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THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

The account of the recent meeting at Oxford and the attempt that is being made to form a new Universities Association will be read with attention by ringers generally, and the fortunes of the new society will be followed with sympathetic interest, for one at least of the declared objects may prove to be of lasting benefit to the Exercise.

To have a name under which peals can be rung and tours arranged is of no great importance. The idea that every peal rung must be attributed to some society or other is one which has grown up in the Exercise during the last half century and is universally held; but it has no real basis, and has some disadvantages. It arose because men thought that peals rung without the name of a society would be unrecorded and forgotten. Going to the other extreme, they sometimes put two and even three names at the top of their reports, so as to get a double or three-fold record. This custom was forbidden by the Central Council, but mainly for reasons connected with 'points for peals.'

The name of the society in the report of a peal should be part of the plain, matter-of-fact record, and that is hardly the case when the name is used by men who have no more than a somewhat nominal membership.

An instance of this is referred to by Mr. C. E. Borrett. Some years ago a band made up of distinguished ringers from all parts of England toured the Northern Counties and Scotland. They rang a good many peals and all were published under the name of the Norwich Diocesan Association, which had to pay some extra pounds for the printing of its report and got no benefit whatever.

That was rather an extreme case, for a band on tour usually chooses the association in whose district it rings its peals; but even so it is difficult to see why the association should be put to the expense of printing the peals which are no sign of the skill and proficiency of its own members. There is really no valid reason why peals rung by mixed bands should not be published as non-society peals, which, of course, they are.

Nor do we think it would be any particular advantage to the Exercise at large to form an association which should be open to those who have had a University training. We must not forget that while societies unite people, they also divide people. If inclusion and co-operation are essential features of a society, so are also selection and exclusiveness. The ideal society is that which best combines and reconciles these two opposites. There was a time when ringing societies were mainly

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exclusive, and undoubtedly it then was necessary to the life of the Exercise. Now we need the fullest co-operation, and the territorial associations seem to be the best form of organisation to attain that end. If the new society had no other object than to divide ringers into those who hold a University degree and those who do not, it would hardly be an unmixed blessing.

Everything in this world worth having has to be paid for, and this price would be worth while paying if the new society can attain its declared object and promote the practice of change ringing among the students of the newer universities. It will not be an easy thing to do. The conditions are altogether different from those at Oxford and Cambridge, due chiefly to the absence of colleges. But the benefits the Exercise has derived from the ringing societies at the two older Universities are so great that the attempt is eminently worth making, and is a full justification for the new association. London University, we notice, is excluded from the scheme. That, probably, is as well. A ringing society there would hardly be possible, and if possible would not be advisable.

JOINT MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

A very pleasant joint meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at St. John's Church Hall, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th.

About 35 members and friends were present from Beaconsfield, Beddington, Boyne Hill, Burbage (Leicester), Bushey, Ealing (St. Stephen's), Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Kingsbury, Mere (Wilts), Ruislip, St. Albans (St. Peter's), Stoke Poges, Twickenham, Watford, Wembley and Windsor.

The Church Hall was available from 3 p.m., and two sets of handbells were soon in use, the methods rung including Grandsire Triples and Oaters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Major. Some good ringing was accomplished, in addition to some good tune playing by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker and Mr. W. L. Gutteridge.

A substantial tea was provided at 5 p.m. and was followed by a short business meeting, presided over by Mr. G. M. Kilby, Ringing Master

The secretary apologised for the absence of the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. E. C. S. Turner and Mr. C. T. Coles, who were detained at an important committee meeting in London. A letter of good wishes was read by Mr. F. W. Goodfellow from Messrs. Bray, of Uxbridge, both of whom have recently obtained commissions in H.M. Forces, and he was requested to send a suitable reply.

During the proceedings the Vicar of St. John's, the Rev. A. M. Bashford, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Middlesex Association. He extended a hearty welcome to those present and spoke of the joy of hearing the bells rung recently. Although he himself was not altogether in favour of premature victory ringing, he had to admit that the very large congregation present at the subsequent service was largely due to the call of the bells. He strongly advised those present to get Church authorities interested in ringing, and to get themselves elected to the Ruri-Decanal Conferences, so as to make their views known. With regard to the annual district meeting to be held early in April, he gave a cordial invitation to Hillingdon, the hall being available, and there being no question of coming too often. In view of the difficulty of obtaining accommodation, this kind invitation will probably be accepted.

The secretary made a strong appeal for the payment of subscriptions and arrears, and it is gratifying to record that there was a good response as regards both associations.

A very hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. D. Barker, secretary to the Oxford Guild, to the Vicar, Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow and to all their helpers who had made such excellent arrangements in providing tea and social events, and this was carried by acclamation.

After tea a very successful and enjoyable social programme was carried out, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow, Mr. W. H. Coles and others. It included songs by Mr. W. L. Gutteridge, piano-accordion solos by Mr. Toni Corso, dancing and community singing to the same accompaniment, games and a very effective duet by piano-accordion and saw, the latter by Mr. Casey Jones, who caused astonishment by the fine effect he produced from the latter. Various touches on the handbells were also introduced into the proceedings, and further refreshments were provided. A very enjoyable evening closed about 9 p.m., great appreciation being expressed at the kindness and trouble taken by Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow and company.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 20 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Ox- ford) 5-6
FRANK E. HAYNES (Cam- bridge) 3-4	REV. MALCOLM C. C. MEL- VILLE (Birmingham) ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 24). Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob. The first peal for the association.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

WILFRID F. MORETON (Ox- ford) 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
Mrs M. R. CROSS (Reading) 3-4	*LT. WILLIAM F. GIBBONS (Oxford) 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

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

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY:

On Saturday, February 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
JOAN H. ULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3-4	*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 7-8

Composed by F. E. W. MEADOWS (C.C.C. No. 34).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Liversedge on Saturday, February 27th, and was attended by members from Armley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's) and the local company.

During the afternoon and evening Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on handbells.

A vote of thanks to Mr. F. Hodgson, of the local company, for the day's arrangements, was proposed by Mr. Lofthouse and seconded by Mr. J. F. Harvey.

The arrangement of the next meeting was left with the secretary. This meeting should be a joint meeting with the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association.

DEATH OF STOKE-ON-TRENT RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Austin, who for about 56 years had been a member of the Stoke-on-Trent band.

Although not a great peal ringer, he had taken part in peals in the four standard methods, and was regular in his attendance in the belfry.

