



No. 1,616. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13th, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 3d.

**GILLETT
&
JOHNSTON Ltd.
CROYDON**

Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
Cast in England
and Carillons of the
BRITISH EMPIRE

in

**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**

Telephone

Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

In his speech on Saturday at the Henry Johnson Commemoration Luncheon at Birmingham, Mr. F. E. Haynes referred to the various influences which are keeping alive the art of ringing and the spirit of the Exercise in these troublous times. The first is silent practice on tower bells; a very useful thing as far as it goes, but one which, by its nature, must be defective and unsatisfactory. It is too much like trying to play football without a ball, or a violin without strings. The second is hand-bell ringing; a very fine art and of absorbing interest to those who take part in it, but one which can hardly ever appeal to more than a minority of ringers.

The third influence is 'The Ringing World.' That is a subject on which a good deal can be said, and on which, perhaps, at the proper time, a good deal will have to be said. The average ringer, who takes his blessings as a matter of course, does not realise how much he is dependent on others for the advantages he enjoys, nor how great has been the struggle to maintain those advantages. When war broke out, the prospects of being able to keep 'The Ringing World' going for long seemed very remote, and the fact that the difficulties have been so far surmounted, not unsuccessfully, ought not to make people lose sight of the fact that the margin of safety is a very narrow one. What the value of 'The Ringing World' has been to ringers generally is not easy to say, but this much is certain: the Exercise, as at present organised, could not exist at all without such a periodical.

The last influence mentioned by Mr. Haynes is the social spirit which is manifested by such gatherings as the Johnson Dinner, and which finds expression in every meeting at which ringers gather for mutual intercourse. To many who take part in them these meetings are one of the few things which make life tolerable in these days of hard work, severe restrictions, and frustrated hopes. They bring the memories of the past and the hopes of the future to sweeten the toils and disappointments of the present. They are actually medicine to the mind and act as the best medicine should act, by not being noticed as medicine.

Every time ringers meet together for social intercourse they are doing good not only to themselves, but in the long run to the community. This applies even to the meeting of two or more friends in a saloon bar to talk over things and to strengthen and renew friendships. It applies in full force to such events as the Johnson Dinner which was held so successfully last Saturday. It was a pleasant and an enjoyable function. It was an

(Continued on page 122.)

WM. POTTS & SONS LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks
in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St.,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,

and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved
—as illustration.

oct. HALL MARKED GOLD .. 45/-
HALL MARKED SILVER .. 7/6
GILT OR WHITE METAL .. 4/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can
be engraved on the reverse side at a
small extra charge.



Exact size

**GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND
ENGRAVER,**
6, PARK ST., NINEHEAD, SOMERSET

METHOD SPLICING

*The Newest and Most Interesting
Development of Change Ringing*

Study this latest phase of the Art
and learn how to practise it.

The System is fully explained in
'METHOD SPLICING,' price 1/3 (post free)
from 'The Ringing World' Office,
LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING.

ESTABLISHED 1760

JOHN NICOLL,

*Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,*

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.W.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Insti-
tute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peter-
borough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's,
Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

opportunity for hearing some good speeches. It was the commemoration of a name that Birmingham ringers delight to honour. But it was more than these; and to-day, when the foundations of things are being shaken, and the world is changing before our eyes, that more, perhaps, is of immense importance and significance. For the Johnson Commemoration was an avowal of the fact that we Englishmen have interests and principles which we value and cherish, and which in their sum total we are prepared to fight for to the death. It was an avowal all the more real because it was an unconscious one; but when Mr. Paddon Smith said that the St. Martin's Guild had kept the commemoration unbroken even through the last war and intended to keep it going through this, he was saying in so many words that, however bleak the outlook, we shall not lose heart, and however hard the struggle we will not give up our rights and possessions to any powers of evil. The war will not be won by talking in saloon bars or eating lunches, but the spirit of friendship and co-operation which prompts men to do these things in their proper times will aid in no small degree the morale which is essential to a final and complete victory.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Seventy years ago to-day Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by a band of College Youths, which consisted of William Cooter 1-2, Henry W. Haley 3-4, Matthew A. Wood 5-6, and Henry Booth 7-8. The time was two hours and three-quarters and Haley was the conductor.

He was not the first to call the Original in hand, for John Cox had done it with a band of Cumberland Youths as early as June, 1854, and two years later J. Heron, of Liverpool, had repeated the performance. It was, however, a sufficiently remarkable feat to merit the adjective 'extraordinary' given it in the report in 'Church Bells.'

The Original was composed as far back as 1750, and when Holt called it on July 7th, 1751, at Westminster, he did so from manuscript. For, says the 'Clavis,' the dividing it into parts and courses for the purpose of retaining it in memory for calling is a matter that has totally baffled all the skill and penetration of the present age.

The second time it was rung, which was at Stonham Aspal in September, 1751, the conductor, William Walker, a man from Richmond in Surrey, also called it from manuscript, but in the next year it was twice performed at Norwich, the conductor, William Dixon, taking part in the ringing. So did Charles Barn, who called the peal at Saffron Walden in 1754.

James Bartlett was the first London man to ring and call the peal, and he was the first who apparently set himself to call it from every bell, though he did not quite complete the circle. Before the 18th century passed George Gross and Joseph Riley called it, and since then it has been done many hundred times. Mrs. Mayne was the first lady to do so, and Miss Norah Williams the second. The peal is still the ambition of skilful conductors.

On tower bells Holt's Original was rung silent for the first time at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on October 23rd, 1884, and again some 40 years ago at St. John's, Waterloo Road. Four members of the Society of College Youths rang it silent on handbells on March 11th, 1887. The band included Mr. J. C. Mitchell and the late Mr. C. F. Winney. This performance was not equalled until last November, when another band of College Youths rang the peal non-conducted for the second time.

AN EAST ANGLIAN GARLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate and thank Mr. Charles J. Sedgley for his most interesting and excellent article. We could do with more of the sort, only, of course, there are not many men who can write as well as he does; but if there are any I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would find space for what they have to say. F. H. SMITH.

BELL ROPES

MADE FROM ITALIAN HEMP, OR ITALIAN FLAX.
SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.

Cheap Quotations. Established 150 years. Phone 203.

DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS).

On Sunday, February 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
At 5, ADDI-ON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's all called differently. Tenor size 14 in D sharp.

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

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

First peal of Minor by the conductor. First peal of Minor 'in hand' by all the band and by the Guild.

PALMERS GREEN.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, February 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
At 21, STONARD ROAD, N.13.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
FREDERICK G. SYMONDS 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to W. J. Bowden.

PALMERS GREEN.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 21, STONARD ROAD, N.13.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ISAAC J. ATTWATER.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, March 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, HEAVILEY,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

ALFRED BARNES... .. 1-2 | ALLEN F. BAILEY 5-6
*C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4 | PETER LAFLIN 7-8

*JOHN WORTH 9-10

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

* First peal on ten handbells.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At St. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 8016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*REV. A. C. BLYTH 1-2 | †ROGER LEIGH 5-6
(Selwyn) (St. Cath's)

†REV. B. F. SHEPPARD 3-4 | KENNETH S. B. CROFT 7-8
(Trinity) (St. John's)

Composed and Conducted by KENNETH S. B. CROFT.

