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RULES AND REGULATIONS.

What authority will attach to any resolutions passed by the projected Ringers' Conference? This question has been asked, and Mr. Malcolm Melville suggests that unless such resolutions are accepted as laws binding ringers in general, the discussions will be no more than just something to amuse us for the duration of the war and when it is over will be completely forgotten.

The obvious and only proper answer is that the Central Council is the constituted and recognised legislative body of the Exercise, and that nothing agreed to by the Conference is intended to bind the Council formally, or can do so. However successful the Conference may turn out to be, and we hope it will be very successful, it cannot be more than a temporary expedient to tide over abnormal times. It lacks the authority which belongs to a properly representative and elected body, and it was never intended that it should usurp functions which rightly belong to the Central Council.

That should be made quite clear, but it by no means follows that the debates by the Conference will be merely temporary amusement, and will have no permanent value. In our opinion, though it will be well to sum up the arguments on any particular motion and to take a vote, the real value of the discussion will lie not in the results arrived at, but in the increase of knowledge, the stimulation of interest, and the broadening of vision which will accompany the exchange of views and the ventilation of opinion.

The same thing we firmly believe is true of the Central Council itself. It has been stated, and we fully agree, that the real value of that body lies not so much in any resolutions it has passed, but in the fact that it exists; and though the Conference must not challenge its authority in any resolutions it may pass, it may fully share in its work of keeping alive the spirit of the Exercise and the interest in the art of change ringing. After all those are the things that matter most.

Rules and regulations are made for the Exercise, not the Exercise for rules and regulations, and we shall do well to remind ourselves now and again what place laws have in our art. There once was, and to some extent still is, a tendency to think that a number of rules have been laid down by some indefinite authority to forbid ringers to do certain things which otherwise by ignorance or perversity they would do. They must not ring certain classes of methods, they must not have other than certain calls in their peals—these things and many more they must not do, and when they asked, as some did ask, why they must not, they were in effect

(Continued on page 86.)

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told that authority had so decided and authority must be obeyed. But that is not the right way to look at the matter. No rule of change ringing is primarily intended to forbid a ringer to do anything. No rule, that is, except those which are really ordinary rules of common morality adapted to peculiar circumstances, such as, for instance, the rule that you must not say you have rung a true peal when actually you have rung a false one. But most of the rules are codified expressions of the accumulated experience of the Exercise and the knowledge of its leading members. The rules do not really say you must not do this or that; but, if you want to get the best out of ringing you will not do this or that; and the Council from its position of authority can say: Since it is our business to foster and maintain a high standard in ringing, if you do do this or that, we shall ignore your claims to have rung a peal, and we shall expect others ringers to do the same.

Perhaps it will be said that this comes to the same thing. But it does not. The Council's action would be of no avail unless it were supported by the active and conscious assent of the best opinion in the Exercise. It is in that opinion that the real authority ultimately lies, and the Council does no more than foster, guide, and give expression to it. Any ringer or any body of ringers may take a share in the development of opinion on which ultimately rules are based, and this will be the real function and value of the Conference.

The same thing applies to all the questions which arise regarding the many activities of the Exercise. They may not be subject to such definite regulation as the actual art of change ringing itself, but rules of conduct and procedure have been and are being evolved by accumulated knowledge and experience, and the more the results of this knowledge and experience are made available the better it is. Moreover, nothing better helps that sense of unity and brotherhood, which is perhaps the highest possession of the Exercise, than the free and wide exchange of opinion.

WEDDING OF MR. C. ERNEST SMITH.

The marriage of Mr. Christopher Ernest Smith, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of Godalming, and a prominent member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, to Joan Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Herrington, Minsted, Peperharow Road, Godalming, took place at Godalming Parish Church on February 14th.

The bride, who was given away by her father, carried a bouquet of yellow orchids and was dressed in a short honey-coloured suede crepe dress with nigger brown accessories.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. E. Hone, conducted the service, and Dr. Hunt was at the organ. The music was the Bridal March and Wedding March with two hymns, 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'Love divine, all loves excelling.' There was a large congregation, including ringing friends.

The reception at The Refectory, Milford, was attended by about sixty guests.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith afterwards left for a few days' honeymoon in London. Over 70 presents were received. The bride is on the staff of the Cornhill Insurance Co., Shalford. Mr. C. E. Smith is a member of the band of ringers at Godalming Parish Church and Ringing Master of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, February 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
At St. Barnabas' Senior School,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in E flat.

ELIZABETH J. MACNAIR (Somerville) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St John's) 3-4	*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 7-8

Composed by H. J. HOWLETT. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.
* First attempt for a peal on eight bells. First peal of Major for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY
AND THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's College, Oxford) 1-2	
KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's College, Cambridge) 3-4	
JOHN E. SPICE (New College, Oxford) 5-6	
*PATRICIA A. SCADDAN (St. Hilda's College, Oxford) 7-8	

Composed by E. M. ATKINS (St. Catherine's College, Cambridge).
Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal on eight bells. The first joint peal by the two University Societies.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, February 15, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

G. BROMLEY (St. Catherine's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

First peal as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At II, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores in ten different callings.

*MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Miss Chick was elected a member of the Guild before starting. Mr. Wilson has now rung peals of Doubles, Triples and Caters on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS JENNION.

The Liverpool Exercise has suffered yet another loss through the passing away of Mr. Thomas Jennion, who for many years was a ringer at Grassendale. He had rung 44 peals for the Lancashire Association, of which he had been a member since 1909.

Mr. Jennion for the last two or three years had had very indifferent health and his death in hospital was not unexpected. He was an excellent ringer and staunch friend, and his loss will be mourned by those who knew him. He was a widower, his wife having predeceased him, but has some grown-up children, to whom sincere sympathy is extended.

DEATH OF MR. G. F. DOEL.

We regret to learn that Mr. G. F. Doel, to whom reference was made in last week's Belfry Gossip, passed away on Saturday last. He had a relapse necessitating another operation, from which he failed to recover.

The interment took place at the London Road Cemetery on Wednesday, and the Rev. H. H. Bloomfield, Rector of St. Martin's, conducted the service. Mr. Doel leaves a wife and two sons. He had been a member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild for a number of years.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The Lewisham District of the Kent County Association held a very successful meeting at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 31st.

Some useful practice was obtained on the tower bells during the afternoon, under the direction of Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., and, despite tied clappers, bad striking did not escape the lynx-eyed conductors. Touches in the standard methods were brought round in creditable style, but 'London' defeated the best efforts.