The funeral service was on February 24th in Stoke Parish Church and the interment at Hanley Cemetery. The Stoke ringers were represented and sent a floral tribute.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 92.)

COLLEGE YOUTHS AND CUMBERLANDS.

Concurrently with the contest at Shoreditch another was going on at St. Giles', Cripplegate, where the tenor weighed 36 cwt., and where, in the year 1772, Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel, had hung a new ring of ten in the steeple. So far as we know only three peals had been rung on the old bells—5,094 Grandsire Caters by the College Youths in 1726, 6,012 Grandsire Caters by the City Scholars in 1732, and 5,040 Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in 1752.

As I have already mentioned, the College Youths rang the first peal on the new bells, one of Grandsire Caters, and the Cumberlands beat it a month later. The College Youths rang the first peal of Treble Bob Royal, 5,080 changes, in 1774, with Thomas Sylvester and William Mills at the tenor, and in May, 1777, three days after the 11,080 at Shoreditch, the London Youths rang Reeves' composition with the extent of the method in nine courses. Christopher Wells called the bobs, and Reeves rang the tenor with the help of James Truscoat.

On January 5th, 1778, the Cumberlands rang 5,320 changes with the elder Muggeridge at the ninth and Robert Mann at the tenor, the first peal on the bells by ten men only. But their rivals were hot on their heels, and on March 21st, they scored a 6,000 single-handed, in 4 hours and 25 minutes. Charles Purser rang the ninth and the younger Samuel Muggeridge the tenor. It was a very fine performance, for only a short while before, two and even three men were needed to ring the bell behind to a five-thousand. We must, however, remember that in the days of wooden frames and wooden headstocks the go of a bell varied considerably from time to time, and some were very much affected by changes in the weather. The gudgeons were driven into the stock and turned up by hand, which almost always meant that a newly hung bell never went well until the brasses were somewhat worn, or as the saying was, until the bell had got her bearings.

The College Youths were now supreme. Both on ten and twelve bells, in number of changes, and weight of metal, they had beaten their competitors; but now another band took a hand in the game.

The Norwich Scholars were then at the height of their fame; among provincial societies they stood alone in reputation; and only recently Pack and Chapman had cast the grand ring of twelve at St. Peter Mancroft. In the year 1777 some of the Norwich men visited London. What they did there, and whether they attempted a peal we do not know; but they were made welcome by the Cumberlands and joined that society. In the same year Thomas Smith, Thomas Blakemore and Robert Mann visited Norwich and rang a peal of Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, which was entered in the Cumberlands' peal book.

In 1778 the Norwich men again went to London, this time apparently with a full band. Naturally they heard a lot about the long peal contest, and when they returned home they resolved to make an attempt themselves on the record. On March 16th, 1778, they rang 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in five hours and twenty-two minutes. As they were all members of the Society of Cumberland Youths, the perform-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

ance was entered in the company's peal book, and was some consolation for the defeats of the previous year.

The peal was composed and conducted by Thomas Barton, and the figures have survived and are true. It has the rather unusual feature of starting with a bob at Home. Jasper Snowdon suggested that the object was 'of course' to obviate any fear of a jumble out, and goes on to say that when a company is not a very able one, perhaps there is no real ground for an objection to such a proceeding; but for his own part, he would certainly prefer to risk any danger of getting out, rather than have recourse to such a measure.

The argument is scarcely convincing. The Norwich band cannot be said not to have been an able one, and a company which cannot ring the first two leads of a peal is not very likely to be able to ring the last two. The truth is that no conventions had as yet grown up on the matter. The Norwich men saw no more objection to calling a bob in the first lead of Treble Bob than in the first lead of Grandsire, or Plain Bob. Later on, in the nineteenth century, ringers got into very narrow ways of looking at some things, and there were composers, like Henry Dains and Nathan Pitstow, who maintained that to start a peal of Treble Bob with one or two Homes was as much a departure from correct usage, as to start Grandsire Caters with 6-7 lying still. Opinion in the matter has greatly changed, the device is now fairly common, and we are inclined to think that, since Barton finished his peal with nearly the whole of the plain course, his plan was worth while.

Two men, John and James Trowse, were needed to ring Mancroft tenor to the peal. The general hanging of the bells was excellent. The work was done for the Whitechapel Foundry by a man named Turner, and Frederick Day, the bell-hanger of Eye, a competent authority, told me he had never seen a better frame. But the tenor never did go well, and, until modern times, only on one occasion was a man able to ring it single-handed to a five-thousand.

This may have had something to do with the time it took to ring the Maximus. Although the bell was 12 cwt. less than the tenor at Southwark, the peal was rung at a slower rate than any performance in that tower. The average rate of ringing at Southwark in the eighteenth century was just over twenty changes a minute, the slowest being 19.51, and the quickest 21.12; while in recent years the average rate is about 22. The Norwich peal was rung at the rate of 19.38 changes a minute.

For six years after the Norwich peal the long length records remained divided between College Youths and Cumberlands, but neither company had given up the hope of wresting full honours from its rival. George Gross was a man who delighted in long peal ringing, and in 1779 he called 11,088 changes of Bob Major at St. Nicholas', Brighton. We may be sure he was continually urging his friends to make another attempt at Shore-ditch, but the difficulty was to find a competent tenor ringer. Mann rang the tenor to the 10,200, and by turning in Cripplegate tenor had shown that he was a first class heavy bell man; but to ring a 31 cwt. bell for more than nine hours was probably a bigger task than he was prepared to attempt. He rang the bell to a 6,000 in October, 1783, no doubt to test his capacity. Samuel

Wood and his brother Francis, too, were getting older. They had been active ringers for thirty years and were now about fifty years old. They would stand aside and let younger men make the attempt.



ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE,
before the recent air raid.

The Cumberlands found at last the heavy bell men they needed in Malachi Channon and Allen Grant. Channon was born in 1747 and had joined the society on December 28th, 1771, but had not got into the peal band until six years later, when he rang the tenor at Whitechapel to a couple of peals of Bob Major. He took part in a five-thousand in November, 1782, when he rang the ninth at St. Leonard's to Grandsire Caters, and then he was picked as the best man to ring that bell in the attempt for the record Treble Bob Royal.

Allen Grant had been a member of one branch of the Society of London Youths. That society broke up in 1780, and in September, 1782, Grant joined the Cumberlands. He then went to the ancient Society of College Youths to rejoin some of his old friends of the London Youths, and now he was invited back to the Cumberlands to ring the tenor in the big attempt.

