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MR. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

In the course of a long life during which his interest in change ringing never flagged, the late Rev. William Carter Pearson, of Henley, devoted much time, patience, knowledge, and money to the acquisition of books relating to the art, and he succeeded in getting together a collection which has no rival outside the British Museum and Mr. E. H. Lewis' library. When he died it was announced that he had provided for its future by bequeathing it to the Cambridge University Library, but it was under conditions that could not be fulfilled and the books have now been handed over to the University Guild.

This means that other provisions will have to be made for their future, and while we may be sure that the right thing will be done, since the collection is for more than one reason of great interest and value to the Exercise at large, we venture to express one or two points which may be worth consideration.

The value of the collection consists not only in the rarity of some of the volumes, but also in the completeness of the whole. It is important therefore that it should not be dispersed. Two things should be aimed at—absolute safety now and in the future, and accessibility to any qualified person who is engaged in research work.

These objects are not altogether easy of attainment, and we think the only satisfactory way would be to place the books in one of the great national libraries. That was Mr. Pearson's intention, though he wished also to leave the formal ownership to the University Guild, of which he was the founder.

We suggest the University Guild should carry out the first part of Mr. Pearson's intentions and, in order to do so, should waive their rights of ownership; and hand the books over to the University Library as an unconditional gift. It may be objected that this would be to break up the unity of the collection and to merge it in the vast mass of books in the great library; but that would not be so really. How books are stored on the shelves of a library is a matter which does not concern the public, and unless all the works are treated alike in the catalogues, the reader would be at a hopeless loss.

There may be a temptation to retain the books in the immediate custody of the officials of the Guild. If so, we hope it will be resisted. The risk of loss might not be an immediate one, but it is a contingency which should be faced. We confess we have never felt that the position of the Central Council library is a really satisfactory one, though how it can be bettered is not easy to say.

One other point with reference to Mr. Pearson's col-

(Continued on page 222.)

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lection. It contains two of the three extant copies of Richard Duckworth's 'Tintinnologia,' the earliest book written on the art of change ringing. One copy alone is sufficient to make the collection complete. Would it not be a good thing to present the other to the great national library at the British Museum? That is, of course, the most central and most accessible place for research work in any and every literary subject. It has already a splendid collection of printed books and manuscripts relating to bells and ringing, but it lacks a copy of the 'Tintinnologia.' With it, it could fairly be said to be complete in every way.

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, April 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 9, BOWLING GREEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

J. BASS 1-2	*J. WILLIAM SMITH 5-6
F. W. PERRENS 3-4	BERNARD C. ASHFORD 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by B. C. ASHFORD.

* First handbell peal. First peal as conductor.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CENTRAL CLUB,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB
MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2	HAROLD CHANT 5-6
*ALBERT NASH 3-4	*SIDNEY BRIGGS 7-8

Composer unknown.

Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

* First peal of Spliced Major 'in hand.' Rung in memory of Arthur Gill, ringer of Wath, who was one of the first members of the Barnsley and District Society and a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1899, who died on April 15th, 1942.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Friday, May 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDS TENSOR CATERERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

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

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal away from 3-4.

NEWS FROM EAST ANGLIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In case ringers want to know what has been happening to bells and ringers here, I send you a few details.

All the ringable bells appear to be unharmed. They include a ring of 12 (and a semitone bell), tenor 37 cwt.; three rings of eight, tenors 14, 14½ and 10 cwt.; and a ring of five. A ring of two was burnt out, and the bells now lie bent and broken at the base of the tower. A round tower, containing three, seems unsafe, and may have to come down. The twelve-bell tower was hit apparently by a hitherto unexploded A.A. shell, and some stone facing is injured; this church, like many others in the city, has stonework and glass broken, but the only old churches very badly hurt are the two with the small rings mentioned above.

Rings of bells in this city which have been unringable for years include a ten, four rings of six and two of five. What a nice thank-offering it would be after the war to restore some of these. I have not heard of any casualties among ringers here. Some have lost their homes, but appear not to be hurt.

A. G. G. THURLOW.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1940

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council of Church Bellringers.

ASSOCIATION	Number of Conductors	METHODS										TOTAL							
		CINQUES ROYAL CATERS	MAJOR				TRIPLES		MINOR	DOUBLES	HANDBELLS								
		Stedman All methods	Spliced Surprise Cambridge	Superlative	New Cam.	Kent Treble Bob	Spliced Plain and Little Bob	Double Norwich Plain Bob	Stedman Grandsire	MINOR	DOUBLES	HANDBELLS							
Bath and Wells	3								1		2	3							
Bedfordshire	2								1		1	2							
Chester Diocesan	2		1			1						5							
Devonshire	1								1			1							
Dudley and District	1										1	1							
Durham and Newcastle	1										1	1							
East Derby	1										1	1							
Ely Diocesan	1										1	1							
Essex Association	2										1	1							
Gloucester & Bristol	4										1	1							
Guildford Diocesan	4										1	1							
Hereford Diocesan	3										1	1							
Hertford County	3										1	1							
Irish Association	1										1	1							
Kent County	1										1	1							
Lancashire Assoc.	15										1	1							
Lincoln Diocesan	5										1	1							
Llandaff & Monmouth	1										1	1							
London County	1										1	1							
Middlesex County	6										1	1							
Midland Counties	8										1	1							
North Notts	3										1	1							
North Staffs	1										1	1							
Norwich Diocesan	8										1	1							
Oxford Diocesan	9										1	1							
Peterboro' Diocesan	2										1	1							
Salisbury Guild	2										1	1							
Shropshire Association	2										1	1							
Stafford Archdeaconry	2										1	1							
Soc. Royal Cumberlands	1										1	1							
Suffolk Guild	2										1	1							
Surrey Association	3										1	1							
Sussex Association	1										1	1							
Swansea and Brecon	3										1	1							
Warwickshire Guild	2										1	1							
Win. & Ports'm'th Dio.	5										1	1							
Worcester & Districts	1										1	1							
Yorkshire Assoc.	6										1	1							
Non-Association	3										1	1							
TOTAL		1	4	10	1	5	2	11	4	2	1	5	11	13	15	40	19	86	230

ROYAL—(a) Plain Bob, (b) Little Bob, (c) Cambridge. CATERS—All Stedman except (a) Grandsire, (b) Erin. MAJOR—Spliced Surprise Peal in four methods, viz.—London, Cambridge, Bristol and Superlative. MINOR—(d) including 1 in 11 methods, (e) including 1 in 14 methods.

