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BELLS AT EASTER.

Recently, at a meeting of the Middlesex County Association, the question of ringing on Easter Day was discussed. There was then a general hope and expectation that some such concession would be made as was made at Christmas, and the points raised related to any improvements which might be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

One of these was that the time allowed for ringing should be altered from nine o'clock till twelve to ten o'clock till one. That would give an opportunity for the bells to be rung after the principal service as well as before, and obviate the necessity of ceasing the bells just at the moment when it was most important they should be fully ringing. Mr. Carew Cox, in a letter to us, made a very similar suggestion. He proposed that ringing should be allowed in the evening as well as in the morning, when, as he pointed out, the many Easter services very much restrict the time during which at most churches the bells can be rung.

There were at the Middlesex Association meeting three or four men whose names carry weight in the Exercise, and they asked that 'The Ringing World' should bring this matter before ringers and try to find out what the general feeling is. To this request we, of course, readily and willingly assented, for 'The Ringing World' has no other object than to serve the interests of ringers, and we shall be glad to receive any letters expressing opinions on the matter.

It would, however, be foolish to lose sight of the fact that during the last two or three weeks events have happened which seem to make it very doubtful whether there will be any lifting of the ban at Easter.

The most significant of them is perhaps the publication of the amended Order. We find ourselves rather at a loss to understand why that Order was issued. Was it a sign that no value is now placed on the use of bells as a general warning, but at the same time there is a feeling that in special and local circumstances they might be useful? Or was it to forestall any attempts to get a complete removal of the ban? We do not know, and it is idle to try to guess, for in any case the result is the same.

There is another fact to take into mind, and when we consider it perhaps most of us will begin to question whether any bell ringing at Easter, or at any other time, is advisable. We are on the threshold of great events. Before long, perhaps before these lines are read, certainly before Easter, the war will blaze up into a fury throughout all the regions where British armies are actively engaged. Few of us would care to take part in any ring-

(Continued on page 134.)

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ing at a time when great battles are being waged, when the issue is still in doubt, and when we may have suffered serious, if temporary, set-backs.

It may be said that the bells would ring to spread the Easter message, and the Easter message is the same no matter how much the heathen rage. That is true, but the bells of England cannot be dissociated from the feelings of the people of England, and at a time of anxiety, stress, and strain, their voices would sound like a mockery in the ears of many people.

What view the authorities will take we do not know, but it is well to be prepared for all eventualities. If it is decided that the bells shall ring at Easter we should be ready. The captains and leaders of bands should not wait until permission is actually given, but should get into touch with their men, and ask them to hold themselves in readiness, so that if the call does come they will not be wanting.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF M. C. D. ANDREWS, ESSEX ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

*MRS. C. D. ANDREWS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS... .. 3-4	ISAAC J. ATTWATER 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal. Also the conductor's 500th peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN E. SPICE 1-2	MISS MARIE R. CROSS 5-6
*SGT. K. ARTHUR, R.A.F. ... 3-4	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7-8

Composed by S. R. A. P. HEYWOOD (C.C.C. No. 36).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, March 14, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST STONE 1-2	*FRANK E. PERVIN 3-4
*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 5-6	

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* 100th peal together. A birthday peal for Mr. Thomas W. Chapman, of Worcester.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN ST. MARGARET'S VICARAGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor size 15 in C.

GEO STEDMAN MORRIS ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	JOSIAH MORRIS 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Specially rung to celebrate the birth of a son to the Vicar (the Rev. E. N. Ducker) and Mrs. Ducker on March 16th.

BLACKPOOL.—On March 18th, in the belfry of St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,264 changes: W. K. Bovill (first quarter-peal on handbells) 1-2, H. Chant, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4. A. Hague 5-6, B. Hall (first quarter-peal of Major on handbells) 7-8.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 124.)

JOHN FRAZIER AND THOMAS BLAKEMORE.

George Gross' place in the Society of Cumberland Youths was taken by John Frazier. Frazier had been an active ringer for many years, and, though he did not reach the first rank, he holds a definite position in the records of the London Exercise. As far back as the year 1756 he called a peal for the London Youths. He then joined the Cumberlands, and for a few years was one of their regular band. After 1759, his name drops out of



CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

the records for twelve years, during which we may suppose he was ringing with some lesser company. He seems to have been typical of a number of men who were ambitious of calling peals but could only get into the important bands as conductors when for some reason or other their leading men had left them.

In education and social standing he probably was of a lower class than many of the other prominent ringers, for once, when he had to sign his name in the Cumberlands' records, he made his mark. He was in the band of Cumberland Youths who rang the first peal on Kensington bells in 1778, and next year he called a peal of Grandsire Triples there with the London Youths.

In 1779 Frazier was with the ancient Society of College Youths, and on March 7th he conducted 5,156 changes of Grandsire Caters at Westminster with a band most of whom rang in no other recorded peal either before or after. Two years later he was calling peals for the 'old' Society of London Youths, which was distinct from the company mentioned above, and which for a year or two became an active peal-ringing band. When George Gross quarrelled with the Cumberlands, Frazier and most of the band went over to that society, and the London Youths lapsed once more into obscurity.

The first peal by the Cumberlands with Frazier in George Gross' old position was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Mary Matfelon, on January 10th, 1785, and it was followed a week later by another in the same method at St. Nicholas', Deptford. In addition to Frazier, Abraham Izzard, James Purser and Francis Nay rang in both peals; William Waterlow, Anthony Cavalier, Samuel Fosh and Thomas Reeves rang in the first peal; and Allen Grant, William Stephens, William Court and Robert Mann rang in the second.

Grant went to the ancient Society of College Youths to help make up the band, which was practising for the first peal of Stedman Caters, and the rest of these men with Malachi Channon, John Jackson and William West, constituted the peal ringers of the Cumberland Youths for the next few years.

Stephens and Mann were both good heavy-bell ringers, and on March 6th, 1785, they rang the tenor at Stepney to a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. It took the two of them to turn in the bell, for it weighed 49 cwt., and no single man was ever able to ring it to a peal.

Nine months later, on December 3rd, the Cumberlands achieved 6,400 changes of Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Spitalfields, with Stephens at the seventh, and Mann, single-handed, at the tenor. As the bell weighed 44 cwt., the performance ranks among the great heavy-bell feats of all time.

