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**VISITORS.**

In a letter printed on another page Mr. Edgar Guise mentions the case of a ringer who visited a belfry during the victory ringing and was not asked to ring, and he takes the opportunity to enter a plea that strangers should always be encouraged and given a hearty welcome.

Mr. Guise is careful not to condemn the action of the leader at the particular tower, and, as we have no knowledge of the peculiar circumstances, we should not think of doing so ourselves. We can imagine more than one reason which would fully justify what was done. We are only interested in the general question which is raised.

It is a source of legitimate pride among us that a spirit of brotherhood and fellowship has grown up in the Exercise so that a ringer, whoever he is and wherever he is, can always be certain of a ready welcome into whatever belfry he goes, and almost always the offer of a rope. As we have pointed out more than once before, there is nothing quite like this anywhere else. However keen a cricketer may be, he does not expect to turn up on a strange green and at once be given a game! However accomplished a singer may be, he does not look to be included in the choir of a church he may be casually visiting.

This sense of fellowship and unity is one of the most valuable things we possess. It not only adds immensely to the enjoyment to be got out of ringing; it is also a great source of strength and improvement. Everything should be done to foster it, for it will be a bad day for the Exercise if ever it becomes weakened.

At present there seems no sign of that happening. On the contrary, if there is a dangerous tendency, it is that many thoughtless and rather selfish men are inclined to think they have the right to be asked to ring whenever they visit any belfry. But there is no such right. Every time a visitor is asked to ring he is receiving an act of courtesy, and the fact that it is so common should not make him forget that it is an act of courtesy.

This should be fully understood by everyone. It should be recognised that the captain of a band must use his discretion as to whether he shall ask a stranger to take part in the ringing or not, and if he decides to the contrary he should not be condemned offhand.

The visitor is apt to be thinking only of his chances of getting a pull, and we need not censure him for not thinking of anything else. In the great majority of

(Continued on page 34.)

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cases his wishes and those of the band are the same, but there are often other things which should be taken into consideration. All ringing is not done merely for the pleasure of the ringers. There are occasions where the outside effect should come first. For service on special occasions, none but the best ringing is good enough, and a leader may well hesitate before he asks a man to take a rope if he has any doubts of his ability. And there are belfries where the regular ringers have scarcely the right to allow strangers to ring on Sundays. The regular men are picked, and perhaps paid, to supply ringing of a high quality, and one of them is really no more entitled to give up his rope to an outsider than a member of a cathedral choir is entitled to let a stranger take his place. These are, of course, exceptional. In the great majority of cases the visitor can do his part equally with the regular band, and it is most unusual if he is not invited to do so. But it is well for some people to realise that they have not yet attained sufficient proficiency to be asked on certain occasions and it is well for all of us to realise that when we are asked to ring, we do so, not of right, but by the courtesy of the local band.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 16 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S V STRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

Dexter's Variation of Thurstans'. Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE	... .. 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	... .. 5-6
PERCY L. HARRISON	... .. 3-4	JOSIAH MORRIS	... .. 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

## DEATH OF MR. F. ATWELL.

The death is announced of Mr. Fred Atwell, of Newport, Monmouthshire, who passed away quietly on January 12th, at the age of 76. He had been in failing health for some time, but did not take to his bed until a few days before. He had taken part in the victory and Christmas ringing.

Mr. Atwell was born in April, 1866, and learned to ring early in life when there were only six bells at the Parish Church of St. Woolos, now the Cathedral. Call changes were then practised in the tower, but, thanks to Mr. Evan Davies, of Caerleon, change ringing was introduced.

The six at St. Woolos' were augmented to eight, and the first peal on them rung on November 12th, 1895. Mr. Atwell took part, and Mr. R. T. Hibbert, who conducted, and Mr. John Jones are now the only survivors of the band.

Following this performance Mr. Atwell took part in 68 peals, his last being Stedman Triples at Cardiff on January 20th, 1938, by past Masters of the Diocesan Association. He had filled the office in 1901.

By trade Mr. Atwell was a carpenter and joiner, but for several years had a tobacconist's and newspaper business in Malpas Road, Newport. For a time he was a member of the Newport Town Council.

The funeral was on January 16th at Malpas, where his late wife is buried. The Rev. E. G. R. Lewis, Vicar of All Saints' and treasurer of the association, took the service. The ringers present included Mr. C. Greedy and Mr. W. Phillips, of St. Woolos', Mr. W. Powell, Llanfrecifa, Mr. A. Williams, Llangibby, Mr. W. Millard and the hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Jones, All Saints'. There was also a representative gathering of different organisations with which Mr. Atwell was connected. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes.

## MR. CYRIL RAYNER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have heard of Mr. Cyril Rayner, who, as reported in 'The Ringing World,' is a prisoner of war in Germany. His father informs me that Cyril is quite well and often enquires about his ringing friends.

H. W. BARRETT.

22, Firdene, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 27.)

### THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

To commemorate their long peal at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the London Scholars erected a large and costly frame in the belfry. Now that St. Bride's steeple and its contents have been burnt it is the oldest peal board left in London. Some years ago the church authorities removed it to the wall of the staircase leading to the gallery.

The frame is now hung on the wall of the church crypt and gives the names of the ringers, but since few of them are found elsewhere, the list conveys very little information. William Underwood, who rang the second, was one of the best known of London ringers, and left a son as famous as himself. William Saunders, the tenor man, next year joined the College Youths. He was assisted by William Price who, if the name were not quite so common a one, I should be inclined to identify with a William Price, a painter of glass windows, who in 1722 and 1735 was employed to fill some windows at Westminster Abbey, and also did some extensive repairs to the famous east window of St. Margaret's. He died at Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, in 1765.