Meanwhile Charles Purser had quarrelled with the College Youths and left them. During the few years he was their leader, he had stirred them into great activity,

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

but it seems to have been his fate never to remain for long with one band, and, although he continued ringing for twenty years more, he never again occupied the same prominent position.

He was succeeded as conductor by John Povey, who held the office of beadle, and was for many years the mainstay of the society. They had two important recruits in George Scarsbrook, who came to them from the London Youths, and James Worster, a very excellent ringer, who lived at Chelsea, and did most of his ringing at Kensington and the Middlesex villages to the west of London.

In 1784 both societies were ready to make another attempt on the double record. On March 10th the College Youths beat the Norwich peal by ringing 7,008 changes of Maximus at Southwark in five hours and forty-eight minutes. Povey rang the fourth and called John Reeves' 10-course composition with the sixth the extent each way, the peal which is given in the standard books as a 5,040 of Royal. The other bells were rung by Winstanley Richardson, William Hatt, sen., William Hatt, jun., James Darquitt, George Scarsbrook, James Worster, William Lyford, Joseph Monk, Joseph Holdsworth, Edmund Sylvester, and Samuel Muggeridge. Muggeridge thus beat his father's 6,336 of Plain Bob Maximus. The rate of ringing was about the same in both peals, the earlier being at 20.11 changes a minute, and the other at 20.24 — much slower than is usual nowadays.

A fortnight later the Cumberlands made their attempt. On the morning of Saturday, March 27th, they met in
(Continued in next column.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHELMSFORD.

The annual meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex Association was held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday and was attended by twelve members representing six towers. The Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer Phillips, took the chair.

Mr. L. J. Clark informed the meeting with regret that Mr. H. W. Shadrack, the district secretary, was unable to be present owing to the death of his wife, which had taken place on the previous day. The deceased lady had been a regular attendant at the meetings of the district for some years past, and had on a number of occasions given able assistance in providing teas. Those present stood in silence for a few moments, and it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. Shadrack.

The secretary's report stated that during 1942 meetings were held at Chelmsford, Great Baddow, Writtle, Springfield and Widford, the average attendance being 15. Three members had died during the year, namely, Mr. Davis, of Great Waltham, Mr. Bird, of Galleywood, and Mr. S. C. Card, of Maldon St. Mary's, the latter as the result of enemy action.

Mr. H. J. Mansfield was re-elected Master and Mr. H. W. Shadrack secretary. Messrs. G. Green and E. J. Runter were re-elected to the committee. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Maldon in April, subject to the defence area restrictions not being re-imposed.

A service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. E. R. Morrow, with an address by the Rev. W. F. G. Mitchell.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

St. Leonard's belfry, and, all being ready, they struck into changes at one o'clock. They rang for nine hours and five minutes, and at five minutes past ten they came into rounds. Outside the church a big crowd had collected, and as the ringers came out of the tower they were greeted with 'a great shout of approbation and joy' by the people, who formed a cheering lane through which they made their way to the White Hart nearby. Thus both records changed hands once more.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Spliced Major given in our last issue was by Mr. G. E. Feirn, of Barnetby, Lincolnshire. We are sorry his name was printed incorrectly.

Miss Cross should have taken part in the first peal by the new Universities Society and so made it representative of five universities, but unfortunately she had to stand down owing to a headache.

The most interesting accounts by Canon Coleridge and Mr. R. T. Hibbert of the late John Martin Routh should have appeared in our last issue. The parcel containing the manuscripts, however, got hung up on the railway and did not reach the printers in time.

We are glad to hear from Mr. Hibbert that though the windows of St. Laurence's Church have suffered badly, the ring of twelve bells is safe.

Those who wish to join the new Universities Association should send their subscription (minimum 1s.) without delay to Mr. John E. Spice at New College, Oxford.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major in the county of Essex was rung at Saffron Walden 50 years ago on February 27th, 1893.

Fifty years ago yesterday William Snowdon presided at the Johnson anniversary dinner at Birmingham.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday Samuel Wood called at Ashton-under-Lyne John Thorpe's peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 10,464 changes.

Henry Johnson, whose memory will be honoured at Birmingham to-morrow, was born on February 28th, 1809; and on the same date in 1838 Edwin Horrex, for many years a leading member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born at Ipswich.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Royal at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on February 26th, 1733; and on the same date in 1801 a mixed band rang the second peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal.

The St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham regained the record for Stedman Cinques (which they had lost in 1851) by ringing 9,238 changes on February 28th, 1881.

The first peal of Premier Surprise Major was rung at Whitley Bay on February 28th, 1922. The method is Bristol Surprise with seconds and sevenths added.

Two early long peals of Grandsire Caters were rung at Painswick on March 1st—8,064 changes in 1734, and 10,080 changes in 1735.

The extent of Canterbury Pleasure Major with the tenors together, 13,440 changes, was rung at Warnham, Sussex, on March 1st, 1889.

The Leicester men rang Melton Surprise Royal on March 2nd, 1929; and the Nottingham men rang 10,260 Grandsire Caters on March 3rd, 1778.

One of the many long lengths at Appleton was a peal of Grandsire Caters, 12,041 changes, on March 5th, 1888.

The first peal of London Bob Triples was rung at Bridgend, Glamorganshire, on March 5th, 1927; the first peal of Warwickshire Surprise Major at Nuneaton on March 5th, 1932; and the first peal of Chester Surprise Major at Helmingham on March 6th, 1936.

The Oldham men rang 7,392 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on March 6th, 1832, and took the 12-bell record from Birmingham. They lost it the next year to Painswick.

THE FIRST PEAL AT BROMLEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I write to point out a small error in your article in 'The Ringing World' of February 19th.

I am a Cumberland myself and am naturally following your interesting columns of the Cumberland Society in bygone days, but I am also a Kentish man and a great admirer of James Barham. It was he and his band who rang the first peal on Bromley bells on Monday, June 14th, 1773. The enclosed copy of the peal was passed on to the Bromley Youths by Mr. Phil Hodgkin, of Headcorn, who has some of James Barham's books.

P. SPICE, Secretary, Bromley Youths.

6, Glebe Road, Bromley, Kent.

Monday, 14th June, 1773, was rung at Bromley 5,068 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 3 hours and 7 minutes by William Davis treble, William Cook 2, William Tilly 3, Thomas Austin 4, George Tilly 5, John Freeland 6, James Barham 7, Thomas Lacey tenor. This is the first long peal on them bells, though there has been two companies from London to try.'

THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In regard to the ban on bellringing, I am sure that some of your readers did not see or hear some of the goings on out in France during the last war. I well remember going through one village early in the morning when the church bell started to ring, and we soon had some shells coming over to us. I still wonder if something of that sort of signalling was in our Government's mind when the ban was imposed on us. May we soon ring the victory bells again.

PEARL INSKIP.

38, King Street, Kempston, Beds.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.

Although he was hardly a name to the present generation of ringers, Mr. Routh was well known in the Exercise fifty years ago and more. He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1873, the same year as the Rev. C. W. Kennaway, afterwards hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, the Rev. Erskin Clarke, afterwards Rector of Battersea and Editor of 'Church Bells,' Lord Justice R. R. Cherry, and his brother, F. B. Cherry, of whom the latest news was that he is still alive and living in British Columbia.

Martin Routh was Master of the College Youths in the year 1885.

Canon Coleridge, who knew him well, sends us the following account, which, as he says, will be appreciated by young and old:—

CANON COLERIDGE'S MEMORIES.

It has been suggested to me that a short 'In memoriam' notice of the late J. Martin Routh by one who has known him for over 60 years would be appreciated by ringers generally, whether old or young. I gladly respond to the suggestion.

Tilehurst, Berks, in days gone by, was highly esteemed among the medical practitioners of Reading as eminently suited to patients in the convalescent stage. It was on a hill and was noted for its pure air—a great asset to speedy recovery. Here it was that Martin Routh was born just over 96 years ago, and no doubt attributed his long period of life to favourable country surroundings.

His father was Rector for 44 years, succeeding the well-known Dr. Routh, president of Magdalen College, Oxford, who lived to his 100th year, partly owing no doubt to the fact that being Rector of Tilehurst as well, he could spend his long vacations there, and gain benefit from the salubrious air at frequent intervals. Those were the days of pluralities, when it was no uncommon thing for a man to hold several 'offices of profit' in the Church at the same time, paying a curate £40-60 a year to do the work. ('Those good old days,' say some; happily for us they are long past.)

Here it was that Martin Routh was brought up, and, after matriculating at Oxford, proceeded to the Bar. My first meeting with him was in the street near the Temple, in which he had chambers; also at the meeting place of the College Youths near Southwark Cathedral when he was present as an ordinary member. Later he became Master of the society, and at his death was the oldest in age (96 years); also in membership (70 years).

PEAL RINGING.

As to his peal ringing prowess, I must leave that to others. I can only mention those in which we stood in together—all within the short space of eight years—50-60 years ago, eight in all, viz., at St. Laurence's, Reading, three, Stedman Caters, Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal; at Tilehurst, three, Grandsire (Holt's Original), conducted by himself, on augmentation of peal with two new trebles, Stedman Triples and Double Norwich; one at Drayton, Berks, Stedman Triples, the first peal in the method by the Oxford University Society, to which he was elected, the society being formed after he had 'gone down' from Oxford; one at Lambourn, Berks, Stedman Triples, on the opening of the restored bells, a notable day for Lambourn, for the Bishop preached and Sir John Stainer, a Lambourn boy, left his console at St. Paul's to play the organ at the service.

It was a notable day, too, for Martin Routh, but not so happy for him and most distressing to his companions. This was on May 17th, 1892. Five years before he had lost the sight of his right eye at a cricket match on Jubilee Day while playing cricket at one of the Wallops, near Stockbridge (whether Over or Nether Wallop I am unable to remember). A few courses from the end, by some mishap, some part of his rope struck him on the left eye, depriving him of rope-sight. We saw, of course, that something was wrong, as he was ringing solely by sound, but he begged us to keep on to the finish, which we did. His appeal, 'Will somebody find my coat for me?' made us fear the worst, though none of us knew the cause. It was distressing work getting him down the tower steps and finally seating him in the big wagonette for the long homeward drive.

After some time his sight in that one eye was restored, but I fancy that from that day he gave up serious ringing, but certainly not his interest. At all events, I have no knowledge to the contrary. He was active in all that pertained to ringing, especially as evinced in the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and ever delighted when some ringing friend visited him in his house, a few yards from the Rectory.

MANY INTERESTS.

I know of one young man who was never more pleased than to sit at his feet, listen to his stories and experiences, and most reluctantly tear himself away. Several times have I visited him, and always found him the same, cheery, reminiscent and full of hospitality.

Before old age crept on, fortunately he had other interests than ringing—shooting, fishing, gardening, reading and writing—a sure shot, a keen dry-fly fisherman and a gardener who produced such heads of asparagus as I have never seen before.

For his 91st birthday, 'by request of his family,' as a remembrance of it, he was persuaded to print 90 sets of doggerel verses he had written for his own amusement, and 'to keep good stories in memory.' Many of them are 'side splitting.' I should like to quote some of them, but as the book is plainly marked, 'For private circulation

only. All rights reserved. Copyright by Martin Routh, of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law, I must needs refrain.

Owing to travel difficulties I have been unable to pay him a visit for nearly five years, then I saw him for the last time. I had gone over to preach at the restoration of the bells and had little spare time for talk. A few days later he sent me a copy of his verses 'from his old friend the author,' with a recent photo of himself and a delightfully long letter. As this is not copyright, I should like to reproduce certain parts of it exactly as written, two extracts of events in the past, which have to do with the tenor at St. Paul's and the trebles at Tilehurst, though I know well that the stories are well known in both those quarters. Here is what he says:—

(1) 'Apropos of the man who said "I couldn't do it" is this. "Curly" Jones, a huge cook in the Royal Horse Guards, used to ring the tenor at St. Paul's Cathedral, and he is credited in an old number of "The Bell News" as having raised the tenor single-handed on a certain Sunday afternoon. On that day I was up among the bells with another man. I think it might have been F. E. Dawe, but am not at all certain about this. While up there the tenor began to move. It was generally raised by three men with strap ropes for two of them. The bell when about frame high did not get any higher and we on each side kept pulling the wheel as hard as we could at each poise of the bell and the result was successful and the bell was set up.

'When we descended and took our places to ring, nothing was told us, and it was not till a week afterwards that my companion showed me the paragraph in 'Bell News,' and we looked at one another! I often wonder whether my companion let on! I didn't, and if ever I meet "Curly," who, I hope, is alive, I shall not say to him, "You couldn't do it," although, in fact, he didn't on that occasion.

TILEHURST BELLS.