John Frazier was now the beadle to the Society of Cumberland Youths, and during the two years he held the office the company rang a dozen peals, of which he called eight. All except one were Treble Bob Major. Statements in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book seem to show that the truth of two of them was challenged. It may have been ordinary jealousy, but a possible explanation is that Frazier was calling his own compositions (we know he was a composer), and that he was unaware of the discovery made about the time of the liability of the method to internal falseness which does not show at the lead-ends. George Gross evidently knew something about the work Reeves had done. Apart from this, the truth of most of the peals of Treble Bob Major rung then is gravely suspect.

Meanwhile events were taking place among the College Youths which had important and lasting results in the Exercise at large.

Ever since the year 1757 the Society of College Youths had been split into two branches. The older branch, which was generally known as the ancient Society of College Youths, had for the most part lived a quiet and uneventful life, but soon after the year 1780 it quickened into great activity, and for a short time was one of the leading peal-ringing bands of the country.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The most influential man among them was William Jones, the principal author of the 'Clavis,' which he was then getting ready for the press. His two collaborators, John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore, with Christopher Wells, were the conductors, and other prominent members were Allen Grant, Richard Wilson, Robert Pye Donkin and John Anderson. This band took no part in the long peal contest, but they had some good performances to their credit, including the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major ever rung.

In 1785 the company paid a very famous visit to Norwich. It was rumoured that they intended to make an attempt at Mancroft on the Maximus record, and we learn, with some surprise, that this was strongly resented by the local men. The visitors did not ring a peal, but they did get to know of Stedman Cinques, and after their return home they began to practise for the first peal of Stedman Caters. This was the beginning of the method's popularity among ringers.

The attempt led to a quarrel between Reeves and Blakemore, and when the peal was rung at Horsleydown, in 1787, the latter was not in the band. Further disagreement arose because some of the band wished to unite with the other Society of College Youths, so that a peal of Stedman Cinques could be rung at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. There were men in both companies who objected to this, because they knew that in one band there would not be room enough for all, and they did not wish to be squeezed out. This feeling reached a climax during a joint visit to Birmingham, when Samuel Muggerridge set his bell because he would not ring a peal with Reeves and other members of the ancient society.

The upshot was a general quarrel which ended in the final dissolution of the ancient society, most of whose members joined the other College Youths. Some went to the Cumberlands, and some gave up ringing altogether.

The first to go was Thomas Blakemore. He joined the Cumberlands on June 25th, 1787, and on the same day called for them a peal of Grandsire Caters at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where two trebles had just been added to the ring of eight.

Like so many more of these men, Blakemore had begun his ringing career as a Cumberland Youth. He joined the society on January 28th, 1775, but he did not get into the peal band for some time. In April, 1777, he and Thomas Smith and Robert Mann paid a visit to Norwich, where they took part in a peal of Bob Major, Smith calling the bobs. During that year Blakemore assisted in three other Cumberlands' peals, all of them Bob Major.

Early next year, on February 4th, William Jones joined the Cumberlands, no doubt to further the interests of the book he was preparing to write. He made Blakemore's acquaintance and enlisted his help, for Blakemore was a Piccadilly bookseller, and his trade experience would be useful. The two then went to the London Youths to join Reeves and Christopher Wells, and soon after all of them joined the ancient Society of College Youths.

Blakemore did not stay long with the Cumberlands after the peal at Spitalfields. The reunited Society of College Youths were anxious to practise Stedman Cinques, and they welcomed Blakemore's experience in

the method. He joined the company at St. Martin's, and for the rest of his ringing career he was the principal man among the College Youths.

The break-up of the ancient branch had left John Reeves without a band. He, too, went to the Cumberlands, and on July 14th, 1787, was elected a member. They were looking for a first-class conductor and welcomed him with open arms. He had not been a member for a month when John Frazier resigned the office of beadle and Reeves was appointed in his stead. Allen Grant and John Anderson also joined the Cumberlands, and so did William Irons, the last Master of the ancient Society of College Youths. He had retained the company's property when it broke up, and at his death he left it to the Cumberlands. Among it was the peal book of the Society of Eastern Scholars, which is now in the British Museum. The rest has been lost. Irons became Master of the Cumberlands in 1790.

John Reeves' first peal with the Cumberlands was one of Grandsire Caters at Horsleydown, in February, 1787, five months before he was formally elected a member. Soon after he took office, they began to practise Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and on January 7th, 1788, they rang a peal at Bethnal Green. Reeves conducted from the treble, and the other ropes were taken by William Stephens, William West, Anthony Cavalier, Malachi Channon, Francis Nay, Abraham Izzard, and James Purser. George Gross and the Junior Cumberlands had rung one, also at Bethnal Green, in 1786, which they claimed as 'the first ever rang in that method,' but the Norwich Scholars had already scored two or three peals of it. Gross' peal was in the year after Jones and Reeves had been to Norwich, whence they brought back Norwich Court Bob as well as Stedman Caters and Cinques. No doubt Reeves intended to call a peal in both methods, as he eventually did, but here was a chance for his rival to forestall him.

Gross' peal is duly booked in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book, but it seems certain it was false either in composition or execution, for Reeves' peal is claimed as the first true one 'ever rang in London in that method.' Anthony Cavalier rang in both, and William Shipway, who stood in the earlier one, does not include it in the brief summary he gives of his more important performances.

Now that the method was known in London, and two bands had rung peals of it, we should have thought that its great merits would have been recognised, and it would have become popular among the metropolitan ringers. But it was not so. The practice of it seems to have been entirely dropped, and it was not until more than fifty years later that the next peal (also by the Cumberlands) was achieved in London.

One reason for this perhaps was that the attention of the leading ringers was mainly taken up by Stedman, and especially Stedman Caters and Cinques. The ancient Society of College Youths had just rung the first peal of Caters, the reconstructed Society of College Youths were practising Cinques at St. Martin's, and the Cumberlands were ringing the method at Shoreditch.

(To be continued.)

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.—On March 3rd, in 18 minutes, at 109, Sharmans Cross Road, 720 Bob Minor: Arthur D. Cook 1-2, George E. Fearn 3-4, Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 5-6. Longest length for ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, to whom credit is due for the progress they have made in a few practices.

