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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 1941.

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HOME RINGING CIRCLES.

The other day a well-known ringer remarked, apropos the attempts which are being made to keep life in the ringing organisations, 'Whatever we do we shan't be able to start again after the war just where we left off.' That, unfortunately, applies to most, if not all, things. The war has cut right across everything, even our mode of life, and nothing, we imagine, will restart just where we laid it down when this nation took up arms. It will take a long time to bring order out of chaos, and ringing, like many other pleasurable pursuits of man now surrendered in the common cause, will require a long and steady effort to put it on its feet again. We have been warned that we have not seen the worst in this country, so that it is useless to speculate upon what the position is likely to be when peace once more returns to the stricken lands of Europe. The ultimate prospects for the survival of our art may be immeasurably worse than they appear at present, although everyone devoutly prays that may not be the case. Is it not, therefore, desirable that redoubled efforts should be made, even in the face of present discouragements, to prepare for the day when the bells may once more be rung throughout the land?

There seems to be considerable divergence of opinion as to whether it is worth while doing any recruiting at this stage. But in this we do not agree with the pessimists. We believe that now is the time to seek to widen the interest in the art, wherever it is at all possible, and one way in which this can be done is in the homes of the ringers, among their neighbours. It is amazing what interest can be created with a set of handbells and a modicum of patience. An instructor does not necessarily have to be an accomplished 'double handed' ringer to impart knowledge to his pupils. If he knows anything about change ringing, teaching by means of 'single-handed' ringing would, we are sure, lead to good results. There is a strange fascination about change ringing for the novice as well as for the finished ringer, and we suggest that there is great scope in the coming long evenings for these 'home circles' of ringing, not only for the entertainment they will provide, but for the possibilities they open up of bringing in ringers to the belfry later on. Indeed, when they get interested in the art on handbells it is almost certain these newcomers will be equally keen on learning how to ring a church bell, and there will be at least the opportunity of teaching them how to handle one. Ringers might therefore persuade their neighbours to come in one evening and let them have 'a turn on the handbells.' Not every ringer, of course, has got a set of

(Continued on page 470.)

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handbells, but there is generally one belonging to the belfry which might be borrowed.

The fading interest of the members of the local company—such as are left of them—might also be revived by the institution of handbell practices at home where they do not already exist. Single-handed handbell ringing may be thought by some to be a poor substitute for the double-handed variety, but it can lead on to greater things, and double-handed ringing should always be the goal before the company. Even if all the band are new to the 'game,' given a good working knowledge of a plain method, a little study and perseverance will quickly overcome the initial difficulties, and a great deal of enjoyment will be got out of the pursuit, even if the results do not reach peal standards. There ought really to be much more double-handed ringing done than there is. Unfortunately many ringers have got the idea that it is too much for them. It is a mistaken notion to imagine that only super-ringers can manage a pair of bells. Properly approached and given concentration and regular practice, such difficulties as there are soon fade away. May we, therefore, borrow a popular slogan and say to all who haven't yet tried double-handed ringing, 'Go to it'?

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT.

By using five-lead courses, Mr. E. C. S. Turner has produced the following peal of Spliced Cambridge, Rutland, Superlative and Yorkshire Surprise Major, in which there are 1,280 changes of each method. Although a one-part composition, the arrangement of the bobs is fairly simple, and a conductor who studies the arrangement of the methods will find many hints as to how to memorise their order. The peal is not strictly on the five-lead course plan: four courses with bobs Before each contain four leads, and eight courses each with two leads of Rutland are on the older three-lead course plan.

THE PEAL.

23456	5,120.				Methods
	B	M	W	R	
23564	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
52364	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
35264	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
26354	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
32654	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
63254	—	—	—	—	R Q S Y C
45236	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
24536	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
24365	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
32465	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
43265	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
26435	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
42635	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
64235	—	—	—	—	R O S Y C
52436	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
43526	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
54326	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
62345	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
53246	—	—	—	—	R X R
25346	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
32546	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
64523	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
35426	—	—	—	—	R X R
42356	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
42563	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
54263	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
25463	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
46253	—	—	—	—	R X R
24653	—	—	—	—	R Q R
62453	—	—	—	—	R Q R
34256	—	—	—	—	R X R
34562	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
53462	—	—	—	—	R O S Y C
45362	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
64352	—	—	—	—	R O R
23456	—	—	—	—	R X R

ERNEST C. S. TURNER

X = Cambridge, Superlative, or Yorkshire.

Q = Cambridge or Superlative.

If Yorkshire is used for 8 of the leads marked X, Superlative for 16 of those marked X or Q, and Cambridge for 8 of those marked X or Q, the peal will contain 1,280 changes of each method.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 13, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

*MRS. J. THOMAS... .. 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | ISAAC ATTWATER 7-8
† HAROLD HOWSON 9-10

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS,
* First peal of Bob Royal 'in hand.' † First peal on ten bells.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | *REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 9-10

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
* First peal 'in hand' on ten bells and first peal of Caters, completing peals on all numbers from Doubles to Maximus.

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THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

AND BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

DANIEL SMITH 1-2 | PETER WOODWARD 5-6
HAROLD CHANT 3-4 | *RAYMOND FORD 7-8

Composed by JOHN CARTER (C.C. Coll. 98). Conducted by H. CHANT
* First peal. First peal of Major 'in hand' by all except the conductor.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, September 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At the School House,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

*REV. J. SHEPHEARD-WALWYN 1-2 | † JOHN E. SPICE 3-4
MISS MARIE R. CROSS... .. 5-6
Conducted by MISS MARIE R. CROSS.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.' † Twenty-fifth peal.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, September 24, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes

At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE
First peal 'in hand' on ten bells as conductor.

WELSH CLERICAL RINGER BECOMES DEAN.

The Vicar of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, the Rev. J. T. Davies, M.A. (Examining Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of St. David's), has been offered and accepted the appointment of Dean of Bangor, and left at the end of September.

He was keenly interested in ringing and learnt to handle a bell rope in his first curacy at Talgarth, Brecon. He made good progress in the art, for a board in the belfry at that tower records that he took part in a peal of Grandsire Doubles. He was a member of the band of ringers of his church at Carmarthen, and always joined them in their outings, etc., and took a rope in the tower if the band was short.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

(Continued from page 459.)

