



No. 1,662. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1943.

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COMPOSITION.

It is the peculiarity and the strength of our art that it is so many-sided and has so many and so diverse interests to offer. There is the physical interest of handling a bell, the intellectual interest of method ringing, the æsthetic interest of music and rhythm, the sporting interest of rivalry and competition. All these it offers in the fullest degree, and they by no means exhaust all the interest bellringing has to give. For the chosen few there is archæology, for others history, and for yet others composition and the mathematics and science of change ringing.

Each of these is wide enough and important enough to engage the whole attention of a man during the hours he can spare from his daily business, and each will bring a rich reward to those who devote themselves to it. Archæology and history have generally, perhaps, been looked upon as standing outside the average ringer's orbit, but composition has always been considered as an integral branch of the art, and naturally so, for it is necessary to provide the methods and peals which the practical ringer uses. The names of great composers are as well known and as highly honoured as the names of great ringers and conductors.

The way in which the attitude of the Exercise towards composition has altered during the last half-century is remarkable and significant. In the old times a composer was a man who could produce the figures of a peal, and if it was true and fit to ring, that was all that he or other people cared. Whether he produced it by brilliant deduction, by patient experimenting, or by sheer luck, was no matter. The fact that he had produced it was all that mattered, and he claimed and received all the credit that there was to be got out of it. Other men might later on study his peal, understand it, and find in it things he had not dreamt of. That was no concern of his.

The one thing men did trouble themselves about was what they called originality. Every peal that was composed was supposed to be the work of some one person and was his property, which no one else had any right to take or use. It was therefore essential that a composer should be able to convince himself and others that his peal stood by itself, that it owed nothing to any other peal, and was in no sense a variation or adaptation of anything else. Half the energies and more than half the controversies of old composers were taken up in trying to prove that peals were not related to each other. This attitude was largely helped by the custom of even the cleverest and most eminent of composers treating

(Continued on page 46.)

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each peal as if it were a separate and independent prob-
lem to be solved.

All the while men overlooked the fact that change
ringing is a mathematical science which has definite laws,
that these laws can be applied in many different ways
and in very diverse circumstances, and that the results
are always constant. Hence the man who would under-
stand the science of change ringing should study, not
how to arrange one definite set of bobs so as to produce
five thousand true changes, but the general laws which
govern and control everything.

This is the tendency among the best of the modern
composers, and the gain can hardly be overestimated.
Men have indeed to give up the idea of creating and
owning peals which are their very own and no one's else,
but in return they have far wider interests.

Originality in compositions is to a very great extent
an exploded myth, but the study of composition has be-
come more absorbing and fascinating. Once, the only
object a composer had was to get as many sets of figures
together to which he could put his name without his
right to do so being challenged. Now he gets his reward
in the satisfaction which comes from the mastery of a
mathematical science and his ability to make it serve
the purposes he has in view.

The study of composition is worth while, even for
those who have no aim than to understand what other
people have already done and no ambition to solve them-
selves any new problems.

THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The tenacity, not to say obstinacy, which has been shown
by the authorities concerned in disregarding all the requests and
arguments put forward, both inside and outside the House, to lift
the ban on ringing is typical of the behaviour of people who are not
big enough to admit a mistake.

We ringers have had no option but to loyally obey the Order, even
though we knew from the first that the scheme wouldn't work satis-
factorily, and even though we knew and suggested much more efficient
ideas for spreading the invasion alarm. We responded eagerly to
the request to ring the Victory bells in November, although we were
fully aware that the attitude of the authorities was having the effect
of slowly strangling the life out of our art.

We hoped that once the ice had been broken it would be easier
for the authorities to lift the ban, and the permission to ring at
Christmas seemed to give further encouragement. But no, the same
steely attitude seems to be maintained and the bells are still silent.

It was a shock to read this week that instructions to incumbents
had only just been issued as to what to do in the event of invasion!

The letter of Mr. J. W. Dyer echoes the wishes of us all, but I
hardly think his suggestion is practical. It would not be possible to
lift the ban on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11, unless an arrange-
ment were made with our enemies not to invade this country at this
hour. The most practicable thing would be to lift the ban and
arrange more efficient methods of giving the alarm in the event of
invasion.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

19, Dorothy Crescent, Ombersley Road, Worcester.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following account of a peal rung at Farndon,
Cheshire, was given to me a short time ago. No doubt as its cen-
tenary draws near it will be worth recording in 'The Ringing World'
in full.

I have the original MSS. in my possession for a short time.

ALBERT E. RICHARDS.

The School House, Farndon, Cheshire.

(Copy.)

'Friday, January 27th, 1843. A peal of Grandsire Trebles was rung
consisting 5040 Changes with 194 bobs 48 Singles in 2 hours 45 minutes
from 9 o'clock until 1/4 to 12 about in the morning. Wm. Farrell 1,
Thos. Edwards 2, Thos. Hughes 3, Saml. Woolley 4, Josh. Snelson 5,
Wm. Lewis 6, Geo. Huntington 7, Thos. Woollam 8. Conducted by
George Huntington, Farndon.'

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 37.)

GEORGE PARTRICK.

From the beginning the Society of Cumberland Youths was numerically the largest company in London. Eighteen men joined in the first year, and eleven in the second. The connection with the Ramblers Club is clear. Jeremiah Gilbert, Laughton's close friend, was a foundation member, and so was John Harrington, another Rambler, while the names of Green, Chapman, Coster, Newcombe, and others suggest that they were sons or relatives of other men associated with Laughton.



SHOREDITCH OLD CHURCH.

Of George Partrick, the first Master, very little apart from his ringing is known. Possibly he was one of a family of ringers, the members of which have always been confused by ringers and writers, for Partrick obviously is the same name as Patrick spelt phonetically.

