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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th, 1941.

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WAR-TIME MEETINGS.

The continuance of the ban on the ringing of church bells is having an increasingly serious effect, not only on the art but also on the existence of the ringing associations themselves. It is, perhaps, to be expected and much of it is unavoidable, but it is none the less regrettable. Those whose chief interest was in their Sunday service ringing have nothing to hold them together; others who took a wider interest and enjoyed the social attraction of meetings as well as the practice such gatherings provided, have few inducements. Soundless bells are a poor substitute for the lovely voices we all so much enjoyed; and somehow there usually seems only a half-hearted atmosphere about meetings deprived of the church bells.

It may be for these reasons that in many districts ringing meetings appear to have been entirely abandoned, but, despite all the drawbacks, the ringers who are left ought not to resort to what amounts to a policy of despair. Even small gatherings are worth while, if only to preserve the life of the organisations and contact between members who remain at home, and, while the meetings must of necessity be of a restricted nature, their complete abandonment is to be greatly deplored. The example of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who are still maintaining their traditions by meeting fortnightly, despite having been bombed out of their official home, is one on which other associations might ponder and from which they may take heart. The gatherings are small, but the few who meet are faithful, and when better times come and ringing is once more restored, the College Youths will have added to their prestige by the continuity of their activities and their determination that even in these disturbed times they will not break faith with the past.

We do not, of course, know what may be in store, but while there is opportunity associations should do their utmost to keep in touch with the members still left. If they do not do so they cannot complain later that the members have left them, although we repeat that those who remain ought, in loyalty, to continue to support their associations and not let their membership lapse through the non-payment of subscriptions because they imagine they are getting nothing in return. Nevertheless associations in their turn have a duty to the members, and in many cases much more could be done than is at present apparent to retain interest. Even the smallest meeting is not without its value, for, if nothing else, it is a sign of life. At the same time there should be an effort to provide some kind of attraction, and this ought not to be difficult where the officials are men, or women, of initiative.

(Continued on page 410.)

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For instance, now that no one is in a hurry to get back to the belfry, which used formerly to be the excuse for cutting short the business meetings, talks and discussions on the many-sided interests of ringing might be arranged and in this way post-war plans might be usefully developed, as well as much instructive material of various kinds disseminated and ideas ventilated. This might eventually encourage more members to take a hand in the affairs of the association, because they will have derived an extended interest and will be ready, when the time comes, to throw themselves with greater enthusiasm into putting their own bands, their own associations and the Exercise into top gear again.

We must not imagine that, when the war finishes, ringing will be able to start again exactly where it left off. A good deal will have been lost, and there will be much leeway to make up. Bands have got to be rebuilt, and where there are, as inevitably there must be, gaps to be filled, a great deal of time will have to be spent in the recovery. It may not be possible at the moment to stay the adverse current, but it should be the business of all who remain at home to prepare for the brighter days. In the towns it must rest with the individual ringers, the faithful few; but they are entitled to the help which associations can give by bringing them together as often as possible for mutual encouragement and an exchange of ideas. The pessimistic secretaries who fail to hold meetings for fear of small attendances need 'gingering up.' Pessimism breeds despair, and where this creeps in, the effort required to re-establish ringing later on will be all the greater and the difficulties all the more formidable.

A PEAL OF HIGHBURY BOB MAJOR.

5,056 CHANGES.
By E. C. S. TURNER.
23456 O H F I

34256	—	—
25346	—	—
53246	—	—
32546	—	—
54326	—	—
42356	—	—

42635	—	—
26435	—	—
43265	—	—
32465	—	—
24365	—	—
36245	—	—
62345	—	—

62534	—	—
53264	8	—
32564	—	—
25364	—	—
36254	—	—
62354	—	—
23654	—	—

65234	—	—
23546	—	—
54236	—	—
23465	—	—

Repeated.

Rung on handbells at Bushey on July 25th, 1941, the first in the method. Can be used for any Plain method with J lead-ends.

The method is No. 6 in the Central Council's Collection of Plain Major Methods.

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TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*GEORGE H. SPICE 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
 †BETTY SPICE 3-4 | †WILLIAM SPICE 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal. † First peal 'in hand' on eight bells. First peal on eight bells as conductor.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 18, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4
 BERNARD BROWN 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 18, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALL

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS HARRIS 1-2 | ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
 ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4 | *GEORGE H. SMITH 7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

Witnessed by Donald G. Clift.

* First peal of Triples. Rung as a birthday compliment to Royston G. Bryant.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Friday, August 22, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

At 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

HOLY'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 18 in G flat.

THOMAS HARRIS 1-2 | ROYSTON G. BRYANT 5-6
 ALBERT M. TYLER 3-4 | DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

First peal in the method on handbells as conductor. A birthday compliment to the ringer of 1-2. First peal on this beautiful set of bells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

Owing most likely to the fact that the bells of St. Nicholas', Liverpool, have been taken down from the steeple, there was not such a good attendance as previously at the meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held on August 16th in the belfry. In addition to the local company, members were present from Bootle, West Derby, Woolton and Wallasey. A welcome visitor was Mr. G. W. Massey, of Claygate, Surrey, who was elected a non-resident life member of the association.

The Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. D. Railton, presided at the meeting. After referring to the removal of St. Nicholas' bells to a place of safety, he stressed the importance of ringers being ready to play their part in the work which will be necessary after the war is over. Some of the destroyed churches will be rebuilt; he hoped they would be many and include St. Nicholas'. He hoped that those whose bells had been destroyed would have them replaced so that they could again be used for the purpose for which they were cast.

It was decided to hold another meeting on Saturday, September 13th. West Derby was proposed, and, failing that, St. Francis Xavier, Liverpool. It is hoped that permission will be obtained to use the tower bells for silent ringing as an addition to handbell ringing.

THE HANDBELL RECORD.

MEMORABLE PEAL RECALLED.

Next Sunday is the anniversary of the longest handbell peal on record, 19,738 of Stedman Caters, rung in the belfry at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, on August 31st, 1912, by Arthur F. Shepherd, Alfred H. Pulling, William Shepherd, James Hunt and Frank Blondell.

It was a great performance, but fell short of the original intention of the band. The 'prize' was to have been the 'five twos'—22,222, but it was cut just short of twenty thousand. The arrangements for the peal provided for a start at 12 noon, but in the morning one of the band sent to say he could not arrive until 1 p.m., which actually turned out to be nearly two o'clock.

