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THE FUTURE.

It used to be the custom, at the parting of the years, for a paper like 'The Ringing World,' to take the opportunity of making a survey of the twelve months that had gone and of congratulating readers on the progress they had made; and then to turn to the future with words of encouragement and good wishes. There was something in it of the spirit which prompts people to send Christmas cards to their friends, a spirit which owes a good deal no doubt to convention and habit, but at bottom is thoroughly sound and genuine. 'The Ringing World' likes to think of its readers as its friends, and likes to feel that their personal welfare is a matter for its concern.

We, all of us, wish our friends well; they would not be friends if we did not. But when at this crisis we look a little below the surface of things what grounds have we, for confidence and optimism? At first sight not much. A dark shadow lies over the land and over the world. It will be long before it passes away, and we may be certain that it will grow darker before it does pass away. We believe, and we believe with that conviction which refuses even to contemplate the possibility of defeat, that the skies will brighten again. But when the sun shines once more it will be on a land and on a people that have been radically changed. We may be looking forward to the time when we shall be able to go again into our belfries and ring as we used to do, and we think we can pick up the threads that were dropped a couple of years ago. But in our hearts we know it will not be possible.

It will be a new world we shall have to face and the problems that the war has raised will almost certainly be most acute when it is over. Everything depends on how they will be faced. We in the ringing Exercise are fortunate that the issues for us are fairly simple and clear cut. We have an art which through three centuries has proved itself of abundant vitality, and our steeples and bells remain for us as they have done through the ages.

What must we do then to preserve the change ringing which has come down to us, and to hand it on to those that come after? First of all we must be convinced in our own minds and being that it is worth preserving. If we regard it as merely a thing that can be done or left alone according to fancy, like a visit to the pictures, we shall not get very far. We must be prepared to take some trouble and to make some sacrifices, for that is the real test.

(Continued on page 14.)

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But we must have a sense of values. What matters at the moment is the winning of the war. Everything must stand aside for that. Only when that is fully provided for may we think of other things. And that brings us to our main point. Our hope for the future lies not in trying to do anything spectacular; we want nothing of the nature advocated by a correspondent last week; we do not want to start 'going to it.' What we want is for all who value change ringing to do their best according to their opportunity and ability to keep alive the spirit of the Exercise, by holding and attending as many meetings as possible; by maintaining touch with their friends; by helping and encouraging one another; and especially by refusing to allow the circumstances of the times to conquer or dim our interest in the art of change ringing.

If we can do these things, if we can combine enthusiasm, and confidence, and patience we shall win through; and we shall be able to face the year that is coming knowing full well that better days are somewhere ahead. He that shall endure to the end shall be saved.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 27, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT VERNON HOUSE, FRIAR LANE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 1,800 changes of Plain Bob and 3,240 changes of Grandsire.

* BERNARD BROWN 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4

* KENNETH GRATION 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Witness: Philip Reed.

* First peal in two methods.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 28, 1941, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT 9, BEVERLEY ROAD.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

WALTER DOBBIE 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6

JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 7-8

EDWIN BARNETT 9-10

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

First peal 'in hand' on ten by the ringers of 1-2 and 3-4. First peal of plain ten by the ringer of 3-4.

OSWALDTWISTLE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

AT 21, FIELDING LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

ISAAC WHALLEY 1-2 | ROGER LEIGH 3-4

CHARLES SHARPLES 5-6

Conducted by C. SHARPLES.

It is 37 years since I. Whalley and C. Sharples rang a handbell peal together.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

DR. SLACK'S PEAL OF STEDMAN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I had not intended to participate in the discussion on Dr. Slack's peal, but certain points appear to need clarifying. When the composition was rung I never bothered to send the figures up, as, in the first place, I knew the Editor had them, although in a very soiled and dilapidated condition, and also because there was then no apparent demand for them. Since then, however, various people have written and asked for figures, a tedious job to keep on writing out, so I sent them up, especially as a friend had typed out some copies with one or two errors which might cause confusion in the future. Besides, I was thinking of entertainment for some of our composing sleuths. I could see them eagerly getting to work with pencil and paper, and their radiant joy it they could only prove it false!

The objection in this week's leading article to the form in which it was presented seems rather querulous to me. We are quite aware that a two-part peal of Stedman Triples, without observation bell or fixed divisions, has only two course-ends, in this case 2314765 and 2314567, but if given as a half-peal, in one string, it is essential to give all six-ends, plain and bobbed. My arrangement only requires one in twelve. This idea has been used in several instances by 'The Ringing World' of Stedman Triples compositions containing no observation bell. Two of these compositions are published in 'The Ringing World' of July 15th, 1921, and July 7th, 1922, and both have been rung. The first is a seven-part. This has really only seven course-ends, but is split up into courses of 10 sixes. The second is a six-part and is split up into courses of 10 sixes (except two odd courses). These peals could have courses of any other number equally well, and would have made no difference to the calling whatever. There is no observation, so each part is a part, however split up. It is simply a matter of expediency, the same as you print 'The Ringing World' in two columns, instead of one, or five, or six.

I am surprised an old and experienced hand like yourself queries any system of arranging or learning a peal, when we have heard of people learning a tune by which to call a composition, and other queer tricks. Even in the case of Dr. Slack's composition a very famous conductor, who had two or three attempts for it, told me of a method he was using which would never have struck me, and he knows as much about calling difficult compositions as anybody, past or present.

Any system is right, to any particular individual, if it results in bobs being called in the right place. Even Freud doesn't claim to know all the intricacies of the human mind! I was interested to see your definition of 'good copy.' I rather suspected some recent articles were a fifth column attempt to drive us all 'crackers,' and am relieved to know that such was not the case. I know you try to cater for all tastes (a difficult job, and I think you succeed), but I'm afraid I should never have been reared as a ringer if learning those was essential!

MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

Bushey.

A SUGGESTION.

Dear Sir,—May I suggest that the best way for the Hertfordshire people to preserve the figures of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples would be to print them in their annual report?

ALFRED H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I did not intend to take up any more of your valuable space, but your leader of the current issue leaves me no other choice than to write you again.

Your explanation why the composition has not been published re 'good copy' may appear to you, sir, to meet the case, but to the majority of your readers this presents nothing but a dogmatic refusal to recognise the talented qualities of the composition, and also offering no encouragement to young composers.

You appear to be wanting arguments to convince you to publish Slack's peal. This, however, would take up too much space, but I would like to take the opportunity of reminding you that several years ago you protested very strongly, and quite rightly so, because the figures of the Painswick peal of Grandsire Cinques were not available for publication. I need hardly add that to the majority of your readers the figures of this Cinques peal conveyed nothing, but the peal was very soon discovered to be false.

Your editorial this week may appear to you, sir, all right. One thing only does this meet, and that is that all your readers now appreciate what 'good copy' represents.

