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FUTURE OF LONDON BELLS.

During the pause which we have been enjoying from widespread air attack on this country, it has been possible to take some stock of the damage which has been suffered by churches and of the losses among the bells. It is a sorry list, but the most amazing thing about it is that, while churches have proved one of the most vulnerable targets for indiscriminate bombing, the actual loss of bells, sad as it is, is comparatively small. In many cases the churches have been destroyed, but the towers, presumably because of their extra strength, have withstood the shock and, except where fire has eaten up the contents, the bells have remained intact.

Unfortunately London city churches suffered badly in this respect, and the fires which have resulted from air raids have robbed us of many noted peals, among them three famous rings of twelve. Whether they will all eventually be restored to their former glory remains to be seen, and everyone will hope that when the time comes for the rebuilding of the churches the bells will arise from the ashes and devastation shorn of nothing of their earlier completeness. There is, however, some reason to doubt whether, for instance, the twelve bells of Bow will be replaced either in number or weight. The fabric of the church is in ruins, and the beautiful spire is apparently shaken by its ordeal. Its preservation is already being taken in hand, but whether it can safely carry again a ringing peal of twelve with a tenor of more than fifty hundredweights is a matter for experts to decide. Its structure has always provided something of a problem for bellhangers, and it may be that the architects will find that the effects of the bombing will make necessary a reduction in the swinging weight of the bells when their future is considered. One thing that ought to be carefully watched is that no attempt should escape unchallenged if it is sought to reduce Bow Bells to the status of a carillon or chime. We have not yet heard this suggested; it is the kind of thing which might be put forward as a solution of an architectural problem, and should be carefully watched. Better a lighter ring of bells than that Bow should be overtaken by the fate of Coventry Cathedral.

Similarly we hope that the future of other bells will not be left to chance. There have been reports that St. Bride's are to be restored to their former state by the newspaper men of Fleet Street, whose 'Parish Church' this is. If this proves to be true, as we hope it may be, St. Bride's will be saved, and perhaps become more readily available for ringing than in recent years, when the strain of work in this nerve centre of the world of

(Continued on page 518.)

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journalism was the reason given for the enforced and almost complete silence of the bells. Let us hope that the gift of the newspaper men, if it materialises, will provide a desire for the ringing of the bells in proper times and seasons. What will happen in those other London churches where the bells, so seldom rung in recent years, have now crashed into an inferno, is on the laps of the gods. Some, we fear, will never be restored. It is not being pessimistic to face facts. Can we, for instance, expect that the long silent ring of ten at Horsley-down, or the eight at Coleman Street, will be replaced? If they are, we shall all rejoice, but ringers will have small cause to complain if they are not, for these, and many other peals of bells in the heart of London, have long remained neglected.

Naturally, ringers will look anxiously to see that the famous bells which have been in regular use are restored eventually, even though their replacement may be delayed, and we have no doubt that the London ringing societies will make it their special charge to keep in touch with all that goes on in this direction. We feel, however, that their position will be a weak one unless they can support their advocacy with some kind of undertaking that the bells will be put to their proper use. No one can foretell what the future has in store, and there may be further damage to our cherished churches and bells before the war is over. What we would like to see, therefore, is collaboration between all the societies operating in the London area in using their combined influence with Church authorities to ensure the replacement of such bells as fall to enemy action. It is not too soon for consideration of the problem, so that some settled joint policy can be arrived at. In this matter none can afford to ignore the rest, and co-operation is the only method likely to carry any weight.

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago a correspondent enquired about bells in the Isle of Man, mentioning in particular the peal at St. Thomas', Douglas. As I have recently had occasion to visit the island, I was able to obtain details of these bells, which are now a chime of eight by Taylor, the tenor weighing 12 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. An inscription on the tenor records that the original six bells, installed in 1852, were destroyed by fire in February, 1912. They were recast in that year as a peal of six, but hung 'dead' in a steel frame and fitted with an Ellacombe chiming apparatus. Two trebles to complete the octave were added in 1926.

The eight bells at Peel are hung for ringing, but it would now be impossible to swing the back six owing to the position of the outside hammers—two to each bell—of the carillon machine. My recollection of these bells, which I saw three years ago, is that they would otherwise have been ringable, but as the wooden frame is of light construction and six of the bells swing the same way, there would probably be considerable movement. In any case I observed a distinct hostility to any suggestion of ever ringing these bells again.

There are now five bells at the Government Chapel on Tynwald Hill, which also serves as the Parish Church for the village of St. John's, but only the largest is hung for ringing. The other four bells, which were added two years ago, are for the Westminster quarter chimes.

The Parish Church of Ramsey, the second largest town on the island, has only two bells, while the most imposing tower on the island, that of King William's College, contains three bells by Taylor for use in connection with the clock.

Leeds.

R. H. DOVE.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 18, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-THE-MARTYR,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 1,440 Plain Bob and 3,600 Grandsire. Tenor size 16.
ROBERT C. HEAZEL 1-2 | PTE. H. TURNER (Essex Regt.) 3-4
EDWARD T. STICH 5-6
Conducted by H. TURNER.
Witness—William T. Porrester.

First peal on handbells by all.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 19, 1941, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH.
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE 7-8
PERCY L. HARRISON 3-4 | FREDERICK E. WILSON 9-10
GEORGE S. MORRIS 5-6 | JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE
Especially arranged and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Milner, of Kirklington, on the tenth anniversary of their marriage. It was also a birthday compliment to the conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD
(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,
AT GLYN GAETH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

*ENID M. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4
†MRS. R. RICHARDSON... .. 5-6
Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Mrs. D. L. Tomlinson.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal of Minor 'in hand' away from the trebles.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Friday, October 24, 1941, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 1-2 | †W. BERRYAM KYNASTON ... 5-6
†JACK S. ROBERTS 3-4 | *IVOR C. N. BELL 7-8
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATEINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE
* First attempt for a peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal 'in hand.'

