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A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

There are, we feel sure, among our readers many besides Mr. C. T. Coles who are somewhat disappointed that the advocates of a National Association did not take advantage of the Conference to explain what they thought would be the benefits to be gained from such an organisation and how it could be formed and worked.

Undoubtedly the idea attracted quite a number of people, some of them men whose opinion is fully worthy of respect, and that in itself forbids us to dismiss it as merely futile and absurd. We may be reasonably satisfied with things as they are, we may feel that the risks involved in any change would be too great, but it does not necessarily follow that we think nothing can be improved, or that the possibilities of improvement should not be fully explored.

Two thoughts seem to lie behind the wish for a National Association. One is to stress to the uttermost the essential unity of the Exercise, and not only give individual ringers all the advantages which come of co-operation one with another, but also to enable them as a body to make their influence felt when they come in contact with outsiders. The other is to utilise to the best advantage all the man power and all the financial resources available by avoiding overlapping and by eliminating unnecessary expenses.

These are worthy ideas, and there are few who will not be in sympathy with them. Where the issue will be joined is not in the main principles, but on the best way of putting them into practice. Granted that the unity of the Exercise is a highly desirable and valuable thing, would that unity be better attained by one centralised body, than, as at present, by a federation of local societies under the Central Council? Would the average ringer have the same feeling of loyalty to a national body as he has to his own local body? Would there be the same inducement for men to give their services voluntarily as cogs in a general machine, as there is now to act as secretaries and officers among their immediate fellows? Would not the expenses of running a centralised body be very large and where would they come from?

In short, would a National Association work? And if it would what would it be expected to do? These are the questions that need to be answered and answered not vaguely, but in definite terms. And before we attempt to answer them, we ought to try and understand something of our present organisation and how it came into being. The Exercise is not a thing of yesterday. It

(Continued on page 322.)

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has been in existence for at least four centuries and what it is to-day is the result of a slow growth.

Two things seem to follow. The first is that our present organisation arose because experience and expediency proved it was the best in the circumstances. The second is that there is nothing necessarily fixed or final about it. The same forces which gave us our present organisation might well, if necessary, modify or develop it.

There is obviously, however, a great difference between development and such a root and branch reconstruction as some appear to advocate; and many ringers who would be repelled by the very thought of the second would favourably consider the first. Here, at any rate, we think, is room for discussion. How can we, within the framework of our present organisation, remove those defects that men complain of? Certainly something can be done. The problems of overlapping are not insoluble, and the benefits to be derived from co-operation are many. Already much has been done in this way by joint meetings, and in one instance we believe there is a permanent joint committee of two associations charged with dealing with any questions which may arise between them.

The best solution of the question will probably be found not by amalgamating the present guilds into one centralised National Association, but by greater co-operation between them, while retaining to the full their complete independence and autonomy.

THE NAMES OF THINGS.

'Can you tell me,' asked my old friend Johnson the other day when we were having a mild and bitter in the bar parlour of the Six Bells, 'Can you tell me why you call that wool on your bell ropes the sally?' 'Why, yes,' I replied. 'We call it the sally because that's the name of it.'

'You're a fool,' he retorted rudely. 'What I mean is—Why is it the name? What's the reason?'

'Well,' I said, 'the reason why it's the name is because that's what people call it.'

He snorted and did not reply directly, but went on, 'There must be some reason why it got that name. All names have some reason, if you can only find it out. For instance, do you know why that dog is called a plum pudding dog?' and he pointed to a black and white spotted tripe hound that had just gone up to the counter with its master to order another pint. 'You don't? Well, I'll tell you. It was like this.

'Many years ago in the time of Julius Caesar and William the Conqueror there was a very holy man who lived in the country down Weypping way. He lived all by himself except for a beautiful snow white hound, who loved its master. The saint was writing a very learned book, and one day he sat working at his table and by his side lay the faithful dog. On the table was a big pot of ink, and ever and anon the saint dipped his pen into it. When he did so he flicked his pen to one side, not noticing that the blobs of ink were falling on to the glistening coat of the faithful hound, who, knowing how important was the task on which the saint was engaged, lay still and said nothing.

'At last the holy man finished his work. With a sigh of thankfulness he laid down his pen, took a deep draught from the quart pot which stood handy, and looked round. Then he saw his faithful dog and what he had done to him; and "Dalmatian!" said the holy man. 'That's why the hound is called a plum pudding dog. Now can you give me a similar reason why you call that wool a sally?'

'No, I can't,' I replied. 'I thought not,' he said, 'you're an ignorant ass, and a blighted idiot.'

We left it at that.

FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I say how interesting 'The Ringing World' is to us singers in the Middle East? And we do appreciate all ringers at home who are doing all they can to keep the art at its very best. I am sure I would be right in saying that the death of Mr. F. Woodiss of Banstead, was read with very deep regret by all those he associated with.

Wimbledon.

L. F. HOPGOOD.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

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ARKLOW GUILD.

On Tuesday, June 30, 1942, in *Three Hours and Twelve Minutes*,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of nine 480's and two 360's (G. Lindoff's). Tenor 2½ cwt.

JOHN W. NOZUM... .. Treble	JAMES FLIGHT 5
SAMUEL J. EVANS 2	MISS MARGARET ALEXANDER } 6
WILLIAM T. SHAW 3	& HENRY H. ANNESLEY } 6
FREDERICK E. DUKES 4	THOMAS F. NOZUM 7
	CAPT. JOHN KINCH Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK E. DUKES.

First peal at first attempt by all the band, who are all local ringers (except the conductor). Rung on front five with 7, 6, 8 covering.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 5, 1942, in *Two Hours and Twenty Minutes*,

AT 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRED WILLIAMS 1-2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

OLEEVE, SOMERSET.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, July 5, 1942, in *Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes*,

AT WOOLMERS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

HERBERT W. KNIGHT... .. 1-2	WILFRED WILLIAMS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

Umpire—Mrs. H. W. Knight.

Rung to commemorate the 191st anniversary of the first performance of this composition at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday, July 7th, 1751. The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member of the society before commencing.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 8, 1942, in *Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes*,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMERE 5-6
* ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMERE

* 300th peal. The first handbell peal in the method for the association. The start and the last half-hour were heard by A. Tomlinson, of Blackpool, a former secretary of the Lancashire County Association.