Tea, of which 20 ringers from Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Penge and Balham partook, was served in Sutton's Hall, the local band being the generous hosts. The Vicar, the Rev. Canon Elliott Mitchell, presided and gave the members a warm welcome to Dartford.

The business meeting followed, the Vicar in the chair. The Chairman called on the members to congratulate their Ringing Master, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., on the completion of 50 years' membership of the association, accomplished on Christmas Eve, 1941. Members responded with a will.

Correspondence between the secretary of the association and Government officials concerning the exclusion of bells from the war damage insurance scheme without premiums was read and commented upon. It was agreed that no useful purpose could be served by pursuing the matter any further at present.

Beckenham was provisionally selected as the place for the April meeting.

Mr. E. Barnett read an airgraph he had received from Mr. Pat Murphy, serving in the Middle East, and Mr. J. Bailey gave news of Mr. Derek Sharpe, whose remarkable experience in an aeroplane mishap had been reported in 'The Ringing World.'

The secretary was instructed to convey the meeting's congratulations and good wishes to Mr. E. A. Barnett and Miss Hairs on their engagement and to Mr. Derek Sharpe on his thrilling escape.

The proposed postal conference to be conducted by 'The Ringing World' was then discussed, and it was agreed to support the scheme in all possible ways as a very promising field of activity.

Mr. A. A. Jenkins asked for early consideration to be given to arranging a plan to ensure that all towers in the district have their ropes manned on occasions, as otherwise he thought that bands would be so depleted for a long period that the chances of a general revival would be much impaired. At the suggestion of the chairman, Mr. Jenkins undertook to prepare a draft scheme to form a basis of discussion at the April meeting.

Mr. E. Barnett moved a cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for presiding at tea and meeting; to the Dartford ringers for their generous hospitality, and to Mr. R. A. Jenkins for his arranging of a very pleasant meeting, and it was carried with applause.

WAR-TIME 'RINGING WORLD'—AND AFTER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—From the very flattering comments you are getting from all parts of the country, the Ringers' Conference appears to be going to meet a very great need. The added interest to the readers of 'The Ringing World' will be enormous. To me 'The Ringing World' in its present form is more interesting than it has ever been since its publication, and I have subscribed to it from No. 1. And this opinion is being endorsed every week in the correspondence columns.

Unfortunately in my opinion it has taken a war for us to have a really interesting paper. Before the war, as Mr. Street so aptly puts it, it was more or less a catalogue of peals. I dread to think that after the war (and God grant that it may end quickly) we may have to return to pre-war type paper.

This brings me to my point. I have always maintained that the publishing of peals should be paid for. The conductor of a peal should, say, collect 3d. from each ringer and send the money with peal for publication. I can hardly think that any decent principled ringer would object to this small fee. The extra money thus brought in perhaps may be the means of retaining the peals and the interesting articles, etc., we have been getting lately could. Could this be debated through the Ringers' Council?

Your serious illness must have brought home to all seriously minded ringers the debt of gratitude we owe to you for our ringing paper. I hope that you will continue still to make progress to a complete recovery and that you may be spared to us for many years.

'CORNUBIA.'

DEATH OF WOKING RINGER.

The death occurred on February 1st at Woking War Hospital of Mr. Frank Powell Foot, at the age of 77, after a short illness. Mr. Foot was born at Collingbourne Ducis and was for many years a member of the church choir and bellringer at St. Andrew's, Collingbourne. After the death of his wife he went to live at Woking with his daughter and was a regular member of St. Peter's Parish Church and a bellringer there for many years.

The funeral was at St. Peter's, Old Woking, on Wednesday, Feb. 4th, and was conducted by Canon Askwith, who paid high tribute to the late Mr. Foot. Many floral tributes were received, including one from his fellow bellringers.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from page 77.)

SOME EARLY USES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

London in the Middle Ages was pre-eminently a city of churches. Within the small area of the City there still remained, until the fire of 1666, one hundred and seven parish churches besides St. Paul's Cathedral, and a century earlier there were, in addition, numerous chapels belonging to hospitals and monastic houses, and seven great conventual churches.

Old St. Paul's was one of the largest churches in the world, 720 feet long, 130 feet wide, and 150 feet high, with a central tower and spire 520 feet high. What St. Bartholomew's Priory and the church of the Augustine Friars were like we may judge from the remains that still exist, or, in the latter case, did exist until recent air raids. At Aldgate was the wealthy Holy Trinity Priory, which might still have been standing as a parish church if the people of St. Katherine's, Creechurch, had not feared that in accepting it as a gift they would be running the risk of incurring unknown liabilities. The Grey Friars church did become a parish church, but perished in the fire. St. Martin-le-Grand and the church of the Black Friars were pulled down in the sixteenth century.

Since the parish churches were so numerous, many of them were sure to be small and insignificant, but there were also wealthy parishes where the churches were large and magnificent, even if none of them quite equalled the greatest in the provincial towns, such as St. Mary Redcliffe at Bristol, St. Michael's at Coventry, or St. Peter Mancroft, at Norwich.

The last part of the fifteenth century, which saw the introduction of the Perpendicular Gothic style of architecture, was a great time of church building in England. The English parish churches, as a whole, are unequalled in Europe and many of the most magnificent date from a few years before or after the year 1500, and probably most of the larger London churches were rebuilt or reconstructed at that time. Examples of them remain in St. Andrew's, Undershaft, St. Margaret's, Westminster, and (until recently) St. Giles', Cripplegate, and they give a good idea of what others were like.

All of them, large and small, had towers and ringing bells; for one bell at least was a necessary adjunct to every church in the Middle Ages, and no parish which could afford more was content with only one.

In the Middle Ages bells played a very important part in the ordinary life of the people, and we must realise that before we can understand how the birth of such a thing as change ringing became possible. The churches were full of elaborate and costly fittings, but the most costly and probably the most prized by the laity were the bells.

The uses of bells may roughly be divided into three kinds—liturgical, social and civic. The liturgical uses included such things as the sanctus bell rung in the service of the Mass, the ringings at processions, funerals and obits, and (so far as it was done) for the Angelus. The social uses included ringing to celebrate victories or other rejoicings, to mark the visits of kings, bishops and other great persons, and at weddings and the like. The civic use was by order of the magistrates and was part of the government of the city.