REPORT OF THE PEAL ANALYSIS AND RECORD COMMITTEE, 1940.

Owing to the ban imposed on church bellringing during the year, peal ringing came to an abrupt conclusion, and in submitting this report, the committee have not given comparative figures for tower bell peals.

The following table shows how the year's total of tower bell peals is made up:—

Cinques	1
Royal	4
Caters	10
Major	42
Triples	28
Minor	40
Doubles	19

HANDBELL PEALS, 1940.

Association.	ROYAL		CATERS		MAJOR				TRIPLES	MINOR	DOUBLES	TOTAL		
	Kent Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Kent Treble Bob	Oxford Treble Bob	Double Norwich	Plain	Little	St Clement's Bob	Gainsboro L. B.	Grandsire			
Chester Dioc.	1			1				1				5		
Devonshire Guild												1		
Durham & Newtle												1		
Ely Diocesan												1		
Essex County		1						2				4		
Glouc't'r & Bristol												1		
Guildford Guild								2				2		
Hereford Dioc.												1		
Hertford County					1	2						3		
Kent County						3	1					4		
Lancashire Assoc.			1									1		
Lincoln Dio.												1		
Middlesex County		1	1			1	9	1	1	1	5	20		
Midland Counties												1		
Norwich Diocesan								1				1		
Salisbury Guild												1		
Yorkshire Assoc.						1	1					2		
Totals	1	2	2	1	2	15	15	1	1	1	5	22	18	86

a—One method. b—Two in 3 methods. c—One in 4 methods, one in 3, one in 2, one in 1. d—One in 11 methods, one in 4, one in 1. e—One method. f—Two in 3 methods, three in 1.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT (continued from previous column). On handbells the total is under that of 1939 as shown below:—

	1939	1940
Cinques	1	
Royal	5	3
Caters	4	2
Major	60	36
Triples	10	5
Minor	18	22
Doubles	7	18
TOTAL	105	86

As will be seen, the decrease was in peals from 8 to 12, whilst Minor and Doubles increased.

No new methods were rung on either tower or handbells. On handbells 6,240 Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung by the Kent County Association, being the longest length yet rung in the method in hand.

The following are the number of peals rung during each month:—

	Tower	Handbells
January	14	12
February	15	8
March	45	8
April	45	6
May	21	12
June	3	4
July		10
August		5
September		9
October		3
November	1 (Irish Assoc.)	5
December		4
TOTAL	144	86

FOOTNOTES.

The number of ringers who scored their first peal is 47; those who rang their first peal in a different method or method on a different number of bells is 83; ringers of their first peal inside number 5; away from tenor 3; Cinques 1; Royal 5; Major 6; Triples 5; Minor 11; Doubles 3; on ten bells 4; eight bells 10; Surprise 2. Ringers of their first handbell peal number 28; in method in hand 41; new conductors 6; conductors in new methods 8.

Other footnotes show that five were the first on the bells; 6 first in the method on the bells; 6 since restoration or augmentation; muffled peals number 8; birthday peals 22; weddings 13; welcome and farewell 7.

E. K. FLETCHER.
G. R. PYE.
W. AYRE.
CHARLES DEAN.
G. L. GROVER.

THE BELLS OF STEPNEY.

(Continued from page 215.)

TWO OLD SEXTONS.

Soon after the recasting of Stepney tenor in 1599, the fourth was broken, and as the parishioners were not paying the money at which they were rated, the vestry passed another resolution. 'For as much as the Church is indebted in severall somes of money vnto diu. psons By reason that many pishioners have not paid the sessment taxed for the new casting of the great bell, and wheras since the casting of the said great bell the fourth bell is become broken to the further chardge of the pishioners of this pish,' it was ordered 'ffirst that in consideration of the chardge aforesaid every pishon that is placed in a pew shall geve one whole yeres pew money frankly at one payment according to the rate of his pew Over and besides his quarteridge now or hereafter to be due. And others that have no pew viijd besides their quarteridge as aforesaide. To be collected by the churchwardens in there severall hamlets, and such as shall refuse to contribute contrary to this order, to deal wth them as the churchwardens in there discreacon shall think fitt and the law will allow.'

The vestry also decided that the fourth bell should be recast and the churchwardens were to deal circumspectly for the performing thereof.

Francis Whitacres was sexton at the time and had charge of the bells. He neglected his duties and put the parish to great expense by his negligence. It may be that the bells were broken by being tolled for funerals by incompetent persons. Also it seems he was bribed by the founder to allow him to remove one of the bells from the steeple before the parish had authorised it. He boasted to the parish clerk that he intended to make what he could out of the parish, 'else we shall dye beggers,' and when the churchwarden admonished him, he answered rudely and bid him 'shake his ears among dogs,' a curious old English form of insult which is to be found in Shakespeare's plays. For all these things it was ordered by the vestrymen of the parish that 'ffrancis Whitacres, sexton, shalbe put out of his place for his misdemeanors.'

'ffirst the said ffrancis Whitacres did bidd ffrancis snow shake his eares emong dogges, when the said ffrancis Snow was churchwarden. Item the said sexton did say vnto the Clark now let us take or benniffitt and make what we can, for else we shall dye beggers. Item, for taking in of a bell and delivering the same bell out of the steeple wth out the consent of the churchwardens & pishioners wch was chardgable to the pish. Item for the great chardge that the said sexton hath put the pishioners vnto for his negligence for not looking dutifully vnto the bells. Item that the churchwarden shall not from henceforth pay vnto the said sexton any more wages or take any church duties.'

In September, 1601, Edmund Purser was admitted sexton in Whitacres' stead, and 'he shall have such wages and duties as usually hath bin paid vnto the Sexton, and also that ffrancis Whitacres late Sexton shalbe utterly dismissed and shall have no duties hereafter paid him nor meddle further in the church or pish.'

In the following century there was a family named Purser which supplied several prominent ringers, among them Charles Purser, who composed and called the long peals 'of Treble Bob Royal rung by the College

Youths in their contest with the Cumberlands. These men lived in the eastern suburbs of London, and most probably were descended from the man who was appointed sexton of Stepney in 1601.

Francis Whitacres was not the only sexton at Stepney who got into trouble. In 1643 Mr. William Culham, sexton, was admonished and threatened with dismissal. Four years later 'divers horrest and sufficient men' of the parishioners complained that he had behaved in a very incivil and disorderly manner, and 'hath been a contemner and scoffer of them that are godly & hath been very neglectful of his duties.' Also that he had a public house, the Rose, in which he had placed his son, and furnished it with beer, although he knew that the parish intended to suppress ale houses.