DEVON BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am trying to discover if detailed records of the bells cast by the Penningtons in Devon still exist. It has struck me that these may have passed into the keeping of some ringing society—the Devon Guild of Ringers have not got them—or they have passed into the possession of some firm who took over the Penningtons' business, which ceased, I believe, early in the 19th century. I have endeavoured to trace whether there is still a Pennington living in Exeter or its neighbourhood, but have had no success.

THOMAS H. SIMS.

The Old Thatch Cottage, Cheriton Bishop, near Exeter.

SURFLEET CHIMES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Hewett's figures with one exception are correct, but are for the hour only, whereas Surfleet has a different chime for each quarter, as follows:—

Quarter: 451236. Half-hour: 135246; 456213. Three-quarters: 31246; 574213; 451236. Hour: 135246; 456213; 531246; 574213. 10.

Burgess Hill.

F. I. HAIRS.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD.

THE PAST TERM.

Before reviewing the work of the society over the whole of the academic year just finished, here is a brief account of the doings of the past term.

Membership has again remained about the same, recruits making up for losses, but efforts have always been made, wherever possible, to interest outsiders. Mainly because of the shadow of final examinations, which overhung several members, few peal attempts were made: nevertheless, two peals of Bob Minor were rung, being first peals for Peter C. Gibbs and Miss Peggy Kinipple.

Examinations were not allowed to interfere with practices, however, and attendances were good, except for a certain tendency to prefer the delights of the river in the brief spells of hot weather. The main methods practised have been Kent Treble Bob (Major and Royal) and Double Norwich, and half a dozen members—five of whom will be up next term—attained a considerable degree of confidence in these methods. Other methods rung included Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Court, Double Oxford and Isleworth Bob Royal.

Mr. Wilfred Williams came over twice from Cheltenham, bringing with him on one occasion Messrs. G. Smith and D. G. Clift. Attempts for Holt's Original came to grief on each occasion—one about 300 changes from the end. Also, Kenneth S. B. Croft, Master of the C.U.G., spent the last ten days of term in Oxford, and joined the society in practices and in several peal attempts, all of which, unfortunately, proved unsuccessful.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT.

The past academic year has been without doubt the most successful ever enjoyed by the O.U.S.C.R. The feature most worthy of note is the way in which handbell ringing has flourished, but the great enthusiasm displayed by most members has also been decidedly encouraging.

Only three competent ringers were left at the beginning of the year, but the success of the system of teaching employed (which has been explained in these pages at various times) may be judged from the fact that at the end there were more than a dozen. When the usual proportion of failures to successes in teaching beginners is considered, it will be realised what a large number of recruits must have been handled. The accent has been on even-bell methods, and the society can now manage most methods up to the level of Kent and Double Norwich.

Ten handbell peals (the first ever recorded for the society) have been rung during the year, comprising Grandsire Doubles 1, Bob Minor 5, Minor in more than one method 2, Bob Major 2. This list is far from imposing as regards quality, but the fact that no less than seven members scored their first peals (six of these did not begin ringing until last October) and three their first in hand throws it into a better perspective.

PROMISING BEGINNERS.

Three of the beginners of last October have made especial progress, all reaching the standard of double-handed Kent and Double Norwich, which must surely be a record for only six months of actual ringing. They are all ladies—Misses Buckley, Houldsworth and Scaddan, with two, four and four peals respectively to their credit.

Practice in the tower has not been forsaken, but has been confined merely to teaching the handling of a bell.

It was an agreeable surprise to witness the reawakening of the sister society at Cambridge, and a pleasure to meet and ring with several of their members, notably the present Master, Mr. K. S. B. Croft. The joint peal of Bob Major rung after the annual lunch is the first such peal on record.

No Sunday evening in term time has passed without the society providing a band to ring before evensong at St. Mary's, the University Church, the method usually being Grandsire Caters.

The year has also been notable for the number of visitors who have come to Oxford to ring with the society. Besides those already referred to, the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and Mr. W. Dobbie should be mentioned. It is to be hoped that such visits will continue as far as is possible in these days. If any ringer finds himself at any time in a position to come to Oxford, let him but give warning of his coming and he will be made welcome.

LADY MEMBERS.

In conclusion, a few words on future prospects will be opportune. The destiny of the O.U.S.C.R. rests largely in the hands of the fair sex. While some may regret their preponderance, the ladies have certainly taken their full part in the successes of the past year, and it is mainly to them that one must look, as long as the war lasts. With every year of the war conditions become more difficult for a university change ringing society. Less and less time is allowed for academic courses, and part-time war work makes ever greater demands on leisure time. Nevertheless, the O.U.S.C.R. intends to go on to better things, despite all difficulties. Fortunately, most of the present members—including five who can ring Double Norwich—will be up for the whole of next year, so the immediate future, at least, seems assured, and it is to be hoped that the coming year will be as kind in providing likely recruits as the last has been.

THE SURPRISE METHODS.

THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT.

(From the new and unpublished book on the Surprise Major Methods prepared by the Methods Committee of the Central Council.)

A Surprise Method is a method on the Treble Bob Principle in which at least one internal place is made at every Cross Section. That has been the official definition since 1906 when the report of the Methods Committee on classification was adopted by the Central Council, and it has been loyally and universally accepted by the Exercise at large.

But the term is much older; it goes back to the early days of the eighteenth century and probably to the end of the seventeenth century. The earliest extant notice of it is in William Laughton's manuscript, where he relates that the Rambling Ringers on more than one occasion rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor.

About the same time (A.D. 1734) Annable was writing his notebook now in the British Museum. In it he gives five Minor methods which he calls Surprise, viz., Cambridge, London, York, Lincoln, and Oxford. Cambridge he also gives on eight bells, but incorrectly, for in the second section the only places made are those in 1-2, fifths and eighths being omitted. In Oxford Surprise Minor, the treble makes thirds and fourths on its way out and fourths and thirds on its way down. With such a method a true 720 is not possible.

The first part of this manuscript is very carefully written out. It consists mainly of six-bell methods, and Annable has marked the composers of these by putting an initial letter underneath the leads. London, York and Lincoln are marked A, showing they were composed by Annable himself. Oxford is marked I, but to whom that refers we are unable to say. Beneath Cambridge no initial is given, so Annable evidently did not know who first composed it. It was already a well-known standard method, and very likely was first rung in the town of Cambridge some time after Fabian Stedman published his 'Campanalogia' in 1677.

