



No. 1,626. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, MAY 22nd, 1942.

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

Price 3d.

**GILLETT
&
JOHNSTON L^{td.}
CROYDON**

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

in

**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**



Telephone
Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

THE PROBLEMS OF RECONSTRUCTION

It would be well, before we attempt to decide what is best to be done to restore change ringing after the war, to make quite sure what is the general nature of the problems which will face us. There are some who seem to think that when the ban is removed, it will not be removed unconditionally, but that regulations will be laid down imposing restrictions on the use of bells. They think that the body known as the Anti-Noise League will not fail to make its influence felt, and they urge that we should form ourselves into a National Association in order to have a sufficient status to meet its action.

These fears and conjectures are groundless. The present ban is imposed by authority conferred on the Government to deal with problems which arise directly out of war conditions and for no other purpose. When peace comes the authority will lapse absolutely, and though Parliament will certainly find it necessary to renew it, to deal with some things such as food and petrol rationing during the period of reconstruction, it is quite certain that it will refuse even to consider the renewal of those orders, such as the black-out and the ban on ringing, which are merely restrictive of personal liberty. Any general regulation of the use of church bells would need a special Act of Parliament and such would be opposed by the whole influence of the Church.

On the contrary, when peace comes there will be a universal call for the bells, a call which will be far wider than ringers will be able to meet, and the immediate problem will be how to get enough ringers together to man the ropes.

Nevertheless in the task of getting ringing back again into normal conditions, it is certain that we shall have to face in an increasingly acute form a problem which has always been more or less with us, and that is the problem of the individual objector. Not infrequently there live close to a ringing peal one or two people who do not like bellringing, and sometimes they are very insistent in their dislike. They vary a lot. Some are reasonable people, and some are the reverse of reasonable. Some have a legitimate grievance, and with some their grievance is of their own making, though it is not the less real for that.

We have, of course, long been familiar with this sort of thing, but though it will be nothing new when peace comes, it will most certainly be more frequent after the long silence of the bells, and upon the way it is dealt with will largely depend the extent to which change ringing

(Continued on page 234.)

WM. POTTS & SONS LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

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

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

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

and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved
—as Illustration.

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

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



Exact size

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

METHOD SPLICING

*The Newest and Most Interesting
Development of Change Ringing*

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

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

ESTABLISHED 1780

JOHN NICOLL,

*Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,*

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

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

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

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

will be restored in some places. Every case is quite independent, and will have to be dealt with on its individual merits by the people on the spot. That is a good thing in some respects, for the man who objects to the nuisance of bells in his immediate neighbourhood is not concerned with any attempt to make general restrictions on ringing. All he wants is the cessation of his own grievance and, that abated, he cares not a jot what happens in the next parish—probably he rather likes to hear the bells at a distance.

These objectors vary enormously in kind, and there is no precise and general way of dealing with them. What would be most successful in one instance would be disastrous in another. But there are one or two general principles which all ringers should always keep in mind. The first is that every effort should be made to reduce and do away with all causes of legitimate complaint. The unnecessary sounding of single bells, pulling up and ceasing bells without regard to the outside effect, bad ringing, and bad striking with frequent break-downs—these can and should be avoided. If a band cannot ring a method decently well, they should ring something they can ring. It is better to strike Treble Bob well than to strike Cambridge Surprise badly, and worthy of more credit. Generally speaking more stress should be laid on the way a method is rung than on what method is rung.

Another thing is that objectors should always, as far as possible, be dealt with tactfully. Often a few friendly words will meet the case. If the band is in the right, they should give way as little as possible, but in doing so they should avoid any appearance of truculence. A band should always remember that objectors can often get ringing much curtailed and even stopped, and they should so act that no objections do arise, even if it means they must forgo some of the things they would like to do.

BAN TO REMAIN.

QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

From time to time in official quarters attempts are made to get the ban on church bells removed, but hitherto without success. The latest attempt was made in the House of Commons last week, when Mr. A. P. Herbert (Ind., Oxford University), asking what form of enemy incursion was to be signalled by church bells, pointed out that

Church bells were greatly missed;

They were not the most effective available signal;

The church was the only public building which was never on the telephone; and

The use of church bells for any military purpose might legitimately be taken as a technical justification for any enemy action against any church.

Sir James Grigg said that the ringing of church bells signified landings or imminent landings of parachutists or other airborne troops near the church. He knew that church bells were greatly missed, and fully sympathised with this feeling. The other points had likewise been fully considered, but in spite of them the reason for which this plan was originally adopted still held good.

WEDDING OF MR. H. E. THOMPSON.

On Saturday, May 9th, the wedding took place at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Kingsbury, Middlesex, of Mr. Herbert E. Thompson, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, of 64, Bromley Street, Stepney, to Miss Margaret Ball, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ball, 69, Springfield Mount, Kingsbury.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in white satin and wore an orange blossom headdress. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Dora Boyce, dressed in turquoise taffeta, and Miss Joy Bunch in cyclamen taffeta, with contrasting headdresses. Mr. Ted Kipps was best man. Unfortunately there were no hand-bells to ring.

Mr. Thompson's many ringing friends, who know him as the secretary of the Stepney band and a prominent member of the A.S.C.Y., will join in wishing him and his bride health, wealth and happiness.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

Mrs. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
Mrs. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7-8
*EDWIN BARNETT... .. 9-10

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First handbell peal of Treble Bob Royal.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

At STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

*BETTY RAYFIELD 1-2 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 3-4
FRANK K. MEASURES 5-6

Conducted by F. K. MEASURES.

* First attempt for a peal 'in hand.' Specially arranged for Mrs. Rayfield, who is to be congratulated on the way she rang her bells, having never previously rung a 720 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*RUSSELL G. SPEARS 1-2 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4 | *ERIC B. HARTLEY 7-8

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal on handbells.

WALTON, LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 13, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At 56, CHEPSTOW STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

T. S. NORRIDGE 1-2 | E. G. RAPLEY 3-4
*T. W. HAMMOND 5-6

Conducted by E. G. RAPLEY.

* First peal of Bob Minor.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 14, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At BRAYSTONES, SOUTHBOURNE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor in D.

Mrs. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
*JOSCELIN M. TURNER 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung on Ascension Day.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 16, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Three Minutes,

At 134, CROFT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 13 in F.

IVOR C. N. BELL 1-2 | *JACK S. ROBERTS 3-4
Rrv. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 5-6

Conducted by Rev. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

GOOD STRIKING—

Keep time:— how sour sweet music is,
When time is broke and no proportion kept!
Shakespeare.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

DOUBTFUL AUTHORSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I entirely agree with your remark in 'The Ringing World' of April 17th when you say that Washbrook's No. 1 has not received the attention it deserves.

