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*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.*

**A POINT TO REMEMBER.**

What will happen when at last victory comes nobody can say. The reaction from the strain of these years of war will certainly be great, and the effect on men's opinions and outlook cannot be foreseen. Everything will be altered in some way or another, and though the Exercise may perhaps expect to come through the crisis as little changed as anything, we may have to face new conditions and new difficulties, and we ought to be prepared as far as possible to meet them.

Many of these difficulties will concern the internal affairs of the Exercise, the shortage of ringers, the need for recruits, and the like. Others will arise from the attitude of the general public towards bellringing. Of one thing we can be reasonably sure. Directly the war stops there will be a great and a general call for the bells to ring again. Not only churchpeople who associate the music of the steeple with the services in the parish church, but also those who ordinarily scarcely give a thought to the sound of the bells will expect and listen for them. For a while, at any rate, ringers and their art will be in great demand, and there will be little criticism of the quality of the ringing.

But that phase will pass and pass quickly, and it may easily turn out that the reaction will do us no little harm. That is one of the things we must be ready for. We must thoroughly realise that it is of vital importance for the bells to be used so as to cause the greatest amount of pleasure to the outside public and the least amount of annoyance.

Of course that sounds like a truism and is an opinion to which all ringers would naturally assent, but it will be by no means easy to put into practice. There will be, we hope and are sure, many places where new bands will be formed and where devoted and enthusiastic leaders will be doing everything they can to have the bells rung regularly for morning and evening services and on practice nights. They will look forward to the time when the band in their belfry is a competent and skilled one, and they will devote all their energies to that end. We need such leaders, and we do not doubt that in most cases they will have their reward.

But they will have to pass through a dangerous time, and the risk is that before a respectable band is trained the general public, especially those who live close to the church, will be annoyed and alienated by the bad ringing which will result from the training of the new recruits. Most people like to hear bells rung well, but few people are not irritated by bad ringing, and it will

(Continued on page 478.)

not be easy to persuade them that they must put up with it for a time for the sake of the future.

What, then, is the best to be done to meet the difficulty? Several things suggest themselves which all who are responsible for the ringing at any church should consider. There is the question of sound control which is one that ought to be tackled far more than it has been up to now. There is the question of selecting the right sort of recruit. And there is one to which we would now call special attention, the great advisability of limiting what is aimed at to the capacity of the available ringers.

In an eight-bell tower it is quite natural that the instructor should aim at getting as quickly as possible a band who can ring Triples or Major. Anything less would hardly occur to him. Yet a good eight-bell band usually takes years to form, and even a moderately competent band can only be produced by a very slow process.

When a new band has to be formed in an eight-bell tower it is far better not to use the trebles at all, even when there is no lack of would-be learners. Not even for round ringing, certainly not for changes. A beginner will learn to ring rounds, call-changes, and method ringing much more quickly on six bells than on eight, even when the rest of the band are already trained; and when the majority are beginners the difficulty with eight is far greater than with six.

Bad ringing on eight bells sounds worse than bad ringing on six, and, of course, moderately good ringing on six sounds vastly better than bad ringing on eight. Six-bell ringing has much to recommend it, and we certainly consider that the fine points of striking and bell control can be better learnt on a small number of bells than on a large number.

It is difficult for an instructor in an eight-bell tower, who has many beginners all eager to try their hands, not to use all the available bells at once. He would do well if he took the ropes off the two trebles until he has a fairly competent six-bell band.

What we have said about an eight-bell tower applies with more than doubled force to a ten-bell tower.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5-6

HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 3-4 | \*FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

\* First peal on handbells.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*MISS JILL POOLE ... 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6

HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS ... 9-10

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

\* First peal of Caters.

## FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 469.)

In 1668 Fabian Stedman published the 'Tintinnalogia.' For many years it had been assumed in the Exercise that there was no question that he was the author of the book, and it came as something of a shock to those who, like myself, had based their opinions of Stedman very largely on the 'Tintinnalogia,' to find that actually it was written by another man. Yet there can be no doubt that such was the case.

On the title page the book is said to have been written by a Lover of that Art, and to have been printed by W. G. for Fabian Stedman at his shop in St. Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street. That does not mean that Stedman was the author. The man for whom a book was printed was the person responsible under the licensing laws, the owner of the copyright, and the nearest equivalent to the modern publisher. He might be the author, but usually was another man. The 1677 'Campanalogia,' which we know was written by Stedman, was printed for W. S. The 1702 'Campanalogia,' which was written by Doleman and another, was printed for George Sawbridge.