In 1737 a man named Samuel Stuart presented to the Society of London Youths a manuscript report of a peal he and five others had rung at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel. It consisted of 'seven compleat Surprise Six Bell Peals,' and the figures of the methods are given. They are Oxford Tripple Bob, Cambridge Surprize, London Surprize, Morning Exercise, Bristol Surprize, Worcester Surprize, and York Surprize. Some of them would not now be classed as Surprise, and even then a distinction was made in the individual titles.

Cambridge Surprise appears in print for the first time in the 1753 edition of the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia.' It does not appear in the 1733 edition.

In 1780 the Society of London Youths had a band of young and very clever ringers, all of whom afterwards took part in many outstanding peals, and under John Reeves' conductorship they rang the first peal of Surprise Major ever accomplished, 5088 of Cambridge at St. Giles' in-the-Fields, Bloomsbury. Oxford Treble Bob for many years had been a widely practised method and many peals of it had been rung, but it had not occurred to anyone that a composition might have false changes which did not show at the lead ends. Christopher Wells, one of the London Youths (although for some reason or other he did not take part in the Cam-

bridge), was the first to find out that Treble Bob might be internally false with the treble in 1-2, but even then the full extent of the liability to repetition was not realised, and it was not until just after the Cambridge was rung that the matter was properly understood. Almost inevitably therefore the peal turned out to be false.

At the time William Jones was preparing to write the 'Clavis Campanalogia,' and he enlisted the services of Reeves as chief composer and expert in peal composition. Reeves was a very clever composer, and between then and 1788 he produced many peals of great merit, some of which in their classes have never been superseded; but though he fully understood the composition of Treble Bob with the tenors together, he did not realise that if they are parted, though the scope is much larger, the liability to falseness is greatly increased. Consequently, when the band (who had now joined the ancient Society of College Youths) again rang the peal of Cambridge, he thought he could get a true composition by parting the tenors, but again it was false.

The performance, however, was looked upon at the time, and justly, as the 'greatest performance ever achieved in the Campanistanean Art, as so intricate a method was never practised by any other set of men whatever.' It was the same men who first tried to ring London Major, but either because they found it too difficult, or for want of a true peal, they did not persevere.

In the 'Clavis' (1788) are given sixteen Surprise Minor methods, five of which have irregular lead ends, and three others which do not comply with the modern definition. London Major and Cambridge Major appear in print for the first time, as well as Superlative, which was a new method by Reeves. The authors of the book had a very high opinion of it, and induced the Exercise to take the same view, but it was not until many years later that it was first practised in London.

During the closing years of the century the two leading metropolitan societies absorbed practically all the skilful ringers, and their interest chiefly centred in ten and twelve bell ringing, especially in Stedman Cinques, which was a recent discovery. The early years of the nineteenth century saw a great decline in ringing, and especially so in London. The conditions under which the art had flourished during the eighteenth century were passing away, and the class of men which had formed the backbone of the leading societies, like the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths, was no longer attracted to the belfry. As the members got older and less energetic there were none to take their places, and the time came, when death had thinned their ranks, that the societies were faced with the alternatives, either drastically to lower their social standards or cease to be. Reluctantly and with much misgiving, the College Youths chose the first, and for many years ringing was in the hands of men of the lowest classes and without the leaven of people of superior education. Much the same thing was going on all over the country, with the result that the Exercise lost any initiative in method ringing.

In addition, the 'Clavis' had largely standardised ringing. In earlier days, beside Grandsire and Plain Bob, which were common property, each district where there were expert bands had its own favourite methods, but now Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire and Stedman supplied all that ringers needed, and beyond them their

ambition did not reach. There were one or two exceptions. Shipway introduced a little variety into the Cumberlands' records and at Norwich the old strong traditions still survived. In Yorkshire, ringing was carried on under conditions we should now consider deplorable, but keen competition and prize ringing, with all their evils, did produce some good results; and it was there that Surprise ringing was first practised to any extent.

As far back as 1787 the Sheffield men rang 6,048 changes of Cambridge. The composition is lost, but, short of a miracle, it cannot have been true, though that hardly lessens the merits of the peal as a practical performance.

Benjamin Thackrah, of Dewsbury, was one of the leading ringers and composers of the North, and he seems to have been one of the first to realise how very liable Cambridge is to internal falseness. Despairing of getting a true peal by ordinary means he, as he tells us, 'introduced singles when the treble was dodging in 3-4 to take away the false changes when liable.' The device is still occasionally used and rung as New Cambridge. It reduces the false course-ends of the method from five to three, and, as those which remain are easily manageable, it is possible to get 6,720 changes with the tenors together. This length was rung at Huddersfield in 1822 by seven of the local band, and Thackrah, who conducted, but it is very doubtful if the peal was true. He does not give the figures in his book, and a 6,048 which he does give is, either from ignorance or carelessness, very false.

Eleven years previously at Keighley the local band had scored a 5,376 of the same method, the composition of Joseph Tebbs, which was claimed to be the first true peal of Cambridge in the North of England. The claim

is good evidence that the Sheffield peal of 1787 had been found to be false, but though Tebbs was a skilful ringer and not without considerable ability as a composer, it is not likely that his peal was true.

Thackrah has the distinction of calling the first peal of Superlative. It was rung three months before the Cambridge, in the same tower, and by the same band. In the previous August they had rung 5,600 changes, but the peal turned out to be false. Thackrah's composition is one of those elementary peals which will serve in many ways for many methods. It usually appears in standard books as a three-part 6,048 over the name of John Cox. In Thackrah's book the composition is given with twenty-one courses only, two short of a peal. As rung the peal contained 5,152 changes and was accomplished immediately after a 5,040 of Treble Bob Triples which 'was gone through in a most magnificent style.'

There were many skilful ringers at this time in Yorkshire, and it is not unlikely that other peals of Cambridge and Superlative Major were rung; for we must remember that only a small proportion of peals were recorded on boards, and those that were not, have, for the most part, been forgotten.

William Shipway published his 'Campanalogia' in 1814. In many respects it is a great improvement on the 'Clavis,' but good as it is, it had little effect on method ringing. The new systems given in it were stillborn, for, as we have said, the Exercise had already as many methods as it wanted, and no extension of method ringing followed on the publication except that in 1826 the Wakefield company (who in 1822 had rung the first peal of Cambridge Royal) scored 5,400 changes of Superlative Royal. In the previous year they had rung a peal in the same method which turned out to be false.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles reported in this issue was the first by the Arklow Guild for many years, and they are very proud of having been successful at the first attempt. A young beginner, Miss Alexander rang one of the covering bells (the sixth) for half the peal and then gave over the rope to another.