LECTURE ON RINGING.

A goodly number of parishioners and friends assembled in Christ Church Schoolroom, Ashton-under-Lyne, on February 25th, to hear the Rev. F. F. Rigby, president of the Lancashire Association, deliver a most interesting lecture on bellringing.

The chairman, Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft, introduced the lecturer as a practical ringer, he having made his acquaintance many years ago, before his entry into the ministry.

Mr. F. F. Rigby, with blackboard illustrations, explained how the science of permutations was applied to bellringing. Beginning with two figures, he showed how great a number could be obtained with twelve figures. He also described the working of a tower bell with a model lent by the chairman.

The Manchester City Police ringers, Supt. F. R. Williams, P.C. R. Benson, P.C. Mulliner, ex-P.C. J. Carter, P.C. G. Pye, P.C. F. Yates and P.C. W. Pye (leader) demonstrated how permutations can be rung on handbells beginning with two bells and increasing the number to twelve. Plain Bob and Grandsire were the methods adopted as examples.

After the lecture questions were invited, and it was obvious that a keen interest had been shown throughout the proceedings.

Mr J. Buckley (churchwarden) moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, the Manchester City Police ringers and the chairman, which was received with loud acclamation.

Mr. Walne kindly provided refreshments to the visiting ringers.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.

The North and East District of the Middlesex Association once again enjoyed the use of both tower bells and handbells at a ringing meeting held on Saturday last at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Mr. J. E. Davis had the tower open at 2.30 p.m. and the bells were made available until black-out time. There was no business meeting held, so that enabled a continuous performance.

The company included a larger number of welcome visitors than is usual, amongst whom were the following: R. Heazel (Brentwood), F. B. Lufkin (Prittlewell), H. Miles (Kensington), J. Sitch (Brentwood), J. F. Smallwood (Worcester), N. Somerhouse (Dartford) and C. Wander (Donington, Lincs). The attendance of these gentlemen more than compensated for the non-attendance of those for whom the meeting was directly arranged.

A free choice of methods was rung on both tower bells and handbells. On the former a course of London Surprise was attempted, but not accomplished.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

5,024 BY A. J. PITMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I send figures of an interesting composition of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, which is, I think, the first to give over 1,000 changes in each method.

A. J. PITMAN.

23456	M	B	W	H	(X Cambridge or Superlative)
35264	2		2	—	L B X B L
34562		—	—	—	C S B B B L
46325		—	—	—	C S S S
24365		—	—	—	L C L
25463		—	—	—	C S B B B L
42563		—	—	—	C S C C L
26435		—	—	—	C S S S
32465		—	—	—	L X L
26354		—	—	—	C S S S
52364		—	—	—	L C L
54263		—	—	—	C S B B B L
53462		—	—	—	C S B B B L
36524		—	—	—	C S S S
23564		—	—	—	L X L
36245		—	—	—	G S S S
43265		—	—	—	L C L
45362		—	—	—	C S B B B L
45623		—	—	—	C S B B B B
45236		—	—	—	B B B B S C
53246		—	—	—	L B B B S C
23645		—	—	—	L C L
34256		—	—	—	S S S C
24653		—	—	—	L X L
24536		—	—	—	S S S C
54326		—	—	—	L B B B S C
42356		—	—	—	L B B B S C
32654		—	—	—	L C L
25346		—	—	—	S S S C
35642		—	—	—	L X L
35426		—	—	—	S S S C
43526		—	—	—	L C C S C
32546		—	—	—	L B B B S C
52643		—	—	—	L C L
52436		—	—	—	S S S C
23456		—	—	—	L B B B S C

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. A. C. Limpus, 208, Union Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, would be grateful if some ringing friend in England could send him a copy of 'The Ringing World,' No. 1,608, for January 16th, 1942.

Sixty years ago last Saturday the College Youths rang 5,134 Stedman Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark. It was rung to commemorate the 21st birthday of the late F. E. Dawe, who rang the eleventh and conducted.

On March 21st, 1923, to mark the 800th anniversary of the church, a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on the pre-reformation ring of five at St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield. It was the only five-bell peal ever rung in the City of London. Mr. C. T. Coles conducted.

The Cumberland Youths rang 7,104 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 22nd, 1802. It was the final peal in the famous long peal contest, and still remains the record for the method.

Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Brighton, on March 22nd, 1901.

On the same date in 1913 the Middlesex Association rang the record peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells, 6,063 changes. William Pye conducted.

On March 23rd, 1727, the College Youths 'rang at St. Olave's in Southwark 5,040 College Tripples, the first that ever was rung and the first true peal that was rung in that steeple.'

On March 23rd, 1783, the College Youths rang at Fulham 5,220 changes of Plain Bob Caters, or 'Old Doubles Caters,' as the peal board calls it.

Bob Caters has always been considered as somewhat of an illegitimate method, and a yet inferior variation is Canterbury Pleasure Caters. One peal of it, however, has been rung—on March 23rd, 1895, at Chesterfield.

The Birmingham men rang 9,020 Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's on March 23rd, 1887; and 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells at Aston on March 23rd, 1898.

On March 23rd, 1935, a band whose average age was 22 rang a peal of Spliced London, Cambridge, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major. Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner composed and conducted the peal.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Maximus at Southwark on March 24th, 1740. On the same date in 1784 the junior branch rang the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, and two days later the ancient and rival branch beat it with 6,048 changes at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

Lancashire men rang 9,600 Grandsire Major at Hyde on March 24th, 1856.

At St. Michael's, Cornhill, on March 24th, 1900, William Pye called the first 12-bell peal for the Middlesex Association, one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus. It led to a somewhat acrimonious correspondence in 'The Bell News,' but a fair amount of that about other notable peals was going on at the time.

The Cumberlands rang their 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on March 27th, 1784, and on the same date in 1826 the Wakefield men rang the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHURCH BELLS.

We have already called attention to the fact that the Prime Minister evidently attaches great importance to the value of church bells as expressions of the country's feelings. In almost every one of his important speeches Mr. Churchill has referred to them, and in his broadcast last Sunday he said: 'The day of Hitler's downfall will be a bright one for our country and for all mankind. The bells will clash their peals of victory and hope, and we will march forward together encouraged, invigorated and still, I trust, generally united upon our further journey.'