The second edition of Anthony Wood's 'Athena Oxonienses,' which was published in 1721 after the author's death, contained a number of additional lives, taken from the original manuscripts, of men who were still alive when the first edition appeared. Among them, and included with the lives of writers belonging to St. Alban's Hall, is a short account of Richard Duckworth, and the reason for his inclusion is that 'he hath written Tintinnalogia or the Art of Ringing, 1671, oct. Instruction for hanging of Bells with all Things belonging thereto.'

Wood is the recognised authority on the Oxford men of his day, he was a contemporary of Duckworth, as a young man he had been a ringer, and all through his life he was keenly interested in bells and ringing. His testimony, therefore, even if uncorroborated, is conclusive. In the next generation Thomas Hearne, who, though so far as we know he did not practise the art himself, was passionately fond of bell ringing and missed no opportunity of finding out matters connected with it, repeated the statement, and added that Duckworth was a great ringer and had very great skill in it. Hearne records in his diary that he talked with a Mr. Whiteside, who, as a young student of Brasenose College, used to be visited by Duckworth.

Richard Duckworth was born some time about 1630, in Lancashire, according to Whiteside, in Leicestershire according to Wood. He was an undergraduate at New Hall Inn in 1647, and was one of those who made their submission to the visitors appointed by the Long Parliament among the changes which followed the execution of Charles the First, and by them was made a Fellow of Brasenose College. According to 'Alumini Oxonienses' he matriculated at University College in 1648, but men in those days frequently changed their colleges. He graduated B.A. in 1651, and proceeded M.A. in 1653. He took Orders, and was Rector of Hartest-with-Boxted, Suffolk, in 1660; of Tolland in Somerset in 1671; and of Steeple Aston in 1670. In 1671 he gave £10 to the new chapel which was being built at Brasenose College. He was then a Bachelor of Divinity, and apparently still re-

tained his fellowship, for Wood, in his diary, records that on October 22nd in that year 'a child was left in B.C. quadrangle, the child cried. Mr. Richard Duckworth heard it and went to the buttery to fetch a candle to see for it. In the meanwhile a Bach. Art. carried it away under his gown.'

As a fellow Duckworth would be an unmarried man. Hearne says that when he was Rector of Steeple Aston 'he made the place much better than it had been by recovering and settling many tithes that were refused, in order to which, he went to law with the Parishioners and over threw them, after which he left the place and became Vice Principal of Alban's Hall, under old Dr. Boucher, but what he did there I know not. This is certain, that he had been a schoolmaster also at Steeple Aston and was severe to his scholars, some of whom were boys of good birth.'

Duckworth seems to have been a man of tolerant disposition, who took little interest in the fierce religious disputes of the time. He had no difficulty in submitting to the Presbyterian system under the Parliament; when the Restoration came he took episcopalian orders and a rectory; and when James the Second, in his endeavour to further the cause of Roman Catholicism, ordered the clergy to read in church a Declaration of Indulgence, he was one of the only half-dozen in Oxfordshire who consented to do so.

When in 1670 the Prince of Orange (afterwards William the Third) visited Oxford, he paid a round of visits to the colleges and at Brasenose Duckworth, as Vice Principal 'speecht it.'

Richard Duckworth, no doubt, learnt his ringing as an undergraduate and practised it during the time he was up at Oxford. He was little more than thirty years old and in the prime of life when he went to Hartest as rector. There were four bells in the tower, and one of his first cares was to have them recast and increased to five. In 1661 John Darbie, of Ipswich, put up the ring which is still there. The tenor weighs about 11 cwt., and the bells are curiously tuned, being like a peal of six with the fifth left out. Whether this was intentional and in accordance with some idea of Duckworth's; or whether it was intended to have six and one was not supplied or has since disappeared does not seem to be known. The only inscription on the bells is the name of the founder with those of the churchwardens on the tenor only. We might have expected that of the rector, but he was not a man to advertise himself either on his bells or on the title page of his book.

Hartest is in West Suffolk, about six miles north-west of Long Melford, and so no great distance from Cambridge. An active and intellectual man like Duckworth would be sure to make frequent visits to that town, and there he would come in contact with some of the leading ringers of the day. In 1662 Samuel Scattergood and Isaac Newton were admitted to Trinity College. Scattergood certainly found his way to the belfry, and if Newton ever practised the art, as a tradition asserted, this was the time. Shortly afterwards Fabian Stedman returned from London bringing with him all the improvements the College Youths had introduced into ringing, and himself ready to help on further improvements.

It is not surprising that among such a company the idea should have arisen of writing a book on ringing, and it was a happy chance that brought Duckworth and

Stedman together, for the co-operation of those two resulted in a book which in many respects is the best that has ever been written on the art.