In the year 1728 Richard Phelps hung a ring of twelve bells in Sir Christopher Wren's new tower at St. Michael's, Cornhill, and they were rung for the first time on December 4th. On the following February 4th the London Scholars met at The Three Tuns tavern on Cornhill where a handsome dinner was provided for them, and afterwards the more energetic of the members diverted themselves by ringing St. Michael's bells, which they reckoned very fine and musical, and not inferior to any in the City or suburbs.

As at St. Martin's, a match was arranged at Cornhill between the two leading companies, and this time the College Youths had the first pull. On November 7th they scored 5,126 Grandsire Cinques in 4 hours and 8 minutes, and on the following Monday the London Scholars started for a six-thousand, but lost it after ringing 4,200 changes. They began at ten minutes to twelve and broke down at five minutes past three. A fortnight later they started again, and this time they accomplished 6,204 changes in 4 hours and 44 minutes, 'the rounds before and after included.'

It is rather curious that the peal should have been short by six leads of beating the length rung by the College Youths at St. Martin's; but perhaps the London Scholars had not the necessary composition, or the extra weight of metal was held to more than counterbalance the difference in changes; and the Cornhill peal took its place as 'the greatest performance of that kind that ever was known.'

At the time the bells were hung at the top of the lofty steeple and not unnaturally both bands had trouble with the tenor. The College Youths put three good men to it, including Annable himself, who was the first, and for long the only man to conduct a peal from a covering bell. The London Scholars had two men to the tenor, and two others whom they called assistants, and whose job evidently it was to lend a hand when and where it was wanted. Peter Merrygarts, who for years had been a leading College Youth, but evidently had quarrelled with Annable, was one of these assistants.

William Thompson, another deserter from the College Youths, was also in the band, and the others were mostly the same as had rung in the St. Martin's peal.

The London Scholars put up a board at St. Michael's to record the peal. A hundred years later it fell down, was broken, and ultimately destroyed; but not until Osborn had made a copy of it.

More than fifty years had to elapse before a peal could be rung at Cornhill with only two men to the tenor, and a full century before the bell could be rung single handed.

The three peals I have mentioned are the only ones we know the London Scholars to have rung, but we may be quite sure they had others to their credit. In the year 1730 they were the leading company in England, the equals of the College Youths as practical ringers, their superiors socially. In that year they assisted at the opening of Fulham bells and afterwards we hear no more of them.

It was common enough a thing for a society to be formed, to ring together for a while, and then to break up, but the London Scholars had half a century and more of tradition behind them, and would not so easily collapse. Their undoing probably was the want of a leader of the calibre of Annable or George Partrick, and the refusal or failure to attract young recruits. So long as there were enough of them, of men of their own class and generation, to make a band, they were content. But when their numbers began to fail through death, or retirement, or the almost inevitable quarrel, the society lapsed.

Quite likely it did not happen till some years after 1730. Quite likely they were still active in tower and tavern even after they had given up peal ringing. In 1746 William Underwood joined the College Youths, and just previously, in 1742 and 1744, two others, Robert Powell and William Gordon, who had also rung in the London Scholars' peals of Cinques, joined the same company. There is no trace of their having belonged to any other band, and as both were active ringers (Powell rang five peals with the College Youths), the presumption is they came to that society when, or shortly after, the London Scholars broke up.

But if the legend is true the London Scholars did not break up. After a period of inaction they were suddenly animated by patriotic enthusiasm for the Duke of Cumberland, changed their name, reconstructed their society and took their place as the largest and almost the most active of the companies in London.

What is the evidence for believing this? In the first place it was by no means impossible or unlikely that a company after a period of decline should receive an influx of new and energetic members and experience a great revival. That happened to the College Youths more than once, and we should have no difficulty in believing it happened to the London Scholars if there were any evidence of it. But there is no evidence, and the fact that it could have happened is no proof that it did happen. There is, of course, the tradition, but we do not know when that tradition arose. There is no trace of it before Osborn's time, a hundred years after the event. It looks far more like a plausible guess by some person than a genuine tradition. If any average member of the present Society of Cumberland Youths will ask himself how much he knows about the society of a

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## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

hundred years ago, he will have some idea of how much the men of Osborn's time really knew about the men of 1746.

On the other hand, we do know something about the men from whom the Society of Cumberland Youths was formed, and we have some definite and contemporary evidence, which settles the matter beyond all reasonable doubt.

The Society of Cumberland Youths is fortunate in that it possesses its complete and original records from the very beginning. In this it is unique among the old societies. The oldest books of the College Youths or the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham are copies or compilations made years after the events they record. The Cumberlands' records are contemporary. If the society really was the same as a much older company, and especially if it was the same as such a distinguished body as the London Scholars, should we not expect the fact to be mentioned in the books? Actually, what we find is the plain statement that the society 'began September ye 6th, 1747.'

It comes to this that if the current legend is true, the London Scholars, in order to celebrate an event which had taken place more than a year before, cut themselves apart from their past, destroyed all their books and records, changed their name, and made an entirely fresh start. It would be difficult to believe this on strong evidence. It is impossible to believe it on no evidence at all.

### THE GENESIS OF THE SOCIETY.

We shall find the real explanation of the rise and development of the Society of Cumberland Youths not in any legend masquerading as tradition, but in the particular circumstances of the London Exercise at the time, and especially in the influence of two or three men of outstanding ability.

Nowadays it is so unusual for a ringer or a band not to belong to one of the big associations that we are apt to think it was always the case. But that was not so. The leading societies were small and exclusive bodies who accepted recruits only when they wanted them. Outside their ranks there were many other ringers, loosely organised into bands, who met at different towers and did most of the not inconsiderable amount of paid ringing there was to be done.