I have often wondered, since Mr. Trollope's 'Stedman' was published, which of the following is the original composition.

The first I have taken from his book, and the second from my father's pocket book, which says, '5,040 Stedman Triples, by J. J. Parker.' Perhaps Mr. C. W. Roberts or someone else can enlighten me.

WASHBROOK'S No. 1.

231456 H L Q

246351 x x x

125346 x x x

Nine times, repeated, omitting H in 4th and 9th parts.

S at 14 in last course of last part produces:—

(524361) S H L Q

634251 x x x

351246 x x x

326541 x x x

253461 x x x

Nine times repeated, omitting Q in first course of all except the sixth part produces:—

524361

231456 S at 2

J. J. PARKER.

231456 H L Q

346125 x x x

532146 x x x

Nine times repeated, adding L in first course of the 4th and 9th parts

The first course end in the first part is produced by S at 2.

Add to the 10th part Q S at 14, which produces:—

3467251 S H L Q

536421 x x x

345261 x x x

641235 x

455216 x x

Nine times repeated, omitting L in first and sixth parts produces:—

231456

Rung at Crayford, March 4th, 1892.
I might add that in or about 1920 I called Mr. Parker's peal at Crayford, having previously reversed the two halves by transferring the Singles to 11 and 9. In order to satisfy myself that the truth of the composition had not been interfered with, I sent the figures to Mr. Parker for confirmation. In his reply he said, 'You will no doubt be interested to know your father called this peal the first time it was rung.' He made no mention that it was a variation of Washbrook's.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HORNCHURCH.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th, about 20 members being present from Romford, Leytonstone, Prittlewell, Wanstead, Brentwood and Hornchurch. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Hornchurch, the Rev. Canon R. A. Courthope, who gave a very inspiring address, after which a most excellent tea was kindly provided by the wives and friends of the local ringers and was very much appreciated by all.

The business meeting then followed, presided over by Canon Courthope, supported by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk. The District Master stated how pleased he was to see that their secretary, Mr. J. Crampion, had managed to get a week-end to attend the meeting, and how glad he was that Mr. Joyce was present after such a long time away from the district. He also welcomed Mr. Stannard, of the College Youths. An apology was read from Mr. R. Heazel for his absence owing to an accident he had sustained, and Mr. Butler was asked to convey sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery. Canon Courthope was made an honorary member of the association. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Woodford, the date being left to the secretary to arrange.

A lengthy and very interesting discussion took place with regard to the National Association.

The meeting concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon R. A. Courthope for conducting the service and presiding over the meeting, to the organist, Mr. Arnold Page, for accompanying the hymns, to the local ringers and the ladies for a most excellent tea, and to Mr. McDougal for having everything in readiness. A few touches on the handbells were rung during the evening.

THE BELLS OF STEPNEY.

(Continued from page 224.)

THEIR PLACE IN RINGING HISTORY.

In the year 1619 Stepney tenor was once more broken, and on March 30th it was 'ordered and decreed that the fyft bell wch is broken should be cast with what convenient speed may be, and for the payment and satisfaction of the Bell founder who shall performe the said work, yt is agreed that there shalbe an assessmt made of every one in the said pish and also every out dwellers according to the third part of the rate that he or they shall pay vnto the poore in theyre severall hamletts.'

As with other parishes, the fees charged for the use of the bells were a substantial portion of the church income. In 1602 the charge 'to the prop vse of the Parish wt out any allowance or payment to ringers for ringing all the bells called a Peale' was xv s.

In 1628 it was ordered 'that such summe & summes of money as shall arise by the Bells, the breaking of the churchyard, & the church clothes shall quarterlie be brought and put in the chest that thereby there may be money upon all occasions to defray such expenses as shall belong to the pish Church of Stepnie.'

At some time during the seventeenth century the ring at Stepney was increased to six. In August, 1725, the tenor, during ringing, broke from its bearings and fell down to the first floor of the tower; but, fortunately, did no other damage than smashing the wheel. The writer in the 'Norwich Gazette' who reported the incident remarked that the bell was allowed to be the finest in tone in England, and 'tis said the Parish intend now to make those 6 Bells up to a Peal of 8, which will be then the finest Ring of 8 in England.' The tenor weighed 49 cwt.

The augmentation was carried out. On September 12th, 1734, the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple and rang a third of a peal, no doubt the first part of Annable's composition. John Trenell rang the seventh and John Hayward, with Thomas Clark to help him, the tenor. Laughton was loud in his praises of the way the bells went. A fortnight later, on September 28th, 1734, the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple. The method was Bob Major and the time taken was three hours and thirty-nine minutes. The band was a good one. John Cundell and John Trenell between them rang the tenor, Richard Spicer rang the seventh, Annable called from the fifth and other well known men in the band were Andrew Field, John Dearnmore and John Ward.

A little more than four years after this peal, on February 26th, 1739, the Eastern Scholars rang another in the same method; again with two men to the tenor, and this they claimed as the 'first compleat peal of five thousand forty Bob Major that ever was rung in that steeple.' On the face of it it looks like an assertion that the earlier performance was a false one, but in view of the men who took part in it, I do not think we ought to come to that conclusion. It is more likely that the Eastern Scholars knew nothing about the other peal.

It was not until thirty years later that the next recorded peal was rung on the bells by the London Youths. 'By order of the Grand Master, the Society did ring on Saturday, February 14th, 1769, a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples with two Singles in 3 hours & 47

minutes. It is the first peal in the method at that church and are the largest peal in the country. Performed in the Year of Bells 3258. The peal was call'd from the scale of the late Mr. John Holt by Brother Chrstr. Wells, who reversed the courses by calling the last half method first and the first last. Never done before.'

The fourth peal on the bells, also Grandsire Triples, was by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths on February 24th, 1785. The elder George Gross conducted, and he called a composition with 100 bobs and 2 single changes only.' The figures are not given in the peal book, but we may be sure it was Holt's Ten-part with the singles at plain leads instead of bob leads.

In the year 1797 the tenor had again been broken and on August 9th the churchwardens, at a vestry meeting reported that the tenor bell was cracked and useless and the sixth was a very bad bell. The opinion was expressed that the bells were too heavy to be rung easily, and it was suggested that they should be recast into a lighter ring. It was decided to have a new octave with a 36 cwt. tenor, and the churchwardens were authorised to treat with Thomas Mears in the matter; but six months later another vestry rescinded the resolution and decided that the tenor and sixth alone should be recast, and as near as possible to their old weights. Nine years later the present ring was cast at the Whitechapel foundry. As the old tenor weighed 49 cwt. and the new one 31 cwt. it is probable that no new metal was needed for the extra bells, and that there is to-day in Stepney steeple the metal of the bells that hung in the Priory of the Holy Trinity in Aldgate in the fourteenth century.