The earliest of the family was John Patrick, who joined the College Youths in 1679, two years before Fabian Stedman was Master. He became one of the leading men in the company, was steward in 1684, and Master in 1692. For long he was looked upon as the greatest authority on composition of his day, the successor of Stedman and the precursor of Annable. When Doleman and the London Scholars brought out the 'Campanologia' of 1702 he gave his help, and many of his compositions are in the book. His copy is now in the British Museum and has several interesting notes in his handwriting.

By profession John Patrick was an inventor of barometers and thermometers, and was well known to the leading scientific men of the time. He lived in Ship Court in the Old Bailey, and died on October 24th, 1730.

John Patrick, the second, joined the College Youths in 1730, was steward in 1733, and Master in 1736. He probably was a son or grandson of the other. Jasper Snowdon has included him among his list of composers, but he did nothing that we know of either as composer or peal ringer.

Robert Partrick was a still later man. He lived in Whitechapel and by trade was a cheese factor. He married the daughter of Thomas Lester, the bellfounder, and so acquired an interest in the Whitechapel Foundry. He secured orders for the casting of several rings of bells, but it is hardly likely he did the work himself. His name is on the bells at Hackney, but they were cast at Whitechapel. Bishopsgate bells bear his name, but Osborn, of Downham Market, actually cast them. And similarly the destroyed Cripplegate tenor most likely was cast by John Warner.

Robert Patrick was a member of the Society of College Youths and a good ringer. He was one of the band that visited Birmingham in 1796.

There is nothing definite to connect George Partrick with these men, but it is quite likely they were all relatives, and that would help to explain why George came to the front so early and held the position for so long. In many ways his career recalls that of Annable. He, too, was a great leader, a composer of recognised merit, and a ringer and conductor who was anxious to explore new ground and to ring peals that no one else had rung before. But he did not quite reach the stature of the other man, and he had no pretensions to be a heavy bell ringer. One advantage he had; for whereas Annable had to wait twenty-five years before he was elected Master, Partrick started as the most important man and undisputed leader of the new company.

The Society of Cumberland Youths adopted an organisation and a set of rules which were closely copied from traditional models and therefore were in direct line from the old guilds. Like the other leading societies, they had their annual feast, and one or two of their engraved dinner tickets are preserved in the British Museum. These tickets, like those of the College Youths, are folio size. They bear a portrait of the Duke of Cumberland, illustrations of a couple of towers, and the motto, 'Nulli nisi ignoti nostram artem contemnunt'—'Only the ignorant despise our art.' Neither this nor the similar ones on the College Youths' tickets are likely to have been formally adopted by the companies. They evidently were stock mottos supplied by the engravers as part of the design.

From the outset the Society of Cumberland Youths was the biggest in London, and that probably was due to the fact that the social standard was not so high as among the College Youths; nor had they the inherited exclusive traditions of the older body.

From the beginning, the Cumberland Youths practised regularly at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, though they by no means had the exclusive use of the tower. There they rang their first peal, one of Bob Major, on November 19th, 1748. Three days later they rang one of Double Bob Major.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

George Partrick conducted from the seventh, William Thornton, the Warner, rang the tenor, Jeremiah Gilbert rang the treble, and the band included John Purlement and William Lister, whose names figure in most of the early performances.

On December 26th Partrick, Thornton, Lister and Gilbert took part in a peal of Bob Major at West Ham, in which four of the local men stood, including two brothers of the name of ight who rang the tenors. The band at West Ham joined the society as a body, and the tower became one of its principal strongholds. Thornton conducted this peal, which was the only one by the society during ten years not called by Partrick, except for a local peal at West Ham in 1754.

In 1749 the society rang three peals, two of Bob Major at Shoreditch and Westminster, and one of St. Simon's Triples at Hackney.

St. Simon's Triples is a very good method and is given in all the older text books. It is an extension of St. Simon's Doubles. The two bells left by the treble on the lead dodge until it returns, the others making thirds and back from behind. Second's place is made at the lead-end. The defect in the method, one which prevents it being recognised as regular nowadays, is that a bell lies behind for four consecutive blows as in Bob Triples. Annable called the first peal in the method in 1732, but none other than these two seem to have been rung. New Bob Triples is a somewhat similar method, but is much more difficult and is free from the defect just mentioned. Partrick called the first peal of it at Shoreditch on March 28th, 1750. Two men were needed for the tenor.

From November, 1748, to April, 1757, the Cumberlands rang thirty-five peals. They consisted of: Bob Triples 2, Major 12, Royal 1, Double Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 5, Simon's Triples 1, New Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 5, Cumberland Pleasure Major 2, Cumberland Bob Major 1, and Cumberland Grand New Double Major 1. They included 6,160 Double Bob Major, 6,080 and 7,524 Oxford Treble Bob Major, 6,720 Cumberland Pleasure Major, and 6,012 and 7,290 Grandsire Caters.

This is a very good list and has hardly been equalled by the first performances of any of the other old societies.

The figures of Cumberland Bob, Cumberland Pleasure and Cumberland Grand New Double, have perished, and we have no means of knowing what sort of methods they were except that Cumberland Pleasure (and most likely the others) had a plain hunting treble. Probably we should not be far wrong if we assumed that they were more or less simple variations of the standard methods. They were all the composition of Partrick.

Partrick composed and called two peals of Bob Major, each with the sixty in-course course-ends, one of 5,040 changes, the other 5,008.

There was a competition to see who could first compose and call a peal with these qualities. On August 15th, 1756, at St. George's-in-the-East, Richard Royce called for the Eastern Scholars 5,296 changes of Bob Major 'with the tenors at home sixty times, being the first performance in that method.' Six days later at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, Partrick with a band of Cumberlands called a peal with similar qualities and only

5,040 changes, and in the next month, as if to settle the matter once and for all, he called another peal with the minimum number of 5,008 changes.