This latter use went back to very early times. Not only in England, but all over Christendom every town had a communal bell which was rung to call the citizens together for meetings connected with the civil government. Stow says that the common bell belonging to the City of London was in olden times hung in a clochiard or bell tower, which stood in the north-east part of St. Paul's churchyard and was rung to call the people together for their folke-motes. What his authority for the statement was we cannot say. The earliest extant account of any civic use of bells is an order in the reign of King Edward I. relating to the curfew at St. Martin-le-Grand, but bells had been rung for civic purposes centuries earlier.

St. Martin's was a large conventual church which stood not far from the north-east corner of St. Paul's. Strype says it had a great bell which could be heard at a great distance, and so was used to give the citizens warning of the time of night and to keep within doors. Probably for some reason the bell in the clochiard could no longer be used and the bell in the neighbouring church was substituted. There is still a survival of the use of this bell in the tolling of the great bell of St. Paul's by the order of the civic authorities on the death of the sovereign or the Lord Mayor.

The bell at St. Martin's set the time, but curfew had to be tolled at every parish church in the City. 'On Wednesday next before the Feast of Pentecost in the 10th year of Edward I. (A.D. 1282) the underwritten ordinances were made. At each parish church curfew shall be tolled the same hour as at St. Martin's and ending at the same time, and then all gates as well as taverns, whether for wine or ale, shall be closed, and no one shall walk the streets or places.'

The following, although not dated, belongs to about the same time: 'Articles confirmed by the lord the King touching the state of the City, and the street observances of the place, which articles are signed with the Great Seal of the King. Whereas murders, robberies and homicides have in time past been committed in the City by night and day, it is forbidden that anyone walk the streets after curfew tolled at St. Martin-le-Grand with sword, buckler, or other arm, unless he be a great lord or other respectable person of note or their acknowledged retainer bearing a light. No' taverner to keep his tavern open for wine or beer after curfew nor admit anyone into his tavern unless he be willing to answer for the King's peace, etc.'

In 1321 it was ordered that the main city gates were to be closed at sunset while the wickets were to be kept open until the curfew rung at St. Mary-le-Grand, and not to be reopened until the first bell be rung at St. Thomas de Acon. This was a church in Cheapside and is represented to-day by the Mercers' Chapel.

These orders were repeated several times in following years; in 1352 with the addition that no one was to wander about the city by night with a mask or with his face covered. In 1362 and 1369 the bell at St. Mary-le-Bow (our Lady of the Arches) is mentioned instead of that at St. Martin-le-Grand, and in 1370 and 1376 four churches in four parts of the City—St. Mary atte Bowe, Berkyngchurch in Tower Ward, St. Bride's, and St. Giles' without Crippegate—are appointed to set the time.

This continued to be the custom for a very long time, and an incomplete entry in one of the letter books of the City Corporation dated April 22nd, 9th Edward IV. (A.D.

1469), refers to an ordinance of the Common Council to the effect that it hath been of old accustomed for the peace of the City and keeping due time at night for the great bell called Bowbell, and the bells of the churches of All Hallows, Berkyng, St. Giles' without Crepelgate, and St. Bride's in Flete Street to be struck at the accustomed hours.

Twenty-six years later, the Lord Mayor, Sir Henry Colet, gave directions to the Quest of Wardmote that if any parish clerk rang curfew later than at these four churches he was to be reported.

The ringing of the curfew was thus originally an order to the citizens to keep within doors, but it was continued because it was a convenient means of letting people know the time of day, and so long as it remained a convenience it was still rung, and after that it gradually lapsed; though in a few places the use lingered on till modern times.

In London the use was gradually superseded as churches were one after another supplied with clocks that struck the hours. These clocks were becoming fairly common by the middle of the sixteenth century, but the early morning and evening bells were still rung from many steeples at the beginning of the next century and for long after. Apparently both were called the curfew, for, in 'Romeo and Juliet,' Shakespeare makes old Capulet, who had been up all night, say, 'The second cock hath crow'd, the curfew bell hath rung, 'tis three o'clock.'

In the year 1844 a writer said that the curfew was in London a practice then confined to four or five East End churches, St. George's-in-the-East, Spitalfields, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

Four years later, in the 'Proceedings of the British Archæological Association of 1848,' three City churches were said to have continued the custom—St. Edmund, King and Martyr; St. Michael, Queenhithe; and St. Antholin's, Budge Row. In the previous year it had been discontinued at St. Mildred's, Bread Street, by order of the Vestry. The last three churches no longer exist.

Dr. Edwin Freshfield, writing in 'Archæologia' in 1880, said that he remembered three churches in London where the early bell was rung at five o'clock and was called the apprentices' bell.

ESSEX VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY.

As an 86th birthday compliment to Mr. William J. Nevard, a 720 of Grandsire Doubles was rung on five 'silent' bells at St. Mary Magdalene's, Thorington, on Saturday, February 7th: Geoffrey Andrews 1, Alan R. Andrews (conductor) 2, William J. Nevard 3, Harry J. Millatt 4, George A. Andrews 5. It had been intended to ring Minor, but the company met short. Mr. Nevard's first peal was a 'birthday peal' for him. It was one of Bob Major at Long Melford in 1885. Mr. F. Pitstow and Mr. Nevard are the only survivors of the company.

BROKEN SALLY SPOILS 720.

On Saturday, January 24th, five members of Rochdale Branch made the journey to Friezland Church for a tower-bell practice. They were met there by Mr. Harry Nutt, who had previously spent much time and patience in installing an apparatus which operated hand-bells in the ringing chamber. Bad weather conditions had affected the ropes considerably and made the bells rather difficult to handle. Eventually it was decided to attempt a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, to be conducted by Operator-Telegraphist Harry Byrom, R.N., who was on leave. Unfortunately, this came to grief after about 15 minutes' ringing, owing to the third rope sally breaking clean through the centre. Buses and trains having to be caught left no time for a further attempt.

I. K.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) is progressing slowly, but is still confined to bed. He desires to thank warmly the many friends who have written to convey their sympathy, which has been much appreciated, and to inform inquirers that his present illness has no relation to that of a year ago.

Anyone who knows anything about the present whereabouts of a set of ten handbells which belonged to the late Challis F. Winney is asked to communicate with Mr. H. M. Page at 47, Harbord Street, Fulham, London, S.W.6.

The handbell peal of Bob Major which is reported in this week's issue is the first peal by a joint band of the Oxford and Cambridge University Guilds, but not the first scored by members of the two universities. On March 10th, 1877, seven members of the O.U.S.C.R., assisted by C. A. W. Troyte, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, rang Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by F. E. Robinson. This was two years before the Cambridge University Guild was founded.