At 11.15 p.m., when usually all the band would have been in bed, there was still nearly three thousand changes to ring, and the conductor asked if they all agreed to go on, but knowing the time and being tired, some thought they had better finish. The last bob at 4 put the bells into the hand-stroke plain course, and the bells were allowed to come home with 19,728 changes in 9 hours 32 minutes. Had they gone on for the full length the ringing would have ended at about a quarter to one.

This is what 'The Ringing World' said about the peal in the following issue:—

'It was not until 1.55 p.m. that the bells got away to a good start after two attempts at the going-off course. The striking was splendid and the half of the twenty-two thousand ran up in 5 hours 23 minutes. The turning course was perfectly rung and the tapping with the bells in the handstroke position was as good as it had been in the tittums. Course after course rolled faultlessly away, but it was obvious that the peal would have to be curtailed.

'It was really a wonderful performance and constitutes a world's double record, inasmuch as it is not only by far the longest length yet rung on handbells, but it is also the greatest number of changes ever rung by one set of men.

'Incidentally it was Alfred Pulling's 300th peal, of which 127 had been on handbells. He had conducted 240 of the total, including all the 58 peals of Stedman Caters which he had rung on handbells.

'A number of umpires, including the Editor of "The Ringing World," assisted in checking the peal, but only one stayed from beginning to end. This was Mr. A. H. Winch, who, as he had to be back in Leatherhead on Sunday morning, walked home, a distance of 12 miles, after the peal!

Here are some comments on the peal which were made in 'The Ringing World' a week later: 'The more one thinks about the record peal the more wonderful it appears. To ring Stedman Caters "double handed" for 9 hours 32 minutes without a pause is a truly remarkable performance. The mere concentration of mind necessary for such a length of time is in itself a wonderful feat. We learn that the only real trip was about twelve courses from home, but cool heads and smart conducting saved the situation. It also had the effect of waking the ringers up and after the trip the bells ran out without a misblow to a brilliant finish.'

The speed at which the various portions of the peal were rung is interesting. The average pace was 34.5 changes a minute, and the following figures compiled from notes made by one of the umpires as the ringing progressed show how little the pace varied. The peal was divided approximately into 24-course blocks of 2,592 changes each, except when the 2nd was 5th's place bell, and then the block consisted of seven courses only.

	Actual Time	Time Occupied	Changes Per Min.
Start	1.55 p.m.		
24 Courses	3. 8 "	73 mins.	35.6
24 "	4.22 "	74 "	35.1
7 "	4.44 "	22 "	34.3
24 "	6. 4 "	80 "	32.5
24 "	7.18 "	74 "	35.1
24 "	8.34 "	76 "	34.2
24 "	9.46 "	72 "	36.1
7 "	10. 8 "	22 "	34.3
24 "	11.27 "	79 "	32.9

Here is another note of interest about the peal. One of the ringers was so seated that he could see the belfry-clock by turning his head. The first time he looked at it was when the bells started at 1.55 p.m. The next time was at 10.5 p.m.! He was too engrossed in his job to worry about how the hours were passing, or else it was that he realised he had a long way to go and it was no good looking too soon.

SHOULD PUBLICITY CEASE ?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article of August 8th called attention to the matter that all ringers should watch carefully.

It has been my experience, and no doubt yours, that it is the minority who take an active and often adverse interest in most matters. Bells and their noise are no exception. The voice of this minority is usually heard the loudest, the reason being that the majority do not take any action until their interests are definitely threatened.

While agreeing with your article, it would be well, I think, to bear this in mind.

FREDERICK E. PITMAN

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

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 WOKING, SURREY.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 401.)

TRUTH IN PEAL RINGING.

It will be remembered that one of the resolutions, proposed by Arthur Heywood and adopted at the Johnson dinner in 1889, declared that it was 'eminently desirable that there should be some authoritative definition as to the extent of departure from absolute correctness of ringing which may be permitted in a true peal.' Heywood evidently intended this to be one of the matters for the proposed Central Council; he mentioned it at one or two of the early meetings; and it was debated at Bristol in 1898.

It is a question which has interested ringers in one form or another from the earliest days of change ringing, and it will no doubt continue to interest them as long as the art is practised.

In theory, when we ring a peal we claim not only to have struck a certain number of changes without repetition of any one, but also to have performed a given amount of work without any mistake whatever. That is the theory. But the practice is not quite the same, and of very few peals indeed is it literally true. One missed dodge, one faulty blow is enough to invalidate the claim; and we are compelled to accept as a true peal something which only approximately fulfils the required conditions.

The question therefore which ringers have always had, consciously or unconsciously, to face is this: Since perfection can hardly be hoped for how far are we justified in ignoring any lapses from it?

It is an extraordinarily difficult question, and the answers that ringers have given by their action as well as by their words are very diverse.

We may say quite definitely that the number of men who would consent to the publication of a false peal is very small. There are some who for the sake of scoring a peal will do things which they know are not quite right and which they would be ashamed to own up to, but they are very few. The vast majority act up to what they think is the required standard, but the difficulty is that the standard is sometimes lower than it ought to be.

Many years ago, after over two hours' quite good ringing I was asked why I stopped the bells. I answered, 'Because the third and fourth had shifted.' 'But why did you stop the bells? We could easily have put them right again.' The men who said that were quite honest and would not have wittingly done anything they thought was wrong. On the other hand, there is a story, of a well-known Suffolk ringer who was one of a band that was trying to ring a peal of Treble Bob Royal on handbells at a time when peals of Treble Bob Royal on handbells were rare. They had been ringing for a long time without any trips and with most excellent striking when he put his bells down. Asked why he did so, he replied, 'When we ring the peal, we'll ring a true one.' His bells had been crossing in 3-4 and should have made places, but he dodged them and did not realise the mistake until he had made it.

These incidents show how very diverse are the opinions of ringers, and there is in addition all that is involved in the not uncommon cases where during a peal a trip degenerates into a muddle in which half the band have lost themselves and the other half who know what

they should do cannot find where to do it. Then the conductor or another in the band straightens out things and saves the peal. As an exhibition of skill and knowledge such a thing often is admirable, but how far can it be said to be compatible with true peal ringing? Often there is no guarantee that the bells were not already wrong before the muddle began, or that the change where they are brought out of the muddle is the one they would be at if there had been no muddle.