MR. J. J. MOSS PEALS.

Mr. Jesse J. Moss, of Bolsover, whose death we recorded last week, had rung 183 peals, many of them in a variety of Surprise methods. The following is the list: Minor, in one method 1, in three methods 1, in five methods 1, Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 12, on handbells 2, Bob Royal 1, on handbells 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 19, on handbells 2, Kent Treble Bob Royal 5, on handbells 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Double Norwich Major 37, on handbells 2, Forward Major 1, Forward Royal 1, Little Bob Major 1, Little Bob Royal 1.

Surprise methods: Superlative 37, Cambridge 4, New Cambridge 5, London 9, Bristol 1, Norfolk 14, Yorkshire 16, Rutland 2, Pudsey 3.

STEDMAN'S PRINCIPLE.—When this system was first produced it is highly probable that the author of it was unacquainted with its merits farther than five bells, for in the old 'Campanalogia,' in which it was first introduced to the Exercise, there is nothing farther concerning it than the original on five. It seems to have been most practised on seven in the city of Norwich, where the art of ringing appears to have flourished at an early period by boards and frames of peals in the steeple of St. Peter's, Mancroft. Latterly the system has been practised to a great extent in the metropolis on seven, nine and eleven bells: being much admired for the amusement it affords the ringer and the music it produces; but as it is too intricate, for common practice it is confined to a few select performers.—William Shipway.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 508.)

LONDON SURPRISE ROYAL.

The debates which created the greatest interest were not those on general and somewhat academic subjects, such as I referred to last week, but those which arose out of some discussion or dispute among ringers at the time. Of these debates an outstanding example is that on London Surprise Royal at Cambridge in 1908.

When the development of method ringing began to extend to Royal, soon after the opening of the century, it was natural that ringers should first turn their attention to the ten-bell variations of the methods which were most esteemed on eight bells, and especially Double Norwich and Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise.

For the first two there were already acknowledged extensions. Cambridge was satisfactory in every way; Double Norwich was not nearly so good from a practical point of view, but none better was to be had. For Superlative, Shipway had produced an extension to ten bells, and the first peal of it was rung at Wakefield in 1826. Law James revived the method and called one or two peals of it. He was very insistent that it was the only true Superlative Royal, and tried to induce the Council to say so and to refuse to recognise any rivals. I was not impressed by his arguments, and, judging from my experience in two abortive peal attempts, each over three hours in length, I think it very poor stuff indeed.

For London, no ten-bell extension had come down from the past, but London Major held the highest place in the estimation of ringers, and it was natural that, as soon as there were bands capable of attempting a peal of London Royal, they should set themselves the task.

At least three bands made the attempt, but only one had any success; and on November 11th, 1907, a band of the College Youths rang at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 5,040 changes of a method which was published as London Surprise Royal. Mr. George Price conducted, and about half the band came from his belfry of Oxhey.

The figures of the method, which was produced by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, were published in due course, and almost at once a strong controversy began in the pages of 'The Bell News.' One thing was quite evident. Though everybody seemed to have a general idea of what London Surprise Royal should be, no one could prick such a method on paper. All they could do was to get as near to it as possible, and since each man thought his own version was the nearest, there was not much chance of any agreement, or of any sound conclusion coming out of the controversy.

The men who took part were all clever and experienced composers, but not one of them knew anything about the mathematical laws which control extensions of methods. It was a matter which had never been explored. Men worked entirely by experiment, and their arguments were only attempts to justify the figures they had produced. I took part, though I did not put forward a version of my own. I wrote one or two letters and a fairly long article, but though I was rather more impartial and detached than some of the others (having no axe to grind) I did not then understand the nature of the problem of extension, for I accepted the theory that 'places are the method,' which I have since found to be unsound. My most sensible contribution to the discussion was to point out that since by common consent

an exact London Royal did not exist, if we had to choose between those that were somewhat near, then the method which had been rung and which was in possession had the best title to the name. But that view pleased nobody.

The battle was really for the possession of the name. Not one of the rival methods would have attracted much attention apart from its claim to be London Royal, nor did anyone contend that they had any particular merits in actual practice. It was another illustration of the fact that ringers have always been influenced by names. Call a method 'Surprise' and they think it must be worth ringing. Call a method 'Plain' and they hardly deign to give it a thought. London Surprise Major is the premier eight-bell method; London Surprise Royal must be the premier ten-bell method. In this they do not differ very much from ordinary people. Shakespeare, we remember, made Juliet ask, 'What's in a name?' and go on to say, 'That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.' But Juliet was an inexperienced girl, fourteen years old, and very much in love. She can hardly be taken as an authority on the matter, and very few of the thousands who quote her realise that almost the whole of her tragedy was due to the fact that there was very much indeed in a name.

Law James, John Carter, Henry Dains, William Snowdon, Gabriel Lindoff, and others took part in the newspaper controversy. Of course, it settled nothing, and proved no more than that each thought he was right and the others wrong, which is the way of such controversies.

Then the subject came before the Central Council. It was raised by Frederick G. May, of Bristol, who had started the correspondence in 'The Bell News.' His action in the matter was due to the fact that he had received some years before an extension of London Surprise to ten bells from Mr. Bankes James, and his band had practised it though without being able to ring a peal. He was, therefore, an interested party in much the same way as most of the other contestants were.

The debate was a long and keen one, but it did not add much to the general knowledge of the question. Law James, W. L. Catchpole, W. T. Cockerill, William Snowdon, Joseph Griffin, the president, and others took part, and in the end a resolution, moved by G. F. Attree and seconded by J. S. Pritchett, was passed which declared that 'the Council declines to recognise any method hitherto rung or published as being entitled to the designation of London Surprise Royal.'

In the circumstances it was the only course to take. The subject was so highly technical that the Council would hardly have been able to form a definite opinion even if the so-called experts had really understood it, and that, as I have said, they did not.