Who they were, what they did, and what peals they rang, have mostly been forgotten, but in William Laughton's book we get a brief glimpse of some of these people. In all there were forty-two men associated to a greater or lesser extent with the Ramblers' Club. Ten of them were, at the time, members of the Society of College Youths, one or two were, then or afterwards, members of the Eastern Scholars, or the London Youths, but the majority did not belong to any company that we know of.

They were ringers before the club was formed, and (we cannot doubt) continued to be ringers after it was broken up. Most of them appear to have lived in the northern and eastern parts of the town, for they usually found it more convenient to meet at Edward Davis' place in Houndsditch, than at Will Coster's in Little Moorfields.

These men rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and when St. Leonard's, Shoreditch; Church was built and the new bells put up, they were the men who usually rang them. As they dropped out of ringing, others took their places, and though, so far as we know, they had no formal society, there were all the materials for making one. All they needed was a leader to organise them, and him they found at last in George Partrick. Partrick was the real founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths; but for him it probably would never have existed; and since he had appeared it would still have come into being had the battle of Culloden never been fought.

It was natural enough that St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, should become the centre of a company of ringers. The bells in the old church were those which Queen Elizabeth admired so much, and after Thomas Lester had hung his octave in the new steeple, the church authorities seem to have encouraged bands to visit the place for peals or practice.

The battle of Culloden was fought on April 16th, 1746, and the Duke of Cumberland returned to London on July 25th. By whichever way he came, those events had nothing to do with the formation of any new society. The time was not yet ripe, and it was not until September 6th, 1747, that the Society of Cumberland Youths was formed.

Why, then, should it have adopted that title? The answer is obvious. A name was needed. It never had been the custom of the London companies to associate themselves particularly with any one steeple, or the new body would probably have called itself the Shoreditch Scholars. On the other hand, everywhere throughout the country people were calling things and places after the Duke of Cumberland, and it was natural enough for these ringers to follow their example. Especially so, because the Duke was nowhere more popular than among the weavers of the north-east suburbs. That popularity did not result from any personal contact with the Duke, but was reaction from the hatred and dread the inhabitants had of the French government and the Romish religion.

Spitalfields and the district was then and for long afterwards the seat of the weaving industry. In 1685 Louis XIV. of France revoked the Edict of Nantes, the proclamation under which the Huguenots, as the French Protestants were called, had enjoyed toleration for their religion, and thousands of the most skilful and most industrious artisans of France had to flee the country. Many of them settled in the north-east of London, bringing with them their craft and bitter memories of wrongs and oppression.

Not a few of the early members of the new society were descendants of these men as the following list of names show—Purlement, Dolorum, Debart, Ament, Pottetiler, Desortemboe, Gabel, Cosson, Cavalier, Buchea, Malprison, Dupay, Lussiguea, Channon, Deffey, Landrey, Deverdine, Levesque, Decordine, and Agomber. The two most prominent members next to George Partrick during the early years were Francis Wood and his brother Samuel. They, too, were of French extraction, for the family name was Dubois, but had been anglicised. Francis Wood's grandson, Matthew, is still remembered as one of the most prominent members

(Continued on next page.)

**PEEPS INTO THE PAST.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—To read over old ringing journals is always interesting, doubly so when the ground covered is new to the reader. A recent delve into 'The Bell News' of nearly fifty years ago, therefore, gave me considerable enjoyment. It was interesting to see the early efforts of some of the great men of to-day, for instance, and to read the acrimonious correspondence, which sometimes seemed to be a conflict between the outlooks of North and South, as to whether seven extents of Minor should be recognised as a 'peal' or merely as a 'performance.'

But most amusing of all, I thought, were the articles of the various columnists—'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance,' 'Jingle' and one or two others. Not all that they wrote concerned ringing; in the year in which the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. J. A. Trollope unsuccessfully attempted peals to celebrate their 18th and 20th birthdays, and Mr. Albert Walker succeeded in ringing the treble to Grandsire Triples for his first, 'Plain Speaker' deplored 'the fastness of the so-called "rising generation."' (What have the two latter gentlemen to say about that?)

Then, just after the Diamond Jubilee, 'Jingle,' who seemed keenly conscious of prevailing social injustices, produced an article quite 'red' (or 'radical' perhaps it would then have been termed) in its outlook. So, when I had finished, I wondered whose identity these names concealed. Were they well-known ringers or were their journalistic accomplishments greater? Could anyone enlighten me as to who 'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance' and 'Jingle' actually were? 'B.'

**THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

of the Society of College Youths in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Shoreditch and Spitalfields had, as I have already mentioned, offered a thousand men to the Government during the dark days of the Scottish invasion. The people had good cause to rejoice when the battle of Culloden put an end to the fear of French and Popish domination, and there is no need to look further for the reason why the new ringing society called itself after the Duke of Cumberland.

(To be continued.)

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

**MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.**

A very enjoyable meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, Jan. 16th, when members were present from Childwall, Huyton, Orton, Wallasey, St. Luke's and St. Nicholas'. Mr. J. Ridyard, of Southport, the vice-president of the association, was present, and Mr. E. F. Bennett, who is now living near Chester. Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Mr. H. S. Brocklebank.

Handbells were rung in the vestry before the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. A. Reeves, assisted by the Rev. Leslie Evans. Mr. P. W. Cave was at the organ, and Liverpool University members of the Student Christian Movement, who were holding a conference at St. Nicholas' also took part. All took tea together in the choir vestry.

At the business meeting the Rector presided, and the next meeting was fixed for Saturday, February 13th, at St. Nicholas'. Some consideration was given to a suggestion that might help to make the meetings more attractive, and as the members of the S.C.M. evinced so much interest in the handbell ringing, it was agreed to hold a joint meeting with them on Saturday, February 20th. The meeting will be opened by an expert giving his views on bellringing, and possibly its merits, followed by an open discussion.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector for presiding and for the use of the vestry, to those members who so kindly brought food for the tea, to the lady members of the S.C.M. for serving the tea and to the Rev. D. P. Roberts, who regretted not being able to be present, but sent a contribution of money to help in some of the expense incurred. Thanks to the pianist for his services concluded a successful meeting.