The figures of these peals are lost, and we have little to tell us what they were like. Necessarily they consisted of mixed long and short courses. When all the courses are long or all are short, the sixty cannot be put into one block by means of bobs only. When some of the courses are long and the rest short, the whole sixty can be grouped together by bobs only, but only under certain definite and very limited conditions. The shortest true peal with these qualities is 5,040, the next possible length is 5,120, the next 5,160, and so in a regular progression, adding eighty changes each time. Royce's 5,296 and Partrick's 5,008 were therefore both false unless some illegitimate calls were used, which is hardly likely. Partrick's 5,040 may have been true. Most likely it was on a similar plan to the peal in the 'Clavis' which is usually (and probably correctly) ascribed to John Reeves. In the year 1756 the proof of compositions was very imperfectly understood, and it is hardly likely that either Partrick's 6,080 of Oxford Treble Bob Major or his 7,520 was true.

On October 12th, 1752, George Partrick called John Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples at Shoreditch, and the peal book claims it as the first time of performance. The claim, however, is a little doubtful, for William Underwood had in the previous May called a peal of Grandsire Triples for the Eastern Scholars, followed by another in June at St. George's-in-the-East. Holt's peals were common property in London at the time, and it is not very likely that Underwood would have called one of the older compositions which were looked upon as obsolete if not false. The St. George's peal is stated to have been with two singles, and so obviously was one of Holt's. It may, however, have been the six-part. This William Underwood was the son of the old London Scholar.

There was an excellent band of ringers at West Ham, who formed, as we have seen, a branch of the Society of Cumberland Youths. In the year 1752, largely through their efforts, West Ham bells were restored by Robert Catlin, who recast the fifth and sixth and added two trebles to make a ring of ten. Towards the cost of the new bells the ringers gave twenty pounds.

The first peal on the ten was Grandsire Caters on July 6th, and it was followed in October by Plain Bob Royal. Partrick called both, but most of the band consisted of local men, with Robert Wight at the tenor. Two well-known ringers, John Blake and Joseph Prior, whose peal ringing was usually with the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths, rang one in the Caters and the other in the Royal. Next year Blake was back again with the Eastern Scholars, but Prior stayed to ring one or two peals with the Cumberlands, including one of Grandsire Caters at West Ham, which he called.

Two early performances of the Cumberlands, though not peals, are of more than usual interest. One was a course of Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung double-handed on handbells, on November 12th, 1754, at the company's headquarters, The Bell, in Shoreditch. The band was Samuel and Francis Wood, William Matthiss, George Partrick, and John Purlement.

On January 1st, 1756, the same men, with William Lister, 7-8, rang a course of Oxford Treble Bob Maxi-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

mus. Earlier in the day they had taken part in a 6,080 Treble Bob Major at St. Leonard's. These are the first courses of Treble Bob known to have been rung on handbells.

During these early years of the Society of Cumberland Youths, George Partrick had been the acknowledged leader, and he called all the peals except the couple at West Ham. Then there happened some quarrel or other, and he left the company and went to the ancient Society of College Youths, with whom he rang and called three peals—Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1759, Treble Bob Major at St. George's-in-the-East, and again at Spitalfields in 1760. The Grandsire Caters was the first ever brought round at hand. 'This,' says the 'Clavis,' 'is so great an improvement in Cater ringing that too much cannot be said in commendation of it or its author; whom, notwithstanding he has been dead for several years, yet his name will be gratefully remembered by every admirer of this pleasant and harmonious improvement.'

Francis Roberts was the composer thus praised, but whether Partrick called one of his peals or used his improvement in one of his own we do not know.

In 1761 George Partrick was back again with his old friends, but though for the rest of his life he was an honoured member of the society, he never quite regained his old position. He rang only three more peals, two of which he called. His last was the first peal of Maximus by the society. It was rung on November 10th, 1766, at Southwark, by a band which included many famous

(Continued in next column.)

TOBRUK**RINGING THE OLD YEAR OUT.**

Mr. Lawrence J. Williams has received a letter from his son, Mr. Leslie L. Williams, a member of the band at St. James' Church Kirk, Lancashire, who is serving in the Middle East. An extract from it will be read with general interest.

'Well, I can tell you I shall have a better Christmas dinner this year than last. Bully and biscuits and one tin of beer was not much, but the spirit was there all right. I shall never forget New Year's Eve, 1941. As you know at that time the Siege of Tobruk had finished and all we had to worry about was the air raids every day and bags of work. In the centre of the town is the church with a tower and one bell inside it. My pal and I climbed up the tower, no mean feat in itself, because it had been shelled and blasted by bombs and had great holes in the walls. However, we managed to ring the old year out and the new year in, and as the last note of the bell-faded we heard cheers coming from all over the ruined town. I felt real homesick for a time thinking of the years we have done it in different circumstances.'

PEEPS INTO THE PAST.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'B' asks if anyone can enlighten him as to who 'Plain Speaker,' 'Free Lance' and 'Jingle,' who used to write in 'The Bell News,' were.

It was common knowledge among ringers that 'Jingle' was William Willson, of Leicester. In his younger days he used to affect rather extreme opinions. Among other things he was a pro-Boer and a radical.

The others were not so well known, but it was usually said one of them (I forget which) was a Yorkshireman, Benjamin Copley I think his name was. I imagine the other was Harvey Reeves, the Editor.

What I remember of these articles is that there was very little in them. They were good examples of saying nothing much about nothing in particular and taking a page to say it in. But, after all, I suppose it is not so easy to write about such a thing as bellringing.

'SENEX.'

(Continued from previous column.)

ringers—George Gross, John Reeves, Charles Purser, Isiah (?Isaiah) Bray, William Lister, Samuel and Francis Wood, and the elder Samuel Muggeridge. Partrick called his own composition from the treble.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Essex Association should notice that the meeting arranged for to-morrow at St. John's, Leytonstone, has been transferred to Christ Church, Wanstead.

Mr. W. J. Prescott thanks his many ringing friends for their expressions of sympathy during his serious illness and would like them to know he is slowly improving.