On February 16th, 1858, the Painswick band, by ringing 8.448 changes of Stedman Cinques, beat the record (7,524) set up by the College Youths at St. Giles', Cripplegate, seven years earlier.

The only peal of Imperial the Third Major accomplished outside Norwich was rung by the Soham men on February 17th, 1800.

On the same date in 1836 the ring of twelve bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire.

The College Youths rang 10,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on February 18th, 1777. It was one stage in the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands.

The second peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung was scored by the College Youths at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on February 18th, 1792.

Nathan J. Pitstow died on February 18th, 1914, at the age of 67.

Henry W. Haley was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1819.

Today is the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Oxford University Guild.

Mr. W. H. Barber rang and called a peal of Stedman Triples blindfolded at Gateshead on February 21st, 1908.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-day 25 peals were rung. They consisted of Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Cinques 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 3, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Double Oxford Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Superlative 2, Norfolk 1, Bristol 1, London 2, and Minor 5.

MR. A. PADDON SMITH.

The Lord Chancellor has recently added twenty names to the Commission of the Peace for the City of Birmingham, and among them is Alfred Paddon Smith, of Handsworth. The new J.P. is already a member of the City Council and his many friends will congratulate him on his latest honour.

Councillor Paddon Smith, who for 20 years was the hon. secretary of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham and its representative on the Central Council, was recently elected Master of the Guild in the place of the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

There was little formal business to be transacted at last Saturday's meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, but a very pleasant and harmonious gathering was enjoyed by about two dozen members, who were pleased to welcome as visitors Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. E. A. Barnett. Among those present, in addition to the Master, the hon. treasurer and the secretary, were Messrs. E. A. Young, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, M. F. R. Hibbert, R. Stannard, G. M. Kilby, E. Barnett, H. Hoskins, D. Cooper, C. Potheary, F. E. Collin, C. C. Mayne, H. G. Miles, E. Hartley, R. F. Deal, E. G. Spiers, and C. H. Kippen, members of H.M. Forces, Pte. H. Thompson and Aircraftman K. Arthur.

An invitation was received from Mr. Harold G. Cashmore, the hon. secretary of the Watford District of the Hertfordshire Association, to hold a meeting at Bushey in the summer. The invitation was cordially accepted, and June 27th fixed as the provisional date.

A new member, Mr. Russell G. Spears, of Kingsbury, was elected.

The Master said that his brother had received an airgraph from Mr. Harold Warboys from somewhere in the East. He said he had made a set of handbells from Italian steel helmets and was teaching a band to ring Grandsire Triples.

Mr. F. E. Hibbert brought greetings from Mr. Francis Smith, of Watford, and Mr. C. W. Roberts brought greetings from Mr. Wilfred Williams.

The next meeting will be on February 28th at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1, at 3 p.m.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY. SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED.

Lady Members Make Prospects Good.

The activities of the Oxford University Society, founded just 70 years ago, and never very quiescent nowadays, were brought to 'concert pitch' last week-end on the occasion of the annual lunch, which was held on Saturday, February 14th, at the City Restaurant, where, despite war-time restrictions, the members and visitors were catered for in excellent style. Thirty-one guests and members sat down to the lunch. The former were the Master (Mr. Roger Leigh, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge) and the secretary (Mr. Kenneth S. B. Croft, St. John's College, Cambridge), of the Cambridge University Guild, the secretary of the Oxford Society (Mr. V. Bennett), Miss Marie R. Cross and Mr. William C. Porter, both of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The president of the society (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Keble), with whom was Mrs. Wigg, was supported by Mr. H. Miles, Dr. R. Emlin Havard, the Rev. R. Milford, the Dean of New College, the Rev. J. P. Pelloe, Mr. G. Bromley, the Master, the secretary, the treasurer, etc.

After lunch a course of Grandsire Caters, followed by a course of Bob Royal, was rung on handbells before an appreciative audience. The ringers were Eleanor J. Macnair, Joan Houldsworth, Pat Scaddan, John E. Spice and William L. B. Leese.

The President then welcomed the guests, saying how pleased he was that the Cambridge University Guild was represented. He announced that Mr. J. Armiger Trollope was to have been present also, but was prevented at the eleventh hour owing to a bereavement in his family. Mr. Wigg requested on behalf of those present that the secretary should convey sympathy to Mr. Trollope in his sad loss.

The Rev. John P. Pelloe (Master of the O.U.S.C.R. 1933-1934) said he was agreeably surprised at the standard of ringing the society had attained. In his day Grandsire Doubles was the usual method rung, and if they felt very daring they used to attempt Bob Minor. He exhorted the lady members to keep to ringing, extolling the happy times ringing could provide.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

The Master (Mr. John E. Spice) reviewed the society's activities in contrast to those of the Cambridge University Guild. Oxford men, he said, had always concentrated on tower bells, and after the ban the Oxford University Society had had to start handbell ringing almost from scratch. It took at least a year to be able to ring tower bells adequately, and in a University with so many counter attractions, Oxford ringers must have heaps of enthusiasm.

Before this year three peals only had been scored for the society; two in a peak period in 1930 and one many years before. Last year, with the invaluable help of Miss M. R. Cross, experience had been gained both in ringing and in teaching handbells. At the end of the academic year there were seven proficient ringers, but of these four left Oxford. The new academic year brought nearly 30 recruits, which included a breath-taking number of ladies, but the society went about its job well.

The principle of teaching adopted was to concentrate on Plain Bob. The idea of ringing was explained to the beginner, who was then put on one bell in a plain hunting course on six bells. As soon as he could do this adequately, he was given 1-2, then 3-4, then 2-3, to the plain hunting course. After that he had all the position for 1-2 to a course of Bob Minor through which he was put. This method of teaching had produced some good ringers, who appeared to have a sound understanding of what they were ringing.

Last term, after the Cambridge Guild had rung a peal of Bob Minor, the Oxford University Society felt that that had to be bettered, and after some time they rang a peal in three Minor methods. At the moment there were six members of the society who had rung peals, and as five of these would be up for five more terms at least, the outlook for the society was bright. But one word of warning was necessary. When victory is ours and tower bells shall ring forth again, let not the handbells be forgotten.

The Rev. D. Mitford (vice-president and Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin's, Oxford) said that it had been a custom for the O.U.S.C.R. to ring St. Mary's bells before, the undergraduate service on Sunday evenings. This tradition was being carried on by ringing handbells inside the church; the pattern weaved by the changes were to him an attractive act of worship.