**THE BAN.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was, like many other ringers, very much cheered to see the interest the public took in our church bells.

But has public interest gone now that our Government has thought fit not to lift the ban entirely?

I have a suggestion which many other people have also mentioned to me. Could not the ban be lifted each Sunday morning for an hour, say, from ten to eleven, just to give us a chance to call the faithful to worship? Our bells could then still be used for invasion.

I very much think if all the leaders of our guilds and associations and clergy got together something of this sort could be done.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

In our last issue we mentioned that a fund of over £500 had been raised for the benefit of the late Mr. Goldsmith. We have been asked to state that the actual amount which went to his benefit was £300.

The handbell peal of Stedman Triples at Leicester on Saturday last was arranged and rung to mark the engagement of Miss Enid M. Richardson (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Surfleet) to Sergt.-Pilot A. J. Brian Wayman. It had been arranged to ring Cinques, but a series of unforeseen occurrences and an accident necessitated reducing it to Triples.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal on handbells was rung at Liverpool on January 17th, 1866.

On January 18th, 1844, the Norwich Scholars rang on Mancroft bells the then record peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,126 changes. 'The bold and regular striking,' says the peal tablet, 'attracted the notice of the public.'

The first peal of Ashtead Surprise Major was rung at Ashtead on January 18th, 1932.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on January 19th, 1725, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. The composition was by William Jackson, and the bobs were called by Matthew East. Benjamin Annable rang the second. This was the first peal by the society, unless the Triples at St. Sepulchre's, said to have been rung in 1690, is counted.

The first peal of Daventry Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on January 19th, 1933, and the first peal of Queensbury Surprise Major at Bushey on January 19th, 1939.

Barham's band rang 6,720 changes of London Court Bob Royal at Leeds on January 20th, 1765.

A noted performance, the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus, was accomplished at St. Peter's, Mancroft, on January 20th, 1817.

The first peals of both Leatherhead Surprise Major and St. Albans Surprise Major were rung on January 20th, 1934, one at Leatherhead, the other at Bushey.

What still remains the longest peal of Plain Bob Maximus, 6,600 changes, was rung at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, on January 21st, 1788.

The College Youths rang the first true double-handed peal of Stedman Triples on January 21st, 1854.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung at Wakefield as long ago as 1822. Then the method was dropped and forgotten, and the St. Michael's Juniors of Gloucester thought they had rung the first in the method when they scored 5,040 changes at Cheltenham on January 21st, 1898.

James Motts, of Ipswich, died on January 21st, 1923, at the age of 63.

The Helmingham men rang the first peal of Coddensham Surprise Major on January 22nd, 1937.

A peal of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Triples was rung at Shifnal on January 23rd, 1844.

The first peal of Chesterfield Bob Major was rung at Pulham in Norfolk on the same date in 1935.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, to mark the completion of the fortieth year in which Matthew A. Wood had been steeplekeeper. He held the office for many more years.

### AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been talking to a member of His Majesty's Forces who has been away from his home for three years.

He is a fairly good ringer on six bells and rings Grandsire Doubles quite well.

He informs me that on the occasion of ringing to celebrate the Libya successes he proceeded to the nearest church of his station where the bells were ringing and more than enough ringers present, and that although the leader of the tower knew that he could ring Grandsire Doubles, did not offer him a pull. He was allowed to stay the whole while and of course came away very disappointed.

The leader concerned may not be a very widely known member of the Exercise, but in the part of England where the instance occurred he is regarded as one who should encourage ringers, even less experienced than the one in question.

My primary object in writing to you is not to condemn this action, nor do I want to give full details, but I do ask that members of the Forces at least shall not be discouraged by such treatment.

Ringers throughout the Exercise will hope, as I do, that this instance was an exception rather than a general occurrence, remembering that a hearty welcome given to a stranger will encourage him to carry on the good work when he returns to his home tower in the days of peace.

EDGAR GUISE, Gen. Hon. Sec., G. and B.D.A.

Mill Lane, Woollard, Pensford, near Bristol.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.—On Monday, January 4th, by members of the Highcliffe Society, 720 of Bob Minor: Dennis W. S. Smout 1-2, Rev. Malcolm C. C. Melville 3-4, Ivor C. N. Bell 5-6. Rung during a visit of Mr. Melville to Swindon.

## A NOTABLE EVENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am now able to send you some account of a notable event which took place some while since. I am not allowed to mention the time and place, or to give any names, which is rather a pity, but it cannot be helped.

The event was a dinner given to people who hold the highest records and have done the greatest things in the Exercise, and every care was taken that no second rate persons were present. The chair was taken by a most eminent personage. I cannot, of course, say his name, but he was the Man Who Never Made a Mistake. Many a time in a peal he has been the only one who was right, and many a time, when all the rest of the band have disagreed with him, like the stout fellow he is, he has refused to give way, preferring to break the peal down. Needless to say, he made a most efficient chairman.

The qualification of each guest was stated on the invitation card. There was, of course, no question that I was fully qualified to be present at such a gathering, but I was rather curious to see which of my many great feats had been selected for distinction. The typing, however, was bad and indistinct. I asked my right hand neighbour if he could read it, and his reply was 'Oh yes. Quite easy. Champion liar.' I think he was trying to be funny, but though I have tried hard, I do not see the joke.

