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TRUTH OF COMPOSITIONS.

We printed recently a letter from Mr. Sidney F. Palmer describing the work done by Mr. William Barton for the Yorkshire Association. Mr. Barton is the peals secretary, and it was his habit to prove the composition of every peal before passing its record for inclusion in the association's annual report. The outbreak of war, and still more the imposition of the ban, put a temporary stop to peal ringing, but Mr. Barton did not cease his work. With little to do for the present, he turned his attention to the past, and began to prove the peals which had been rung by the association since its foundation in the year 1875. It was a formidable undertaking, and indeed an impossible one, unless a vast amount of skill and enthusiasm could be brought to bear on it.

Up to the end of last year the association had rung 4,269 peals, and this entailed the checking of nearly 2,000 compositions, rather more than half of which have already been dealt with. About twenty-five have been found to be false, which, considering the number and the length of time covered, cannot be said to be very alarming.

In the matter of peal compositions the Yorkshire Association has always set an excellent example to the Exercise. We believe it is true to say that there is not a single performance in its records of which the composition cannot be readily ascertained. Here we may see the influence of the first President, Jasper W. Snowdon, who in his books strongly stressed the importance of giving the figures in peal books and other records.

It is always rather a pity when the composition of any peal that has been rung turns out to be false, and especially so when it happens after the lapse of years. There are some people who are inclined to think it is better not to pry too closely into these things. 'What good does it do,' they say, 'to discover that some performance of twenty or more years ago was false? The peal was fairly and truly rung and published in good faith. Why not leave it at that?'

It is indeed true that the truth or falseness of the composition does not in any way affect the merits of the band that ring a peal. So far as they are concerned they have done their job. The men who took part in the long lengths at Southwark and Painswick are entitled to just as much praise as if the compositions were true. But that is not everything.

Peal ringing is not the whole of the art of ringing; it is not perhaps the most important part of the art, but it does occupy a unique and vital place in the art. Change

(Continued on page 134).

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ringing would have scant interest for men unless it made strict and exacting demands on their intellect and capacity. It sets before its votaries a task and challenges them to achieve it, and this task finds its best expression in peal ringing. For that a standard is necessary and a high standard; and the Exercise has always taken absolute truth as its standard, truth of composition as well as truth of execution. We may be quite certain that only so long as this ideal is kept alive will the Exercise flourish, and if at any time and for any reason it becomes relaxed, the result will be disastrous. It is natural enough to feel it is kinder to shut our eyes to any defects which may be revealed in any bygone peals, whether we took part in them or others; but it is better and more satisfying in the long run to keep to the truth.

Mr. Barton's work has therefore a distinct value in maintaining the high standards of the Exercise, and it has the further value of obviating the ringing again of these false compositions. His is an example that well might be followed in other associations, and we are pleased to say that a motion has been given in for the coming conference which will enable the question to be debated.

REMINISCENCES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Being a regular reader of 'The Ringing World' for over 20 years, I have read your leading articles and also the views of other readers with keen interest, but one thing stands out alone to me. Not the antagonistic writings of one ringer against another, but such articles as that by Mr. C. J. Sedgley and others in the past.

It is very nice to be able to look back and see what enjoyment you have got out of your ringing. I, for one, shall always remember my first peal for the Yorkshire Association. I happened to be at the annual Pudsey social of the Leeds and District Association when I was asked, 'What about a peal at your place and would you care to be in it?'

I was ever so pleased because I had never rung one. Well it was fixed up and it was a very bad Saturday in February. It had snowed all the morning, but, nevertheless, all the ringers turned up to time in spite of having to come from various towers round Leeds. We started for Kent Treble Bob Major and had rung 1½ hours when something went wrong. Well, we started again, and rang the peal in just over three hours, and a good one too.

Of course, we had to have the usual ringers' tea and handbells at the 'local' afterwards. I have gone all over the place to meetings and socials, and always met the same spirit—make yourself at home.

I do hope when the war is over and ringing becomes a reality again that all will gather round the church and tower and try and make things as before and keep the flag flying as a reminder of all who worked in the past for the benefit of the art of change ringing.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' every success in these very trying times.

W. E. DRANSFIELD.

Almondbury, Huddersfield.

THE REV. W. C. PEARSON'S LAST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. J. Sedgley, in his interesting notes on Suffolk bells and ringers, mentions that the Rev. W. C. Pearson rang his last peal in 1923. The only peal which I rang with the Vicar was Cambridge Major on October 2nd, 1924, conducted by W. C. Rumsey. G. H. Cross also took part, the Vicar ringing the treble. We had two starts and finished the peal at 10.20 p.m. If he rang any more after this I have no record.

Framsden.

L. G. BRETT.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At Church House,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2 | HAROLD CHANT 5-6
 LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 3-4 | FRED HODGSON 7-8

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

Rung to commemorate the centenary of Leeds Parish Church and its possession of a ring of 13 bells for the same period.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Monday, March 9, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

At Somerville College,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*JEAN M. BUCKLEY (Lady | JOHN E. SPICE (New
 Margaret Hall) 1-2 | College) 3-4
 WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, March 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR | JOHN E. SPICE
 (Somerville) 1-2 | (New College) 5-6
 WILLIAM L. B. LEESE | *REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG
 (St. John's) 3-4 | (Keble) 7-8

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.' The conductor's 25th handbell peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 13, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Single Oxford, Reverse and Double Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 18 in A flat.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR | JOHN E. SPICE
 (Somerville) 1-2 | (New College) 3-4
 WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal in five methods by the ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, and for the society. First peal in five methods as conductor.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, March 7th, at Belgrave. The eight bells of the Parish Church were available for 'silent' ringing, but only a small number of members were able to attend. Touches of Kent Treble Bob and Stedman Triples were rung and nearly a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor till 'Old Joe' suddenly set up at back-stroke and could not get back—the rope had cast wheel.

A very nice salmon tea was served at the Hotel Belgrave, and it was noticed that owing to the few members present some sat between two plates and did not have to give up 'points' either. Subsequently the local chairman, Mr. T. H. G. Walker, presided over a brief meeting, Mr. R. Barrow acting as secretary pro tem. owing to P.C. Perkins being on duty and unable to attend. Mrs. Perkins kindly brought books, etc., and Mrs. A. Beamish, secretary of the Warwickshire Guild, and Mr. Bird, of the Hinckley District, were present. Reference was made to the recent sudden death of Mr. H. Farmer, of Knighton, and a letter of condolence was sent to his widow.

