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Price 3d.

PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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JOHN TAYLOR & Co. LOUGHBOROUGH

These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

BOOKS.

Last week we pointed out the usefulness of elementary text books in the training of recruits and we stressed the desirability of employing them as much as possible. It is a point which has behind it the experience of the Exercise throughout its history and particularly in the last fifty or sixty years, and it would be almost a platitude if it were not that so many people still neglect it.

But the teaching of beginners is only a part, and a comparatively small part, of the role books can play and have played in the life and development of the Exercise. It is the peculiarity and the special glory of our art that it includes so many different interests and offers such great variety to those who follow it. The actual practice of ringing in the steeple with its demands on a man's physical, intellectual, and artistic faculties, make it one of the most absorbing pursuits there is; but that is by no means all. There are the interests of composition, the interests of archæology, and of the study of ringing history which goes back for four hundred years. All these things are worthy and capable of engaging the attention of intelligent persons, and for all of them the use of books is essential.

Fortunately we possess quite a large number of works dealing with the different subjects connected with bells and most of them are books written with learning and authority, and which in the aggregate convey a vast amount of information and knowledge. The man who has but a nodding acquaintance with these books will get a far greater amount of enjoyment out of ringing, than he would if, as so many actually do, he merely relied on picking up what he knows about bells and ringing from personal experience and contact with his fellows.

But few ringers are able to possess even a small proportion of the total number of these published books. Many of them are out of print and are not to be had second hand without considerable cost and then only occasionally. This applies especially to the archæological books and to the earlier books on ringing, but there are still a good many available and they include those which will interest the practical ringer the most. Jasper Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' for instance, is not merely concerned with the rules for ringing one of the simpler methods, but conveys a mass of information on matters important in the general study of ringing. 'Grandsire,' in the same series, too, is a book which can appeal to the most advanced student of composition. The same applies to the first edition of 'Stedman,' which contains the very profound 'Investigations' into Stedman Triples, and of which, we be-

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lieve, a few copies are still to be had from Miss Snowdon.

These and other books equally useful can still be purchased at a very small cost and no enthusiastic ringer should be without them. Other works cannot be had so readily, yet they are not wholly inaccessible. Of most of them a fair number of copies still exist, and for those who have the collector's flair it is no bad ambition to try to make a good collection. Some men get a good deal of pleasure out of such an aim, and the outstanding example is the late William Carter Pearson, of Henley. Many public libraries possess copies of some of these books, and within the Exercise there are several notable collections. The Central Council library is, in the nature of things, somewhat inaccessible, but some of the associations have done good work in collecting and preserving books for the benefit of the members. The Hertfordshire Association was a pioneer in this, and they have a fine lot of books at St. Albans. Another most excellent library is that belonging to the Guildford Diocesan Guild. It includes almost all the essential works and it lately has been enriched by the many books collected by the late John S. Goldsmith and bequeathed by him to the Guild.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, July 26, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Four Minutes,

At St. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Double and Reverse Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 13 in E.

*REV. A. C. BLYTH (Selwyn College, Cambridge)	1-2	
JOHN E. SPICE (New College, Oxford)	3-4	
*KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's College, Cambridge)	5-6	

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Minor in three methods.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	*WALTER J. BOWDEN	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major 'in hand.'

BURTON-UPON-STATHER, LINCS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in O sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
GEORGE E. FEIRN	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	7-8

JACK BRAY 9-10

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Bob Royal. Mrs. J. Bray's 200th peal, and 100th peal together by Messrs. G. E. Feirn and J. Bray.

SURFLEET, LINCS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

On Monday, July 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON	1-2	KENNETH S. B. CROFT	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	ROPERY RICHARDSON	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by K. S. B. CROFT.

First peal in the method as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

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

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

The first peal in the method on handbells by all and by the association.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes.

At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	PATRICIA A. SCADDON	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
KENNETH S. B. CROFT	3-4	CHARLES MCGUINNESS	7-8

†JOHN WALDEN 9-10

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Bob Royal. † First ten-bell peal 'in hand.'

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, July 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

In St. PETER'S BELFRY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

First peal of Triples as conductor and first attempt.