The comment of a leading American newspaper was that 'through Churchill's speech rang the peal of victory bells.'

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—No, Mr. Barnett! Even the first peal on the 12 at York would not, in my opinion, have justified calling it a Norwich Diocesan performance. And I may say the late Rev. Earle Bulwer had also strong ideas about the moral aspect of these 'foreign' peals.

His ire was roused by the first peals of Cambridge and London Major being rung for the Norwich Association out of the diocese and by a non-resident band. He held they were a nuisance and a bugbear to those interested in the ringing progress of a society, as they made year to year comparisons valueless.

It is not for me to judge the affairs of the Middlesex Association nor the motives of the late William Pye in scoring peals for that body, but I would point out the Greater London area is not on all fours with the provinces. And to say those peals were probably rung to do honour to the association is, I think, stretching credulity to its limit!

To return to York. I am much prouder of the fact that in 1765 the Norwich men tramped the 200 odd miles to York and rang 1,600 of Bob Royal on the new bells at the Minster.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

An address delivered to the Johnson Society of London on March 20th by the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

One day when Dr. Johnson and James Boswell were talking together, Johnson referred to a collection of Scottish antiquities the other had begun, and bade him go on with it. 'Make a large book,' he said, 'a folio.' 'But,' asked Boswell, 'not unnaturally, of what use will it be, sir?' And he got the characteristic reply, 'Never mind the use. Do it.'

In much that spirit, some years ago, I set myself the task of writing a history of the London bellringers of the 17th and 18th centuries. I made a large book—some six or seven thousand pages of manuscript—one which, if it had been published in Johnson's time—would have been a folio. Sometimes I could not help wondering what use it would be, but I did it. It led me into several bypaths of 18th century history, and I often thought what a pity it was that neither Samuel Pepys nor Samuel Johnson had been interested in ringing. If they had, my job would have been far easier and far more interesting.

There were two famous diarists, Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearn, who did write about the art. They told us quite a lot, but both of them were Oxford men, and in the 18th century the centre of the ringing world was here in London, and not only in London, but in that famous street which runs from Ludgate to Charing Cross, with St. Bride's at one end, St. Martin's at the other, and St. Dunstan's in the middle.

FAVOURITE TAVERNS.

This, of course, was the centre of Johnson's London life, and I think it is much more than probable that he and the ringers did come into contact. They had a lot in common with him. They were sociable, clubbable, convivial persons. They did not spend all their time in belfries, but loved to meet in the tavern where they could gather round the table, and spend a few hours in talking and social intercourse.

Johnson's favourite tavern was The Mitre. The ringers used The Barn in St. Martin's Lane, and The Barley Mow in Salisbury Court. The Barn disappeared many years ago when Trafalgar Square was laid out, but The Barley Mow still exists, or rather I should say the ghost of The Barley Mow still haunts a corner of the great new Press Association building. Only some misguided persons have within the last few years altered the name to the Cogers' Hall.

That was a piece of sham antiquarianism, for the house was The Barley Mow before the Cogers met there, and it was used by older and more important clubs than ever the Cogers were.

For instance, there was the society of which our chairman, Mr. Alexander Young, and I are both members—the Society of College Youths. We were an important body for nearly a hundred years before there were any Cogers, and I was going to say that now nearly two hundred years after the Cogers have been forgotten, we are still alive and as active as ever we were, only, curiously enough, your secretary, Mr. Savage, has just mentioned that he is a member of the Cogers Club.

In the 17th century we numbered many distinguished men among our members. In the 18th century we were not so aristocratic, but we were still persons of respectability and standing, tradesmen and the like, and since, of course, they used other taverns than The Barn and The Barley Mow, I feel sure that the members did sometimes come in contact with Dr. Johnson and his circle.

LINKS WITH JOHNSON.

I am afraid, however, that I have no evidence of any direct contact, but I can tell you of one or two persons who formed links between Johnson and his friends and the Society of College Youths.

The first was a man named William Woty. In ordinary life he was a solicitor's clerk. He had ambitions to be both a ringer and a poet, but I am afraid he was not much of a success as either. Still he has managed to secure a place in the Dictionary of National Biography, and that at any rate is some sign of fame or notoriety and a distinction which has not fallen to the lot of many.

Woty was a minor poet who published some verse, and, though he never belonged to Johnson's circle, it is certain that he would have liked to have done so, and he hovered somewhere on the outskirts. I do not think he is mentioned in Roswell, but he did know some of the circle and got them to subscribe to one of his books. Boswell was one, and Reynolds, and Garrick and Goldsmith. I am not quite sure of the others, for I have not had an opportunity of checking the reference, but I think Johnson's name does not appear.

Woty's principal work was a poem he called 'The Scrubs of Parnassus.' I do not know what it was about, for I have not read it, though I have glanced at the book. The poem which interested me was one he called 'Campanalogia,' which is a panegyric on the Society of College Youths. Woty was a member, but he never did anything to get his name into our records.

He had mastered the trick of writing blank verse, and his effusion, though it is not poetry, is quite good stately rhetoric. A copy of the work was elaborately bound and placed in the King's library. It is now at Bloomsbury.

In Fleet Street, near Johnson's Court, was the shop of Christopher Pinchbeck. He was a celebrated clockmaker and an inventor of different ingenious devices. His father, also Christopher, had introduced the imitation gold alloy and given his name as a new word to the English language. The younger Christopher in his way was quite

as important a person as Dr. Johnson and quite able to pass the time of day on equal terms. He was a College Youth and was Master of the society in the year 1752.

I do not remember whether Dr. Johnson smoked or took snuff. Perhaps you will be able to tell me. But if he did, he most certainly would have visited the shop of John Hardham further along Fleet Street and not far from what is now Ludgate Circus.

To the general public Hardham was quite as well known as Johnson himself, indeed probably more so. He was the most famous tobacconist London has ever had. His shop was a popular rendezvous where people of fashion would drop in to meet one another and have a talk. The man himself was universally respected and even loved for his goodness of heart and generosity. People made him their confidant, and it was said that he was entrusted with the payment of the pensions to several 'unfortunate' ladies who had fallen out of favour with their 'protectors' and were on the retired list. Sometimes when the pensions were stopped at the source Hardham continued the payment out of his own pocket.