The hon. secretary of the Guild would like to know whether, seeing that the peal was rung on the front five of eight bells with 7, 6, 8 covering, the ringers of the sixth and tenor can claim a peal.

To-morrow is the 144th anniversary of the opening peal on the old ring of twelve at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. It was rung by a visiting band of London College Youths, assisted by James Dovey, of Stourbridge, and his friend Samuel Laurence, of Shifnal. The method was Grandsire Cinques and the conductor was Thomas Blakemore.

Isaac George Shade, one of the earliest ringers to score over a thousand peals, was knocked down and killed in the street on July 19th, 1926. He was 76 years old.

Last Wednesday was the 87th anniversary of the first peal rung on the Continent. It was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths on Sunday, July 15th, 1855, at the Boulevard Bonne Neuville, Paris, and was Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. John Cox rang 34 and conducted.

On July 15th, 1933, Mr. J. D. Johnson called the first peal of Hinton Surprise Major at Hinton-on-the-Green for the Worcester and Districts Association.

ARCHDEACON BLACKWOOD.

OF HOBART, TASMANIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think the enclosed cutting taken from 'The Sun,' Melbourne, Australia, of April 27th, will be of interest to many ringers, especially those who were privileged to take part in the great Australian tour of 1934.

Archdeacon Blackwood will long be remembered by those taking part in the tour for the great welcome he gave to the touring party. Nothing was too much trouble for him to make our visit to Hobart as enjoyable as possible, and I am sure the rest of the band will join me in offering him our heartiest congratulations on his appointment.

R. RICHARDSON.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Archdeacon D. B. Blackwood, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, has been appointed Bishop of Gippsland in succession to Bishop Cranswick, who has been appointed chairman of the Australian Board of Missions.

Archdeacon Blackwood served as a chaplain with the A.I.F. in the last war, and was awarded the Military Cross. He has been Rector of Holy Trinity, Hobart, since 1924.

He has two daughters, one of whom is in the mission field and the other engaged in youth welfare work in West Australia. His two sons are in the services.

No date has yet been fixed for enthroning the bishop-elect, but it will probably take place in St. Paul's Cathedral, Sale, in July.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM SEELEY.

BUSHEY COMPANY'S LOSS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Seeley, who passed away in Shrodells Hospital, Watford, on Saturday, July 4th.

Mr. Seeley had received treatment at the University College Hospital, London, during last autumn, for cancer of the tongue, after which he resumed work until three weeks before his death. He was born at Cheriton, Kent, in 1870, and spent his early ringing years chiefly in Dover and Folkestone. Of the latter tower he was for some time Master.

He removed to Watford in 1909 on taking up employment with the Standard Range and Foundry Co. as fitter-smith, in which employment he continued until his death. He joined the Bushey Society and remained one of its most loyal and useful members, and he will be sadly missed in days to come.

He had taken part in just over 100 peals in the standard methods as well as in Caters, and had rung the treble to numerous Surprise methods old and new. In the latter capacity he was particularly efficient and valued. His favourite method was Stedman, and he had a keen desire to call a peal of Stedman Triples. He was unsuccessful at Folkestone, and the late Bertram Prewett arranged an attempt at Aldenham on December 7th, 1912, for him to call. This he did well and truly, the peal going with clockwork precision, no word spoken except bobs. Mr. Seeley was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Middlesex Association, as well as the Hertford County Association. He had also officiated as Master of the Bushey Society for one or two periods. His wife predeceased him some years ago.

The interment took place at Rickmansworth Cemetery on July 8th. Among those present were Mr. A. K. Seeley (son), Mrs. Roberts (daughter) and Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Lambert (sisters). The Bushey Society was represented by Messrs. F. A. Smith, P. Parslow and M. Hibbert, and the society also sent a wreath.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AT SELBY.

A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th, but owing to the lack of adequate travelling facilities the attendance was not as representative as had been hoped for. Members in the Northern and Southern Districts were particularly handicapped by the fact that they could not possibly have got back home the same day. It was the first occasion the association had visited Selby since the induction of Canon A. E. M. Glover, by whose kind permission the back eight bells at the Abbey were available for 'silent' ringing. The General Committee met at 3 p.m. and a brief service in the Abbey followed, conducted by Canon Glover, who welcomed the association, and regretted that the ban prevented the glorious tones of the Abbey bells being heard that afternoon. He hoped they would be able to come again in the near future, and by then happier conditions would prevail.

It had not been possible to arrange a tea, but members and friends were able to find accommodation at the several cafes nearby. The business meeting took place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m., when the chair was taken by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton), the vice-presidents of the Western and Eastern Districts (Messrs. P. J. Johnson and F. Cryer), and the Eastern District secretary (Mr. H. S. Morley). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. S. F. Palmer (hon. treasurer), G. Lewis (vice-president, Southern District), D. Smith, H. Chant, W. H. Senior, E. Hudson, J. Broadley, J. Ambler and A. B. Cook.

VOTE OF THANKS.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and local company was proposed by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who spoke of the cordial relations that had always existed between the association and their friends at Selby. They would long remember the many kindnesses rendered by Canon Solloway during the 36 years he had been Vicar of Selby, and he could assure Canon Glover that he had no doubt those good relations would continue. Mr. A. E. Sellers seconded, and the proposition was carried with applause.

Canon Marshall said he had known Canon Glover many years and could tell many stories about him. He was sure that both the association and the people of Selby had in Canon Glover a staunch friend. In reply, Canon Glover said he was grateful for the vote of thanks and would be pleased to receive the association again. Canon Marshall dare not tell the stories he had mentioned because he (Canon Glover) could also tell stories, probably worse, about Canon Marshall (laughter).

The president read a circular from the Central Council relating to 'The Ringing World,' and said that the committee had considered the matter and had agreed in principle to a grant being made from association funds if an appeal was made. After discussion, Mr. P. J. Johnson moved that the matter be brought up again at the next meeting, but in the event of an urgent appeal being made, the president, general secretary and treasurer be empowered to make a grant of not exceeding £10. Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded and it was carried.

SUGGESTED CHANGE OF DATES.