ENGLISH CHURCH BELLS.—The country's best music, a music hallowed by all circumstances, which, according equally with social exultation and with solitary pensiveness, though it falls upon many an unheeding ear, never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates, and some which it softens.—Robert Southey, Poet Laureate.

THE SURPRISE METHODS

(Continued from next page.)

pher W. Woolley and Frederick W. Bunklow, achieved the really remarkable feat of ringing double-hand handbell peals of Spliced Surprise Major, not only in the four standard methods, but also in five (in which Ealing was added) and six (which included Rutland).

The present record length for Superlative is 11,320 changes rung at Bolton in 1927; and for Cambridge 12,896 changes, rung at Stoney Stanton in 1923. The latter has become the most popular of all the Surprise methods, easily supplanting Superlative.

With the great extension and development of method ringing, the old meaning of the term Surprise, as one which was applied to the most difficult methods practised only by the most advanced bands, has become almost obsolete. The Surprise methods now rung vary very considerably in difficulty, and some of them are quite easy to ring, while some of the plain methods are in practice very difficult indeed.

(Concluded.)

THE SURPRISE METHODS.

(Continued from page 349.)

TWENTIETH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT.

When the first world war was ended and peace returned, the Exercise was faced with the task of re-establishing the art. Bands were dispersed or depleted, many ringers had lost their lives, many had been wounded, and all were older. It took some time, but the task was done, and the Exercise settled down to its normal life much as before the war, although peal ringing, so far as numbers go, never regained the high level of 1913. In almost every phase of life the war altered men's outlook and opinions. Ringing, perhaps, was affected as little as anything, but it was affected. There was in the Exercise a greater readiness to welcome new things, and less of the spirit which made men remain in the old paths just because they were old.

A very noticeable advance was made in six-bell ringing. It was rendered possible by the publication of the Methods Committee's Collection of Minor Methods, which appeared in 1907, but its full influence was not felt until after the war. Out of this advance came the practice of splicing two or more methods into the same composition. In earlier days, when men wanted to ring more than seven methods in a five-thousand, they rang 360's, or lengths even shorter, each beginning and ending with rounds. The practice was not generally approved of in the Exercise, and was disallowed by the Central Council. Law James first utilised the device of joining two 360's of separate plain methods together by singles, though others had preceded him in composing spliced extents, and the idea was as old as the early eighteenth century.

The first peal of Spliced Minor was rung in 1911, and the problem of splicing was investigated so that a very large number could be included in one peal. Having appeared on six bells, the practice was bound to spread sooner or later to eight, ten and twelve; and as early as 1920 the Cambridge University Guild rang Spliced Plain, Double and Little Bob on handbells.

In 1923 a proposal to ring four quarter-peals, one in each of the four standard Surprise methods, was referred to the Central Council and was disallowed, but the debate stimulated interest and led to the production and performance of all sorts of spliced peals. The first Surprise methods to be joined together in this way were Cambridge and Superlative, and the peal was rung at Whitley Bay in 1924. It seemed an impossible task to splice into one true peal all four standard Surprise methods, and so it is if full courses are used. But Law James used a three-lead course—two of London and one of either Cambridge or Superlative, some of the leads being duplicated by Bristol—and so produced what may justly be called his famous peal. At first it seemed rather a curiosity than anything else, but it was rung by a mixed band at Warnham in 1927, Mr. A. H. Pulling being the conductor. In the same year the Middlesex Association rang it at Willesden, and in the following year the College Youths rang it twice. Since then it has been rung many times.

In 1928 the Middlesex Association rang at Willesden a peal in five methods, and followed it next year with one in six. Meanwhile Mr. A. J. Pitman had composed and published a peal in ten methods and, though he said he did not expect any band would attempt it, the same com-

pany succeeded in ringing it during the following August. They then set themselves the task of scoring a peal, including every number from two to twelve. Eleven methods were rung at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields in 1930 and three at Pinner. This was Law James' composition without Superlative. Next year, after one or two failures, a peal in twelve methods was achieved at St. Mary's, Ealing, and that performance is for the time being the highest point to which method ringing has reached.

The other numbers were gradually accomplished, except a peal in two; but, though it was started for, it was not successful, and the subsequent illness and death of the conductor, William Pye, made the achievement of the full record impossible.