If you, sir, are convinced that what was written by Mr. W. Taylor on London Surprise, and the various articles which some time back were written by a reverend gentleman from the Eastern Counties represents good copy, I can at once assure you that very few of your readers will be convinced.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey

LONDON.—At 7, Glenwood Grove, N.W.9, on Monday, December 29th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,344 changes): R. G. Spears 1-2, J. H. Botham 3-4, E. B. Hartley 5-6, Mrs. J. H. Botham 7-8. First quarter-peal 'in hand' by 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

NORWICH ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT.**DEATH OF THE VICAR OF GREAT YARMOUTH.**

The death took place on Sunday, December 14th, at a London nursing home, after a major operation a fortnight before, of Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, at the age of 71 years.

Son of the late Canon Hay Aitken, of Norwich Cathedral, Canon Aubrey Aitken became Vicar of Great Yarmouth 21 years ago. He was elected president of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers on April 19th, 1941, and in him the association has lost a good friend—one who always appreciated the endeavours of the ringers and was

always pleased to give facilities to assist them in their ringing. The use of the twelve bells at Great Yarmouth was always readily given. During the short time that he was president of the association, Canon Aitken did much to uphold its traditions worthily.

Educated at Bedford School and Merton College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1893 and proceeded to his M.A. three years later, Canon Aitken was ordained deacon in 1894 and priest the following year. From 1894-98 he was curate at St. Mary's, Gateshead, and then for five years Diocesan Missioner at Hereford. From 1903 to 1909 he was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Hereford, and in the latter year accepted the living of North Walsham, Norfolk, where he remained until his appointment to Great Yarmouth. For nine years he was Rural Dean of Waxham, and while at Yarmouth became Rural Dean of the Fleggs. In December, 1921, he was appointed an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.



THE LATE
CANON AITKEN.

Canon Aitken took great interest in all sports and was a member of a great many local bodies, including the Education Committee, Norfolk and Norwich Savings Bank, Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, governor of the hospital, etc.

The funeral service took place at St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth, and was attended by a large congregation. The Bishop of Norwich took part in the service. The Norwich Diocesan Association was represented by Mr. W. J. Lee, chairman, and Mr. J. G. W. Harwood, secretary of the Eastern Branch. Many public bodies were represented, and the Town Council was represented by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members of the Corporation.

The body had been cremated at St. Faith's, Norwich, and the ashes were later in the day placed in their last resting place in St. Nicholas' Church.

PEALS FOR HANDBELL RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I express my appreciation and thanks to the Rev. M. C. C. Melville for the peal of Bob Major and the explanatory article which appears in this week's 'Ringing World'?

It is evident that the writer knows the difficulties which beset such a band as ours at Bournemouth in the matter of ringing performances, not the least of these being the lack of a first-class conductor. My company of handbell ringers would have recorded a peal a long time ago had we had a good conductor. Now they are determined to try to record a peal with our local people, and so one of us will have to call it. I am wondering if Mr. Melville or any other gentleman could deal with a suitable peal of Grandsire Triples in the same way, taking the 5-6 pair as the conductor's pair?

Finally, I trust you will be able to publish a 'Ringing World' every week until victory comes. Without a weekly paper in these times the Exercise would truly be lost.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

118, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**MEETING AT SEDGLEY.**

Inclement weather was the cause of a small muster at the quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild, held at Sedgley on Saturday, December 6th.

After a short practice with silent bells a service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. H. H. Kilborn, who delivered a very interesting address and gave a short recital on the organ, which was much appreciated.

Tea in the Schoolroom followed and then the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided. Two new members were elected, including the Vicar as an honorary member. It was decided to hold the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting, at Dudley some time in March. The arrangements were left in the hands of the secretary.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, who said he was pleased to welcome the ringers and hoped to meet them again in better times. Also to Mr. Fullwood for providing the tea and to Mrs. Fullwood, Mrs. Martin and Miss Martin for serving it. Good use was afterwards made of the handbells.

'CLAVIS CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from page 4.)

THE PUBLICATION.

The authors of the 'Clavis' thought it necessary to give touches only 'in those methods which are constantly in use'; and it is interesting to notice which they are. They are Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal and Grandsire Cinques, Bob Triples, Stedman Triples and Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Maximus, and Double Bob Major and Royal—all of which we should have expected—do not appear in the list.

Of Grandsire Caters a touch of 359 changes is given which is said to be the shortest in which the bells can be brought round at hand. It was composed by John Frazier, and was 'inserted entirely for curiosity as the bells are thrown into such cross positions that few practitioners choose to ring it; but it cannot possibly be done any better way.' Another touch, 'being only two leads longer,' is recommended as 'much more musical and regular.'

The book ends with a list of rings of ten and twelve throughout the country, an archæological account of bells, and a selection of poetry.

We learn that in 1788 there were eight rings of twelve, four of them in London—St. Bridget's or St. Bride's, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Saviour's, Southwark. The four in the country were Cirencester (which is incorrectly stated to have been the oldest twelve then existing), St. Mary's, Cambridge, St. Martin's, Birmingham, and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. The latter, 'though it remains the last, is by some deemed the first in point of merit.'

Middlesex had nine rings of ten—St. Mary-le-Bow, Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. Giles', Cripplegate, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, St. Magnus', St. Dionis', Backchurch, and All Saints', Fulham. Two other tens in the metropolitan area were St. John's, Horsleydown, and St. Alphege's, Greenwich. Of all these rings five have been destroyed and one is now awaiting a new home in the new Cathedral at Guildford.

Of the forty counties of England seventeen had no ring of ten. The others had forty-two, and there was another at Wrexham in Wales.

The account of bells is taken bodily from some unknown author and is very learned, but not of any great interest. The poetry consists of William Woty's 'Campanalogia' and 'Ode,' Rogers' 'Poem addressed to a Bell Founder,' and the lines by an anonymous writer from the 'Tintinnalogia.'

Samuel Rogers was rector of Chillington in Bedfordshire from 1758 to 1768, and his poem is of considerably higher quality than the majority of those dealing with bells and ringing, though that perhaps is not saying much. Here is a short extract:—

'Let Handel play, and Frasi charm the fair
With op'ra songs, and soft Italian air,
Our country swains with greater pleasure hear
Famed Majors, Caters, Triples, and Grandsire,
Which while they ring sonorous, clear and sweet,
The face of commerce smiles along the street;
Their many sounds ev'n some refreshment yields
To toiling husbandry among the fields.'

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the custom was for authors to dedicate their books to some

nobleman or great person. It was not merely a compliment; the patron was expected to make the book a financial success by a grant of money. Following this custom the 'Tintinnalogia' and the 'Campanalogia' were dedicated to the College Youths. Fabian Stedman, who was responsible for the publication of both books, adopted this as the readiest way of meeting the financial risks. So, too, when Doleman and his partner produced the 1702 'Campanalogia' they did so under the patronage of the London Scholars.