(2) 'I heard that you said (in your sermon) much more, I am sure, than I deserve, but I really do think that I was the cause of the peal being increased to eight bells. My father told me that Mrs. Alexander, then of Calcot Park, was desirous of giving something to the church in memory of the 40 years of happy married life spent with her late husband. I suggested two trebles to the peal and he agreed. I then went to Mrs. Alexander and suggested that no more appropriate gift could be given, as bells are said to rejoice with those who do rejoice and weep with those who weep, and left her with the two trebles in my pocket.'

Under the shadow of the church we leave him, within a few yards of his old home. He saw many changes in his long life. Calcot Park, with its large herd of deer, is now occupied as a golf course and club. Other large houses no longer are inhabited by many a well-known and honoured family. Acres upon acres of lovely slopes and pastures have been covered with a motley array of bricks and mortar. A town rather than an erstwhile village has sprung up, with a population of 11,000, or, with the daughter parish, double that number. A change indeed which Martin Routh lived to see. Tilehurst regrets the loss of her oldest inhabitant. Ringers generally will speak of him as a legendary person. Friends in all stations of life, myself among the number, will cherish the memory of a staunch and true friend. R.I.P.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

MR. R. T. HIBBERT'S TRIBUTE.

A link with the past was severed on Monday, February 15th, when J. M. Routh, of The Manor, Tilehurst, Reading, passed away. His 96th birthday was December 27th, 1942, and up to the end his memory was marvellous.

He was a charming man to spend an hour with. He was a great man in the ringing world in the eighties, being then in chambers in London, practising as a barrister. He was born at the Rectory, Tilehurst, where his father was incumbent for upward of 30 years.

When the bells at Tilehurst were increased to eight in 1884 he, being home most week-ends, taught a young band, the only survivor of which is Mr. H. Goodger, still one of the local band at 74 years of age.

J. M. Routh was Master of the College Youths in 1885, and rang peals with notable men of that time. He always talked of C. F. Winney, J. Rowbotham and F. E. Dawe as the youngsters. For many years he was chairman of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Guild, but it was in the tower that his great personality was most noticeable. A very fine handler and a martinet for good striking, he was a terror to the careless ringer. He called the first peal, Holt's Original, on Tilehurst bells in January, 1886, and had a good yarn to tell about the first attempt a few weeks before.

After ringing two and a half hours the tenor man gave up, and J. M. Routh expressed his opinion of the poor chap in no uncertain manner. Anyhow, the old call change party of that day asked him if he thought he could ring the bell for three hours himself, and, of course, he said he could.

The next time he went in the tower in the early evening he rang the tenor, and to hear his version of the matter was very amusing. He said the treble man kept calling changes until 3½ hours had gone. Then he said, 'I didn't think you'd do it,' and as M.R. said, 'I couldn't set the bell on the plea of dinner time in the Rectory or for any other cause, but I could freely have murdered the conductor,

(Continued on page 109.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

The annual lunch of the Oxford University Society was held on Saturday, February 20th, and once again the City Restaurant produced an excellent meal. Unfortunately several people who had intended to come were prevented at the last minute, but nevertheless 36 people were present.

The guests were Miss Marie R. Cross and Mr. William C. Porter, both of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and the visitors included Mr. F. Haynes, of the Cambridge University Society, the Rev. M. C. C. Melville, and the Misses Joan Budden and Monica J. F. Richardson from Bristol University.

The Oxford University Society was represented by the president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg), the Rev. R. H. Milford, Mr. Gerald Bromley, Lieut. W. Gibbons, the Master, the secretary, and the treasurer and over twenty resident members.

After lunch members of the society rang a course of Cambridge Surprise Major, followed by a touch of Stedman Caters on handbells. The ringing was enthusiastically acclaimed. Those taking part were Miss Joan Houldsworth and Messrs. D. Jones, W. F. Moreton, J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese.

The President welcomed the visitors and said how sorry he was that so many had been unable to attend. Mr. H. Miles had had a recent bereavement in his family, and Mr. Wigg expressed the society's sympathy in his sad loss. Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. J. A. Trollope and Mr. E. H. Lewis had all been prevented from coming by a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Council, unfortunately fixed for the same day. Messrs. Bennett and Post, of the Oxford Society, had been prevented from coming, as had also Kenneth Croft, of the C.U.G., who was at the moment attending a battle school. The President said how pleased he was with progress of the Oxford University Society in the last year; at the last annual lunch the exhibition ringing had been a course of Grandsire Caters, followed by one of Bob Royal.

THE IDEAL UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

Mr. F. Haynes, of the Cambridge University Guild, said that the ideal society for a university was one in which there was a nucleus of trained ringers to whom a number of freshmen could be added each year. But university societies always had their ups and downs. Fortune seemed to be smiling on the O.U.S. at the moment, and he congratulated the officials on their achievements. He had never been at a ringing meeting at which such a large proportion of women was present. He did not know whether this was due to the charms of the officials or to keenness on the part of the women, but he thought that in handbell ringing they had a delightful pastime. He thanked the Master for the invitation to the lunch, and gave his best wishes to the society expressing the hope that it would continue to prosper in the future.

Mr. J. E. Spice said that in his room in college there were three annual photographs of the O.U.S.C.R. That of 1940 had been an entirely male cast, that of 1941 had contained five women and twice that number of men, but in last year's the women had outnumbered the men by more than two to one. However, with the present enthusiasm the future of the society seemed secure. At all the society practices two lots of handbells were in action, and, in addition, members held practices in their own colleges, four sets of handbells being lent out for this purpose.

Few peals had been rung lately, largely owing to illness and to the proximity of examinations. In the last six months the best efforts had been peals of Bob Royal, Grandsire Triples and one in seven Minor methods. Most members could take a pair of bells through a course of Bob Major, and the more advanced were ringing methods such as Little Bob and Stedman. The Master said he had written out a pamphlet on the elements of the theory of change ringing and this had caused much mental exertion on the part of members.

HANDBELL RINGING.

At the undergraduate service at St. Mary's on Sunday evenings the society had continued to ring handbells, usually Caters. On November 15th, in spite of the fact that only four resident members of the society had ever rung a tower bell only, ten university people were amongst the forty Oxford ringers who between them had rung in 11 out of the 14 city towers on that memorable morning. The ringing had brought in several recruits. The Dean of New College, Mr. D. R. Roulst, said that as long as he had anything to do with it, the society would always be made welcome in New College.