The peal in five methods has been rung two or three times, and another, in which Rutland was included instead of Lincolnshire, was rung in 1934, composed and conducted by Ernest C. S. Turner, who in the next year composed and conducted a peal which included Ealing and Rutland besides the four standard methods.

Since the above account was written, there has been a further advance in spliced ringing. Mr. Turner composed and conducted peals in seven and nine methods. The Midland Counties Association in 1937 rang at Wigston Magna one in seven methods, which did not include the standard methods, and the Lincoln men repeated Mr. Pitman's ten-method peal in 1939.

Between the two world wars Surprise ringing greatly increased in all parts of the country, and peals not only in the standard methods but in many new methods were accomplished. Several bands were particularly distinguished in this respect. The Leiston men, who at first belonged to the Norwich Diocesan Association, and after the diocese was divided to the Suffolk Guild, were the first to break new ground. They rang Suffolk in 1921, Dublin in 1922, Edinburgh in 1923, Rochester in 1924, and in 1931-3 they added three more.

The Lancashire Association rang Northampton at Oswaldtwistle in 1921, Loncashire in 1922, and Palatine in 1923. Rutland was rung in 1923 at Bolsover, and Pudsey in the following year. Both methods, and especially Rutland, have much to recommend them. They have become generally popular since, and are likely to take their places as standard methods.

In 1923, the Chester Diocesan Guild rang Belgrave (an inferior variation of Yorkshire) and Clarendon, and followed them up some years later with several new methods. Other companies were equally active, and until the war suspended peal ringing, few months went by without a new method of some sort or other being rung.

Two companies call for special mention. One is the band at Helmingham, members of the Suffolk Guild. Up to the year 1939 they had rung peals in nearly fifty Surprise methods, many of them for the first time. A pleasing feature of this company is that the conducting has been shared by several of the band.

In the Watford district of Hertfordshire there has been for many years a good ringing tradition, and under the conductorship of Mr. Harold G. Cashmore the band at Bushey especially distinguished themselves in Surprise ringing. In the year 1938 they rang no fewer than thirteen new methods. Four members of this company, Messrs. Henry Hodgetts, Harold G. Cashmore, Christo-

(Continued on previous page.)

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Albert Walker's many friends will learn with regret that he has had to go into the Homeleigh Nursing Home, 9, Church Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15, for an operation. We all trust it will be successful and that he will speedily be restored to health and activity.

Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay, of Bournemouth, is to be congratulated on calling from 3-4 her first peal of Triples as conductor at the first attempt. It was her 50th peal.

Some older hands also figure this week in the handbell peal records. Mrs. Jack Bray reached her 200th peal, and at the same time Mr. Bray and Mr. George Feirn rang their 100th together.

Mr. John E. Spice, of the Oxford University Society, and Mr. Kenneth S. B. Croft, of the Cambridge University Guild, have just had a successful week handbell peal ringing in Cambridge and Lincolnshire, and they wish to thank all those who made it possible. The peal at Lincoln was rung on bells belonging to Sydney Harrison, of Leicester, who left them in the care of Mr. J. A. Freeman when he went abroad with the forces. Mr. Freeman stood out of the peal to allow Mr. Walden to take part.

Many visitors to London have been impressed by the magnificent view that can now be had of St. Paul's Cathedral made possible by the pulling down of houses destroyed in air raids, and it is hoped that the Cathedral will never be built in again. The Corporation of the City of London has a secret plan for rebuilding the 'square mile.' Details will not be revealed until legislation has been passed.

On August 3rd, 1735, the splendid ring of twelve bells, cast by Samuel Knight for St. Saviour's, Southwark, was opened by the College Youths. The three back bells have since been recast at Whitechapel. The old tenor was always reputed to be 52 cwt. in weight; actually she was under 50.

The twelve bells at the Waterloo tower in Quex Park, near Margate, were opened on August 4th, 1819, and the following day, by bands belonging to the Societies of Cumberland and College Youths. The latter did not attempt a peal, but the others rang 5,213 Grandsire Cinques in 3 hours and 19 minutes, conducted by George Gross the younger. William Shipway rang the third, and Joseph Riley, a well-known ringer from the Midlands, rang the tenth. The bells are rather a queer lot, but Quex Park was a delightful place for a summer week-end and used to be very popular with visiting bands. The late Major Powell Cotton kept them in order, but of late they have become difficult to ring to a peal.