He must have been a very successful business man, for when he died he left over £22,000, not a bad fortune for an eighteenth century London shopkeeper. He certainly was a first-class tobacconist and gave value for money. A century after his death his name was still kept over his shop, and even in my own time Hardham's No. 37 snuff was still being advertised and sold.

We may be sure it was good snuff, but it owed its great popularity in very large measure to a piece of most unblushing puffing. David Garrick was very friendly with Hardham and took an opportunity of doing him a good turn. When he was acting a part that was suitable, he would pull out his snuff box and offer a pinch to his companion 'I can recommend it,' he would say. 'It is Hardham's No. 37.' It took and Hardham's 37 snuff became quite the rage of the day.

A FRIEND OF GARRICK.

John Hardham was not only a very successful tradesman. He was a bellringer and a skilful one. He took part in some of the most famous peals rung by the College Youths, especially at St. Bride's, and he held the office of Master of the society in 1747 after he had been an active member for 23 years.

Bellringing was not his only interest. Acting and the theatre took up a lot of his attention; he adorned the parlour behind his shop with the portraits of leading actors, and, as a contemporary says, he was 'seldom without embryo Richards and Hotspurs strutting and bellying in his sitting room.'

As I have said, he was very friendly with Garrick, which brings him very near to the Johnson circle. Garrick made him 'numberer' at Drury Lane Theatre, no doubt in order to give him an opportunity of seeing all the plays. His job was to place himself in a post of vantage at the top of the theatre and count the number of people in the pit, so that a check could be kept on the men in the box office.

Hardham had an ambition to be a playwright and actually wrote a play which he called 'The Fortune Teller or The World Unmasked.' No doubt he offered it to Garrick, but Garrick knew what was a good play just as much as he knew what was good snuff. He was quite willing to advertise Hardham's snuff, but he would have nothing to do with Hardham's play. And indeed it was sorry stuff, mere rant and bombast. So Hardham had it printed, a not unusual fate for plays not deemed worthy of the stage.

When Hardham died he left his fortune to his native town of Chichester, which still receives the interest on the capital.

He was not much of a link between the ringers and Johnson himself, but he is a most interesting link between the Society of College Youths and Johnson's companions and contemporaries.

ST. CLEMENT'S BELLS.

I said that the life of the ringing world centred in Fleet Street and the Churches of St. Bride's, St. Martin's and St. Dunstan's. Perhaps you wonder why I did not mention St. Clement's. St. Clement's bells, which now lie forlorn and broken at the bottom of the steeple, were already cast in Johnson's time, at least eight of them were, and he must have heard them many times, chiming and tolling on Sundays, and ringing on weekdays. But for some reason I cannot tell the belfry was not one of those the College Youths regularly practised at. First St. Bride's and then St. Martin's was their headquarters. Those two churches had twelve bells each, while St. Clement's had only eight. St. Martin's fortunately are still safe and still the same bells as Johnson heard. St. Bride's survived until recently and perished in the air raid that burnt out the church and its noble steeple.

The eight bells at St. Dunstan's and church, which then stood half across what is now the roadway, were improved away more than a century ago.

In Dr. Johnson's time, though ringers were already very much a class apart, the general public knew a good deal more about bells and took a more general interest in them than they have done since. It would have been just as natural for him to know something about ringing as it would now for an ordinary man to know something about golf or cricket. There was, too, a good tradition of bells in his native city of Lichfield. The famous Bishop Hackett, who restored the Cathedral and rebuilt the spires after the Civil War, was a member of the Society of College Youths in his London days. He never lost his love for bells, and the last thing he was able to do was to provide the Cathedral with a heavy ring of bells. There was

(Continued on next page.)

WHY WE RING BELLS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On February 19th you published a letter of the Rev. S. B. Friston, from 'The Barnsley Chronicle,' and you referred to it in your leading article. He spoke of the Book of Common Prayer as the law of the land; and you said it was the schedule to an Act of Parliament. These statements are both incorrect. Neither of you can be blamed for making them, as most people think that this is so. But ringers and clergymen should be acquainted with the exact position in which we are with reference to the law.

The Prayer Book which we use is not, and never was, law. It was not a schedule to an Act of Parliament. But it was annexed, that is, tied with string (which string perished, so that for many years this 'annexed copy' was lost), to the last Act of Uniformity. This annexing did not make it a schedule, nor a law, and the action taken in Parliament, when a misprint was discovered, was so done as to make it quite clear that no authority of Parliament was ever given to this book.

What then is this Act of Uniformity? Now I do not want anyone to take my mere word for it. Let any of your readers go to the nearest church, and he will find on the priest's stall a more or less expensive and large copy of the Prayer Book. Prefixed to these are copies of the Acts of Uniformity. From their position anyone would think that these instruments authorised the book to which they are prefixed. Most people do this and pass on to something else. But if anyone will take the trouble to read them carefully he will be surprised to find that there is not a single word so authorising these books. These are solely penal Acts, fixing the penalties to be inflicted on those people who do not use them. To-day we should call them Nonconformists or Roman Catholics. But here we find such strange names as 'recusants.' Also the punishments 'without bail or mainprise' are such as could not now be inflicted. This alone would make the Acts out of date and useless. But as a matter of fact these penalties on Nonconformists have long been repealed, and the Acts are, therefore, useless.

This was recognised in 1928. In the Prayer Book Bill of the previous year these Acts were religiously copied, but someone evidently saw the absurdity of it, and in the next Bill they were quietly left out. These two Bills have been the only attempt to make us pray by Act of Parliament; both were rejected, and it is certain no further attempt will ever be made.

Does that mean that we are free to do as we like? Certainly not. We are bound by something stronger than an Act—through which a coach and horses might be driven. Before any clergyman can be instituted or licensed to any place where he can exercise his authority, he has to make a solemn promise to the Bishop to use 'the said book.' By this promise we priests are bound, and ringers are bound to help the parson to carry out the provisions of this book, one of which is that of ringing a bell a convenient time before each service.