A critical examination of the three C.O.'s given in our last issue shows (a) the treble has been moved four steps in C.O., i.e., to the Bob Major lead head 18674523. (b) The backward C.O. of row 1 has been changed to the forward C.O. of row 14 with the exception of 5 and 7. (c) The B.S. on 357 of row 10 has been reduced to a C.S. on 57 at row 14. We can, therefore, describe row 14 as the combined result of 3.5.7.8 making C.S.'s with the treble and an added C.S. on 57.

As at row 10, this can be proved by making a court shunt on 57 in the first lead of Bob Major (which, if made by adjoining places in 78, will cause the treble to dodge in 34), then proceeding as Bob Major until the treble strikes its second blow behind after the lead head 18654723 (which is 18674523 with 57 reversed). As at row 10 the C.S. on 57 could have been made after the lead head 18674523 and you will arrive just the same at the 14th row of London 32745681 at the second blow of the treble's whole pull behind. I don't think I need waste space by showing the figures here. No one should have any difficulty in writing them out. Now we come to Section C. This section acts somewhat similar to a turning course in Stedman Caters. It plays on the two course bells (5 and 8) of the 7th together with the treble and leaves the C.O. of 3246 undisturbed. The three course bells each make a place in the order 5.7.8. (Notice how each section plays on three course bells: Section A, 357, Section B, 246, and now Section C, 578.) The combined effect of the three places is to change the C.O. (leaving out 2 and 4) from 618573 at row 15 to 678513 at row 15R.

On examination it will be found that the result is twofold. (a) The treble has been moved three steps forward in C.O., i.e., from the C.O. corresponding to the Bob Major lead head 18674523 to that corresponding to the lead head 13527486. (b) At row 15 the C.O. is direct with the exception of 5 and 7; at row 15R it is direct with the exception of 7 and 8, i.e., the C.S. on 57 has been exchanged to one on 78. As at row 10 and row 14 you can show that row 15R 46273815 can be produced by making 78 court shunt in the first lead of Bob Major and continue the second lead (from 13528476) until the treble is in 7th's.

(To be continued.)

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

NORTHANTS CLERGYMAN'S OUTSPOKEN COMMENT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—You may be interested to hear that at least one clergyman has found himself in complete disagreement with the announcement of the Peterborough Diocesan War Damage Committee, that church bells and church organs are considered 'luxuries' and should not be insured under the Government scheme.

Bells, said the committee's statement, are 'luxuries,' provided by the generosity of churchpeople in the past, and, if destroyed, should be replaced by similar generosity in the future; they should not be insured against war damage. Organs should, the committee goes on to say, be treated in the same way as bells.

Writing in his parish magazine, this is what the Rev. A. A. Liney, Rector of Church Brampton and Rural Dean of Haddon Second Deanery, has to say on the subject:—

'So bells and organs are "luxuries"?' Relatively it is to be supposed, since it is possible to hold services without either just as it is possible to sleep elsewhere than on a bed, and to produce music by means of a comb and a piece of thin paper. The quarrel,' he says, 'is not with the question as to whether bells and organs should or should not be insured; it is with that word "luxuries" as applied to them. In regard to organs, it can be affirmed confidently that all the plainsong in the world can never supplant the accompanied harmony beloved by English people, and the organ never found its way into our churches, ousting the old scraped fiddle in the gallery, or bells replacing trumpets to be dubbed "luxuries" in the estimation of the English temperament and character. After all they are the kings of all instruments invented for the worship of God and the pleasure of man; totally unlike the bastard contraptions to be found in cinemas and similar places.'

Church Brampton in the county of Northants has but a ring of four bells, tenor 10 cwt., in a minor key.

In view of these facts, will Messrs. Smith, Parkinson, Bunce, etc., still say there is no organised or other opposition? These statements, I contend, completely knock the bottom out of their argument.

'ANTI-SILENT.'

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A COLLEGE YOUTHS MANUSCRIPT.

VALUABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Among the books and papers belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths which were destroyed or badly damaged in the fire raid on London in December, 1940, was a manuscript book which contained an account of the early history of ringing. This account was of considerable interest, for it supplied the material from which most of the description of the society given in the official handbook was taken. It has never been printed in full, but fortunately Mr. E. Alexander Young had made a transcript of it which we now produce. It reads as follows:—

An Historical Account. The most authentic records extant prove that the College Youths are the oldest Society of Ringers in existence; they began to be a Company November 5th, 1637 (in the Reign of Charles the 1st), and met to ring on a peal of six at St. Martin's, Vintry, on College Hill, London, and so took the name of College Youths.

For a short time they rang nothing but rounds and set changes, but at length attained to ring a plain six-score on five bells; and it is thought to be about 96 years ago since changes were first attempted to be rung, which was in 1642. About 1667 they began to practise Double Changes on five and six bells, for in that year there was published a book by Fabian Steadman which contains many five-bell peals and Grandsire bob on Six—which we call Plain Bob.—In 1671 that book was again reprinted by Steadman, with many more peals added, and we have an account that Steadman's principle was first rung at St. Bennett's, in Cambridge, by the College Youths, March 30th, 1671.

Thus they went on for many years practising on five and Six bells, and the first great performance we have any account of was at St. Mary Overys on the six largest bells as follows—November 18th, 1684, the College Youths rung three 720's, being the first time that ever so much was rung without standing; the peals were Oxford Treble Bob, Colledge Single and Oxford Single—the whole number of changes were 2,160. In those days when they rung 8 bells they used to ring six-bell peals and keep the 4th and 8th behind, or sometimes dodge the 7th and 8th behind, and when they rang 10 they likewise rung six-bell peals and kept 1, 2, 3, 10 behind.

The first account we have of Triples being rung was at St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate, London, March 4th, 1684-5. The College Youths rung two eighteen scores of Grandsire Triples, and two days after that 700 Triples at the same place. On January 7th, 1689-90, the whole peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate, London, in 3 hours and forty-five minutes (and the first trial), being the first 5,040 that ever was rung.

Soon after the ringing of this peal they began to practise Grandsire Caters, but we have no account of any long peal of Caters till the London Scholars rang 5,040 at St. Bride's in Fleet Street on January 11th, 1716-17. (There was a frame for this peal containing the performers' names, etc., in St. Bride's steeple which was taken [down] and destroyed when the Church and Belfry was repaired in the year 1796 to the great regret of all lovers of the exercise.)