CAMBRIDGE GUILD'S WORK.

The president then called on the Master of the Cambridge University Guild.

Mr. Leigh said that although not much had appeared about his Guild in 'The Ringing World,' there had been a lot of work going (Continued in next column.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

The arrangements for the Ringers' Conference are being completed. Meanwhile we shall be glad to receive notices of motion as early as possible so that the agenda can be published. Proposers and seconders of motions should prepare their 'speeches' so they may be ready for publication as soon as needed.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. SOME QUESTIONS.

Dear Sir,—It may be that the Ringers' Council, which it is suggested you should establish, will talk about the National Association which some ringers want to see set up. I do not want to trespass on any discussion that might take place under this Council, but I should like to point out that the advocates of a National Association have never yet to my knowledge given any arguments to show how that form of organisation would be of benefit to the Exercise compared with the present system.

What could a National Association do that the present associations and guilds, with the Central Council, cannot do?

What additional benefits could it confer on ringers except perhaps save a non-resident's subscription when a visiting ringer rings a peal?

Would it not be more costly to run a national organisation, which almost certainly would involve paid officials, than the associations which are now carried on almost entirely on a voluntary basis? And would the business be run any more efficiently?

Would ringers feel that they are in any closer union with each other than they are at present, and would it be worth while to disturb the harmony that at present exists by dividing the Exercise into two opposing camps—those who would stick to their old associations and those who would join a national organisation?

This latter is, to my mind, the greatest risk of all and would be the worst calamity that could fall upon the Exercise at the very time when all its energies will be needed in a united effort to reorganise ringing after the war.

Will the National Association advocates give us their answers to these questions? It would enable some of the rest of us, perhaps, to form more balanced conclusions. I must admit that of the advantages of a National Association I am at present

'DUBIOUS.'

THE OLDEST BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you or any of your readers inform me which is the oldest existing bell and the oldest existing peal of bells in England and the person who cast them? ALFRED W. PICKNELL.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

(Continued from previous column.)

on in teaching beginners, most of whom were up at the University two terms only nowadays. Directly a Bob Major band was trained, members were called up and the work of teaching had to begin again. He hoped, however, that the society's work would not be in vain, and that towers in England would reap what the Cambridge University Guild had sown. Stedman and Kent Treble Bob Minor was now in the society's repertoire. He gave his best wishes to the joint O.U. and C.U. S.C.R. band who were to attempt a peal that evening. Cambridge had rung a peal of Bob Minor, and Bob Major was booked for a not too distant date.

The secretary of the Oxford Society said how pleased the city ringers were to help on the University Society, and as there had been good co-operation in times past, he hoped such a state would long continue. The ringing of the course of Bob Royal had been a real eye opener as to the state of affairs in University ringing.

After the lunch guests and members adjourned to New College bell tower, where six bells were working with the electric apparatus. Lack of oil on the bearings made the ringing hard work, and lack of practice on the part of the ringers soon gave them stiff joints, but it was good to handle a bell rope again.

Tea in the Master's room came next, and this was followed by handbell ringing, which included courses of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal, Stedman Triples and Gainsborough, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Reverse, Double Little, Gainsborough and Wellington spliced. The day finished with the joint peal of Bob Major by members of both Universities—a fitting end to a successful day.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES,

DR. SLACK'S PEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I once again crave the favour of your space and the indulgence of your readers to reply, finally, I sincerely hope, to the various remarks by you, Mr. Editor, those of our friends, Messrs. Trollope and Turner, and also the rest of the opposition, prior to the publication of the above peal at the expense of the 'Watford District.'

During the correspondence on the above peal, you, Mr. Editor, well supported by our friends from Ealing, have on several occasions drawn your readers' attention to these six bob sets.

Now, sir, this was not your attitude in 1932 when you published the two-part peal arranged by Mr. J. W. Parker from Cooper's course ends.

I would like now to point out that six consecutive calls appear 60 times in Mr. Parker's peal, further that from the 24th course until the 35th course the 4th bell is behind for 111 sizes out of a possible 137 sizes, also that the peal contains about 580 bobs and singles.

This peal was published by you, and quite rightly so, but why have you not published Dr. Slack's peal, because, to use the words of Dr. Slack, this peal of Mr. Parker's contains the same blots on its escutcheon.

Mr. Trollope, now supported by Mr. Turner, has been very outspoken regarding these six bob sets and has tried to convince your readers that peals containing these calls should not be rung, but I do not remember either of these two able men raising any objection to the publication of Mr. Parker's peal.

I am sorry to have to state that the general opinion in this district and also in a lot more is that Mr. Parker's peal was published because it was by Mr. Parker, and that Dr. Slack's was not published simply because it was by a practically unknown composer, and also the peal was not rung exactly where you, sir, expected it to be rung.

Now a few lines to reply to Mr. Trollope's letter in your current issue. In my letter of the 6th inst. I did not try or intend to belittle the efforts of older composers, but when Mr. Trollope quotes these older composers in support of his dogmatic attitude in regard to multi-bob peals he must expect to receive a little criticism.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey.

Between the figures of Cooper's peal as arranged by Mr. J. W. Parker and the figures of Dr. Slack's peal as sent to us there is a vital difference. In the first case they convey information about the composition to the ordinary reader and conductor, and in the other they do not.

Cooper's peal has a historical interest as being one of the very earliest composed. If it had been a modern peal its defects would have far outweighed its merits.

Whatever Mr. Jennings and his friends may think, it is not true that there has been any discrimination against Dr. Slack on personal grounds. He has been treated as anyone else would have been treated. No special favour has been shown to Mr. J. W. Parker, though of all living composers he is the one who has most earned and deserved it.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

A REPLY AND A COMPARISON.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that Mr. Trollope frowns so disapprovingly upon my amusement, but would assure him that his latest effort in defence of the older experts has yielded me that little extra amusement I had anticipated.

The attitude he has adopted towards Dr. Slack's composition has rather distressed me. He seems to want to brush it aside rather contemptuously as being of no particular importance, and I, for one, emphatically register my protest at this attempt to discourage brilliant men like Dr. Slack from making what I feel sure will be very useful contributions to the theoretical side of our art.

I expect Mr. Trollope would feel very annoyed if his own composition of the extent of Bob Maximus were condemned out of hand as being of no practical use or interest and not worth publication. Well, Dr. Slack's peal has been rung, and if I had to choose between the two compositions, I should prefer to see the figures of the two-part peal of Stedman, even though it is not considered 'good copy.'