When the new ring was opened in 1807 three peals were rung. On March 8th the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,039 Grandsire Caters, the composition of John Norman, who conducted. James Marlton rang the tenor. On the following day the senior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,075 Grandsire Caters, and on March 13th 5,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal. In February, 1808, the junior Cumberlands rang 5,200 Oxford Royal.

The latter performance was composed and conducted by Noonan and is described in the peal book as 'a true peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal and the first in that method on the bells.' It looks like a direct assertion that the peal George Gross had called less than a twelve-month before was false; but the book was written in such an inaccurate and haphazard way and the Junior Cumberlands were generally such a disreputable lot that much attention cannot be paid to it.

During the nineteenth century, and right up to the present war, Stepney bells were among the most popular with London ringers, and many peals have been rung on them. The most outstanding was the 5,040 London Surprise Royal by the College Youths on November 14th, 1907. The method was an attempt by Gabriel Lindoff to extend London Surprise Major to ten bells. An extension on the lines he and other people were working is not possible and naturally he did not succeed in his attempt. A long and heated controversy arose on the matter, which was carried on in the pages of 'The Bell News' and in the Central Council, but whether or not the method is entitled to be called London Surprise in no way affects the merits of the performance, for it was by far the most difficult Royal method in which a peal had been rung. Mr. George Price conducted from the fourth.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS,

THE SOCIETY'S NAME BOOK.

Interest in the meetings of the Ancient Society of College Youths is still as keen as ever, as the attendance at the Whitechapel Foundry on Saturday week clearly showed. Two new members were elected, Mr. Brian Wayman, of Teddington, and Mr. John Botham, of Kenton.

A letter from Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., regretting inability to attend the meetings, was read. 'Although absent in person,' wrote Mr. Groombridge, 'I am with you in my thoughts.' The hope was expressed by the meeting that when the summer weather came 'dear old Tom' might be able to attend.

Mr. Wayman said he had just returned from Lincolnshire and had been asked by Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson to convey their very best wishes to the company.

Referring to the passing of Mr. Cornelius Charge, late of Fulham, Mr. C. W. Roberts paid tribute to his ability as a composer, and said he had given to the Exercise some very useful compositions. As a tribute to his memory, the members stood for a few moments in silence.

Returning the current name book of the society, from which he had been making a copy, Mr. E. A. Young made a few useful suggestions for making the book more interesting to future ringers, such as an entry against a member's name of the year he became Master, and a note against such names as William T. Cockerill, who was secretary for many years.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Young for the work he had carried out, and, in replying, Mr. Young undertook to help with the suggested additions to the book.

Mr. G. N. Price called attention to the bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and expressed doubts as to whether everything had been done to ensure their safety. They had been taken down from the steeple, but are at present on the floor of the transepts. Several speakers suggested sandbagging as a precaution, and it was decided to draw the attention of the Cathedral authorities to the matter.

In addition, to the Master, secretary and treasurer, the following members were present: J. Shepherd, W. H. Pasmore, G. N. Price, J. A. Trollope, C. Mayne, C. Potheary, C. H. Kippin, F. E. Collins, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, C. W. Roberts, E. Hartley, R. Spears, C. Mayer, E. Jennings, B. Wayman and Corpl. Kenneth Arthur, R.A.F.

The next meeting will be to-morrow, May 23rd, at the Whitechapel Foundry.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ISLEWORTH.

NOVELTY HANDBELL COMPETITION.

A successful gathering of ringers was held at All Saints' Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, May 9th, when nine members and 21 friends of the All Saints', Isleworth, band met for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Visitors came from South Croydon, Ealing, Ruislip, Stamford Brook, Twickenham, Kingston-on-Thames, Epsom, Claygate, Isleworth and Teddington. Handbell ringing took place in the church from 3 p.m. until 4.15 p.m. The local band then rang a course of Grandsire Caters for the service, which was conducted by the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson, Mr. T. A. B. King presiding at the organ.

The Rev. Toole-Mackson gave a most inspiring address and expressed great confidence in the future. At the same time, he said he hoped that ringers would continue to hold as many meetings as possible, as otherwise he felt there would be a great decline in the art of bell-ringing through so many of the ringing fellowships being seriously depleted by present conditions.

The service was followed by an excellent tea in the Mission Hall, after which further handbell ringing was continued. A novelty competition was staged, in which all the ringers were asked to write their names on small slips of paper which were then mixed up and drawn from a hat. The first four names drawn formed the first team, the second four the second team and so on until six teams had been drawn. These teams were then asked to ring a plain course of any method on eight bells and they would be judged to decide the winning team. The judges—the Rev. Toole-Mackson, Mrs. J. Herbert and Mrs. A. B. Wiffen—gave their decision in favour of the team which rang a good course of Grandsire Triples and consisted of the following: W. Massey 1-2, G. W. Massey 3-4, J. Herbert 5-6, and E. C. S. Turner 7-8. The ringing of the other teams was quite good considering that they had been picked at random, and all brought their courses to a successful conclusion. Other ringing during the evening consisted of Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Bob Minor, Major and Royal, with some touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

MONS. JOSEF DENYN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Last week a member of the Belgian Free Army in this country told me that the great carillonneur of his country, Mons. Josef Denyn, had passed away recently. Is there any confirmation of this report? This soldier was a prisoner in German hands in Belgium and had escaped via France and Spain to this country.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Carmarthen.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON
E.1

Telephone BISHopsgate 2599

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

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the East Grinstead and District Guild should note that the meeting arranged at Balcombe for May 30th has been postponed so as not to clash with the annual meeting of the Sussex County Association.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reaches his 77th birthday to-day, and to Mr. Ernest Turner, who will celebrate his thirty-second birthday to-morrow.

Mr. B. C. Ashford writes that the time taken in the handbell peal rung at Stourbridge on April 27th was two hours and nineteen minutes, not two hours and twenty-nine minutes as reported.

Mr. J. M. Turner, who rang 5-6 to Grandsire Doubles at Bourne-mouth on May 14th, has taken part in several peals on tower bells, his last being one of Grandsire Triples on June 28th, 1913. Since then he has spent over 20 years abroad, keeping in touch with the Exercise during the whole of that time by means of a regularly sent ringing paper.

On May 17th, 1735, the College Youths rang at St. Lawrence Jewry 5,040 changes of Court Bob Major. It was the method which is given in text books as Double London Court, but as it has irregular lead ends, it is now obsolete.

On May 18th, 1846, Thurstans' Four-part peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time. '— it, Harry, what peal have you been ringing?' asked John Lates of the conductor when he came out of the tower. 'The bells came round with a single!'