In a letter on another page Mr. E. A. Young calls attention to the series of photographs which the Ancient Society of College Youths is offering for sale. Copies have been secured to be used as a permanent record of the tercentenary celebration.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel informs us that the peal at St. Albans Abbey we referred to in these notes was the first of Bob Major on the bells for over a hundred years. The band had already rung several in other methods.

The first peal of College Single Bob Major was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by the College Youths, on January 24th, 1737.

On the same date in 1885 the Sussex County Association was founded.

The Painswick men rang 8,105 Stedman Caters, on January 25th, 1842; and on the same day the Stroud men rang 8,081 Grandsire Caters. Both peals were afterwards found out to be false.

Mr. A. R. Pink called the first peal of Chiltern Surprise Major at Egham on January 25th, 1934.

The Fulham Youths rang 10,080 Bob Major at All Saints', Fulham, on January 26th, 1735. It was one of the earliest ten-thousands on record.

On January 26th, 1761, the Cumberland Youths rang 5,760 Cumberland Fancy Major at Shoreditch, and on the same date in 1865 Elijah Roberts took his own life. He had tapped some extraordinarily long lengths on handbells.

The College Youths rang a peal of Dunstan's Triples at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West on January 27th, 1927.

A peal of Spliced Erin and Stedman Caters was rung at Newcastle-on-Tyne on January 27th, 1925; and exactly a year later a peal of Spliced Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples was rung at Bridgend.

5,184 changes of Kent Treble Bob Caters were rung at Liverpool on January 28th, 1886; and 10,080 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Appleton on January 28th, 1888.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus in London was rung by the College Youths at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on January 28th, 1911; and the first peal of Pinner Surprise Major was rung at Pinner by the Middlesex County Association on the same date in 1939.

George Gross called the first peal of Real Double Bob Major, with a band of Cumberland Youths, at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel, on January 29th, 1769.

John Cox died on January 29th, 1885; and exactly a year later his lifelong rival, Henry Haley, died.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal was rung at Chesterfield on January 29th, 1921; and the record length of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,232 changes, at Bolton, on January 29th, 1927.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major ever accomplished was rung by the London Youths on January 30th, 1780, at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. John Reeves composed and conducted it, but the proof of Treble Bob methods was not as yet understood, and the composition was false.

The first peal of Shipway Major was rung on January 31st, 1900, at Kidderminster. The method was an attempt to adapt Stedman's Principle to even numbers, but in practice has few merits.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES RUSSELL

OLD WINCHESTER RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Russell, of Winchester, who passed away on January 11th, at the age of 82.

Mr. Russell was born in Winchester and lived all his life there. He was for long the captain of the band at St. Maurice's and had been a member of the Cathedral band since 1891.

The funeral was at St. Maurice's, and in the absence through illness of the Rector was conducted by the Rev. S. M. Watson. The ringers present were Mr. Wilfred Andrews (captain), Mr. E. G. Lampard, Mr. W. C. Lampard, Mr. A. F. Goulding, and Mr. H. Cook, members of the Cathedral band; Mr. W. G. Goodchild (hon. secretary of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Ringers), and Mr. George Smith (Twyford), an old personal and ringing friend.

The interment was at the West Hill Cemetery.

RINGING FOR EASTER?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If it is not possible for the Government to lift the ban until after the war, I think most ringers would be satisfied if they could lift it for Easter Sunday, Whit Sunday, any National Day of Prayer, Armistice Sunday and again on Christmas Day, all from 9 a.m. till 12 noon. I hope someone will suggest this.

FRED FOWLER, Jun.

9, High Street, Stourton, Warminster, Wilts.

PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS

ST. PETER MANCROFT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading in your columns recently of some of the peals rung at Quex Park, it re-kindled a desire I have had for a long time—to see complete lists of peals rung at all twelve-bell towers. Would any readers be interested also? I wonder. For myself, I should wholeheartedly welcome such information, if you, Mr. Editor, could see fit to publish it, and gladly add it to my small store of ringing history.

Most of us, I imagine, have a reverence for rings of twelve and are glad to know all about them. The bells themselves and their history are easy game, but complete peal performances on them is a different proposition, and some might be difficult to compile. For instance, the London ones, where different societies had access in times past, and also in the case of some of the older country rings. As time goes on the difficulties will not be lessened, so can anything be done while the going is as good as it ever will be, and when 'The Ringing World' can now perhaps find room for publishing?

Some time ago I listed all the peals rung on the present bells at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, and found it an interesting job, and it provided some interesting side-lights too. I have brought this list up to date—from 1775, when the bells were cast, up to the time of the ban. In those 164 years 119 peals were rung; not over-prolific certainly. I append the list if you can find room to publish it.

THE FIRST SINGLE-HANDED PEAL.

It is curious to note the bells were there for 110 years before the tenor was rung single handed to a twelve-bell peal, although Thomas Hurry had rung her to Oxford Royal in 1827. The twelve-bell peal was Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1885, with the late George Smith as tenor-man. This George Smith has been mentioned several times in your columns. He was a superb ringer, with grace and style which made one envious.

Then again, you, Mr. Editor, and I both took part in the first single-handed Cinques on the bells—although they were 100 years old when we were born!

The first nine peals were spread over 110 years, and were of eight different sorts, the only 'double' being Kent Treble Bob Royal. They were Grandsire Cinques (1775), Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (1778), Double Norwich Maximus (1817), Oxford Treble Bob Royal (1827), Stedman Cinques (1844), Stedman Caters (1858), Kent Royal (1883 and 1884), and Kent Maximus (1885).

The 119 peals had no less than 45 conductors. Top scores were 21, 13 and 12, followed by one of 9 peals, four of 5 peals, one of 4, one of 3, two of 2, and thirty-three of one.

A number of ringers have rung their first twelve-bell peal at Mancroft, amongst them such noted names as Canon Coleridge, the Rev. F. E. Robinson, John W. Taylor, James W. Washbrook, Charles Hounslow, Frederick and Ernest Pitstow, William and Ernest Pye, and William Keeble.