The general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris) said that the present financial year commenced on October 1st and terminated on September 30th of the year following. This caused the annual meeting of the General Committee to take place in December and the annual general meeting to take place in January. He felt that it was undesirable to hold the two most important meetings of the year at such times. In addition, the work of compiling the annual report took place at a time when the principal officers had other pressing business commitments. His notice of motion was concerned with changing the financial year so as to commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st. This would cause the General Committee meeting to take place in, say, March, and the annual general meeting in, say, April or May. The present period of inactivity was the most opportune time to make such a change. To do so during normal times would considerably increase the size of the first report following the change-over, and much more work would be involved. After giving notice of the amendment to the rules involved (which will be printed in full on the circular notice of the next general meeting), Mr. Morris proposed: 'That the official association year shall commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of each year, and that the necessary amendment to rules, consequent thereon, be made.'

Mr. W. Barton, seconding, said that nothing but good could arise from the change and he felt it was a step in the right direction. He agreed that if the change was to be made it could be done with far less difficulty, and certainly much more economically, during the present period. Several members spoke and the general trend of feeling was in favour of the change. The matter will come before the next general meeting for discussion and settlement.

The President announced that the next meeting was due to be held on the third Saturday in September. Some considerable discussion ensued, the difficulties of travel and catering being pointed out. Mr. P. J. Johnson said that some time had elapsed since a general meeting had been held in the Southern District, and as no invitations had been received, he proposed that if suitable arrangements could be made the next meeting be held in the Southern District, the place being

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

PLEASANT MEETING AT UPPER HARTFIELD.

A lovely summer afternoon, a shady garden and plenty of comfortable chairs. Such was the setting for a meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild on Saturday, June 27th, at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, made possible through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver.

Members attended from Coleman's Hatch, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst.

The handbells were soon set going in various methods. Some touches vanished in thin air, some came round, but it was all good practice and good fun.

At the business meeting a circular letter on the future of 'The Ringing World' was read, but after some discussion a decision was deferred.

The next meeting was fixed for July 25th at Balcombe, and it was made known that East Grinstead bells would be available for a meeting in September.

Mr. A. Batten voiced the appreciation of all to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, thanking them both for a most enjoyable time.

After more refreshments, the meeting broke up about 8 p.m., every-one feeling that life was still worth living.

A FAMILY OF BELLHANGERS.

All ringers know that Bilbie was a very well-known Somerset bell founder, who cast many noble bells. Can any reader of 'The Ringing World' tell us if he ever cast a heavier bell than the noble tenor at Yeovil, a little over 40 cwt.? Bilbie's bellhangers were a family called Bush, who were descended from Bishop Bush, of Bristol, I think, in 1600 and something. The family still exist to-day and live in Wrington. They carry on a successful building business, father and two sons, all excellent craftsmen, and they still have in possession two jacks that were used by their ancestors, the bellhangers. I asked Peter Bush, the father, if he would sell them. 'No,' he said, 'they are far too useful.' The last time they were used on bell work was at Congressbury very many years ago, which I am informed was the last bellhanging job the Bush family carried out for the Bilbie family. I think this was about 1800.

Would some reader of 'The Ringing World' tell us the latest date that Bilbie cast any bells? The latest I know of is the 7th at Wedmore in 1801.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington.

'The Western Flying Post' for July 14th, 1760, has an advertisement which states that John Bush, bellhanger, of Chew Stoke, had lately 'hung to sally' the large peal of six bells in the Town of Yeovil, the tenor consisting of near 50 cwt.; and whereas before it took 22 or 23 men to ring them, 'the same has been rung four several hours by 7 men only' to Grandsire Doubles.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is the composition of the peal of Bob Royal which I called at Burgess Hill on June 14th. It seems to be as good a peal in the method as can be obtained.

	5,040.			
23456	W	M	B	
46235	—	—	S	
23465	—	—		
42365	—	—		
34265	—	—		
52346	—	—		
35248	—	—		
23548	—	—		

Three times repeated with a single instead of the first bob in alternate parts, or at the half-way end.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

left in the hands of the principal officers to decide. This was seconded by Mr. W. Pearson and carried.

A discussion took place on the subject of ringing members who had become permanently afflicted by illness. The general secretary said he had received a letter concerning a specific case, but there was nothing in the rules at present which dealt with such cases. The President announced that the committee had considered the matter, and while they had every sympathy with such cases, the rules did not empower them to make any concession. They felt, however, that the matter was an important one and worthy of further consideration.

Mr. W. Barton gave notice of motion to add a new rule empowering the General Committee to consider such cases, and to recommend that they become honorary members of the association.—Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded, and the motion will come before the next meeting for further discussion and final decision. The full text of the motion will be printed on the circular notice relating to the next meeting.

This concluded the business, bringing to a close a meeting which, judged from the interest displayed in the proceedings, reminded one of pre-war days and normal activities.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

The origin of the word 'chime' is somewhat obscure, but is undoubtedly connected with the Latin 'cymbalum'—old German 'Zimbel'—meaning 'a bell struck by a hammer.' The definitions of the words are:—

- (1) A diatonic set of bells in a tower, sometimes including a minor 7th and the augmented 4th, giving the possibilities of modulation to the dominant and sub-dominant of the key.
- (2) A series of musical sounds or tune, played mechanically or otherwise, on such a set of bells.

There is very little information as to when chimes were first used, the only records being found in ancient churchwardens' accounts and similar documents, in which mention is occasionally made of repairs to chiming apparatus. These—of which examples will be quoted later—show that chimes were common in the middle of the fifteenth, and in general use in the sixteenth centuries. There seems to be no doubt that chimes were first played by hand, and the different hours of the day were originally announced in the same way. Many years B.C. a mechanism was used in connection with the clepsydra, by which a weight was released at the hours and struck a bell. An example of this is given in *Magnus Tintinnabulum*. This is the earliest record of what may be termed a 'striking clock,' although it was many centuries afterwards ere a device was invented to play quarter-chimes, and, later, chime tunes as we are accustomed to hear them.

St. Dunstan, who died in 988, we are told, excelled in the psaltery, lyre, and in 'touching the cymbals.' He is said to have made a set of chimes for Canterbury. These ancient chimes were frequently used with the organ, and Ælred, Abbot of Ruvaulx in the twelfth century, strongly denounces not only the groaning of the bellows, and the roaring of the organ pipes, but 'the noise of the cymbals.' Probably the stop known as the cimbell (Zimbel) found in later days on the organ, was an attempt to reproduce the brilliancy of the bell chimes. A treatise by Theophilus, a monk of the eleventh century is printed by Rimbault in his 'History of the Pianoforte,' which minutely describes the casting and tuning of these little bells. Probably, owing to its bell-like effect, the name cymbal was in later times applied to the psaltery and then to the dulcimer: from the psaltery it passed to the keyed psaltery, the clavicymbal or harpsichord.