Miss Monica Richardson, of Bristol University, said that at the moment there was no University Society at Bristol, but she hoped for the official formation of one as soon as its future seemed reasonably secure. Nevertheless, they had started to teach handbells to some university ringers with the help of members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

The Rev. M. C. C. Melville said that those who, because of the ban on tower bell ringing, had then started handbell ringing had tried to learn it on the tower bell system. But those of his pupils at Swindon who had started handbells from scratch went ahead at once and soon became his masters. The handbell technique was entirely different from the tower bell technique, and it was a technique well demonstrated at Oxford. He warned handbell ringers that they would

(Continued on next page.)

PROPOSED UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

THE DRAFT SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Readers of 'The Ringing World' may remember a letter from the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith last August, in which attention was drawn to the drawbacks of ringing peals for more than one association, the specific cases mentioned being the two joint Oxford and Cambridge peals rung during 1942. Before the publication of this letter, we fully appreciated the position, but on one of the occasions, at any rate, were absolutely obliged to do as we did, as no two members of the band belonged to the same territorial association.

We discussed the position, having in mind the desirability of continued co-operation between the two University Societies (certain members of the C.U.G. have during the past year actually invited the O.U.S. to join them on their annual tour), and finally concluded that it might best be resolved by the formation of a joint association, which should in no way affect the present status of O.U.S. and C.U.G., but whose scope should obviously be extended so as to include the newer universities. The main occasions on which members of such a body would meet would be tours, just as in the case of the Clerical Guild.

SATISFACTORY SUPPORT.

We then realised that a joint Universities Association should prove to have a wider range of usefulness than simply the provision of a name for peal reports. The value of the Oxford University Society and the Cambridge University Guild as training grounds for ringers—and especially for those who become school teachers and clergy—is generally recognised. Yet nowadays Oxford and Cambridge comprise no more than a quarter of the university population of the country. If, therefore, change ringing societies could be started and maintained in the newer universities, much good should accrue to the Exercise in the long run, from the ringers they would produce. A combined Universities Association might do much in the way of moral encouragement and financial help towards the formation and continuation of such societies. In particular, where the number of ringers was still too small to found a University Guild, they might be encouraged in their efforts by feeling that they were, nevertheless, part of a larger association, which had their interests at heart.

In order to ensure the success of the scheme, we felt that the organisation should be kept as simple as possible. Few officials should be necessary and no regular meetings could be held, but every effort should be made to organise a tour, every two years at any rate, and annually if possible. It would be inadvisable to settle the constitution finally until after the war, but in view of the present activity at Oxford and Bristol, it seemed desirable to push forward the formation of the association, giving it a provisional constitution. There will be a mass return to the universities after the war, and if the association is already formed, it should have very favourable ground on which to work.

THE NEWER UNIVERSITIES.

Instead of sending an open letter to 'The Ringing World' and inviting comments, we decided to approach university ringers individually. Our main reasons for doing this were that we were sure that more people would then take the trouble to reply, and that we should rapidly gain a more comprehensive idea of the situation than if the points at issue were to become obscured by correspondence arguments in 'The Ringing World.' We, therefore, approached and gained the approval of certain university ringers, and when, finally, Mr. E. H. Lewis promised his full support and the O.U.S. gave its official approval, we felt emboldened to send a circular letter to all the other university ringers we could call to mind.

Obviously we must, quite unintentionally, have omitted many of those concerned—partly through ignorance and partly through lack of addresses—and to them we tender our apologies. Representatives of several universities were then invited to attend the O.U.S. annual lunch and afterwards to discuss the position.

The results of this general appeal were eminently satisfactory, and are dealt with more fully in the report of the foundation meeting of the new association. Here we would like merely to bring to the general notice our summary of the aims and constitution of the new association, as amended by the foundation meeting.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

Purpose and Aims. (1) To provide a name under which joint university peals can be rung and joint tours held.

(2) To do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change ringing societies in universities other than Oxford and Cambridge.

Organisation. (1) To be known as 'The Universities Association of Change Ringers.'

(2) Membership to be open to all ringers who have at any time been full-time members of a university. University colleges affiliated to Durham and London Universities are excluded for the time.

(3) Officers to comprise president and secretary. Both are to be elected for periods of three years, but to be eligible for re-election.

(4) Subscription to be nil at the moment, but a minimum entrance fee of 1s. is to be imposed.

(5) These provisions are liable to revision and amendment as soon as a representative tour can be held after the war.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT (Master, Cambridge University Guild).
JOHN E. SPICE (Master, Oxford University Society).

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank your correspondents from Newcastle, Sheffield and Birmingham, who have sent information about the peals in those towers, and I hope others may follow so good an example.

I hope, too, Mr. Barton will forgive my strictures, but the figures he has furnished seem to confirm my 'lamentably small' suggestion. A great and populous city, with manufactures which must have drawn many 'foreign' ringers to it for a livelihood, able and distinguished men to lead them, and—36 peals in well over 60 years!

In spite of Mr. Rogers' objections, I am glad Mr. Walker and Mr. Wallace gave peals on all numbers, for it gives a more complete survey. I fully share the admiration Mr. Rogers expresses for the hospitality extended to visitors by the men of our 12-bell towers. Such hospitality has come my way over many years and in many places, and by gratitude is great. But I am at cross purposes with him as to the method of building up a 12-bell band, and I am quite sure it would be unsuccessful on the lines he suggests, for reasons too numerous to detail here.

In 'The Ringing World' for September 8th, 1939, is a list of the 59 rings of twelve then in existence, and I found no less than 37 of them were cast, recast or augmented during the time of my own fifty-odd years of ringing.

I think the increase remarkable in, comparatively, so short a time, and it certainly gives plenty of scope for the builders-up of bands to bring all these rings to their full use.

As 'visitor' ringers have been mentioned in this correspondence, may I digress and express the opinion that peals by visiting bands are a somewhat mixed blessing? A good many years ago a tour was made by a company of 'All England' ringers to Scotland and the North of England. There were 14 men, and for some reason I have never fathomed they elected to ring the peals for the Norwich Association, although only three of the 14 were resident members. They rang two peals of Cinques, three of Caters and three of Major, and these peals, with compositions, took up seven whole pages of the association's annual report. The tour didn't do the association a ha'porth of good, and I can well imagine the secretary ardently wishing for a 'National Association,' and thus save him labour and the funds of the association.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Feb. 13th, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, unfortunately was absent through indisposition and his duties were discharged by Mr. A. A. Hughes. The Master was in the chair, and others present were the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards and Messrs. J. Shepherd, G. M. Kilby, E. A. Young, J. E. Lewis Cockey, C. W. Roberts, L. Fox, T. Fox, R. Richardson, H. Hoskins, C. W. Parks, H. G. Miles, E. Hartley, C. M. Meyer, J. F. Smallwood, R. Stannard, W. H. Pasmore, R. F. Deal and J. A. Trollope.