### A GREAT PERFORMANCE

Personally, I think my finest performance is the peal of Bristol Surprise Major I am going to ring on the back eight at Liverpool Cathedral. I intend to turn the tenor in single handed. It will have to be after the war on account of the ban, and to some extent because the bells are not yet hung. But my greatest difficulty is to find a man capable of ringing the eleventh. I have gone through the country and I cannot find anyone up to the job. I hardly care to have it rung double handed.

At such a gathering when everyone wanted to talk about what he had done, naturally the conversation was brilliant. The chief difficulty was to find listeners. Some of the guests fied it on the waiters, but that was forbidden as being not only unfair but inconvenient. The usual plan was to get in the first word and keep at it, not letting the other have a loop-hole until the necessity of a drink gave him his chance. And so turn and turn about.

This plan worked very well on the whole, but there were exceptions. I saw old —, after vainly trying to engage the attention of his neighbours on either hand, adopt the plan of talking to himself. That gave him an excellent listener, until he warmed up and told an unusually tall tale of something he had done in his youth, when he rudely contradicted himself, and a heated scene occurred which was only ended by the chairman calling him sternly to order.

### PROCESSION OF RECORD HOLDERS

The great event of the evening was the Procession of Record Holders. At a given signal the guests left the tables, formed up in order, and marched round the room to shake hands with the chairman.

First came the Youngest Band that had Ever Rung a Peal. They were in perambulators with their nursemaids and proudly carried the rattles on which just before they had rung Holt's Ten-part.

I hear there is some difficulty about the booking of this peal. Mrs. Fletcher refuses to accept it for her society on the grounds that the band are still only its and must develop into shes before they can join the Ladies' Guild. In the unlikely event of their turning out to belong to the other sex, a similar difficulty will confront the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Next came the Veterans, the grand old band who lately rang the London Surprise at Sherborne Abbey. They were in bath chairs with attendants, and carried mugs of beer and clay pipes. Most of them were tied together in places by bits of string and sticking plaster, but they were a hale and hearty lot.

A rather unfortunate incident occurred when the veteran treble man, with a senile chuckle, emptied his mug of beer over the juvenile tenor ringer. The latter set up a tremendous yowl, and order was only restored when both were sent from the room for being naughty.

Following came the band who had accomplished the quickest peal. Their proud boast is that they rang Thurstans' Four-part at so fast a rate that they finished the third quarter before the half-way single came up. Their keenness and impetuosity was plainly in evidence, and they scarcely restrained their exuberance until the chairman threatened to disqualify them for bumping and boring.

I could tell you a good deal more of the guests, but I must not take up too much of your valuable space. I think I have said enough to show you what a notable event it was. It will remain long in the memories of those privileged to be present.

'SPLENDIDUS MENDAX.'

**GOOD STRIKING.**—No matter how quickly men may learn methods, no matter what their abilities as ringers, composers or conductors, and no matter how satisfactory to themselves their ringing may be, it will never give the same satisfaction outside the walls of the tower as will the production of accurately struck changes in the most simple method.—Jasper Snowdon.

## OLD WALTHAMSTOW RINGER.

DEATH OF MR. HERBERT F. HULL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, of 53, Glenthorpe Road, Walthamstow, who passed away on September 16th last, after a brief illness, at the age of 72.

Frank Hull was well known amongst ringers in the north-eastern outskirts of London, especially in Walthamstow, to which district he came from Bedford over 40 years ago. As a young man he was a very good ringer, despite the handicap of deafness, and he rang several peals in a variety of methods, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Superlative, etc. He also conducted a few peals of Grandsire Triples.

He was a mason by trade, but unfortunately his career was interrupted soon after coming to Walthamstow by a serious accident. He had the misfortune to fall off a water tower, breaking his collar-bone, a leg and several ribs. This accident prevented him from working and for a time stopped his ringing. His deafness increased and rheumatism settled in his injured leg, but despite these troubles he never gave up. For many years between the two wars he was a fairly regular attendant at the St. Mary's, Walthamstow, practices; whilst he also paid many visits to St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, and St. Mary's, Leyton. Sometimes one or other of these churches would obtain his help on Sundays, but for a long time he did not attach himself definitely to any tower.

After his accident he eked out a living by tune playing on hand-bells, and he and his bells, and a home-made frame, were well known a few years ago in most parts of Walthamstow. How he learned the tunes he played was a mystery, for he could hardly hear the bells. But he seldom made a mistake. On one occasion it is said that, with another Walthamstow ringer, he entered a competition at a variety theatre in Stratford, when any amateur talent was invited. Frank and his colleague brought down the house with their bells, and won a handsome prize.

What kind of career Frank Hull would have had as a ringer had that unfortunate accident not intervened is, of course, impossible to say, but many who knew him in his early days would describe him as a promising sort. He had the advantage of being taught by the late Charles W. Clarke, of Bedford, and he was also in the 'good books' of the late William Pye. His last peal was rung at St. Mary's, Leyton, on October 27th, 1932, when he rang the tenor to Stedman Triples. He had not rung in a peal for 23 years, but on this occasion Frank quite enthusiastically offered to ring the tenor when a band met short for a Surprise method. As the peal drew to its close Frank's excitement could not be suppressed; at the word 'stand' after 'That's all,' he set his bell, but could not move for many minutes owing to pain in his leg, and he had to be assisted out of the belfry. This peal was conducted by William Pye, whom Frank positively adored. For months afterwards he talked about this peal.

He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the London County Association, and at one time a member of the Essex, Middlesex and other county associations.

He was buried at Walthamstow Cemetery on September 21st; his brother ringers in Walthamstow regret that they had no knowledge of his death at the time. They now mourn the loss of a generous and loyal friend, and an enthusiastic ringer.