We have here a sidelight on the religious and political disputes of the times. The Puritans had now become powerful and they were set on making the people of England as pious and godly as themselves. But the common folk had no particular wish to be reformed. Like Sir Toby Belch, they wanted to know, 'Dost thou think because thou art virtuous, there will be no more cakes and ale?' The puritan answer was to make sure, as far as they could, that there should be no more cakes and ale, and that those who hankered after them should be suitably rebuked. Probably Culham was not really a bad sexton, but no doubt he scoffed at some of the godly, and like Maria, in somewhat similar circumstances, told them to 'go and shake their ears.' Also his public house was a fact patent to all and not to be denied.

Culham had many friends and supporters in the parish, but his opponents were in the ascendancy, and he had to submit. The vestry suspended him, so he came before them and earnestly desired them to pass by all such his offences. He was reinstated for a year on condition that he should take down the sign of the Rose and that it should cease to be a victualling house. Otherwise he would have to submit to the earlier order. His submission was, however, in vain, and a very short time afterwards he was turned out of his office and another appointed in his place. When in 1661 times had changed and the reign of the saints was over, his friends tried to reinstate him, but they did not succeed. He had been first appointed to succeed Edmund Purser as sexton as far back as 1625 and had been confirmed in the post by the bishop on December 10th in that year. He died in 1666.

In 1637, the year that the Society of College Youths was founded, there evidently was at Stepney a good deal of 'pleasure' ringing, and partly, no doubt, to keep it within limits, and partly to turn it into a source of revenue, the vestry decided to make a charge of two shillings and sixpence for every peal rung. In those days two shillings and sixpence was a large amount, and the effect of the charge must have been to confine the pleasure ringing to the better class parishioners.

'It is ordered that when any ringing shalbe extraordinary in the pish except such as shalbe commanded or allowed by the Canons and constitutions of the church, they that ring shall pay two shillings and sixpence for every peale they shall obtaine leave to ring, to the use and benefit of the Church to be received by the churchwardens & to be accounted for as other church duties by them to be received.'

(To be continued.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

MASTER AND SECRETARY'S RECORD.

Members of Oxford University Society held their annual general meeting at New College on Tuesday, April 28th. The most important business of the evening was the election of the officials for the coming twelve months. J. E. Spice (New College) was re-elected Master, W. L. B. Leese (St. John's) was re-elected secretary, and Miss E. J. Macnair (Somerville) was re-elected treasurer.

The Master and secretary are both entering their third year of office, which, as far as junior members of the university are concerned, is unique in the history of the society. Other elections to the committee were Miss P. A. Scaddan (St. Hilda's), Miss J. Holdsworth (St. Hilda's) and S. D. Dukes (Merton).

The president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) was re-elected as the society's Central Council representative for the next three years.

Meetings for the term were arranged for Wednesday evenings in New College tower, where the handling of a bell rope is again to be encouraged, and for Saturday afternoons, 5 to 7 p.m., and Sunday mornings, 10 to 11 a.m., both to be devoted to handbell ringing.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Cookham on April 25th, and, as usual, was an enjoyable gathering. Ringing on silent bells was participated in by a number of enthusiasts in a variety of methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

The singing during the service, too, was well up to its usual volume, in fact it was rather surprising, until one remembered that there are quite a number of choristers in this branch.

The tea was also pre-war standard, and the secretary was apparently making up for the lean years before the war.

Mr. W. H. Fussell took the chair for the business meeting, at which three new members were elected, one an evacuee who had seemingly not met the Oxford Diocesan Guild before.

The secretary read 'An appeal to all ringers,' and concluded with the comment, 'Let everyone ask themselves, "What would I do without 'The Ringing World?''" The result was gratifying.

All the officers were elected en bloc, and after the usual votes of thanks a number of the party settled down to some serious handbell ringing, Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Double Norwich and a tune.

The visitors included Messrs. R. H. Hibbert (of course), Tony Price (with handbells), Albert Diserens, W. E. Judd and F. Hicks, of Sussex, and Supt Wiggins.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION?

DISCUSSION AT WATFORD.

A most enjoyable meeting of the Watford District was held at Bushey on April 25th. Mr. F. W. Brinklow was voted to the chair and an interesting discussion ensued on the project for a National Association.

Mr. E. Jennings, in opening the subject, said that the present Central Council was formed half a century ago, and unless it modernised itself it could never take its rightful place in the Exercise.

Mr. P. Corby said that the idea of a National Association was apparently to run the Exercise as a business concern, and he did not think it was practicable. The Sunday service ringing was the most important thing, and he did not see what the ordinary ringer was going to get out of it.

Mr. C. C. Mayne thought that ringers should study the question very closely before they made any decision and try to see where it was leading them.

Mr. R. Spears thought the Exercise could be run on business lines with a levy on members.

Mr. H. Cashmore said that it seemed to him that the question was merely whether the central body should be the present Central Council or the Executive Committee of a National Association, and he did not see that one would be any different from the other.

Mr. K. Arthur then proposed the following resolution: 'That this meeting request the Central Council to meet during the present year with the object of considering its reorganisation on a more active basis.'

Mr. E. A. Barnett seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

AN AFTERNOON IN SOMERSET.

Saturday, April 25th, being a glorious spring day, three ambitious ringers, complete with cycles and handbells, set out from Bristol in search of a peal. Arriving at the Lord Nelson, Cleve, they found their host and guide waiting, and proceeded through the fields to the plantations. After tea a start was made for the peal, which at five minutes past six they had the satisfaction of accomplishing without incident, except that one member got sunburned and finished up with a face like a prize turkey. More sight-seeing followed and then a start was made for home, after thanking Mr. and Mrs. Knight for such a grand time. On their ride the wind was dead against them, but, aided half-way by a pint or two, they beat it and arrived home safely.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The condition of the Editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, remains much the same as last week, and is the cause of some anxiety at times.

We are thankful to receive news that the famous ring of twelve bells suffered no damage in the recent heavy air raids on Norwich. The other well-known bells in the city are also, we understand, safe.

The wedding between Mr. Edwin A. Barnett and Miss Olive Hairs will take place at St. John's Church, Burgess Hill, Sussex, on June 27th.

Mr. Frank Smallwood's many friends will hear with thankfulness that he and Mrs. Smallwood came through the recent air raid safely. Mr. Tom King's house was wrecked.

On May 17th, 1777, the Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, conducted by George Gross. It was one of the stages in the famous long peal contest on those bells, and nine days later the College Youths beat it with 11,080 changes.