Thomas Day's long peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram on May 18th, 1883.

On May 20th, 1820, a disastrous fire broke out at York Minster, which did much damage and destroyed the old heavy ring of ten bells.

What at the time was the record peal of Stedman Caters, 13,054 changes, was rung at Cheltenham on May 21st, 1888. Canon Coleridge rang the ninth.

On the same date in 1921 William Pye rang his 1,000th peal as conductor.

The College Youths rang 12,675 Stedman Cinques in fine style at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on May 21st, 1923, with Mr. Alfred B. Peck at the tenor. It was probably the most splendid failure in the history of the art, for the composition was afterwards found to be false in one six.

What may have been the first true peal of Stedman Triples was rung on May 22nd, 1799, at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields.

James W. Washbrook rang the tenor and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington on May 22nd, 1899. The truth of the performance was afterwards strongly challenged.

Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2.

THE AIR RAID ON YORK.

RINGERS SAFE: RING OF EIGHT DAMAGED.

All the York ringers are safe, we are pleased to say after the recent raid on the city. Several, however, had narrow escapes and had their houses damaged.

One fine old church, dating back to the early part of the fifteenth century, was gutted by fire, and it is feared the ring of eight bells, dating from 1729, is seriously damaged. Two of the smaller bells have fallen to the ground and one of them is broken. The other six are still aloft mixed up with the remains of the clock and half burnt belfry beams.

Another of the city's historic buildings, which housed the Rangoon Bell, is also in ruins. The Rangoon Bell, captured by the 51st Regiment, now the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, when they stormed Rangoon in April, 1852, is safe and apparently undamaged.

THE REV. W. C. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading your editorial article in 'The Ringing World' of May 15th, I am glad to be able to assure you that the Cambridge University Guild is fully conscious that the future of Mr. Pearson's books is a matter which concerns the Exercise as a whole, and that the views you express are in principle those of every member of the Guild whom I have consulted since it was first known that the University Library would not accept the books on the terms of Mr. Pearson's will.

If a final decision as to the disposal of the books is not announced immediately it will be because the securing of the aims you mention, viz., the keeping of the collection intact, its future safety and accessibility, needs no little negotiation and deliberation; and also because members of the Guild who have the right to be consulted and whose judgment is valuable are at present widely scattered. I can also assure you that your suggestion that one of the copies of Duckworth's 'Tintinnalogia' should be presented to the British Museum will receive full consideration.

It may be of general interest if I say that the books we have received include all those mentioned in the notice in 'The Ringing World' of January 23rd with the exception of 'A Rich Cabinet with a Variety of Inventions,' by J. White.

A. C. BLYTH, President, C.U.G.C.R.

Selwyn College.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE.

A Challenge to the National Association Supporters.

The debate on Mr. C. T. Coles' resolution is continued.

Lt.-Col. C. F. JERRAM (Helford, Cornwall): In supporting Mr. Coles' motion, there is one aspect of the present organisation which has not yet been touched upon and on which I am, perhaps, qualified to speak. With the concurrence and help of the Central Council several guilds and associations have approached the diocesan authorities with a view to the incorporation of a ringing member, on the Diocesan Advisory Board on Faculties. In several dioceses this has now become a regular practice, notably in diocesan guilds, and usually takes the form of a regular appointment to the Board, by the Bishop, of an official of the Guild.

Such an appointment is of considerable benefit to the Board in tower and bell matters. The great advantage to ringers and ringing is obvious in that only so can the ringers' views be kept before the authority, responsible to the Chancellor, on all tower matters. Further, a guild or association official is in direct touch with the Central Council to which he can go for advice on technical matters. This link between the ringer and the authority which supplies the towers and bells was just coming well into its own when the war broke out. It will be invaluable when the war is over. It would appear, to me at least, doubtful if such co-operation could take place without the aid and incentive of a local association.

Mr. R. LEIGH (Cambridge): I am in complete agreement with the remarks made by Mr. P. Crook. I suggest that any ringer, who is already a member of a county or diocesan association, should have issued to him by the Central Council (on payment of an 'entrance fee') a suitably headed card, otherwise plain. In the space below the heading other associations would (on payment of a subscription equal to the average of all non-resident entrance fees for the various associations) stamp their association name and the date of stamping. On producing this card it would at once be clear whether the owner was or was not a member of a given association. With regard to the non-appearance of such non-residents' names in annual reports, it is surely up to members to give a gentle reminder to the hard-worked secretary. The card would serve as a 'combined receipt.' Separate associations could use a similar card to replace annual subscription receipts also.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Mr. K. ARTHUR (Ruislip): Mr. Coles' opening speech of the present debate contains one very striking sentence. He says, 'At the present time, when actual ringing of bells is entirely suspended, it is necessary that whatever organisation we have shall be kept alive.' Does he intend this remark to apply unequivocally to all our organisations, I wonder? If so, what of the Central Council, our organised development par excellence?

There is no doubt that in the fifty years or so of their existence the county and diocesan associations have achieved much for the benefit of the Exercise, and the Central Council has done no less in co-ordinating their efforts, but in these days of adversity we cannot be content to rest on these laurels. Whereas most of the associations are endeavouring to keep the flame kindled, the Central Council appears to be hopelessly apathetic. The proposals for the formation of a National Association constitute a direct challenge to the efficiency of the Council, and the failure to accept the glove shows a weakness which might very well lead to disaster. As I see it, a reorganised Central Council—very necessarily reconstituted—with a more vigorous policy would satisfy any needs of the Exercise. If the present representatives on the Council feel they are unable to promote such a plan, then let them make way for those who can.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

As regards the idea of a National Association, I am not an advocate of it. The good relations of our guilds and associations with their local churches and clergy form the keystone of organised ringing, and a sudden rupture of these would be comparable to bringing the arch on our heads. A National Association savours too much of a reversion to secular activities, and, after all, a ringer is, or should be, primarily a churchman.

Mr. NORMAN S. BAGWORTH, Wimbledon: Respecting Mr. Trollope's remarks supporting his amendment to Mr. Coles' motion, whilst I agree in some ways with his views, I do not think he has quite hit the nail on the head.

The idea of a National Association may have been favoured many years ago, but the point of issue is the merits or demerits of a National Association now or in the early future. Conditions to-day are vastly different from those prevailing at the time of the formation of the Central Council, all will agree. Mr. Trollope's analysis of the English character, constitution, etc., and the European or Asiatic opinion of the average Britisher will not help us to put the 'ringing house in order.' He tells us that the Central Council is a fact, and works, and a National Association an ideal which no one can say whether it would work or not. Can Mr. Trollope say that it will not work now just because it could not fifty or more years ago?