An outstanding performance was the record peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, 15,312 changes, rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929. The band, a mixed one, contained many of the foremost ringers of England. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, and the composition by Law James is the logical completion of Middleton's peal of Major. It had already been rung to Royal at Walthamstow in 1923.

On August 6th, 1821, Benjamin Thackrah conducted 5,600 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major at Huddersfield. The composition is lost, but can hardly have been true.

The Lancashire Association rang the first peal of Lancashire Surprise Major at Oswaldtwistle on August 7th, 1922.

Fifty years ago to-morrow four peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-morrow Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner rang his first peal of Spliced Surprise Major.

COMMEMORATION.

The following appeared in the North Dorset Church Magazine for July, under the heading of Kington Magna:—

Ringers throughout the Empire have suffered a heavy loss in the recent death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, founder and editor of 'The Ringing World.' On the day of his funeral the flag flew at half-mast over the Rectory porch, and two Kington and two London boys on the lawn played a funeral chime on handbells and recited with the Rector the ancient prayer 'Requiescat in pace.'

OXFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one of the band who rang in a peal of 'Oxford' Surprise Major at Heene, Worthing, on June 5th, 1901, I was surprised to see your statement that the method is not symmetrical. You are quite mistaken, as you will see by the enclosed lead and diagram of the method.

The lead heads of hunting courses compare with 'Glasgow' and 'Crofton' Surprise as follow:—

	Tenors	Tenors	Tenors
	Together.	Reversed.	Parted.
'Oxford' ...	14	54	138
'Glasgow' ...	14	52	100
'Crofton' ...	14	38	42

What is there in arbitrary definitions when it can be proved that irregular methods have better coursing order than regular methods? 2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton. GEORGE BAKER.

[Mr. Baker is correct in saying that Washbrook's Oxford Surprise is not unsymmetrical. It has irregular lead ends.—Editor 'The Ringing World.']

ST. NICHOLAS, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A LOST TWELVE-BELL RING.

It has often been argued which is the largest parish church in England. There have been more than one claimant for the honour, and the two most favoured were St. Michael's, Coventry, and St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth, both of which have been destroyed by enemy action.

St. Nicholas' had twelve bells and they were the fourth ring of that number we have lost during the present war, the others being St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. Mary-le-Bow, all in the City of London.

Yarmouth had six bells in 1670, with a tenor about 25 cwt., and two trebles were added in 1726. Two years later the local band rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.

In 1807 Thomas Mears and Son, of Whitechapel, supplied a new ring of ten bells with a tenor of 30 cwt. at a cost of £1,161 3s. 4d., of which £558 2s. 8d. was provided for by the sale of the old metal.

On March 8th, 1809, a peal of Bob Royal was rung, and during the century a few more, including Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and one of Stedman Caters composed by Henry Hubbard and conducted by James Truman, of Norwich.

About fifty years ago the ring was increased to twelve, and on August 7th, 1899, the first peal on them, one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, was rung. It was composed and conducted by James Motts, and the band included Henry R. Newton and J. W. Rowbotham, of London, Frederick Day, the bellhanger, William Motts, Robert Hawes and W. L. Catchpole, of Ipswich, F. R. Borrett, of Pulham, and George and Frederick Howchin, C. E. Borrett, A. G. Warnes and George Smith, of Norwich. Since then several other peals have been rung in the steeple, mainly by visiting bands.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT COVENTRY.

The ninety-sixth quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held on Saturday, July 18th, at the British Legion Club Room, Coventry. Welcome visitors were Messrs. Chaplin, Morris and Fearn, of Birmingham, and H. Bird, of Broughton Astley, representing the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association. Members were present from Allesley, Nuneaton, Keresley, Rugby and Stoke-in-Coventry.

Mr. E. Stone acted as hon. secretary, Mrs. Beamish being away on holiday. Apologies were received from the Master, Mr. J. H. W. White, Mr. F. Pervin and Mr. and Mrs. Beamish. In the absence of the Master Mr. H. Argyle acted as chairman.