The record length of London Surprise Major was rung at King's Norton on May 11th, 1903, by a mixed band under the auspices of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild. The composition (largely based on Middleton's Cambridge) was by Gabriel Lindoff, who rang the fourth. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, his brother Ernest was at the fifth, and James Motts, of Ipswich, at the seventh. Four of the band are still alive—Harry Chapman (treble), George R. Pye (second), William Short (third) and William Keeble (sixth). Henry Law James produced about the same time what was practically the same composition, but one lead longer, and this has been attempted more than once, but so far without success.

The first peal of Spiced Surprise Major, 5,056 Cambridge and Superlative, was rung at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, on May 14th, 1924. It was composed by Mr. J. W. Parker and conducted by Thomas T. Goffon.

What was for long a very famous peal was the 12,096 Grandsire Caters rung on May 15th, 1837, at All Saints', Fulham, by the St. James' Society. On the same date in 1894 the then longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was rung at Loughborough by the Midland Counties Association.

The third edition of Jasper Snowdon's 'Standard Methods' (first published in 1881) appeared 50 years ago this month. This is one of the very best text books we possess. It has been revived more than once, and a new edition, entirely rewritten, will be available to aid in the rehabilitation of ringing after the war.

Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2.

ST. CLEMENT DANES'

Mrs. Louie Pennington-Bickford, widow of the Rev. William Pennington-Bickford, Rector of St. Clement Danes', Strand, London, which was burned out during an air raid, has left the residue of her £33,285 estate for the restoration of the church, one of Wren's masterpieces.

Mrs. Pennington-Bickford died on September 5th and the will is dated August 23rd, a few weeks after the death of her husband, who was grief-stricken at the loss of his church. She was the daughter of Prebendary Pennington, the previous Rector.

THE LATE CORNELIUS CHARGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr. Cornelius Charge in last week's 'Ringing World.'

In the brief account of his ringing activity in New Zealand mention is made of his two failures, but nothing is said of what I think was a splendid performance, a peal of Bob Major 'in hand,' which he conducted round about 1937 or 1938.

I only met him once, when we took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Southwark with the late Mr. W. Pye on June 28th, 1919, the day that peace was signed after the last war. This was the only twelve-bell peal rung to celebrate that occasion. E. BARNETT.

10, King's Close, Crayford.

DEATH OF A LEWES RINGER.

The death, at the age of 62, is announced of Mr. George Richardson, who for many years was one of the band at Southover, Lewes. He leaves a widow and family. The funeral was on May 5th.

TWO ASSOCIATIONS MEET.

A joint meeting of the Warwickshire Guild and Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association, held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, Coventry, on Saturday, May 2nd, was very successful. The visit of the Hinckley District was a courtesy visit to Mr. Webb, who has been a regular attendant at their meetings.

There was a good attendance, numbering about 30, including Mr. and Mrs. Fearn, of Birmingham, both organisations being well represented. During the evening handbells were rung, the methods including Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples. Mr. Webb and company entertained the members with some fine tune ringing.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.
RESULT OF VOTE ON FIRST MOTION.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we continue the discussion on the second motion, I have to announce the result of the vote that has been taken on motion 'A,' moved by Mr. Price, and the rider proposed by Mr. Kippin. Over 100 ringers sent in their votes, which I think may be taken as an excellent result for a first experiment of this kind.

The number of votes recorded does not, I am sure, by any means represent the interest taken in the discussion, because information reaches me from all quarters that the debate has been followed with great interest. But in this, as in many other things connected with ringing, ringers are very slow to act, and it is not at all surprising that the actual voting figures were not higher. However, it may be that many came to the conclusion that on a subject like this the main resolution was a foregone conclusion, but the figures reveal that on the subsidiary question included in the rider the voting was very close. The following is the analysis abstracted from the voting cards:—

For Mr. Price's motion	23
Ditto, but against rider	36
Ditto, with addition of rider	37
	96
Against the motion	8
Majority FOR the motion	88
For Mr. Kippin's rider	37
Against the rider	36
Ditto (and motion)	8
Ditto (but no vote given on motion)	1 45
Majority AGAINST the rider	8

I, therefore, declare that Mr. Price's motion is carried and Mr. Kippin's rider defeated.

The Conference will hope that the committee appointed under the resolution will proceed at once to consider the question of rehabilitating ringing after the war and draw up their recommendations.

[The closing date for receiving votes as fixed by the rules was Wednesday, May 6th, but quite a number came in after then. They could not be reckoned in the totals.]

The CHAIRMAN: I have received a communication from Mr. T. R. Butler, of Liverpool, in which he suggests that at least one of the committee should be a solicitor, police officer or other person who has a good and current legal knowledge and experience. The committee is now formally appointed, but they can at any time, if they think it desirable, co-opt any other person to serve with them.

OUT OF ORDER.

The CHAIRMAN: With reference to the discussion on motion (b), moved by Mr. Coles and seconded by Mr. Richardson, I have received the following amendment, proposed by Mr. C. H. Kippin and seconded by Mr. F. W. Housden, namely, to add to the last sentence:—

'although it admits that the present method of organisation would be unable to cope with "The Ringing World" problem, should this become acute during the war.'

I regret that it is necessary to rule this amendment out of order as not being germane to the main resolution. We will now proceed with the discussion.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED.

Mr. W. SHEPHERD (Addlestone, Surrey): It is with pleasure that I support a motion given in such clear terms. It calls for faith in our associations, guilds and also the Central Council to continue work which has been difficult since their first formations. At annual meetings elections are made, and in the main all those called to serve have given valuable service to the advancement of our art, yet it is often the case that many of us failed to appreciate what has been done and have let good men retire without a word of thanks. You cannot better the present constitution of church bellringers by forming another organisation that will do away with pin-pricking. Such a thing only exists between a few members, and the remedy, if any, is not even suggested. It is also suggested that compounding subscriptions be abolished, but I say that if peal ringers like to ring peals over the border they surely must expect to pay for the privilege. We also hear that the College and Cumberland Youths do not get the episcopal blessing, but if the writer of that statement will refer to 'Bell News' and 'The Ringing World' during the last 60 years he will find his statement incorrect.

We have read about a National Association, with a full-time secretary and an editor working under an executive committee to do away with annual reports and produce a cheap ringing paper. This sounds very nice, but many details are lacking. A full-time secretary with his expenses would need a sum amounting to four figures without counting the cost of the editor, who would require another large amount. The executive would also need travel and subsistence allowances which will again be heavy. We have had a National Health scheme since 1912 with many highly paid officials and huge yearly

expenditure, yet when the member needs anything he gets in touch with the local secretary.