Stedman's part is evident. He supplied information about the peals which were being rung in London, the compositions of Roan and Tending, the Esquire Youths' method, and the allusions here and there to what the College Youths were doing.

But, if much of the matter was Stedman's, the manner was wholly Duckworth's; and it is there that the supreme excellence of the book lies. The author attempted and achieved what no subsequent writer has succeeded in doing. He wrote of ringing and explained it as an abstract science and art which takes place in the belfry and in the minds of the ringers. Other writers always explain ringing through the medium of figures, and it is left to the reader to supply the connection between the figures and what happens in the belfry. So much so that only by a mental effort can we realise that figures have nothing to do with the essential part of ringing, and are only more or less imperfect conventional signs by which the abstract is expressed in concrete form. A man who knew nothing about ringing and who studied the writings on the subject would imagine that it is the science of the permutation of figures; he would scarcely realise that the one essential thing, the only thing which concerns the majority of ringers, is the connected path by which one bell moves among the others.

Duckworth's handling of his subject is masterly. He knows thoroughly what he is going to write about, and he knows how to write about it. His style is direct, simple, and clear, he always uses the right word, and every word tells. There is no florid writing, no straining after literary effect. The book is the work of a clean cut, logical brain, and is a supreme example of the truth that clear writing can only result from clear thinking. How good the book is can perhaps only be realised by those who have themselves tried to write on the same or a similar subject, or when it is compared with other books of like nature. The first book on ringing, so far as style goes, it has never been surpassed, and it is difficult even now to point to one that can be said to equal it.

Duckworth set out to give 'a full discovery of the Mystery and Grounds of each Peal,' and he really did succeed in doing so. He attempted to give a complete verbal description of how the methods practised in his time should be rung. He treats a method as an abstract mathematical entity. For example, Grandsire Bob Minor is not just a particular 720 which may or may not have variations; there is only one peal of Grandsire Bob, but it may be rung in many hundred ways, according as you choose different bells to be the whole-hunt, half-hunt, quarter-hunt, and extreme bells. The description covers all these ways alike, and it is only when he has finished it that he comes to the concrete and gives figures to illustrate a particular 720. It is the method of Euclid and is used with a skill not unworthy of Euclid.

(To be continued.)

LEICESTER.—On Sunday morning, October 18th, for morning service at the Prebendal Church of St. Margaret's, on handbells, three courses of Stedman Cinques: Miss Jill Poole 1-2, H. J. Poole 3-4, G. S. Morris 5-6, E. Morris 7-8, F. E. Wilson 9-10, J. Morris 11-12. This was a special service for the nursing profession and was attended by the Lord and Lady Mayoress and a large representative gathering of nurses from all the various local hospitals, nursing homes, infirmary, etc. The preacher was the Lord Bishop of Leicester.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Friends of Frederick A. Salter, of Nottingham, will be pleased to know he is now home from hospital and on the way to complete recovery after undergoing a serious operation.

Mr. George Baker reached his 75th birthday on October 14th, and two days later was the 56th anniversary of his first peal, rung at Fareham and conducted by Mr. George Williams.

The handbell peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on October 12th, was specially arranged and rung to mark the engagement of Miss Margaret L. Morris, daughter of Mr. Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S., vergier and vestry clerk of St. Margaret's and hon. secretary of the Midland Counties Association, to Pte. Robert Davison, R.A.O.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Davison, of West Hartlepool. Both Miss Morris and Pte. Davison are ringers and well known in their respective towns.

Miss Jill Poole, who rang 1-2, is not yet 14 years old. She is the youngest ringer who has taken part in double-handed peals of Stedman Triples and Caters.

Thomas Tolladay, a prominent member of the London Exercise, and especially of the St. James' Society during the first half of the nineteenth century, died on October 18th, 1843.

The first peal of Windsor Surprise Major was rung by the Oxford Diocesan Association at Old Windsor on October 18th, 1833, and on the same date in the next year, the first peal of Silchester Surprise Major was rung by the Suffolk Guild at Helmingham.

The same band on the same bells rang the first peal of Cornwall Surprise Major on October 19th, 1836.

By ringing 6,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on October 19th, 1766, the College Youths started the famous long peal duel between them and the Cumberlands. It reached its climax in 1802, when by ringing 7,104 changes of Maximus at Southwark the latter society secured the double record for ten and twelve bells.

John Holt called 5,104 Grandshire Cinques with a Band of Union Scholars at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on October 20th, 1751.