However, I think I can detect a little more 'sweet reasonableness' in Mr. Trollope's tone, and if this controversy has done nothing else it has certainly removed some of the cocksureness which has been all too evident in the past. Even Mr. Trollope seems to be a little less dogmatic in his efforts, and we should all do well to profit by the lessons learned.

May I also say that I think Mr. Hibbert is right in his contention that as all the 5,040 rows have to be rung in a peal of Stedman Triples the music is there anyway, whatever the composition.

Regarding what my good friend W. Keeble says, may I say at once I do not doubt his ability to repeat a 5,056 of London to a typist, and if times were happier I would very much like to see him do it. My point was, however, *how* did Mr. Morris tap those peals of Surprise? Was it purely a feat of memory, or did he work on some system not generally known? If we could obtain the answer it might be of priceless worth and revolutionise the whole system of instruction.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

38, Penn Lea Road, Bath.

THE EXPERTS CONFOUNDED?

WHAT THEY DID FOR STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is not surprising that Mr. Trollope has replied to Mr. Smallwood. It was hardly to be expected that the attack (?) on the experts by the latter would be left unanswered.

Of course, the so-called experts are always the persons to blame if anything goes wrong, but what should we do without them? I have been looking through a chapter or two of Snowdon's 'Stedman' (1903 Edition), which deals with Stedman Triples. On page 119 I read: 'The earliest known peal was composed by Thomas Edwards, of Stourbridge, in the year 1792. This peal contains 620 bobs and 100 common singles, besides two singles introduced at the fourth change of the last six in each peal.' Then follows an explanation of these special singles and a statement that the peal was first rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths on December 4th, 1803, at St. Mary's, Kensington, conducted by Charles Barber. There were 722 calls in that composition, i.e., 620 bobs, 100 common singles and two singles in 4-5. Would Mr. Smallwood care to be forced to ring that composition if he wished to ring a peal of Stedman Triples?

The next composition shown in the book contains 350 bobs, 230 common singles and two turning singles. It was composed by Henry Cooper, of Birmingham, and was first rung on June 5th, 1819, at Shifnal, by the St. Martin's Youths (please note, Mr. Smallwood), and it is stated that the peal was conducted by the composer from a manuscript copy.

Well, I suppose that Henry Cooper was an expert of his day, and was looked upon as a clever man for reducing the number of calls by 140. It is quite likely, too, that this good gentleman was of the opinion that he had produced the best possible composition, and it is even conceivable that he had expressed such an opinion. Therefore, when, some eleven years later, J. P. Powell produced a peal containing only 382 calls (240 bobs, 120 common and 22 Holt's singles), one can quite imagine the Smallwoods of 1830 having a good laugh at the discomfited experts of a few years before.

But in spite of the laugh against them the experts kept pegging away—Joseph Tebbs, Thomas Day, William Shipway, William Hudson, Henry Johnson, J. J. B. Lates (quite a number from Birmingham, Frank!), until in 1846 Thomas Thurstans produced his famous peal, which is described by Snowdon as the first peal of genuine Stedman Triples ever published. This, doubtless, to use Mr. Smallwood's own words, 'put the cat amongst the pigeons,' and confounded the experts, who had perhaps previously stated that such a peal was impossible. (If the earlier experts had not made such a statement they should have done so, which is the same thing!)

The fact is, of course, that all of us, even including Mr. Smallwood, are greatly indebted to experts for the progress made in our art, and I suggest to him that if we had only the earlier compositions of Stedman Triples, there would be few peals of Stedman, including Caters and Cinques, rung, and what would Mr. Smallwood do then?

There are other kinds of experts. There is the expert conductor who sometimes misses a bob (he would be a wonder if he didn't). There is the expert handbell ringer who sometimes swaps his bells (but we do not get a laugh against him as the fact is not put in the paper). There is, too, the expert at leg-pulling, and here it is that Mr. Smallwood no doubt excels. Indeed, I suspect that the only object of his letter was to draw somebody out, and I can almost hear him laughing as he reads this, and saying, 'I've done it.' 'Here's your good health, Frank, and may we ring together again soon.'

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park.

CARRYING ON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great pleasure that I read the following passage in to-night's 'Evening News': 'To keep in trim for after the war, members of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers are to practise on the bells of Holy Trinity, Dartford, which will be silenced by securing the clappers.'

It is very nice to know that we ringers are trying to let the general public know how we are keeping the Exercise going so that we shall be able to ring to celebrate the day of our victory, which we all hope is not far off.

May I add an appreciation of the grand way in which the old 'Ringing World' is keeping going in the face of the present situation? I eagerly await the post which brings me my copy each week.

P. M. BOND.

SILENT?

To the Editor.

Sir,—I suggest that 'dumb' is the word. When clappers are lost or removed it follows that dumb-bells are swung.

There is the dumb-bell at Knowle to remind us of an earlier time before the word was applied to modern exercising weights, when rope-and-wheel dumb-bell ringing was a fashionable pursuit among members of the Exercise.

'Silent' is used with intention to imply something to be desired, e.g., a silent typewriter; but 'dumb' surely implies the hope of speech renewed!

'DUMB-BELL.'

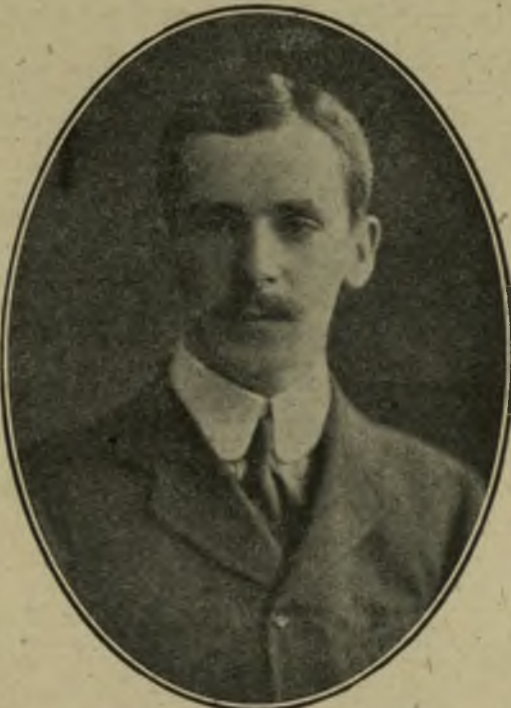
MR. CHARLES E. BORRETT.

ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST PEAL.