Syston was chosen as next place of meeting, to be held on May 16th, and the annual meeting of the full association will be in Leicester on Saturday, April 11th. Both meetings will be advertised as soon as arrangements can be made.

ST. PETER'S, LEEDS.

CENTENARY OF CHURCH AND BELLS.

By LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

The recent centenary of Leeds Parish Church recalls the interesting fact that it has possessed a 'ringing' peal of 13 bells for a century also. The present church is believed to be the fifth of a series which have stood on the site in the last 1,300 years.

It would appear from the history of the Parish Church by John Rusby and J. G. Simpson that in the early part of the eighteenth century the church had six bells. These were increased to eight in 1746, and to ten in 1798. A peal board of historical interest, still preserved in the belfry of the present church, records the last peal rung on the ten bells, and reads as follows:—

'On February 5th, 1838, the 40th and final anniversary of the opening of the old peal of 10 bells formerly occupying the tower of the old Parish Church; St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers rang on that occasion a complete Peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,040 Changes, which was accomplished in 3 hours & 9 minutes by: 1 John Clarkson, 2 John Hudson, 3 John Groves, 4 Christopher Isles, 5 Isaac Greenwood, 6 John Mortimer, 7 Samuel Smallpage, 8 William Gawkroger, 9 William Groves, 10 William Pulleine. Composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage.'

It is evident, of course, that this tablet was not erected until the present edifice was built. It does not record and I have no documentary evidence of the weight of the tenor of this ring of 10, but I am informed that its weight was approximately 25 cwt.

THE NEW BELLS.

The taking down of the tower and bells, together with the church, was commenced in March, 1838, and the present church was opened on September 2nd, 1841. A new ring of 13 bells was cast to the design of one William Gawkroger, of Leeds (apparently the same William Gawkroger whose name appears in the peal records), being, according to the inscription on the old sharp 2nd bell, the first peal of 13 bells ever cast in the United Kingdom.' The peal was built to a tenor bell of 36 cwt. in C, and cast by Mears. Another tablet, still preserved in the belfry, records that these bells were first rung on February 26th, 1842, and gives also the details of the first peal rung on them as follows:—

'On 1st May, 1842, St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers ascended this tower and rang a complete peal of Grandsire Cinques in the tittums position. 5,148 changes were accomplished in correct style in 3 hours 43 minutes and 9 seconds by the following: 1 Samuel Smallpage, 2 John Robinson, 3 John Groves, 4 John Hudson, 5 James Gill, 6 Christopher Isles, 7 Jonas Baldwin, 8 John Mortimer, 9 Benjamin Ely, 10 William Gawkroger, 11 William Groves, 12 William Pulleine. Composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage. The first peal on the bells, and the first peal of Cinques in the County of York.'

A GREAT RESTORATION.

It is worthy of note that these bells remained untouched so far as any repairs or improvements were concerned for upon 90 years. Before the end of that time it had become an act of real physical labour to ring them, and every credit is due to the ringers who in later years had kept the bells going. They were finally dismantled, recast into a nobler and heavier ring built to a tenor of 42½ cwt. in C, and installed in a new iron frame with entirely new fittings and rung for the first time on December 31st, 1932. The first peal on them was rung on February 18th, 1933, details of which are as follows:—

'St. Peter's, Leeds. On Saturday, February 18th, 1933, in three hours and fifty-seven minutes, the first peal on the bells after recasting and rehanging was rung, consisting of 5,007 Stedman Cinques by the following: 1 John Holman, 2 James A. Teale, 3 Charles E. Lawson, 4 Edward Jenkins, 5 Herbert Langdon, 6 Albert J. Hughes, 7 William Woodhead, 8 Leslie W. G. Morris, 9 John W. Moorhouse, 10 Francis Barker, 11 William E. H. Ash, 12 Alfred B. Peck. Composed by C. H. Hattersley. Conducted by H. Langdon.'

It is most unfortunate that the war has prevented this auspicious occasion being commemorated by a peal of Cinques being attempted on the 100th anniversary of the first one rung on the old bells, details of which I have given above, i.e., May 1st, 1842, but the continued ban on the ringing of church bells will, I fear, render this impossible.

ROYAL VISITS TO SAFFRON WALDREN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recently looking through the history of Saffron Walden, I came across a report of a royal visit by Margaret of Anjou (Queen of Henry V.) in 1452, when the bellringers were fined 2s. for the ungallant conduct of neglecting to ring a peal when she visited the Abbey.

I thought this might be interesting to your readers. Charles II. established his Court at Audley End when the ringers were paid 2s. when the King came in 1670.

Saffron Walden has been visited on several occasions by royalty, James I. 1610-1614, Charles I. and his Queen Henrietta Maria 1631, Queen Elizabeth 1571-1578, William III. 1689, not forgetting Oliver Cromwell's meetings with the Parliamentary Commissioners at Saffron Walden Church.

Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

THE BELLS OF LONDON. THEIR USE IN CHURCH SERVICES.

(Continued from page 125.)

Long before the Reformation bell ringing had become a popular and recognised feature of the common English life and it would not have been surprising if ringing before the service had taken the place of the ringing during processions. But two things at least prevented it. One was that the association of ringing with certain services and certain beliefs led to its being denounced as superstitious by the more advanced reformers. The other was the growth of Sabbatarianism, which made many people look on Sunday bell ringing as Sabbath breaking. In 1595 Nicholas Bound published a book called 'The Doctrine of the Sabbath plainly layde forth,' which appears to have had an enormous effect. It was revised, enlarged and re-issued in 1606. It was quite temperately written. In it he says: 'The ringing of more bells than one on that day is not to be justified. . . . Therefore, though I do not see how the common jangling of bells that is used in too many places and the disordered ringing at other times of the Sabbath and for other ends should be a work of the Sabbath, and how it can then be justified, yet the ringing of one bell according to the custom of the place at one time, and the same, or some other, at another time so that all might be present at the service of God from the beginning to ending, this end maketh the labour acceptable unto God.'

In this quotation there is a rather obscure reference to a practice which began to be rather common. The extreme Puritans introduced lecturers into the churches to preach outside ordinary service times and against the wishes of the incumbents. Those who resented the action frequently disturbed the lecturer by ringing the bells.