At Bristol the Council was invited to discuss how far and under what conditions any departure from the true and clear ringing of every change is permissible in the performance of a peal. F. E. Robinson was entrusted with the opening of the debate. Heywood probably asked him because he was eminently distinguished as a peal ringer, but his speech was inconclusive and disappointing, and neither he nor the Council as a whole rose to the occasion. What was needed was a plain and straightforward declaration that though absolute perfection is unattainable, yet every conductor and every ringer should aim at it. Men should be induced to feel that truth in peal ringing is not only a point of honour, but also a matter of self interest. When that is done the question of how far lapses are allowable can safely be left to the individual. But many people thought, and Heywood among them, that a definite line could be drawn between merely faulty ringing and false ringing.

Robinson said that he thought the time had come when the Council might undertake to say how far a departure from a true peal should be permitted. In former times the standard was a low one. He remembered a conductor who used to say, 'I don't trouble about the little bells so long as the big'uns keep smartish,' and another who would say if there was a hitch, 'Now then! give one good fire and do what I tell you.'

I rather doubt the last tale. It does not sound quite true. It used to be told about Washbrook, and probably was invented by someone who was trying to satirise his extraordinary skill as a conductor. Unless, indeed, it is one of those traditional tales which have come down from the remote past and have been applied from time to time to many people. Like the other one of the man who never made but one good blow in a peal, and that was when he missed his sally.

Probably in the past, there was a good deal of laxity in some places, but there is no evidence that it was general. The standard of good striking and true ringing was a very high one in Norwich and the Eastern Counties generally, and so it was in London among the College Youths. John Cox was accused of having done some rather shady things in peal ringing; but his accuser had a reason for discrediting him, and the charge would hardly have been made if the practices were at all common.

Robinson went on to point out that in Triples a peal runs to the full extent of the changes, any lapse would almost certainly cause repetition, and therefore Triples should be rung on more rigid lines than other numbers.

He was here referring to a fallacy by which many ringers have sought to excuse their lapses. Suppose you are ringing a peal of Stedman, Caters of the sort then usual without singles. If there is a shift of course and the two bells are afterwards put right, there will still be no repetition of changes. Why cannot you count it as a true peal? I objected that it would not be Sted-

man Caters. Heywood said, 'What you mean is, I suppose, that it would not be the peal they started for.' 'No, I don't,' I said. 'What I mean is that in a true peal of Stedman Caters, you can't have a shift and a single, any more than you can in Stedman Triples, and the fact that there has been no repetition of changes has nothing to do with it.'

Robinson was here hampered by the memory of what had happened not so long before at Taunton. On June 25th, 1885, he called a peal of Stedman Caters in that town with a band that included Washbrook and Davies. It was reported in 'The Bell News' in the usual way, but some time afterwards rumours began to get about that the ringing had been false. What had happened was this: a shift had occurred and to get the bells round a single was called. I rather imagine from what was said that it was Washbrook who put the single in. When the peal was finished there was a discussion in the belfry and though Robinson was uneasy about the matter, he did not object when the report was sent (by another man) to 'The Bell News.' When in 1892 the peal was publicly challenged he admitted it was false, but rather glossed over the matter. A week or two later, however, he wrote again and made what he called a lenten confession, when he fully admitted his mistake and took the responsibility. It was an honourable thing to do, and can hardly have been an easy one for a man in his position, but it shed a rather unfavourable light on the standard of peal ringing current in some quarters.

An incident, not unlike the Taunton one, happened as far back as 1796 at Christ Church, Spitalfields. A band of the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, with William Williams as conductor and John Noonan at the

fourth, rang 7,001 changes of Grandsire Caters. A footnote to the record in the peal book (which was not written until several years later) states that 'the third and fifth were out of course five courses about the middle of the peal, after which they took their right course again to the end of the peal.' The composition was an in-course one, but we are left in doubt as to whether the peal was considered a true one or not.

The debate at Bristol did not produce any striking speeches. The Council appeared to be rather afraid of the subject, and Heywood declared at the beginning of the debate that 'there was not a member present who would dare to move a resolution upon it even if they discussed it.' At the close he said that when a man was conducting, his motives were excellent, and so they were when the peal was finished, but when he got into a fix there was no telling what he would not do. He had himself rung a great many peals, some in which things had happened which, if he related them, would make their hair stand on end. One rather wonders where he had met with these alarming experiences. The great majority of his peals were rung in his own tower with himself as conductor, or with the Burton-on-Trent band, or at Birmingham. He also missed the real point. No one can complain when a conductor does everything he can think of to save a peal. The real test is whether the saved peal should afterwards be considered up to the standard necessary for it to rank as a true peal. In the event the only resolution passed by the Council on the subject in 1902 declared that any shift or error in ringing must be immediately corrected. The Exercise has always recognised this rule, and few would care to admit they had ever willingly broken it.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The meeting of the Hertford County Association at Bushey, which was to have been held to-morrow, has been cancelled. Meetings will be resumed on the last Saturday in September.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, one of the oldest members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who reaches his 82nd birthday to-day.

Sunday is the twenty-third anniversary of the death of Bertram Prewett, who was killed on active service in France.

Sergt. H. P. Reed, who recently was seriously wounded while on active service, is now in the R.A.F. Hospital, Ely, Cambs. Any letters would be very welcome, though it will be some time before he can reply to them. Sergt. Reed was one of Mr. George Williams' band at North Stoneham.

A correspondent asks us if anything has been done to safeguard the Carter ringing machine. It is in the custody of the Science Museum, who, of course, have the charge of thousands of far more valuable exhibits, and the safety of the machine must be left to them.

John Lyford, who wrote the letter recently discovered by Mr. A. A. Hughes, died on October 14th, 1826, aged 69. He would, therefore, be a young man of 27 when the letter was written. His brother William was five years older.

Official figures have been issued of the damage to church property in Liverpool through enemy action. Nineteen churches, five vicarages and seven church halls have been totally destroyed. The Cathedral and 83 other churches have been more or less seriously damaged.

Henry Hubbard, one of the famous Norwich Scholars and the author of the text book on change ringing which went through four editions between 1845 and 1876, was born on August 25th, 1807.

The first true peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, by the Norwich Scholars on August 26th, 1718. On the same date in 1776 the College Youths rang 10,640 changes of Bob Major at Mortlake.

Matthew A. Wood, for many years a very prominent member of the London Exercise, died on August 27th, 1912, aged 87.

The splendid ring of twelve bells at York Minster were dedicated on August 29th, 1926.

Sir Henry Tulse, sometime Lord Mayor of London and Master of the Society of College Youths, died on August 31st, 1689.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. They were one each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Oxford Treble Bob Major, and 7 Minor methods.