The one conclusion which did clearly come out of the whole controversy was that the London Surprise Royal ringers were wanting, and looking for, does not, and cannot, exist. With increased knowledge we can now say why that is so; and we can say what are the possibilities and the limitations in the extension of the method. That, however, is outside my present subject.

At Canterbury in 1905 the Council debated the question of Bob Triples and Grandsire Major. It arose out of the Methods Report which had condemned them as 'illegitimate.' This had led to some feeling in the Exercise, for there were a number of persons who thought

these methods useful for teaching and as steps in progress towards better things. At least two associations, the Chester and the Essex, had passed resolutions objecting to them being ruled out; and other people thought that the Methods Committee were attempting to dictate to ringers what they should practise, and they resented the dictation. (The committee really had only carried out the work entrusted to them by the Council.)



MR. FRED G. MAY

who was a member of the Council from 1900^a to 1908 and at that time a leading conductor. Afterwards he went to South Africa.

To bring the matter to a head, and to give everybody an opportunity of expressing his opinion, I moved that 'Bob Triples and Grandsire Major, not being legitimate methods, are not worthy of being practised, and that peals in them should not be booked.'

In doing so I referred to the contention that the Council had no right to say what ringers should ring and what they should not, and said I agreed with it, but I did maintain that the Council had undertaken to try to raise the standard of ringing, and if it thought these methods should not be rung, it should say so. There were scores of better methods, and there was no real necessity for these for purposes of teaching. The adoption of the resolution would help to raise the standard of ringing.

Heywood was always anxious that the Council should confine itself to advice and should avoid anything like

an attempt to give directions, especially to the associations as to how they should act; and he suggested that the reference to booking the peals should be struck out. I was quite prepared for that, and agreed at once.

C. D. P. Davies strongly supported me, though his reasons probably differed a good deal from mine. T. L. Papillon and W. W. C. Baker urged the necessity for considering the needs of beginners, as did one or two others, though all of them expressed themselves as desirous of discountenancing the methods. To Law James the resolution was not strong enough. He wanted to substitute 'all methods not legitimate' for 'Bob Triples and Grandsire Major,' but the Council would not agree, and my resolution without the final sentence was carried without dissent.

Since then Bob Triples and Grandsire Major as peal-ringing methods have died out. Not one peal has been rung of the latter and only one (or perhaps two) of the former. Perhaps I am getting more tolerant in my old age, but I do not think much harm would be done if an occasional peal of Bob Triples were rung now and then. I used to be rather proud of one I called on the back eight at Mancroft.

A matter on which many ringers have from time to time expressed strong opinions is the question of umpires for handbell peals. Some still think that no such peal should be accepted unless its truth is vouched for by an independent witness. The Council debated the question on one or two occasions, and in 1895 decided that 'where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.'

It was a very tame and non-committal decision, but time and custom have settled the matter outside the

Council. Of course, it is quite possible for a band to say they have rung a peal on handbells when, as a matter of fact, they have done nothing of the sort. So far, the advocates of compulsory umpires are justified. But why should people make false claims of that sort? They gain nothing by it, for the only reward of ringing a peal is the satisfaction of knowing you have done it. There are a few people, perhaps, whose standards in the matter of truth in peal ringing are not too high, but they exist (so far as they do exist) among tower bell ringers as much or more as among handbell ringers. From ordinary bands, if they say they have rung a peal, we accept their word. If Mrs. Fletcher or Ernest Turner told me they had rung a peal on handbells I should believe them, and the sworn testimony of a dozen witnesses would add nothing to my belief. I see no particular reason why I should not have like confidence in other bands.

STEDMAN CINQUES IN CHURCH.

On Oct. 19th at St. Margaret's Prebendal Church at Leicester, a service for the nursing profession was held, and at the commencement a special touch of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Alfred Ballard 1-2, George S. Morris 3-4, Percy L. Harrison 5-6, Ernest Morris (virger) 7-8, Inspector H. J. Poole (conductor) 9-10, Josiah Morris 11-12. The sermon was preached by Canon H. E. Fitzherbert, late president of the Midland Counties Association.

JAMES HUNT. STERLING QUALITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I pay a small tribute to the memory of James Hunt? He was a man of honest and independent mind, and sterling worth and character. At Central Council meetings I could almost always depend on him being in opposition to me. He usually spoke and voted against me, but the more he opposed me the more I learnt to like and respect him, and I am happy to know the feeling was reciprocated.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

It will be remembered that after the destruction of the Church of St. Mary-le-Port, Bristol, thieves carted off the broken bell metal, and eventually received long terms of imprisonment for their pains. We are now informed that practically all the metal has been recovered and restored to the churchwardens to be recast into bells when the war is over.

The death of Stephen Wood, during a raid on Bristol, is sadly recalled by the announcement that his brother, serving in the R.A.F., was recently killed in action.

It is interesting to note that a peal of Stedman Cinques has been rung on handbells at Leicester. We hope it is the precursor of many more performances of a similar kind. The peal was a wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Milner, and also a birthday compliment to Police Inspector Harold Poole, the conductor, whose many friends will be glad to see him back in the role in which in the past he has so greatly distinguished himself.

Another peal of interest is also recorded this week—Bob Minor at Surfleet, Lincs, rung by Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and their daughter Enid. The latter had rung one peal on tower bells before the war began, but this was her first peal on handbells, and the family will be congratulated upon adding this performance to their ringing achievements.

Enid, then only ten years of age, was the youngest member of the party who made the trip to Australia in 1934, but her limited ringing experience at that time did not permit of her taking any part in the performances. Since her return home, however, she has been a regular member of Surfleet band.

In the 'Do you know?' column of this week's 'Sunday Times' is the question, 'What is campanology?' Do any of our readers know?