Thomas Fuller, in his pleasant manner, tells how the Sabbatarian spirit grew. 'The Lord's Day began to be precisely kept, people becoming a law to themselves, forbearing such sports as were yet by statute permitted, yea, many rejoicing at their own restraint herein. On that day the stoutest fencer laid aside his buckler, the most skilful archer unbent his bow, counting all shooting beside the mark, May games and Morris dances grew out of request, and good reason that bells should be silenced from jingling about men's legs if their very ringing in the steeples was judged unlawful.'

Strype tells us how far the more intolerant people were prepared to go. 'It was preached in Suffolk (and my author saith that he could name the man) that to ring more bells than one on the Lord's day to call the people to church was as great a sin as to do an act of murder.'

In 1643 an Act of Parliament forbade under heavy penalties ringing of bells for pleasure on Sundays.

All these things effectually prevented the use of bell ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) in the service of the Church. In the North, which was very remote from the rest of the country, there was some ringing before service; but over the rest of England Sunday service ringing was unknown until quite recent times.

It was not the fault of the ringers. The clergy discouraged it and even forbade it. 'However delightful and poetical may be the thoughts connected with a cheerful peal on a Sunday morning,' wrote Henry Thomas

Ellacombe in 1859, 'every year convinces me more and more that in most cases it is productive of evil.' Another reforming parson wrote, 'Neither should any excuse whatever obtain permission for ringing on a Sunday. . . . Let me implore every clergyman to exercise his authority and put an extinguisher on all Sunday ringing.'

Opinions like these will seem strange and even unintelligible to present day ringers, but we must remember that one hundred years ago and much later Sabbatarian ideas were still very strong. Bell ringing had been looked on for ages as very largely a sport, and Sunday ringing as something done for the pleasure of the ringers. 'I for my part,' wrote the parson I quoted just now, 'would quite as soon sanction football or cricket in the churchyard on Sunday, as ringing properly so called. Ringing is an intellectual and scientific enjoyment, as much so as chess or violin playing, and in the opinion of some, more so when done as it should be; and we know what view we should take of Sunday chess players or Sunday concerts.'

In support of these men's opposition to Sunday ringing there was the fact that chiming was the traditional use, and it was only the ringers, and they but seldom, who wanted the bells rung for services.

The custom of tolling and chiming various bells in different ways grew up in the Middle Ages so as to let people know exactly when a service was being held and what it was, and strict regulations were made for the purpose. Among the clerk's duties at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, he was to 'rynge iij pelys w' the lest Bells to the morowe masse and be fore the last pel warne the morrow masse pste and ask hym if shal ryng alle in. And so to do to the Curate or his Debite on son-days and holidays after the gode custom of london.'

At Westminster Abbey there was a very elaborate use, which included one or two extra bells not hung in the bell tower but in other parts of the church.

Until the end of the eighteenth century the custom at Shrewsbury was as follows. The sexton began at nine in the morning and having chimed a full hour, two small bells were rung for half an hour. Then the great, or sermon bell as it was called, was rung for another half-hour till service began. For daily prayers and holy days the chiming and ringing of two bells took up an hour. On fast days the chiming was omitted and the great bell was tolled for full two hours.

It seems an excessive amount of bell ringing, and even in the last century the sexton began to chime at ten. He kept that up for half an hour, then two bells were rung for ten minutes, and from twenty minutes to eleven until the hour the great or sermon bell was rung.

At Norwich, fifty years ago, a shorter use was customary at all the churches. Half an hour before the service one of the bells was rung up. At a quarter to the hour all the bells, or as many as possible, were chimed, and at five minutes to the hour the tenor was 'tolled in.' The chiming was all swing-chiming, which was made easy by 'staking the bells down.' The tail end of the rope was tied to a ring in the floor, and one man, or one boy, could easily chime two bells. At Mancroft the back six were used, and as they were far too heavy to swing-chime they were clocked. Ellacombe apparatuses were unknown in the city.

There are thirty-six old parish churches in the City of Norwich, many of them quite close together. It might

be thought that so much ringing, most of it of single and unrelated bells, would create a horrible discord and be an unmitigated nuisance. That, however, was not so. The effect was distinctly pleasing and was an important feature in that Sunday atmosphere which is now only a childhood memory of older people.

There was no Sunday service ringing, though sometimes we used to ring at some of the churches for special services like Harvest Thanksgiving, both before and after. Mancroft bells were rung on the Sundays in Advent, but at five o'clock in the afternoon.

In London City most of the churches had but two bells, and even where there were full peals they do not seem to have been much used on Sundays. In country villages the ringers were the men who chimed for service, but in London the ringers had no connection with any particular church and did not visit the belfries except for practice or paid ringing.

When the grand ring of twelve at St. Paul's Cathedral were put up, a regular band of ringers was formed and the bells were rung twice every Sunday until the beginning of the present war.

A SPLICED PEAL.

PLAIN BOB AND GAINSBOROUGH.

The following are the figures of the peal of Spliced Plain Bob and Gainsborough Little Bob rung at New College, Oxford, on Feb. 28th, conducted by the composer, J. E. Spice:—

23456 W M R

26435	—	—	5	(— S — — S)
32465	—	6	(— S — — S —)	
34625	—	5	(— S — — S)	
23645	—	6	(— S — — S —)	

Twice repeated.

Each course was rung P.P.G.P.P.

'TAPPED' HANDBELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The other day I came across the following extract and thought it might interest your readers, many of whom are taking an interest in handbells for the first time.

It is from 'Silver Ley,' by Adrian Bell, who writes of life on a Suffolk Farm. G. E. BARKER.

Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

On Boxing Day the village bellringers stood in a half-circle about the front door, plying their handbells. They were invited in.

When they had had a drink of beer and some cake and brushed the crumbs from their moustaches, coughed and blown their noses, they laid their caps in the centre of the table and on them their bells. They stood round in a circle. Their leader murmured some technical instructions, in which the word 'bob' recurred. Then they rang us a chime and another. The enclosed air of the room tingled with their echoes as of miniature church bells.

The method of the ringing was this. As soon as one man had rung his two bells he put them down on the caps. They were at once taken up by another man, maybe on the opposite side of the table, while the first man's hands stretched to pick up two others somewhere else. So this complicated and swift exchange went on, and the harmony was not of the bells alone, but of the movements of all their arms as they lifted and laid them down, till the chime was ended with a clang of unison. They said nothing all the while, but their eyes were sidelong and intently observant of one another as they poised their bells shoulder high, judging the exact moment to jerk each down with a flick of the wrist and add its note to the chain of sound. Only the leader gave occasional cries of 'Bob' when it was time for some change in the order of their ringing. The air above was a swirl of the echoes of all the notes they had just played, dying into one another in a kind of tonal rainbow.