Twenty-four of the total peals were rung on the lighter eights—the front eight, the 'middle' eight with the 9th of the twelve as tenor, and then in 1910 a flat 6th was added, giving a true octave with again the 9th as tenor. This was named the 'Gabriel' eight.

THE FULL LIST.

In addition to the peals given there have been two false compositions rung—Oxford Treble Bob Major on the 'middle' eight, and Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and in the 1880's the George Smith already mentioned rang the tenor of the back eight to a 5,184 Oxford Treble Bob Major. This was rung to the end, although a change-course occurred shortly before the finish and the peal not recorded. This was the first time a 5,000 on the back eight had been rung. Here is the list:—

Maximus: Plain Bob 2, Oxford Treble Bob 2, Kent Treble Bob 15, Double Norwich 1, Cambridge Surprise 1=21.

Cinques: Stedman 7, Grandsire 4=11.

Royal: Plain Bob 6, Oxford Treble Bob 4, Kent Treble Bob 14, Double Norwich 2, Cambridge Surprise 1, Erith Little Bob 1, Winton Court Bob 1=29.

Caters: Stedman 7, Grandsire 11=18.

Major: Plain Bob 1, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 2, Double Norwich 4, Superlative 2, Cambridge 2=12.

Triples: Plain Bob 1, Grandsire 1, Stedman 2=4. Total 95.

On front eight: Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob 1=3.

On 'middle' eight: Bob Major 4, Oxford Treble Bob 5, Kent Treble Bob 4, Grandsire Triples 1=14.

On 'Gabriel' eight: Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 2, Stedman Triples 1=7. Grand total 119.

I hope the above is a beginning of similar information about other twelve-bell towers.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, and members attended from Bolsterstone, Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth, Hoylandswaine, Sandal and St. Marie's, Sheffield.

At the business meeting the hon. president, Canon W. E. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, Barnsley, took the chair.

The accounts for 1942 showed a credit balance of 14s. 10d. This was very satisfactory in present conditions, and the statement was adopted on the motion of Mr. C. Robinson, seconded by Mr. J. R. Brearley, the auditors.

The secretary's report showed that ten monthly and one committee meeting had been held during the year, the average attendance being 10, which, considering all things, was fairly good. Four members had passed away and six new members had been elected. Mr. Smith thanked all who had attended the meetings and hoped that 1943 would be a year of success.

Mr. P. J. Johnson, of St. Michael's, Headingley, Leeds, was elected an honorary life member of the society.

The officers were all re-elected: President, Mr. E. Brooks, Hoylandswaine; treasurer, Mr. H. Chant, Felkirk; secretary, Mr. D. Smith, Felkirk. As the treasurer is now serving with the R.A.F., it was decided that the secretary should act for him in his absence. Mr. C. Robinson, Cawthorne, and Mr. S. Briggs, Eastwood, were elected as auditors for 1943.

On the motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Moxon, the officers were warmly thanked for their past services with best wishes for the future.

A vote of thanks was passed to the hon. president for taking the chair.

After tea handbells were brought into use, the methods practised being Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and Major and Treble Bob Minor.

The next meeting will be at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, February 20th, when the moon will be full.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BOCKING.**

At the annual meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th, ten ringers attended from five towers. A course of Bob Major was rung on handbells before the service, which was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Edgar Rogers. Mr. I. T. Chapman was at the organ.

The District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, presided at the business meeting in St. Mary's Hall. The secretary gave a report of the previous year's work, which showed that meetings had been held at Bocking, Earls Colne and Shalford with an average attendance of 14. One new honorary member had been elected. No handbell peals had been rung, which was attributed to the increasing travelling difficulties and National Service duties. The secretary thanked all those members who had attended meetings and all the tower secretaries for collecting subscriptions. Mr. F. Ridgwell congratulated the secretary on the report, and said that under the circumstances it was very good.

The Dean then took the chair and both officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. The committee were also re-elected. The Master and secretary accorded thanks for their re-election. A letter was read from Mr. W. T. Farrow, of Felsted, reporting the death of Mr. J. Wood, and another from Mrs. J. Elliott, of Kelvedon, saying that Mr. J. Elliott had undergone a serious operation and was unable to attend. The members were pleased to hear he was making satisfactory progress.

It was proposed by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, seconded by Mr. F. Ridgwell, that Mr. W. T. Farrow be recommended at the annual meeting for life membership.

It was proposed by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, seconded by Mr. R. Suckling, that the next meeting be held at Halstead midway between Easter and Whitsun.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean, Mr. Chapman and Mrs. Suckling for making the tea and to all the members who had turned up to make the meeting a success.

DEATH OF MR. E. BREEZE.

The death is announced of Mr. E. Breeze, of Bebington, Cheshire, who passed away on January 20th, and was buried at Bebington Churchyard on the 22nd.

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THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 41.)

In our last article we described the general lines on which twin-bob peals of Stedman Triples are composed. Although it is not possible, as with most other seven-bell methods, to set down the 5,040 rows in a number of independent and mutually exclusive natural courses, yet it is possible to act as if it can be done, provided certain very strict and definite conditions are observed.

These conditions are as follows. The natural course-ends must be those which are known as Hudson's course-ends. Bobs must be made in pairs, and can only be at S (3-4), H (5-6), L (7-8) and Q (12-13). Whenever a pair of bobs is made at S in a particular course, no bobs may be made at L in another particular course. Whenever a pair of bobs is made at H in a particular course, no bobs may be made at Q in another particular course. (The reverse of this is, of course, equally true.) When a pair of bobs is made at S, a Q Set is begun which must be completed by another pair at S in another course. And similarly with bobs at H, L and Q.

We thus get the following obligations:—

If in the course 123456 S is bobbed,
then in the course 526413 S must be bobbed.
652134 L must be plained,
312564 L must be plained,
If in the course 123456 H is bobbed,
then in the course 213465 H must be bobbed,
416235 Q must be plained.
425136 Q must be plained.