On October 20th, 1794, on the light bells of the old Church of St. Giles, Camberwell, George Gross called John Reeves' five-part peal of Treble Bob Major, containing 6,720 changes and the 120 course-ends. Shipway, who took part in the performance, says this was the first time the composition was rung, but the probability is that the College Youths had already rung it on March 4th, 1791, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington.

The only peal of Stedman Royal was rung on October 21st, 1876, by the Birmingham men at Aston Parish Church. It was composed and conducted by Henry Johnson.

The eight Bailey Brothers of Leiston rang a peal of Bob Major together on October 21st, 1911.

Charles Henry Hattersley died on October 21st, 1915.

The twelve bells at St. Mary's, Taunton, were opened on October 21st, 1922.

The first peal of Aldenham Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on October 21st, 1933, and on the same day a band whose average age was 76½ years rang Stedman Triples at St. Olave's, Hart Street. The oldest member of the company, Mr. Robert H. Brundle, is happily still alive.

Samuel Thomas, a prominent Sheffield ringer, was born on October 22nd, 1869.

On the same date in 1938 the first peal of Delrow Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham.

On October 22nd, 1752, William Dixon rang the treble at St. Giles', Norwich, and called Holt's Original. On October 23rd, 1791, James Bartlett rang the seventh at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields and called the same peal. For long he was supposed to be the first man to accomplish the feat. On the anniversary in 1884 the peal was rung non-conducted for the first time.

The first true peal of Waterloo Reverse Bob Major was rung on October 23rd, 1912, by the Kent County Association at St. John's, Waterloo Road, conducted by Mr. Frank Bennett. It is the only Major method (except Grandshire Major) with a bell-in-the-hunt which has been rung to a peal.

On October 24th, 1809, the Oldham men rang 15,120 changes of Bob Major; 15,360 changes had already in 1793 been rung at Aston.

The first peal of Little Albion Major was rung at Pulford, Cheshire, on October 24th, 1913.

On October 24th, 1934, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the Australian touring band, with Mr. Rupert Richardson as conductor, rang the first peal of Royal outside the British Isles.

The first peal of Stedman Triples ever accomplished was rung on the old eight bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on October 25th, 1751. On the same date in 1790, at St. Philip's, Birmingham, the St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London.

The first peal of Boveney Surprise Major was rung at Old Windsor on October 25th, 1934.

Fifty years ago last Wednesday, Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Major at St. Paul's, Brighton. The lofty tower is a familiar object to visitors to the town, but the bells have not been rung for many years. Besides the ringing peal there is a bourdon bell of about 2 tons weight.

## MARRIAGE OF MR. DANIEL COOPER.

On Saturday, October 10th, at Croydon Parish Church, the marriage took place between Mr. Daniel Cooper and Miss Doris Williams, both of Croydon.

The bride, who wore a dress of white velvet, was given away by her brother, and was attended by two bridesmaids. The best man was Mr. J. Cawley.

Among those present were Mr. A. Harman (Ringing Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. D. K. C. Burt (Ringing Master of the Surrey Association), Mr. C. H. Kippin (Beddington), Mr. C. Potheary (Mitcham), Mrs. W. Massey (Epsom) and several members of the local band, also Mr. A. W. Clarke and L.-Cpl. J. Rumble, Royal Suffolk Regt., late members of the Croydon band.

As the happy couple left the vestry a well-struck course of Grandshire Triples was rung on the handbells by Messrs. A. W. Clarke, R. Davies, C. H. Kippin and F. E. Collins.

Mr. Cooper, who is very popular among Surrey ringers, is leader of the band at Croydon Parish Church and Ringing Master of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association. The bride is also a member of the Parish Church band.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper were the recipients of many congratulations and presents, including choques from the Croydon Parish Church ringers and the Surrey Association.

## MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. JAMES HUNT.

The Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association has decided to acquire the handbells of the late Mr. J. Hunt as a deanery memorial to him.

When times permit, it is proposed that under proper safeguard the handbells shall be housed in the ringing chamber of St. James', Taunton, there to be available for use by the Deanery Branch for practice, or in any way likely to further change ringing.

The bells, fourteen in number, include the ten on which the record handbell peal of Stedman Caters was rung.

It is not intended to make a general appeal for subscriptions outside the Taunton Deanery Branch, but if any of the late Mr. Hunt's friends care to be associated with this memorial contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the acting secretary of the branch, Mr. W. H. Lloyd, 46, East Street, Taunton, Somerset.

## BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.

The October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne, and members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine and a good muster of the local company.

The Parish Room was kindly lent by the Vicar, and handbell ringing began at 3.15 p.m., followed by the business meeting, the Vicar (the Rev. F. B. Greenwood) presiding.