The first peal of 5,060 Cinques was rung by the College Youths at St. Bride's, January 19th, 1724-25.

The first peal 5,200 Bob Maximus or all 12 in, in plain method, was rung by the College Youths February 26th, 1725-6, in 4 hours and 4 minutes at St. Bride's. There were twelve bells at Bow in Cheapside before the fire of London, but they did not use to ring above six or eight and chime the others.

St. Bride's in Fleet Street had two trebles added to make Twelve in 1719 and cast by Abraham Ruddall who also cast the 10 largest in 1710. (These two trebles were the gift of the College Youths and London Scholars as appears by a board fixed in the church.)

St. Martin's in the fields, London, was made a peal of twelve in 1727, the two trebles cast by Abel Ruddall.

The first time of ringing the 12 bells at St. Michael's, Cornhill, cast by Richard Phelps in Whitechapel, was on December 4th, 1728, the same evening that Prince Frederick came to England to St. James'.

The first time of ringing the 12 bells of St. Mary Overy's, Southwark, was August 2nd, 1735, cast by Samuel Knight and hung by Robert Catlin.

This account was taken from the Oxford Ringers' Register Book and communicated by Mr. Scarsbrook, 1796.

* * *

From internal evidence it is clear that this account was compiled by joining together statements from different sources, the editor adding here and there a few words and comments of his own. The date is almost the middle of the nineteenth century, certainly not before 1840. The writer is unknown, and it is difficult to hazard a guess at his identity, but one name suggests itself as not unlikely. Samuel Austin was a solicitors' clerk and presumably rather better educated than his fellows. He was an excellent penman, and some of his work is still to be found in the peal books of the time. For some time he was secretary of the Society of College Youths. Some of his letters are extant, and show that he had a very high idea of the dignity and importance of the College Youths, but no great sense of historical values.

The account preserves some genuine traditions of the College Youths. The statement that they became a company on November 5th, 1637, did not come from any outside source: The society had long forgotten the names of its early members and who they were, for the old name book was still undiscovered in the West of England; but this was remembered, and no doubt had been kept alive by the annually recurring feast.

The references to College Hill and St. Martin's Vintry come from Shipway and Osborn. The account of the London Scholars' peal of Caters probably from Osborn, for his words are closely followed, or there may have been a source common to both. The editor's comments can easily be recognised—'in the reign of Charles the 1st'; 'which we call Plain Bob'; 'to the great regret of all lovers of the exercise'; and the like.

But the greater part of the account consists of extracts from the Oxford Ringers' book, made by George Scarsbrook, a prominent London ringer in the second half of the eighteenth century. The original is lost, but it evidently was written in the year 1738 by a man who had, or professed to have, intimate knowledge of the College Youths, and who was a University man, not a townsman. We come to the latter conclusion from the fact

that the dates are given with the double style, old and new. In 1738 the Oxford ringers used the old style, as did the College Youths and the generality of people; but the more educated, such as University men, were either using the new style, although the law had not yet been altered, or else were using both.

The writer of the manuscript, whoever he was, clearly was interested in the doings of the College Youths. It was not Hearne, for he seems to have known nothing about London ringers apart from Annable's visit in 1733; but though ringing had largely disappeared in Oxford as an undergraduate sport, there were still some University men who took a great interest in the art. Such a one was John Sacheveral, a gentleman who lived at Cumnor. He was a member of the Society of College Youths, and had been steward in 1702. He had a great reputation in Oxford as an authority on bells, and may well have been the author or inspirer of the manuscript.

It is the extracts from the early manuscript that make the later copy valuable. The writer first of all gives what was more or less tradition, but as he comes to events within the personal knowledge of people to whom he had talked, he writes with more certitude and gives fuller details. Here he may be taken as a first-rate authority.

The statement that 'there were twelve bells at Bow in Cheapside before the fire, but they did not use to ring above six or eight and chime the others' shows some confusion in the mind either of the original writer or his copyist. It reads as though the ringing and chiming were done at the same time, but actually there was a ringing peal of ten and two others, probably saunce bells. We have here most likely a misreading of Peter

Munday's manuscript (an Oxford manuscript be it noted) in which there is a reference to 'the 10 bells in St. Michael's in Cornhill—2 were tolled the rest rung'; and to the '12 bells of bow whereof 10 bee rung and 2 toll'd.'

The statement that the College Youths 'at length attained to ring a plain six score on five bells' in 1642 is usually taken to mean that in that year they rang the first 120 of Plain Bob Doubles. It probably was so, but that is not what the words actually say. A plain six-score is not a 120 of Plain Bob, but of Plain Changes, a very different thing; and whatever the original tradition or authority was, the Oxford writer meant Plain Changes. He thought that 'double changes on five and six bells' were introduced by the publication of the 'Tintinnalogia,' and there, as we know, he was wrong.

Very interesting is the statement that Stedman's Principle 'was first rung at St. Benet's in Cambridge by the College Youths on March 30th, 1671.' Shipway, we remember, says it was rung there 'in the summer of 1657.' Both dates cannot, of course, be correct, and of the two, 1671 is much the more likely; but even that probably is too early; and we have another example, and a good one, of the futility of blindly accepting any statement or any date that may occur in old books and manuscripts.

The College Youths' manuscript, if properly understood and used, is a valuable and reliable source of information, but it can be, and has been, very misleading.

COALBRÖOKDALE.—On Sunday, Aug. 24th, at the Technical Institute, 1,200 changes of Doubles 'in hand,' being five six-scores of Stedman and five of Grandsire, each called differently: W. Saunders 1-2, T. R. Butler (conductor) 3-4, T. Butler, sen. 5-6. Arranged for Messrs. Butler, from Liverpool and Ellesmere respectively, who were visiting 'the Dale' on 'Bellringers' Sunday.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. John Sheppard-Walwyn, who, as most of our readers know, is blind, rang another peal last week—his first peal of Minor 'in hand'. It was also a test for the other two ringers, for the last two and a half 720's were rung in the dark.