On October 28th, 1876, a very interesting peal of Kent Treble Bob was rung at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds. For many years John Reeves' peal, 8,448 changes, was considered to be the extent with the tenors together. Then John Thorpe produced 8,864, and William Harrison 8,896. These are still unbeaten in the ordinary way, but James Lockwood, of Leeds, composed a 9,120, which came round with a single. It was rung in 1876 as stated above.

Eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, all of them over 70 years in age, rang at Pulham Market, on October 28th, 1922. a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

On the same date in 1827, Henry Hubbard, the author of one of the text books on ringing, rang his first peal.

Henry Dains was born on October 29th, 1837.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on October 30th, 1811.

On October 31st, 1791, the Cambridge Youths rang 7,002 changes of Grand sire Quaters in 4 hours and three quarters.

Fifty years ago to-day 14 peals were rung. They consisted of Grand sire Triples 3, Caters 1, Bob Triples 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Oxford Treble Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The last was the first peal in the method at St. John's, Waterloo Road, a steeple which before the last war was very much associated with the method, when Mr. James E. Davis called some dozens of peals of it there.

Fifty years ago next Monday a peal of Woodbine Treble Bob Major at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was 'the first rung under the electric light in the northern counties.'

INVALIDS.

Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, is, we regret to say, in Faire Hospital, Countess Street, Leicester, where he has to undergo an operation for the removal of an internal obstruction. Everyone will hope for his speedy recovery. He would appreciate letters from old friends.

Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, is still in a very weak condition. He has been removed from hospital to a Home of Rest in the city, where he will remain for the present, and, we hope, regain his strength.

Mr. William Seeley, an old member of the Bushey, Herts, band, is, we regret to say, in University College Hospital, London, where he is undergoing treatment for cancer of the tongue. He will be very pleased to see any of his old friends, who will find him in Ward B2. Visiting hours are Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m. Mr. Seeley, who was for some time captain of the belfry at Folkestone, joined the Bushey band in 1909 and shared in many of their former ringing successes.

Another invalid is Mr. John Burford, of Bristol, who has been on the 'sick list' for some time.

MELBOURNE RINGER'S DEATH.

The death has occurred at the age of 73 years of Mr. William H. V. Preston, of Melbourne, Australia, where he was a member of St. Paul's Cathedral band for many years. He was senior technical assistant in the School of Anatomy at Melbourne University, where he had been employed for 45 years, after having been a dresser at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. His whole time spent at the University had been in the anatomy school, and he was known by every medical man who had passed through the university during that 45 years.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING.

To-morrow is the sixty-third anniversary of the opening of the peal of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral, which were rung for the first time on All Saints' Day, 1878.

Up till then St. Paul's had never possessed a ringing peal, which was rather strange considering that London was proud of its bells and had many. In the old Cathedral there was a ring of five in the centre tower, but they probably were lost in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the wood and lead spire, the loftiest in Europe, over 500ft. high, was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. Near the Cathedral was a detached tower with some heavy bells, but they belonged to the Jesus Chapel, a separate corporation which used the crypt of the main building.



THE BELL TOWER OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

The tale goes that Henry VIII. staked the Jesus bells on a cast of dice with a man named Partridge and lost. Partridge broke up the bells and sold them. Afterwards (as Sir Henry Spelman relates with satisfaction in his 'History of Sacrilege') he came to a bad end.

For a hundred years, old St. Paul's had no bells of note, and when it was burnt in 1666, although Sir Christopher Wren provided two splendid bell towers to the new Cathedral, the only bells hung were the five-ton clock bell with its two 'jacks,' in the southern tower, and a service bell in the northern tower.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century there was a great revival of life and activity at St. Paul's, brought about by several eminent and devoted men, including Dean Church, Dean Gregory, Canon Liddle and Sir John Stainer, the organist. Among the many improvements were first a splendid ringing peal of twelve bells, and then later the 17-ton bourdon bell.

The design of the ringing peal was largely entrusted to Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, who at the time was the recog-

(Continued in next column.)

WORCESTERSHIRE RINGER HONOURED.

MR. JAMES HEMMING TO BE NEXT MAYOR OF EVESHAM.

By the unanimous choice of the Town Council, Alderman James Hemming is to be the next Mayor of Evesham, Worcestershire. This honour has come to him after many years of devoted public service, which began as long ago as 1904, when he was first elected to Hampton Parish Council. He was elected chairman in 1917 and held the office until 1933, when the parish was absorbed into the borough of Evesham. He was then elected alderman for the newly-formed ward. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1935.

Mr. Hemming was a member of Hampton Parochial Church Council from its formation until two years ago, when he resigned, and he has served on other semi-public bodies.

He has had a long connection with church bellringing, and in 1911, on the formation of the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, was elected hon. secretary and treasurer of the branch. He held the office for 25 years, and on his retirement was presented with a grandfather clock, with Westminster chimes, in appreciation of his long and valued service. Throughout the 25 years and right up to the present time he has served the association on the committee. He has rung 194 peals for the Worcestershire Association, conducting 58, and has also rung a number for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

Ringers will join in congratulating Mr. Hemming on this crowning honour of his civic career and wish him and Mrs. Hemming a happy and successful year of office as Mayor and Mayoress of Evesham. We hope it may be signalled by bells of victory and peace and that 'Mr. Mayor' may be able to take his part in the ringing.

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

MR. C. K. LEWIS' TRIBUTE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a few words to the eloquent tribute to Mr. A. G. Driver published in your issue of October 17th. I never had the privilege of meeting him, but we had corresponded for some years.

When I first became interested in the splicing of Minor methods, Mr. J. Wath put me into touch with Mr. Driver, who provided me with tables, explanations and criticism, always kindly and constructive, of my efforts. He was quite unselfish and would explain the construction of his extents, laying bare their secrets, and he was the first man, I believe, to construct an extent with only eight bobs and also one with 27 bobs.