The best thanks were extended to the Vicar and to the local company for all the arrangements made.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to meet the ringers once more and to know that they were keeping in touch with each other and the society in being.

The party then adjourned to the Spencers Arms for a real Yorkshire tea, and full justice was done to it.

After tea the handbells came into action, and methods were rung ranging from Doubles to Royal until 8.30 p.m.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Eastwood on Saturday, November 14th.

## THE BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT TAUNTON.

The Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association held a quarterly meeting at St. James', Taunton, on Saturday, October 10th. A small attendance included Mr. T. H. Tafender, Ilminster, and Mr. T. Locke, Drayton, and some good practice was put in on both tower bells and handbells.

A business meeting was held in the tower, and in the absence of the president, Mr. A. W. Hayward was voted to the chair.

The chief item on the agenda was a report of a committee appointed to deal with a proposed memorial to the late Mr. James Hunt.

Later, reference was made to the late Mr. J. Maddocks, a former Ringing Master of St. James' and first secretary of the Taunton Branch, and to the late Mr. W. Hayward, for 40 years a member of the band of St. George's, Wilton. Both these men, in their respective spheres, played their parts worthily and well. The meeting stood for a few moments in silent tribute to their honoured memory.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. James' and to Mr. W. Gigg for having the bells ready concluded the business, and further ringing took place until 8 p.m.

DUBLIN.—On Monday, October 12th, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 53 minutes: \*H. W. Jones 1, W. H. Wilson 2, \*D. H. Jones 3, \*W. T. Farrell 4, R. Tait 5, J. A. Atkinson 6, T. McMorran 7, †A. B. O'Ferrall 8. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by T. McMorran. \* First quarter-peal in the method. † First attempt. Rung as a compliment to the newly-appointed conductor, Mr. T. McMorran.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.****THE SAFETY OF MANCROFT BELLS.**

A most successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Acle on October 3rd, when the six bells, most kindly silenced by the Rector, the Rev. J. E. H. Williams (who is himself a ringer), were rung in various methods from 2.30 to 4. The service was conducted by the Rector, assisted by the president and the general secretary. A splendid tea followed in the Parish Hall, provided by Mrs. Williams.

Members were present from Acle, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Loddon, Mulbarton, Norton, Norwich, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth, 24 in all. At the business meeting the usual letter from Nolan Golden (late general secretary) was read, also one from Charlie Banham, just called up. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Norwich on Saturday, December 12th. The general secretary was directed to write to the new Bishop of Norwich, Dr. P. M. Herbert, asking him to honour the association by becoming its patron in succession to the late Bishop. The Bishop has since very kindly consented to become patron.

A discussion took place about possible steps to be taken to protect Mancroft bells from war damage, and it was decided, on Mr. W. C. Duffield's proposition, that the president (the Rev. A. St. J. Heard) be asked to write to the Rural Dean of Norwich to see what could be done. The question whether to issue a report for 1942 was left undecided, as it was felt right, if steps are taken to protect Mancroft bells, to give the money saved by going without a report to the Mancroft bells fund. The general secretary suggested that, as Mancroft bells cannot be rung during the war, it might be a good idea to hold the annual service on Easter Monday in the Cathedral instead, if it is possible to arrange this. This was unanimously agreed to.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, for tying the clappers, and for preaching at the service, and to Mrs. Williams and her helpers for the splendid tea. Further ringing on tower and handbells brought a successful meeting to a close. Ringers will be very sorry to hear that the Rector of Acle was taken ill on October 5th; they will wish him a speedy recovery.

**SPORT OR CHURCH WORK?**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—It just depends on what you mean by sport and whether sport and recreation are synonymous.

If ringing is to be first a sport and if sport is to be interpreted in its meaning as given in the English dictionary, then I cannot reconcile that sport and church work can combine.

If the bells are used to promote sport, then, in my opinion, a flagrant misuse has been made of them according to the terms of their dedication.

E. W. MARSH.

Grandison, Moreton Avenue, Crowhill, Plymouth.

**RAISING AND CEASING.**

BY FABIAN STEDMAN.