One of the earliest known mention of chimes on the church bells is in 1432, when 'Richard Roper was paid 20d. for mending the chymes of Norwich Cathedral.' Later—in 1463—we read of John Baret, of Bury, Suffolk, leaving money in his will for the repair of the chimes there.

In England, at this date, there is no doubt that chimes were played on a small number of bells, as mentioned at Durham, where before 1593 we read that Bishop Sparke caused to be 'maide a goodly chyme to be sett on iij (three) bells.'

On the Continent, however, a large number of bells were used for this purpose. Dunkirk had a carillon of extensive compass in 1437, and Alost in 1487. Chime mechanism was invented soon after the advent of weight clocks, and with their introduction many devices were introduced to indicate the flight of time, such as perform-

ing figures, crowing cocks, etc. Peter Lightfoot, the ingenious Abbot of Glastonbury, was one of the earliest—if not the earliest—maker of such clocks (1335). Soon after this they were made on the Continent, and we read of great clocks being erected at Middleburg (1371), Mechlin (1372) and Ghent (1376). There are many reasons for believing that, even at this early period, the striking of the hour was preceded by a short chime on the little bells, called then in Flemish 'Appeelkens.' Records of Mons (1382), Tournai (1392) and Ghent (1412) mention such bells.

In all probability the quarters were first indicated by a 'jack' on a single bell, and later by two 'jacks' on two bells, the notes of which were a 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th apart. Such quarters would be known as 'ding-dong' or 'ting-tang' quarters, and from their introduction to the present time have been more extensively used than others in this country.

It should be noted that quarter chimes and chime-tunes in England consist of melody only, whereas on the Continent the bells are used a great deal in combination, being frequently heard in chords of three, four or five notes. Many of these sounds are redundant, as in most cases bells cannot be heard to better advantage than when played in two or three parts. Great uncertainty prevails as to the dates of the water-clock, and the wheel-and-weight clock, nor can we assign the appearance of the second train of wheels for striking purposes to any definite time. Hour striking, no doubt, had to suffice for the use of bells in clocks for many years. Then, as clock-mechanism improved, the pleasure of hearing familiar pieces of music, or others likely to win their way and so become familiar, was gratified by the invention or introduction of a third train of wheels. Doubtless many a time before this invention came into being, ingenious sextons or their deputies 'clocked' the bells, and played such tunes as the numbers and notes allowed: doubtless also, many are the ancient bells which thus 'perished in the using,' for such clocking is a dangerous practice.

That the mediæval method was mainly identical with that of the present day is shown by the will of that substantial citizen of Bury St. Edmunds, John Baret, who died in 1463, and was buried in St. Mary's Church there. It is printed *in extenso* in Tymms's 'Wills and Inventories,' from the Registers of the Commissary of Bury St. Edmunds, and Archdeaconry of Sudbury [p. 17 *et seq.*].

After giving instructions to his executors for his burial, etc., for his 'anniversary,' he states:—

Item. I wil that the belle man have iiijd to go yeerly aboute the town at my yeerday for my soule and for my faderis and modysr.

Item. I wil that the Sexteyn of Seynt Marie chirche have at my yeerday xijd so he ryngye wil and fynde bread and ale to his ffelashippe, and eche yeer what tyme my yeerday fallyth that at twelve of the klokke at noon next beform my dirige he do the chymes smythe *Requiem eternam*, and so to contynue sevene nyght after til the vtas (octaves) of my yeerday be passyd, and eue (the short requiem) al lenten *Requiem eternam*, and in lykvyse such day as God disposith for me to passe I wil the seid chymes smyth forthwith *Requiem eternum*, and so day and nyth to cotynue with the

(Continued on next page.)

CLOCK CHIMES.

TIVERTON QUARTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—An interesting chime was in use at Tiverton, Devon, in 1924, and may be worth mentioning for those who have not heard them. With several other ringers I was impressed very favourably by them on the occasion of a visit by the Wolverhampton ringers when on tour during a very hot August. I give these as my memory serves me—

First quarter: Rounds. Half-hour: Rounds and Queens. Three-quarters: Rounds, Queens and Whittingtons. Hour: Rounds, Queens, Whittingtons and Tittums.

The Tittums may be on the third quarter and Whittington on the hour.

This arrangement of chimes was done very slowly and on such a fine peal of bells was to me very beautiful, striking and impressive. As these details are given from memory, the order may not be correct. I am open to correction.

ALBERT J. HUGHES.

14, Robert Street, Hiraal, Bangor, N.W.

MR. W. W. STARMER'S BOOKLET.

Dear Sir,—I would inform Mr. F. M. Taylor that a booklet, entitled 'Quarter Chimes and Chime Tunes,' by the late Mr. W. W. Starmer, was issued by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough. Although this is some time ago, they may still have a copy left.

But if Mr. E. Morris is able to fulfil his suggestion to submit some articles on this very interesting subject through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' I am sure these would be most welcome.

7, Grove Avenue, Wadsley, Sheffield. S. L. MARSHALL.

THE LATE BERTRAM PREWETT.

A PEAL ON EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I refer to the last paragraph of Mr. E. Barnett's letter in your last issue?

During the last war I was stationed for a few months, in 1916, in the vicinity of Warminster, Wiltshire. Sergt. Dowding and myself had some notices typed out, and these we posted up in all the camp canteens inviting ringers to a meeting at Warminster Parish Church. Amongst those that turned up was the late Bertram Prewett, and eventually we attempted a khaki peal of Grandsire Triples, which was spoilt by the conductor (myself) calling the bobs when the treble was up behind. Incidentally Bertram took over the conducting and we rang a few nice touches. When we were leaving the tower Bertram remarked that 'he had rung a peal on every date in the year.'

A year or so ago the names of the few ringers who have accomplished this feat were published in 'The Ringing World,' and I wrote suggesting that the late Bertram Prewett's name should be added. Anyway, no notice was taken of my letter, so I let the matter drop. Mr. Barnett's remark in his letter seems to confirm that this fact was accomplished by Mr. Prewett. May I, in conclusion, send my best wishes to those ringers who were at Warminster with the 58th London Division?