* First peal of Spliced Major. † First peal in the methods. ‡ First peal on eight bells. The conductor's first peal of Major in the methods and first peal as conductor. The first peal in the methods for the Guild.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes.

At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*PATRICIA A. SCADDAN 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4 | †MARIE R. CROSS... .. 7-8
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal 'in hand.'

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, March 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*GEORGE A. FLEMING... .. 1-2 | CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 5-6

HOBART E. SMITH 3-4 | GEORGE E. SYMONDS 7-8

WILLIAM P. GARRETT 9-10

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal of Royal on handbells. Mr. Sedgley's first peal of Royal on handbells as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At St. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS... .. 3-4

*MISS FAITH M. CHILDS 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.'

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A PARALLEL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great satisfaction that we read Mr. C. H. Kippin's exposition of the above proposal, as emanating from a ringer of his standing it is bound to command some attention.

For some time past we have been considering this matter and had at length decided to write to you expressing similar sentiments and using as a parallel 'The Cyclists' Touring Club.'

For the benefit of those ringers who are not familiar with this body, a few facts concerning it may be of interest. These will also serve to illustrate the practical value of Mr. Kippin's suggestions, as it will be seen the constitution and organisation would be very similar. The facts are briefly: It is a National Cyclists' Union, not a local body. It has smaller bodies working within it, just as there would be various branches of the National Association of Church Bellringers. It consists of members who pay an annual subscription direct to the secretary's office. Voting for executive members is by ballot. There is a permanent secretarial office and staff which issues touring information and edits 'The Gazette,' which is circulated to all members. The handbook is published annually, containing a wealth of information for the tourist. Legal aid is provided to members in court cases following accidents in which they have been involved.

One definite advantage of such a body is that in the event of some of the body's interests being threatened, the secretary is at once able to take action in defence of his members. Obviously, if a man can say that he is the representative of so many thousand people, he is in a position to command a hearing. There are other parallels which readily suggest themselves to those who are familiar with Church life, and then in everyday life we have endless societies and unions to promote this, that and the other. They have one thing in common. They are all of their national associations. If such associations flourish, surely part at least of their success is due to the fact that 'united we stand, divided we fall.'

E. B. HARTLEY.
R. G. SPEARS.

Wembley, Middlesex.

DEATH OF TWO BEDFORDSHIRE RINGERS.

We regret to record the death on January 17th at the age of 69 years of Mr. Arthur Markwell, who had been in failing health for some time. He was born at Wilburton, Isle of Ely, where he began his ringing career in early life. He afterwards resided at Terrington St. Clement's, King's Lynn, Sandringham, and Ingoldsby, near Grantham (where he was appointed lay reader under the Bishop of Lincoln). He came to Woburn Sands in 1920, where he became a much esteemed and regular member of the band at St. Mary's. His peals included London and Bristol Surprise. He was always willing to help young beginners in the belfry, and he took a deep interest in other branches of church work.

A further loss to the Bedford Association and the Woburn company occurred recently by the death of Mr. Mark Lane, of Aspley Guise, at the age of 75. He was a member for about 50 years, during which he did much valuable work teaching young ringers. He was foreman of the company at Aspley Guise and unfailing in his attendance for service ringing. He was a safe ringer and a good striker and had rung upwards of 50 peals. Ringers of their type can ill be spared and their places will be difficult to fill.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

EARLY USES.

(Continued from page 113.)

But though church bells entered so much into the ordinary life of the common people and served so many and so important secular purposes, their primary use was for the services of the Church. Originally it was the simple and obvious one of calling the people together and that continued to be and still remains their principal function. But as time went on and the custom grew up of blessing the bells and considering them as the voice of the Church and the trumpets of the heavenly King, it was natural that they should take a more important part in divine service. There was ringing on the vigils of saints' days and especially on All Hallows' eve, when it continued all night long and was done because it was believed that in some way it benefited the souls of departed Christians. There was ritual ringing on Palm Sunday and at Rogationtide, and before High Mass on festivals there were processions accompanied by bell ringing.

During the Eucharist a bell was rung at the recital of the words Sanctus Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, and in most churches there was a smaller bell specially devoted to this purpose, called the sanctus or saunce bell, or sometimes the saints' bell, all of which are variations of the same word. Other names occur in places, such as 'ferial' bell at St. Michael's, Cornhill; 'Gabriel' bell in the Norwich churches; and 'morrow mass' bell at Lewisham.

In many provincial churches this bell was hung in a cot or turret over the chancel, where it could be conveniently rung by one of the servers; but in London it was usually in the steeple among the other bells. How early these bells came into use cannot be said, but they were common in the two centuries before the Reformation and it is not difficult to see why they were introduced. The ringing of the bells was in the charge of the parish clerk and his assistant. They had other duties to perform in the church and obviously could not attend to them and be in the belfry at the same time; but a light bell could be rung by a rope from the ground floor.

The saunce bell survived the changes at the time of the Reformation and was then mainly used immediately before the service began to notify that the clergyman was about to enter the church. Hence they were often called 'priest's bells.' This was not a new use, but a continuation from earlier times. It has generally survived to present times, though where bells are rung for service and not chimed there are signs that this custom, like so many more, is gradually dying out.

Although the Book of Common Prayer only orders the use of a single bell to be tolled at convenient time before Morning and Evening Prayer, two bells were generally considered to be the indispensable minimum in the 17th and 18th centuries—a large bell which was rung whenever there was a sermon and the small priest's bell. After the Great Fire in London, when lack of funds prevented the restoration of full ringing peals in the majority of the rebuilt churches, two bells were always supplied, and in many cases two remains the number. When the parish of Shalfleet in the Isle of Wight wished to sell some of their bells in the year 1801, the Vicar General of the Bishop of Winchester, in his letter to the churchwardens giving the necessary permission, wrote

that 'two bells seem to be necessary in every parish church that notice may be given when the minister comes in.'

Robert Southey, the poet, in his 'Common Place' book noted another and rather peculiar use of the saunce bell. 'In the old church at Ravenstonedale there was a small bell called the Saints' bell, which was wont to be rung after the Nicene Creed to call the dissenters to the sermon, and to this day the dissenters, besides frequenting the meeting-house, oftentimes attend the sermon in church.'

In medieval times at the time of the elevation in the service of the Mass a small bell was rung inside the church. This custom began in France during the twelfth century and was introduced into Germany in 1203.

The bell used was either hung in a frame on the screen or chancel wall or was a handbell. Sometimes a chime of bells was used. These bells were called 'sacring' bells.

The object of the sanctus bell is said to have been to let people outside the church know that the canon or central part of the service was just beginning; though possibly it may have been a ritual act of worship.