Another example of the excellent work that can be done by handbell tuition comes from Barnsley, where Raymond Ford has rung the tenors to a peal of Bob Major—his first peal. Before taking up handbell ringing he had only rung the treble to the plain hunt on tower bells.

William Shipway was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760. 'The circumstance,' he tells us, 'which introduced him to a knowledge of the Art of Ringing was his being apprentice to a Mr. Hancock, cabinet maker in that city, who, having been appointed sexton of the Abbey, the author gained access to the steeple. He then formed an acquaintance with the ringers and soon became much attached to the Art itself.'

In the late eighteenth century there was a very energetic band at Oldham, who rang some long peals of Bob Major, and among them 10,080 changes on September 30th, 1783.

The first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells was rung on October 1st, 1907, at Romford, by the three brothers Pye and Mr. William Keeble.

On October 1st, 1793, the Aston men rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major, at the time the longest peal by one set of men. Joshua Short, a farmer, of Witton, rang the tenor, and as it weighed over a ton, it was a very fine heavy bell feat. The length was not exceeded in the method until 1933, when 18,144 changes were rung at Benington in Hertfordshire.

The Eastern Scholars rang the first peal (one of Bob Major) on the new bells at St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, on October 1st, 1749. The church stands by the river in the dock area, but so far as our information goes it has escaped damage in the air raids.

Henry Bagley, a famous seventeenth century bell founder and one of a numerous family who cast many bells, was baptised at Chacombe on October 2nd, 1608.

The first silent peal of Kent Treble Bob Major on record was rung at Liversedge on October 3rd, 1863.

On the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang a peal of Bob Major on handbells on the Arabian Sea.

Thomas Hattersley was born on October 5th, 1839.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one Grandsire Caters and one Bob Major.

THE CARE OF BELL ROPES. INFORMATION SOUGHT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you give me any information regarding the care of bell ropes? During these months of non-usage are they likely to deteriorate? An article in 'The Ringing World' would be greatly appreciated on this subject.

A ringer from a neighbouring tower found his ropes were beginning to have just a slight touch of dry-rot, so they have taken them down, bees-waxed and then stored in a place with the same temperature. He has put on an old rope for the tenor, as the Home Guard have only made arrangements for this bell to be tolled, if it is ever needed.

I think this arrangement of tolling just one bell for invasion is pretty well general around here, so if it is detrimental to ropes hanging over a long period without use, it seems worth while to take them down, leaving, of course, the adequate means for the Home Guard if needed.

I would greatly appreciate an answer to this from someone who can speak with expert knowledge.

Halstead, Essex.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

PECULIAR!

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. E. Barnett, may be interested to know that St. Margaret's Church, Leicester (where I have the honour of being verger) was a 'Peculiar.' In our instance it is a Prebendal one, and is founded in the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lincoln and extends over the parish of St. Margaret's and its chapelry of Knighton. The dignity this church sustained in Leicester was an Episcopal See, and it was exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Leicester, and its parish entirely governed by a Prebendary as Ordinary.

A 'Peculiar' is a church and parish which was exempt from the jurisdiction of the Bishop and Archdeacon of the diocese and archdeaconry in which it stood. In former times there were nearly 300 'Peculiar' in this country and they were of some importance, but modern Acts of Parliament have deprived them of almost all their jurisdiction.

St. Margaret's, Leicester, also still retains its 'select vestry'—one of the very few still remaining—and the present writer is vestry clerk to the governors, who are selected annually by the Justices at a special sitting for the purpose. At one time a former Leicester ringer—Lawrence Staines—held the position. My work in this connection consists in disbursing the income from many ancient charities, amounting to roughly £1,000 yearly, and also the care of the inmates of the former ancient 'Cock Muck Hill' Almshouses.

ERNEST MORRIS.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. MANY UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Preston on Saturday last. There were two sets of handbells available, one in the vestry and the other in the ringing chamber, and both were well used until 4 p.m., when service was held in one of the chapels. The service was conducted by the Rev. I. G. Jones, M.A., curate, and the address was given by the president of the association (the Rev. A. Scott, M.A.).

Tea followed in the schools, presided over by Mr. Scott, supported by the Rev. D. Railton, Rector of Liverpool, and the Rev. I. G. Jones.

At the business meeting which followed the president occupied the chair. There were about 50 ringers present, representing 20 towers and a few visitors.

The committee's report was read and showed that there were 78 hon. members, 337 non-resident members, and 956 ringing members. Only 334 had, however, paid their subscriptions. Of the unpaid 86 were three years in arrears, 68 two years. The death roll was 20. Among those were 10 life ringing members, including Mr. J. H. Banks, the leader of the Surprise band at Helmsore, who was also branch secretary for three years, vice-president two years, ringing secretary 18 years and a representative on the Central Council 15 years. There are over 60 members serving in the Forces.

The balance sheet showed a loss of £18, but as three branches had not sent in their returns in time, the loss was not quite as bad as appeared on the surface.

Two nominations were received for the office of vice-president, and Mr. J. Ridyard, Southport, was re-elected. Out of three names submitted for two auditors, Mr. F. R. Williams was elected for two years and Mr. A. Barnes for one year.

The choice of place for next year's annual meeting was left to the committee.

The election before a peal attempt of Mr. J. H. Crampion was confirmed.

The Rev. D. Railton feelingly spoke of the ban on ringing and suggested that a note be sent from the meeting suggesting that it be lifted for Sunday service ringing during daylight hours.

As no interest on the moneys in the bank was shown on the balance sheet, it was decided to transfer some of it to the Post Office account.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector of Preston (Canon Wallis), the Rev. I. G. Jones and the local ringers.

TWO GUILDS CO-OPERATING

ACTIVITIES OF BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT RINGERS.

A combined meeting of the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild and the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held on Saturday in the garden of the Rev. C. A. Phillips' house at Bournemouth, proved to be very successful.

The ringers began to arrive shortly after 2.30, and the handbells were soon going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, etc., as well as to 'Crazy' Doubles. The Methods Committee need not get alarmed, as this latter is merely a Morris' 240, the new name being the idea of one of the participants after a rather rapid performance.

Cooling drinks were provided by Mr. Phillips and much appreciated by the company, who afterwards attended evensong at St. Peter's. The service was conducted by the Rev. Nevil Tucker, who gave the ringers a short address of encouragement.