Without decrying the work of the Central Council and what it has done in the past (every ringer owes a lot to it if they are really fair-minded and not short-sighted), the fact remains that there is

admittedly much more to-do, and urgent and important work it is. Since the Central Council has been spoken of by many contributors to the Conference, I should like to see some newly-elected and entirely new member of the Central Council contribute his or her views on what he or she thinks the immediate aims of the Central Council should be in the light of present conditions, and what circumstances are likely to present themselves when the ban is lifted. Perhaps this would then give rise to more interesting discussion in the Conference as to what the post-war aims of all ringing organisations should be without paying more attention to the traditions of the Exercise than they deserve. (I am sure we sometimes placed too much importance on tradition in the past.)

Mr. Trollope stresses 'individualism,' but he must realise that the 'individuals' who turned down the formation of a National Association fifty or more years ago are not alive to-day. As for the idea that the formation of a National Association would mean giving up liberty, he has 'opened his mouth and put his foot in it,' to my mind. He (perhaps unwittingly) states the true aim of what all ringing organisations should be when he says, 'thought and action for the good of the whole Exercise,' but I cannot see how it would necessarily kill all individual liberty of thought and action.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. J. P. PRICE: Being, compared with some of the members of the Conference, to some extent new to ringing, I can perhaps approach this question of a National Association with a more open mind than others, and I hope the opportunity that Mr. Trollope's amendment will give as a direct challenge to the supporters of a National Association will be taken full advantage of so that those of us who are still open to learn may hear the arguments. Up to the present I must admit I have heard of little to be gained from a National Association as compared with the organisation we have at present, but I am afraid it would rob us of a good deal of that close association with our churches which we value so much to-day. Bishops, clergy and other churchpeople will give us their support and confidence because our diocesan guilds, and their equivalent in the county associations, stand in close local relationship to them. Will the same thing apply to a National Association, which it seems to me would be an organisation detached from the Church rather than linked with it? And not only the clergy and the Church, as an organisation, would be less inclined to associate with us, but from what I have heard of ringers they too might not regard an association, national in character, with little or no local touch, with any favour. We have one form of organisation, which for what it is worth has stood the test; is it worth sacrificing it for problematical success in another direction, with little to gain and much to lose? That is what I would like to see answered. What can a National Association give us that our existing organisation cannot? Others have asked the question; I repeat it. I think ringers are entitled to know, and the advocates of a National Association cannot expect to get support until they have provided a sufficient and satisfying answer. To tell us that ringers of the future will save an occasional non-resident subscription is, I think, hardly sufficient. Throughout a career of 50 years a friend of mine has joined about 30 associations at an average cost, he tells me, of about 5s. each. He doesn't begrudge a penny of it; indeed, he feels himself an honoured person to have had the privilege. To have rung his peals 'on the cheap' would not have given him half the pleasure. If the question of non-resident subscriptions is the only point of importance, I cannot see any real advantage in 'swopping horses,' at this particular stage anyhow. Unless you turn your association into a trades union, with the accompanying pains and penalties also, I cannot see how you can expect to collect, either any large proportion of subscriptions: you are likely to lose a great deal of your voluntary help, and the cost of running the association will be infinitely more than the present organisation. I await with interest, as I am sure a great many others do, to hear what the advocates of the National Association can tell the Conference on these matters. They can't expect our votes without some further information.

Readers are asked to send their contributions to the debate on Mr. Coles' motion so that they reach us not later than Tuesday morning next.

THE LATE MR. C. CHARGE,

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The peal to which Mr. E. Barnett refers in his letter in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World' is, I think, the one conducted by Mr. J. S. Wilde, of Dunedin, New Zealand, and not by Mr. C. Charge.

One thing both these stalwarts had in common was an evergreen interest in the art, despite the distance they were from any live centre of activity. Many of us would do well to bear in mind their examples and endeavour, in these difficult times, to keep an interest as keen as they have done through all the years.

The details of the peal are: Dunedin, New Zealand. On Monday, December 20th, 1937, in three hours and ten minutes, at 9, Balmoral Street, a peal of Bob Major, 5,120 changes: Charles Wilde 1-2, James S. Wilde 3-4, Joseph Whipp 5-6, John Grimes 7-8. Composed and conducted by J. S. Wilde.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

Marple, Cheshire.

Mr. Barnett has given us similar information.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRENTFORD War-time's Effect.

In normal times, when the chief attraction at meetings is the bells, it is only to be expected that one of the greatest anxieties of the secretary and others responsible is to arrange the annual meeting in a district where plenty of bells are available. It is, therefore, only natural that twelve and ten bell towers come first on the list, and eight bell towers occasionally; and that where such towers are in close proximity is a favourite place for the big meetings of an association. It is not surprising that in the 45 years of its existence the Middlesex County Association has not, prior to this year, held its annual meeting at the six-bell tower of St. Lawrence's, Brentford, and the fact that this was the first such meeting held in the county town of Middlesex was specially noted.

The meeting was held on Saturday, May 16th, at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paton. Divine service was well attended, and the lesson was read by the president, Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane. The Vicar, in his address, referred to the noises and clamours of the present day, the noise of the guns and the clamour of politicians; but the bells, he said, were silent. He drew many parallels, and found several lessons to be learned from our present-day difficulties. He looked forward to the day when, as he said, 'the noise of our bells will bring us peace.'

Tea was served in the Mission Hall adjoining, and despite accommodation being stretched owing to some latecomers, seats were found for everybody.

At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the president, who was supported by Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope (vice-presidents), Mr. W. H. Oram (hon. treasurer), Messrs. J. E. L. Cockey and T. J. Lock (district secretaries), H. Kilby (Master), C. T. Coles (hon. secretary), and a company of nearly sixty members, who attended from Twickenham, Ealing, Edmonton, Walthamstow, Fulham, Willesden, Kingsbury, Isleworth, Harrow, Ruislip, Bishopsgate, Chiswick, Hillingdon, Upper Clapton, North Mimms, Beddington, Crayford, Beckenham, Brentford, etc.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Prior to the ordinary business, the Hon. Secretary read the names of members of the association who had died since the last annual meeting. These included P. Buckell, J. Hunt, A. Panther, G. Lindoff, the Rev. A. H. Lloyd, H. A. Edwards, C. W. Clarke, C. Mee, R. E. G. Geare, A. Gill and C. Charge. As a mark of respect all present stood in silence for a few moments.