The reason for the sacring bell was more utilitarian. It was to call the attention of the worshippers to the elevation of the consecrated elements, and since the service was in Latin and the canon said inaudibly, this was necessary. In the Roman Church, when the Pope says Mass privately, the bell is not rung.

In some English churches to-day it is the custom to ring one of the tower bells after the words of institution in the prayer of consecration, but not at the sanctus. This is a departure from pre-Reformation use when the tower or turret bell was not generally used as a sacring bell.

It seems, however, that the ringing of the large bell at the conventual Mass was, in the twelfth century, ordered by the statutes of some monastic orders; and the injunctions of Archbishop Peckham issued in 1281 directed that at the elevation of the consecrated elements a bell should be 'struck on one side' so that people wherever they might be, whether in the fields or in houses, should bend the knee.'

The meaning of the words 'on one side' led to a learned discussion in the pages of 'The Times' in September, 1938. Some writers held that it meant that one of the bells in the steeple was to be tolled but not rung; but Father Thurston, the Roman Catholic authority, in an article on the Sanctus Bell in 'The Tablet' of October 15th, 1938, maintained that it meant that a handbell had to be rung through the low side window which exists in many churches and the reason for which is very obscure.

Father Thurston's arguments do not appear to be very convincing, and the Latin word 'campana,' which occurs in the Archbishop's injunction, is, I believe, always used for a large bell, never for a handbell. There is at least something to be said historically for the modern use.

The ringing of sanctus and sacring bells ceased at the time of the Reformation and the chimes and handbells were confiscated among so much more property in the reign of King Edward VI.

It has often been said that among the medieval uses of bells in England was the Angelus, but it is pretty certain that it never was a general custom here, and cer-

tainly not in its modern form. There were, however, directions from bishops that the Ave Maria should be said at the time of the curfew or the early morning bell. The bell was not specially rung for the purpose, but the time of the devotion was fitted to the ringing of the bell.

It was also the custom in many places to toll a bell three times either before or after divine service as a call to the devotion and the bell was called the Ave bell or sometimes the Pardon bell on account of the indulgences that were associated with it. It was probably as a survival of this use that in places down to recent times a bell was rung on Sundays after the morning service. It got the name of the 'pudding' bell and was supposed to be for the purpose of warning housewives that it was time to get the dinner ready. Some authorities, including Mr. H. B. Walters, explain the use as a notice that there would be a service in the afternoon, and consider that it dated from the bad times of non-residence and irregular services; but it seems much more likely that the word 'pudding' is merely a corruption of 'pardon.'

More important than any of these uses for present day ringers was the ritual ringing during processions, for it is almost certain that out of it our Exercise grew. The ringing was in the charge of the parish clerk and his assistant, but they could not personally attend to it, and necessarily had to employ young men from the parish. It was natural enough that these men should look on the ringing as a fine athletic sport rather than as a part of solemn church ritual, and so when the time came that ritual ringing was forbidden as 'superstitious' they continued to ring because they liked doing so and for no other reason.

(To be continued.)

THE DANGER OF LEAVING BELLS UP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reference to Mr. Wolstencroft's letter headed 'Danger of leaving bells up,' I would like to quote an instance when I, in company with some other ringers, arrived at a church for practice, the older ringers asked we younger ones to pull up the bells ready for practice. We decided to pull up the front six (although not the most musical way) in peal. I took the rope of the treble, and, coiling up the rope, prepared to start. I had a very unpleasant shock when the bell came 'off set.' The bells had all been left up, and as they were a light peal and the draught of rope very long, the 'give' of the rope and small angle of 'set' were not sufficient to indicate the bell was up.

I fully endorse Mr. Wolstencroft's remarks about raising and lowering bells in peal. To my mind, nothing sounds better at the commencement, and conclusion of well-struck service ringing than bells raised, and lowered in peal.

In conclusion, may I thank you for the very excellent issues of 'The Ringing World' and wish you a speedy recovery. As a member of H.M. Forces, I do not get many opportunities of ringing or meeting ringers, but I do look forward to getting my copy of the paper. I am expecting to go overseas very shortly, and it will be doubly welcome when I am no longer in this country.

E. F. M. SAMSON, Lieut., Leicestershire Regt.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is a well-established fact that any idea, or anything new, which does not comply with the generally accepted principles, has, to put it mildly, a rather rough passage.

The very mention of a National Association makes the 'bees' buzz angrily, but when we reflect that there was quite a spot of bother when the Central Council came into being and the Ladies' Guild was formed, not to mention spliced ringing and compositions of Stedman Triples, it is really gratifying to know that we shall now be able to discuss all the things that matter through the Ringers' Conference.

If any particular idea is bad for the majority naturally it is not proceeded with, but often useful suggestions arise during the discussions which would otherwise be dormant.

I send my good wishes to Mr. Thompson and the North Staffordshire Association hoping that we may meet under more happy circumstances in the near future.

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead, E.11.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

• • • • •

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON
E.1

Telephone BISHopsgate 2599

Founders of the new ring
of twelve for
Liverpool Cathedral
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

THE EDITOR.

The condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith remains about the same as last week, and we regret there is no present improvement in his health.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The attention of members of the Oxford Diocesan Association is called to the correction of the notice in our notice column. As sent to us it stated that the annual general meeting will be held at Oxford to-morrow. It should have read 'annual committee meeting.'

Mr. Frederick S. Bayley, of Titchfield, Hampshire, who has for a long period been associated with ringing in the Portsmouth district, celebrated his 70th birthday last Tuesday. Prior to going to Portsmouth Mr. Bayley used to ring at St. Alphage's, Greenwich, where his brother, the Rev. G. A. Bayley, who afterwards became Vicar of Huntingdon, was then curate.

Mr. F. S. Bayley took part in the first peal of Stedman Caters ever rung in Hampshire and by the Winchester Diocesan Guild. It took place at Winchester Cathedral, Mr. Bayley ringing the tenor single-handed the first time this had been done to a peal of Caters. The peal was rung on September 27th, 1899, and of the band only four now survive, viz., Keith Hart, George Williams (the conductor), J. S. Goldsmith and F. S. Bayley. The rest of the band were I. G. Shade, of Greenwich, Henry White, of Basingstoke, Charles Giles and Frank Hopgood, of Reading, W. W. Gifford, of Salisbury, and the Rev. F. E. Robinson, of Drayton.

Last week we published the report of a handbell peal of Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Major by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which was nearly but not quite an Oxford University Guild peal. This week we publish the record of one in the same two methods by the Cambridge University Guild. It is good to hear of this activity in the two great universities, for it is a good sign for the future of the art.

Miss Patricia A. Scaddan, who rang the trebles to a peal of Bob Royal last Saturday, only began to ring last October. She has now three peals to her credit and we look for many more in the future.