As time went on it became usual to publish books by subscription and the dedication became more or less a compliment as it is to-day. William Jones and his colleagues adopted the latter plan. They first secured the support of ringers throughout the country, and they dedicated their work 'to our worthy friends, lovers of the art in general,' choosing 'the whole Exercise at large rather than this or that society or individual which might have looked like a partial attachment.'

The list of subscribers contains one hundred and ninety-five names. Birmingham is strongly represented, and Shrewsbury, and Nottingham, and Halifax; but the name of no Norwich man is there. Blakemore's supposed treachery had caused so much resentment among the ringers of that city that they 'totally ignored' the book.

Every one of the principal London societies is represented, and the names include those of most of the leading ringers of the day. James Bartlett, George Byers, James Darquitt, Robert Pye Donkin, John Frazier, James Hammett, William Hatt, Joseph Holdsworth, John Inville, William Irons, William Lyford, John Lyford, Joseph Monk, Richard Moore, Samuel Muggerridge, Philip Pilgrim, James Purser, John Povey, Winstanley Richardson, George Scarsbrook, William Shipway, Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, Edmund and Thomas Sylvester, Christopher Wells and James Wooster—all of them had done something to make ringing history.

The two most prominent names that are absent are Charles Purser and George Gross. Purser, who composed and called the long peals of Treble Ten for the College Youths in 1777, had been out of London peal ringing since he rang the treble to the Cambridge Surprise Major in 1783. It seems he was living for a time at Bristol or in the neighbourhood and there were no subscribers to the 'Clavis' from that part of the country.

The absence of George Gross' name may be attributed to his jealousy of John Reeves, though it is quite likely that he was an illiterate man without much use for a printed book. Yet the little we do know of him as a composer is entirely due to the 'Clavis.' Four of his peals are given, more than by any composer other than the authors. Considering the feeling between him and Reeves, this might seem a generous gesture on the part of the latter; but we must remember that it was William Jones, not Reeves, who finally decided what was to be in the book, and the peals by Gross are those for which Reeves had no equivalent.

Among the subscribers from the country are William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham attorney; Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal, who was then living at Chelsea; Thomas Groves, the warner of the Union Society of Shrewsbury; Richard Cross, the bob caller of that com-

pany; Charles Day, of Cambridge; James Dovey and Phineas Smith, of Birmingham.

Five bell founders subscribed — Edward Arnold, of Leicester; John Briant, of Hertford; George Hedderley, of Nottingham; William Mears, of Whitechapel; and John Rudhall, of Gloucester.

The book was printed by William Brown, of Poppin's Court, Fleet Street, and was published by Thomas Blakemore. It is also stated on the title page that it was sold by J. Bowtell, of Cambridge. John Bowtell was a skilful ringer and a member of the Society of Cambridge Youths. Besides being a bookseller, he was a bibliophile and a collector of manuscripts. He left a collection to the library of Downing College, which included Dr. Charles Mason's papers, and was thus instrumental in preserving the only copy of Holt's broadsheet of peals now extant.

As I have already mentioned, the three authors of the 'Clavis' quarrelled and parted before the book appeared, and so it would seem that the copyright and the arrangements for publication were in Blakemore's hands. Five hundred copies only were printed and before very long the edition was sold out. As there was a great demand for the book, R. S. Kirby, of Paternoster Row, bought the copyright and published a new edition in 1796.

The familiar name 'Clavis Campanalogia' was omitted from the title page, and the book called 'New Campanalogia' or 'A Key to the Art of Ringing.' It is claimed that there are 'considerable additions,' but the additions consist merely of changes in the final chapter on the history of bells and ringing, and some more poetry. The body of the book is reprinted as it stands

(Continued in next column.)

SILENT CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very much cheered to read Mr. Lewen's letter on 'Bells and Invasion.' I read an article in 'The Daily Mirror' the previous week saying that our bells would not ring any more till after the war, and that certain Home Guards who heard bells being played on a gramophone made a rush, thinking of invasion bells.

But what I cannot quite understand is that there are many churches in our country where the clocks still chime every quarter of an hour, day in, day out. I should like to know what difference there is between that and chiming hymn tunes as was the custom in many places on Sundays before the war.

It was done in my own village on alternate Sundays, and I had the privilege of chiming for some 25 years up till the war started. I'm also a change ringer, and I feel (like many others) done out of a great privilege, as anything done for the Church, or rather for God, is a privilege. And I think that our leaders should remember that Bunyan's words are as true to-day as when he wrote them, 'The bells are the voice of God, calling Christians to worship and sinners to repentance.'

J. W. DYER.

Great Tey.

'CLAVIS CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from previous column.)

in the first edition without any attempt to correct the errors that had crept in.

For this, of course, William Jones was not responsible. He had probably severed his connection with the book before 1788, and Kirby evidently thought he could dispense with the services and expenses of an expert editor.

The second edition was printed by J. Raw, of Ipswich. A few years later, about 1800, a third edition was issued, printed from the same type and published by Longman Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown. In this edition the book is simply styled 'A Key to the Art of Ringing.' Except for the title page the impress is identical with the second edition.

Towards the end of the last century a reprint of the first edition was issued from the office of 'The Bell News' by Harvey Reeves.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are informed that Edward Townley, of the Kendal, Westmorland, band, has been killed on active service in the Middle East. He was 20 years of age, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Townley, of Kendal, and nephew of Mr. Len Townley, the very popular secretary of the Kendal band.

The number of handbell peals conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Melville during 1941 was eight, not seven as stated in our summary. All but one were rung at Swindon, and included in each was one or more young ringers who have learnt to ring during the last two years.

On January 4th, 1794, eight thousand changes of Grandsire Major were rung at St. John's, Deritend, Birmingham. Deritend bells came from the Aldbourne foundry, about which Mr. Frederick Sharpe and others have lately told us.

Ten years earlier the Oldham men rang 14,480 Bob Major.

The College Youths rang 17,524 Stedman Cinques at Cripplegate on January 6th, 1851, beating 7,392 rung at Birmingham in 1848. The Cumberlands made two or three attempts to go one better, but without success, and the Cripplegate peal stood as the record until 1858.

On January 7th, 1767, the first twelve-bell peal outside London (one of Grandsire Cinques) was rung at Cirencester by a visiting band of College Youths; and on the same date in 1846 what was claimed as the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in London was rung at Southwark with John Cox as conductor. It is doubtful if the claim was a sound one.

Samuel Thurston, of Norwich, died 101 years ago to-day.

To-morrow is the 225th anniversary of the first ten-bell peal ever rung. It was Grandsire Caters by the London Scholars at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917, and Henry Johnson died on January 7th, 1890.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung; two were Bob Major, three Kent Treble, Bob Major, and one Stedman Triples.