Then I was asked if I would care to have a try. This had become a yearly custom; after the first two chimes the invitation was always made, and I took up the two deep-toned bells. While the others were throughout the ringing handing their bells to and fro among them, mine was the simple duty of adding the two final notes to every round without change. Even so, I found it hard to judge the right moment; either my notes came too close on the heels of my neighbour's, or they rang out after a little gap of silence in absent-minded haste. Nor had I improved with time, though they said I had.

Then finally they rang us a very quick, joyful chime, all the notes tumbling over one another as though for gladness, which made me think of spring and the scattering of the multitude of flowers upon the earth again in a little time from now.

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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to say that the condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is rather better than last week.

THE PAPER SHORTAGE.

In common with all other newspapers and periodicals we have received notice that the supply of paper will be cut by ten per cent. This will mean that approximately once each month 'The Ringing World' will have to appear as an eight page paper.

We regret the necessity, but all our readers will recognise that we have no option in the matter.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Seventy years ago there was a very good band of ringers at the Norfolk village of Kenninghall. They rang Oxford Treble Bob Major and little else, for method ringing was not the fashion in those days, but they were fine strikers. On March 14th, 1871, they rang Harrison's peal with 10,176 changes. Jeremiah Mordey was the conductor, a typical countryman, but a good man at a rope's end.

On March 14th, 1751, the London Scholars rang six thousand Grand-sire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the first peal on the twelve. Next day the College Youths rang 6,314 changes in the same method. The first performance is recorded in a fine frame now hung in the crypt of the church.

The first peal of Duffield Maximus was rung at Birmingham on March 17th, 1891. It was composed and conducted by Sir Arthur Heywood.

Challis F. Winney was born at Nayland, in Suffolk, on March 17th, 1858.

Henry W. Haley composed a 7,025 of Stedman Caters with 60 full titum courses between singles. He called it with a band of Cumberlands at All Saints', Poplar, on March 17th, 1846.

On March 18th, 1895, a band of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of Grand-sire Triples on handbells. Harry Williams, the conductor, who rang 5-6, was blindfolded throughout.

The final event in the long peal contest between College Youths and Cumberlands was at Southwark on March 22nd, 1802, when the latter society rang 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus and so secured the double record for ten and twelve bells.

The first peal of Bristol Surprise Major was called by Mr. George Williams at St. Peter's, Brighton, on March 22nd, 1901.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Grand-sire Caters, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Bob Triples 1, Major 2, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Violet Major 1.

One of Bob Major was an 11,200 at Speldhurst by the Kent County Association.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

When the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, took the chair at the meeting last Saturday of the Ancient Society of College Youths there was little besides formal business to be attended to. The hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, read a letter from Mr. Albert Walker thanking the members for the congratulations sent to the band who rang the peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, and conveying greetings and good wishes. Mr. Wilfrid Williams also wrote thanking the society for the decision to illuminate the record in the peal book of the Holt's Original rung non-conducted on the day of the annual luncheon.

Mr. E. A. Young proposed that a letter should be sent to Mr. F. E. Dawe congratulating him on his eightieth birthday. Mr. Dawe was one of the oldest members of the society. He was not the oldest living past Master, for that distinction belonged to Mr. Martin Routh, but he was the only one in the history of the society who had occupied the chair five times. The Master seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

A worthy addition to the library was made by the gift by Mr. Edwin Jennings of Francis Bumpus' two volume book on London churches. Mr. Jennings, who was present in person, was thanked on the motion of Mr. Edwin Barnett, seconded by Mr. George M. Kilby.

Sympathy was expressed with Mr. J. S. Goldsmith in his illness and the debt owed to him by all ringers was freely expressed. A number of other topics were freely discussed and a pleasant afternoon concluded with handbell ringing.

Mr. J. E. Spice, of New College, Oxford, was a welcome visitor, and with him came Miss Peggy Kinipple, also of the O.U.S.C.R. Among the others present were Messrs. E. A. Young, G. Price, R. W. Stannard, J. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, J. Prior, J. A. Trollope, C. Potheary, C. C. Mayne, E. Hartley and R. Spiers, and Corpl. K. Arthur, Corpl. E. G. Coward and Pte. Len Fox.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

It was our hope and intention to open the Ringers' Conference in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World.' The Editor, as Chairman, would have given the preliminary address and the agenda would at once have been proceeded with. Unfortunately, Mr. Goldsmith's illness has prevented him from preparing his address, and it seems a pity to begin without it. We have, therefore, decided to postpone the start for, we hope, not later than a week, and feel that we can confidently rely on the approval of our readers in the circumstances.

We have received an encouraging number of 'speeches' so far, and hope for more. We may say also that any further motions, duly proposed and seconded, can be placed on the agenda.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In all reorganisations one finds that sentiment plays a great part; survivors of old organisations cling dearly to the customs, rules and regulations which they have helped to establish and which have no doubt been of inestimable value in paving the way to success of the larger associations in which they have gradually become merged. But the difficulties of reorganisation will ever be present unless we alter the mode and structure of our system, and, to my mind, the only satisfactory solution would be to form a National Association of Church Bellringers. Not only diocesan areas but geographical circumstances greatly affect the well-being of any organisation as anyone who is conversant with county associations cannot help but realise.

It is no uncommon feature to find an important centre of ringing situated on the very fringe of a county or diocesan area, and, owing to the distance or inconvenience caused by traversing that area, many of the meetings would be absolute failures were it not for the assistance derived from neighbouring towers and villages which lie in adjoining counties. Consequently such meetings, and there are many of them throughout the year, actually have to rely upon the help at a county meeting of ringers who do not belong to the said county. Many will say no harm is done in such circumstances; perhaps not, but is it not anomalous that those who back up such meetings as out-county members have little or no right in the management of that county association?

Many county and diocesan associations have not fulfilled the wishes of members of some particular area, with the result that a district society springs up and carries on the work which should rightly belong to the parent society. The thought arises: Have the county and diocesan organisations 'held their hand' for fear of hurting the feelings of county members who are also interested in the junior bodies, or has it been a case of letting the willing horse do all the pulling?