LEONARD PROCTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Leonard Proctor's portrait and short 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in 'Church Bells' for March 22nd, 1895.

It says he was born in January, 1816, and his family had been seated at Benington for three centuries. He went to Eton in 1829, where he rang the bell at the death of George IV., and to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1834, where he graduated in January, 1838.

In the last paragraph it says, 'The Benington band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants and the Squire and his men grew old together. He had few pursuits outside and seldom left the village. Latterly he lived almost entirely alone, and became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life. He was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham.

TEDBURN ST. MARY.

OLD-TIME RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read the report of the Devon Guild's meeting at Tedburn St. Mary in your issue of August 22nd and especially the statement that the bells had not been rung for 70 years.

My grandfather, W. H. Wedlake, who died in 1930 at the age of 78, was a ringer for many years at Dunsford, a village about five miles from Tedburn, and I well remember him telling me of an occasion in his younger days when the Dunsford ringers paid a visit to Tedburn to ring. They were met by the Tedburn band, and, after the ringing, all adjourned to the village pub, where an argument started (no doubt as to who were the best ringers!), and it ended in the Dunsford band being driven out of the village! This, however, did not suit my grandfather, who, I do not doubt, was a fairly hefty customer in those days, and he returned to the pub alone. Whether the Tedburn ringers admired him for having the sauce to come back I do not know, but anyway he was welcomed, and once or twice afterwards he went to Tedburn alone to ring with the locals.

I have spent many happy hours with the present Dunsford band, who still ring call changes, and a few years ago I happened to take part in the muffled ringing for Henry Pook, leader of the band in my grandfather's time, and who, quite possibly, was present on the expedition mentioned above.

L. C. W. HUNTER.

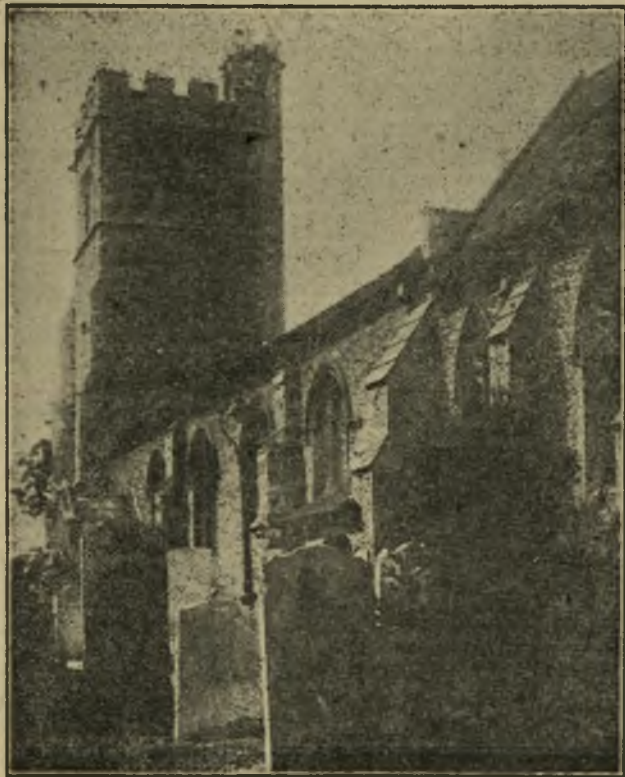
Shalford, Surrey.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE RAIDS.

Proposed Rebuilding.

A few weeks ago we mentioned among the buildings damaged by air raids a church in a south-east suburb. We are now permitted to give its name. It was SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley in Kent, and was almost completely destroyed with its ring of eight bells. We learn from 'The Times' that clearance of the site has begun. First-aid repairs are to be made to the tower (which was built about the year 1400, and is the oldest remaining part of the church) pending a decision whether it can be fully restored. The view of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is that full restoration is possible. It is hoped to recover the bell metal for eventual use in casting new bells. As much of the masonry as possible will be saved in the hope of using it in building a new church after the war. As soon as circumstances permit a temporary church will be put up.



SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH, BROMLEY.

The bells were a ring of eight supplied in 1773 by Thomas Jannaway. He did not cast many bells. The most important of his still remaining are the eight at Battersea and most of those at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, where he hung an octave afterwards increased to ten by Warners, who added a tenor and recast one or two others.

In the late eighteenth century Bromley had an energetic and successful company of ringers, who called themselves the Bromley Youths. They were tradesmen of the town, shoemakers, carpenters, breeches-makers, bricklayers and the like. In September, 1774, they rang a peal of Bob Major and in the next year 10,080 changes in the same method. They followed with many other peals, some in their home belfry and some at neighbouring towers. Their most notable performance was 5,520 Real Double Bob Major in 1789. It was John Reeves' composition from the 'Clavis' and was the first peal ever rung with the bobs in pairs one behind and one in front and both in the same lead.

For long William Chapman was their chief bob caller, and when he died in 1817 the company rang to his memory the first muffled five thousand ever achieved. The society also scored the first 'John' peal, one of Grandsire Triples in 1823.

Like the majority of similar companies the society declined soon after the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The peal book in which they recorded their performances was preserved, and has, we understand, survived the latest catastrophe.

FUTURE OF DAMAGED CHURCHES.

THE PRACTICE OF CENTURIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I fully agree with your correspondent, F. H. Smith, when he says that 'Anti-Silent' has created a bogey with which he has scared himself stiff. There is no proof yet that anywhere in the Church the clergy or anyone else are making an excuse of the war damage to stop bellringing by providing only utilitarian replacements. Such necessity as there may be for this type of building has long been with us, and, as far as the provision of bells is concerned, unquestionably from the beginning.

There has always been a very large proportion of churches, both old and new, wherein the erection of a ringing peal was never contemplated. Within a short radius of my own parish there are three twelfth century churches which have never had anything but a bell turret, and there are six other parish churches built within the last 70 years which are similarly without towers.

The early churches are built with all the proud and stately simplicity of the age; the 'new' churches may well be called 'utilitarian.' They vary in what some people term 'beauty' or lack of it, whichever you prefer, from a brick built 'barn' to a stone faced structure, but all of them are churches which serve the parishioners in all their spiritual needs. They never have had nor are they likely ever to have a ring of bells, but no one can complain that that is due to any prejudice against them.

And so it has been, I imagine, all down the ages, and if new churches go up without provision for bells—well, much as we ringers may regret it, it will not be a disguised attack upon our art. It may well be the need for rigid economy. Where there are damaged or destroyed churches which formerly had towers, even if the towers are down with the rest of the buildings, we may hope to see them rise again and to become as beautiful and as complete as before the war.