If any new idea was submitted to him or a new splice discovered he was the first to congratulate the discoverer. His whole attitude seemed to be that whatever knowledge he had acquired through hours of patient study and research should be passed on to those interested in the clear and concise style of which he was a master. His ideals as regards the standards required in splicing were very high, but nevertheless were such as would allow ample scope while yet maintaining a standard which would stand up to any criticism. No extent, however ingenious, would be admitted to his collection unless it conformed to the standards he had laid down.

The writer acknowledges with gratitude his debt to Mr. Driver and trusts he may be able to carry on, along with others more capable, the work and ideals of our late friend.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.
P.S.—It should be pointed out that the extents in the 104-method peal conducted by Mr. G. E. Feirn were largely the work of Mr. Driver.

WIDOW'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I (Mrs. A. G. Driver), through 'The Ringing World,' take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those kind friends who have written to me in my sad bereavement.

60, Coleman Road, Belvedere, Kent.

D. M. DRIVER.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS

(Continued from previous column.)

nised authority on clocks and bells. Much of Grimthorpe's ideas are now discredited, but at St. Paul's he apparently had not quite a free hand, and the bells, cast by Taylors, of Loughborough, turned out to be an exceptionally noble ring. They are not the style of bell now aimed at by foundries, but, taking them as a whole, they have no superior in the country. The tenor is 62 cwt.

The cost of the bells was a little over £2,800, and another £1,300 or £1,400 was spent on preparing the tower and belfry. To-day these figures would be about doubled.

The ringing was entrusted to the Ancient Society of College Youths, who then stood as the unchallenged leaders of the Exercise, not only in London, but throughout the country. Since then they had not failed to ring twice on Sundays until, at the start of the present war, the Cathedral authorities decided to suspend ringing until peace returns. By common consent the standard of ringing his always been worthy of the Cathedral and the great city it adorns. The method rung is invariably Stedman Cinques, for Sir John Stainer, who took a great interest in the bells, forbade the tenor being turned in on Sundays.

The band which rang the opening touch on November 1st, 1878, stood as follows: H. W. Haley, sen. 1, H. C. Haley, jun. 2, W. Cooter 3, J. Pettit 4, G. Mash 5, J. R. Haworth 6, G. Ferris 7, J. Dwight 8, E. Horrex 9, G. A. Muskett 10, M. A. Wood 11, J. M. Hayes and S. Reeves tenor.

CHURCH BELLS AND AIR RAIDS.

ENGLAND'S LOSS.

Although anything like complete information is still unavailable, it is now possible to form some estimate of the damage to church bells caused by the air raids of last autumn and winter. The worst, like the worst of the destruction in general, was in London, where many famous rings have been lost, as well as a number of single bells.

During a short walk through the City recently we noticed that steps are being taken to render safe the steeples of some of the destroyed churches. Both St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Augustine's have scaffolding to the top. Extensive repairs are going on at St. Bride's, and the sound windows are being filled in with what looks like solid and permanent stone work. This probably is to strengthen the structure, but will prove a good thing when the new bells are hung. It seems likely that no attempt will be made to replace the destroyed bells of Bow with a similarly heavy ring.

In the provinces Bristol has suffered most, and the loss of the fine Rudhall ten at St. Nicholas' is particularly regrettable. We must be thankful that a large number of prominent and well-known rings are safe, although the churches to which they belong have been destroyed or damaged. These include St. Nicholas', Liverpool; St. Andrew's, Plymouth, St. Martin's, Birmingham; St. John's, Waterloo Road, London, and others.

Here is a list of the bells we know to be destroyed. It is probably incomplete, and we shall be glad to hear any definite information of other rings.

London:		
St. Mary-le-Bow	...	12
St. Giles', Cripplegate	...	12
St. Bride's, Fleet Street	...	12
St. John's, Horsleydown	...	10
St. Clement Danes'	...	10
St. Stephen's, Coleman Street	...	8
St. Lawrence Jewry	...	8
St. Andrew's, Holborn	...	8
St. Dunstan's-in-the-East	...	8
All Hallows', Barking	...	8
St. Mary's, Bow, Stratford	...	8
St. Mary's, Matfelon, Whitechapel	...	8
Christ Church, Blackfriars Road	...	8
Bromley:		
SS. Peter and Paul's	...	8
Bristol:		
St. Nicholas'	...	10
St. Mary-le-Port	...	8
St. Peter's	...	8
St. Andrew's, Clifton	...	8
Liverpool:		
St. Luke's	...	8
Plymouth:		
Charles Church	...	10
Stonehouse	...	8
Southampton:		
St. Mary's	...	10
Swansea:		
St. Mary's	...	8
Dibden (Hants):		
All Saints'	...	8
Clyst (Devon): St. George's	...	6
Also an Essex 5-bell tower.		

ANCIENT OAK BEAMS.

WHERE DID THEY GROW?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some time ago a series of articles appeared in 'The Ringing World' on the development and construction of early bell frames. Being interested (sentimentally) in English timber, especially oak, I hoped that someone would have described one of the really big jobs carried out in this, and tell us especially how the frames were carried in big towers, such as the great central towers of cathedrals, which are used as belfries.

Are these towers spanned squarely by oak beams, and, if so, where did they grow?

We know that foreign and colonial timber can now be obtained which would easily span any tower. I have seen baulks of presumably Oregon pine enter our local works which required eight railway wagons to take the length, but this was not available for the old cathedrals and churches.

One afternoon recently I was looking at some of the churches, and especially towers in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, among them Ledbury and Tewkesbury. I took no measurements, but from some pacing I did in the nave at Tewkesbury I concluded that the tower would be about 45ft. square, and, allowing for more than usually massive walls, would be probably 35ft. internally. I have never seen oak beams which would span this, and there are doubtless bigger towers.

A few years ago H.M. Office of Works carried out some restoration work at Tretower Court, an old fortified farmhouse mansion near Crickhowell in Breconshire. I paid several visits while the work was proceeding. One feature was the repair of a balcony on one side of a quadrangle, which, I believe, had received no attention for centuries, probably 400 years. The old timbers were scarfed in many places, but two new beams were used. They were splendid pieces of oak, 33ft. long and 15½in. square.