The truest way of raising a peal of bells according to the best of modern practice, is as quick as may be; every ringer taking assistance to raise his bell, according as the going of it requires. In raising them, the lesser bells, as the Treble, &c, ought at the first pull to be swayed very deep, and held down in the sway by strength of armes as much as may be, to delay the time of their first striking, by which means the bigger bells, which carry a large compass, may have space to come in; and the raising of the smaller bells be continued with a strong pull, giving them scope over head (for the aforesaid reason) until they come up Frame-high, or thereabouts, and then the pull to be slacken'd and the bells leisurely to be raised to the intended height or pitch. The bigger bells of the peal, as the Tenor &c, must in their first raising be checkt or pinch'd over head, by which means the notes of all the bells may be made to strike round in due place and order from the beginning; and observe that at the first pull all the bells must follow one another as close as may be. A peal of bells may thus be ceased: the falling of the bells from a Sett-pull must gradually be done, by checking them only at Sally, until the low compass renders the Sally useless; and when they are ceased so low that they scarce strike at back-stroke for want of compass: then he that rings the treble may give notice (by stamping on the ground) that the next time the bells come to strike at the fore-stroke, they may be checkt down so low as to cease their striking at the back-stroke, yet their striking round at the fore-stroke may be continued, until they are brought into a chime, which is a grateful conclusion of a peal.

In raising of a peal of bells, all the notes ought to strike round at one pull: but mistake me not, I do not mean at the first pull; for at small bells 'tis usual to sway them all round at the first pull without striking; at the second pull to strike them at the fore-stroke, and at the third pull at back-stroke. In raising of a peal of more weighty bells, 'tis usual to strike them double at the fourth pull, because the extraordinary weight and large compass of the hind bells permits it not to be done sooner. In the first raising of a peal of bells, one bell ought not to strike before the rest, or to miss striking when the rest go round: neither ought any bell in ceasing to strike after the rest, or to leave striking before the rest all which, according to the strictness of true ringing, are accounted great faults.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**

At the beginning of another academic year the Oxford University Society finds itself in a relatively strong position, for although many members were called up during the summer months, others have returned to Oxford, and among them is a nucleus of six, all of whom have handbell peals to their credit.

Nevertheless, a vigorous recruiting campaign was again launched through the colleges and haunts of the university, and at the undergraduate service at St. Mary's Church handbells were rung as the congregation assembled.

On Tuesday, October 13th, a general meeting was held in New College. The president was in the chair. There were present Dr. R. E. Havard, the Master, the secretary, a good number of old members and over a dozen recruits. The treasurer's report was adopted, and the Master gave an account of the Trinity Term and vacation activities of the society.

The president extended a very hearty welcome to the newcomers, and the Master extolled the praises of change ringing. He promised would-be ringers nothing but hard work in the early stages of learning the art, but he hoped that people would come along to the first few meetings to see if ringing appealed to them. If it did, well and good; if it did not (and it is not everybody who takes to ringing), no harm would be done.

A letter from Mr. D. H. Parham was read, and the society agreed to forward a copy of the 'Ringer's Handbook,' together with Jasper Snowden's 'Standard Methods,' diagrams and letter-press, to the Durban ringers.

Demonstration courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were rung on handbells, and then as the night was still young, the meeting adjourned to New College bell-tower, where everyone had a chance of handling a bell rope.

Subsequent practices have been well and enthusiastically attended, which augurs well for the future, especially as three of the new members have had previous experience of tower-bell ringing, and two of them are competent handbell ringers.

**JOHN BUNYAN.**

*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—It is common knowledge among members of the Exercise that John Bunyan, author of 'Pilgrim's Progress,' was for some time a bellringer, but I doubt if the following verses of his on ringing are so widely known. I came across them in a very commendable little volume, 'The English Parish Church,' by Powys, and I think they may be of interest to our readers.

K. ARTHUR.

14, Crawley Drive, Ruislip.

**UPON A RING OF BELLS.**

Bells have wide mouths and tongues, but are too weak,  
Have they not help, to sing, or talk, or speak.  
But if you move them they will mak't appear,  
By speaking they'll make all the Town to hear.  
When Ringers handle them with Art and Skill,  
They then the ears of their Observers fill,  
With such brave Notes, they ting and tang so well,  
As to out strip all with their ding, dong, Bell.

**COMPARISON.**

These Bells are like the Powers of my Soul;  
Their Clappers to the Passions of my mind;  
The Ropes by which my Bells are made to tole,  
Are Promises (I by experience find.)

My Body is the Staple where they hang,  
My graces they which do ring ev'ry Bell;  
Nor is there anything gives such atang,

When by these Ropes these Ringers ring them well.

Let not my Bells these Ringers want, nor Ropes;

Yea let them have room for to swing and sway:

To toss themselves, deny them not their Scopes.

Lord! in my Steeple give them room to play.

If they do tole, ring out, or chime all in,

They drown the tempting tinkling Voice of Vice:

Lord! when my Bells have gone, my Soul has bin

As 'twere a tumbling in this Paradise!

Or if these Ringers do the Changes ring,

Upon my Bells, they do such Musick make,

My Soul then (Lord) cannot but bounce and sing,

So greatly her they with their Musick take.