What you say besides is excellent, but it must be remembered that Governments in war time can do many things which custom or law would otherwise prevent.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE H. COOMBS.

The death is announced of Mr. George Henry Coombs, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, which took place on March 7th just three weeks before he reached his 100th birthday.

Mr. Coombs did not learn to ring until he was 43 years old. That was in 1886 when the bells of All Saints', Ryde, were installed. The instructor to the band was William Hewitt, who had rung with William Shipway, and was a contemporary and companion of Cox, Halsey and Coater. Mr. Coombs rang in six peals, all Grand sire Triples, and was a regular and keen attendant at the Sunday service ringing and weekly practices until the outbreak of the war. He probably was the oldest living ringer.

Until a few days before the end, when a chill compelled him to take to bed, Mr. Coombs enjoyed the best of health for one of such advanced years.

By profession he was a horticulturist. In bygone years he was in the front rank of exhibitors at Island shows and won many awards for chrysanthemums. For over 77 years he had lived in the same house. He was the oldest member of the Court Astræa of Foresters and Shepherds.

His wife died 23 years ago and he leaves five daughters, two living in New Zealand, and one son.

The funeral was on Thursday, the service in the Parish Church being conducted by Canon Moxon, assisted by the Rev. F. H. Rolph. The mourners were Mr. C. Coombs (son), Mrs. Lewis (daughter), Mrs. C. Coombs (daughter-in-law), Miss N. Lewis (granddaughter), Mr. G. Lewis (grandson), Mr. H. G. Coombs, of Bembridge (nephew), Mrs. G. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Brett and Mrs. Smith. Miss A. Coombs (daughter) was prevented from attending by indisposition. The ringers present were Major C. W. Vincent and Messrs. A. Brading, A. Jackson, T. W. Kemp, P. Long, C. Mundell, B. J. Snow and A. R. Ward (Ryde), and Messrs. W. Scott, sen., and W. Upton (Newport).

His colleagues had hoped to ring handbells over the graveside, but war conditions made this impossible. The large collection of flowers included wreaths from the ringers of All Saints'.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT SPALDING.

At the annual meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild; held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th, ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Long Sutton and Alkirk.

The service was conducted by the Rev. J. W. Parker, Vicar of Gosberton, Clough.

In the absence of the Rev. E. C. Gee, president of the branch, owing to illness, Mr. Parker was elected chairman of the business meeting.

The balance sheet for 1942 showed a credit balance of £56 in the general account and £17 in the Belfry Repairs Fund.

The Rev. E. C. Gee was unanimously re-elected president and the other officers as follows: Hon. treasurer, Mr. R. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. W. A. Richardson; hon. auditors, Messrs. J. T. Brown and R. Richardson; Ringing Master, Mr. J. G. Ames; committee, the captain of each tower in the branch; branch representative on Guild Committee, Mr. J. T. Brown.

Mr. Bertram Holmes, of Pinchbeck, was elected an honorary member.

Meetings for the coming year were arranged as follows: Long Sutton in June, Surfleet in September, and Deeping St. Nicholas in November.

On the proposition of Mr. R. Richardson, the secretary was instructed to send a letter to the Rev. E. C. Gee expressing sympathy in his illness and sincere wishes for his speedy recovery.

JOINT MEETING AT DUDLEY.

Forty-three members of the Dudley and District Guild and the Worcestershire and Districts Association (Northern Branch) gathered at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th, on the occasion of the former's annual meeting.

Service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon of Dudley, Dr. A. P. Sheppard, who welcomed the members to Dudley and expressed his appreciation of the Guild officer's efforts to keep things going, and at the goodly attendance in spite of the present lack of ringing facilities.

Tea followed in the School Hall, and at the subsequent business meeting the Archdeacon took the chair. The balance sheet was adopted, the chairman congratulating the Guild's officers upon being able to produce an increased credit balance in spite of adverse circumstances. All the officers were re-elected for the coming year. Votes of thanks to those who had helped to make the event a success were passed.

Handbell ringing followed, together with tune-playing intervals.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the three-part 5,083 of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Major, published in your issue dated March 5th, Mr. A. Nunneley Wood informs me that the figures of the peal were composed by the late H. Dains.

They were published in 'The Bell News' of January 2nd, 1886, and also in the Midland Counties Association report, 1909, being peal No. 1,638, rung as Superlative Major. Only the splicing of the two methods into the figures can be said to be arranged by me.

Sunderland.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NEW BRANCH SECRETARY.

The annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, held at St. Paul's, Daybrook, on February 13th, only drew a small attendance.

No silent ringing was attempted, but good use was made of the handbells in the vestry. Grand sire Triples and Caters, Plain Bob Major and Royal and Stedman Triples were rung.

Mr. F. Bradley took the chair for the meeting which followed. One new member was elected. Mr. F. A. Salter asked the meeting to relieve him of the secretaryship, as he found that hours of war work after his long illness did not leave him time to carry on the office efficiently. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., was unanimously elected in his place.

A vote of thanks to the retiring secretary for past services and to the Vicar of Daybrook for his kindness in placing the tower and restry at the disposal of the association concluded the business.

JOHNSON AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

founded a ringing society made up of some of the leading men of the city, who called themselves the Loyal Youths. I fancy they had long disappeared before Samuel was born, but the Cathedral had a fine set of ten bells, most of which are still in the tower.

Dr. Johnson in a very real sense was a typical Englishman of all the ages, but in an equally real sense he was a typical man of the 18th century. So, too, the Society of College Youths, though it dates from the 17th century and is still alive and flourishing, is in many ways a typical 18th century body, and it forms a most interesting link with the days when Johnson lived and the men who were his contemporaries.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 130.)

When we are composing Stedman Triples from B Blocks we first arrange the 5,040 rows in 84 mutually exclusive blocks in which the changes, necessary to give us the required Q Sets come at Six-ends. How to do that, and in the best way for the plan on which he is working, the composer will find out by experiment, and it does not fall within the scope of our present discussion.

One or two obvious thoughts, however, occur. We shall find it convenient to group our B Blocks according to the pairs of bells dodging behind, instead of, as usual, by natural course-ends. And we can first select our Q Sets, and then arrange the B Blocks to suit them.