During tea the party were cheered at the news that the annual meeting at Poole would take place, all being well, towards the end of November.

Mr. George Preston mentioned the question of subscriptions to the Winchester Guild, and it was decided to ask members to continue to pay them as usual.

The conversation that took place at the gathering revealed a determination to keep going, and one detected much disappointment at the decision made by the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild. The Exercise is very much alive in the district, and the co-operation between the two neighbouring Diocesan Guilds is doing much to keep it so. A weekly practice on handbells takes place at St. Peter's Hall and is well attended, much progress having been made. The combined meetings take place quarterly and are well attended by all ringers in the district from Ringwood and Christchurch to Poole.

The handbell ringers hope before long to record a performance or two. Attempts have been made, but have been so far unsuccessful.

BOCKING AND ITS DEANS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must apologise to your readers for missing the point Mr. Barnett brought up in his letter.

In some ways it is true that there are two Deans of Bocking, although in fact this is not really the case. A definition would be to state that there are two parsons, but only one Dean.

Under the patent of the deanery, if the Rector of Hadleigh resigns or dies, the Rector of Bocking ceases to be a Dean and loses all his rights and privileges as such, and the same thing applies to the Rector of Hadleigh if the Rector of Bocking dies or resigns, until a new Rector is elected.

Mr. Barnett is right in his statement that a Peculiar is outside the jurisdiction of the diocese.

RONALD SUCKLING.

11, Alice Cottages, Bocking Church Street, Braintree.

TRADITION.

ITS VALUE AND PITFALLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am supposed to have upset many old traditions, but I do not think I have done so really. As an historian, I am interested in traditions, and value them, if they are genuine and not baseless legends masquerading as traditions.

A genuine tradition is knowledge of some event, some custom, or some belief which has been handed down by word of mouth without a break from the time it happened. The spurious traditions are inventions of a much later date and usually have arisen in guesses, more or less plausible, by people to account for things they only partially understood. We may be sure that there is always some truth in a genuine tradition, and nearly always some distortion of truth. A spurious tradition may sometimes be true, but it has no historical value, apart from any contemporary corroboration.

The statement that the College Youths got their name because they rang at a church on College Hill is not a tradition of the society. It came from Parnell, a Sheffield man, through Shipway, a Cumberland Youth, and did not appear until nearly two hundred years after the event. It is contradicted by what we learn from contemporary sources.

The statement that the College Youths rang the first five thousand ever accomplished at St. Sepulchre's in 1690 is not a tradition. It is an historical statement, which has come down through the written word, not the oral, from almost contemporary times. It is inherently probable, and may be accepted as true.

Rather curiously the first of these has been widely accepted and the second almost universally rejected.

The rule which says that any member of the Cumberlands who joins the College Youths ceases to be a member (and vice versa) is not a tradition. It was a new rule passed about one hundred years ago, first (it would appear) by the Cumberlands, and afterwards adopted by the College Youths. But it was based on an old tradition of the whole Exercise. That tradition was that no man, anywhere, could, at the same time, be a member of two societies. Even to-day we expect a man to be loyal to one band, and in those days a society was a band. But the rule was much more stringent then, and if the tradition still survived I, as a Middlesex man, would be barred from both College Youths and Cumberlands, and London County Association as well.

The tradition had begun to be outworn when the disputed rule was passed, and was no doubt an attempt to maintain it.

The position of the St. James' Society has been very much misrepresented. It was not founded as a neutral ground on which the members of the two old societies could meet in friendly social intercourse; nor did it ever serve that end, though it suited some of the more energetic members, who wanted to ring peals together, to use it for the purpose of dodging the rule.

It is all right to rely on tradition, but let us be sure that it is tradition and tradition worth following. Not everything that has come down from the past is good. Some things were always bad and some have become outworn and useless. True progress means keeping contact with the past, but adapting it to the needs of the present.

Ealing.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

DEATH OF MR. HORACE WHITEHEAD.

WELL-KNOWN DOVER RINGER.

It is with regret we record the death of Mr. Horace Whitehead, of Dover, at the age of 55 years. He passed away at his residence on Sunday, September 21st, after an illness lasting nearly six months.

He commenced his ringing when a lad at Bredgar Church, Sittingbourne, and for a time was at Canterbury, where he rang at the Cathedral. Some 25 years ago he moved to Dover.

He served in the Royal Artillery in the last war and on returning he travelled Kent and Sussex for the Pearl Insurance Company and became well known to ringers in the two counties. He had taken part in many peals.

Ten years ago he was elected representative for the Canterbury District on the committee of the Kent Association.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Cemetery on Thursday, September 25th. There were many relatives and friends present at the graveside, and Messrs. H. J. Saunders, T. Robinson and C. Turner represented the bellringers. Among the many beautiful floral tributes was a wreath from the St. Mary's bellringers, Dover.

THE PEAL IN TAPESTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the 'composer' (or should I say 'compositor'?) of the 'Peal in Tapestry' referred to in your issue of September 19th of 'The Ringing World', I am naturally gratified by the kind remarks made about it. At the same time, I would like to point out that my name is not Henderson!

I may add that I have worked diagrams of plain courses of more than one Surprise method, including London, Cambridge and Ipswich.

D. F. FERGUSON (lately of Repton).

Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

The Editor regrets that by a slip of the pen, Mr. Ferguson's name was wrongly given. This also answers the letter on the same subject from Mr. T. M. Roderick, of Newton, Porthcawl.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRADFIELD.

A district meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association took place on Saturday at Bradfield. Seventeen ringers attended from eight towers, viz., Great Bentley, Harwich, Mistley, Thorington, Manningtree, Ipswich and Dedham. Handbells were loaned by the Harwich and Mistley companies and were rung in the Scouts' Hall preceding the service in church. This was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. — Johnson). The service was choral, the robed choir being in attendance as well as quite a good muster of church folk who had been invited by the Vicar to attend to help with the singing. They thus had the privilege of hearing Grandsire Triples rung in Bradfield Church for the first time in history, both before and after the service.

The ringers afterwards returned to the hall for tea and the business meeting and, later, further ringing, which was kept going well after the black-out.

The business meeting was presided over by the District Master (Mr. G. Waterman), who was supported by the district secretary (Mr. L. Wright). A few moments' silence was observed for a departed brother in the person of Mr. G. Jennings, late of Tendring.