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal by Mr. C. E. Borrett, which was rung on handbells at Norwich on February 25rd, 1892.

Charles Edward Borrett was born at Norwich on December 21st, 1874, and came of a family which has produced more than one active and skilful ringer. His brother Harry was for some years a member of the Mancroft band and rang several peals; his two cousins, Frederick Robert, and Egbert, of Pulham Market, were for long among the most prolific peal ringers of the Eastern Counties.

But it was not through family influence that Charles became a ringer; he was one of the select few who seem to be preordained to be captivated by the art and over whom church bells throw a spell almost from their infancy. Some months ago, behind a thin screen of anonymity, he told us in 'The Ringing World' how as a small choirboy he took part in the celebrations of Queen Victoria's first



MR. C. E. BORRETT,
when hon. secretary of the Norwich Association in 1911.

Jubilee in Norwich Cathedral, and afterwards was one of some thousands of school children who assembled in the market place and sang hymns and patriotic songs. And how what remained in his mind was the impression created by the roll of the military drums and the ringing and firing of St. Peter Mancroft bells.

Then two years later he heard those same bells ringing a muffled peal for Nathaniel Bolinbroke, the secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and that finally decided that he should be a ringer.

But he knew nothing about bells and nothing about ringers, and it was not until he had hung about churches where he heard ringing and after timidly venturing within the belfry and enduring some snubs that he was invited to become a pupil.

When he did begin, his progress was rapid. He had his first lesson in handling a bell on September 24th, 1890; he rang his first course of Bob Minor on February 9th, 1891, and his first 720 on May 11th; he rang his first 1,008 of Bob Major on February 18th, 1892, and his first tower-bell peal on February 29th. In those days means of getting about were scanty and there was little change ringing within easy distance of Norwich.

The great days of the Norwich Scholars had long since passed, but there still remained survivors from those days, and the old traditions, both good and bad, were strong. Sunday ringing was quite unknown, and the only regular practice was once a fortnight in the twelve-bell tower of Mancroft, not the best place for a young beginner to learn the rudiments of the art. The bells in the other churches, though not all quite unringable, were by modern standards in very bad order and were only rung when a band of ringers had a fancy to visit the steeples.

But there was one tradition which was very strong, the tradition of good striking. That probably was the best feature of Norwich ring-

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

MEETING AT WADHURST.

Although wintry conditions rather curtailed the attendance, quite a good meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Wadhurst on Saturday, February 7th. Members from several local towers attended, and visitors included Miss B. Richardson (Sevenoaks), Mr. T. Sone (Paddock Wood) and Driver H. W. Lawrence (St. Peter's, Bedford), who cycled from Bodiam.

When the meeting opened a visitor was practising on the organ, but as the bells were silent the ringing was not seriously interfered with, and some good practice was had with Minor methods. When the organ finally ceased, out came the handbells, of which the local band have a fine set, the tenor being an enormous bell in C natural. Although they are rather heavy to handle, the cathedral tone more than repays the effort.

The methods rung were Grandsire Caters and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major and Minor. The bells were lowered about 5.30 and the company proceeded to the Queen's Head Hotel for tea.

The main item of business was the fixing of the date of the annual meeting, but this could not be done, as it transpired that the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association had arranged a meeting some time in March. It was decided to wait until they had fixed their date and the meeting will be held at Hartfield, the Rector having kindly offered a room in the Rectory. Handbells and six silent tower bells will be available.

It was agreed that such gatherings, while rather small, were well worth while.

MR. CHARLES E. BORRETT.

(Continued from previous column.)

ing through the ages. Fifty years earlier Edward Osborn wrote to John Hopkins, of Birmingham, that the Norwich men did not trouble much about peal ringing: they were satisfied if they rang good touches.

In those days the hearing of the twelve bells in Mancroft belfry was perfect, and there was no excuse for bad striking. If a man did not strike as he should, he was quickly told of it, and for beginners and novices there was little mercy. One or two of the older men were extraordinarily good and graceful handlers of a bell rope, especially George Smith, whose stance and action on the tenor box were a delight to see. Mancroft tenor in those days was not an easy bell to ring.

The lesson of good handling and good striking Mr. Borrett learned from the start. He had the advantages of good example and stern training, and he never had the opportunity of acquiring bad habits. He carried on the old tradition and always rated good striking as a higher thing than method ringing.

But he did more than just carry on an old tradition. The Exercise was then going through a time of reconstruction, when older ideas were being changed by the influx of a new and different style of man. How great that change has been in the long run only those who knew the ringers of fifty or sixty years ago and know those of to-day can realise. And Mr. Borrett was himself a thoroughly typical example of the new men on whom the hope of the Exercise depended.

There was a shortage of good ringers in Norwich at the time, and as early as 1893 Mr. Borrett was admitted within the select circle of the 'company,' the twelve men who shared all the privileges at Mancroft: and almost at once he became the conductor. During the next few years he called some peals at Mancroft, which, though they do not look much on paper, were outstanding performances in execution. One was a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal and another one of Grandsire Cinques. Only one peal of either method had previously been rung on the bells. He also called Kent Treble Bob Maximus and took part in one of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, of which method only one other peal had been rung in England since the early days of the nineteenth century. He called his 100th peal, one of Stedman Cinques, at Ipswich.

Among the younger ringers at Norwich there was for a time quite a good handbell band. They rang several peals in different methods, including the then record length, 11,200 Bob Major. This and some of the others Mr. Borrett called.

When Henry Earle Bulwer died in 1902 Mr. Borrett succeeded him as the secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and he represented that association on the Central Council for many years. It was chiefly due to him that the Analysis Committee was formed to revive the work which George Attree, of Brighton, had begun but after some years had dropped.

In 1906 the old Mancroft company was broken up through some disputes with the church authorities. Mr. Borrett took no part in those disputes, but the severing of the old traditions with their standards of striking was a severe blow to him, and ringing at Mancroft was never again quite the same thing. His opportunities for peal ringing had always been limited by business considerations and he did little more in that way.

All his life he was in the service of one business firm, and since his retirement he has lived at the seaside town of Sheringham. As our pages show, his interest in change ringing has never waned.

Mr. Borrett, who had a very pleasant light tenor singing voice, was a member of a church choir for 25 years.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

Last week we compared composition to the building of a wall, and we said that the bricks we have to use are the Natural Courses of the method. We will now study these Natural Courses a little closely, and we will take for example the plain course of Bob Major.