Mr. W. Stote proposed and Mr. H. Webb seconded that the amount sent to the Goldsmith Fund from the Guild be left in the hands of the Standing Committee of the Central Council to do with as they thought fit. The meeting expressed full confidence in Messrs. Lewis, Hughes and Fletcher in their efforts to continue the publication of 'The Ringing World,' even if a rise in price was deemed necessary.

The members were very pleased to hear that the Rev. F. W. Moyle, Vicar of Chilvers Coton, had accepted the presidency of the Guild, and that the Rev. M. Knight, Vicar of Nuneaton, had become a vice-president.

Meeting places were decided upon for the next three months, Bulkington for August, Wolvey for September and Rugby for October.

Miss M. Crossley (fiancee of Mr. W. Stote, whose wedding was arranged for Saturday, July 25th) was elected an honorary member, and the name of Pte. A. J. Adams, R.A.O.C., who was elected a member prior to a peal at Birmingham, was ratified.

Mr. W. Stote raised the question of silent ringing so that ringers could keep in practice if only at the monthly meetings. The hon. secretary said he would see what could be done, and asked members to keep together as much as possible and to support 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. H. Webb proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the British Legion for putting their room at the disposal of the members, and to the ladies for preparing cups of tea.

During the afternoon and evening up to 7.30 handbells were rung in Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Treble Bob. After 7.30 the British Legion held their weekly concert, and members of the Warwickshire Guild added their contribution. Courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters and tunes on the handbells were rung to the evident enjoyment of all. Those taking part were Messrs. H. Webb, W. Stote, E. Stone, P. Stone and F. Stone. Thus a very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close.

PROGRESS AT ACCRINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to report the continuation of progress at Accrington. Besides the practices held by the local ringers (in collaboration with neighbouring towers), the Grammar School Society is also making progress. On July 26th a 720 of Bob Minor was rung at 27, Pendle Street, by Stuart Smith 1-2, R. Leigh (conductor) 3-4, C. W. Blakey 5-6. This was Smith's first 720 and is the first in which a pupil of the Grammar School has taken part. Two or three other boys are approaching this standard and others are making good progress. R. LEIGH.

Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 352.)

The first important improvement made in the old mechanism was by Messrs. Lund and Blockley, of Pall Mall. The general principles were good, but certain parts were too weak to bear the strain of the heavy driving weight used. Further improvements were made by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon (now Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), who installed their first machine of this kind at Boston Parish Church in 1868. Its particular advantage was in the division of the mechanical operations. A separate movement raised the hammer levers into the action position immediately after they had fallen. When raised, they were prevented from falling by a spring trigger which could be released by the slightest pressure. The only work the barrel had to do was to release the triggers, so that demand on it was reduced to a minimum, but the actual power was the same and derived from one source, the driving weight.

Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of Derby, have machines also differing from the above, and in recent years further improvements have been made.

An advantage, too, in these models is that the barrel can be taken out and reset or changed, each barrel holding several tunes which change automatically by endway motion. Chimes on the Gillett and Bland principle were installed at Worcester Cathedral, Boston, Croyland and many other churches; at Bradford, Rochdale, Hove and other town halls, and at Eaton Hall. Messrs. J. Smith and Sons erected such machines at Cheltenham, Leominster, Ledbury, Warwick St. Mary, High Wycombe, Beverley Minster, Selby Abbey and other places too numerous to mention here. No chiming machinery can bring out the full tone of bells, especially large bells, but with the above-mentioned improvements, performances are naturally more accurate and satisfactory.

In selecting tunes for chimes, many repeated notes, long succession of quick notes, or very long notes, should be avoided. No tune should be attempted on a smaller number of bells than it demands for its correct rendering. The mutilation of well-known melodies is to be greatly deprecated, and it is difficult to understand how people will listen a whole lifetime to these distortions without complaint. The National Anthem and Rule Britannia have been burlesqued more than any other well-known tunes on account of requiring a semi-tone which is lacking in a ring of eight bells tuned in the diatonic scale.