T. E. SONE.

Warrington House, Paddock Wood, Kent.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from previous page.)

same song tyl my xxxⁿ day be past for me and my friends that holpe thereto with any goods of here.

Itm. I wil yeve and givethe yeerly to the Sexteyn of Seint Marie chirche viijs to kepe the clokke, take hede to the chymes, wynde up the pegs and the plummys as ofte as nede is, so that the seid chymes fayle not to goo through the defaute of the seid Sexteyn whoso be for the tyme: and yif he wil not take it vpon hym the owner of my hefd place, the parysh preest and the Seynt Marie preest to chese oon of the parysh such as wil do it for the same money, tyl such a sexteyn be in the office that will undertake to do it to cotynue, for I wolde the sexteyn hadde it be fore a nothir, for his wages be but small, so he wil vndirtake to do it and not fayle.

And much more to the same effect, showing that chimes were by no means uncommon in England at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Many chimes of the type provided by John Baret's will disappeared at the Reformation, though quarter-chimes, and perhaps more elaborate ones, survived in a few places, and the revival of tunes may be traced to the reaction after the dull days of the Commonwealth.

(To be continued.)

COMMEMORATION.

SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many ideas exist as to a suitable memorial to our late Editor, and the one most popular is that 'The Ringing World' should possess an assured future.

An increased circulation will be necessary, and I venture to suggest all the ringing guilds and societies in the country decide to make an annual subscription, according to their abilities, as a financial backing, thus avoiding temporary embarrassments in years to come.

I think a small space on the title page of 'The Ringing World,' giving the name of its founder and date of first production, would assist in keeping fresh the memory of the man who did so much for the art of change ringing. Would a small picture of his face be considered too ostentatious?

With regard to Mr. Albert Walker's suggestion of an annual pilgrimage, I think this would gradually fade out; some of Mr. Goldsmith's personal friends would be able to make the journey, many would not. In course of time the number of those able to do so would decrease naturally until finally all will have crossed over.

All ringing guilds and societies hold meetings about mid-summer, and I think it would be a good idea if all could combine to hold these meetings on the same day in June, the Saturday nearest the anniversary of Mr. Goldsmith's death, in honour of that esteemed man. References in speeches could be made at all the gatherings by ringers who knew him personally, thus introducing him to those who did not and these in time will add their tributes to the rising generations. Proceedings need not last more than ten minutes or so, afterwards the ordinary business affairs of the guild can go on. It may even be possible for guilds to hold joint meetings for the occasion, thus adding to its dignity.

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS.

173, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham 32.

ST. MARTIN'S, YORK.

A RUINED RING.

In a recent air raid on the city of York, the Church of St. Martin, Coney Street, was damaged and the ring of eight bells ruined.

The bells were cast in Jubbergate by Edward Seller II. in the years 1729 and 1730. This York bell founder was Sheriff in 1731 and 1732.

In 1729 a Mr. William Thompson gave five new bells, making, with the existing bell as tenor, a ring of six.

On Thursday, May 15th, 1729 (being Ascension Day), the bells were rung, and were judged by most competent gentlemen of music in the city and hereabout, and approved of them to be tuneable and very fine notes.

The following year, Mr. Seller was again employed by add two new treble bells to complete the octave, and to recast the old tenor, at the cost of the Minster ringers and a few friends, the cost being £59 10s.

The treble bears the inscription: 'E Dono Amicorum Societatis Campanistarum Ebor 1730.' (Given by the friends of the Society of Bellringers.) The second: 'E Dono Societatis Campanistarum Ebor 1730.' (Given by the Society of Bellringers.) The tenor bears: 'Sonitu Rescipiscite Mæsto Ante Jacetis Humo 1730.' (All men who here my mournful sound repent before you lye in ground.)

On October 9th, 1888, eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang on the bells 5,024 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major. George Breed rang the tenor and conducted. Mr. A. C. Fearnley, who rang the third, is the sole survivor of the band. The tenor is 15 cwt.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

ST. MARGARET'S BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In about 1927 and at later intervals I had the privilege, in conjunction with Mr. Stanley Roper, organist at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in making the following records for H.M.V. Company:—
No. B2398.—'Impressions of London.' Big Ben, St. Margaret's x bells (B) and organ and traffic noises.

B3120.—'Wedding at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ. ✓

B3126.—'Christmas at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ. x

B2970.—'Easter at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ. ✓

C2098.—Ten bells, Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters. ✓

B2853.—A composite record and nightingale and bells. x

B3345.—'In a village churchyard.' Birds, bells, organ and choir. x

The H.M.V. Company also made records of a course of Stedman Triples and a course of Grandsire Triples, but these were never, to my knowledge, published.

The Columbia Company made a record of St. Paul's Cathedral bells, but I have not got the number. They also made a record of the carillon of Ottawa at the Crown Foundry, played by Mons. Kamiel Lefevre; No. 4580 ('O come, all ye faithful'; 'Abide with me').

WILLIAM H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

P.S.—There is also a record of old Bow Bells by, I believe, the Columbia Company: On 10 bells, call changes, rounds to Whittington's and back, and rounds to Queen's and back, conducted by H. Langdon. ✓

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT QUEENSBURY.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a very successful meeting at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th, when members attended from twelve towers. Queensbury is situated on the heights overlooking Bradford and is reputed to be one of the highest places in the district.

A ramble over Swale Hill had been arranged, and, headed by Mr. Whiteley of the local company, a party of about thirty enjoyed an interesting walk. With an exceptionally clear sky a marvellous view was seen of the whole countryside, and after a very enjoyable two hours the party arrived back at the schools in time for tea.

This was arranged by the local company, and all were able to do full justice to a table which would have been considered remarkable even in times of peace. As one ringer remarked, 'If Queensbury people can feed us like this in war time, what will they do when times are normal?'

At the business meeting which followed, the vice-president (Mr. F. J. Johnson) occupied the chair, and the proceedings were kept as brief as possible. It was suggested that an endeavour be made to hold the September meeting in the Liversedge area, as owing to difficulties of travelling it would not be possible to go far afield.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC COMPANY.