By force of such conditions as just mentioned, many ringers whom I know personally are under the obligation of subscribing to five different bodies, two of them as county associations (ringing peals for each) and three of them district societies. Surely this should not be so.

To obviate the disadvantage already illustrated, I think that a National Association of Church Bellringers would be just the thing, for not only would our prestige so far as the Church itself is concerned be raised, but in the case of other national matters our weight of opinion and unanimity of expression would have far more effect in general than is the case at the present time. My idea is to have an authoritative Executive Council at established headquarters with branch organisations in all centres of ringing throughout the British Isles. Ringing would then come to be regarded as a whole, while local customs would be the care of the branches.

What of financing such a proposal? It is obvious that much of the money now spent could be economised; e.g., more than one county publishes the same peal for the simple reason that all the performers may be members (either county or life) of their associations, and there are instances where two counties hold their meetings within a few miles of each other, neither of them being a success because members naturally desire to support their own organisations; whereas if a district was governed by its branch, intercommunication would be more feasible, and by regarding each district as one of a whole, the question of rights and setting up of precedents would not arise.

It has been stated several times that there are at least 40,000 ringers in this country, so on the basis of only 1s. per member per annum the total income would be £2,000, plus whatever could be obtained from honorary members. This figure would, after deducting all the usual charges associated with running organisations, leave an ample surplus for other purposes.

COLIN HARRISON.

Bell Foundry House, Loughborough.

THE PROVING OF PEALS.

A UNIVERSAL NECESSITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Palmer's excellent contribution regarding peal compositions is deserving of the wide attention of the Exercise. It may not be of much concern to those who would discontinue the publication of peal reports, it may not interest very much those who prefer that visiting bands should not ring peals at their towers (uncharitable persons might consider that these two classes of people are closely identified), but to the majority of keen ringers, or at any rate to the majority of readers of 'The Ringing World,' any attempt to ensure the truth of changes rung in peals will, I think, be extremely welcome.

So far as one can ascertain, those associations which insist on the publication of all compositions are in a minority, and in an organised attempt to prove all peals rung under their auspices the Yorkshire Association must be almost unique.

In some instances the duty of collecting and editing compositions seems to fall to the lot of already overworked general secretaries (we are sometimes inclined to forget that these often abused and very hard working officials usually give their time quite unsparingly and for precisely nothing by way of remuneration). Some associations already have a peal secretary or a peal committee, and at least one thriving association has a rule about compositions and a peal committee, but has published no figures at all in recent years. It would not be difficult for such associations to include in the duties of their peal secretaries or committees the responsibility of proving compositions or having them proved by some independent composer. Where no organisation exists it could easily be instituted.

As an instance of the willingness of composers to help strangers I can state that although it was never my privilege to meet either the late Mr. Arthur Knights or the late Mr. A. G. Driver, I have in the writing of these gentlemen pages and pages of matter concerning new methods and compositions. Of Mr. Driver I would add that in one letter he wrote, 'Never call any compositions you are not sure of as it will be a great pleasure to prove them for you at any time.' I could very well make mention of similar assistance from at least two of our younger composers, but I know their modesty would be affronted if I did.

Would there be any chance of success of a resolution before the Central Council insisting as a condition of affiliation to the Council that associations should have an organisation for proving all peals rung under their name?

P. A. CORBY.

Retford, Notts.

P.S.—Incidentally, when Robinson's peal of Treble Bob was proved false, not all the conductors concerned came forward as readily as Mr. Kippir to withdraw performances of it. At least one association still has in its records many peals which are known to have been false.

THE DANGER OF LEAVING BELLS UP.

A LOCKING DEVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The correspondence on the danger of leaving bells up brings to my mind an idea I formed many years ago, but never put into practice.

I tried to think out a scheme by which a lever could be pulled across the stay of the bell so as to lock it up against the slider and thus prevent it being accidentally pushed off by any person who had reason to go among the bells. It would enable the bells to be left up in safety between, say, the morning and evening services on a Sunday.

The apparatus would have to be capable of being operated from the ringing chamber or, at any rate, from outside the bell frame. In theory there should be no difficulty in making such an apparatus, but I felt that unless it was absolutely safe and foolproof it might do far more harm than good, for it might lead to people thinking they could go carelessly among the raised bells, and if the apparatus was not properly 'on,' there might be a serious accident.

I wonder if any such idea has ever occurred to any other of your readers, and, if so, whether they would like to give their opinions.

MAURICE WHITE.

DEATH OF YOUNG BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to report the death of Raymond Adams, a promising young Bristol ringer and member of St. Ambrose's band. He was on active service in this country and had the misfortune to break his leg in the course of his duties. He was taken to hospital, where he contracted pneumonia, and passed away on Sunday, March 1st. His body was brought home and the funeral took place at St. Ambrose's Church on Saturday last, interment following at Greenbank Cemetery. Ten of his fellow ringers at St. Ambrose's attended the service to pay their last respects to their colleague, who met his end under such tragic circumstances at the early age of 21 years.

He will be greatly missed, as he was 'one of the best,' a keen change ringer showing good prospects, and a regular Sunday service ringer. The floral tributes included one from 'his fellow ringers at St. Ambrose's.'

HENRY HOBART.

A NOTED SUFFOLK RINGER.

BY THEODORE E. SLATER.

In the year 1800 there existed at Bildestone, Suffolk, an academy or high school where the sons of gentlemen were taught fine arts; the master's name was Hobart.

On April 22nd, 1800, Mrs. Hobart gave birth to a son, who at his baptism received the name of Henry. The master of the school was a ringer and leader of the ringers at Bildestone Parish Church, where there are six bells. As the child grew up he showed that he had a great love for bells. His father was very pleased to see this, and as the boy was not tall enough to reach the tuft of the rope, he made a stage for him to stand on to enable him to do so. When he weighed four stones he rang the second bell, weighing 7 cwt., through 720's.

As he grew to manhood he frequently visited Stowmarket, Hadleigh and Lavenham to practise change ringing, and on January 14th, 1819, he rang the seventh to his first peal, 6,160 Bob Major, at Stowmarket. His next peal was also rung at Stowmarket, being Bob Major, 6,224 changes, in which he again rang the seventh bell.

He now became a proficient ringer, and taught a band at Bildestone, and on January 30th, 1841, his labours were crowned with success. He rang the tenor and conducted a peal in seven methods, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Court Bob, New London Pleasure, Morning Exercise and Cambridge Surprise. On November 11th, 1826, he was one of a 'select band' who visited Bungay and rang Reeves' 5,600 Oxford Treble Bob, conducted by Samuel Thurston, of Norwich, who erected a board to commemorate 'this display of science.'