The report for 1941 was read by the hon. secretary, who pointed out that, owing to the necessity of economy, especially in paper, the report had been confined to a single sheet, and supplies were strictly limited. The report stated: The continuance of the ban, the damage done to many churches by enemy action, and the black-out, made it extremely difficult for the district secretaries to arrange any considerable number of meetings. Despite these difficulties, however, seven district meetings were held during the year, and the attendances, although not up to the usual standard, were satisfactory. These meetings took place at Kilburn, Monkton Hadley, Stanmore, Upper Clapton and Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's); also at Ealing (St. Stephen's) and Heston. The highest attendance (40) was at Stanmore on August 9th, whilst the Ealing meeting in April had the quite satisfactory attendance of 30. These meetings are almost the only present means of bringing members together, and their continuance depends entirely on the support given to them.

During the year 18 peals were rung, all, of course, on handbells. Thirteen members took part in them, and there were five conductors. One member, Mr. Harold Howson, rang his first peal. Most of the peals were rung at Enfield, and Mr. J. Thomas conducted 13 of them. The other conductors were Mr. C. W. Woolley (2), and the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and Messrs. I. J. Attwater and E. A. Barnett one each.

Very few new members were elected, which is not surprising. The number was five, two in each district and one under the emergency rule for ringers in H.M. Forces.

Attention was again drawn to the proposal to prepare a list of churches in the diocese which have been damaged or destroyed by enemy action, and tower secretaries and others are urged to keep a record of all damage done. Other information required for future record purposes is the names of members serving in H.M. Forces. This information should be sent to the hon. secretary.

Subscriptions showed a considerable decrease, as was perhaps to be expected. All members who can do so were urged promptly to pay their dues, with a view to building up a very necessary reserve for the difficult days ahead. These days may come sooner than they some-

times dare to hope, and they should be ready for them. In the meantime the ban on ringing continues, despite all the efforts by the hon. secretary of the Central Council, and other influential persons, to get it lifted. As loyal citizens they must be content, and if their small sacrifice was a means of helping to bring the war to a successful conclusion, they were satisfied.

The balance sheet, showing a small increase in income over expenditure, and assets to the value of £164 12s. 6d., was submitted by the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. H. Oram) and adopted.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The whole of the officers were re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane; active vice-presidents, Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. S. Turner. Mr. G. W. Fletcher was re-elected hon. auditor, and Messrs. Oram, Coles and Turner trustees of stock.

Messrs. J. E. Lewis Cockey, G. W. Fletcher, C. T. Coles and W. G. Wilson were re-elected as Central Council representatives for the next session.

One new member was elected, Mrs. A. M. Kersey, of St. Andrew's, Kingsbury.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: 'This annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild requests the Central Council of Church Bellingers to support any action which may be taken by the Church authorities to obtain compensation from the Government for bells destroyed or damaged by enemy action.' It was considered that this was a matter primarily for the Church authorities, as the owners or trustees of the bells, but that ringers should be prepared to give support to any action taken.

An appeal that has received a considerable measure of support from many associations and individual ringers was next discussed, and was sympathetically dealt with.

A resolution conveying the good wishes of the meeting to all members of the association serving in His Majesty's Forces was proposed by the president, who wished them all Godspeed and a safe return to ringing.—This was seconded by Mr. J. Herbert and carried unanimously.

An invitation having been received from Fulham to hold the next annual meeting at All Saints' Church, it was resolved that, although strictly out of its turn, as Fulham was a central place the meeting should be held there.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. W. Paton for taking the service, and for the use of his garden for handbell ringing, etc.; to Mrs. Paton for presiding at the organ; to the ladies who had assisted at tea; and to the churchwarden, Mr. G. Marshall, for his valuable help.—This was carried, and the Rev. W. Paton very suitably replied.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the president.

The usual paragraph about members adjourning to the tower for more ringing has, in these days, to be omitted, but they adjourned instead to the garden, one band at each end out of each other's way. Otherwise Bob Major and Grandshire Triples might not have bleuded harmoniously.

THE REBUILDING OF ST. PAUL'S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the admirable article appearing in your issue of May 1st on the rebuilding of London churches after the Great Fire, mention was made of the fact that the work was carried out by means of local taxation. It may be of interest to add that in the case of St. Paul's Cathedral the King issued a brief calling for contributions from the whole realm.

Kington Magna raised £1 5s. 11d. The list of subscriptions is duly entered in the register of that date. The Rector, the Rev. Aldrich Swan, was evidently a man of means: he gave 5s.! Most of the contributions were in sums of 6d. or less, down to 1d. Mr. Trollope may be able to tell us how the money was sent in those days and what it would cost.

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

The money would be collected and forwarded to London in the form of coins. There was no system, based on credit, by which cheques and token money could be used, though a start had recently been made by the founding of the Bank of England. Tithe was paid in kind, and perhaps to some extent wages, but in ordinary business transactions silver or copper coins, which were worth their face value, were used. See the quotation from the Stepney parish accounts in this week's 'Ringing World'.—J. A. Trollope.

G. & F. COPE & CO.
NOTTINGHAM
Tower Clock Manufacturers

Estimates submitted for New
Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
pairs, or Repainting of Dials

THE GREAT BELL OF MOSCOW.

BY RICHARD F. DEAL.

The Russians, like ourselves, have always been lovers of bells, and it would be remarkable had they not at times made some large ones. Every schoolboy has heard of the Great Bell, and almost every book on Russia makes some reference to it, yet authoritative information is scarce and difficult to obtain. Through the courtesy of Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, I have been able to read a description of this extraordinary example of casting, with an account of the manner in which it was raised from the pit where it was made, and in which it remained for over a century. It is from the pen of Auguste de Montferrand, who directed the operation, which was carried out by military engineers.

The book opens with the dedication (to a Russian Prince), followed by a description of some heavy bells, the most remarkable, apart from the subject of this work, being another bell in Moscow called 'Uspenski,' cast by Michael Gavriloff Bagdanoff to take the place of a similar bell destroyed by the French in blowing up the Kremlin. It weighs about 6½ tons. He gives the weight of a bell at St. Stephen's, Vienna, as 85,400 lb., but, according to Sir E. B. Denison, it is 17 tons 14 cwt. A bell at Peking is said to weigh 140,000 lb.

The writer proceeds to describe the Great Bell, called Tsarine Kolokol, or Queen of Bells. 'It was cast in 1733 by the orders of the Empress Anna Ivanovna to replace that of the Tsar Alexis Michaelovitch (cast in 1651), broken at the time of the fire at the Kremlin in 1701. The extraordinary size of this bell, which is 20ft. 7in. in height and 22ft. 8in. in diameter, the beauty of its form and the value of its metal cause it to be an interesting monument, under the double consideration of the religious ideas which are attached to it, and the high degree of perfection in the art of casting in metal to which the Russians had arrived in those rather remote days.'

ELABORATE DECORATION.