Those who visited Belgium and the areas stricken in the last war will probably have noticed how the spirit of the Church there reacted when peace permitted reconstruction. The Cathedral at Ypres, for instance, was reduced by bombardment to a heap of rubble, but the building rose again in the years that followed. Its furnishings were first of an extremely 'utilitarian' character, but pious men and women gradually began to restore the interior to something of its old grandeur by their gifts, and permanent fittings commensurate with the importance and dignity of the building soon began to take the place of the plain furniture that sufficed at the outset. So it will be, I am sure, with our churches here in England. Where the churches are rebuilt the bells, some day, come again to the towers.

New churches in new districts may be a different matter, but let us remember what I said before that by no means all the churches built down the centuries have been designed to hold rings of bells.

T. PARKINSON.

ANTI-BELL ADVOCATES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'Anti-Silent' seems to be a don hand in inventing bogies. Does he or anyone else really believe that there is any organised opposition to the use of church bells or that the influence of those who dislike the sound of them has spread to sections of the ecclesiastical authorities or to the Ministry of Home Security? There are people who do not like the bells of the church next door to where they live and they have a right to their likes and dislikes. But they don't care twopence about the bells in the next parish.

'Anti-Silent' talks big enough, but I wonder what sort of a Church it would be if he had the ordering of it.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

CONDUCTORS.—Conductors in my early ringing days sometimes indulged in laxity that would not be tolerated now. One used to say that 'he did not trouble about the little bells so long as the big ones kept right.' The following conversation is reported to have taken place during a peal of Grandsire Triples: 'What's the matter with you?' quoth one of the band to the conductor, who replied, 'We're in the last part of the peal, but I can't get the bells round'; to which the other rejoined, 'Ah, we've been in he a smart many times: let me call 'em round.'—F. E. Robinson.

SINGLES.—Some ringers have thought that singles should not be used unless the object cannot otherwise be attained: but I differ in opinion: as they not only afford a pleasing variety, but also an opportunity of introducing a greater number of musical changes. We have many instances of their being used when not absolutely necessary as in one peal of Grandsire Triples with 50 singles, etc. They are indeed indispensable in some methods as in Grandsire Caters: for without them not one change in 181,440 could be obtained.—Shipway.

Have 'The Ringing World' sent to your ringing friends abroad; 4s. 4d. per quarter from 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The composition published this week marks another important stage in the history of Spliced Surprise Major. It was over 17 years ago, on May 14th, 1924, to be precise, when the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major was rung at Whitley Bay. This was a peal of Cambridge and Superlative, with 2,528 changes in each method. It is strange that no other band in the country took up this form of ringing, although there were several at that time quite capable of doing so, and it can only be assumed that the 'time was not ripe.'

It is interesting to note, however, especially in the light of criticisms made during a controversy which took place many years later, that this composition fulfilled much that has since been sought after by composers. It not only contained full courses, but there was exactly the same number of changes in each method, and all the bells did all the work of the two methods rung. This last quality was only just attained, and an examination of the composition shows that some of the work was done by the tenors once only throughout the peal. There appears to be no doubt that the composer, Mr. J. W. Parker, had some difficulty in fitting in some of the leads without introducing falseness.

If this is so, it is not surprising that a four method peal was impossible to find with full courses, but the ingenious plan introduced in 1927 by the late Rev. H. Law James gave the Exercise a peal in the four standard methods, London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. This peal was rung soon after publication by bands led by Mr. A. H. Pulling, Mr. William Pye and Mr. H. E. Passmore, the latter being the first to call the peal from a bell doing all the work. Later, other methods were introduced, Lincolnshire in one peal in which a third lead of London was also rung, and Pudsey and Rutland in another.

Then Mr. Pitman produced a variety of peals in all numbers of methods up to 16. Several of these were rung, the greatest number of methods introduced into any one of the successful performances being twelve. All these compositions, however, were on the short course plan, and, generally speaking, the only courses containing more than three leads were those in which such methods as Bristol and New Gloucester, bobbed, were introduced. At the same time, it was quite evident to those ringers who took an intelligent interest in the matter that the more methods in the peals, the greater the liability to falseness, and the greater the difficulty of getting away from Law James' plan, which was introduced as the only way to avoid falseness. It was, therefore, surprising to find opposition to this plan, which showed itself on more than one occasion.

A subtle attack was made by an association whose members, none of whom had apparently had any practical experience of Spliced Surprise ringing, passed a resolution to the effect that 'the splicing of methods is theoretically unsound.' No reasons were given for this extraordinary resolution, and enquiries as to what were the reasons which led up to the resolution being put to the meeting brought only an evasive reply.

Later, some critics objected to the whole plan on the grounds that in spliced peals all the bells should do all the work of all the methods, and that the same number, or very nearly the same number, of changes of each method should be rung; the critics quite forgetting or perhaps never even being aware of the difficulties involved, and certainly having no idea at all how such a desirable state of affairs could be achieved.

To-day we see Mr. Pitman's latest peal, which gives the tenors a much larger share of the work. A few weeks ago we saw Mr. J. W. Parker's latest very fine compositions, which actually, but only just, introduced all the work of all the methods for all the bells, and one is entitled to ask whether such peals would have been discovered had the critics of a few years ago had their way and succeeded in getting the short course plan ruled out as unsound.

One thing is quite certain, the fine achievements of the Bushey handbell band would not now be looked back upon with pride—nor could we look forward to the days when some of our younger composers and conductors will make still further advances in this branch of our art.

I have in my possession a composition by Mr. Pitman, consisting of 5,120 changes of Superlative, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Major, in four lead courses, each course containing a bob 'before.' I do not know if it has been published, but perhaps Mr. Pitman can say. It is an extremely interesting composition, and it may be rung in five, four, three or two methods.

One other point raised this week is worthy of comment. The plan adopted by Mr. Parker of placing the calling of the methods against the previous course-end seems to me to be likely to cause confusion. As a matter of fact, when I saw his first peal so shown I wondered what it was all about, as it did not seem to fit together until I realised what had been done. I, for one, favour the plan adopted by the Editor in this week's paper, which up to now has appeared quite satisfactory.

C. T. COLES.

HOW TO GIVE THE FIGURES.

Dear Sir,—Mention last week was made as to the best way to give compositions of spliced peals on paper, and the arrangement of Mr. Pitman's peal there given certainly follows the 'traditional' practice, but is it perfectly clear?