PEALS AT HADLEIGH.

In 1843 Hobart visited Hadleigh and assisted in ringing W. Garrod's peal of Bob Major, 5,008 changes; he again rang the seventh bell. On December 11th, 1847, he again visited Hadleigh and rang the tenor, 28 cwt., to Marven's 6,000 Bob Major to celebrate the 50th birthday of John Pettit, mine host of the Eight Bells Inn, Hadleigh. Pettit told the band that if they attempted the peal he would give them one guinea and a good dinner, and if successful two guineas and a good dinner. This promise he fulfilled to the utmost.

On Monday, April 22nd, 1850, his 50th birthday, Mr. Hobart visited Stowmarket and rang the third and conducted a peal of Oxford Treble Bob, 5,120 changes, called 4B 2W 2H, four times repeated. According to the local paper, this peal was thought a lot of and was the first of Treble Bob ever rung in the steeple.

Hobart's next peal was his last. He visited Lavenham and rang the tenor and conducted Reeves' 5,600 Oxford Treble Bob. This peal is recorded on a handsome tablet, Mr. Hobart's handiwork, in the tower.

After this the band ceased to ring peals, but regularly visited Preston, Monks Eleigh and Bildestone Churches and rang many Minor methods, including London, Cambridge and other Surprise methods as given in the 'Clavis.' Mr. Hobart's last long touch was rung on June 15th, 1867, when he visited Hitcham and rang the 4th and conducted four 720's. The last time he rang was at the Lavenham anniversary in 1870, when he rang the tenor to a short touch of Treble Bob Major, conducted by John Cox, of London.

A SINGER OF METHODS.

Mr. Hobart died at Bildestone on Wednesday evening, June 14th, 1871, after the only three days' illness of his life, and muffled peals were rung for him at Hitcham, Stowmarket and Lavenham. Mr. Hobart used to frequently visit London and was well known to Cox, Haley, W. H. Burwash and other London ringers. He bought in 1840 a Shipway 'Art of Ringing' from Burwash, which he afterwards sold to Samuel Slater in 1870. Samuel Slater lived and worked at Bildestone for two years, and, of course, saw and rang with Hobart many times. On his 70th birthday Hobart told Samuel Slater that he had never known what it was to feel ill except when he made himself ill, that he had worn spectacles for 40 years, and that he had had three wives and they were all dead.

Mr. Hobart was very gifted and could sing or champ with his mouth various Minor methods and three bob leads of Treble Bob Major, giving to each bell its proper note. On one occasion he sang a 720 of New London Pleasure for a wager of one shilling; and at the time he rang the tenor at Bildestone and conducted the peal in seven Minor methods he made a bet of £5 that he could and would before competent judges sing or champ the whole 5,040. He used to sing parts of it when sober.

(Continued in next column.)

STEDMAN ON EVEN NUMBERS.

AN EIGHT BELL VARIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I append what I think is a new Stedman Major method. I play about with figures at times and your articles on 'Standard Methods' prove to be of very great interest to me. Let me say at once that I am not at all proficient in Major methods, and my method as appended may have some terribly wrong things about it. Anyway here it is.

In general principle every bell does exactly the same, though 5.1.2.4 do slow work before with quick work behind, and 6.8.7.3 do slow work behind with quick work in front.

The trouble I have is with the bob, which means a change in course of two bells. I have succeeded in doing this only by interfering with the sixes at 'back.'

F. C. S.

12345678

21436587

12463857

14236875

41263785

42136758

24163578

42615387

46251378

64215738

62451783

26415873

24651837

42568173

Bob

26415873

24651837

42561873

24516783

25461738

8 is changed

to a quick

bell behind

—1 becomes

a quick bell

in front.

All the bells do exactly the same work, but 5.1.2.4 work exactly opposite to 6.8.7.3.

HENRY HOBART

(Continued from previous column.)

As already stated, his father was master of an academy or high school, and as Henry grew to manhood his father taught him his own profession. While the father lived the school prospered and brought in a good income, but when the father died and Henry became its master he soon gave way to drunken and neglectful habits, and as it was found useless to send children there the school was soon closed.

After this Mr. Hobart turned his attention to writing and obtained employment at Hadleigh in a mason's yard lettering gravestones and tablets, at which he was very good. About the year 1836 a new parochial school was built at Monks Eleigh, and Mr. Hobart was offered and accepted the mastership, but he soon returned to his drunken and neglectful habits and was dismissed with ignominy. After then he became walking postman around Bildestone.

A FINE TENORMAN.

When it became known that John Ringer had rung the tenor at Redenhall, Norfolk, and conducted 8,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob, afterwards found to be false, Mr. Hobart and others got together a band to try and beat this peal, and the attempt was made on Hadleigh bells, where the tenor is 28 cwt. The attempt was not successful, as one of the band was too fatigued to ring any longer and set his bell after ringing about 7,000 changes in five hours. Afterwards the band that made the attempt and those that came to listen dined together, and to finish off the day 1,120 of Oxford Treble Bob was rung by a mixed band, conducted by Thomas Lamb, of Colchester.

In 1850 Mr. Hobart visited Clare and rang the tenor to 1,008 changes, which he conducted. He was then considered to be equal to any man as a tenor ringer, and his feats at tenor ringing are wonderful when it is remembered that Mr. Hobart never weighed any more than 9 stone.

When John Carr, of Waltham Abbey, the diarist, visited the South Suffolk area he visited Lavenham and saw Mr. Hobart. While they were together Mr. Hobart showed his great gifts by ringing four handbells to a course of Bob Major and singing three bob leads of Treble Bob Major, and Carr describes him as a clever man. At the time of his death obituary notices appeared in 'Bells Life' and 'Church Bells.' Mr. Hobart had a brother named Thomas, also a ringer. About the year 1836 he migrated to London and then we lose sight of him.

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LIVES OF GREAT MEN.

MR. J. W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the correspondence about the lives of great men, and especially in the leader on the subject in your issue of January 23rd.

What constitutes greatness may differ in various minds, and I shall not attempt to compare the exploits of Mr. Washbrook with any other giant of the past, of which there are many, varying in different spheres.

The few remarks I have to make will be rather to re-state some astonishing achievements which were performed by Mr. Washbrook.