The making or omitting of a pair of bobs in any one position in a course, therefore, definitely settles the making or omitting of a pair of bobs in each of three other courses. This four-fold obligation was termed the Q Set of the method by Sir Arthur Heywood in his 'Investigations'; but more properly there are two related Q Sets, for a Q Set is not merely an obligation, but a link by which courses and blocks are joined together. In this instance every time a pair of bobs is made at S, or H, or L, or Q, two blocks are joined. (It sometimes happens that the joining is done by plaining a Q Set instead of bobbing it, but the principle is the same.)

The composition is built up by starting with the plain course and adding other courses, or blocks, to it one at a time. Here we get something different from what we find in other Triples methods. In them we start with the plain course, and by bobbing Q Sets we add each time an even number of other courses—two or four in Grandsire, two in Plain Bob and the kindred methods. It is obvious that if we start with a single course, and keep adding to it an even number, we shall never include the full number which is even. But in Stedman Triples we add one at a time, and the natural thought is, Why cannot we join up the full sixty?

Well, the first important fact is that in the sixty natural courses there are 480 bob-making positions, but for every one that is bobbed, one must be plained, and therefore the total number of bobs in the peal must be 240, no more and no less.

To add one course to another requires four bobs, therefore to add 59 will require 236. Let us assume that we have done it—we are faced with the fact that four positions are plained which must be bobbed, for otherwise

the changes in the 'irregular' sixes will be false. Unless those four bobs form a Q Set we cannot make them. If they do form a Q Set, the effect of making them will be to split one round block of sixty courses into two parts.

We shall have to use singles in twin bob peals of Stedman Triples as we have to do in Grandsire Triples, and for the same reason. Not because we need them to obtain rows of odd nature, but to act as the final links in the chain which binds together the round blocks formed by the bobs.

Every natural course of Stedman Triples contains an equal number of odd and even rows. Therefore for purposes of composition in-course singles are just as good, and, in fact, better, than ordinary singles which alter the regular succession of the nature of the rows. This is illustrated by William Hudson's peal, which, as a means of producing the extent of the rows, is not excelled and hardly equalled by any other peal in the method.

But the Exercise does not allow the use of in-course singles in Stedman. The objections to them belong to practical ringing, but they are of overwhelming force. We must therefore use ordinary singles.

As we saw in the cases of Grandsire and Plain Bob, the use of ordinary singles depends primarily on whether the natural course can be reversed and still contain the same rows. The P Block of Grandsire cannot be so reversed, and therefore it cannot be the basis of a peal when ordinary singles are used. What of Stedman Triples?

The plain course of Stedman Triples can be reversed and still contain the same rows; but, owing to the way it is usual to prick the method, this reversal is a good deal obscured.

The real point of reversal is the whole pull on the lead when the observation bell is a quick bell. This, of course, is the middle of a Six. When we are taking the seventh as the observation bell (as is usual), and when we are taking the last row of the Six when the seventh is in 6-7 up after quick, as the course-end (which also is usual), we must write down the reversal of the plain course as 564312.

If we prick a full natural course from 564312 we shall find that it contains the same rows as the plain course and in the same order, but backwards. Similarly, every every natural course exists in two forms—one direct, the other reverse; and the relationship of the two is as 123456 is to 564312. If we have a natural course which we want to add to a block by means of singles, we must first turn it into its reverse form.

There are two ways in which the use of singles in twin-bob Stedman Triples differs from that in other seven-bell methods. The first is that the singles are not made in the change at the actual course-end. The other is that singles can only be made in changes where they affect the position of the observation bell. If we made a single at S, or H, or L, or Q, we should find ourselves outside Hudson's natural courses. There are only four positions where they may be made. They are when the observation bell is in 4-5 up after either quick or slow, or in 6-7 down after either quick or slow. In the first two the observation bell will make fifth's place, and hence the call is designated by the symbol V. In the

(Continued on page 54.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 43.)

Pembridge, St. Mary's, has a detached tower standing about 25 yards north of the church, consisting of a boarded framework of wood, erected on an octagonal stone basement, and containing a clock and five bells. The chiming clock is a memorial to the Rev. F. Crouch, D.D., late Rector, and was placed there in 1891. The belfry was new roofed and restored, and three of the bells recast in 1898. Mr. A. G. Bradley, in his 'In the Marsh and Borderland,' describes Pembridge detached tower thus:—'The lowest part is of stone and octagonal, the main part above is of wood, supported by huge pillars composed of single tree trunks. Its outside appearance is of the pagoda type, and is said to be of 14th century date. Full of time-worn beams and timber, it is not unsuggestive of the inside of some ancient water-mill, but for the pendant bell ropes, while in the chaos of woodwork above there is both a chime and a clock.'

At Richards Castle, St. Bartholomew's Church now only serves as a mortuary chapel. It is a fine Norman edifice of stone, consisting of chancel, nave of three bays, south aisle, north transept and a detached tower standing a few feet distant from the main body of the church. This tower formerly had a spire, which was burnt down. It now contains three bells.

Norfolk has a number of detached and semi-detached towers, and a famous one is that of East Dereham, for the church also possesses a central tower as well. The first church here was founded by Anna, King of the East Angles, A.D. 635 to 654, who also founded a convent, of which his daughter Withburga was Prioress. The present church appeared to have been begun in the early twelfth century, and was probably a cruciform building dedicated to St. Nicholas. This early church was enlarged from time to time in succeeding centuries until the present grand edifice was completed. The central tower contains a double triforium arcade, and stands on four fine arches. An ancient Sanctus bell hangs on the roof, which dates from the fifteenth century. This tower is 70ft. high. In early times it is believed that the bells hung in a detached tower which seems to have become dilapidated at the close of the 15th century. But as a belfry was almost an essential feature of a mediæval church, money was collected and legacies left, and a new tower was commenced on an ambitious scale. This tower, which lies 50ft. to the south of the chancel, is quadrilateral in shape, the base being 30ft. square. It is supported at the angles by buttresses 8ft. by 4ft., the walls being 8ft. thick, and its height is 86ft. from the ground. The bell chamber is 23ft. square. Building was going on as late as 1536, but was never finished, and as it was when the Reformation set in, so it remains to-day. This belfry was utilised as a local lock-up so late as 1799. A band of French privateers was captured off Yarmouth and taken prisoners. On their way to Norman Cross (Hunts) they rested for the night at Dereham, and were shut up in the belfry. But during the night they broke out. One of the prisoners, Jean de Narde, son of a notary of St. Malo, hid himself in a tree, and on being found was shot down like a crow and was buried near the tomb of St. Withburga, October 6th, 1799. In 1717

there were six bells, in 1753 they had become eight, most of which have been recast. The tenor is 24 cwt. in E flat. There is also a clock bell by Mears, 1839.