We choose that method, not merely because it is easy and well known, but because it is the typical and elemental method in which the main problems of method construction and peal composition present themselves in the simplest and starkest fashion. In other methods they are often more complicated; but essentially they are no different and we shall the better understand the complex if first we make ourselves masters of the simple.

We go back to the beginning and to our axiom that change ringing essentially is movement. We realised that, if only subconsciously, when we first started to ring and were put to hunt the treble. Our whole work was a continuous forward movement, and we found out, when we took the trouble to prick out the rows, that, if all the others did the same thing, we should start from rounds and return to rounds in sixteen changes. These sixteen changes we call the Hunting Course.

A. Forward.	B. Backward.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	3 2 5 4 7 6 8
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7	3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5	3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6
4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5	5 3 7 1 8 2 6 4
6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3	5 7 3 8 1 6 2 4
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3	7 5 8 3 6 1 4 2
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1	7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2	8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1
7 5 8 3 6 1 4 2	6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
5 7 3 8 1 6 2 4	6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3
5 3 7 1 8 2 6 4	4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5
3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6	4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6	2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7
1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

If we were told to ring a hunting course in the belfry, or if we were asked to write one down on paper, we should naturally do it as in the first of the above two examples. But when we examine the second one we find it equally consists of plain hunting and nothing but plain hunting, and therefore is equally a hunting course. The only difference between them is that one is the reverse of the other, and since the first is the normal and usual, we call it the Forward Hunting Course, while the other we call the Backward Hunting Course.

A good deal of unnecessary fuss has been made about these terms and a lot of irrelevant nonsense has been written. We ask our readers to ignore all that, and merely to recognise that the two do exist and have a definite relationship to each other.

The hunting course is the simplest form in which change ringing can exist, and is the ultimate unit on which everything is based. We said last week that the course is the unit, and so it is for the peal composer; but the course is itself built up on the hunting course. In some methods this building up is a very complex process; in Bob Major it is simplicity itself.

There are 5,040 rows on eight bells with the treble

leading, and if from each of these we pricked a hunting course, we should have the full extent of the changes twice over; for every hunting course would appear twice, once in its forward form and once in its backward form. If we examine any peal of Bob Major, we shall find that it is entirely made up of a number of these hunting courses, each one of which is complete and intact. First some of them are joined together to make up the Natural Courses, and then some of the Natural Courses (or parts of them) are joined together to make up the peal.

First some of the hunting courses are joined together to make up the course. That is done by the method, and the peal composer has nothing to do with it; it is not his concern. But let us see how the method does it. We write out the rows when the treble is leading, both backstroke and handstroke, and we find that the seven working bells go through a complete hunting course among themselves, only the movement is in the opposite direction to that within the lead; it is in fact backward hunting. The course is made up of seven leads of forward hunting on eight bells joined together by one cycle of backward hunting on seven bells. If we were to go on and examine the more complex methods we should find that they all are made up of combinations of cyclical forward and cyclical backward movements, and upon these movements the whole of the art and the science of change ringing depend. But we do not intend to go into that at present.

We have dealt with this matter thus fully because we want to explain presently what Q Sets are. To the uninitiated they are rather mysterious and forbidding things; and even many people who know enough about them to recognise their importance do not understand their real nature and position in the science. That is due very largely to the way in which they were first introduced to the Exercise by W. H. Thompson.

We will leave them till next week. Meanwhile, the reader may turn back to the lead heads and ends as set out above. A bob affects the bells in 2, 3, 4 and he will notice that there are three places where the tenors are clear of those positions. One is at the first lead end where the bells affected are 2, 3, 5. This is the Wrong. The second is at the sixth lead end where the bells affected are 2, 4, 6. This is the Middle. The other is at the course end where the bells affected are 2, 3, 4. This is the Home or Right.

These are the three places (and the only three places) where we can make bobs if we want to join together Natural Courses intact. This will apply to every Major method in which second's place is made at the lead end; for we do not nowadays recognise as 'regular' any method in which the lead ends are not the same as those of Bob Major; though they need not, and usually do not, come in the same order. Sometimes the Middle lead comes before the Wrong lead, but always necessarily in second's place methods the Right comes at the course end.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8
W 3 2 5 4 7 6 8
3 5 2 7 4 8 6
5 3 7 2 8 4 6
5 7 3 8 2 6 4
7 5 8 3 6 2 4
7 8 5 6 3 4 2
8 7 6 5 4 3 2
8 6 7 4 5 2 3
6 8 4 7 2 5 3
6 4 8 2 7 3 5
M 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
4 2 6 3 8 5 7
R 2 4 3 6 5 8 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Stourbridge (D.V.), Saturday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Eight silent tower bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting following at 5.30 at the Duke's Head. Will those requiring tea please send notifications to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible? Handbells also available, and everybody will be welcome.—A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Service at Parish Church 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4.15 p.m.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—A meeting will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells (6, silent) and handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea 5.15. Business after tea. Please advise me by Tuesday, 24th, the number to expect for tea.—J. C. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Warburton's Cafe 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, at 6 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, not later than Feb. 25th. This meeting is arranged later to have it 'moon-leet.' All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, February 28th, at 3 o'clock. Silent tower bells and handbells. Names for tea to L. H. Bywaters, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on Saturday, February 28th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m. to black-out time (approximately 6.45 p.m.).—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 54th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 7th. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President, Albert Walker, Esq., in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid-up members at 1s. each; to other members and friends at 5s. 6d. each. All applications for tickets must be received by Saturday, February 28th. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 7th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st? All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting (1942) will be held in the Chapter House, Christ Church, Oxford, on Saturday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m. (D.V.). A good attendance is requested.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. C. Ernest Smith's address is now 17, Peperharow Road, Godalming, Surrey.

WANTED.

WANTED, any edition of the following books: 'The Clavis,' 'Tintinnologia,' 'Campanologia,' 'Shipway,' and Rev. F. E. Robinson's 'Among the Bells.' Write, stating price, to Box 77, 'Ringing World' Office, Woking.

BIRTH.

CASTLE.—On Sunday, Feb. 8th, at The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Berks, to Violet, wife of Bernard C. Castle, a daughter.

DEATH.

POWELL.—On Saturday, Feb. 14th, at Victoria Cottage, Lyme Regis, Hilary, infant daughter of Cuthbert and Laura Powell.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. One shilling, post free.

MUSIC IN TRIPLE METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent correspondence prompts me to ask why Court Bob Triples, which, in my opinion, is the most musical of the Triple methods, has never been popular.

E. BARNETT.

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