But Boys (my Lusts) into my Belfry go

And pull these Ropes, but do no Musick make

They rather turn my Bells by what they do,

Or by disorder make my Steeple shake.

Then, Lord, I pray thee keep my Belfry Key,

Let none by Graces meddle with these Ropes:

And when these naughty Boys come, say them Nay,

From such Ringers of Musick there's no hopes.

O Lord! If thy poor Child might have his will,

And might his meaning freely to thee tell;

He never of this Musick has his fill,

There's nothing to him like thy ding, dong, Bell.

## RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 473.)

At Stowmarket, Suffolk, the Ringers' Pitcher is preserved in the belfry. It has two handles and two lips and is enclosed in wicker work. It holds  $4\frac{1}{2}$  gallons, is  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and has a girth of 45 inches. It is of stone pottery and at the back where the wickerwork is broken away is the date 1780, and letters 'R.P.'

In the Colchester and Essex Museum is a Ringers' Jug from Braintree, dated 1685. The inscription is given by Dr. Henry Laver in 'Relinquary,' vol. xi., p. 130, as follows:—

'Brayntre Church

Jonathan Harvey, Church Clark, Daniell frances, Will. Neuard, John Everett, Rich. Bennett, Will. Neuard, jun., Samuell Heridance, Sam. Bennett.

made at Stock 1685

R x Y.'

The initials R. Y. at bottom are supposed to be those of the potter. It is made of black glazed earthenware from the Stock potteries. It has two handles and is ornamented with imprints of flowers, and above inscription. Formerly the property of Mrs. Waylett, in whose family it was for more than a century, it was originally purchased by the Mayor of Braintree and given to the ringers, and always used on Christmas Eves.

[It would be interesting to know if the two 'Will. Neuards' shown on this ancient jug were ancestors of dear old William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, Essex, so recently passed away.]

At Hornchurch, Essex, is preserved two pitchers, and a note from 'Ye olde village of Hornchurch,' by Charles Thomas Perfect, says: 'These Pitchers were originally made for the use of the bellringers, and on certain occasions were filled with ale brewed at Hornchurch Hall for the refreshment of the ringers. In 'The Church Bells of Essex' (Rev. Cecil Deedes and H. B. Walters) it is mentioned that in the ringing chamber of Hornchurch belfry 'there was formerly a set of old ringing rules (now superseded by a more prosaic set) as follows:

'If you ring with Spur or Hat

Three pints of beer you pay for that:

If you Swear or give the Lye

A pot you pay immediately:

If a bell you overthrow

A pint you pay before you go.

T. S., 1798.'

In later years the pitchers were used for supplying refreshment to the tenants when they came to pay their tithes at the Hall. It is evident from the inscriptions on the pitchers that they were intended to belong to the church, but for some inexplicable reason they were in more recent times kept at the King's Head Inn. They were seized there by Messrs. Benjamin and Henry Holmes, during the time they owned the Hornchurch Brewery, in distraint for rent, and afterwards placed in the hall at 'Grey Towers.' After the death of Colonel and Mrs. Holmes an auction sale was held at the 'Towers,' and the family 'bought in' the pitchers and presented them to the Vicar and churchwardens, with the request that they should, is possible, always be preserved in the church.

The smaller of the two is made of brownish coloured

earthenware of a dull glaze, and has the following inscription in a cursive hand:—

1731

Hornchurch, Essex.

Ringers

|              |                |               |                     |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| John Bader   | Benjn. Malin   | W. Randall    | } Church<br>Wardens |
| Thomas White | William Carter |               |                     |
| Thos. Wooton | Thomas Sanger  | Fram. Sumpner |                     |

This pitcher is  $13\frac{3}{4}$  inches high and 40 inches in girth at its widest part. The larger pitcher is made of very dark burnt umber-coloured earthenware and is very thickly and highly glazed, so as to become almost purple in hue. It bears the following inscription:—

May 24th, 1915.

This Pitcher was made by Rt. Aungier.

— Oxley

Js. Fry

W. —rison

Js. Nokes

John Oxley

Frc. Oxley

Jerg. Evrett

Saml. Cooper

George Hills

Peter Smith

Hornchurch Ringers, 1815.

Gift of Mr. C. Cove.

Churchwardens:—John Thompson, James Bearlock.  
TOM, Lincoln.'

This pitcher is  $20\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and 50 inches in girth at its widest part. It is known that this pitcher was made at Mr. C. Cove's pottery at the western end of High Street, and there seems to be little doubt that the 1731 pitcher was made there also.