Ten years ago to-day 19 peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1; Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1; College Single Major 1, Double Norwich Major 4, Cambridge Surprise Major 2; Loudon 1, Bristol 1, Superlative 1, Minor 2, and Doubles 2.

STYLE IN RINGING. AND SOME OTHER MATTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the past few weeks there have been several things of interest in 'The Ringing World' which I have enjoyed, but there were some with which I do not agree.

The letter from 'Novice' is one. I myself can see no reason why a stylish handler should be a first-class striker. One of the prettiest handlers I have seen was one of the worst strikers I ever heard. But two other stylists I have had the pleasure of meeting who were fine strikers were what are referred to in the pamphlet issued by 'C.C.' as left handed (apparently because they do all their work with the right hand).

Does style have anything to do with striking really? Bill Pye's best friend could not say he was a nice handler, yet his bell was always in its place and I, for one, sometimes wondered why.

Now I shall upset some of my very good Hertfordshire friends. I see at a recent meeting a proposal was made that a composition of Stedman Triples should be published in 'The Ringing World.' Well I am open to correction, but so far as I can remember the association have never published compositions or peal references in their annual report. If this is so surely this state of affairs should be corrected first.

This is not the only association which does not publish peal references, and this is a thing that the Central Council would do well to look into, as many false compositions must be rung time after time in such circumstances.

Now regarding the 'Anti-Silent' business, this has had a good innings, so I hope, maybe with other readers, that this subject has reached its conclusion.

Amongst some of the things I should like to read in 'The Ringing World' is a history of J. W. Washbrook's ringing career. Of course, I have read over and over again of a few of his wonderful performances, but never a full story of this great all-rounder. Perhaps no ringer had more mud slung at him than J.W., but this would appear to have been because at times he relied on ringing for his living.

It is also a pity we could not read more of Samuel Thurston, because I feel that Mr. C. E. Borrett was somewhat unkind in his remarks recently. After all some of Thurston's performances were remarkable, especially the first of London at St. Andrew's, where the bell ropes fall in no order and the peal had the tenors parted.

I have read Mr. Trollope's articles, but I still consider that ringing as we know it to-day must have originated in Norwich, or why were they so much in advance of other ringers? In Norwich as a youngster I was always given to understand that much of the material contained in the 'Clavis' was stolen from Norwich, and this would appear to bear me out.

Well, I should like to apologise for writing so much, and will conclude by wishing all my ringing friends a happy 1942.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

Barnehurst, Kent.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

DOWN THE CENTURIES.

Nineteen hundred and forty-one has not been so pleasant and successful a year that any of us will regret its passing. The best we can say of it is that it might have been worse; it has left us still hope for the future, and England faces 1942 with head 'bloody but unbowed.' What has that year in store? We do not know.

I tell you naught for your comfort,
Yea, naught for your desire,
Save that the sky grows darker yet
And the sea rises higher.

It may be so. Yet we remember that less than six months before the last war was won the British army suffered the most resounding reverse in its history. Perhaps—who can tell?—the picture so eloquently painted by Froide may come true once more. The glad news spread like lightning and the pent-up hearts of the citizens poured themselves out in a torrent of exultation. Above the human cries the long silent church bells clashed into life, and all day metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.

That was nearly four hundred years ago, but the towers of our town and village churches were not so unlike what they are now, and most of them had bells. If we could go back to 1542 we should find that the ringing Exercise was already born and that ringing was as popular, nay far more popular, than it is to-day. There was not much cause for national rejoicing in 1542; it was a time of changes and confusion, and though we were not then actually at war, the next year saw one of the many conflicts with France. The churches were just as they had been for many years, but the time was at hand when they would be stripped bare of their fittings and ornaments, only the bells being left. They were left because the people loved the sound of them, and all who could were glad to take part in the ringing. It is probable that every bell in London City's hundred steeples could have been rung at the same time.

THE BEGINNING OF THE ART.

Change ringing had not then been invented, but when we skip a century and come to 1642 the art was already beginning to spread, and the Exercise was beginning to take the form which, with not much modification, has lasted down to the present day. Already there were societies for the better class ringers, and the College Youths had been in existence for five years. They were experimenting with 'cross peals' and had already rung what was the earliest form of Bob Doubles.

That too was a year of trouble. Civil war broke out between the King and the Parliament, and in the end Church and Throne went down in common ruin.

But the Exercise carried on without a break. Throughout the land the bells were still rung and still rung as a sport; the College Youths were never more prosperous; and after the reign of the saints came to an end there was that great development of the art associated with the names of Fabian Stedman, Richard Duckworth and their peers.

One hundred years later the art and the Exercise were full grown. Peal ringing was a normal thing in the life of the best bands, and change ringing was spreading throughout the land.

The year 1742 was not itself a particularly eventful one. The most interesting performance was the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, by the Norwich Scholars on March 4th. Who the band were and who called it we do not know, but probably the conductor was Edward Crane, who had made a name in connection with Stedman Triples.

On the following day a peal of Richmond Triples was rung at Richmond in Surrey. What the method was cannot be said, but almost certainly it was some form of Plain Bob or Grandsire Triples.

At Magdalen College, Oxford, on Easter Monday, the local men started for a ten-thousand of Grandsire Caters, but after ringing over 7,000 changes in 4 hours and 25 minutes, John Vicars, the conductor, made a mistake and called the bells round. Whether the peal was true is perhaps doubtful.

A QUERIED PEAL.

So far as we know, two other peals were rung in the provinces during the year. One was at Coddendam in Suffolk, where Theodore Eccleston had erected a peal of eight bells and formed a company of ringers. In November he got Andrew Field, a London man, to go down and call a peal of Bob Major, himself ringing the tenor.

The other peal was one of Bob Triples at Wye in Kent, where there was a good band who had already accomplished Grandsire Triples in 1736 and 1738.

In London the College Youths were having a quiet time. They did not ring a single peal during the year. The Eastern Scholars were the active peal ringing company. In January they scored Bob Major at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, and after a fortnight's interval the same method at Christ Church, Southwark, both of which churches and their bells have been destroyed in recent air raids. In February the company rang the first peal of Double Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The peal at Coleman Street was recorded in an unusual way. The account was cut into the lead of the church roof, and near it was inscribed, 'This is a lye as sure as the performers lived.' It may have been merely a spiteful or idle remark by some irresponsible person: or it may be an indication that in the opinion of some critics

(Continued in next column.)

HANDBELL RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

A BUSY CHRISTMAS.

On Sunday, December 21st, a party of the Bournemouth and district handbell ringers went to St. James', Poole, to join with the Poole ringers in some change ringing and carol tunes in place of the usual sermon at evensong. Messrs. Townsend, Young and Davis, with Mrs. Marshallsay and Miss Check, took part in two 'touches' of Grandsire Triples, and the Davis family from Bournemouth—father, son and daughter—rang seven carol tunes. Mr. F. J. Marshallsay very kindly conveyed the Bournemouth party to Poole and back.