Ringing is different in Middlesex compared with Devon, and officers approach problems from another angle. We can rely on them to stand by us in the future, for, after all, ringing is for the most part work for the Church, therefore local conditions and customs prevail to a great extent. The clergy are mostly aware of the county or diocesan ringing body and take interest in the work, but would not the word 'national' leave them indifferent? A member of the Central Council doubts we have such a body. In these circumstances why not resign membership? Nobody has done more for ringers and ringing than the Council, and this can be borne out when the whole of its labours are taken into account. The Central Council is what members make it, and, apart from its debating power, there has been a real host of hard work done by committees since its inception. It is unfair of any ringer with a few years' experience to judge the work of a Council without taking all its labours into account. No, sir, these proposed fundamental changes may suit a few, but it must not be overlooked that many hundreds of ringers do not ring peals and you will have to find a scheme very different to a National Association if you are going to give them value for their 5s. In the absence of any sound propositions, I am confident that whatever the future may hold for us our present basis of construction is the one that will serve us best.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. A. TROLLOPE: It is quite clear from the pages of 'The Ringing World' that the question of a National Association has interested a good many people, and we all have been expecting its advocates to take advantage of the Conference to bring their views forward.

They have done so to some degree, but in such a way that at present there is no motion by which a direct vote can be taken. It would be a pity if ringers could not have an opportunity of saying definitely whether they would like to have a National Association or not, and to give them the opportunity I will propose as an amendment to Mr. Coles' motion, that the words 'and is of opinion that a National Association is unnecessary' be added.

The idea of a National Association has been favoured by a section of the Exercise for many years. Readers of my history of the Central Council will probably remember that a scheme was mooted at a church congress at Reading nearly 60 years ago. An influential committee was formed to consider the matter, and a scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Exercise. But it came to nothing, mainly because of general apathy, but also because most of those who would have been called upon to work it thought it unworkable.

One important result there was, for the Central Council was founded as an alternative. The Council is a fact and has worked. A National Association is an ideal and no one can say whether it would work or not.

LESSONS OF HISTORY.

As a pretty close student of the history of ringing I have been very much impressed by the way in which the Exercise has reproduced in its small way the general characteristics of the people of England. The English character, the English Constitution, English law, the English way of doing things, and almost everything English are a mass of illogical incongruities. That is why foreigners and especially Frenchmen have never understood us and think we are hypocrites, why Roman Catholics scoff at the Church of England as a body that can't make up its own mind on any matter, and why Germans despise our inefficiency. They are all right up to a point, but at the bottom of the English inconsistency there is a definite principle and that is the love of personal liberty. The Englishman likes to do things for himself in his own way rather than have them done for him or do them as he is told even though it is a better way.

That is how the Ringing Exercise grew up. Ringers have always been most independent persons. They have flatly refused to submit themselves to any authority, whether it be of the parson and churchwardens or of officials of societies of their own making. I am not saying whether they were right or not; I am stating the fact.

It is extremely probable that this individualism in ordinary life will have to give way as the tendencies to standardisation become stronger. It has much lessened in my time. And it is quite possible that the Exercise will follow the same path, but it will not be for a time. At present we have to face the fact that the average ringer and especially the average country ringer has no desire to be improved or to become a unit in an efficient organisation, and however much it might do him good there is no means of putting pressure on him.

Our present organisation may not be logical and may be theoretically inefficient, but it is what has been evolved by actual circumstances. If we want to have a National Association we must first get the average ringers into that state of mind in which they will not merely accept but welcome a National Association, and be prepared to give up their individual liberty of thought and action for the good of the whole Exercise. That is really the task the advocates of a National Association must undertake.

Mr. LESLIE W. BUNCE: I beg formally to second Mr. Trollope's amendment.

(Continued on next page.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. T. J. LOCK: After having read correspondence in support of a National Association, I fail as yet to be convinced that the present time is opportune to abolish all the existing associations and societies in favour of one controlling body with its various branches.

It seems to me that what is envisaged is a central office with paid staff operating in a similar manner to a professional body and having similar relations to its members, impression being made on a would-be member of the great advantages of membership, including a journal, usually free, and other facilities. But surely in time the central office staff, including the Editor, would become clerks interested primarily from the professional, and not from the practical ringing, point of view. Further, if such circumstances existed I presume we hon. secretaries would at least be requested to carry on as such or should we have some monetary reward for our labours; and if the latter, from what source would the finance come?

An annual fee of 5s. per member has been suggested, but I submit that no National Association would have the slightest influence over the average ringer to pay this increased subscription, and I am sure I am not the only hon. secretary who cannot draw a ls. 6d. annual subscription from some members, even after a reminder (and Mr. Hartley must agree with me on this point). The prevailing spirit of the present time amongst ringers is friendship and a desire to help others, and so let it remain.

I want to make one suggestion. As the National Association would absorb all existing associations and societies, including the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Youths, may I make a request to those members of the former society who have expressed favour in this new adventure to have a proposition put forward at one of its meetings to the effect that the society would be prepared to declare itself disbanded in favour of a National Association. For without this the scheme would not be one hundred per cent. successful.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. PETER CROOK, Bolton: I agree there is something that could be done in the interest of ringers by the aid of a national scheme, but I am afraid that when one gets down to 'brass tacks' he will find many obstacles in forming a National Association.

The first will be the financial problem. I have been collecting association subscriptions (a mere ls. 6d. per year) for over 20 years, and I find it is not an easy task, although I am at their heels all the time. So if we only take 50 per cent. of the ringers, it will be a disappointing effort to try and get 20,000 subscriptions in from some headquarters.

The work of the associations and guilds is all voluntary, but one cannot expect the administration of a National Association to be done on this basis. An office and staff, however small, along with stationery, postage, etc., would entail a subscription so large that it would not get the support it would need to carry on.

Not many years ago I, along with others, had the experience of trying to arrange a national scheme. Men from the provinces met in London and tried to work out a scheme, but it did not materialise, the chief stumbling-block being finance. Some of the 'bodies concerned had a fairly large bank account, others had none. Those with the hard-earned money would not submit to it being pooled. This and the administration settled the whole question.

AN AFFILIATION SCHEME.

I would like to suggest some form of affiliation. Instead of paying a non-resident subscription for the privilege of ringing a peal each association or guild pay a reasonable small amount annually to the Central Council, and the individual ringer pay an entrance fee, also to the Central Council, which would entitle him to ring peals in other affiliated territory. The money accrued from such sources could be used for the benefit of all ringers, especially the new entrants to the art, in the way of literature. The Central Council is waiting for funds to publish other books. Grants could also be made to our only ringers' paper. It will cause a greater setback to ringing than the war if it closes down.