For the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting of the district, an invitation from the Vicar of St. Peter's, Colchester, was accepted with pleasure, and it was decided to hold it some time in January, it being left to the secretary to fix a date.

The present tea arrangements were discussed and it was agreed to continue on the same lines for the duration of the war, that is that everyone attending further meetings must bring their own eatables.

One or two members asked the reason why the names of the two life members from Mistley (Messrs. A. Fuller and W. Honeywood), who were elected at the annual general meeting, were not mentioned in 'The Ringing World' report of the meeting, and why the death of an honorary member from Harwich (Mr. Woodward) was not mentioned.

Mr. C. A. Ellis spoke strongly against such omissions and thought that those responsible for the report should exercise more care. These three gentlemen, he said, had been great supporters of the art for many years, and it was only right and fitting that their names should be recorded in the columns of their treasured weekly paper.

The District Secretary said he would see what he could do in the matter. Although this was not his work, it concerned his district.

This concluded the business, and the Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place in his parish, for the lovely service and the address he had given; also to the organist and blower and the members of the choir.

Later in the evening the Vicar returned to the hall, and, having replied to the vote of thanks, spent quite a while chatting with the members.

An outstanding example of loyalty to the cause was shown by a visiting ringer from Ipswich, who cycled 15 miles each way with only 24 hours' notice of the meeting. Best wishes were sent to Miss Frost, who is now serving in the A.T.S. 'somewhere in England.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The September meeting was held at Cawthorne. Members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Sandal, Wath and the local company. The Parish Room was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening and good use was made of handbells.

The business meeting was held after tea, the Vicar (the Rev. F. Greenwood) presiding.

Three new members were elected, viz. B. Burkitt and E. Cooper, of Arksey, and J. Wardle, of Barnby Dun.

Mr. W. Moxon offered the best thanks of the members to the Vicar for the use of the room and for presiding, and said they appreciated the time he had spent with the ringers. He also thanked the local company for all the arrangements they had made.

The Vicar, in reply, welcomed the society once more and said he was pleased to know the work of the society was being carried on. He felt it was his duty as Vicar to attend these meetings.

Further handbell ringing followed, in which the Vicar took keen interest. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Little Bob Major and Plain and Double Bob Major Spliced.

It is hoped to arrange the next meeting at Monk Bretton on October 11th.

THE ANALYSIS AND ITS HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope has been giving us the interesting story of the Analysis in your last three numbers, and Mr. George Williams writes on the same subject in your current issue. In the opening paragraph of the first article (page 424, September 5th) Mr. Trollope is made to say, 'It was started as far back as the year 1896.' I think the date is a misprint and should have been 1886. This squares with the rest of his contribution, as Mr. Trollope mentions the tables for 1886 onwards, and this is endorsed by Mr. Williams this week.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON TO BE HELD.

At the meeting at the Whitechapel Foundry on Saturday last the attendance was well maintained, and the Master had the pleasure of welcoming several well-known ringers from the provinces, viz., Messrs. J. W. Jones (Newport), A. Prince (Bath), J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), P. Cross (Bowden, Cheshire) and J. Thomas (Edmonton).

Five new members were elected, viz., Mr. A. B. Wifen, of Stamford Brook, London, Mr. A. W. Heath, of Cardiff, and the three sons of Mr. James Bullock. The election of the last three was rather unique owing to their youth, James being 17, Thomas 14 and Leonard 12 years of age. James and Thomas, together with their father, rang an excellent touch of 360 Bob Minor and also took part in two courses of Bob Major.

A well-preserved copy of the 'Clavis' was presented by Major J. H. B. Hesse to the society to replace that lost in the fire at the Coffee Pot. A vote of thanks was accorded to Major Hesse for his generous gift.

Mr. R. Stannard stated that he had the good luck to call on Mr. R. H. Brundle, of Ipswich, on the eve of his 90th birthday and had conveyed to Mr. Brundle the good wishes of the members.

Mr. E. A. Young formally moved that a luncheon be held to commemorate the 304th anniversary on Saturday, November 8th, and the treasurer offered to make preliminary enquiries.

The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Albert Durant, whose death occurred recently.

A nomination for membership and further handbell ringing brought another happy meeting to an end.

WELL-KNOWN RINGERS MARRIED.

Q.M.S. HAROLD ROGERS AND MISS OLIVE ASHBROOK.

At Halesworth, Suffolk, on Saturday evening, to celebrate the wedding of Armt. Q.M.S. Harold Rogers, R.A.O.C., of Chediston, Halesworth, and Miss Olive Ashbrook, of Isleworth, both well-known ringers in London and Halesworth, and also as a welcome home to Sergt. J. Jennings, R.A.S.C., a member of the local company, the Halesworth ringers rang on handbells many courses and short touches of Bob Major and Triples, also Whittington's, Queens, Tittums and rounds on the 12 bells. The following took part: Mrs. Melville Hocken, Sergt. J. Jennings, Messrs. F. C. Lambert (conductor), A. Foster, W. Barber, J. Jolly and W. Kemp.

A plain course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells as the bride entered the church, and Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' was played on the organ as the bridal couple left.

The band all join in wishing the newly-married couple a long and happy wedded life. Miss Ashbrook is acting secretary of the London County Association and is tower secretary at Isleworth, of which tower Q.M.S. Rogers is also a member.

PUDSEY SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your contributor is not quite accurate in saying that Pudsey 'has the same capacity for producing peals as Yorkshire, and compositions with the tenors together will apply to both alike.' Actually any such peal of Pudsey will not necessarily go to Yorkshire, and an example of this, a composition of the writer's, was published in 'The Ringing World' of August 25th, 1939.

About seven years ago, as far as my knowledge permitted, I examined Pudsey with a view to composing the extent with the tenors together, which, speaking from memory, is, I believe, 10,336, and though I never obtained such a peal (Mr. A. G. Driver afterwards pointed out how one could be obtained from the Rev. H. L. James' extent of Cambridge Royal), I nevertheless put together several long lengths, of which the following is an example. E. A. BARNETT.

9,600 PUDSEY SURPRISE.

