and others. I was sitting in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields one practice night when John Rogers was calling over 700 changes of Grandsire Cinques. Another ringer near me said he could hear the bob begin to rumble low in Mr. Rogers' chest when the treble was in 5th place coming down and gradually crescendoed in 4th, finally developing into a grand call in the proper place.

John Nelms composed several good peals of Stedman Caters on the back of sandpaper in his workshop. He had a seizure in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields whilst passing the death bell for Mr. Gladstone, and died in hospital.

I also remember the original scruff band at St. Paul's Cathedral. I understand that in one year Mr. James Pettit conducted 52 different three-course Stedman Cinques on Sunday afternoons.

When ringing Holt's Original silent at St. John's, Waterloo Road, as we were about 700 changes from the end there was a loud bang on the door. Mr. Fred Perrin, the umpire, shouted, 'We shan't be long.' About 300 changes further on came bang, bang again, and he said, 'It is nearly finished.' On the final single he called, 'That's all.' He also called 'Go' at the start and 'Stand' at the end; these were the only words spoken. Mr. Perrin always left us with a reminder, 'Don't forget Watworth Sunday morning.'

One Sunday morning, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was in progress at St. Peter's, Walworth. The weather was not too good and some of the ringers felt a bit seedy. When the young man on the treble (now a member of St. Paul's band) accidentally let the tail end of the rope out of his hands, and, of course, missed the sally, it put 'paid' to that attempt, whereupon one ringer offered him sixpence.

About this time practices of Superlative Major were held at St. John's, Vassal Road, on the silent apparatus which we have lately heard much about.

Two attempts for a peal of Bob Major at St. Albans Cathedral occupying six hours resulted in no peal. At the first attempt the clapper fell out of the tenor as it was making second's for the last time after 3½ hours; and at the second attempt the 7th rope slipped the wheel after about 2½ hours' ringing.

In 1900 I was back in the country again. On New Year's Eve handbell ringing by the aid of a hurricane lantern was performed around the village. At the Hall lived a wealthy South African merchant, and we were there regaled with cake and beer. When the time came to go, Mr. John Taylor wished us all a Happy New Century, whereupon one of our company, Ted Youngs, exclaimed, 'Same to you, sir, and many of 'em.' This Mr. Taylor rehung the bells at Thornham Magna and added a new treble, making them a peal of six. I called the first peal on them in 1901.

Mr. George Day, of Eye, and six others were trying a course of Plain Bob 14-in at Norwich on handbells. A slight trip occurred, and Mr. Day, looking at the offender, blurted out, 'Dodge that, in fortin' (thirteen, fourteen).

About half-way through a peal of Cambridge Maximus there were three consecutive homes to call: as I was about to call the first, the fifth to be called up, I noticed, had left the slow with the intermediate bell. After sorting them out, I found it was too late to call a bob; what was I to do? The ringing had been good and the ringers had settled down again. In my mind I had to call 'Stand' or carry on. As there were no M in the next course, I called three in place of the 3 H omitted, and chanced it; and then continued with the proper calling. The peal came into rounds. I at once sat down to see if what I had called was false. To the delight of everyone concerned it was true; thus turning what looked like bad luck into good luck, as some had come a long distance.

Years ago my father and mother were walking to church. The five bells were ringing for the service. 'What are they ringing?' asked my mother. 'Doubles,' answered my father, to which my mother replied, 'I thought so; there are two bells continually striking together.'

Old Bill had shaved his beard off and was met outside St. Margaret's by younger Bill, who remarked to Old Bill, 'You look 20 years' younger than you did the last time I saw you.' Old Bill wondered if this compliment was meant or not, and replied, 'What sort o' beer dew yew drink?'
G. S.