What do you or the majority benefit from your peal fee to another association? I am a member of many associations, but when visiting some districts I have perused their annual report, but could not find my name in the list of non-resident members. I rang a peal in one district and told them I was a member of their association. I later received a letter to say that my name could not be traced in their books. Fortunately, I had kept my receipt, and still my name does not appear in their annual report.

How much simpler it would be to produce an affiliation card and put a footnote under the peal recording 'Affiliated member.'

The administration of this could be easy. The individual could pay his local general secretary his entrance fee, who in return issues him an affiliation card, and forwards the whole money along with the present subscription to the Central Council.

Perhaps 'Universal' could be substituted for 'National.'

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, May 10th, in St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandshire Triples as a farewell to Dr. Cyril Garbett, Lord Bishop of Winchester and Archbishop-elect of York. Dr. Garbett preached at St. Peter's on this day at evensong: Herbert Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshall 3-4, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, Francis S. Wilson 7-8.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHURCHES.

AN APPEAL FOR RINGERS' HELP.

Day by day, as a result of enemy action, many priceless architectural treasures are being destroyed, and of some of them not even the smallest serviceable illustrative record remains. If this lack of record continues it will be tragic, both in the case of the great architectural masterpieces, and of the small country churches, built and added to in many periods, and forming the groundwork of the history of their parishes. With them may be lost their fittings and furnishings—stained glass, woodwork, monuments, pictures and carvings.

Of less than a quarter of the churches in this country is there an adequate illustrative or descriptive survey, which would either enable a competent architect to reconstruct such parts of the buildings and its fittings as might be damaged, or preserve the image of the building and its contents for posterity, should it be completely destroyed.

Many ringers who in peace time were able to go about the country and visit towers have probably collected pictures of the churches they visited, or of the bells they have rung. Now an appeal is being made by the Central Council for the Care of Churches for the help of ringers in the formation of a National Survey of Churches, and all who have collected pictures, or who have cameras and would be willing to make records, are asked to respond. Photographs, drawings or printed matter describing churches are urgently wanted as a precaution against irreparable damage to these buildings for lack of sufficient information on which to carry out repairs. For example, a quite typical country church may have a 13th century chancel with two windows added in the 14th century, and a 15th century roof, while the nave is of the 15th century with a 17th century tower and porch. The mixture of styles is part of the charm of the building, but unless adequate records of all these details are preserved, it would be impossible to carry out repairs or restoration which would reproduce the original building. If it is decided that a building cannot or should not be reinstated, then it would be a great loss, both to the locality and to the architectural wealth of the country, if no pictures of it remained to show posterity what it was like.

The War Office has stated that permits are not required for photographing churches, provided that they are undamaged and not in protected areas, and that neither war damage nor military activities of any kind are included in the picture. It would be advisable for photographers to obtain and have with them, when taking photographs, a copy of 'The Control of Photography Order (No. 1), 1939,' obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, price 1d.

Permission to photograph damaged churches, or churches in restricted areas, can be obtained by making application on D.R. Form 5 obtained from the Central Council for the Care of Churches.

Anyone who is interested should write to the secretary of the Council at their temporary address, Farham, Dunster, Somerset, for free leaflets of advice, describing the work, and giving information about the special release of photographic materials and other facilities.

BIRTHDAY IN CHESHIRE.

A very pleasant gathering was held on Sunday, April 19th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Vincent, of Hale, Cheshire. Their son, Peter, reached his ninth birthday on the previous Friday, and to celebrate it his parents invited Mr. A. Barnes, of Reddish, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Bailey and Mr. P. Laffin, of Stockport, Messrs. Edwards, Elkins and Brown, of the local (Bowdon) company, with Mrs. Elkins and Mary.

The hero of the day, Master Peter, rang the trebles to a course of Grandshire Caters after a preliminary skirmish, and his brothers, Gordon (14) and John (12), rang a pair each in Plain Bob and Grandshire. Mrs. Vincent also performed, ringing the tenors to both Bob Major and Grandshire Caters.

After a look round the garden, which was sprayed with fruit blossom, and lunch, which was a credit to its founder, a peal was attempted by the adults. The first attempt ended with an almost voluntary breakdown after 30 minutes, the bells being small and so shrill that they were almost painful. Mr. Bailey then produced his well-used set, once in the possession of the great J. W. Washbrook, and upon which many peals have been rung in recent years. They are mellow and easy to listen to, and on these the band got nearly half-way, but curious noises outside the window caused the master of the house, who was ringing the tenors, to hawl for silence. A remediation of both noises 'off' and noises 'on' caused a Q set to split in, or rather at, the Middle, and Pritchard's Bob Major stopped one course short of half-way. Then there was a noble set of handbells, size 22 in C, to be tried out, and on them a pretty sketchy course of Grandshire Cinques was rung, which demonstrated the tones of a beautiful set, dated 1873.

Fifteen sat down to tea, after which Master Peter and his brothers did some more ringing, and conversation ranged the field of ringing. There were representatives of Suffolk, Cheshire, Lancashire, Surrey, Kent and Hereford present.

KINGSBURY, MIDDLESEX.—On Thursday, May 7th, at No. 7, Glenwood Grove, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,344 changes, in 37 minutes: Mrs. J. H. Botham 1-2, K. Arthur 3-4, E. B. Hartley (conductor) 5-6, R. G. Speats 7-8.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. SONNING DEANERY BRANCH SECRETARY.

Departure of Mr. W. J. Paice.

A successful war-time annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Guild was held at Wokingham on Saturday, May 2nd. Proceedings commenced with handbell ringing at the west end of the nave of St. Paul's Church, followed by a simple service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. the Hon. P. H. Scott, M.A. A short and telling address was given by the curate (the Rev. D. R. Carlin) from the words, 'In that day there shall be upon the bells holiness to the Lord.' He spoke of the present ban on church bells and said that if ringers were called upon to ring at the present moment it would be for a secular purpose and as a warning to the community, but they all, ringers and others alike, looked forward to the day when the bells should fulfil their true function and ring out for the blessings of peace and holiness unto the Lord. The preacher concluded his address with Tennyson's well-known poem, and never did those beautiful words sound more appropriate and inspiring than at that moment, 'Ring out the old, ring in the new; Ring out the thousand wars of old, ring in the thousand years of peace; Ring out the darkness of the land, ring in the Christ that is to be.'