The ratification of the election at Birmingham of Mr. F. V. Nicholls, of Stourbridge, was proposed by Mr. C. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Hoskins and carried.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood, supporting the election, spoke of the excellent way in which Mr. Nicholls had umpired the recent peal. He also referred to the recent decision by the society that the rule referring to umpires for handbell peals should not be altered during the war period. He considered the members had acted very properly.

Mr. Cockey referred to the destruction by enemy action of the Church of St. Clement Dunes, and asked whether anything was known as to the possibility of future rebuilding. Mr. E. A. Young, who is chairman of the Parochial Church Council, gave an account of the first-aid repairs which had been and still are being carried out, but stated that nothing could be said as to rebuilding in the future. He stated that the ten bells and the small one used for the clock were bricked up, but that six of them were cracked.

Mr. Hoskins handed over for acceptance eleven ringing books on behalf of Mr. John J. Lamb, of Greenwich, for addition to the library. The Master suitably acknowledged the gift and the hon. secretary was asked to convey to Mr. Lamb the grateful thanks of the members.

Mr. Miles gave notice of the death recently of Charles H. Phipps, of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and the members stood in silence.

The Master welcomed three visiting members—the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, of Kington Magna, Mr. Rupert Richardson, of Surfeet, and Mr. J. F. Smallwood, who is now to take up residence in London. He also welcomed two visitors from Lancashire serving in H.M. Forces.

DEATH OF MR. G. W. FOSTER

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many of your readers will remember a few weeks ago a letter from Mr. Limpus, of Vancouver, which appeared in your columns, and in which reference was made to Mr. G. W. Foster, who was then in hospital.

Before going to Canada some 40 years ago Mr. Foster lived for a time in Guildford. We, of course, knew him well and rang with him. I, therefore, wrote to him a letter addressed to the care of Mr. Limpus.

I recently had a reply, not from Mr. Foster, but one from Mr. Limpus stating that unfortunately Mr. Foster died on the day my letter arrived, January 8th, 1943. Mr. Limpus' letter tells of the great loss which the ringers of Vancouver have sustained, and describes the funeral, which took place at Haney, some 30 miles from Vancouver, where Mr. Foster lived for 25 years.

The Canadian Police are anxious to get in touch with any relatives of the late Mr. Foster still remaining in England.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

Guildford.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of the Highcliffe Society, Swindon, was held at headquarters on Friday, February 19th, the anniversary of their foundation.

In the course of his report the secretary remarked that four peals had been rung during the year, namely, two of Grandsire Caters, one of Bob Minor and one of Bob Maximus.

The future of the society was discussed, and as two members had left the district, and two more were studying for important school examinations, it was agreed that regular practices were out of the question, but it was resolved that ringing should be arranged whenever possible, and that every effort should be made to hold the annual meeting again next year.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH.

(Continued from page 107.)

who always claimed that he had called the first peal on the bells. I rang many peals with him, Caters and Royal, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, but he always said the longest peal he ever rung was when he rang Tilehurst tenor behind the first peal.

He was laid to rest on Friday, February 19th, in the family grave under the shadows of the church he loved so well and the Rectory where a great many of his younger years were spent.

The Rector, the Rev. F. G. Sherwood, officiated, assisted by Canon G. F. Coleridge, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and one of his oldest friends. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by H. Goodger 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, R. T. Hibbert 5-6, J. Lewendon 7-8. A great deal could be written of him by an abler pen, but those who met him and enjoyed his friendship will always be proud of that fact.

R. T. HIBBERT.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

(Continued from previous page.)

have similar difficulties on tower bells, as many tower bell ringers had had when taking up handbells.

Before drawing the lunch to a close, the President remarked that five universities had been represented, and that members of at least three of these had, since the ban, started from scratch in training handbell bands.

The meeting being adjourned, members and visitors migrated to New College, where some discussed the formation of the Universities Association, whilst others rang the silent bells in New College tower. After an informal tea in the Master's rooms, catered for and prepared by the lady members of the society, three sets of handbells were brought into action, and methods rung included Double Bob, Kent, Stedman and Double Norwich.

In the evening an inaugural peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung for the newly-formed Universities Association by members of Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Birmingham Universities.

On the Sunday at Radley, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons rang 7-8 to a peal of Bob Major, this being his first peal. Lieut. Gibbons was one of the O.U.S. pioneer band that started handbell ringing after the ban, and he was unfortunate in not getting a peal before he left Oxford to join the Army in 1941. He thoroughly deserved his success, the only pity being that circumstances had delayed it so long.

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 99.)

In Wiltshire two examples occur, one being the tower that originally belonged to the church of St. Paul, Malmesbury; the other, the semi-detached tower at Wilton. At Malmesbury Abbey the central and western towers have been destroyed, but in the churchyard is the detached tower with spire of the now removed church of St. Paul. It contains a clock and five bells, the first being an ancient Bristol casting of circa 1500, with an invocation to St. George; the 2nd is by Purdue, 1610; 3rd, originally by A. Rudhall, 1739, was recast 1896 by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol; 4th, originally of 1640, recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1915; and tenor, also recast same time, was originally by W. Cor and dated 1703.

In the two towers of Malmesbury Abbey were nine bells, left at the suppression, estimated to weigh 15,000 lbs. (134 cwt.). Aubrey [North Wilts, p. 254] says that in the central tower 'was a great bell called St. Aldhelm's Bell, which was rung when it did thunder and lighten to send the tempest from the Town into the Country.' In 1539 there were 'Belles remayning in the steples ther IXpoiz by estimation XVmi weight.'

At Wilton the church of St. Edith or St. Mary is built on the Italian style, and is about four miles from Salisbury. It has a semi-detached campanile, this being attached to the church by a corridor. It has a ring of six bells by Mears, 1831, hung in two tiers, 1-3-5 above and others below, but not in good ringing order. They were brought from the old church, and the tenor weighs 8½ cwt.

At Warmsworth, Yorkshire, there is a tower fully half a mile from the church. The church of St. Peter is a modern building in Early English style, standing on the site of an ancient church, and consists of nave and north aisle. The tower, a work of the 12th century, stands just outside the hall entrance, and the Rector writes: 'It contains one bell, a terrible thing which rings for a quarter of an hour before Sunday services.'