Chime mechanism as used on the Continent is exactly the same in principle as that already explained, except that it is constructed on a much larger scale, having much more to do in playing longer pieces of music on greater numbers of bells. The largest chime barrel in the world is that of Bruges, the reputed weight of which is over eight tons. It is made of gunmetal, and is pierced with 30,500 holes, into which studs or catches are fixed. As the barrel is a permanent part of the machinery, the music cannot be altered except by re-arrangement of the studs, which takes some three or four days to do. For this season the same tune is often heard for a period of a whole year or more. At Malines and Bruges, according to the music set on the barrel, anything from 60,000 to 80,000 notes are played every 24 hours. The drawing weight is over $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. In England, the uniform plan of playing quarter chimes is to

increase their length as the hour proceeds, i.e., the Cambridge quarters—4, 8, 12 and 16 notes. This is not followed to any great extent on the Continent, however. At Bruges and Malines, for instance, the hour is divided into eight parts, the quarters being divided into half-quarters. The latter consists of a short, quick flourish of two bars in length! The quarters before and after the hour are comparatively short and of equal length, about four times as long as the half-quarters. The half-hour is four times as long as the previous quarter, the hour twice as long as the half-hour. The hour to come is struck after the half-hour on a smaller bell than is used for the hour strike. The chime barrel of Malines was completed in 1734, is 5ft. 3in. in diameter, and contains 16,200 holes into which studs are fixed. There are 90 chime-hammers connected with the bells, which are operated by this chime-barrel. In this—as in other chime and carillon machines—in order to secure the quick repetition of a single note, some bells are equipped with as many as five or six hammers.

Automatic playing arrangements for carillons are exactly as those already given for chimes, the giant musical box being called the 'carillon à cylindre,' or 'carillon à tambour.' Among the earliest to be erected were those at Lille in Artois, Dunkirk and Tournai in West Flanders, Alost in East Flanders, and Zierikzee in Zeeland. By 1500 A.D. large chiming sets were found in churches, abbeys, and hôtels de ville throughout what is now Northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and North-West Germany, and—on a much smaller scale—England.

In Abbot Parker's Register at Gloucester Cathedral there is a copy of an agreement made in 1527 between the Abbot and Thomas Loveday, a bellfounder, in which the latter 'hath covenanted and bargained with the Abbot to repayre a chyme going vpon eight bells, and upon two ympnes, that is to say Christe Redempter Omnium and Chorus Novae Hierusalem well tuynable and wokemanly.'

Chimes are mentioned in Corporation accounts of Boston as early as 1614. There were five bells in the famous 'Stump' at this date, and a sixth was added in 1709 in which year a faculty was obtained to recast 'the immense old bell hanging in the tower, which is of little use and imperfectly sound and publishing the holy hours imperfectly, and the metal of the said bell to make three smaller ones. Two of these to be added to the six now in the tower, and the third to be for the clock to strike upon, and to tell the hour to the people loudly and clearly, and to place the same on the lantern or highest part of the tower.' Upon this bell becoming cracked it was recast by Thomas Eayre, of Kettering, and inscribed:—

'We have no note of time but from its loss.'

There were also two bells for 'quarter Jacks' of very rough make, cast locally in 1777. These were struck by two figures—a man and a woman—and it is to be regretted that these were sold in 1853. I hope to refer to other such 'quarter Jacks' in a later article.

(To be continued.)

SINGLES IN ROYAL AND MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. M. Melville asks me if there is any reason why more than two singles is undesirable. The answer, I think, is that it depends on how they are used. If more than two are needed to get a particular result, and that result is worth getting, then the use of the singles is fully justified.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

COMPOSITION WITH FULL COURSES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed is a peal of Spliced Surprise Major, composed only of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, with a full course of each method. The drawback is that it contains 29 leads with the tenors parted. This peal is the result of endeavours to solve the problem with the tenors kept together.

From a study of the falseness between these methods, one is forced to the conclusion that it is impossible without a majority of three-lead courses, and these mainly L x L. While this cannot be positively asserted, I worked on the assumption that it is so.

The first object aimed at was a full course each of Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, which together would leave a sufficient number of the necessary leads of London capable of being united to give a full peal. Experiments failed to achieve this result, the greatest number obtained being 4,256 changes with two full courses, and 4,192 with three full courses of London. Certainly there were sufficient true leads for a full peal, but they cannot be united into one block.