For instance, suppose we wish to join together three blocks which have 6-7, 7-1, and 1-6 dodging behind. We take the block 1234567 and find a Six-end where the treble makes fifth's place at the bob. This bob we omit, which gives us the row 4352617 instead of 4352176. The complementary row is 4352761. All three are handstroke rows.

We can now prick from each of 4352617 and 4352761 a full B Block, starting with either a quick Six or a slow Six as the case may be.

When we have got these two blocks, the two others, which are complementary to them, are fixed and unalterable; so we shall still have to exercise care to avoid having inside a Six a row we need at a Six-end.

Subject to these conditions, the job of joining up the 84 B Blocks is similar to that of joining up the 120 natural courses of Bob Major. We start with the block 1234567, and we add the others to it, two at a time, by plaining Q Sets.

However we do it, so long as we use omits only the result will always be to join together an odd number of blocks, and as the extent is an even number we must use singles. When we have got as far as we can by means of omits, we take what is left, reverse it so as to produce the out-of-course form, and splice it in with two singles. The use of singles in peals of Stedman Triples formed of B Blocks is essentially to add the final link, not to alter the succession of the nature of the rows, though it does do it.

We are now in a position to answer the question which was debated some months ago: Is it possible to produce a peal of Stedman Triples in two exactly similar parts with only two singles?

We know, of course, that it is possible, because it has been done; so we will alter the wording of the question somewhat and enquire, What are the conditions generally necessary in a seven-bell method to produce an extent in two exactly similar parts and only two singles?

First, in any pure Triples method the 5,040 rows must be capable of being grouped into a number of similar

mutually exclusive blocks. They may be P Blocks (natural plain courses), B Blocks (bobbed courses) or other blocks produced by a combination of plain and bobbed leads.

Secondly, the foundation blocks must be capable of being reversed so as to produce out-of-course variations, and the direct and reverse variations must contain exactly the same rows.

Thirdly, the presence of a Q Set is necessary, consisting of bobs (or omits) and singles, which will join together an even number of in-course blocks and an even number of out-of-course blocks.

In Grandsire Triples and the other methods in the same group, the P Block cannot be reversed.

In Grandsire and Union Triples, but not in the others, the B Block can be reversed, but no Q Set formed of bobs and singles can be had.

In Plain Bob and kindred methods both B Block and P Block can be reversed, and the necessary Q Set can be used. Since the lead-ends are alternately of opposite nature, extents can be had without the aid of the combined Q Set.

In Stedman Triples the P Blocks are not mutually exclusive, and on the twin-bob plan no combined Q Set is possible.

In Stedman Triples on the B Block plan the blocks are mutually exclusive, they can be reversed, and the necessary Q Set is available. Therefore a peal in two exactly similar parts and with two singles only is quite possible.

Here is the combined Q Set which must be used, alongside the corresponding Q Set in Bob Major. The actual rows, of course, need not be these. Both backstroke and handstroke rows are given.

2314567	2436587
S 3241567	B 4235678
<hr/>	
2314576	4326587
O 3241756	S 4325678
<hr/>	
2314765	4236587
S 3241765	B 2435678
<hr/>	
2314756	2346587
O 3241576	S 2345678

THE LONG PEAL AT DEBENHAM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The legend about the 10,080 of Bob Major at Debenham used to be that a murder was committed at Bury St. Edmunds and James Wilson stood his trial for the same, but was acquitted on the grounds that he could not have been at Bury (24 miles distant) and got here by the time the peal was started. The legend went on to say that he actually did the murder, but possessed a very fast horse which did the journey in record time.

Fast horse, cool rider, possibly the composition was an easy one, although the peal board makes no mention of the composer's name. This board was restored a few years ago by a ringer who wished to remain anonymous.

W. E. RUMSEY.

Debenham, Stowmarket.

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THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

(Continued from page 129.)

The floors and walls of the church are adorned (or otherwise) by many monuments. Reference has already been made to these in connection with the three ancient families of Parr, Strickland and Bellingham. There are memorials of nine former vicars of the parish. A black marble monument to the memory of the portrait painter, George Romney, will be found on the south wall near the south-west entrance.

Suspended near the Bellingham Chapel is an ancient helmet. Cornelius Nicholson remarks, in reference to this, 'Sir Roger Bellingham was a knight banneret, and was certainly interred here. We conclude that this helmet either belonged to him or was suspended in memory of his having received that most honourable distinction, usually conferred by the King on the field of battle.' Nicholson adds as a footnote, 'This helmet, commonly called "the Rebel's cap," forms the theme of a popular narrative.'

In the civil wars there resided in Kendal one Colonel Briggs, a leading magistrate and an active commander in the Cromwellian army. At that time also Robert Philipson, surnamed from his bold and licentious character 'Robin the Devil,' inhabited Belle Isle, on Lake Windermere. Colonel Briggs besieged Belle Isle for seven or eight days until the siege of Carlisle being raised, Mr. Huddleston Philipson, of Crook, hastened from Carlisle and relieved his brother Robert. The next day, being Sunday, Robin, with a small troop of horse, rode to Kendal to make reprisals. He rode into the church in search of Briggs. In passing out, his head struck against the portal and his helmet fell to the ground and was retained. Robin was assaulted and unhorsed, but made a safe retreat. The legend is preserved in a ballad of the times, entitled 'Dick and the Devil.' It is celebrated also in Scott's poem, 'Rokeby.'

THE TOWER AND BELLS.

The tower is 24ft. wide and 80ft. high, the lower part in large measure the tower of the thirteenth century church. In 1661 it was restored and raised to its present height.

It is worth noting that one of the massive pillars at the west end of the nave is of hewn limestone, while the rest are interlarded with red sandstone. It is not unlikely that this red sandstone formed part of the Roman remains at Waternook a mile away, and from thence was brought to the church when the part of the church was rebuilt. The first clock was erected in 1850, a gift by Christopher Gardner. The present clock and chimes were erected in 1891 in memory of Alderman G. F. Braithwaite, six times mayor of the ancient borough of Kendal.

The oldest bell in the tower is a pre-Reformation and undated, and this bell formerly hung in a turret attached to the Bellingham Chapel, and was placed in the tower in 1804.