Perhaps some reader familiar with big towers, or any ancient construction work, will be good enough to say if these beams are exceptional and what manner of timber was used, or by what means frames with heavy rings of bells were supported in towers such as I have mentioned.

I have spotted several big oaks in my rambles. I have a snap of one here which would, I think, cut seven, perhaps nine, beams such as I have mentioned up to, say, 22ft. in length, but not one of 33ft.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale, Mon.

RINGING IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In quoting another centre of activity amongst ringers in the Northern District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, I suggest, sir, when making your comment that 'enthusiasm has long been less marked' in this area you were not fully aware of all the facts. If your remarks referred only to peal ringing or reports reaching your office for publication I agree with you, but if it was a general reference I do not agree.

Church bells were hung primarily to be rung on Sundays and festival days, and I suggest that there were but very few churches with peals of bells in this area which were silent on such occasions.

One of the most northern villages of the diocese is named Woolton Hill, and what an example it would set to some other bands, in the South of England at any rate. The light peal of six was rung by a young band twice every Sunday and on every other available occasion; the ringers were enthusiastic and punctual. District meetings have been held there, but it is not an ideal place, as the tower is small and it is 'in the wilds.' I might add, too, that they were supporters of 'The Ringing World.'

Some years ago the local band rang a peal of Bob Minor, and when it was published in your paper enquiry was made as to whether they were the youngest 'locals' to ring a peal, but, I understand, no reply was given. In my opinion they are entitled to hold such a claim.

This is but a 'second swallow,' and I do not doubt that if a report was submitted from each tower in North Hampshire there would be enough to make a 'summer.'

T. J. LOCK.

57, Holloway's Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

DEATH OF AN IPSWICH RINGER.

The death took place on October 22nd at his residence in Spring Road, Ipswich, of Mr. James Smith, a well-known local ringer, and a member of St. Margaret's company, where he had been secretary of the band for many years. Although not a great peal ringer, he was very regular at the services and on practice nights. He was always willing to meet any visiting bands. He had reached the good old age of 81 years and had been ringing up till the time of the war. His end was rather unexpected, as he was out as usual a few days before. His peal list did not exceed 10 and included a few of Bob Triples at Debenham over 40 years ago.

The funeral took place in Ipswich Cemetery on Saturday, October 25th, after a service at St. Margaret's Church.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

SATISFACTORY RECRUITING CAMPAIGN.

At the beginning of term the Master and secretary of the society were in doubt as to whether many new members would be forthcoming this year, and as a result a vigorous recruiting campaign was made by poster and personal contact through the colleges and laboratories of the university. In addition, on the first Sunday of term the society continued its custom of ringing handbells before the undergraduate service at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

The general meeting was held on the following Tuesday evening, October 14th, at 8 p.m., in Mr. J. E. Spice's room, New College. As zero hour approached, the results of the propaganda drive became apparent. A room built to accommodate one was soon seating 28 people, 20 of whom had never touched a bell in their lives. Among the others were the president (the Rev. C. E. Wigg), the vice-president (Mr. H. Miles), the Master, the secretary and the treasurer.

After coffee had been served, the meeting opened, and the treasurer's announcement of a very satisfactory balance in the bank was received with enthusiasm.

The Master then reported the society's activities during the past year—an account of which has already appeared in 'The Ringing World'—and he added the good news that during the long vacation the society had achieved its first handbell peal.

The president welcomed the prospective members with a special word for one from Cambridge. He congratulated the old members of the society on the way they had kept things going during the last year, and, on behalf of all members, he thanked Miss M. R. Cross for the help she had given the society.

The Master spoke of the mental and physical potentialities of ringing and of its glamour. There was in change ringing something to suit most tastes.

Notice was given of the weekly meetings, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. in New College belfry, Saturdays at 5 p.m., and Sundays at 10 a.m. for handbells in J. E. Spice's room, New College. After a course of Grandsire Triples had been rung, the Master explained the workings of a bell, using a model made by a former member of the society, Mr. W. S. Gibbons. The meeting then adjourned to New College belfry, and for nearly an hour beginners were instructed in the mysteries of managing a bell.

It is said that if 10 per cent. of beginners continue after the first one or two practices, the Ringing Master is satisfied. At each of the four following practices at least three-quarters of the beginners turned up, and the teachers were hard put to it to keep so large a number occupied all the time. But good progress has been made, and the society has every reason to look forward to a prosperous year. W. L.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Like the majority of other associations, the Ancient Society of College Youths have found it advisable to make no change in the officers during the war, and at the meeting last Saturday the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the treasurer were nominated to fill another year's office. They will come up for election in a fortnight's time.

The Master was supported by the treasurer, secretary and Messrs. H. C. Alford, E. Lewis-Cockey, H. Hoskins, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, C. M. Meyer, H. G. Miles, F. C. Newman, G. N. Price, J. A. G. Prior, R. Stannard, J. A. Trollope, E. A. Young, Gunner T. Fox and Pte. L. Fox.

Messrs. E. Lewis-Cockey and H. Hoskins were elected auditors. Expressions of sympathy were expressed with Mr. W. H. Shuker, of Manchester, who has been bombed out of his home, and with Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, in his indisposition.

The next meeting will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, immediately after the luncheon.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SILENT RINGING AT SHIPLEY.

At the October meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Shipley on Saturday, October 25th, handbells occupied the early part of the afternoon, and then the tower bells (from which the clappers had been removed) were tried in various methods until the business meeting, which was held in the tower.

The president was in the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle and the local company.

The President referred to the need of new members, as two had been lost by death since the last meeting. Their names were Joseph Bennett, of Headingley (St. Michael's), and Frank Renton, of Leeds Parish Church. As a token of respect the members stood in silence.

The next meeting is due to be held at Birstall on Saturday, November 29th.