While being unable to set out a proof, the writer ventures the opinion that the results mentioned approximate to the greatest number obtainable. Being short of 5,000, they mean little for ringing purposes, and to put them on record I decided to attempt to complete the peal by moving the seventh. While falseness is extensive when this is done, it admits of some variation. Two leads of Bristol may be added between two successive plain leads by three bobs, but such true leads are limited. As a matter of fact, except for Cambridge and Superlative with the seventh in third's place, mostly only odd leads are available.

If a portion of the peal has the seventh moved, it is likely that conductors will prefer it in one block, and at the beginning of the peal. In the present case it is arranged in this way, and it is difficult to make any improvement by transposing it elsewhere.

Presenting the peal, I have adopted the plan recommended in your issue of August 22nd, 1941, except that where more than one successive lead of a method occurs, the number of them is indicated by the figure preceding the letter. Also, the three-lead courses with London as the first and last lead are shown by the middle lead only. Thus C equals LCL, and S equals LSL. There are two exceptions, where the three-lead course consists of the first lead of Superlative and the 6th and 7th leads of London. These are shown as SLL.

Certain of the middle leads of three-lead courses may be either Cambridge or Superlative. They are, however, divided to equalise the two methods, and to simplify the peal as far as possible.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT BALCOMBE.

The meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild at Balcombe on July 25th was yet another proof that meetings in war time are not only keeping ringing alive, but can be very enjoyable social gatherings.

Mr. A. Laker, of the local band, made all the arrangements, and six silent tower bells and handbells were made good use of. Among the enthusiasts was Miss Stella Wickens, aged 11, who was quite at home on the two trebles in Grandsire Triples. Ten minutes' walk gave an appetite for a real pre-war tea at pre-war price.

Twenty-five were present at the short business meeting which followed, and six new members were elected, Mr. Tyler, of Henfield, Miss Wickens, Mr. and Mrs. Hairs and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnett.

Mr. A. J. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Laker for the excellent arrangements, which was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Laker briefly responded. The next meeting was announced for East Grinstead in September.

More handbell ringing followed, including a well-struck course of Grandsire Caters and some good touches. Some of the members returned to the tower for more silent practice, and everyone agreed it had been a very successful meeting.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Two old and valued friends of mine recently made some remarks about a National Association. One has over 60 years' experience and the other nearly 50, and, like myself, they cannot see any advantage in turning the Exercise upside down.

We do not want to commercialise the Exercise; above all things, let us keep it free from that. We can get every wrong righted through our present Central Council and county associations and diocesan guilds, and if the present members of these do not all come up to expectation (I don't say they all do), for there are exceptions to the rule, it is not the man who talks the most that thinks the most. Thousands of young ringers are away on active service and cannot either take part in the discussion or vote on the subject. Therefore I submit, Mr. Editor, that the question of a National Association at the present time is an absolute farce. Let us not forget that the young generation will be the ones to which the Exercise must look largely for the re-establishment of the art after victory has been won.

W. KEFBLE.

Colchester.

MR. PARKER'S PEAL.

5,088 changes of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, with a full course of each method. The seventh is moved in 29 leads.

234567

574326	M	In	W	W	5L.B.3S
675243	5th's	B			3C.S
273564	5th's	B	5th's	B	2C.LC.2S
672534	M	M			S.2C.B.2C.2S
546327	5th's	B	5th's	5th's	W 3H

	M	W	H	
64235	—	—	—	7L
53246	—	—	—	S
42635	—	—	—	S
34625	—	—	—	C
52643	—	—	—	S
45623	—	—	—	S
26543	—	2	2	LCBLB
34562	—	—	—	S
25463	—	—	—	L.7B
62453	—	—	—	S
56423	—	—	—	S
42563	—	—	—	S
64523	—	—	—	S
54326	—	—	—	S
62345	—	—	—	S
36245	—	—	—	S
23645	—	—	—	O
63542	—	—	—	O
25346	—	—	—	C
32546	—	—	—	S
43526	—	—	—	7S
53624	—	—	—	S.LL
63425	—	—	—	S
24536	—	—	—	O
35642	—	—	—	O
46253	—	—	—	O
52364	—	—	—	O
43265	—	—	—	O
56234	—	—	—	O
25634	—	—	—	7O
43652	—	—	—	O
63254	—	—	—	O
42356	—	—	—	O
34256	—	—	—	S.LL
23456	—	—	—	S

Contains 2,528 changes of London, 448 of Bristol, and 1,056 each of Cambridge and Superlative. The peal may be reduced to 5,024 by omitting the 3 bobs at H and the two leads of Bristol at the end of the fifth course.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS.