## MARDEN, NEAR HEREFORD.

INTERESTING BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Relative to Mr. Weaver's interesting letter on Marden, near Hereford, I have received a letter from the Rev. E. Charles, the Vicar there, in which he says: 'Regarding Marden Church, it has an embattled tower with spire very conspicuously situated, and can be seen within a radius of seven miles. But Bert Weaver is not strictly correct. The tower is *semi-detached* and dates from circa 1230. There is no doubt that at one time it must have been detached, but when the nave was widened it became semi-detached. The tower walls are 5ft. thick, and belfry has a small Early English doorway. In Marden we have one of the finest peals of bells in the county (six bells, one bell weighs nearly 1 ton). Only one peal is reputed to be of equal tone and quality in the county of Hereford, viz., Woolhope. A cannon of the tenor bell was made into a crucifix and fixed on a wooden oak cross made from one of the beams of the belfry. It dates to 1622, i.e., the cannon.

'A Celtic handbell was found in the Vicarage pond in 1848. It is now in Hereford City Museum. It was found at a depth of 18ft. below the surrounding round level. It is 15 inches high, including the handle. It is 7 inches across the mouth one way and 5 inches the other. By its construction it was intended to be sounded by hand. The bell is of ancient bronze metal, but its clapper is lost. It is definitely characteristic of Welsh bells and those of Ireland. These bells are dedicated to holy persons; a great number were lost during the Reformation. Many were sold or melted down when Queen Elizabeth issued an order in 1558 for the removal of Popish ornaments from the church. It is very likely that this bell was hid in the Vicarage ground to save its fate of its being melted down.'

Regarding the last portion of this letter, a beautifully illustrated article from my pen appeared in the 'Apollo' Magazine for December, 1938, under the title 'Ancient Bells of Celtic Saints.'

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

## THE USE OF SINGLES.

### IN SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 570.)

When we are composing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan our material consists of twelve 5-course blocks. It can also be set down in thirty 2-course blocks. It was actually from the former that the early peals were composed—first Hudson's peal and then variations and adaptations of it.

But neither is a really good basis for composition, and though the sixty P Blocks pricked from Hudson's course-ends do not contain the 5040 rows we need, and therefore cannot be treated in the same way as the sixty course-ends of Bob Major or Double Norwich, yet it is convenient to deal with them as if they did, subject to certain definite limitations and qualifications. The modern composer does not start from the twelve 5-course blocks, but from the sixty P Blocks pricked from Hudson's course-ends. We will therefore consider the question from that angle and we shall have to repeat in other words some of the things we have already said.

We have already explained what Hudson's course-ends are, and if from each of them we prick a full natural course without bobs or singles, we shall find that, with the exception of four Sixes in each course, all the natural courses are true.

The exceptions are the third, fifth, seventh and twelfth Sixes. The third Six of every course will reappear as the seventh Six of another course, and the seventh Six will be the same as the third Six of another course. In a similar way, the fifth Six of each course reappears as the twelfth Six of another course, and consequently the twelfth Six as the fifth of another course. In all cases the rows of the repeating Sixes come in a different order. Here are two examples. The first shows the third Six of the plain course and the seventh Six of the course 653214 (we take the last row of a Six as the course-end, not the fourth as in our last article).

3467251	7364251
4376521	3746521
3475612	7345612
3746521	7436521
7345612	4735612
7436521	4376521
4735612	3475612
7453162	4357162

And here are the twelfth Six of the plain course and the fifth Six of the course 345261:—

5267431	2765431
2576341	7256341
2753614	2753614
7256341	2576341
7523614	5273614
5726341	5726341
5273614	7523614
2537164	5732164

In both cases, although the rows within the particular Sixes are the same, the rows which precede and follow them are different.

Thus, in each of the sixty natural courses pricked from Hudson's course-ends, there are four Sixes, which re-

appear in four other natural courses; and consequently in the whole sixty there are 120 Sixes which appear twice, and 120 which do not appear at all. Some means must be found to eliminate the false Sixes and replace them by the missing ones.

The only way we have of doing it is to make bobs, and here we find a rather curious thing. If in any one of these natural courses, instead of producing the Six liable to be false we introduce a bobbed Six, we shall get one of the missing Sixes, and if we do this in all the sixty natural courses, we shall eliminate the whole of the Sixes liable to be false and introduce the whole of the missing Sixes twice over. For the moment we are considering the effect of each of these operations on the natural course separately and one at a time, and are not brothing about what rows follow the introduced Sixes.

It is evident that if half the Sixes are bobbed and half plained, we shall get rid of sixty Sixes and introduce sixty fresh ones, and if the sixty eliminated ones are duplicates, and the sixty new ones are those missing from the original set of natural courses, we shall, so far, have solved our problem.

We gave above the third Six of the plain course and the seventh Six of the course 653214, both brought up plain. Here they are again both brought up bobbed:—

3467251	7364251
4376215	3746215
3472651	7342651
3746215	7436215
7342651	4732651
7436215	4376215
4732651	3472651
7423561	4327561

If they are both bobbed we still get repetition, but if one is bobbed and the other plained (it does not matter which) we get rid of one duplicate Six and introduce one of those which is missing from the set of sixty natural courses. In the same way throughout the sixty natural courses, wherever there are duplicate Sixes, if one is bobbed and the other plained, one of the duplicate Sixes is eliminated and one of the missing Sixes introduced.

But now we are faced by the fact that any one of the Sixes introduced by a bob is an irregular one. A Six is termed irregular when the rows within it come in a different order to what they would normally come in the natural courses with which we are dealing. Suppose, for instance, that we are joining together a number of natural courses of which the plain course is one, and suppose that the Six-end 3426175 did not turn up, but somewhere else 2346175 appeared—that would be an irregular Six, though it would not affect the truth of the composition.