Upon the bell are cast in natural size portraits of the Tsar Alexis Michaelovitch and of the Empress Anna Ivanovna, and on the upper part representations of our Lord, the Virgin and the Holy Evangelists. The weight is about 193 tons. Some parts of the decoration were left for chiselling after removal of the mould. We are not told the name of the founder. It was probably intended that a tower should be built to receive the bell, over the pit in which it was cast; but in 1737 one of the several great fires which Moscow has suffered destroyed a wooden structure surrounding the bell, which became heated by a mass of blazing rafters, etc., falling on it. While in this state it was fractured through water being thrown upon it by over-zealous people. It remained in the ground until 1836, when M. de Montferrand received instructions to prepare plans and to direct the work of raising it. This he carried out, and the bell now stands in the Grand Square of the Kremlin, near the 'Tower of Ivan Veliki.'

We are given a carefully drawn plan and elevation showing the disposition of the several capstans employed, and the arrangement of the heavy timber framework erected over the pit; an inclined plane was constructed to bear the bell on the last stage of its journey to the pedestal which had been prepared for it. The preliminary work occupied six weeks, and on April 30th, 1836, the Military Governor of the city gave the order to commence the operation of raising the bell. I give the writer's account of this in his own simple yet graphic phrases:—

HOW THE BELL WAS RAISED.

'It was not till ten o'clock in the morning, by which time an immense crowd had filled the Kremlin and its neighbourhood, that I received orders to commence, the Te Deum having been previously sung to obtain from the Most High a happy result to our labours. At the instant I gave the signal my workmen, and the people who surrounded me, crossed themselves, and the machines were put in motion. At first, cracks were heard when the ropes got into a state of tension, but the strength of the framing was such that they soon ceased, and the colossus began to appear, dragging with it a part of the iron grating on which it had been placed. The strain on our machinery to raise this enormous mass of metal was so great that two of the cables were at once broken. Shortly after a sheave of one of the pulleys gave way, and was hurled forcibly against the scaffolding. The bell continued to ascend; the most profound silence reigned among the spectators; nothing was heard save the dull regular sound of the capstans. An interest mixed with dread had succeeded the hope of success, and the persons who a short time before had surrounded and congratulated me slept away one by one. I had only nine capstans remaining which worked freely. These were no more than I wanted. Close to the bell, which had now mounted to a third of the distance it had to travel, I had caused a ladder to be fixed to facilitate the passing of four workmen, who were placed above to direct the action of the cables. At this period the operation became more complicated. In consequence of the breaking of the cables, the bell had slowly taken an oblique direction, which interfered with its rising; two cables, on which there had been a greater strain than on the others, broke almost at the same instant, and I then gave the signal to stop. Anxiety was at its height; of the four workmen placed on the bell, three hurried away and only one waited my orders. I sent him into the pit under the colossus, which caused the framing to groan beneath its weight, to fix some timber stays. When

(Continued in next column.)

RINGER'S WEDDING IN CANADA.

Ringers in England who to-day enter the holy state of matrimony have to forgo the honour of having the bells rung, but no such restrictions exist in Canada, and on March 14th last, when Sub-Lieut. Arthur Izard was married at Victoria, British Columbia, his fellow ringers rang him into church and then rang the bridal couple out. The bells were fired and it was quite like an old country wedding.

It was the second time the bells had been rung for a wedding ceremony, except for two golden weddings, those of Mr. Melhuish and Mr. Sampson, both ringers. The wedding was rather colourful, because it was a beautiful day, and there was the usual naval sword party.

Lieut. Izard, who is in the Navy, is the second son of Mr. E. W. Izard, the mainstay of the Victoria band.

After the wedding ceremony the ringers went to the reception at the house of Mr. E. W. Izard, and rang a few touches on the hand-bells. They also rang in the garden during the interval before the couple left, and their ringing was very much appreciated by the guests.

On Sunday, the 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of the wedding. Those who took part were Messrs. Boniface, King, Arthur Izard, Roberts (conductor), Sampson, Lomas, E. W. Izard and Hutchins. It was a perfect quarter-peal, with almost perfect striking.

CANADIAN RINGER'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

Reg. Lane, one of the band at Victoria, British Columbia, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force about a year ago. He went overseas eight months ago, and has been very prominent in the headlines. He was soon made a pilot officer, and has been doing good service over Germany. The band heard recently that he had been presented to their Majesties, and feel very proud of their colleague.

THE GREAT BELL OF MOSCOW

(Continued from previous column.)

this brave fellow came out, I caused the bell to be lowered, and contrived it should be placed clear of the ground without accident.'

It was found that the ropes had been injured by wet which had penetrated them in their carriage from St. Petersburg to Moscow, where they were stored for six months. De Montferrand ordered new cables, and increased the number of capstans to twenty, and on July 26th the bell was fixed on its pedestal.

In a lithograph the bell is shown clear of the ground, almost ready to commence its journey up the inclined plane. In the background is the Tower of Ivan Veliki, the highest of several towers in the Kremlin (about 320ft.). I have read elsewhere that Napoleon during his short stay in Moscow was told that the ball and cross surmounting the tower were of pure gold; he had them taken down, and, finding they were of iron, had the false informers shot.

Other views show the Great Bell in its final resting place: in one of them several bells are seen hung in openings in a building adjoining the tower; the very large one in the central opening I take to be 'Uspenski' (Assumption) referred to above. I believe there are 33 bells in the chime, the second in size weighing about 34 tons.

The bronze cross crowning the Great Bell is a later addition: to fix it necessitated the removal of a small quantity of metal, of which analysis produced the following result: Copper, 84.51 parts; tin, 13.21 parts; sulphur, 1.25 parts; loss, 1.03 parts. The loss is attributed to zinc and arsenic. It is surprising to read that the Russians in those days had a method of repairing broken bells by welding, which the author describes in some detail; it could not, of course, be applied to the big bell, which is nearly 2ft. thick at the sound-bow.

THE BELLS OF ST. PETERSBURG.

A description is given of eleven bells at the Cathedral of St. Isaac at St. Petersburg, cast by 'an able workman,' Ivan Makaroff Stoukolkine, from old coins taken out of circulation, with the addition of great quantities of gold and silver: the largest is 11ft. in diameter and weighs about 29 tons. St. Isaac's Cathedral is a rectangular domed building of Classic style, built during the reign of Nicholas I: (1796-1855). The bells are distributed in four towers; they are fixed, and struck by ropes attached to the clappers, the usual practice in Russia.

This concludes M. de Montferrand's very interesting narrative. He tells us nothing about himself, and I have been unable to gather any information about him. As I have said, the operation of raising the Great Bell was carried out by the military, so it may be assumed that he was an officer of Engineers, perhaps serving under the Tsar of Russia, but more probably with the Army of France—his name, of course, indicates French origin. That he viewed his difficult task in a spirit of humility, even of piety, is evident from the closing words of his address to the Reader. . . . and if my Reader should be of opinion that I have badly written, figured, or shown how the Queen of Bells has been placed where it is now to be, let him believe me to be a man who recognises to himself that he is liable to err and to sin, and that I will gladly essay to correct myself by the means of the grace of God, whom I supplicate to keep me in His holy and worthy guard.'