Tea followed in St. Paul's Parish Room, ably prepared and served by Mrs. Peachy and Mr. Eamer. It proved to be an excellent tea for war time, and over 30 members and friends were present, including the Rector, curate and organist of St. Paul's.

Canon Coleridge, chairman of the branch, presided at the business meeting. An apology was received from the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild, who sent best wishes for a successful meeting.

The treasurer presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £5 5s. 2d., while the Restoration Fund showed a credit of £17 2s.—The balance sheet was adopted on the proposition of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Rance.

A short report by the hon. secretary was also adopted.

CANON COLERIDGE RE-ELECTED.

Canon Coleridge vacated the chair and said that he should not mind at all if they would elect someone else in his place, as he was getting old and in these times did not find it easy to get about, although he had always been glad to be connected with that branch of the Guild and to have served so many years as chairman.

Miss Robinson, in proposing the re-election of the Canon, said they did not dare to think of anyone else as chairman so long as he was willing to serve, and Mr. Rance, in seconding, said after all it gave Canon Coleridge a little outing once a year.—Mr. R. T. Hibbert strongly supported the election, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman announced that the next item was a very sad one, as, owing to leaving the district, Mr. W. J. Paice was not able to continue as secretary and treasurer of the branch. Canon Coleridge paid a very high tribute to Mr. Paice's painstaking work for the past 15 years, and said that among the branch secretaries of the Guild Mr. Paice took a very high place indeed. He wished to make a proposition, which would be recorded in the minutes, that a most sincere and hearty vote of thanks and appreciation be accorded to Mr. Paice for all he had done for the branch.

This was seconded by Miss Robinson, who also spoke in high praise of Mr. Paice's interest and work, as did Mr. F. Nye, of Bagshot, and Mr. R. T. Hibbert.

The retiring secretary feelingly replied, and thanked all for their kind expressions and for the help and encouragement they had always given him. He said it was a sad moment for him to give up that work, which he had always loved to do while he was able and to leave so many valued and trusted friends. He had always tried to keep in the forefront of his mind the honour, not only of the branch, but of the whole Diocesan Guild.

NEW SECRETARY APPOINTED.

Mr. J. Moth proposed the election of Mr. B. C. Castle as successor to Mr. Paice, and this was seconded by Mr. Tilley and carried unanimously.

Mr. Paice supported the election and asked that the same generous help might be extended to Mr. Castle as he had himself received.—Mr. Castle promised to do his best for the branch.

The foremen of the different towers were elected to form the Branch Committee, and Messrs. Dentry, Moth, Rance and Darvill were elected as representatives to the Guild Committee, the latter in the place of Mr. Castle, on the motion of Mr. Rance, seconded by Mr. Parker.

The question of giving financial support to 'The Ringing World' (Continued in next column.)

A NEGLECTED TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several times lately you have stressed the fact that bells must be looked after and kept in order ready to ring again when the ban is removed, and Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, published some useful hints on the care of bells and their fittings.

I fear, however, that there are many rings up and down the country going to rack and ruin through sheer neglect.

On Sunday recently I went for a cycle ride round my old district to look at the countryside. I called at the old Norman church at Stanton-on-Hine Heath, where I learnt to pull a bell. The churchyard was well kept, with daffodils growing in profusion. As I walked up the path I noticed wood-pigeons and jackdaws flying in and out of the bell chamber windows, so knew the wire netting must have decayed. The church door was locked, but I found the key and made my way up the tower. The floor of the ringing chamber, which once was a model of cleanliness, was littered with bird droppings, which had come down through the rope holes into the clock chamber and thence into the ringing chamber below. The clock chamber floor was an inch deep in dirt, all of which must have come down through the rope holes. When I raised the trap door into the bell chamber I was met by a shower of sticks and dirt and the carcass of a dead pigeon. The place was full of wood-pigeons, jackdaws and starlings, which eyed me for a moment and then flew wildly about, making for the openings in the netting.

The whole place was indescribably filthy, sticks and dirt everywhere; bells, frame and fittings covered with droppings, the tops of the wheels were full, and ridges of it along the tops of the headstocks. Two of the bells had heaps six inches high piled up on the soundbow where they happened to be directly below nests in the roof. In the corner of the treble pit was a nest containing two young pigeons. Most of the gudgeons were red with rust, but I found a bottle containing oil, so was able to give them all a good oiling before I left.

No doubt there are many other towers in like condition, in which case many good going peals will be derelict by the time all this is over.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees, Salop.

SONNING DEANERY MEETING.

(Continued from previous column.)

was introduced by the chairman, who explained the matter fully, and pointed out the seriousness of the position and the grave illness of the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith), whose recovery was greatly handicapped and retarded owing to his self-sacrificing efforts to keep the paper going at considerable loss to himself. Canon Coleridge spoke with pride of what the Oxford Guild had done in making a substantial grant from its funds as had other branches of the Guild. He hoped that the Sonning Deanery Branch would be willing and able to take a share in such a praiseworthy effort.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert spoke of the noble self-sacrifice of Mr. Goldsmith, not only in maintaining a paper for the Exercise, but in many other ways to help ringers and ringing.

Mr. W. J. Paice also spoke of what ringers owed to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for many years past.

Miss Robinson then proposed that £10 be given from the Branch Restoration Fund towards the fund for the support of 'The Ringing World,' and this was seconded by Mr. W. Parker.

A discussion took place upon this resolution, and it was pointed out by Mr. Paice that although the fund was instituted primarily for the restoration of bells, it had never been drawn upon for that purpose and there did not seem to be any immediate need for it. There seemed to be no reason, therefore, why it should not be used for any other worthy purpose.

It was then proposed by Mr. Nye and seconded by Mr. Paice that the name of the fund be changed to the Branch Reserve Fund, and this was agreed.

The original resolution was also put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Canon Coleridge proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to all who had worked to make the meeting so successful, including the Rector of St. Paul's for the service, the Rev. Carlin for his address, the organist and those who had arranged the tea.

Members were present from Binfield, Hurst, Sandhurst, Waltham St. Lawrence, Wokingham (All Saints' and St. Paul's), and visitors from Reading and other places, including Messrs. Corbett (Guildford Guild), Levett (Hastings), Gardiner (Swindon), Osler (Bramley, Hants) and others.