Mr. A. A. Hughes informs us that the fire bell at Sherborne Abbey is entirely different in shape from an ordinary church bell, and evidently was designed to give a note that could not be mistaken for one of the service bells in the steeple.

On March 9th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,720 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major with the 120 course ends. The peal was composed and conducted by Henry Hubbard.

On March 10th, 1742, 'a compleat peal of Five thousand and fourty of Richmond Triples was rung by the Richmond Society.'

One of the principal stages in the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was reached on March 10th, 1784, when the older society rang 7,008 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark. John Povey conducted and the younger Samuel Mugeridge rang the tenor single-handed.

The St. James' Society rang the first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells on March 11th, 1854. The band was John Cox, William Cooter, Henry Haley and Matthew Wood.

The first peal of Treble Bob Maximus was rung at Southwark on March 12th, 1758, by the College Youths. George Meakins was the conductor.

To-day is the 206th anniversary of the first peal by the Eastern Scholars, one of Grandsire Triples at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. This famous society was one of the main tributary streams from which the Ancient Society of College Youths derives.

The Bedfordshire Association was founded 60 years ago to-day.

Mr. C. F. Borrett called 6,720 Bob Major on handbells at Norwich on March 15th, 1894. It was an attempt for a 13,440 brought round at the half-way owing to the cold weather. A 6,000 had been rung in the city as far back as 1826 with Joshua Hurry as conductor.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Grandsire Triples, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday eight peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 3, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1.

MR. FRANCIS E. DAWE. EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.

The many friends of Mr. Francis E. Dawe, of Allendale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking, will congratulate him on attaining his 80th birthday, which will take place next Monday. Mr. Dawe has been in indifferent health for some time and during the severe weather has been confined to his bed.

Mr. Dawe has had a distinguished ringing career, both as Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths and as a peal ringer. In connection with the latter it is interesting to know that he has rung peals in more cathedrals than any other man. Some of these peals were performed under conditions which nowadays would be considered almost unsurmountable. He conducted many of the peals. In 1883 he took part in the then record length of Stedman Caters, 11,111 changes at All Saints', Fulham.

He is the only man to have served in the office of Master of the College Youths during five years.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE AGENDA.

We publish below the agenda for the first Ringers' Conference. It will be observed that quite a number of motions have been submitted for discussion, and they touch upon a variety of important subjects relating to the future of change ringing and the Exercise. We urge upon our readers to send us their remarks on any of the subjects as soon as they can, and their contributions will be published when the various motions come up for debate.

It is necessary for the smooth running of the Conference that there should be no 'hang-up' in the discussions, and readers are asked to send in their contributions on the earlier subjects at once. Where they desire to wait to see what previous 'speakers' have said, in order that they may criticise or approve, they should make every effort to ensure that their contributions reach the Chairman of the Conference not later than the following Monday. Promptitude and crispness will be the essence of success in this matter.

The Conference will open in our issue of March 20th. We would remind our readers that these discussions are open to all, and the wider the opinions expressed, the greater will be the benefits derived from the Conference. The rules governing the Conference will be found in our issue of February 13th.

AGENDA.

1. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.
2. MOTIONS.

- (a) Proposed by Mr. J. P. Price, seconded by Mr. L. W. Bunce.
That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.
- (b) Proposed by Mr. C. T. Coles, seconded by Mr. R. Richardson.
That this Conference is of the opinion that the present basis of the organisation of ringing societies has resulted in great advancement in the art of change ringing; has stimulated interest in ringing matters generally; and has caused very considerable additions to the number of ringing peals of bells in the country. It further registers its belief that, with the loyal help of all ringers, the present associations and the Central Council are capable of overcoming post-war difficulties.
- (c) Proposed by Mr. William A. Stote.
That any five-bell method the extent of which can be produced by common bobs only (singles being unnecessary) be designated 'irregular.'
- (d) Proposed by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, seconded by Mr. Edwin A. Barnett.
Each society, guild or association of change ringers should appoint an official peal secretary, who shall satisfy himself of the truth of all peal compositions rung by his society and reports of all peals published by such society, guild or association should be supported by actual compositions or should indicate where the figures may be found.
- (e) Proposed by Mr. C. Wallater, seconded by Mr. J. Luck.
That application be made for a broadcast appeal for funds to restore church bells damaged by enemy action.
- (f) Proposed by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, seconded by the Rev. C. Carew Cox.
That in any plans for reconstruction after the war ringers should exert their influence, both individually and collectively, to prevent the erection of church towers too weak in structure or too restricted in dimensions to carry a ringing peal of bells.
- (g) Proposed by Mr. T. Harris, seconded by Mr. D. G. Clift.
That the Exercise, mindful of its debt to 'The Ringing World,' and subject to the proprietor's consent, take steps to secure its perpetuity.
- (h) Proposed by Mr. William Keeble, seconded by Mr. A. A. Saunders.
That in the interests of keeping a band of ringers together, the key of the belfry should always be retained by a duly elected towerkeeper in preference to being retained by the incumbent or any other person not connected with the bells.

(Continued in next column.)

THE OLDEST BELL.

DATED BELL AT CLAUGHTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The oldest dated bell in the country is at Claughton, Lancs. The date (1296) is the only inscription, and is set out as follows:—

+ ANNO . DNI . M . CC . NONOG . AI .

There are, of course, older bells in the country, but they are not dated. One early 13th century bell is preserved at South Kensington and another at Skinners Hall, Dowgate Hill, E.C.

ALBERT A. HUGHES.

Whitechapel Foundry.

THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the question of Mr. A. W. Picknell, the oldest existing bell in the county of Stafford is at St. Chad's Church, Lichfield. Though bearing no date, Charles Lynam in his 'Church Bells in the County of Stafford' gives the date as being 1255.

Another source gives the date 1033. Should the latter date be correct, this bell must be the oldest in the country.

At Farewell, a village near here, is a smaller bell believed to be by the same founder.

GEORGE E. OLIVER.

Lichfield.

CAVERSFIELD'S THIRTEENTH CENTURY BELL.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Alfred W. Picknell's letter in your issue of February 20th, there is a bell at Caversfield, in Oxfordshire, which was cast in the thirteenth century. As testified by its inscription, it was given to the church by Hugh and Sibilla Gargate, of Caversfield Manor. There is good evidence for the date. Hugh Gargate succeeded his father, Roger, in the Manor of Caversfield, and was in possession of the property during the first years of the thirteenth century. Documentary evidence shows that he was alive in 1216, but in 1219 his wife is mentioned in a deed and described as 'Sybil de Kavensfield, widow of Hugh de Gargat.'

There are numerous blank bells of the same shape as the Caversfield bell scattered all over the country. Most counties possess one or two.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

COLD ASHBY'S BELLS.

Sir,—According to information supplied me, the second bell (not the tenor) at Cold Ashby is the second oldest known dated bell in England. The tenor is by Newcombe 1606. If my memory serves me right, the oldest dated bell in the country is at Claughton, in Lancashire, and goes back to 1296 or thereabouts.