Mr. W. Barton, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, wardens and local company for making such splendid arrangements, said that whenever he came to Queensbury (and he had been visiting there a very long time) he had known nothing but kindness. There was always an enthusiastic welcome for the association, and it was a real pleasure to see such a progressive spirit existing amongst the ringers and the Church. He knew something of the hard work which had been put in, especially by Mr. Ambler in training a team, and of the many difficulties which had to be overcome. Although members had left the district, they had trained others, and it was one of the few places which could be said to be really progressive. He felt sure that when times were normal they would once again be ready to carry on the good work where they were such a tower of strength to the association.

This was seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood. The Vice-President also spoke of the happy times he had had at Queensbury. He also found an enthusiasm and heartiness which was never surpassed, and even that day they prepared them for tea by taking them a ten-mile walk over the moors, and then finished off with a tea which they would long remember. He hoped that the company would continue to flourish for a very long time.

The Rev. G. E. G. Cragg, replying, said that it was a very great pleasure for them to welcome the association to Queensbury. Although the Vicar was at present doing duty with the Navy, he was sure that he would wish them to do everything possible to make the meeting a success. He sincerely hoped that all enjoyed their tea and the long walk. He was sorry that they were not allowed to ring the bells, and looked forward to the day when they would all be ringing the bells of victory.

A collection for the association's Belfry Repairs Fund realised the sum of 13s 0½d. After the meeting the handbells were once again in evidence, whilst some of the younger members enjoyed a little more of the fresh air from the top of the tower. Thus a very enjoyable day was concluded.

The various towers represented during the day were as follows: Almondbury, Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Earlsheaton, Halifax, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Kirkburton, Pudsey, Shipley and the local company.

DEATH OF MR. H. F. COOPER.

WELL-KNOWN ESSEX RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. F. Cooper, which occurred on July 7th in hospital at Braintree, Essex, following a street accident.

For many years before the last war Mr. Cooper lived at Chelmsford, where he was captain of the Cathedral band, and where he called the first peal on the new ring of twelve. In 1917 he moved to Stisted, where he was licensee of the Red Lion Inn and village postman. He took a leading part in most of the local social activities, especially those connected with the church. He had been churchwarden and helped in the restoration of the bells and the extension of the churchyard. From 1905 to 1914 he was the hon. secretary of the South-Eastern Division of the Essex Association.

Mr. Cooper had taken part in 100 peals, including Grandsire and Stedman Cinques; Grandsire and Stedman Caters; Superlative, Double Norwich, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Major; Grandsire, Stedman and Oxford Bob Triples; and Cambridge and other minor methods.

The funeral was attended by many people and there were numerous floral tributes. The Rector, the Rev. J. H. A. Charles, officiated, and the hymn, 'The King of Love,' was sung.

Mr. Cooper was 70 years old and leaves a widow, a son and two daughters.

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested. — R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th. Meeting at 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Shalford on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Please bring own eatables for tea, cups of tea will be provided. Good bus service from Braintree and Deanery Corner, Bocking. Please make every effort to attend.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Worplesdon on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available in the afternoon. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15, followed by tea. All are welcome. — A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available at Duke of York Hotel, Agbrigg Road, 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All are welcome. —D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at St. Peter's, Nottingham, Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Nearby district members welcomed.—Ida B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held on July 18th at the headquarters of No. 1 Branch, British Legion, 7, Ford Street, Coventry, one minute from Pool Meadow Bus Station. Room available from 3.30-7.30. Cups of tea will be provided, but please bring own food. Business meeting will follow tea.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at N. Mimms on July 18th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Tea at the Corner Cafe at 5.30 p.m., followed by meeting and further handbell ringing to suit all tastes. Please notify for tea.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Biggleswade District) and **HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Tower and handbells. Tea at 5. Meet old friends.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Deddington on Saturday, July 25th. Six bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting to follow. For tea please notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea for those who inform Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex, by Wednesday, July 22nd. A good train service, so no excuses, please. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25th, at Arksey. Handbells available in the Church Hall from 3 p.m. Will those intending to be present please bring what tea they require as nothing can be guaranteed.—E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in Vestry 3 p.m. Service 4, followed by tea and handbells at Vicarage. Visitors welcome. Numbers for tea by July 21st to B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfields Road, Winkersham, Wokingham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th. Members and friends meet at Reigate S.R. Station at 3 p.m., to walk through the Castle grounds and Reigate Park. Service at 5 p.m. Mr. M. A. Northover has kindly offered to provide tea, and his house and gardens will be at the disposal of members for the purpose of the meeting. All those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, July 21st. Members from both districts are asked to make a special effort to attend.—G. W. Massey, North-Western Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, July 25th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please notify me by Thursday, July 23rd.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Kinver (p.v.), Saturday, July 25th. Eight bells (silent). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in the Schools from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Lawford on Saturday, August 1st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. in the church. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting and more handbell ringing in the Ogilvie Hall. There is a good bus service from Colchester. Manningtree Station is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint rally will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Meet at Boxhill S.R. Station at 3 p.m. to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service at Leatherhead Parish Church at 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available during the afternoon and evening. Notifications for tea should reach Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 28th. All ringers heartily welcome. — G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

TAYLOR. — On July 8th, to Joan, wife of E. J. Taylor, 17, Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, Yorks, a son, Philip James.

MARRIAGE.

MOORE—DITCHAM.—On July 5th, at Holy Trinity Church, Norwich, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow officiating, Sergt. W. (Pat) Moore, R.A.M.C., to Dorothy Ditcham, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ditcham, both of Norwich.

A LETTER FROM CAPETOWN.

On his way out to the East, Mr. D. H. Parham called at Capetown, and this is an extract from an airgraph letter to his friends at home:—
'My cabin-mate knows someone at Newlands who is a staunch Anglican and who attends the Church of St. Mary, Woodstock (a 2d. bus fare away). They have a ring of eight, and last night I went up into the belfry, where is commemorated a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on December 15th, 1904, in 3 hours 7 minutes. The peal was Taylor's six-part, was the first rung in South Africa, and was conducted by F. P. Powell, who seems to have been the prime mover of all ringing in those days. I don't know if he is any relation to the Powell on the Central Council. I had a spot of practice on the treble (the tenor is only 11 cwt.), and if I am here on Sunday I shall have another go.'

THE NEED OF LASHING BELLS.—While well-struck rounds and changes are a joy to the listener, few can tolerate complacently the interminable ringing of single bells or the clang and clatter that are caused by the first efforts of a band of learners on open bells.—E. S. and M. Powell.

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