Continuing Norfolk examples, both Terrington St. Clement and Terrington St. John have specimens, the former entirely detached, the latter semi-detached. The Church of Terrington St. Clement is a glorious edifice, one of the largest in the county and almost cathedral-like in appearance, and there are no less than 81 windows. There is the commencement of a central tower up to roof level, but at the north-west angle there is a massive detached tower which contains a clock and ring of eight bells. Of the old six bells, two were recast and two added in 1925 by Mears and Stainbank, and all were rehung by Day and Son.

At Terrington St. John the arrangement of the tower in relation to the church is unusual, and is, in fact, unique. The tower is joined to the church by a building which is certainly not a vestry in the modern sense, but rather consists of a normal stone spiral staircase rising to the level of the nave roof, and—on the ground level—of a brick vaulted chamber giving access to the base of the tower. Immediately above this chamber is a small room, access to which is gained by the staircase mentioned. This room has always been known as the 'priest's room,' the south wall of which is pierced by two rectangular openings to admit light, and there is a similar opening in the north wall.

The west wall of this room is formed by the tower itself, and the east by the west wall of the south aisle. The roof of this room is of stone, and from the level of this roof the building joining tower and church becomes much narrower and consists of the staircase and two passages, one above the other, the lower giving access to the ringing room, and the upper one to a stone spiral stairway contained in the north-east corner of the tower. This stairway continues on to the bell chamber. The upper of the two passages has a brick and stone vaulted roof and has a doorway on its eastern side opening on to the nave roof. As will be thus noted, there is no stairway in the tower itself until one reaches the level of the nave roof.

The belfry door is in the east side of the tower, and is reached through an opening in the south wall of the lower passage. Both belfry door and passage opening are enclosed—for safety—by a wall.

It is suggested, that the tower was built before the joining masonry was filled in, but it may be that the latter was part of the original plan, as had the tower been entirely detached there would have been no means of access to the stairway above. Access to the first stairway is by means of a door in the west end of the south aisle. A larger door at the side of the stair door opens into the lower chamber previously mentioned.

With regard to the 'priest's room,' it is believed that it was for the use of the priest in charge, and since at one time the church was served by the clergy of Terrington St. Clement, it is feasible that the room may have been used by the priest to pass the night.

There are six bells in the tower, weighing 45 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb., all by T. Osborn, of Downham, Norfolk, dated 1784. Previous to that date there were four bells only.

At Little Snoring, near Fakenham, the Church of St. Andrew possesses a round tower with a conical roof,

(Continued on next page.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

detached a few feet from the south-west corner of the present church, having belonged to an earlier church. This tower is Saxo-Norman, built partly of local carstone, and contains one bell by Pack and Chapman, of London, 1770. In 6 Edward VI. there were three bells, but a faculty to sell two bells was granted June 30th, 1772.

At West Walton, St. Mary's Church possesses a fine campanile situated 70ft. away from the main building, forming a grand entrance to the churchyard through its base. It contains a ring of five bells, and is believed originally to have had a lead-covered spire. In the time of Edward VI., there were four bells, weighing 6, 10, 11 and 14 cwt. Of the present five, the 3rd is by John Draper, 1620; 2nd by Tobias Norris, 1623; 1st and 4th by Thomas Norris, 1629; and tenor by Henry Penn, 1708.

Norfolk has several isolated towers still standing in places where the old church has now entirely gone or is in ruins, and I will note these later. At Wood Rising, the tower of St. Nicholas' Church is in ruins. There are pits for two bells. There is now only one bell, by Mears, 1861, and this hangs in a quaint thatched shed in the churchyard.

A unique tower is that at Morpeth, Northumberland. Near the market place it stands, a stone tower that was originally built as a jail, and the basement continued to be used as a town lock-up until 1802. The tower contains a clock and a ring of eight bells, and an inscription on the latter shows that they were given to the Corporation of Morpeth by Major-Gen. Edmond Main, M.P. for Morpeth in 1705. There is a tradition that the clock was brought from Bothal Castle. In 1886 the tower was restored and the bells rehung. In the tower is preserved a rope of special make, formerly used to tether the bull to a huge ring fixed in the ground, on occasions of bull-baiting in the market place.

The eight bells consist of six cast by R. Phelps in 1706, and two trebles by T. Mears, jun., 1833, the tenor being approximately 10½ cwt. A number of peals have been rung on these bells by members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association as well as others by visiting bands. The Rev. F. E. Robinson rang one peal here, and he gives a view of the tower in his book, 'Among the Bells.'

Oxford has two examples of detached towers in New College and Carfax, with ten and six bells respectively. New College was founded by William of Wykeham in 1379 under a charter of Richard II., and formally opened in 1386. It was not until some years later that the founder was able to obtain possession of the land on which the cloisters and tower now stand, these being consecrated on October 19th, 1400. For this reason the tower stands on the north side of the cloisters, quite apart from the chapel. It is 34ft. square, and occupies the site of a former bastion which William of Wykeham was permitted to pull down.

(To be continued.)

IS THAT SO?