On Sunday, December 23rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (ten-calls) was rung by Mrs. Marshallsay 1-2, A. V. Davis (conductor) 3-4, F. S. Wilson 5-6, in St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

On Wednesday the Davis family rang carol tunes and Christmas bells after the service in St. Peter's, Bournemouth, for the blessing of the Christmas crib, and again on Christmas morning at the 10 o'clock service.

The ringers met at St. Peter's again on Sunday evening and rang changes and carol tunes before evensong.

On Tuesday, December 30th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in St. Peter's Hall in 43 minutes by H. Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay 3-4, A. V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, F. S. Wilson 7-8. This quarter-peal was rung on the back eight of a fine peal of ten handbells belonging to Mr. Wilson and very kindly loaned to the party for practice.

THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be glad if you would spare some space for a reply to the letter by 'A Member' which appears in your issue of December 26th.

I would point out to your correspondent that the criticisms made by the Bushey meeting were directed at the Central Council, not at any individual member. Most readers of 'The Ringing World' are already fully aware of the efforts made by the secretary of the Central Council to get the ban lifted. In the same way most ringers could name another member of the Central Council who is keeping ringing circles alive in the Watford district, not to mention the best part of Middlesex. However, the functions of the Central Council, I gather, should not be confined to one or two of its members.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

the peal was not faultless. Philemon Mainwaring called the bobs, and is it, we wonder, only a coincidence that vague doubts have been thrown on three of the peals conducted by him—the fifteen thousand at West Ham, the Treble Bob Royal at St. Sepulchre's, and this peal at St. Stephen's?

The other three peals by the Eastern Scholars during the year were called by John Sharpe, and they were all long peals—6,832 and 10,080 of Bob Major at Mortlake and 6,160 in the same method at Gravesend.

William Doubleday Crofts was born in 1742, and in the same year John Reeves was a tiny infant, John Holt was 16 years old and Benjamin Annable 39. It was a year of war, but nothing particular happened in it.

In the year 1842 the College Youths rang no peal. They were suffering from the changes which had followed on the disappearance of the class of men who had formed the backbone of the company during the eighteenth century and the revival associated with the names of John Cox, Henry Haley, William Cooter and Matthew Wood had not yet begun.

PEALS IN THE PROVINCES.

In the provinces also there were the beginnings of a general decline, though several good bands still existed. The Norwich men had reached their prime and achieved all their most famous performances save one. In 1842 they rang Kent Treble Bob Royal and Stedman Caters at St. Andrew's. Two years later they rang 7,126 Stedman Cinques at Mancroft and after that decline set in, slow and imperceptible at first, but after a few years decisive.

Birmingham had probably the most progressive band in the country, for it was the time when the men there were striving for the first peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs and two singles only, with John Lates and Thomas Thurstans as the chief rival composers. Both had been trying to adapt Hudson's peal by cutting out some of the many Doubles that are in it, and finally on August 8th, 1842, Thomas Day called a variation of it in which the number was reduced to two. It was an important stage in the composition of the method and the credit was claimed by both Thurstans and Lates.

Sheffield, too, where William Hudson was conductor, had a good band. During the year they rang both Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

At Liverpool the local men rang 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at St. Nicholas'. On June 25th the Painswick men rang 8,105 changes of Stedman Caters, a longer length than had as yet been rung in the method, but the composition was false; and so was the composition of 8,061 Grandsire Caters rung on the same day in the neighbouring town of Stroud.

William Shipway, the author of a celebrated text book on ringing, died in 1842.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A PROBLEM IN COMPOSITION.
BY AN AVERAGE COMPOSER.

When the Editor asked me to write an account of the problems raised by Mr. Slack's two-part peal of Stedman Triples, I objected that I knew very little about Stedman Triples composition and was unable to give any expert opinions. 'That's all right,' he said. 'I am not asking for expert opinions, at least not from you. I want you to put the matter broadly so the average reader may know something about the matter. If you make any slips, there will be plenty of people to put you right, and you need not sign your name if you don't want to.'

Very well, then. First let me say that I know nothing about Mr. Slack's peal except what has been in 'The Ringing World.' I understand it is in two equal parts, with 598 bobs and two singles. How it is composed I have no idea. I do not intend, therefore, to say anything about it, either in praise or to blame. I am going to discuss the matter on general lines, and if anybody wishes to draw inferences he can do so.

I have never seen or heard the opinion expressed by any responsible person that a peal of Stedman Triples in two equal parts is an impossibility. The older composers, such as Bulwer, Heywood and Davies, seem to have satisfied themselves that it was not possible on orthodox lines, and beyond that they did not bother to enquire. They had good reason for their opinions. On the twin-bob plan such a peal definitely cannot be had; neither can it be had, I imagine, on the odd-bob plan introduced by John Carter and developed by Mr. J. W. Parker and Mr. A. J. Pitman. It is quite likely that this plan is capable of further development, and it would be foolish to say dogmatically that anything connected with it is impossible; but there is no reason why a man cannot feel sure in his own mind.

The twin-bob plan produces the vast majority of the best peals in the method; the odd-bob plan produces all the others (with only two singles) that are any good for practical purposes; and since neither will allow of a peal in two exactly-equal parts, an ordinary person may be permitted to hold the opinion that no such peal (really worth calling a peal) is possible.

I say he may be permitted to hold that opinion, but he must not expect that everyone else will agree with him. He will also, if he is wise, remember that Stedman Triples is a most elusive method to have to deal with. It is as slippery as an eel, and when you think you have got it fixed it will find some bolt hole and turn round and grin at you. W. H. Thompson found that out, and where he failed, lesser men need not be ashamed of failing too.

So far all peals with only two singles have been based on Hudson's 60 course ends. (There is an exception, of which presently.) Whether these are the only course ends which will serve the purpose nobody knows. The thing is hardly capable of proof, though a really expert composer could no doubt reach pretty sound conclusions.

So long as we keep to Hudson's course ends we can know pretty well where we are, but in the wilderness outside them it seems as if anything might happen. Some day perhaps a man, using a new set of course ends, will find a peal as good as Thurstans' Four-Part. He may; but no one has done so up to now, and no one looks like doing it.

Anyhow Hudson's 60 courses make a large number of first-class peals possible, but they all have marked features. One is that the only singles possible affect the observation bell, and that makes a peal in two exactly similar parts impossible. I say 'exactly' similar because Thurstans' composition is for all practical purposes in two similar and equal parts. Only the parts are not joined together at the same place, and one has 'extras' where the other has 'omits.'

If we want to compose a two-part peal of Double Norwich or Bob Major with two singles all we need do is to compose the first half of it and see that it is true. We can then put in a single and we get the second half automatically without any fear of it being false in itself or false with the first half. The in-course half can never repeat with the out-of-course half.