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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

A1	23456	W.	R.	B1	23456	W.	R.
	45236	—	—		52436	—	—
	24536	—	—		43526	—	—
	52436	—	—		24536	—	—
	43526	—	—		53246	—	—
	54326	—	—		25346	—	—
	35426	—	—		32546	—	—
	42356	—	—		54326	—	—
	34256	—	—		35426	—	—
	23456	—	—		42356	—	—
					34256	—	—
					23456	—	—
A2	53246	—	—				
	25346	—	—				
	32546	—	—	B2	45236	—	—
C1	23456	W.	R.	D1	23456	W.	R.
	45236	—	—		45236	—	—
	24536	—	—		24536	—	—
	53246	—	—		53246	—	—
	25346	—	—		25346	—	—
	32546	—	—		34256	—	—
	54326	—	—		23456	—	—
	35426	—	—				
	42356	—	—	D2	52436	—	—
	34256	—	—		35426	—	—
	23456	—	—		42356	—	—
					54326	—	—
C2	52436	—	—		32546	—	—
	43526	—	—		43526	—	—

These four pairs of round blocks are the four different ways in which the 12 in-course Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be grouped together, and they provide some of the most valuable and most widely used of the material for composing peals in all methods in which three bells are affected by a bob.

Each of the blocks is capable of being varied in a definite number of ways. In the first place the calling may be started at any one of the course ends, the same relationship between the two complementary blocks being, of course, kept.

In the second place all the blocks and all the variations of them can be reversed, and they can be reversed in two different ways.

Let us consider these variations in some detail. Suppose we write out one of these blocks (say A1) in full on a long strip of paper and paste it on a drum just the right size so that the final rounds would come on the top of the first rounds. We have now 1,008 true changes written on our strip of paper and if we start with rounds and follow the drum round until we come to rounds again we shall have passed through all the changes of the block and shall have reached a certain number of bobs at certain intervals.

If we start at any other point (say the second course end, 14523678) and follow the drum round till we come back to 14523678, we shall equally have passed the same 1,008 changes and the same bobs at the same intervals. The only difference is that, as we started at a later point, we shall have those changes at the end which before we had at the beginning.

But now, instead of beginning with 1452367, let us write rounds in the place on the drum where that row comes, and then prick changes with bobs at exactly the same intervals as before until we come back to rounds. We shall again have a block of 1,008 changes, and it must be a true one, because all the rows will bear to 12345678 the same relationship that the rows in the first block did to 14523678. The actual rows will be different but the composition is the same.

In the same way we can start from any row we please on the drum and, going round it until we again reach the same row, have a block of 1,008 changes. In actual practice we should only start and finish at a course end with 1,7,8, in their home positions, but any other starting point could be used to produce a true block. This will give us the first kind of variation we spoke of just now.

We take our drum again, but now, instead of following the changes forward, we will follow them backwards. If we start from rounds we shall come back to rounds, and we shall again have a true block of 1,008 changes with the bobs at the same intervals, only reversed in order and with rounds and the course ends at the handstroke instead of the backstroke. We can easily alter the latter by writing rounds in the place of any one of the backstrokes and keeping the same relation between the changes.

In our block, A1, bobs are made at the Home and at the Wrong. If we reverse from a course end the Homes in the original will still be Homes in the reversed, only if there is a bob at the course end from which we start we shall not come to it until we reach it at the end of the block. Going forward from the course end the Wrong lead is the first we come to. Going backwards it is the sixth lead we come to, and when we adjust the reverse by turning handstrokes into backstrokes the Wrong becomes a Middle.

Now let us start on our drum not from a lead end, but from a row half way between a Home and a Wrong lead, when the treble is making the first of two blows behind. In the place of whatever row comes on the drum we write the row 86745231, and from it we prick changes according to the method and the bobs as they are on the drum as we follow it backwards.

Half a lead from the start we shall come on the drum to a Home lead, and that in our variation will be a Wrong lead. Just before we complete the circuit of the drum we shall come to a Wrong lead, and that in our variation will become a Home lead.

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NOTICES.

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

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at St. Lawrence's Church, Brentford (High Street). Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4. Tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 p.m. Charge about 1s. 3d. (not more). Business to follow. Buses from Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush to Isleworth and Hounslow pass the church, about half-a-mile west of Kew Bridge.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at the Church, Harlow Common, on Saturday, May 16th. Silent ringing and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Business to follow.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 16th. Tower open at 3 p.m. for stimulating interest for new recruits, showing them and any others the working of the bells. This meeting terminates the 'Bell Week.'—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston on May 16th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at Mr. E. Payne's, near church, at 5.15 p.m. — H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. James', Taunton, on Saturday, May 16th. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m.—R. W. Hayward, Hon. Sec., Tregoney, Hovelands Lane, Taunton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 23rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, May 23rd. Handbells available in the tower of the Parish Church from 5 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 to elect a district secretary and committee. Please make a special effort to attend, as it is hoped to get some form of programme arranged for the summer months to help to hold the district together until better times. — Don Mears, A. E. Symonds, Hitchin.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday, May 23rd. Ringing (10) at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by meeting and tea. All ringers welcome. Notify by Thursday, 21st.—E. A. Stafford, Acting Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Our next meeting is to be held at the Social Club, Broughton Astley, on Saturday, May 23rd, at 6 p.m. We shall be pleased to welcome any visiting ringers and friends. We hope to have plenty of handbell ringing.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 63rd annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m. Meeting in Chapter House 4.45 p.m. (approx.). Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant. Please notify me if tea required not later than Thursday, May 21st. Tower bells (8) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. — The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, May 23rd. 'Silent' ringing on bells (8) from 2.30 to 8 o'clock. Short service in church at 4 p.m. Fish tea at Manor House Cafe at 5 p.m. (2s. each) for all who notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Tuesday, May 19th. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., after tea. — H. H. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. (Tea will be arranged only for those whose names are received by the general secretary not later than May 18th. This is definite.) Handbells available before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Goddington, Kettering.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. — A meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Whit Monday, May 25th. Handbells available at the Parish Church during the afternoon and evening. Tea 4.30 p.m. Short evensong 6.30, followed by business meeting in the vestry. Spend the day in the beautiful parklands in the vicinity and come to the meeting in the afternoon. All welcome. — G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The meeting at Balcombe, arranged for July, will be held on Saturday, May 30th. Silent tower bells and handbells. Names for tea by Wednesday, May 27th, to Mr. A. Laker, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex. Please endeavour to attend this meeting.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Worcester, on Saturday, May 30th. Service in church 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Numbers not later than Tuesday, May 26th. — Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in St. Peter's belfry, Brighton, on Saturday, May 30th. Tower open and handbells available 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Address by the Vicar of Brighton. No tea arrangements. Half rail fare, maximum 2s., to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

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