A good ringer and a true heart
Will not refuse to stand a quart.—Ringers' Rules
at Drewsteignton Church, Dartmoor.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master took the chair at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on January 16th, and supporting him were the secretary and treasurer and Messrs. J. A. Trollope, J. H. Shepherd, G. N. Price, F. E. Collins, D. Cooper, F. C. Newman, R. F. Deal, C. W. Roberts, J. E. Lewis Cockey, H. Hoskins, H. G. Miles, C. M. Meyer and E. A. Young.

The Master warmly welcomed Mr. E. Maurice Atkins, of Kilburn, and Mr. McDougal. The Forces were represented by L.-Cpl. Len Fox and Pte. Tom Fox.

Visitors were Messrs. G. Dawson (Leytonstone), E. Smith (West Ham) and N. V. Harding (Windsor).

Mr. Trollope said that several people had asked him why no account of the ringing activities of the late F. E. Dawe had appeared in 'The Ringing World.' The reason was that he had not been able to obtain any information.

RECORD OF THE TERCENTENARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If you will permit me to describe the photographs, the copies of which we are offering to members, the twelve are as follow, viz.:

(1) 'Are you ready?' (three ringers on 11, 12 and treble at St. Paul's—Messrs. Langdon, Peck and Fenn).

(2) 'The Master addressing the ringers at St. Paul's re the proposed Cockerill gift.'

(3) Three ringers (as above) descending the stairs after attending the meeting at St. Paul's.

The following nine were all taken at the meeting which followed, and show the well-remembered surroundings typical of The Coffee Pot (circa September, 1937).

(4) Opening ceremony—Steward lights the 'Wellington' candles (Mr. 'Lawrie' Porter).

(5) The Master calls for attention whilst the secretary reads the minutes.

(6) The Secretary reads the minutes (Mr. W. T. Cockerill).

(7) The Master says, 'Who will second the motion?' (Mr. E. H. Lewis).

(8) The Treasurer checking the Pence-book (Mr. A. Hughes).

(9) The Master, 'There being no further business, I will now close the meeting.'

(10) A remarkably fine portrait of the late 'Ernie' Brett and 'Dick' Deal.

(11) The Master joins in a 'touch' on the ten, with Messrs. Passmore, Groombridge, Fenn and Roughton.

(12) Another 'touch' with Messrs. E. Duffield and others.

The photos are all 8in. by 5½in. and are 'Daily Herald' copyright. Nos. 4 to 9 are a unique record of well-known officers and the meeting at the now destroyed Coffee Pot.

E. ALEX. YOUNG (Member of Record Committee).
The Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 52.)

second two the observation bell will make sixth's place, and hence the call is designated by the symbol VI.

Singles are always made in pairs and usually (but not always) the single at VI after quick is complementary to the single at V after quick; and the single at VI after slow is complementary to the single at V after slow.

As the observation bell makes the singles, the result appears somewhat complicated, but actually is not. A single at V after quick, followed by a single at VI after quick, is just as simple an operation as two singles at R in Bob Major, the actual changes concerned being:—

1253746 and 1253476.

2135746 2135476.

But, as the course-end depends on the position of the observation bell, the first single will cut two Sixes and the course-end out of the courses, and the second single will replace them. In the figures they are shown as follows:—

123456 VI V

(514263) —

514263

123456 —

(To be continued.)

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.

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. Copies of the 12 photographs to be added to the restored Tercentenary Record Book are available, price 2s. each, mounted 2s. 6d., matt or glossy.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

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.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

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. 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.—W. Ayre, Sec., Leverstock Green.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Longton on Saturday, February 6th, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at 5.15 p.m. at the Dorothy Cafe to all who notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than February 2nd.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be at Middleton on Saturday, February 13th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. Reports to hand. All welcome.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

BATH AND WELL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Ilminster, Somerset, Saturday, February 13th. Tower open 2 p.m. (clapper boards). Tea at St. Mary's Hall 4.45 p.m., 1s. Business meeting to follow after. Numbers for tea to T. H. Taffender, 51, East Street, Ilminster. All ringers welcome.—Rev. C. E. Hickman, Hon. Sec., The Vicarage, Ilminster.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than February 17th. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The new address of Mr. F. E. Dukes, Hon. Sec., the Irish Association of Change Ringers, is 1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin, to which all correspondence in future should be sent.

THE LATE HERBERT F. HULL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was sorry to read of the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, whom I well remember meeting (chiefly on account of his deafness, I regret) about twenty years ago during many pleasant and helpful visits to both the Walthamstow towers. My memory pictures a most friendly man, popular with all and known to everyone there as Frank.

About this time the late Mr. E. D. Lillywhite, of St. Saviour's, gave me a self-measuring pocket book as used by surveyors, etc., in which are several touches of Bob Minor and Triples and many such of Grandsire Triples almost all worded instructions, the lengths only in figures. There are only two peals, both Grandsire Triples and similarly described, one the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' Five-part, the other as Hull's Twelve-part; just the notes for calling and a guide for the odd single. The only occasion I called a peal of Grandsire I took Davies' from this book, giving no thought of the other, but as no mention is made of Frank Hull as a composer and me possessing these details, I am sending the peal (also a quarter-peal given as his) with no knowledge whatever as to its merits, originality or if it has been rung. Of course, I am assuming it is by the same person, as the two people were so closely associated. It is possible, too, some of the touches are his, which include Oxford Bob.

Mention is made of Mr. Hull eking out a living after his accident, a most unfortunate position, I consider, for any ringer who has served the Exercise so well, and I think it is a pity we ringers who attach so much to all members of our craft, known and unknown, have not such a thing as a Ringers' Club with funds assuring against such mishaps, and where a member, without any humiliation whatever, could receive benefits on non-charitable lines. My wife's view is we should pay a penny a week and it wouldn't be missed.

All will sympathise with the ringers of Walthamstow in the loss of their friend, especially as they did not know at the time of his passing; another instance, no doubt, of relatives not knowing who would wish to pay their last respects.

DAVID VINCENT.

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