It is different in Stedman Triples. There the courses do not divide into even and odd. Every course is itself both even and odd, and what matters is which way it is written out. The plain course 2314567 contains exactly the same rows as the course 5641237, and the rows come in exactly the same order except that one is the reverse of the other.

This means that in a two-part composition with two singles the second half must be considered not as similar to the first half, but as the exact reverse of the first half. This actually happens in Thurstans' Four-Part and is easily seen when that is compared with the one-part, which is the same thing rearranged.

All these things, and more, complicate the composition of Stedman Triples and forbid us to do what we should like to do, and what very often we can do in other methods. But though the citadel of the method is so carefully guarded and so hard to enter, there is a back door through which, if we care to use it, we may dodge a good many of the obstacles. Composers, from John Reeves onwards, have known of this back door. They have never liked it, and some would never go near it; but a few did find a way through it into the citadel when the front door was slammed in their faces. This back door is composing with 'B Blocks.'

(Continued in next column.)

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is it not time to stop worrying about needless trifles? Some have worried over the Central Council and its officials and others over the ban. No one likes it, least of all us who have rung on Sundays since boyhood, but my personal opinion has always been that once the ban was put on it would not be lifted so long as the Germans hold the coast line of the Continent.

One writer this week suggests we shall not be able to ring at the Armistice because of the ban. It is a long way from that coast line to Germany and it will take time to drive them back there. This time I am pleased to think our Colonies and Allies are determined to finish the job properly. There will be plenty of time to lift the ban when the danger of invasion is past. I believe he will attempt it by air just to satisfy his own people. If we are honest we must admit that even if we were allowed to ring now not half the towers could do so. There are no ringers available. Writers are also worrying why the Central Council does not meet. If they did, would that help the war effort? So far as I can see, no. Our president and secretary at present we do know are helping the thing that really matters, the war, and other members are doing their share.

We do know that our Exercise is safe when we have won, but if we lose it will be gone. Let no one think the Hun would stand peals being rung. For one thing, we should not have bells. He would put all that metal to other purposes. In conclusion, do not be so down-hearted about after the war ringing. It may not be so posh, but it will recover in time, and it will be a real treat to everyone if we can only ring good rounds.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

NO USE WAITING FOR OLDER MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter by 'Looking Forward' in your issue of December 12th, I am with him as regards the forming of a National Association. I quite agree it is of no use waiting for the older members of the Exercise to give a lead.

But for the time being the men with the vision and the courage that would be required to launch such an undertaking are engaged in a far more serious matter.

Nevertheless, it would be very helpful if some of the older members gave us their opinion on the matter.

The least that could be done at present would be to keep the project in mind until the time to launch it was more opportune.

If ever a National Association is formed, I respectfully suggest that its leaders be 'selected' for their business abilities, and not because of their ringing abilities only, or social standing, as appears to have been the case in so many instances.

T. HARRIS.

Shirehampton, Bristol.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

(Continued from previous column.)

A B Block in any method is the round block formed by making bobs at every lead-end, or in Stedman at every Six-end. These blocks are, for purposes of composition, the natural courses of the method, and the means by which they are joined together are omits, not bobs. A peal of Stedman Triples produced in this way is to a fastidious taste not Stedman Triples at all, but Stedman Doubles with two bells dodging behind. Every now and then one of the two is taken away and another put in its place.

If anybody likes to call such stuff Stedman Triples there is no law to prevent him, but we have the experience of the Exercise to show that no band will willingly ring it if what they want can be obtained in any other way. It is remarkable what people will put up with when there is nothing else to do. In 1788 the best of the London ringers would not tolerate two bobs in Stedman Triples at following Sixes. Their musical ears forbade it. But in 1803 Charles Barber called Edward's peal for the College Youths with 722 calls. No doubt the band were proud of themselves when they had finished, but I don't suppose they wanted to ring it again.

When you are composing by B Blocks you can first of all set down the 5,040 rows in 84 courses, and then your task is to join them all into one block by means of omits and singles. You will find that there are still many difficulties to overcome, but they won't strike you as insurmountable providing you have patience enough; and some things which seemed impossible with the orthodox plan of composition seem quite possible with this.

A peal in two equal parts with two singles? Why not? First of all join four blocks together with a single, an omit, a single and an omit. There is a basis for a peal. All you have to do is to join the right 40 blocks to the first two blocks. That's all, but you will find you will want all your wits and perhaps somebody's else too. When you have done it you will be entitled to be proud of yourself, but it is the sort of pride which belongs to the solving of a very difficult crossword puzzle. The doing it is the thing that matters. The result is nothing. Ought we not to ring such a peal then? Good gracious, no!

THE UTILITARIANS.

A CRITIC AND 'ANTI-SILENT.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I haven't the time nor you the space for me to follow 'Anti-Silent' through all the labyrinthian arguments in his last letter; neither would your readers have the patience to read such a long reply. I shall, however, be glad if you will kindly let me make one or two comments upon his latest effusion—not with the idea of silencing his criticism. I wouldn't try to do that for worlds even if I could, but I couldn't, for he is obviously one of those who, like Tennyson's 'brook, goes on for ever.

When I ask 'Anti-Silent' to devote some of his energy to getting a move on in the association (if any) to which he owes allegiance, he replies by saying he owes his allegiance to the Exercise as a whole and that 'this is not an individual association question.'

If this is not an association question I ask in the name of all that's righteous whose business is it? If, as 'Anti-Silent' suggests, the Central Council is no good for the purpose because it only pushes one way (presumably not the way 'Anti-Silent' would have it go), who is there left to do anything if the associations don't do it? The Exercise, to which 'Anti-Silent' owes allegiance, is inarticulate without either the associations or the Central Council, and 'Anti-Silent' might as well go out and plough the sands of the Sahara as to expect results.

'Anti-Silent' seems to have a penchant for misrepresentation. He goes to some length to make me look absurd over the lantern lectures, by quoting his own experience in bygone years when for the sake of entertainment which it afforded the audience he gave 15 talks. He conveniently ignores the circumstances to which I deliberately referred when I asked, 'Does "Anti-Silent" imagine that in a parish where . . . we have to face this "utilitarian ramp and nonsense" he or anyone else would get even his nose into a lecture hall, let alone give a lecture, as an introduction to a fight with the sword of the spirit?' Not quite the same thing, sir, as the circumstances under which 'Anti-Silent's' talks were given.

In this connection, may I call your readers' attention to the fact that this is not the first piece of misrepresentation on the part of 'Anti-Silent,' and I have not yet observed any kind of apology from him for his misquotation of the article by the Rev. A. A. Liney, of Brampton?