The archaeologists tell us that it was not the custom to put dates on the earliest bells, and I must leave it to those learned in these matters to express their views as to the probable age of undated bells still existing which may be regarded as older than the two mentioned above.

E. S. POWELL.

THE EXPERTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Smallwood is a fair-minded man and would not willingly do anyone an injustice, but has he not got a bit muddled? Will he tell us plainly who are the 'experts' he is referring to. Let us have one definite example of the 'dogmatic and know all vogue' he says he has seen far too much of in the past. And will he explain (again clearly) in what way the composer of the two-part peal of Stedman Triples has been 'discouraged'? If he thinks I have had anything to do with the peal I hope he will give me an opportunity of explaining anything. I know my name has been 'whispered' about in this connection, but entirely without any reason for it.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

- (i) Proposed by Mr. G. R. Newton, seconded by Mr. E. C. Birkett.
That this conference is of the opinion that church bells and bells in other towers hung for ringing should not be rung for victory when achieved unless it is decreed by Government authority.
 - (j) Proposed by Mr. T. J. Lock, seconded by Mr. A. W. Coles.
The Ringers' Conference desires that, during its deliberations or until such time when the Central Council of Church Bellringers next meet in full session, whichever period is the shorter, all motions, amendments and 'speeches' which appear in any issue of 'The Ringing World' should have faithful and authoritative consideration by the Central Council at any of its future meetings, and at least one copy of all such motions, etc., be readily available at any of such meetings.
3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (if any).
 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

SUCCESSFUL GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A mid-day luncheon can never quite reproduce the atmosphere and spirit of an evening dinner, but, considering the conditions of the times, the Henry Johnson Commemoration at Birmingham on Saturday was most successful and enjoyable. At the Imperial Hotel 71 members of the St. Martin's Guild and guests sat down to a lunch, which was ably presided over by Mr. Albert Walker.

Mrs. Walker was by his side and supporting him were Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P. (Master), Messrs. James George and J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), the Very Rev. the Provost J. H. Richards, Messrs. F. E. Haynes (Ringing Master), T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), E. T. Allaway (trustee), F. B. Yates and Mrs. Yates, Messrs. A. A. Hughes (representing the College Youths), J. A. Trollope, W. A. Clark, W. R. Heaton (Solihull), F. C. W. Stevenson, of Gillett and Johnston, and O. Pearson.

Others present included Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Fearn, Mr., Mrs. and Miss W. C. Dowling, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Rishworth, Messrs. Fred Price (auditor), G. F. Swann (librarian), Edgar C. Shepherd (Solihull), J. W. Pemberton, F. W. Perrens, Harry Withers, S. W. Freemantle and Tom Miller, the oldest member of the Guild.

The visitors were Mr., Mrs. and Miss Richardson (Surfleet), Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin (Coventry), Messrs. F. E. Collins (Gillett and Johnston), J. W. Jones and A. C. Cain (Newport), G. R. H. Smith (Charlton Kings), W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale), John Austin (Gloucester), Charles H. Kippin (Croydon), Mr. and Mrs. Farr (Tamworth Arms) and Mrs. B. E. Shepherd (Aston).

The Chairman, in his preliminary remarks, read a greetings telegram from the Ancient Society of College Youths, and especially welcomed two of the oldest members of the Guild, Messrs. James George and Tom Miller.

Apologies for absence had been received from the Bishop of Birmingham, Canon Guy Rogers, Archdeacon McGowan and Messrs. F. Skidmore, G.

W. Fletcher, J. S. Goldsmith, J. Jaggar, Ernest Morris and Frank Skidmore. Miss D. E. Griffin, daughter of the late W. Griffin, who died in January, sent best wishes for a successful gathering.

Mr. Fred Price, proposing the toast of 'Church and State,' said that he welcomed the opportunity of doing so at the present time, when both were engaged in a desperate struggle. While he was confident of the State's ultimate victory, it was essential that the Church should share in it. At a time when it appeared that Church and State were becoming more and more opposed, the struggle now in progress had brought them together and now the Church was helping in many ways, particularly in keeping up the morale of the country—an obvious instance had been the fine work done by the clergy in air raids. The Church now had a great opportunity of emphasising its value and now was the time to impress on all the absolute necessity for true religion; especially should this be done in our schools. Then, he continued, perhaps the world might avoid further disasters. After complimenting the Master on his appointment to the magisterial bench, Mr. Price coupled with the toast the name of that loyal friend of the Guild, Canon E. S. Blofeld.

The Canon, in reply, complimented Mr. Price for the way in which he had proposed the toast, saying he had touched upon several points of great importance and suggestions of value upon which he himself did not intend to enlarge on that occasion. He, despite ill-health, had once more come to the Henry Johnson Commemoration, because that was one of the few events of the year he felt he really could not miss. At that gathering, among other good things, one always found goodwill; this was, of course, as it should be, but was there not a tendency throughout the country to rely too much on this feeling of goodwill, a trusting belief that this spirit alone would carry us through to victory? It would be wise to associate all progress, including victory, more closely with religion, and in any new order' after



MR. ALBERT WALKER.

the war religion would have to be made really effective. The newly-appointed Archbishop of Canterbury was determined to work for both Church and State, and could be relied upon to face the problems of their proper relationship at the right time. Goodwill, continued Canon Blofeld, must include sacrifice, and the new spirit must be made to work. After many years as a clergyman he realised with regret that religion had not been what it should have been; to the young was given the chance of making a better future.

He looked forward to the time when our bells, now silent, would ring out again not merely as a skillful exercise of the ringers, not merely in joyful recognition of victory, but as an expression of our desire to attain closer touch with others and with God.

THE MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

The memory of Henry Johnson was proposed by the chairman. 'As you are all aware,' said Mr. Walker, this is only the second occasion when this toast has not been proposed by someone who actually knew Henry Johnson in the flesh. I myself have attended 40 of these dinners and have heard many famous ringers who actually knew Johnson testify to his sterling character as a man and his abilities as a composer, conductor and ringer.

Henry Johnson was born at Lichfield on February 28th, 1809. At an early age he removed to Aston and became acquainted with Aston Parish Church belfry. It is rather strange, but at that time it appears that only call changes were rung there, but due to Henry Johnson's keenness and ability change ringing was quickly taken up. In 1832 he conducted his first peal, which was rung muffled in memory of Joshua Short, the man who turned in Aston tenor to 15,360 changes of Bob Major, and which Tom Miller commemorates in his famous Bob Major song.

Henry Johnson joined the St. Martin's Society in 1833, and was, therefore, a member for 57 years. During this time he composed and conducted many peals in various methods. These included 10,047 Stedman Caters, rung at Aston, and 9,020 Grand sire Cinques, rung at St. Martin's in 1887 to celebrate the visit of Queen Victoria to Birmingham when she laid the foundation stone of the Law Courts. At the advanced age of 72 he composed and rang the 6th in the record peal of 9,238 Stedman Cinques, which took 6 hours and 48 minutes, and which is recorded on a tablet in St. Martin's belfry.