(Continued in next column.)

A FAMILY PEAL.

MR. W. SPICE'S ACHIEVEMENT AT EIGHTY.

Ringing is one of the most remarkable of all pastimes in that there is practically no age limit. One seems never too young or too old to begin, and even those who have grown up in it can launch out afresh in another direction at any age.

For instance, at eighty Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall, Kent, has just rung his first peal 'in hand' on eight bells—and it is not that he knew all about it before and had only bothered about it now. No, he has been practising with a family band who started to teach themselves handbell ringing when war broke out; in fact, the first practice took place on the day war was declared—but that was, perhaps, a coincidence.

It has always been Mr. William Spice's ambition to ring a 'Spice' peal and for many years there have been enough ringers in the family to make up a band, but, what with one thing and another, only two attempts for a tower-bell peal of Grandsire Triples have ever been made. With the outbreak of the war, followed by the imposition of the ban, it seemed that the performance would never be accomplished. When handbell practice was started none of the band could manage more than a plain course of Grandsire Triples, and the difficulties were not made less by the absence from home for half the year of the most enthusiastic member of the company.

However, a handbell peal of Grandsire Triples has now been rung after four or five attempts, and Grandfather Spice has achieved one of his great ambitions. And he will be congratulated, too, for it is no mean feat for a man to start ringing handbell peals, even if only on 7-8, at the age of eighty. Mr. Spice is already talking of trying for a family peal of Caters!

From the record of the peal it will be observed that all the ringers did something new. Betty Spice rang her first peal, George Spice rang his first peal 'in hand,' William Spice rang his first peal 'in hand' on eight bells, and John Spice called his first peal on eight bells.

The 'Spice' peal recalls other family achievements of a similar kind. The brothers Bailey, of Leiston, rang many peals on handbells from Triples to Maximus, the methods including Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Stedman. The brothers Pye rang peals which reached Surprise Major. The late John D. Matthews when Master of the Royal Cumberlands called a family peal of Bob Major. There have been others, of course, several of them on six bells, one as long ago as 1897 by three Timbrells, of Chipping, Lancs.

Although we do not remember that the talented Washbrook family ever rang a handbell peal, they did some remarkable things and used to ring courses of Grandsire Cinques with the great J. W., sen., ringing four bells.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The query in your Belfry Gossip for August 8th last has brought an interesting letter or two in reply.

On perusing Belfry Gossip this week I find a note saying Mr. W. H. Fussell rang his first peal on August 5th, 1882, conducted by William Baron. I naturally thought this may have been a Cumberland peal, as peals at that time were sometimes headed by two or more societies. However, it was not so, but on the same page (149), 'The Bell News,' August 12th, 1882, I find Henry Hopkins ringing in a Cumberland peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Saffron Walden, Essex. Therefore, Mr. Hopkins is a much older member than those mentioned. Looking further on I find on page 294 for September 22nd, 1883, Mr. W. H. Fussell taking part in a Cumberland peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Arthur H. Gardom.

These dates are both prior to those already given.
1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

OTHER CANDIDATES.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Fussell and my father joined this society within a few months of each other, and their 50 years' membership was celebrated at Shoreditch in 1931 with a peal of Stedman Cinques, in which they both took part. Mr. J. F. Priest, of Woodstock, South Africa, who recently wrote to 'The Ringing World,' also became a member about the same time. The Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, Ipswich, who founded the Cambridge University Guild in 1879, is also a Cumberland Youth. When he became a member I am unable to say.

Crayford. E. BARNETT.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

(Continued from previous column.)

The novice reads from left to right and from top to bottom of a column or page, and, glancing at the peal, one sees: 23456 BMWH. then under a line 42356 SSCXI, which, if called as shown, would produce 34256 and not 35426, there being nothing whatever to show how 42356 is arrived at. Again at the end of the peal, after rounds it would appear there was still SSCXL to be rung with a bob at preface.

These remarks apply to any composition, and if the composer prefers his calling on the right of the courses, should it not be shown one step higher than is always printed, or, alternatively, immediately to the left of the course the particular calling produces?

Mr. Parker's arrangement of his peal could be easily followed, and Mr. Pitman apparently agrees, inasmuch as he presented his composition for publication in a similar order.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

W. J. G. BROWN.

THE KING'S HEAD.

A FORMER COLLEGE YOUTHS' HEADQUARTERS.

Mention has recently been made of the King's Head in Winchester Street, Southwark, where for many years the Society of College Youths had its headquarters. They went there in 1849, when they left St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Barn in St. Martin's Lane, and they remained there until after St. Paul's Cathedral bells were opened and they crossed the river to The Goose and Gridiron. Few ringers now know the King's Head. It stands in the street which runs westwards from St. Saviour's, and as it holds a special market licence, it shuts up, we believe, at eight o'clock every night.

A description of the King's Head and a meeting of the College Youths there was printed in 'All the Year Round' for February 27th, 1869. Charles Dickens then owned and edited that journal, and he is usually supposed to have paid a personal visit to the ringers and to have written the article himself. It is possible, for he knew and loved the by-paths of London, but perhaps not very likely. There is nothing in the article that any average reporter in search of copy could not have written. This is what is said about the King's Head and the meeting there. It is part of a long account which describes a visit to St. Saviour's belfry and a short history of the society, the latter a mere paraphrase of the account in the old rule book.

THE MEETING ROOM.

The headquarters of change ringing are in a long rather low room on the first floor of the King's Head in Winchester Street in the borough of Southwark. Records of distinguished peals in frames of all sorts and various sizes adorn the walls, and an iron safe is fixed in a corner. Here the business of the venerable Society is transacted, here its records and property are kept, and here is presently to be held a meeting at which it will be our high privilege to assist. A large thickly bound book with strong brazen clasps, and a general appearance of having been made to stand constant reference for many years lies on the table. This is the second volume of the peal book and was presented to the Society by an enthusiastic amateur. Here are entered all the peals rung by the members in records written by professional hands, in a most ornate style and in various bright colours. There are comparatively few entries in the book as yet, for it has but recently commenced. By the time we have turned over its pages a sufficient muster of College Youths has come together, and an adjournment is made to the church.

After a long account of the ringing the writer returns to the King's Head.

The first thing that strikes the visitor on opening the door is that the Ancient College Youths are good and steady smokers. The smoke is so dense that for some time it is difficult to make out the surrounding objects; the only way to avoid inconvenience is to light up oneself, which, accordingly, every newcomer does without loss of time.