From the beginning of my ringing career, extending over half a century, the name of Washbrook was the one outstanding name that won my keenest admiration. It was a dream of mine that some day I might have the joy of meeting and ringing with such a great ringer.

I knew Mr. Washbrook, like the greater part of the Exercise, by seeing his exploits recorded from time to time in the ringing Press, and no man was set up as a greater ideal than he was in his day. The manner in which he could handle two ropes and conduct the peals was a feat that would baffle even the majority of our greatest ringers to-day.

AN OUTSTANDING PEAL.

An outstanding peal was the one rung at Arklow, Ireland, on May 16th, 1905 (in which his eldest son, J. W. Washbrook, then only a boy of 12, rang the treble), when his father rang a couple of bells to the peal, which the late Rev. F. E. Robinson described as a wonderful feat of ringing two bells through a peal with 'the greatest ease and precision.'

Besides this and many such like peals, he was no less able to tap courses of Superlative, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques on the piano. Furthermore, he has chimed on tower bells courses and touches in the same methods and on all numbers, with no less a person than his young son, J. W. W., calling the bobs.

His double-handed handbell ringing was a treat both to listen to and to watch, but onlookers got their greatest surprise when they saw him tackle and ring courses with four in hand.

Given the opportunity, no single method or spliced methods would have presented any difficulty to so gifted a man. A great ringer he was, but more than that he was a *genius*.

Mr. Washbrook also excelled in composing methods both Plain, Surprise and principles. In composition of peals he was ever at home. Record lengths of London, Superlative, Double Norwich and Cambridge were his in his day, and, again repeating, given the opportunity, nothing seemed beyond the possibility of accomplishment.

Mr. Washbrook and his family left Arklow, Ireland, in 1911, and came to reside for a short while in Tunstall, Staffs, and it was at Silverdale in October of the same year that several courses of Grand-sire Triples were rung by five persons, father and son taking 3-4 and 5-6, both trebles being rung double-handed by J. E. Groves.

GREATNESS AND HUMILITY.

Mr. Washbrook's greatness did not end with his manifold and varied achievements. Coming to reside in Manchester in 1912, I had the dream of my ringing life fulfilled in that I found not only a great ringer, but one who was great in humility, always ready to help and advise and to assist any seeking such.

I have rung many peals with him, and one rung at Mottram on Whit Saturday, June 14th, 1919, the first in the method on the bells (Stedman); brought from him the remark at the conclusion that he counted it second to none of his best ever rung.

I now take leave, with the remembrance of having been in close touch and associated for a little while with the life of a great ringer.

Mr. Washbrook was born in 1864 and died on Christmas Day, 1923. Mrs. Washbrook survived him for a short period, passing away in April, 1924.

Mr. Washbrook is survived by five daughters and his eldest son, J. W. Washbrook.

J. W. Washbrook, jun., rang his first peal at Arklow in June, 1903, and Walter Washbrook rang his first peal in December, 1905, at the age of 10 years 8 months and 10 years 4 months respectively, and J. W. Washbrook, jun., conducted a peal when 12 years 3 months.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

ANONYMITY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your issue of February 27th there appeared a letter from my friend Tom Coles advocating the use of the waste paper basket for all anonymous letters. Now this really won't do. You must draw the line somewhere. I will, however, go so far as to say all anonymous letters should go there when anyone is attacked or on any controversial subject.

Surely Tom would not ban the recent letter by Yokel and the one which mentioned Kate, and don't forget that what is one man's meat is another's man's poison. As I have pointed out before, there must be one ruling authority, and if not the Editor, who is it to be?

W. KEEBLE.

Colchester.

EDWARD READ'S LAST PEAL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to Messrs. John Taylor and Co.'s letter in your issue of February 27th, I apologise for the error in recording the date of Blewbury seventh bell, which, as stated later, should be 1752. The last *known* bell by Edward Read, therefore, is the fourth at Farnborough, Berkshire, dated 1753. A facsimile drawing of its inscription is given in Fig. 71 of 'Berkshire Bells.'

Blewbury seventh was 'christened' in characteristic 18th century style. Although cast in 1752, she did not return from the Aldbourne foundry until the following year, and it is recorded that 'It was set upside down in a hole in the ground in front of the school and filled with beer, and many of the company thereat assembled were exceedingly intoxicated therewith.'

Details of the Hants and Wilts bells were taken from Mr. H. B. Walters' 'Church Bells of Wiltshire.'

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Launton, Bicester.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Kippin's suggested scheme for the future organisation of ringers is designed, as I see it, for the benefit of a small number of ringers only, those who like to take, as he says, a trip over the border to ring peals, and those who take 'The Ringing World.'

It is going to cost them less and someone else is going to foot the bill. Five shillings a year and 'The Ringing World' looks all right on paper, but try it on the majority of ringers and I am pretty certain there will be a big drop in membership.

Peal ringing over the border and 'The Ringing World' are some of the things in life I enjoy, but I don't want them cheapened by raising the membership fee of the associations to 5s. a year.

Mr. Kippin suggests that all present territorial associations should be abolished. The College Youths and Cumberland Youths are national associations. Are these to be abolished also? If not, why not? With the new association we should have three national associations.

E. G. HIBBINS.

Cambridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PENSURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Penshurst on Saturday and was attended by members from Leigh, Sundridge, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, East Peckham, Hartfield and Penshurst.

Mr. T. E. Sone wrote to say he was sorry he could not attend owing to illness. The Rector of Penshurst, the Rev. Turnbull, was unable to take the service in church, so the Rev. F. L. Allen, of Fordcombe, officiated, and gave a very interesting talk on some of the heaviest and oldest bells in the world, dating back as far as a thousand years ago.

Tea was served in the Green Tea Room, after which the business meeting followed. The Rev. F. L. Allen was unable to stay to the meeting, and Mr. A. Batten proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his very interesting talk and for taking the service. Mr. B. Pankhurst seconded. The Vicar responded and said it was a pleasure to him. Mr. E. J. Ladd was elected to the chair. Leigh was suggested for the next meeting in June. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. G. Edwards for arranging the tea and to the organist.

Touches were rung on handbells during the afternoon and after the meeting, which everybody enjoyed up to the end.

WEDDING OF NORTHFLEET'S CAPTAIN.

The wedding of Mr. George Butcher, the captain of the band at Northfleet, Kent, to Miss Annie Ellen Johncock, took place at Northfleet Parish Church on January 16th.