What does happen, when an irregular Six turns up, is that we are put outside the blocks we are dealing with; and if we continue with the rows which normally follow any one of the Sixes we have introduced by a bob, we shall find ourselves in a natural course which is not one of those based on Hudson's course-ends; and that would land us in complications from which it would be difficult and probably impossible to escape. For instance, if in the plain course we make a bob at 3, that will produce the Six 4732651, which is one of those we

(Continued on next page.)



**THE USE OF SINGLES.**

(Continued from previous page.)

want to include, but the natural course of the block we are now in is 135426, which is not among Hudson's sixty. Similarly, if in the plain course we make a bob at 5, we produce a Six we need, but the bells are put into the block whose natural course-end is 361452, and that again is not one of the sixty.

Fortunately, there is an easy and an effective way out of the difficulty. If immediately the Six we want to include is completed we make another bob, we are put, not indeed back into the original natural course from which we started, but into another one of those based on Hudson's course-ends. This will always happen whether the first bob is at 3, 5, 7, or 12. So we have the general rule that all bobs must be made in pairs and we can treat each pair as a single operation.

Let us examine this in some detail. If in the plain course we make a pair of bobs at S (the 3rd and 4th Sixes) we are put into the natural course 536421, which is one of those in Hudson's set. We can ring the whole of this natural course (except for one six) and then another pair of bobs at S will put us back again into the plain course.

What we have done is to join together two natural courses, with the exception that the Sixes between the bobs are two of those which, as we explained above, we want to introduce.

A similar thing happens if we make a pair of bobs at H or L or Q. Each pair necessitates the making of another pair, and the result is to join together two natural courses.

Here we have the Q Set of the Twin-bob peals of Stedman Triples. It consists of a pair of bobs followed by another pair in the same positions and upon the same bells. Every time one of these Q Sets is made, two blocks are joined together, and in this way the peal is built up.

But in the making of these Q Sets there are definite conditions which must be observed in order to ensure that the Sixes between the bobs are true. If we make bobs at S in the plain course, then the L in the course 653214 must be plained, and also the L in the course 123564. Conversely, if the S in the plain course is plained, then the S in the course 536421 must be plained, and the L's of both the courses 653214 and 123564 must be bobbed.

Thus the Q Sets of a peal are in pairs, and if one is bobbed the other must be plained, and vice versa.

Similar obligations exist in the use of bobs at H and Q.

(To be continued.)

**FIFTY YEARS AGO**

Norwich. The Norwich Diocesan Association and the St. Peter, Mancroft, Society. On Thursday, January 19th, 1893, in One Hour and Thirty-eight Minutes. Seven 720's of Bob Minor, each called differently. J. Armiger Trollope 1-2, John E. Burton 3-4, George P. Burton 5-6. Conducted by J. Armiger Trollope. Umpire, F. W. Muskett. First 5,040 by all. This is the quickest peal yet rung, and the average age is believed to be less than that of any band who have hitherto accomplished a 5,000.—'The Bell News.'

**DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.**

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 23.)

I did not mention Hertfordshire in my list of towers of this description, but at Standon, near Ware, the ancient Church of St. Mary has an embattled tower with spire standing near the chancel on the south side, but apart from the church. At least, this was so until 1864, when it was joined up by the erection of a new organ chamber. As early as 1552 there were 'in the steeple fyve bells and a saunce bell,' and that continued to be the number until 1843, when a new treble was added, making six, which it still contains. A remarkable feature of the church here is the elevation of the chancel and altar, there being eight steps from the nave to the chancel, and five steps from chancel to altar. The church retains many ancient and interesting memorials and mural tablets.

At Irthlingborough, Northants, St. Peter's Church has a fine semi-detached tower 99ft. high, which stands a little to the west of the church, and is connected to the west porch by a rectangular building, once forming part of the College, but the original use of which is uncertain. The tower proper is of four stages; three of these being supported by double-angled buttresses: the belfry storey is lighted on each side by couplets, each pair being separated by a canopied niche. The angles are flat buttresses rising into octagonal pinnacles, and between these an embattled parapet. Surmounting the whole is an octagonal lantern of two stages, and in each face of the upper stage are windows of three lights. Above is a short concave spirelet. The tower having been found to lean towards the south-west to the extent of 2ft. 6in. was in 1887 entirely taken down and rebuilt upon new, solid foundation of concrete. It was completed in 1893, and now stands precisely the same as before, with the exception that unfinished turrets at the angles of the tower proper have been completed. A new iron frame was completed for the bells, the old six rehung and two new ones added. In 1906 a clock was provided. In the ground stage of the tower an inscription records its rebuilding, and in the lantern another states that it was rebuilt by Maria Lucas, of Burfield Priory, in memory of her brother, James John Seymour Spencer Lucas. The tenor of the ring weighs 10 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lb., and the Irthlingborough company of ringers are not only proud of their bells, but know how to ring them. They reached a high standard of efficiency, and successfully rang some hundreds of peals not only in the standard methods but in many of the Surprise methods up to London, and a new one they named Irthlingborough. Tablets in the tower record some of these, but in the annals of the Central Northants Association, and later the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, their performances rank high.

Lancashire has at least two examples of detached towers, but in both cases there is only one bell. At Bradshaw, near Bolton, the church is dedicated to St

(Continued on next page.)

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## DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

Maxentius. The detached tower is actually the west tower of the old church which was built in 1872 and which has a bell cot with one bell of that date. The old tower has a mediæval bell of great interest; and for some years this lay on the ground, but the tower, having been restored, the bell was rehung. It bears the inscription, ' + AAE MARIA GRACIA PLENA.' The initial cross and each of the letters are on a separate patera except RI, which are cast together. The V in 'ave' is upside down. Tradition has it that this bell belonged originally to Yorkshire, but no evidence is forthcoming as to the truth of the story. From the style of lettering it is of the 14th century.