As a correspondent pointed out last week, the Westminster Quarters were copied from Great St. Mary's, Cambridge by E. B. Denison (later Sir Edmund Beckett and Lord Grimthorpe), who designed the clock and bells, and it was largely through his influence that they have become so widely used. Here is what he had himself to say about the matter. He was an extraordinarily clever man with strong, and even arrogant, opinions on many things which often ran contrary to those of other authorities, and on matters of art and music his taste was not too good.

'For some time after I thought of introducing them at Westminster, it was assumed that the hour bell must be an octave below the third quarter and that they were, therefore, impossible with a peal of only eight bells if the quarters were to be struck at the hour. . . . For this (and other) reasons I adopted the plan of omitting the quarters at the hour; but I should not do so again with these quarters because the hour chime is the best of them all, though ding dong or any other mere repetition quarters are neither useful nor pleasing at the hour. The quarter bells are, therefore, 2, 3, 4, 7, of a peal of eight at Doncaster and Scarborough Parish Churches and the Cathedral at Fredericton.

'After a time I came to the conclusion, and other people have gradually adopted it, that it is not at all necessary to have the third quarter bell an octave above the hour bell, and the ear is quite satisfied if the fourth bell is two notes, or even one, above the hour, because the interval between the quarters and the hour ought to be from six to ten seconds with large bells. Accordingly in the great peal at Worcester, the Rev. R. Cattley, the author of it, and I, as the designer of the clock and bells, agreed to take advantage of the tenor of the peal for the fourth quarter bell, though it is only 1½ notes above the great single hour bell of 4½ tons; and thereby we got far more powerful quarters than if we had kept them a note higher.

'At Chester Cathedral, and at St. Chad's, Headingley, near Leeds, and some other places, the 4th quarter bell is only one note below the tenor, as at Doncaster, though they are the full Cambridge quarters; and this is the plan which I always recommend when there are eight bells, or even six with an extra one added above for the first quarter.'

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.

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

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge on Saturday, August 8th. Tower open from 2 p.m. with six silent bells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by business meeting. London Transport buses run every half-hour from Tonbridge via Sevenoaks, and from Croydon via Westerham, No. 403. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid to members who have paid their subscriptions.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Moorside, on Saturday, August 8th. Tower bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided for those who bring own food. Please make a special effort to attend. All are welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Barnsley and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society, and the Sheffield and District Society will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th. Handbells available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting after tea, followed by handbells and friendly discussions. All are welcome, and a good attendance is desired, this being our last summer gathering. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Silenced bells (6) will be available at Thurlaston at 4.30 on Saturday, August 15th. Handbells afterwards. No tea. All ringers welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A practice meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, August 15th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Leverstock Green on Saturday, August 15th. Tea and meeting in the School, Pancake Lane. Handbells, etc., from 4 p.m. Please let me know by Wednesday morning, 12th, if you require tea. Buses leave St. Albans (St. Peter Street), 314 route, every 1 and 31 minutes past the hour, and Hemel Hempstead (314 route) every 7 and 37 minutes past the hour.—W. Ayre, Old School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Cheddleton on Saturday, August 15th, at 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, near Leek, Staffs, not later than August 11th? All ringers welcome.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, August 15th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, at Swan Hotel. Please notify for tea not later than Wednesday, August 12th.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, August 15th. Tower open 3.30 p.m. Bring your own tea.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the Schoolroom at Bulkington on Saturday, August 15th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m. Further details later.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part VI, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

MARRIAGE.

TAYLOR—WINTLE.—On Saturday, July 11th, at Watford Parish Church, Charles William Taylor, of Watford, to Florence Wintle, of Bristol.

READING.—On July 21st at 18, Manchester Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes: Miss J. V. Stacey (first quarter-peal) 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. N. Lanaghan 7-8.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, July 25th, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major in 39 minutes: Harry Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Vera Look 3-4, Dorothy Fletcher 5-6, Kathleen Fletcher 7-8. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to the Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Wigg.

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