Just one other word. In answer to my challenge as to what 'Anti-Silent' is doing (again made in connection with his actions in this campaign of his and not to his past peace-time activities) he refers your readers to his letter of August 15th. Well, sir, I have referred to that letter and I give him credit for the fact that two years ago he made a house-to-house collection towards a bell fund 'in a parish of 600 houses, out of which 391 gave.' Then, of course, we may add his many long letters to 'The Ringing World' which must have taken up a lot of his time. Next he tells you that he notices I do not tell you what I am doing. Actually I was too modest, but I can't let the challenge pass, so here I recount my many glorious deeds, beginning with peace time, as 'Anti-Silent' does, so that we can start all square. Now, let me see. I have taught quite a lot of young people how to ring; I have helped many of them through their first peal. I have acted, for a short time, as a district secretary, and I have served for ten years as the general secretary of my association. I have also given lectures on bells and bellringing. I once raised over £600 for a bell restoration. There is one other thing I have done—but in my modesty wild horses will not drag that from me. But wait a minute—there is another admission I will make. I have, like 'Anti-Silent,' written letters to 'The Ringing World,' but happily for your readers not at such length, although this one, I fear, threatens to be so.

'PLAIN HUNT.'

This letter has been unavoidably held over for a time. The correspondence may now cease.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

THE ALDBOURNE FOUNDRY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. F. Sharpe's article in your last issue is very interesting, but he omits to say that the Wells, both Robert and James, used to make 'rumbler' on crotal bells, usually used for horses. I discovered a lot when 'hiking' across the Wiltshire Downs and calling at farms.

Mr. Sharpe says that James Wells sold out to Thomas Mears in 1876. Is this correct? I always understood it was in 1815. Thomas Mears made these 'rumbler' with the casts used by Robert and James Wells and bearing the latter's initials. Would Mr. Sharpe tell us more about the Burford foundry of Thomas Bond? I am sure many of your readers would be interested, seeing the interesting details mentioned by Mr. F. Sharpe.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

A ROUND PEAL.—A Round Peale is to ring the Bells what space of time the Ringers please.—R. Holme, 'Armoury,' A.D. 1688.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Saturday, December 27th. 1260 Bob Royal in 45 minutes: *Gordon Briggs 1-2, †G. Gordon Graham (conductor) 3-4, *Roy Fox 5-6, *Norman Fox 7-8, †Percy J. Jervis 9-10. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal 'in hand.'

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.

GOOD PROGRESS IN LEICESTER.

In these very difficult times meetings of the Police Guild are almost out of the question and it is very difficult to keep in touch with all members. In view of this it was decided to send to each member at the last known address a Christmas and New Year greeting card. Particular difficulty is experienced with regard to the Metropolitan Police members on account of the inter-divisional changes. Any member of the Guild who did not receive the greeting is asked to communicate with the hon. secretary, Inspector H. J. Poole, 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, to whom should be forwarded the member's present address.

Three or four months ago an effort was made to take advantage of the ringing ban and the clapperless bells to teach some new ringers at Leicester Cathedral. About a dozen members of the Leicester City Police were invited to try their luck and they soon made rapid progress in the handling of a bell. As was to be expected, on two occasions a stay proved to be ineffective in stopping the long and strong pull and had to be replaced, but this was considered not at all bad in view of the number of persons taught and the hours spent at teaching. Progress generally has been very satisfactory and the efforts of the teachers well worth while. One learner has rung Stedman Triples and several have rung the treble and tenor to Grandsire Triples. As a result of this effort the Leicester City Police now have 14 members who are keenly interested in the art of ringing, and the National Guild of Police Ringers will benefit accordingly.

The thanks of the police learners are due to Mr. Ernest Rawson and Mrs. Poole, of the Cathedral band, for their weekly attendances at practices in all weathers, not forgetting Jill Poole, who, in making up the band, has made good progress herself. Thanks are also due to Messrs. Ernest and Josiah Morris for their kind assistance at the occasional morning practices for the 'night-duty' men.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

In spite of the handicap imposed by the Control of Noise Order, the year 1941 was duly rung out and the New Year rung in by the Leicester Cathedral ringers, and so the old English custom was not allowed to lapse. The Order was not contravened. There were too many policemen present. The ceremony was performed on handbells and this was followed by a visit to the belfry for ringing on the peal of twelve, the clappers of which have been removed.

The assembly was arranged for 10.10 p.m. at the Cathedral Church House. The entertainment included selections on the set of 37 handbells, the handbell band being Miss Jill Poole, Harold J. Poole, Miss F. A. Poole, Mrs. H. J. Poole, Harry Wayne and Arthur Moore. Friend Bromley duly acquainted the audience by song how Auntie Fanny was buried in a hole, and with Messrs. F. A. Poole and D. Robinson rendered the 'Policeman's Night Out,' a mixed medley showing the variety of a policeman's lot at night. Carols were also sung to the accompaniment of the accordion.

Refreshments were handed round by the gentlemen, who did their 'Nippy' stuff quite well and to the apparent satisfaction of the ladies.

Midnight was preceded by a course of Grandsire Caters on the handbells by the following: Miss Jill Poole, Frederick E. Wilson, Ernest Morris, Harold J. Poole and Josiah Morris.

The New Year was welcomed in by a 'rise and fall' on a specially selected heavy peal of eight handbells and a dark man with a black face, who wished everyone present a very happy and prosperous New Year. A visit was then made to the belfry and a survey here revealed that 42 persons were present. Rounds were rung for the learners and the ringing also included a touch of Stedman Caters and courses of Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. Nine learners were made members of the Midland Counties Association, and as rounds were being rung each new member called out his name, which was taken down by the general hon. secretary of the association. They were proposed and seconded and each duly footed the bill. This resulted in quite a rush for the honour of being the first member to pay his subscription in the new year.

A return was made to the Cathedral Church House, where, in the meantime, tables and chairs had been cleared. The younger element, fully represented, then enjoyed some dancing.

The proceedings concluded about 1.15 a.m. with the song, 'Should Old Acquaintance be Forgotten,' everyone well satisfied that the New Year had been signalled in in the best and old traditional style.

WOODMANCOTE.

There are only three bells in the steeple at Woodmancote and one of them is cracked, but at a carol service on Sunday, December 21st, for the first time in living memory, changes were rung in the church from the chancel steps. The ringing, which lasted for ten minutes, consisted of courses of Grandsire Doubles, and the band was Miss Stella M. Wickens (aged 10 years) 1-2, Charles Tyler 3-4, Charles H. Wickens 5-6. Mr. Tyler is the grand old man of the Sussex County Association.

GRANDSIRE CATERS. THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 10.)