After the business meeting further tower-bell ringing took place until 'black-out' time.

Members will be pleased to know that Mr. George Titterington has almost recovered from his accident. He had been thrown from a trolley-bus while assisting some person in difficulty to get on the bus, which had been started suddenly.

VARIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in your articles on the Standard Methods, especially perhaps in what you have to say with regard to variation. In a sense, I suppose all methods are variations of plain hunting, but for the purpose of reducing them to something like order a line must be drawn somewhere, otherwise we might find ourselves in the position of a man who, having realised the unity of the universe, lost all sense of distinction and so became blind, deaf and dumb. The difficulty is to know where to draw the line.

Here is a method you would probably be correct in saying is a variation of Albion Treble Bob, but its work seems a combination of Kent, Double Norwich and Duffield. What do you think of it? It seems interesting in its work and the music is good.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

17, Station Road, Baildon, Yorks.

12345678	68472531
21346587	86742513
12435678	68475231
21436587	86745213
24163857	87654123
42618375	78561432
24168357	87564123
42613875	78651432
24631857	87615423
42368175	78164532
24361857	87614523
42638175	78165432
46283715	71856342
64823751	17853624
46287315	71586342
64827351	17583624

15738264

[This is an excellent method. It should be compared with Earle Bulwer's New Cumberland.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

ROUND BLOCKS AND TRANSPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The fact that Round Blocks and Transpositions are indisputably established is sufficient proof that every Single Move is part and parcel of the construction of any Method, Principle or System, and it is pure nonsense to pretend that the only function of some Moves is to remove the falseness from the Treble Bob Principle. The Single Moves and Transpositions of 'Gloucester' and 'New Gloucester' give the lie to that false theory.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

A DEVON CHANTRY TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Rayfield's letter in your last issue, the following information occurs in 'Kelly's Directory of Devonshire': 'Slapton is a parish and village on the shore of Start Bay . . . the church was restored in 1905 and was anciently attached to a monastic college, founded here in 1350 by Sir Guy de Brian, knight, standard bearer to Edward the Third and one of the first holders of the Order of the Garter; the gateway tower, 80ft. in height, remains.' It is probable that more details would be forthcoming in the records of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art. If I or any other reader can lay hands on them, your correspondent will, I am sure, be welcome to them.

E. V. COX.

Tedburn St. Mary Rectory, Exeter.

TOWER WAS PART OF COLLEGE.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. R. G. Rayfield's enquiry concerning the tower at Slapton, Devon, this tower is the relic of a monastic college or chantry, which was founded by Sir Guy-de-Brian, who carried the standard of Edward III. at the siege of Calais in 1346. The college was a celebrated seat of learning, and was suppressed by order of Henry VIII. It afterwards fell into ruins, but the shape of the original building may be traced.

The tower did not contain any bells, but was used as a part of the college, and this no doubt accounts for the two floors which Mr. Rayfield refers to.

Sir Guy-de-Brian is frequently mentioned in history, and was the founder of the Ancient Corporation of the Township of Langhorne, which is reputed to be the only one in this country. Langhorne is about 15 miles from Carmarthen on the coast line, and the great novelist, Richard Hughes, resides in the ancient castle. The Corporation holds meetings every fortnight, and these are presided over by the Portreeve. There is also a foreman of the Grand Jury, a Recorder and two Common Attorneys. All the land in the village is owned by the Corporation, and they grant leases, etc. A great day is 'Portreeve Sunday,' when the Portreeve entertains the Corporation.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Carmarthen.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

The history of composition is the story of the development of art forms. These art forms may be considered under two headings, the mathematical and the musical. The mathematical is of prime importance, securing truth, which is the first great essential in change ringing. It also comprises symmetry, the extent to which the bobs and singles are distributed in a graceful and systematic manner. Truth is indispensable, symmetry is an asset. Composition on numbers of bells up to and including seven, concentrates, - of necessity, on the mathematical aspect. In touches, efforts are made to secure the greatest number of musical rows, but where extents are desired all rows, musical and unmusical, must be included, so, beyond ensuring that 5-6 are the right way in Minor, little attention can be paid to any musical plan. The merits of these extents are determined by the symmetry of the various plans of the different composers.

From Major upwards the musical aspect becomes of greater importance. Here the process is selective; one may choose the musical and to some extent reject the unmusical. Truth is still indispensable; symmetry is still an asset; but the musical scope is greater. It has been found possible to marry the musical to the mathematical by adherence to the principle of fixing the heavy bells; and for the establishment of this principle, the basis of

5,670.

23456789

53274968 7
73592846 7
93785624 7
83967452 7
63839275 7
43628597 7
97485623 3

Six times repeated.

11,340.

23456789

53274968 7
73592846 7
93785624 7
83967452 7
63849275 7
38649275 6
86349275 6
46823597 7
26458739 7
56274983 7
76592348 7
96735824 7
36987452 7
48326597 1

all ringing on the higher numbers, the ringing Exercise is indebted to Benjamin Annable, who was born in 1702 and died in 1756.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in "Stedman," wrote: 'In the very infancy of Cater ringing it was soon found that to leave the back bells in their coursing order rounds was intolerable,' from which it might be inferred that before Annable's time this was the plan on which Grandsire Caters was rung. But an examination of this composition, given in 'Campanalogia,' 1702, seems to show otherwise.

Here the 4th is the Half Hunt, and is brought home at each part-end. The disposition of the back bells is left entirely to chance.

The same little book gives the following 11,340, in which the 6th is the Half Hunt, coming home every 1,620 changes.