'As a proof of the esteem in which he was held throughout the ringing fraternity, on attaining his 80th birthday in 1889 the late Sir Arthur Percival Heywood gave a dinner in his honour, which was attended by most of the leading ringers throughout the country, and from then onwards this commemoration has taken place each year to do honour to the memory of this famous ringer and gentleman. He died on January 7th, 1890, and was buried at Aston on the 13th, and as a national memorial a tombstone of polished granite was erected, subscribed for by the ringers of England. The inscription runs as follows: "Henry Johnson, to whose ability and perseverance the art of change ringing is widely indebted. Born 28th February, 1809, died 7th January, 1890. Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." On February 14th, 1890, a muffled peal was rung to his memory by members of the St. Martin's Guild, and among the famous names of the men who rang in it, only that of Tom Miller remains. He, we are pleased to see, is present with us to-day.'

After the toast was honoured in silence the chairman requested all present who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh to stand, and the number was five.

An excellent course of Stedman Cinques was then rung on handbells by F. E. Pervin 1-2, F. E. Haynes 3-4, F. W. Perrens 5-6, J. F. Smallwood 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, M. J. Morris 11-12.

PROSPERITY TO ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

The Master (Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P.) proposed the toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' For the first time, he said, I am to propose this toast as Master of this Ancient Guild, a position I am very proud to hold. I held the office of secretary for 20 years, and during that time I would not have changed the secretaryship for that of any other society. Now that I am Master I would not 'swop' the Mastership for that of any other society. It was something to be proud of that the Guild had kept going through the last war, and they would maintain activity through this one.

With regard to the silent bells, I would ask you to believe that everything possible has been done from the ringers' point of view in an endeavour to lift the ban, and we must accept the decision that it will not be removed until the war is over.

I am proud to succeed the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett as Master. His silvery voice and the charming manner in which he presided at this annual gathering will be remembered by all in this room.

I have to mention, unfortunately, the death during the year of four of our members. Firstly, Gabriel Lindoff, a most famous ringer and composer of the 11,111 Stedman Cinques which was rung at St. Martin's. Secondly, there was the late J. W. Tilley, of Harborne, who with Mr. W. R. Heaton (who is present this afternoon) created a record, they being the first churchwardens to ring a peal together at their own church. Thirdly, we have lost Mr. C. Webb, of King's Norton, a well-respected member of the Guild. Lastly, Mr. W. Griffin, of Walsall, who was well known by the ringing fraternity some 30 years ago.

I would like to give a personal welcome to our oldest living members, Mr. James George and Mr. Thomas Miller (applause). Mr. George looking very well at 88 years of age, and Tom Miller (the

oldest member of the Guild), who will be 84 years of age on July 6th. I thank the many ringing friends who have written to congratulate me upon my election to the magisterial bench. These are difficult times in which to propose continued prosperity to the Guild, but there is much upon which we can congratulate ourselves.

Mr. Reeves was a fine secretary and treasurer. His period of office had by no means expired. I occupied the position for 20 years. My predecessor, Mr. W. H. Godden, also carried out the duties for 20 years. Not only that, but Mr. Godden's predecessor, Mr. Alf Thomas, was also secretary for 20 years. Mr. Reeves has only done 13 years, so he cannot think of giving up for at least another seven years.

In response, Mr. Reeves congratulated the Master on behalf of the Guild upon his elevation to the magisterial bench. We all look forward to the time when he receives the honour of alderman as did his predecessor, the late Master (applause).

It was very encouraging, said Mr. Reeves, to receive so many kind letters from ringers in different parts of the country. The Guild is in a very healthy position financially, in fact it has never been stronger. We regret to hear of the illness of our respected friend, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and would like to make an appeal for additional support for 'The Ringing World.' With regard to the Ringers' Conference, Mr. Reeves thought that it was an excellent means of keeping alive and increasing interest until the time came when we could ring the bells once again. It was splendid to see the spirit of fellowship which brought ringers together from various parts of the country to a gathering such as this.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Mr. Albert A. Hughes brought greetings from the Ancient Society of College Youths and from Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council.

Mr. F. E. Haynes proposed the toast 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' Many people seem to think that owing to the ban ringing is dead. I am one who does not share that opinion, as we are doing our best to keep the Exercise going. Neither do I regret the absence of peal performances in 'The Ringing World,' as it has made space for more interesting matter. We have heard that the financial position of the paper has never been satisfactory. I think that the ringing societies could do something to help the ringers' paper, which is so indispensable. The Guild is financially strong—other societies possess larger bank balances than we have, and I do not see why the funds could not be used, in part, for this object. To-day we have a good gathering of ringers from London, Bath, Surfleet, Croydon, Newport (Mon.), Gloucester and many other places. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting Mr. J. A. Trollope, a fount of wisdom in historical matters.

In response, Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport) said how grateful he was for the opportunity of being present. He did not think that there was another town or city in which ringers were accorded a more hearty welcome.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood, who also responded, said that his main reason for attending was to support his old friend, Mr. Walker, in the chair. They had rung 79 peals together, and although Mr. Walker had arranged most of them, he had only conducted 37 of that number, which indicated his unselfish character. We like, he said, to come to Birmingham. We know that we shall be welcome and thank the Guild for inviting us.

After the conclusion of the proceedings further handbell ringing took place, and later on an adjournment was made to the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, when members and visitors staying the night had social intercourse and further handbell ringing.

AFTER FORTY-FIVE YEARS.

ISLE OF WIGHT PEAL WITHDRAWN.

We have received from the conductor a letter withdrawing a peal rung at Ryde, Isle of Wight, in 1897. The particulars of the performance as given in the Winchester Diocesan Guild's Report are as follows:—

Ryde, Isle of Wight. On Tuesday, December 28th, 1897, at the Church of All Saints, a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes (Hollis' Five-part, No. 2), in 3 hours 27 minutes: Sam V. Salisbury treble, Percy Long 2, George Henry Coombes 3, James G. Norris 4, Frank L. Edwards 5, Henry Jennings 6, Edward Hatcher 7, Edward G. Brett tenor. Conducted by Henry Jennings.

Mr. Jennings writes: Dear Sir,—A peal of Grandsire Triples recorded on a board at Ryde, Isle of Wight, on December 28th, 1897, I wish to withdraw and apologise to all who took part.—H. Jennings.

We should be glad if the writer in justice to the band will give further particulars.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES E. HART.

WELL-KNOWN DERBY RINGER.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles E. Hart, who passed away on Monday, March 2nd, at the ripe age of 80 years. For over 50 years he was the Ringing Master at St. Andrew's Church, Derby.

When the bells were rebung in 1923 and increased to a peal of ten, Mr. and Mrs. Hart gave one of the new bells. During his long connection with the belfry and by his wonderful tact, the ringing standard rose from Bob Triples to Stedman, Double Norwich, Duffield, Superlative, Cambridge, London and Bristol, and later on Duffield and Cambridge Royal. Until the ban London and Bristol Surprise were usually rung for Sunday service.