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	—	—				
	34256	—	—	D2	52436	—	—
	23456	—	—		35426	—	—
					42356	—	—
					54326	—	—
C2	52436	—	—		32546	—	—
	43526	—	—		43526	—	—

We have been discussing these four pairs of round blocks which give us the different ways in which the twelve in-course Natural Courses can be grouped together into two blocks. Last week we showed how each of the blocks can be varied either by beginning at a different course-end or by reversal. There are two kinds of reversal, and if we apply them to block A1 they will give us the following:—

A3	23456	M,	R.	A4	23456	W.	R.
	42356	—	—		52436	—	—
	34256	—	—		35426	—	—
	62453	—	—		42356	—	—
	46253	—	—		54326	—	—
	24653	—	—		25346	—	—
	36452	—	—		34256	—	—
	43652	—	—		53246	—	—
	64352	—	—		45236	—	—
	23456	—	—		23456	—	—

It will be seen that variation A3 keeps the fifth's place

bell fixed instead of the sixth's place bell, and so we will leave it out of our present discussion. The other variation A4, together with the complementary block of three courses formed by joining together 24536, 32546, and 43526 by a Q Set of bobs at the Wrong contains exactly the same Natural Courses as each of the pairs of blocks A, B, C and D, and gives us what is practically another pair of round blocks containing the twelve in-course Natural Courses with the sixth at home. In the same way we can write out the reverse variations of blocks B and C. When we come to the pair D1 and D2, we shall find that one of them is the reverse of the other.

It would not be a very big job to write out all these variations, and when we further vary each one by beginning at different course-ends we shall find that there are forty-eight different ways in which the twelve in-course Natural Courses can be grouped into a pair of round blocks.

Similarly there are forty-eight pairs of blocks with the 2nd in sixth's place, forty-eight with the 3rd in sixth's place, and forty-eight with each 4th and 5th in sixth's place. Together they provide a most excellent mass of material for composing peals, and we will next see broadly how we can use them.

As an example we will suppose that we want to compose a peal with the full in-course extent of the method. We know we cannot get together more than fifty-nine of the sixty Natural Courses, and so our problem will be to join together one 11-course block with one bell in sixth's place, and one of each of the pairs of blocks with the other bells in sixth's place. We have to join nine blocks together, and to do so we must use Q Sets of bobs at the Middle.

We will start with the block B1. The course 45236 we will ignore as the one which must be omitted from the final composition.

We shall need four Q Sets to join the eight blocks to the first one. Go through block B1 and prick the Q Sets which would result from calling bobs at each of the Middles. Then from them select any four in which each of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th is twice a sixth's-place bell. For instance bobs in the first, second, fifth and eleventh courses will give these Q Sets:—

52436	42635	62534
35426	45623	65324
53246	23645	63542
34256	24653	64352

Next select a pair of blocks from our material in which 63542 appears in one block and 64352 in the other. Similarly a pair in which 45623 appears in one block and 24653 in the other, and so with the blocks with the 4th and 5th in sixth's place. Make the bobs as in the selected blocks and the four Q Sets, and the whole will fall into a true peal of fifty-nine courses.

Send for
Booklet

SMITH of DERBY

Estimates and
Advice Free

for Church and Turret Clocks

Electric or Weight Driven

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

JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works—
QUEEN STREET, DERBY

Tel. No. DERBY 45569
GRAMS. CLOCKS, DERBY

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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.

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.—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. 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. 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 (D.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. Handbells available before and after meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, 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.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 30th, at Guiseley. Handbells available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton (D.V.), Saturday, May 30th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available 'silent.' Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Shoes. Handbells and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Bushey, Saturday, May 30th.—Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The meeting at Balcombe on May 30th is cancelled. A later date will be arranged.—A. E. Laker for C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held in the schoolroom, Crossstone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 6th. Assemble 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, June 6th. Further particulars next week.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 30th. No names, no tea. Please make an effort to attend! All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

Excellent Opportunity to acquire FIVE brass HANDBELLS for sale (privately). Reasonable price. Good condition. Ideally suitable as extras or spares for anyone with peal of eight. The bells are 'B,' 'C' sharp, 'D,' 'E' and 'G'. Diameter of 'G' 3 6/8 inches. Write Ware BM/EGBL, London, W.C.1.

HANDBELLS.—A set of 8 handbells, tenor 6 1/2 in. diameter, by Shaw, in E. Best offer.—Box 33, 'Ringing World' Office, Woking.

The Central Council Publications

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE

from the

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

COLLECTION OF TRIPLES METHODS	s.	d.
REPORT OF CONFERENCE WITH S.P.A.B.	1	0
CARD OF INSTRUCTIONS IN THE CARE AND USE OF BELLS	1	½
METHOD SHEETS.—Cambridge Surprise Major	2	
Double Norwich and Cambridge Court	3	
Bristol Surprise Major	2	
HINTS TO INSTRUCTORS AND BEGINNERS	2	
VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION	1	0
COLLECTION OF DOUBLES AND MINOR METHODS (New Edition)	2	0

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages, commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' ninth edition, 2s. 10d.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 125 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

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

PUBLICATIONS.

- 'GRANDSIRE DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, Simply Explained,' 9th thousand, 6½d. each, or 5s. 9d. dozen, post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Womersh, Surrey.
- 'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.
- 'CAMBRIDGE MINOR AND MAJOR,' for those about to begin more advanced methods. 7½d. each, 6s. 9d. dozen, post free. From M. Broome, Orchards, Womersh, Surrey.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPE'S'

NOTED FOR EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) Ltd. LOUGHBOROUGH

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

Clock and Chiming Ropes. Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs
RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION OR WEDDING GIFT

CORRECTLY MODELLED BELL INKSTAND
(Regd. Design)
IN SOLID SILVER



Diameter	3in.	3½in.	4in.	4½in.	5in.	5½in.
Price	18/6	22/6	28/6	33/6	42/-	52/6 67/6 78/6

The 5 inch size is also made to hold 50 cigarettes

Initials and Inscriptions Engraved at Moderate Charges

T. E. RUSSELL Jeweller & Optician

Telephone 276

WOKING,

J. A. TROLLOPE'S 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

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

Large selection of Compositions included.

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

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

BUY AN EXTRA COPY

OF

'THE RINGING WORLD'

and send it to a Serving Member of your Tower

Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breems Buildings, London, E.C.4.