23456 B M W H

43526 — 2 —

32465 — — —

26354 — — —

65243 — — —

65432 — — —

65324 — — —

52643 — — —

24536 — — —

43265 — — —

36452 — — 3

36524 — — —

35264 — — — 2

25463 — — —

56234 — — —

23564 — — —

Twice repeated.

The exact wording of our article was: 'for ordinary purposes Pudsey has the same capacity for producing peals as Yorkshire.' The reference was to peals in full natural courses and the intention (badly expressed) was to exclude compositions like Mr. Barnett's.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION DECEMBER MEETING CANCELLED.

Members of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association met on Saturday week at Hebden Bridge and walked up to Heptonstall. Those who were not acquainted with the district had an agreeable surprise and could well understand why it is called the 'Yorkshire Switzerland.' Fortunately the weather was fine and not too warm, for the ascent is extremely steep in parts. As the official guide failed to turn up, the party were fortunate in having amongst their number ringers from nearby towers. Though at times there appeared to be a doubt about the best way, everyone arrived quite safely. Some thought that the vice-president, and other members who were built more for comfort than speed, might be lost on the way, but they turned up perhaps fresher than some of the younger ones.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. A. T. Wellesley-Greaves, was moved by Mr. J. F. Harvey and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, who spoke of the great hospitality which they always enjoyed at Heptonstall. Although the Vicarage was very near to the bells, the Vicar never refused permission for the bells to be rung.

The Vicar, replying, said that he was always pleased to welcome ringers, as he always felt that the bells were there to be rung, and a nice peal of bells could only be for the good of the Church. He felt that the ban on ringing was sheer nonsense and a great mistake. He valued the efforts of the association to carry on in spite of difficulties, he would always welcome ringers who are carrying on the work of the Church and he hoped that the association would come again in happier times and help them to obtain new interest and new ringers.

Miss L. K. Bowling was elected to fill the vacancy on the district



HEPSTONSTALL'S TWO CHURCH TOWERS.

All were ready for tea and were able to do full justice to a spread which would have delighted our eyes in times of peace. One can only wonder at the kind of a table which would be in evidence if times were normal. The church commands an excellent view of the whole valley, and it was a pity that the bells, which are reputed to be among the finest in the county, could not be enjoyed.

At the business meeting in the Church Schools, the chairman (Mr. P. J. Johnson) referred to the great loss the society had sustained by the death of Mr. F. W. Dixon, of Guiseley, and paid tribute to the work he had done for the association. An outstanding ringer, a very able conductor and above all a man of sterling character, his place would be very hard to fill.

It was decided that in view of the difficult travelling conditions in December the next meeting should be left until March. This would be the annual meeting of the district, and it is hoped that a joint meeting will be held with the Leeds and District Society at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. MONTHLY MEETINGS TO CONTINUE.

The Leeds and District Society's September meeting was held on Saturday last at St. Chad's, Headingley. Handbells were rung from soon after 3 p.m. until 4.30 p.m., when tea was partaken of at a nearby cafe, by the kind invitation of Canon C. C. Marshall.

Afterwards the business meeting was held in the Parish Room. The president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) occupied the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley and the local company.

A vote of thanks to Canon Marshall for so generously paying for tea and for the use of the room, also to the local company for the other arrangements was carried on the motion of Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. Sam Helliwell.—Canon Marshall acknowledged the vote of thanks.

A short discussion on the question of continuing to hold the meetings was quickly disposed of, and the unanimous answer was 'We shall carry on.'

The next meeting is due to be held at Shipley, and although the society has made one visit this year, it was agreed that, if arrangements can be completed, the next meeting shall be held there, to enable the members to 'have a go' on the clapperless bells.

Further handbell ringing was afterwards enjoyed.

committee, and Mr. W. H. Senior was elected to a seat on the General Committee of the association. After a course on the handbells, the party visited one of the beauty spots and then returned to Hebden Bridge via the 'Bank.' During the day members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Halifax, Headingley (St. Michael's), Shipley and Sowerby, as well as very welcome friends from Cross Stone and Todmorden.

It was at Heptonstall on Easter Monday, April 18th, 1927, that a record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung by well-known members of the Lancashire Association. The previous Treble Bob record had been made in 1923, when 17,230 of Kent was rung at Over, Cheshire. The Heptonstall peal was 17,824 and occupied 10 hours 51 minutes, as against the ten hours at Over, the tenor at Heptonstall being 4 cwt. heavier at 18 cwt. 1 qr. The peal was rung by Ernest Cutsforth, Thomas B. Worsley (the composer), Peter Laffin, Joseph Leatherbarrow, Edward Jenkins (conductor), Titus Barlow, Gabriel Lindoff and Arthur E. Pegler.

ARTHUR T. KING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope's account of Mr. King recalls an occasion when a few of us were together and he related an incident which had happened a few days before which is worth repeating.

He was, as Mr. Trollope says, a great churchman, and many of the leading clergy had been at Winchester with him. He was walking along with one of these, who was a suffragan bishop, when Harry Flanders came along.

Harry was a rough diamond. He was a typical Cockney and a carman. He drove a van which collected grease and offal for a firm of soap manufacturers where he was employed, and Harry's van could be smelt for miles.

When he saw Mr. King he pulled up his horses and called down from his seat, as only a Cockney can, 'Wotcher, Mr. King. How are yer?' He got down, they talked for a few minutes, and each went their respective ways.

These were not the democratic days we now live in, and when Mr. King rejoined his friend he was asked, 'One of your friends, King?' Mr. King told us he did not like the tone of the question, and replied, 'Yes, that is one of my dearest friends, and I think as much, if not more, of him as I do of you.'

E. B.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

VARIATION.

When we talk about two things being variations of each other, we assume that, on the one hand, there are some definite features which are common to both, and, on the other, there are some definite features which are peculiar and individual to each; and the larger the proportion of the common features the closer we say the variation is. It follows, therefore, that variation is an indefinite thing, a matter of more or less, and so long as there is some common feature, no line can be drawn between what is a variation and what is not.

That is how we use the word in ordinary speech; but in change ringing there has been for many years a tendency to use it in a much more restricted sense. One of the ambitions of ringers was to be known as composers, and to produce peals which they could claim as their very own. It was necessary that these should be 'original' and that the composer should get the credit of having produced something which was quite independent of anything other people had done. Naturally, therefore, men shut their eyes to the features which were common to peals or methods, and stressed the features which were individual and peculiar. This was the easier because composers deliberately neglected to investigate the general mathematical laws which control change ringing, and concentrated on solving particular problems.