The lovely belfry ringing chamber with its many embellishments and peal boards, many of them written by himself, stand out as a lasting testimony to Mr. Hart's memory.

He had rung 96 peals for the Midland Counties Association and conducted many of them. Up to the last he was looking forward to ringing for victory.

In addition to his services in the tower, he had held the office of churchwarden for many years and continued as a sidesman up to the time of his death.

Of a quiet and genial disposition, his presence will be sadly missed by his colleagues and all others with whom he came in contact.

DEATH OF A LEICESTER RINGER.

We regret to record the passing of Charles Henry Farmer, of St. Mary's, Knighton, Leicester, whose death came with tragic suddenness following a heart attack at the comparatively early age of 41. Deceased was one of the most conscientious and enthusiastic ringers of this suburb church with its ring of five bells. He was not one of those who 'shone in the limelight,' but of the quiet and reticent class, who, nevertheless, could always be relied upon to be in his place not only in the belfry but in the church too. He had rung two peals, but his worth must be valued in the fulfilment of his duties as a Sunday service ringer.

As a last token of respect, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on half-muffled handbells during the funeral service, which was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon C. L. Matthews. The ringers were Frederick E. Wilson 1-2, Harold J. Poole 3-4, Ernest Morris 5-6, Josiah Morris 7-8.

Among the numerous congregation were representatives of the Corporation Electricity Department, in which the deceased worked.

A floral tribute was sent from his fellow ringers, all of whom now remaining were present at the funeral. He was laid to rest in Knighton Churchyard beneath the shadow of the tower he loved and served so well. The deepest sympathy of his friends goes out to his wife and little daughter, thus bereft of their loved one in so sudden and tragic a manner.

E. M.

A BOURNEMOUTH WORTHY.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY CRUMPLES.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Mr. Harry Crumples passed away at the age of 84 years. He was one of the last if not the last remaining link that Bournemouth people possessed with the town's earliest days, for he was appointed sacristan of St. Peter's by the first Vicar and founder of the church in 1873. He was then 17 years of age and one of the Vicar's advisers suggested he was too young. 'He will get over that,' was the Vicar's reply, and so started Harry's 63 years' service as sacristan to Bournemouth's Mother Church.

Although he was not a member of the Exercise, Mr. Crumples could claim to be a church bellringer. His duties took him up the 60 odd steps to the ringing chamber on an average 22 times a week to chime for the services before which the peal of eight bells were not rung, and he did this for over thirty years.

He could tell many good stories. He served under eight vicars and had lost count of the number of clergy who had been at St. Peter's during his time. He loved the bells and any complaints against the noise had short shrift. 'The bells were there first,' he would say.

In 1913 a window was placed in the north transept over the Children's Chapel to commemorate the completion of 40 years' service by him.

On Saturday, March 7th, the ringers rang 504 Grandsire Triples on half-muffled handbells in the chapel to mark the passing of this saintly old man. He was widely known and doubtless many members of our Exercise knew him and will grieve to hear of his passing.

TOWER CLOCKS

Weight Driven or Electric, by the
WORLD'S OLDEST MAKERS
 ESTABLISHED OVER 300 YEARS
 Illustrated ART CATALOGUE on request

J. B. JOYCE & CO. LTD.

WHITCHURCH, SALOP.

We have experts visiting all parts of the British Isles, and shall be pleased to carry out restorations or give reports regarding any make of Tower Clock

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

The Nature of the Rows.

Simple things are very difficult to explain, and especially so when the explanation has to be expressed in words on a printed page. There are, indeed, some things which are so very simple that they cannot be explained and it is hopeless to attempt to do it; all we can do is to state the fact and leave it at that. This is so because when we explain anything, we do so by means of other things which are simpler, but if there are none simpler we are at a loss.

Take the statement that two and two make four. Everybody knows what it means; everybody accepts it as true; and, because all do accept it as true, the whole of arithmetic is possible. But just sit down and try to put into words an explanation of the statement; you will find that you cannot do it.

You will probably say that you do not intend to waste your time on so unnecessary and fruitless a task, and you would be right. But if there were any beings who knew nothing of arithmetic, it would be necessary before you could tell them anything about it, to make them realise what the statement means. We are sometimes rather in that position when we try to explain the science of change ringing. At the base of it there are one or two truths which must be accepted before the rest can be understood, and those truths are so very simple that they can hardly be explained. They are what are termed self-evident truths, but like the statement that two and two make four they are only self-evident if we first accept them by faith. One of these truths is that the total number of rows on any number of bells is divided into two groups, one of which consists of what are called 'in-course' or 'even' rows, and the other of 'out-of-course' or 'odd' rows.

This difference in the 'nature' of the rows (as it is called) was recognised by ringers many years ago, but for very long, though they acknowledged the fact, they could not understand it, and they sought diligently for an explanation, thinking there must be one, though it probably was very abstruse and complicated. Thus C. A. W. Troyte, in his well-known text book, says that 'What this nature is, is out of my power to explain'; he had 'never time to go into the theory of the matter,' which he considered worthy the attention of mathematicians.

Many of the early writers attempted to explain the nature of the rows, but as Jasper Snowdon wrote in 1873, what they said was 'generally very hard to understand and in some cases quite at variance with the truth.' His own essay was far better, but the very thoroughness with which he treated the matter and the amount he wrote rather give the impression of difficulty instead of (as is really the case) of extreme simplicity.

During more recent years the subject has no doubt lost much of its terrors for those ringers who really need to know about it; but we fancy there are still a large number who think it far too abstruse and mysterious for them to bother about. Yet it is extremely simple and once the reader knows what it is, he can accept it as true, and need not bother about why it is any more than he bothers about why two and two make four.

We all know what odd and even numbers are, and what is the difference between them. We accept the fact without asking for any explanation, and we all know what follows. If we add two odd numbers together we get an even number. If we add two even numbers together we get an even number. If we add an odd to an even, or an even to an odd we get an odd number. That is really all we want to know to understand the nature of the rows.

All, except for one thing. In change ringing one row is produced from another row by transposing one or more pairs of bells,

```

1 2 3 4 5 6
2 1 4 3 6 5
2 4 1 6 3 5

```

The second row 2 1 4 3 6 5 is produced from the first, by transposing three pairs, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. The third row is produced from the second by transposing two pairs, 1-4 and 3-6.

The second row is produced from the first and the third is produced from the second directly.

The third is produced from the first through the second, that is indirectly. Every row can be produced from rounds either directly, or indirectly through one or more other rows.

Rounds is the primary row and is considered to be even. Every other row which is, or can be, produced from rounds either directly or indirectly by transposing an even number of pairs of bells is an even row. Every row which is, or can be, produced from rounds either directly or indirectly, by transposing an odd number of pairs of bells is an odd row.