This seems to have been the plan on which early touches and peals were composed, to make the little bells the Half Hunts, bringing them home at part-ends, and leaving the heavy bells to take their chance. So, as Mr. Trollope in "Stedman" points out, it is not generally understood in what Annable's improvement consisted. Trollope says: 'He (Annable) did not adopt the tittum position as an improvement on the hand-stroke, or round at backstroke, or similar positions, for they were not practised or known in his time. He used tittums in place of the original style in which the small bells were the half and quarter of the large bells left mainly to chance.' The

'Clavis,' commenting on Annable's improvements, says: 'He saw no necessity for parting the tenors in a peal of either five or six thousand. He made the six perform her proper revolution in five courses, and five-six come home together every fifteen. This was undoubtedly a very great addition to Bob Major, for those who did not admire the music of it before now confessed that it was considerably improved. Caters and Cinques, which he found in a rude and jumbled state, he threw into the harmonious tittums where they still continue, and most likely ever will remain.'

5076.

23456789

43627589 1.4.

52493867 1
43526978 78
35426 78
45623 89
65324 89
53624 78
36524 78
56423 89
46325 89
35467289 89

Four times repeated from the line, omitting the last part, produces 62453.

Round with bobs at 3.8.10.17.

B. Annable.

A comparison of Annable's 5,076, given here, with the two peals above, reveals very clearly how order was established out of the 'rude and jumbled state.' The peal falls into five fairly regular parts, each part having one bell fixed behind the 9th. The pairs of long courses with their calls on 78 and 89 alternately, form a feature of all the early peals. The plan provided in the simplest way for a fairly long block of changes, and it complied with the convention that ordained as few calls as possible. A good many years had to pass before the short-course plan was received into favour.

Annable had, as we can see, an acute sense of form, and the advantages of his innovation were threefold. The musical gain was such that it has never been surpassed; composition was simplified and given the means of expansion and development; and the actual ringing must have improved considerably in quality, the regular paths of the great bells leading to better listening and consequently better striking.

5,076.

23456789

43627589 1.4.

52493867 1
43526978 78
35426978 78
45623 89
65324 89
53624 78
36524 78
56423 89
46325 89
63425 78
34625 78
65347289 89

In 1750, two years before he joined the College Youths, John Holt called his 5,076 of Grandsire Caters for the Society of Union Scholars at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, London. The composition, given here, is upon Annable's original plan, and shows no marked advance. The solid block of long courses still forms the basis of the peal. Each part has been lengthened by two courses so that the peal becomes a four-part composition. This peal contains no courses with the 5th behind the 9th, whereas Annable's 5,076 has eight such courses. The musical advantage may therefore be said to rest with the older peal.

One or two special points regarding these early peals are worth noting. The plan of calling pairs of courses alternately

Three times repeated from the line across gives 42657389 Round with bobs at 1.3. 8.13.14.15.

89 and 78 fixed a bell behind the 9th for a long period, but no particular attention seems to have been given to the musical value of that bell. The Tittum Position itself was satisfying enough, and the value of the 6th behind the 9th was not greatly heeded. Later in the century, John Martin, as we shall see, realised the value of the 6th and stressed it.

John Holt. Secondly, the method of changing the bell behind the 9th should be observed.

The calling of a bob after the 89 lead, a call that cut out the course-end, is characteristic of the period. Lastly, the means of returning to rounds was a very clumsy process, and was the only blot upon the beauty of the Tittum Position. The big bells had to be split up, and one of them was obliged to remain in the hunt for as many as five leads. The two homing courses given here reveal how cumbersome the process was. Each of them takes 306 changes, and each of them scatters the heavy bells.

Annable.	Holt.
62453978	42657389
78638452 3	35492867 1
69785324 5	78369254 2
43628597 2	39785642 5
23456789 7	75394826 5
	89765234 1
	26849375 1
	23456789 2 (P)

Other ways of bringing the bells round at backstroke were used by later composers, among them the plan of calling the 8th and 9th before, starting from 23456978. This brought rounds in 12 leads (168 changes). But none of these methods compares with the beauty and simplicity of the Round-at-Handstroke plan.

This great discovery is credited to Francis Roberts. Roberts was apparently the leader of the Fulham band and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Very little is known of him, and none of his compositions seems to have survived. Nevertheless his name will always be remembered in connection with the important discovery that was destined to alter the whole future of ringing on nine and eleven bells. 'New Campanalogia' says: 'Mr. Francis Roberts first made this discovery, but the first peal was called by Mr. George Patrick, at All Saints', Fulham, in the county of Middlesex, about the year 1770.' Too much importance should not be paid to this statement. 'New Campanalogia' contains a great deal of loose information, and Mr. Trollope points out that George Partrick (not George Patrick!) rang no peals after 1766.

(To be continued.)

A DUBLIN PEAL OF TEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just been looking at Shipway's 'Campanalogia,' published in 1830, and I see that he says there 'is in Dublin a peal of ten, in a small tower erected by a private gentleman, on which change ringing is said to be practised; tenor 7 cwt.' Do any of your readers know anything about these bells? It would be interesting to know what became of them if they ever existed and who the gentleman was.

'ENQUIRER.'

A PRISONER OF WAR.

The wife of Sergt. J. Copley, R.A.F., of Barnsley, who was reported missing, has now received a telegram to say that he is alive and a prisoner of war.

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.

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

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 1st, at 3.30 p.m. A cup of tea will be provided, but members are requested to bring their own sandwiches. All towers are requested to send a representative.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Donington on Saturday, November 1st. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the Dial Hall at 4.30 p.m.—W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, November 1st. Tower open at 3 p.m. for handbells. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at old National Schools, 6 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chobham on Saturday, November 1st. Handbells ready 2.30 p.m. Time of meeting will be arranged to fit in with local requirements. Nominations for officers for 1942 at this meeting. Subscriptions for 1941 are now overdue.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Linton on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar) and business meeting. Please send your names in by Wednesday, November 5th.—C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Latest date for application Tuesday, November 4th. Business meeting and election of officers afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available Church House at 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., Warburton's Cafe. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Deerne, near Rotherham. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—W. H. Shuker, general secretary of the Lancashire Association, has removed to 36, Colwyn Avenue, Kingswood Estate, Fallowfield, Manchester.

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