On looking down the table and down the room, it becomes evident that the bulk of the College Youths present are of the working class. Our introducer is a Cambridge graduate and destined for the Church, so it will be seen that the composition of the Society is very catholic. It becomes soon pleasantly apparent that change ringing is by no means merely an excuse for beer. There is an excellent rule strictly enforced that no refreshments are allowed in the belfry; and moderation is clearly the custom in the club-room.

The iron safe is opened and the property and archives of the company are displayed on the table before the master, who fills the chair. We are shown a curious old silver bell, fixed on a silver-mounted staff, which in old days was carried before the members of the Society when they went on the 5th of November as was their annual custom to St. Mary-le-Bow to attend Divine Service. This is looked on as the palladium of the Society. The company also boast an old-fashioned two-handled cup won in fair fight as its inscription records

DICKENS AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Among the archives are the name-book which contains the names of the members from the remotest time; the peal book to which allusion has been made contains their performances.

A suggestion that the society may like to hear a touch on the handbells being received with great favour, the handbells are produced, and half a dozen College Youths taking each two bells, and drawing their chairs into a circle away from the table, play up manfully. If it is difficult to remember and execute the part one bell has to take in a peal, it must be maddening to have charge of two bells. Of course, the absence of the mechanical labour is in favour of the handbell ringer.

The precision of these ringers was marvellous. We could not have supposed it possible that such sweet sounds and such musical combinations could have been produced by a dozen handbells, and the members of the society present, experts be it remarked, appeared as pleased as the ignorant visitors. The ringers were all College Youths of long experience and vast learning, but were nevertheless not insensible to the admiration and applause which greeted the termination of the touch.

We cannot believe that the above was written by Charles Dickens. It is a good, honest, straightforward piece of work by a reasonably competent reporter, but there is absolutely nothing to show a master's hand. The writer saw no more than a number of men sitting at a long table and smoking. All he noticed was that they belonged to the working class. Did he expect a gathering of artists or lawyers in

(Continued in next column.)

RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

HAPPY RECOLLECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Pat Cannon's letter awakens happy memories. I, too, on arriving at Capetown in 1930 soon made the acquaintance of the Vicar of Woodstock and such of his ringers who then maintained a tenuous interest in the bells. Amongst them was F. G. May, formerly of Bistol, and an old veteran (whose name I forget), a survivor of the 1904 peal, of which there was a board on the wall.

As Canon Ridout happened also to be then on a visit down to Capetown, there was a flutter at the prospect of at least bringing off a touch of Grandsire Triples. In this, however, we were sadly disappointed, for I think we only rang a plain course, and that with much difficulty. Though I had rung 'Paul's' tenor often and in comfort, that of Woodstock soon beat me, and when I shifted to the other end the treble wanted as much coaxing as a half broken-in colt. It was mid-December and very hot.

One of the aspirants was in an engineering workshop and offered to overhaul the bearings, and a fortnight or so later, on Christmas morning, we were able to ring the eight to some fair 'stone,' and I was very pleased.

Three months later at Durban I visited the towers of Greyville and the Cathedral (there are three 'rings' in South Africa), but hadn't time to ring at either or for more than a pleasant chat.

On again visiting Durban two years ago, the head ringer at the Cathedral told me that they had the only real band in South Africa. They rang every Sunday evening throughout the year, the morning heat being too much for them! And that evening I had the pleasure of listening to some particularly well struck call-changes, the waking stars of a tropical sky twinkling approval. E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley.

OUTPOSTS OF THE EXERCISE.

Dear Sir,—For the information of Signalman A. P. Cannon and other members of the N.U.T.S. who may have the opportunity to visit them, there are to my knowledge three peals of bells in South Africa, St. Mary's, Woodstock, St. Mary's, Greyville, and St. Paul's, Durban.

St. Mary's, Greyville, a suburb of Durban, has a peal of ten bells (tenor 18 cwt. 25 lb.). I spent a very pleasant Sunday there in August, 1930, conducting a 120 of Grandsire Doubles on the back six for morning service. I don't remember the names of the band except Mr. Clarkson, the head ringer, who kindly entertained me that day and the previous day when I first made contact with him.

On an earlier visit to Durban in 1929 I rang at St. Paul's, where a young band were ringing call changes on a handy peal of eight.

Both peals of bells were in excellent condition, although the two bands of ringers appeared to have no connection with one another.

I visited St. Mary's, Woodstock, in 1931, but was unable to arrange any ringing owing to the shortness of my stay at Capetown.

I have also visited Melbourne, Sydney and Ballarat in Australia, Hobart, Tasmania, and Christchurch, New Zealand, between 1929 and 1934. At all these outposts of the Exercise I was made very welcome by the local ringers. Many of them still take 'The Ringing World' I send them greetings and thanks for the pleasant hours I spent in their company.

Any ringer who has the opportunity of visiting these distant centres of our art should not neglect to do so. It is an experience not to be forgotten.

So 'good luck' to those who can beat the ban and ring in other continents. F. H. CRAWLEY.

51, Laburnum Crescent, Barrow-in-Furness.

ANOTHER ENGLISH RINGER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Dear Sir,—While on shore leave abroad, I was fortunate enough to ring on a light peal of eight at Woodstock, South Africa, 600 Grandsire Doubles. The ringers were: J. Riley 1, V. Meyer 2, A. Collins 3, F. Hoppood 4, J. G. Wood 5, H. Meyer tenor. A quarter-peal was arranged for the following Sunday evening service, but as the convoy sailed the same morning, this was impossible. I would be glad to hear from any of my fellow-ringers. FRANK HOPGOOD.

Wimbledon.

THE KING'S HEAD—Continued from previous column.

Winchester Street, Southwark? Charles Dickens surely would have seen individuals—Dwight, the blacksmith, and Matt. Wood, the weaver, Ted Lansdell from the Hop Market, and Mash, whom, as the steeplekeeper of the tower whence he had come, he must have spoken to. He would have told us what these men said and what they were. He would not have gone on as the writer did to fill up his pages with a long account of what the society had done in the past, or rather what the College Youths told him they had done. We do not quite see Charles Dickens writing of his personal visit to the College Youths and filling up his space by transcribing the account from the society's rule book.

At the beginning of the year 1869 Dickens was engaged on a lecture tour throughout England. He was in failing health, and in February he had a serious breakdown. He died on June 9th, 1870. His last contribution to 'All the Year Round' was on June 5th, 1869. It may be possible when the sources of information are once more open to settle the matter definitely, but we fear that the tale about Charles Dickens' visit to the College Youths must be included among the many baseless fables which are so common in the story of the Exercise.