That is all there is to be said about it, but we can easily see what an important thing it is. When we are ringing or pricking Grandsire Doubles, for instance, at every change we transpose two pairs of bells. We do so throughout the lead and at the lead end whether we have a plain lead or a bob. As we start with rounds we produce only even rows. It is evident therefore that to get that half of the rows which is odd we must have some special device; hence the necessity for singles which originally were what the term states, the transposition of a single pair.

When we ring or prick Grandsire Caters, at every change we transpose four pairs of bells, and consequently the rows are all even until we make a single, and then they will all be odd until we make another single. Obviously neither in Grandsire Doubles nor Grandsire Caters can the extent of the changes be obtained by bobs only.

But in Grandsire Triples at every change we transpose three pairs of bells. We start from rounds (backstroke) and rounds is even. The first row (handstroke) is odd, the next is even and the next to that odd. And so throughout the rows are alternately of opposite nature, all the handstrokes being odd, and all the backstrokes even.

When we make bobs we do not alter this regular succession, and since we produce odd and even rows in equal proportion we naturally ask what is to stop us getting the whole extent of the changes by bobs alone. That was the question the old composers asked. It was long before an answer was given, and as it does not depend on the nature of the rows alone, we will leave it for the present.

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual committee 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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Combined meeting with Dudley Guild at St. Thomas', Dudley, Saturday, March 14th (D.V.), 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 14th. Service 4.15 p.m. Business meeting and election of officers. Cups of tea will be provided. Please bring your own sandwiches.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Penshurst on Saturday, March 14th. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Green Tea Room, followed by business meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Tonbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 14th. Service in St. James' 4.30.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 21st. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available at Parish Church from 3 p.m. and again during evening. Service at 4.45. Tea, followed by business meeting, at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. — The third meeting will be held at the Red Lion, Sapcote, on Saturday, March 21st. Handbells from 6 p.m. Good bus service from Leicester and Hinckley.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting of Western Division, in conjunction with Leeds and District Society's nomination meeting, will be held at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in Conservative Club,

near church. Tea, at 4.30 (1s. 6d.), only for those who send in names to H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12, not later than Tuesday, March 24th. Business meeting after tea (approximately 5.30), election of officers, etc. An interesting talk after meeting on 'Proof of Composition,' by Mr. W. Barton, association's peal secretary. Annual reports available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley, Leeds.

BIRTH.

PADDON SMITH.—On March 5th, at Watford, to Jean, wife of Captain Donald Paddon Smith, Royal Engineers, a son.

DEATH.

HART.—On Monday, March 2nd, at his residence, Ringwell, Duffield Road, Derby, Charles Edward Hart, aged 80 years. Ringing Master for over 50 years at St. Andrew's, Derby.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HENLOW.**

The meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Henlow was attended by ringers from Sandy, Tempsford, Northill, Clifton and the local band, and there were also visitors from Hitchin and Baldock.

A few touches were rung on the silent tower bells, but handbells were mostly in demand.

Mr. Wagstaff, of Northill, brought a peal of eight bicycle bells, which he had collected and fitted with clappers and leather handles. He had had to collect over 100 bells to get an octave, and took ten years to get this peal of eight out of them. They are very amusing to ring and listen to.

After a short stay in the tower the local inns were visited and handbells were kept going until 9 o'clock, when the party broke up, which brought a short but a very pleasant gathering to an end. Methods rung were Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles and Triples. The members of the district are grateful to the Hitchin ringers, whose help with the handbells was very much appreciated.

It is hoped that a meeting of this kind, together with a darts match, will shortly be held at Hitchin, and it is being looked forward to with interest.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

At the February meeting of the Barnsley and District Society held at Wath-on-Deerne the following towers were represented: Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth and the local company.

A comfortable room was available for handbell ringing and the business meeting. Tea was served at Warburton's Cafe. The Vicar (the Rev E. J. Evans) occupied the chair at the business meeting, and the usual routine was soon disposed of. Thanks were given to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the room, and to Mr. A. Gill, of the local company, for making all arrangements.

Three new members were elected, the Vicar as an honorary member, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Turley, of Handsworth, as ringing members.

It was decided to try to arrange the next meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, March 28th.

After the business handbells were made good use of in Minor and Major methods. The attendance was rather small, but nevertheless it was a happy little gathering.

'CAMPANALOGIA,' 1668 EDITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago you kindly drew attention in 'The Ringing World' to the loss from the library of the Hertford County Association of an original copy of the above book, in the hope that it might be returned.

At a recent general committee meeting grave concern was expressed at the loss, and it was decided to again seek your kindly help through the pages of your paper in a further attempt to secure its return.

Any information that would help in securing the copy would be gratefully welcomed. G. W. CARTMEL, Hon. Sec.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD'

LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY.

The Central Council Publications

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE
from the:

Rev. E. S. POWELL, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry

COLLECTION OF TRIPLES METHODS	1	d.
REPORT OF CONFERENCE WITH S.P.A.B.	6	
CARD OF INSTRUCTIONS IN THE CARE AND USE OF BELLS	1½	
METHOD SHEETS.—Cambridge Surprise Major	2	
Double Norwich and Cambridge Court	3	
Bristol Surprise Major	2	
HINTS TO INSTRUCTORS AND BEGINNERS	2	
VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION	1	0
COLLECTION OF DOUBLES AND MINOR METHODS (New Edition)	2	0

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages, commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' ninth edition, 2s. 10d.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss **MARGARET E. SNOWDON**
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

PUBLICATIONS.

'GRANDSIRE DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, Simply Explained,' 9th thousand, 6½d. each, or 5s. 9d. dozen, post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Womersh, Surrey.

'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.

'CAMBRIDGE MINOR AND MAJOR,' for those about to begin more advanced methods. 7½d. each, 6s. 9d. dozen, post free. From M. Broome, Orchards, Womersh, Surrey.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9
(6 copies for 15/-), 6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp.,
1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

NOTED FOR "EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING"
Est. 1820 Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) LTD. LOUGHBOROUGH

Order your Bell Ropes now, before prices increase, pre-war quality, and send us your old Bell Ropes for repairs whilst not in use.

Clock and Chiming Ropes
Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs

RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

Suitable for Presentation or Wedding Gift

Correctly Modelled BELL INKSTAND (Regd. Design) in Solid Silver



Diameter	2½in.	2½in.	3½in.	3½in.	4in.	4¼in.	5in.	5¼in.
Price	18/6	22/6	28/6	38/6	42/-	52/6	67/6	78/6

The 5in. size is also made to hold 50 cigarettes.

Initials and Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges

T. E. RUSSELL Jeweller and Optician
WOKING
Telephone 276

SMITH of DERBY

for Church and Turret Clocks
Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

John Smith & Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works, Queen St., Derby
Tel. No. DERBY 48888 Grams. CLOCKS, DERBY

Send for Booklet.

Estimates and Advice Free