There is no accurate information of the first introduction of bells into the church tower or when they first summoned worshippers to the church. There may have been one or more bells so far back as the thirteenth century, but the earliest mention of the bells is in 1576 in an

extract from general orders and by-laws, when it was ordered and constituted by the aldermen, burgesses and 24 assistants, that as well as every one of the 24 assistants as the twelve principal burgesses of this burgh now and from henceforth shall provide and have a plain cloth gown of black or of some other sad colour, a round black cap on his head, and shall be ready to accompany the alderman or his deputy before or at the time of ringing of the 'third peal,' to the church, both to morning and evening prayers.

In 1537 the Grammar School boys were summoned to school by a little bell which hung in a turret on the north side of the church. This bell is now known as the 'Sanctus bell,' and is now in the tower of the church.

From the M.S.S. of the Corporation of Kendal, dated 1584, it was ordered that butchers should close their shops and cease to offer flesh for sale after the ending of the 'third peal of bells' ringing to morning and evening prayer on Sundays and holy days under a penalty to forfeit 12d.

In 1657 there were five bells in the peal, and in 1693 the tenor was recast and a treble added by Mr. Christopher Hodson.

On May 7th, 1773, a vestry meeting was called, and it was decided to have a new peal of eight, the fourth and fifth bells of the old peal to be the tenors of the new peal.

The work was undertaken by Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of London, and the frame was made by Mr. Samuel Turner, of Whitechapel, London.

In 1816 the fifth of this peal was cracked, and this was recast and two trebles added to make a peal of ten.

In 1894 these were retuned and rehung, a new frame provided, and again in 1938 they were rehung in the most modern fittings, both times by Messrs. J. Taylor, of Loughborough.

Of the inscriptions, those on the ninth and tenor bells are in Latin, both these bells dated 1631.

In addition to the inscriptions on these two bells, there appears on the waist of both a small shield $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square of the royal coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth. It has E.R. at the top, and on the garter round the centre the motto, 'Honi soit qui mal y pense,' and on the bottom, 'Dieu et mon droit.' The unicorn on the shield has wings on its back, not horns. From this it is known that they are Oldfield's bells. These arms appear on the third bell at Eaton, near Lancaster, 1617, and at Barton-on-Humber, 1598. Founder R.O.

In 1788 a list of rules were agreed on by the ringers and were painted on the walls in the same year. In 1833 they were painted on canvas by Billy Stubbs, a noted sign painter. This in due course rotted and fell to pieces. To the late Mr. Thomas Jennings is due the credit of having made a careful copy of the lines in 1860.

(To be continued.)

RAISING AND CEASING.—Raising and ceasing in peal when properly executed is undoubtedly very pleasant and melodious, but the adepts in the art in this City of London very seldom choosing to put themselves to the pains of it, is now chiefly practised by the country gentlemen.—'The Clavis.'

GOOD STRIKING.

Keep time:—how sour sweet music is
When time is broke, and no proportion kept!

—Shakespeare.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in the lower vestry. Service at 4.30. Meeting 5.30. You will be heartily welcomed.—G. R. Newton.

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.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual general meeting will be held at The Barons, Church Street, Reigate, on Saturday, March 27th, at 4 p.m.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at St. Peter's, Bramley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells in Schools from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in Schools at 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Dis. Secs.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 3rd. Short service in church at 4.15. Tea in the school-room at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please notify regarding tea not later than March 31st, to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Draycott on Saturday, April 3rd, at 3.30 p.m., handbells available. Light refreshments to all who notify Mr. A. Hough, Ard-Na-Chree, Draycott, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than, March 29th.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th. Room available from 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. sharp. Short service St. Andrew's 4 p.m. Tea, at about 1s. each, followed by annual business meeting at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, not later than April 7th.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Alloa, on Saturday, April 10th. Bells (8) silent, available from 2.30 p.m. Ser-

vice 4 p.m. Tea; at 5 p.m., in Townhead Tea Rooms, Alloa, followed by meeting. All ringers cordially welcomed. Names for tea to manageress or to me.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Hon. Sec., 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at St. Margaret's Convent, London Road, East Grinstead. Good train and bus service. Names for tea to Mr. G. Lambert, Moat Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Commencing April 6th, regular weekly practice will be held on the tower bells (10), with the apparatus, each Tuesday at 7.30 p.m., instead of 1st and 3rd Saturdays. An equally cordial invitation extended to 'spliced' or 'stoney' ringers.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Second-hand set of ten or twelve handbells in good condition.—A. A. Hughes, Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

BOOKS WANTED.

The library of the Guildford Diocesan Guild has duplicates of some books, including copies of rare county histories. We are without copies of important books, notably 'Church Bells of Norfolk,' by L'Estrange. Will those having surplus books which they are willing to exchange please write A. C. Hazelden, 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reference to the above by Mr. John Ogden recently is very interesting, and I should like to add that from my experience the public appreciate very much the sound of bells.

Apart from my connection with church bells at Dover, I was hon. instructor to the Gordon Boys' Orphanage handbell ringers from 1912 to the time of their evacuation to Wales. With their pipe band and handbells they have performed in all the seaside resorts of Kent, year after year, and have been admired by holiday-makers from all parts of the country. Their handbells were always a leading feature of garden parties, concerts, etc., and just previous to the war they performed in London, Oxford and Hastings.

Their last big show was on Saturday, July 15th, 1939, when they combined with the boys of the Duke of York's Royal Military School in a grand display in aid of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover, when nearly two thousand paid for admission to the Pencester Gardens, including the Mayor and members of the Council and many naval and military officers stationed in the town. When the eight Gordon Boys, dressed in their Highland costume, marched to the centre, each carrying a pair of handbells, they were received with great applause. The music of the bells was listened to with wrapt attention. Their playing of the 'Londonderry Air,' 'Annie Laurie,' 'Last Rose of Summer' and 'Bells of St. Mary' went without a hitch, and how the large audience clapped showed that bell music is appreciated.

In the background there is the training of these boys, and anyone who has had knowledge of boys' bands knows full well that it is no easy task to keep a band up to first-class standard. I used to have eight boys performing and four in reserve. In one month I lost four of my best trained boys, who left the Home for the Army and Navy. But the effort is worth while because the people love the bells.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

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