Ringley chapel of St. Saviour is in the parish of Prestwich, and was built in 1625 by Nathaniel Walworth, but not consecrated until 1634. In the Abstract of Sentence of Consecration, signed by Bishop Bridgeman, June 1st, 1635, it is stated that Walworth had furnished the chapel with a pulpit, communion table, a bell, seats, and other things necessary. The existing bell is no doubt the one thus provided, but what the meaning of its simple inscription is is not known. The bell has a fleur-de-lys border below the shoulder broken only by the initials S R E K, and there is no founder's name or date. The old chapel has been pulled down, and a new church erected on a site further east. The bell, however, now hangs in the isolated tower of the old church, rebuilt in 1826 and acts as a clock bell.

In Lincolnshire there are examples of detached belfries at Fleet and Long Sutton, and formerly there was a curious single bell 'bell-house' of wood to the south of the church at Flixborough. This no longer exists, and the bell, simply dated 1624, hangs in the western wooden belfry of the new church there. Fleet has a detached tower south-west of the church, with embattled parapet and pinnacles, a polygonal stair-turret, and a spire with three tiers of pierced quatrefoils on its alternate faces. Its total height is 120 feet and it contains a ring of six bells and a clock added in 1911. There is also a 'call bell' bearing the names J. R. Jerram and D. Oliver, churchwardens, cast by Mears in 1876. Prior to 1758 there were four bells only, but in 1806 two trebles were added. The bells hang in two tiers, the steeple being only 11 feet square and the tenor is 14 cwt. They were rehung by Mr. J. R. Jerram in 1874, and he also added a chiming apparatus. At Long Sutton there is a detached tower and spire to the south-west of the church, with angle buttresses rising to the third storey into octagonal arcaded turrets crowned with tall pinnacles, from within which rises an octagonal timber spire. This tower and spire constitutes one of the most remarkable designs in Early English or Lancet period in the kingdom, and is particularly interesting as one of the few having survived both fire and decay, remaining still in its original condition. The wood spire is covered with lead and the pinnacles at its base are similarly constructed. It had a ring of six bells until 1935, when they were augmented to eight by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., the tenor bell being 15 cwt. 2 lbs. The old six were all cast by Henry Penn, of Peterborough, in 1716. These were recast when the new bells were added.

(Continued on next page.)

## 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.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (silent apparatus) from 2.30 p.m., Guild Office at 4, conducted by the chairman. Tea and business meeting to follow at Major's Cafe (opposite the church).—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be at Leicester on Jan. 23rd. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. on the Cathedral bells. The moon will be at full.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held in the Old Rectory, Poole, on Saturday, January 23rd. Handbells from 2.30. Tea at 5.0, followed by short business meeting and more handbells. Evening service in Parish Church at 7.0.—C. A. Phillips.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellington Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 23rd. Service at 4.0. Tea in the Co-op. Hall, Queen Street. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m. Tea at

Armitage and Baxendale Cafe at 4 p.m. sharp for all who notify Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, by first post on Thursday, Jan. 28th, returning to the Park Hotel for the usual evening arrangements: business meeting and handbell ringing. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Upper Armley, Leeds, 12.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting will be at St. John's, Leytonstone, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells available. Service at 4 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. All welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Ringing at St. John's, City (silent), 2.30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Meeting and tea in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.15 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Meeting in belfry at 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea afterwards. Will those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, Jan. 27th?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Kent County.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be at the disposal of ringers from 3 p.m. Service, also in the Rectory Room, will be at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. For tea notify Miss L. Aldridge, 49, Escreeet Grove, Woolwich, S.E.18, before Wednesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions for 1943 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. (silent). Service at 5 p.m. Tea at Carlton Cafe, Marlowes, only for those who notify me by the 27th.—W. Ayre, Sec., Leverstock Green.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Daventry on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting, Neal's Restaurant, 4 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

GILBERT.—The address of Mr. George Gilbert is now Clissold, Eastfield Road, Hitcham, Burnham, Bucks.

#### WANTED.

SET OF HANDBELLS, secondhand, good condition; sets of 12 bells upwards considered; please quote price.—Rev. C. F. Walters, St. Swithin's Vicarage, Lincoln.

#### DETACHED TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Herefordshire has quite a number of very quaint and interesting detached towers. At Bosbury, Holy Trinity Church, the tower stands twenty yards away from the south-east chapel. It dates from 1230-40 and is of three stages, the bell chamber being surmounted by a roof-cap surround by an embattled parapet which imparts a fortified appearance to the tower, and suggests a possibility of its having once been used for defensive purposes. It contains a ring of six bells, the 2nd and 5th cast by John Finch, 1632-1640; 3rd and 6th by John Martin, latter dated 1660. The 4th, with groups of capitals and initial 'W' twice repeated, is 16th century or earlier. Garway, St. Michael's, near Ross-on-Wye, has what might be described as almost a semi-detached belfry. The tower was built early in the 13th century quite separate from the church, but after an interval of several hundred years, a small covered passage-way was added, joining the tower to the north-west corner of the nave. The tower, capped with pyramidal roof, is of two stages externally, but there are three storeys inside, the uppermost one having been partly rebuilt at a later date. It contains a ring of five bells.

A curious and picturesque example of a detached tower is that of Holmer Parish Church. The tower, on the south side of the church, is of three storeys, the lower pair being built of stone in the early part of the 13th century. Several hundred years later (probably about the end of the 16th century), striking contrast was made by the addition of the top storey built in the 'black-and-white' style with timber framing, and surmounted by a short pyramidal roof. It contains a ring of six bells.

St. James' Church, an attractive mediæval building, has a tower only joined to it by a corner. It is of Norman period, the chancel being rebuilt in the 13th century, and its semi-detached tower, with quaint saddle-back roof, was added in the 14th century. It has four bells.

(To be continued.)

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