THE STANDARD METHODS

THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.

All the places in Cambridge are made next the treble's path, and consequently the bells above the treble keep the same coursing order among themselves; and the bells below the treble keep the same coursing order among themselves. Above the treble the bells are in the natural coursing order of the course, but as they pass the treble they do so alternately, one running through and the next place making; and this alternate quick and slow gives an entirely different coursing order below the treble. When the bells hunt up they pass the treble in the opposite way from that they passed it going down. Those that went down quick go up slow; and those that went down slow go up quick. By this means the natural coursing order is regained.

It is quite similar to what happens in Stedman, only there it takes a whole course, but in Cambridge only a lead.

But while the natural coursing order is regained within the lead there is this difference that the treble is in a different position. That must happen in every method with a treble and working bells, and is caused by one or more shunts (or Q sets) which may or may not include the whole of the work. In Cambridge it is caused by the places made next the treble when it leads or lies full. These are the constructional places of Double Bob and Cambridge is based ultimately on Double Bob.

In the group of methods we are now considering we must take the positions of the constructional places as being definitely fixed on all numbers. Seconds is always made when the treble leads full, and when the treble lies full, the place immediately next it is always made. We have to consider what variations are implied in the nature of the work represented by the other places.

The first thing to notice is that in Cambridge all the work above the treble forms a complete unit in itself, and all the work below the treble forms another complete unit in itself. By this we mean that if above the treble the bells hunted ordinary Treble Bob fashion instead of in the Cambridge fashion (as explained last week), we should still get the same lead-end. We should have repetition of changes, but the ultimate effect on the coursing order would be the same. The work above the treble, taken as a whole, has a similar effect to the 3-4 places in Kent, and the same is true of the work below the treble, taken as a whole.

The arrangement of the places below the treble in Cambridge is very symmetrical. All are at backstroke, and they consist of alternately two made at the middle change of a section and one at a cross-section. The arrangement is as follows: 1sts and 2nds; 3rds; 1sts and 4ths; 5ths; 1sts and 6ths; 7ths; 1sts and 8ths; 9ths; 1sts and 10ths. And so on in a regular progression, the extent of which is limited by the number of sections available on any particular number of bells. At the half-lead-end the process is reversed. The arrangement of the places may be said to be triangular in form and to fit into the triangle formed by the path of the treble and the half-lead-end.

In Cambridge the places form a triangle which fills up the full available space in any number of bells, but we can easily find by experiment that, so far as the ultimate

effect on the coursing order is concerned, the size of the triangle does not matter so long as its base is the half-lead-end.

On ten bells, for instance, we can have three alternatives. One is the arrangement of Cambridge Royal; the other two are as follows, one in which the triangle is the same size as that in Cambridge Major, and the other in which it is the same size as that in Cambridge Minor.

2614385079	2614385079
6241830597	6241830597
2614803957	2614803957
6241089375	6241089375
<hr/>	
6420183957	6420183957
4602819375	4602819375
4620189735	6420189735
6402817953	4602817953
<hr/>	
4608271935	4068271935
6480729153	0486729153
6840271935	0468271935
8604729153	4086729153
<hr/>	
6840792513	0487692513
8604975231	4078692513
8069472513	4708692513
0896745231	7480965231
<hr/>	
8069472531	4708692531

On six bells there is only one possible arrangement; on eight there are two; on ten there are three; and the number increases in a regular progression as the number of the bells increases.

The arrangement of the places above the treble is very similar. Again we have a triangular form, the triangle in the first half-lead being based on the lead-head, and the triangle in the second half-lead being based on the lead-end. The triangles expand in a regular progression in size, and number according to the space provided by the increasing number of bells. In form they are similar to those below the treble, except that places are never made together in the two hindmost positions.

When we have set down the full number of these triangles possible on any number of bells, both below and above the treble, we can work out the combinations of them, and that will give us a group of closely related methods; which, by reason of their peculiar construction, have a capacity for true extension not possessed in similar degree by any other than the simpler methods such as Plain Bob, Oxford, Kent, Grandsire and Stedman.

But not all of these methods are, as they stand, of any practical use, for unless the triangles are large enough to cover between them all the sections there will be repetition of rows. This could be remedied by the use of Kent places.

Of the four possible variations on eight bells, two in addition to Cambridge are good methods. One of them is Yorkshire, which has the Cambridge Major triangle above the treble and the Cambridge Minor triangle below the treble. The other is Pudsey, which has the Cambridge Minor triangle above the treble and the Cambridge Major below the treble. The fourth method has the Cambridge Minor triangle both above and below the treble. As it stands it contains repetition of rows.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 30th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

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.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Barnby Don, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Buses start from Christ Church, Doncaster.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton and Manchester Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Prestwick, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, to start at 3.30 p.m. Bells (silent). Tea can be obtained at the Co-op Cafe until 6 p.m. There are still many 1939-40 annual reports on hand.—Peter Crook and Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, Aug. 30th. Service in Parish Church at 3.45 p.m., followed by handbell ringing at the Vicarage.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at East Ardsley. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea for drinking will be provided. Members are requested to bring their own food. Business meeting in the Schools.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe on Aug. 30th. Ringing (silent) at about 3 p.m. (Six bells).—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Six tower bells available for silent ringing.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting in Church House. Those requiring tea please notify me by Aug. 30th. All ringers welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea if possible is being arranged. Will all members attending please let Miss D. Colgate, 38, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, know not later than Tuesday, September 2nd. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock. Tea for those who notify Mr. L. Pullin, High Street, Yatton, by Thursday, Sept. 4th.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The deferred annual general meeting will be held at Cambridge, Sat., Sept. 6th. Ringing on Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Please come, if possible, to elect a general secretary. I am unable to carry on.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, September 6th. Central committee meet at 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m., followed by tea (all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street). Service in Cathedral 5.15, followed by handbell ringing. Will those requiring tea please inform me by Wednesday, 3rd? All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Next meeting will be held at Codsall, on Saturday, September 13th. Meet in the belfry at 3 o'clock for handbell practice. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your own victuals and sugar. Buses leave Queen Square, Wolverhampton, at 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes.—H. Knight.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on September 13th at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Hall at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. No provision for tea is being made this year. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend, as the new Vicar has promised to be present. Handbells will be available after completion of business.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

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