The church of All Saints, Wykeham, near Scarborough, erected in 1853, consists of nave, chancel, aisles and south porch. The detached tower is a structure of Decorated period and most probably belonged to an ancient chapel of St. Helen, erected in 1321 by John de Wykeham, and served from the priory. It remained for some time in ruins, but in 1855 was restored and a spire added from the designs of Mr. W. Butterfield, architect, and has a clock and five bells by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., 1900, in an iron frame. The tenor is 9 cwt. When the writer asked the Vicar if a view was obtainable, he replied: 'I have no photo of the church at all, but will try my hand and send you the result. It will not be an easy subject to take and will probably be mainly a picture of our "local" pub.'

One semi-detached tower I omitted from my list in Norfolk is that at Thorpe St. Andrew. Here there is a square tower—all that remains of the ancient church—standing in the same churchyard as the new church, which was erected in 1866. The latter has a square tower at the south-west, with a spire rising 150 feet high (completed 1883) containing a ring of eight bells. This tower and spire is connected to the church by a corridor. The old church was dismantled and disused by faculty,

but many of the old monuments still remain on ruined walls; others having been removed and now in the porch of the new tower.

Norfolk has quite a number of instances where ancient churches have been allowed to go into ruins, and the towers of many of these, being more substantially built, still remain standing. For instance, at Godwick, near Fakenham, where once was an ancient and separate parish, there is now only one farm. The old church has gone entirely to decay, except for the square tower which now is in a ruinous condition.

At Hainford, near Norwich, the tower and vestry of the old church alone remain and are now used as a mortuary chapel. A new church was erected in 1840, but is only a plain structure with a turret containing one bell. A similar instance to the latter is at Hautbois (Great), where the ancient church of St. Theobald—one mile from the village—is now but a ruin. Its round tower still stands and the chancel has been restored for use as a mortuary chapel.

Kirby Bedon, near Norwich, has the round tower and roofless walls of chancel and nave still standing, but the parish is now served by St. Andrew's Church. At Great Melton the old tower of St. Mary's Church still stands in the same churchyard as All Saints' Church.

In Norwich itself, St. Peter Southgate has but a fragment of the tower remaining. The churchyard, however, is still walled round and undesecrated. After being in a ruinous state the church was taken down with the exception of the tower in 1887. The bells, brasses, monuments and registers were taken to St. Ethelred's Church close by. There are a number of other similar instances in Norfolk of this kind, but it would be out of place here to describe them.

At Rugeley, Staffs, St. Augustine's Church, erected in 1822, has an embattled west tower with a ring of six bells, and in the belfry the unusual object of an east window (stained glass), evidently from the old church which stood on the opposite side of the road. The tower of the latter still stands, and a portion of its chancel has been restored for use for occasional services. At Shenston, in the same county, the old church, which stood on a hill nearly in the centre of the village, was taken down with the exception of the tower in 1852 and a new church erected in 1853. This also has a tower on the north side of the chancel with a clock and a ring of eight bells.

At Kea in Cornwall the church, built in 1802, was pulled down in 1894, and the present All Hallows' Church raised on its site. It has a west tower surmounted by a copper spire and contains a ring of eight bells hung in July, 1904. The 7th is the tenor of Old Kea, the ruined tower of which still stands in the churchyard of Old Kea some three miles away. At Denbigh, St. Hilary's Church tower stands deserted, the church having gone to ruins. Stanmore, in Middlesex, is another instance where a new church has been erected, and the old left to decay. The bells (6) were removed from the old church, but the tower still stands picturesquely covered with ivy.

At Wallasey, Cheshire, St. Hilary's Church is a fine church with central tower containing six bells (?). This took the place of the old church which was burnt down in 1857 except for its 400 year old tower, which still

(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.

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

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. —T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Spark-hill, Birmingham 11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.— The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 3.45. Tea in Corn Exchange at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will all who intend coming to tea kindly let me know by Tuesday, March 9th?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Dudley (D.V.), Saturday, March 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea. Usual evening arrangements.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 4.15. Tea will be provided for those who notify Mr. B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, not later than March 9th.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Crendon on Saturday, March 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please let me know by March 10th. — F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th. Eight silent bells available from 2 o'clock. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45. All requiring tea must let the Apline Cafe, Dorset Street, Sevenoaks, know by Tuesday morning, March 16th. Everybody welcome.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

ROMFORD SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS. — A handbell practice will be held in the belfry of St. Edward's, Romford, on first and third Saturday of each month, starting at 2.30 p.m., March 6th. All ringers welcome.—E. W. Pye.

SPLICED CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE.

TWO PEALS BY MR. JOSEPH W. PARKER.

5,088 23456	B	M	W	H	Methods	A variation
42356					CCSSCSSS	SSSCCCCS
63254					CCSSCC	SSSCCC
26354					CCSSSS	SSSCCC
32654					SCSSCS	SSSCCC
25346					CCSC	SSCC
34256					SSSCCC	CCSCCC
62453					CCSSCC	SSSCCS
35426					CCSCSC	SSSCCS

Twice repeated.

If one of the fourth leads of Cambridge is rung as Superlative, the number of each method will be equalised as nearly as possible.

The figures are true to Superlative alone, and, so far as I know, are quite new and unique for a three-part 5,088, having the 4th and 6th their extent in sixth place at course-ends.

5,440

23456	B	M	W	H	Methods
42356					CSCCSCS
65324					CSCCSCS
36524					CSCCSCS
62345					SSSC
46325					CSSCSCS
53624					SSCCSCS
63425					CSSCSCS
54326					CCSCSCS
35426					SSSCSCS
43526					CSSCSCS
25634					CSSCSCS
25346					SSSC
32546					CSCCSCS

Repeated.

If one of the fourth leads of Superlative is rung as Cambridge, the number in each method will be equal.

If, in one part, the fourth course is called H only, with the methods as SSSCCSC; the sixth course-end is brought up, and the number reduced to 5,088, being 2,528 of Cambridge and 2,560 of Superlative.

These peals complete the series in these two methods, that is a one, two, three and five parts.

This two-part has the sixth its extent home at course-ends, and was first rung as a 5,088 of Superlative at Sunderland in 1921.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

stands in the churchyard, dwarfed by the dark bulk of its successor. At Ettington, near Stratford-on-Avon, the church of St. Thomas a Becket was demolished in April, 1913, and only the tower left standing. The four bells it contained are now in the church of Holy Trinity, which was consecrated in 1903.

Ewell, Surrey, still retains its old tower, and so does St. Lawrence, York, and numerous other instances might be quoted.

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