Squire Fortrey, of Kings Norton-by-Galby, had given the two trebles to St. Margaret's, Leicester. He had an interest in the Leicester Scholars and in the Society of Sherwood Youths in Nottingham, and the worthy gentleman offered a peal of handbells to the society that rang the first peal of 10,000. With recollection of their recent 6,012, the Leicester Scholars went to work enthusiastically to secure the prize. The following extract from John Martin's MS. book tells the story in inimitable fashion:—

'It was agreed by the Leicester Change Ringers To Go for a peal of Ten Thousand and Eighty Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, which They Did Every Monday Morning, and after a Tryal of several Times, They compleated Their Desires. Foure Times They Rung Eight Thousand, and Once they Rung Nine Thousand, and then ye Man that Rung the Third Missed his Salley, and ye peal was lost. Another Tryal Twok place on the 25th Day of February, 1776, and 5,000 changes Was Rung in the Morning and In ye afternoon of ye same Day they Compleated the Great peal of 10,080 Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, in Seven hours and Twelve Minuets, the Next Day the Society Met and Cheard Three of the Oldest Members Through the principle Streets of the Town, and the inhabitants of ye town Made a Subscription and it Ris to the Eight (i.e. height) of Thirty Three pounds and upwards, which Names are hear wrote under. Begin from St. Margaret's Church.'

Then follow 22 columns of names and the amount each gave. Contributions ranged from 2d. to a guinea, given by 'Mr. Watts for Ale.' The collectors missed very little (In the Combshop, 2s. 6d.), and their enthusiasm was in no way abated by the next day, for we read: 'Received the Next Day of people that was not St home 2s. 2d.'

The ringers were: William Ryder Treble, Benjamin Warburton 2, Thomas Armstrong 3, Thomas Scott 4, William Thacker 5, John Martin 6, Mark Graham 7, Joseph Smith 8, William Bull 9, James Slack and Richard Wright Tenor. The peal was composed by John Martin and was conducted by William Bull.

In the following year the Society of Sherwood Youths rang 10,260 at St. Mary's, Nottingham. This ancient society, which had been established in 1672 with the title of the 'Northern Youths,' was now in a very strong position under the able leadership of William Doubleday Crofts. Crofts was a Nottingham attorney-at-law, and was famed as a ringer and composer throughout England. From 1761 until 1820 the society appears to have rung at least twenty peals, including first peals on the bells at Gainsborough, Uppingham (Rutland), Newark, Mansfield, Grantham, Norton-by-Galby, Caythorpe and York Minster.

Crofts, we are told, was physically a powerful man. In the 10,260 at St. Mary's, Nottingham, when the ropes were 30ft. longer than they are now, he rang the 9th single-handed for the whole seven hours and twenty-two minutes. The record of the peal is as follows:—

'On Tuesday, March 3rd, 1778, A Peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters was rang by the following persons: Jno. Smith Treble, Rd. Peat 2nd, Wm. Bradley 3rd, Saml. Roe 4th, Jno. Mason 5th, Rd. Sharrah 6th, Jno. Fetti-

place 7th, Frans. Draper 8th, Wm. D. Crofts 9th, Jas. Coppock and Rd. Wilson Tenor. Conducted by Wm. D. Crofts. Time, 7 Hours and 22 minutes.'

James Coppock was great-grandfather to the late Mr. Albert Coppock, who revived the Society of Sherwood Youths in 1924. It is said that Squire Fortrey gave a set of 'cup' handbells to the Nottingham men and a set to the Leicester men to commemorate the two notable peals.

In the opening decade of the 19th century two long lengths of Grandsire Caters are recorded. In 1803, 10,336 changes were rung on the fine ring of ten at Kingston-on-Thames. The tenor was rung single-handed. In 1808 a peal of 10,097 was rung at Shrewsbury with two men on the tenor. The latter peal was rung on the back ten and contrary to the usual practice, the record begins with the 3rd bell. The tablet in St. Chad's reads as follows:—

'This tablet was erected by the Union Society to record an excellent Peal of Grandsire Caters rung here on Tuesday, April 5th, 1808, which if surpassed by future Practitioners will stand as a memorial that their predecessors were not deficient in skill and Perseverance. It contained 10,007 changes and was performed in 6 Hours and 50 Minutes (by) T. Spendlove 3rd, E. Roberts 4th, G. Roberts 5th, S. Lee 6th, C. Bigg 7th, R. Cross 8th, W. Bull 9th, R. Wilding 10th, T. Parker 11th, J. Parrett, T. Hill Tenor. Called by W. Bull.'

It would be interesting to know if the conductor, William Bull, was the former conductor of the Leicester Scholars. There is no direct evidence, but Bull vanished from Leicester records soon after the famous 10,080, and here at Shrewsbury is an able conductor with the same name, the same fondness for a heavy bell and the same liking for long lengths.

On March 27th, 1815, the Society of Oxford Cumberland Youths rang 10,008 Grandsire Caters at New College, and two years later Painswick set up a new record which stood for many years. Since the 12,006 in 1737 no account appears of the activities of the Painswick Youths, but after 1811 peals were rung at frequent intervals. Among these, peals of Grandsire Caters were rung in 1811, 1814, 1815, followed by 10,273 in 1816. It means that this was beaten shortly afterwards by the rival band at Bristol, but details of the performance are lacking. The Painswick men settled the matter, however, in 1817 by ringing 12,312 in seven hours and forty-four minutes, and setting up a record that remained unbroken until the peal at Appleton in 1888. The composition of the Painswick peal is referred to as 'Tittum Grandsire Caters,' not a very accurate description, for the figures are J. Reeves's 6,660, augmented to 12,312 in the manner shown in the 'Clavis.' The second half has 789 in the Plain Course position.

The tablet in the tower gives the following particulars:—

'This Tablet Records the Greatest Achievement of Change Ringing in England, by ten men only, in that Musical Composition of Tittum Grandsire Caters, comprising 12312 changes, Rung in this Steeple by Painswick Youths being on the 5th day of May, 1817, which was Nobly Performed in 7 hrs. 44 mts., and the Artists were Stationed as follows:—Danl. Gyde Treble. Gils Mansfield Second. Geo. Harding Third. Wm. Estcourt Fourth. Jno. Tunley Fifth. Jas. Savory Sixth. Robt. Selwyn Seventh. Thos. Bethell Eighth. Thos. Handy Ninth. Jno. Wood Tenor.'

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.

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

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 10th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by further handbell practice. A hearty welcome awaits all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Jan. 10th, 1942. It is hoped all the members who are able will make a special effort to attend. Six 'silent' bells available, also handbell ringing. Service and business meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, January 10th. Bells (silent) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea in St. Giles' Parish Hall, Cow Hill, 4.30, followed by business meeting and handbells.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th, in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, St. Albans. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will all members please endeavour to attend as important business must be discussed.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec.; 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, Jan. 17th, 3 p.m. Tower bells available for silent practice. Tea, Central Café, 5.15 p.m. Usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual district meeting is being held at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, on Jan. 17th, at 6 p.m. Back entrance and bring your own 'eats.' Handbells, etc., follow meeting. Silent tower bell ringing from 3.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 24th.

Handbells available from 3 p.m. in the Park Hotel. Usual arrangements.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. John's, Newhall, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Short service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Handbells available after tea in Church Room. Important business. Good attendance requested. Everyone welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

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