The Rev. F. A. Page officiated, and Mr. E. Horridge was at the organ. The hymns sung were 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us' and 'Love Divine.'

Given away by her father, the bride wore a dress of white figured crepe-de-chine, a headdress of orange blossom, and a veil and carried red carnations.

She was attended by her sister, Miss M. Johncock, the bridegroom's sister, Miss J. Butcher, and Miss A. Davies (bride's niece).

The bridegroom's brother, Mr. A. Butcher, was best man, and the reception was attended by 40 guests.

Handbells were rung in the church, and the bride, who is also a bellringer, was presented with three horseshoes.

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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

Turn back for a minute to Bob Major, the method we are using as our example and illustration. With the tenors together there are 120 natural courses, and the course ends are the 120 rows which exist on eight bells with the treble and 7, 8 in their home positions. Half these course ends are even and the other half odd, and so as long as we compose with bobs only we are restricted to 60 courses. The problems of composition naturally fall into two classes, one in which we allow ourselves only the use of bobs; the other in which we avail ourselves of the help of singles.

We use singles primarily in order to obtain the odd natural courses, but as we shall see, we use them for other purposes as well.

We can now resume our examination of Q Sets which we began a fortnight ago. We saw that in Bob Major when bobs are used a Q Set consists of a hunting course on three bells, and when set down in terms of the back-stroke rows, has three members, which have the same relationship to each other as 4235678, 3425678 and 2345678. We now come to those Q Sets which include singles.

One of the first things we learnt when we began to ring was that three bobs at the course ends would join together three full courses, and almost as soon, we learnt that if we made singles instead of bobs we should join together two courses. When we pricked down the changes we found that in the first case there were three bells that did something different from the plain work of the method, but in the second there were only two—those in 3-4. Let us write down the hand and back rows and see what we get.

We have again a complete hunting course, this time on two bells, and these changes form a Q set.

But that is not all. When we rang our hobbled three courses we could, instead of coming home at the third course end, have made a single, and then rung three more courses with a bob at the end of the first two and a single at the end of the last. We write out the hand and back rows and we find that we have got two complete hunting courses on the same three bells, one of them being the reverse of the other. In a sense we have two hobbled Q Sets joined by one singled Q Set, but it is convenient to consider the whole as one compound Q Set.

Once again. Suppose at the first course end we make a bob, at the second a single, at the third a bob, and at the fourth a single. We shall get a complete touch which consists of four full courses, and when we prick down the hand and back rows, we find that, though we have not got complete hunting courses, we still have cyclical movement; for after going through part of the hunting course, we went backwards the same way we had come, just as we do for one step, when we make a dodge. This, too, is a Q Set, and for purposes of composition, a very valuable one.

We have thus in Bob Major four different sorts of Q Sets.

The first, which consists of three bobs, joins together three full natural courses, all of them even. 2 3 4
—
2 4 3
4 2 3

The second, which consists of two singles, joins together two full natural courses, one of them even and the other odd. S 4 3 2
4 3 2

The third, which consists of two bobs, a single, two bobs, and another single, joins together six full natural courses, three of them even and three of them odd. 4 2 3
2 4 3

The fourth, which consists of a bob, a single, a bob, and a single, joins together four full natural courses, two of them even and two odd. S 2 3 4
2 3 4

There is always a full natural course between the succeeding calls in any Q Set.

These four kinds of Q Sets are actually the four different combinations of bobs and singles that can be made at any one of the calling positions in Bob Major. If you restrict yourself to calls at Home, or Wrong, or Middle, you can get these four touches and no other, though, of course, in the last two you can vary the courses in which the singles come, provided the due order in which bobs and singles follow each other is kept.

All this applies equally well to every plain Major method in which second's place is made at the lead end. It applies, with a little adaptation, to all plain Major methods in which eighth place is made at the lead end. It does not apply to Treble Bob and Surprise Methods because singles are not used in them, and it does not apply to Grandsire.

In the latter method there are only two sorts of Q Sets with ordinary bobs and singles, one consisting of five bobs with the same bell called before. The other, which consists of two singles, can only be used in very restricted conditions.

Q SETS AND COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The writer of 'Elementary Composition for the average reader,' in his article in your issue of February 27th, tells us about W. H. Thompson and Q sets.

I enclose a 5,040 Bob Major all Q sets throughout, and I send you the figures for what they are worth. There is not one in the Central Council's Collection like this peal.

Mr. Charles W. Roberts once showed me a peal of Double Norwich on this plan, but I cannot remember if he had any bobs at 5 in his composition.

I must say your paper is very broadminded and interesting, and is, I believe, read through from cover to cover much more than when space was taken up by outings, meetings and such things, which were more or less of local interest.

By the enclosed account of the peal of Treble Bob Royal you will see that we continue to meet every Sunday morning. We all at Ipswich trust you are making satisfactory progress towards recovery. Kindest regards. G. E. SYMONDS.
Ipswich.

HOW TO IMPROVE RINGING.—Bell ringers are doubtless a most obstinate set of men: but if they were paid the same for working machinery which produced twice as much effect with less than half the labour, they would soon give in to a better system. That ungrateful and barbarous rope and wheel, whose action is so uncertain, would probably disappear and give way to something like a handle, a piston, or even a key board and a set of wheels and pulleys. There is no reason why with better mechanism one man might not ring half-a-dozen bells instead of as at present half-a-dozen men being set to ring one bell.—The Rev. H. R. Haweis.

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.

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.—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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wentworth, near Rotherham, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m. in the Parish Room. Teas cannot be provided, but if you bring a sandwich or two with you a cup of tea will be provided. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafston, near Barnsley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Great Horwood on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All are welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 6th. General business

meeting in College Hall at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester. As parties cannot be catered for, will members please make their own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sedgebarrow, Evesham.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at the Church of St. Mary the Great from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Please make own arrangements for tea.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4th, at the Bird in Hand (bottom of Church Brow), Newhay. Time 6.30 p.m. Please make an effort to pay subscriptions on this date and oblige. Reports, also handbells, will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45. In view of present difficulties, tea (at 1s. 9d.) will be served ONLY to those who send me their names by April 1st.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea. Tea will only be supplied to those who notify Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12, not later than April 8th. Please bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Joseph H. Ridyard's address is now 4, Fir Road, Folly Lane, Swinton, near Manchester.

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