At Witney, Oxon, there is a Ringers' Jug or Pitcher preserved in the Rectory. Its date is unknown, but it is about 250 years' old. It is of semi-glazed earthenware and capable of holding 16 quarts, of which the neck only takes one! An old ringer—Howell Ball, a tinker, stated (about 70 years ago) that his grandfather—also a tinker—repaired this pitcher, it having been broken. This was done very neatly by placing three bands of iron round it, and also inserting eight brass rivets.

In the ringers' chamber at St. Mary's Church, Bungay, is a large three-handled jug of rather coarse brown earthenware, glazed, measuring about 15 inches in height, and  $41\frac{1}{2}$  inches round its largest part. It holds 34 pints and bears an incised inscription in common writing letters cut in before it was kiln-burnt thus:—

1827

A Gift

to the

Society of Change

Ringers

of

Saint Mary's

Bungay

by

Thos. Hurry

Norwich.

(To be continued.)

## EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—When you stated last week that Canon Coleridge was the sole survivor of the band that took part in the first change ringing on these bells you overlooked the name of Mr. E. Shepherd, who is still residing in Exeter.

I remember the occasion, for I was in the belfry when it took place.  
W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone, Surrey.

**NOTICES.**

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

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District. —

The next meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.

—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Church Vestry will be open at 3 p.m. The new Rector (the Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves) extends a cordial welcome to all ringers. Handbells will be available and refreshments provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.

—The annual district meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be available for use of ringers from 3 p.m. till 8 p.m. Short service in St. Mary's Church at 4.45 p.m. — A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch. —

Meeting for practice, Netherton (D.v.), Saturday, Oct. 24th, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening at 'Bird.'—B. C. Ashford, Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District. —

A meeting at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Oct. 24th. Silent ringing 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church Rooms. — H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—

Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Oct. 31st. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—

Swindon Branch. — A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, Oct. 31st. Tower bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. — W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND.**—Saturday, Oct. 31st, 3 p.m. Practice on new silent apparatus, which gives correct striking. Good bus service from Stevanston Square, Manchester, to Greenfield Station. — H. Nutt, Royal George, Greenfield, near Oldham.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division. — A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Cheshunt, on Oct. 31st, at 3 p.m. Silent tower bells and handbells. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. to all who notify me by Wednesday, Oct. 28th. Business meeting to follow. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Last day for receiving applications for tickets, Monday, Nov. 2nd.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the school 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, by Wednesday, Nov. 11th. Handbells during afternoon and evening.—T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

**BIRTHS.**

**LOCK.**—On Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts, to Kathleen (née Bradford), wife of Thomas J. Lock, a second son.

**SAVILL.**—To Grace Elsie (née Alleway), wife of K. A. P. Savill, of a daughter (Christine), at the College Hill Nursing Home, Harrow Weald, Sept. 28th.

**RINGERS' EPITAPHS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I enclose a cutting from a recent copy of 'East Anglian Daily Times.' It would be interesting to know if the memorial mentioned still exists. Little Thurlow is a small village in the extreme south-west corner of Suffolk, near the Cambridgeshire boundary; it has five bells, now unringable.

I have often thought that if some enthusiast would make a collection of ringers' epitaphs it would make curious and interesting reading.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.

This is the epitaph as copied by the Rev. John Wareyn Darby (1791-1846) from 'a wooden memorial on the N. side of Belfry' at Little Thurlow:—

JOHN ANDREWS, 7 Feb. 1794, ag. 72.  
'Beneath his fav' rite Bell poor Andrews lies.  
No pitying Naiads heard his dying cries  
When in the Stour he fell—his Spirit rose  
To brighter climes & left this world of woes  
Pause, ringer, pause, with serious thought  
On vast eternity,  
Perhaps thy God this night may claim  
Thy forfeit life of thee.'

**SWINDON, WILTS.**—On Tuesday, October 13th, on the front six at Christ Church, 720 Bob Minor: G. W. Townsend 1, W. E. Kynaston (conductor) 2, Pte. N. G. Knee (Pioneer Corps) 3, W. M. Greenaway 4, C. J. Gardiner 5, J. H. Shepherd 6.

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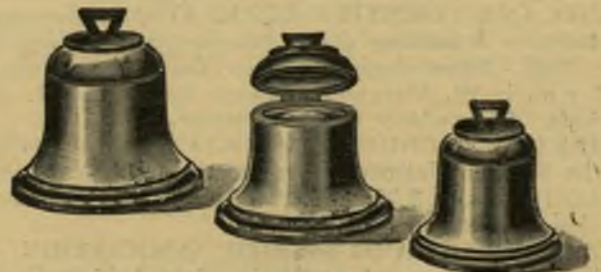
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