When we turn to the correspondence columns of 'The Bell News' of forty or fifty years ago, we find many controversies between men who argued whether such-and-such a peal was or was not a variation of another, but the point at issue was always whether the 'rights' of one of the contestants had been infringed. In order to decide such controversies many attempts were made to define straitly what is a variation and what is not. In his 'Treatise on Treble Bob' (1878) Jasper Snowden finally convinced the Exercise that reversal and transposition do not affect the essential nature of a composition and no 'originality' belongs to any peal so produced. In 1898 the Central Council issued a pronouncement which attempted to settle the question on broad lines.

Consciously or unconsciously, these were all attempts to safeguard the 'rights' of composers, and to say how far a man might go when he put his name to a peal. The things which differentiated peals were the important ones, not the things which linked them; and, to be fair to the composers of the time, we must remember that they did almost always try to produce their peals independently of what others had done. They felt it was not playing the game to take another man's work and deliberately use it for their own purposes.

During the last quarter of a century a great change has taken place, or rather is taking place, in the views of composers. The more advanced of the younger men no longer look on peals as isolated independent things; and they are much more inclined to study and understand the general laws of composition, and the ways in which peals are related. For them originality no longer means what it did to their predecessors. In peal composition the change of opinion is, so far, only partial; but in method building it is almost complete, and it is not possible now for a man to look on a method, even a new method, as something he has himself made and which is his.

Opinions once widely and strongly held naturally die slowly, and here and there among older men there is still the feeling that the methods they worked out are theirs, and just as John Carter resolutely refused to admit the connection between Darlaston Triples and College Single Minor, so they refuse to see any relationship between their methods and others. A not unnatural attitude, but of no interest to outsiders.

A correspondent recently told us that in saying that Brighton Surprise is more or less a variation of New Cumberland we had made 'one more big blunder'; and in saying that Cambridge, Yorkshire and Pudsey are variations of each other we were pretending that 'something is what it is not.' There are (so we were informed) some mysterious things called Round Blocks and Transpositions (things 'evidently beyond our mental capacity') which conclusively proved our critic's case. We are not greatly disturbed, for since by the same 'proof' Oxford and Kent Treble Bob would appear to have nothing to do with each other, we are inclined to suspect that 'Round Blocks and Transpositions' are largely tosh, especially as they further "prove" that two peals which contain the same Q Sets, the same course ends, and the same lead ends are not the same composition.

What concerns us for our present purpose is not the differences in methods, but the things they have in common; for if we study and understand the inter-relationships between methods we shall not only know a good deal more about the science of change ringing, but we shall be greatly assisted in our actual practice in the belfry.

At one time it used to be the custom to treat every method as a separate thing for the purposes of ringing, and to learn its rules without any reference to those of any other method. No doubt it often is so still, but the great development of method ringing in recent years has shown many men that it is very helpful to consider methods as variations of each other and to adapt the rules of one to another. If the development is to continue still further and to become more general it will be largely because of a wider understanding of the relationship between methods. How this can be done we have given several indications in these articles and most recently in the cases of Cambridge, Yorkshire, and Pudsey. A study of variation cannot fail to be of practical value.

While we should recognise that variation is a somewhat vague thing—a question of more or less—we ought not to ignore the attempts made from time to time to define strictly some forms of it, so long as we avoid the mistake of thinking that these strictly defined forms are all the variation there is.

That has been the tendency in the past. The opinion was that a method exists on various numbers of bells, and in three distinct forms—single, reverse and double. All these variations must be called by the same name, and when it is settled according to rule what are the correct reverse and double variations of a method, and its proper extension to the higher numbers, the whole system has been worked out, and anything beyond is not a variation.

Shipway was mainly responsible for this opinion. In many ways he was in advance of his time, and he did good by thus pointing out the relationship between

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. **NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Silent practice on tower bells from 3.30 to 4.30; short service 4.30; tea 5.15. Business meeting and handbell ringing to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at the Carlton Cafe at 4.45 (free).—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Tunstall on Saturday, October 4th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — A special general meeting will be held at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Saturday, October 4th, in conjunction with local meeting. All committee members who can are urgently requested to attend. Financial matters will be discussed. Meet in Church Vestry 4 p.m.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Leicester on October 4th. Ringing at St. Margaret's. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. Tea (2s. 6d.) and meeting at George Hotel (near Clock Tower) 5.15 p.m. Social evening and entertainment at the George Hotel, 7 to 9 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, on Saturday, October 11th, at 3 p.m. A luncheon to commemorate the 304th anniversary will be held on Saturday, November 8th. Further details will be given at a later date.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

methods. Leading men of the last generation, notably Law James, adopted his views, and they find a place in the Methods Report of 1904. The drawback was that other and equally important variations were ignored. On the whole, perhaps, it would have been better if Single and Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Double Norwich Royal and Maximus had all been given different names.

One practical advantage of knowing the strictly defined variations of a method is that it enables us to refer to them without having to give them in full. This is a great advantage in a printed text book where space is limited, and it has been used in the new Surprise Major collection. In the book 150 methods are set out in full, and a considerable number more are clearly indicated by saying that such-and-such methods can be varied in such-and-such ways.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Braintree on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available from 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. It is essential that all intending to be present should notify me not later than Wednesday, October 8th. Please come and make this meeting a real success. A good bus service from all parts.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilminster on October 11th. Handbells and tower bells (silent) available from 3.15. Owing to rationing difficulties the usual tea cannot be arranged. Bring your own food; a cup of tea will be provided for those who send names to D. G. Taylor, Braeside, Ilminster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next silent ringing meeting will be at Barwell on Saturday, October 11th. Bells 4.30-7.30. No tea. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available Church Hall at 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. for all who notify me not later than Wednesday, October 8th. All will be welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The autumn meeting of this district will be held at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service at 3.30. Tea at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. in tower. Special business, so may we have a good attendance? Derby district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) only for those who send their names to Mr. T. Groombridge, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst, not later than Tuesday, October 21st. Business includes election of officers.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

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