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Cheddleton to-morrow (Saturday), August 16th. Handbells available from 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and Hawkhurst and District Guilds will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, August 16th. Six silent bells and handbells available from 3 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Fleet on Saturday, August 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Bring your own food and sugar; tea and milk will be provided. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Rectory lawn after meeting.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church Tower on Saturday, Aug. 16th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphyll Road, Liverpool 17.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, August 16th. Handbells and St. John's (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—A meeting will be held at Measham to-morrow, Saturday, August 16th. Handbells available in belfry at 3.30. Short service at 4.30. Tea and meeting in Church

Room at 5 p.m. Tea and cakes provided, but do not forget your sandwiches and sugar. Loughborough district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseale.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held, by kind permission of the Rector, at the Rectory Gardens at Stratton, on Saturday, August 23rd. Handbells and games from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Canon D. F. Slembeck, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering. Kindly notify for tea by Tuesday, August 19th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall. Numbers not later than Tuesday, August 19th.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Chaddesley Corbett (D.V.) on Saturday, August 30th (not August 23rd). Eight bells available for silent practice 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements at the Swan (Tim's).—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Selby Abbey on Saturday, August 30th. Handbells and ringing on the back eight tower bells (silent). The Vicar, Canon Solloway, will conduct those present round the Abbey at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea can be obtained at Olde Cross Cafe, near Abbey. Business meeting at 6 o'clock, at which all outstanding annual subscriptions should be paid.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, September 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Tea, by kind invitation, only to those who notify Mr. G. P. Elphick, 66, Priory Street, Lewes, by previous Saturday.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'
A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY.

G. & F. COPE & CO., NOTTINGHAM
TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS.
ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FOR NEW CLOCKS, CHIME ADDITIONS, REPAIRS
OR REPAINTING OF DIALS.

The Central Council Publications

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE
from the

Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry

COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section I. (Odd-Bell Treble Dominated Methods)	9
COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section II. (Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob)	9
COLLECTION OF PEALS—Section III. (Double Norwich) ...	9
CORRIGENDA LEAFLET issued free with the above collections	
COLLECTION OF TRIPLES METHODS	1 0
REPORT OF CONFERENCE WITH S.P.A.B.	6
CARD OF INSTRUCTIONS IN THE CARE AND USE OF BELLS	1½
METHOD SHEETS.—Stedman and Grandsire Triples	3
Cambridge Surprise Major	2
Double Norwich and Cambridge Court	3
Bristol Surprise Major	2
HINTS TO INSTRUCTORS AND BEGINNERS	2
VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION	1 0
COLLECTION OF DOUBLES AND MINOR METHODS (New Edition)	2 0

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'BOPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE,' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages, commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' ninth edition, 2s. 10d.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss MARGARET E. SNOWDON
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

PUBLICATIONS.

- 'GRANDSIRE DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, Simply Explained,' 9th thousand, 6½d. each, or 5s. 9d. dozen, post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Wonersh, Surrey.
- 'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.
- 'CAMBRIDGE MINOR AND MAJOR,' for those about to begin more advanced methods. 7½d. each, 6s. 9d. dozen, post free. From M. Broome, Orchards, Wonersh, Surrey.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price.—Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9
(8 copies for 15/-), 6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2 (8 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

NOTED FOR EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) LTD. LOUGHBOROUGH

Order your Bell Ropes now, before prices increase, pre-war quality, and send us your old Bell Ropes for repairs whilst not in use.

Clock and Chiming Ropes
Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs

RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

Suitable for Presentation or Wedding Gift

Correctly Modelled BELL INKSTAND (Regd. Design) in Solid Silver



Diameter	2½in.	2½in.	3½in.	3½in.	4in.	4½in.	5in.	5½in.
Price	18/6	22/6	28/6	33/6	42/-	52/6	67/6	78/6

The 5in. size is also made to hold 50 cigarettes.

Initials and Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges

T.E. RUSSELL Jeweller and Optician
WOKING
Telephone 276

SMITH of DERBY

for Church and Turret Clocks
Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

John Smith & Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works, Queen St., Derby
Tel. No. DERBY 45569 Grams. CLOCKS, DERBY

Send for Booklet.

Estimates and Advice Free