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FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd, 1943.

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DEBATABLE QUESTIONS.

It is one of the blessings of this life and a great help to progress that there are two sides to nearly every question, so that it is quite possible for two or more men, equal in ability, in experience, and in integrity, to hold completely divergent and antagonistic views on any given subject; and it is even possible for the same man to think one thing one day and quite the opposite the next, without laying himself open to the charge of dishonesty.

Many people think that is all wrong. The truth is the truth, they say, and one or other of two opposite views must be wrong. So they try to get all people to think alike, whence come fascism, communism and the rest. But it would be a dull world where all did think alike, and not necessarily a more truthful world.

Arguments and controversies between competent people are not only very useful and instructive; they are very entertaining. That is why we like to receive letters from correspondents on debatable points. They add very much to the interest of this journal, and we are sure their authors get a good deal of pleasure out of writing them.

A typical example is in the letters written about a band who toured Scotland and the North of England forty years ago. They rang eight peals and published them under the title of the Norwich Diocesan Association, which, says, Mr. Borrett, was put to the expense and bother of printing them in its report without receiving in return a ha'porth of good. No, says, Mr. Barnett, the band did it to honour the association.

Well, there we have a most fruitful field for a discussion on ringing tours and peal ringing generally. What good do they do? Some people think peal ringing does no good at all. Others think it is the one thing which keeps a high standard in the Exercise. And there is a lot to be said for both views. It does not follow, of course, that men should not ring peals or go on ringing tours, because they cannot show that any 'good' results from them. There are a lot of things we do, because we like doing them, apart from any results, and they are worth doing.

The men who went on the northern tour forty years ago may have conferred an honour on the Norwich Diocesan Association, but that was hardly their object. They were out for a holiday, and (as Mr. Keeble, who was in the band, explains) made a convenience of the Norwich Diocesan Association. They were quite within

(Continued on page 146.)

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their rights and the ordinary etiquette, and most of us
would have done the same as they did.

All the same, the question remains, How far do peals
by outside members benefit an association? And in the
interests of true records, should not peals rung by mixed
bands be published as non-society peals?

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ...	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ...	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ...	3-4	JOHN THOMAS ...	7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

The conductor's 150th handbell peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ALFRED BALLARD ...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	3-4	FRANCIS KIRK ...	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR ...	1-2	WILFRID F. MORETON ...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ...	3-4	*PETER J. SMALL ...	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT (C.C.C. No. 118.)

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE ...	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS ...	7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE ...	3-4	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ...	9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON ...	5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS ...	11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

Specially rung as a wedding compliment to Corp'l. Robert W. R.
Percy, R.A.O.C., and Miss Betty Rayfield, W.L.A., both ringers
attached to Christ Church belfry, Eastbourne, and who were married
this day.

BELLS AT EASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ban on bellringing is still in force, why, I, for one,
cannot say.

In my opinion, bells should be allowed to be rung during daylight
and it should be a punishable offence to ring after dark. With regard
to Easter Sunday, if the ban for that day is lifted, we should be
allowed to ring for evening service as well as matins, because some
churches have five services in the forenoon.

There have been several tests of the sirens, but no test by the
military or police at bellringing. I cannot imagine, for the life of
me, why on earth the authorities did not give instructions for the
bells to be rung.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 136.)

WILLIAM SHIPWAY.

The reunited Society of College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on October 6th, 1788. Six weeks earlier, on August 23rd, the Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch had scored their first peal of Stedman Caters, the second by any band. John Reeves conducted from the treble, William Stephens rang the ninth, James Purser the eighth, John Frazier the second, and the band was strengthened by three men—William Shipway, Anthony Cavalier, and the younger George Gross—who had come over from the Junior Cumberlands.

That society had just gone through one of the crises which were so common among these old companies, and as the result of a quarrel had been left by some of its best and most reputable members, of whom the most important, apart from George Gross and his son, was William Shipway, who now became a leading man in the Society of Cumberland Youths.

William Shipway was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760, and so at the time of which we are speaking was nearly twenty-eight years old. He had been apprenticed to a Mr. Handcock, a cabinet maker, who was also the sexton of Bath Abbey. Through assisting his master, the young man gained access to the Steeple, and made the acquaintance of the ringers. Change ringing attracted him and fascinated him at once.

The Abbey ringers were a good average band, above the average, indeed, for the West of England; and with them Shipway progressed so far as to be able to ring Treble Bob Royal. But he was anxious to go further and, seeing no prospects of advancing in Bath, he decided to go to London, where he might hope to meet the leading ringers of the day and, incidentally, find employment at his trade.

He arrived in London on July 29th, 1785, and at once sought out George Gross and the Junior Cumberlands. We can easily see why he chose them. The College Youths were far out of his reach. They had no room for any unknown stranger who might chance to come up to London from the country. A recruit to their society had first to make good his standing, both as a practical ringer and socially. Even among the Cumberlands there was no vacancy in the inner circle. But the Junior Cumberlands were a new company, and the prestige of their leader would naturally attract the ambitious novice from the provinces.

Two months after his arrival in London, Shipway rang his first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and six weeks later he stood in a peal of Grandsire Cinques which George Gross called at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The latter was never much of a heavy bell ringer, but on this occasion he rang the eleventh. Two men were needed for the tenor.

William Shipway lived in Northampton Court, Clerkenwell. At the time there were only six bells at St. James', and it would appear that he did much of his ringing at St. Mary's, Islington, where there was a scrofe band. For he failed to get into any very intimate or friendly relations with George Gross. I imagine that the younger man, keen to push himself forward, and

already with ambitions to be a composer, though as yet knowing very little about the matter, tried to question the other, and was met with the same answer that a man told me was given him by Henry Haley, 'Find out for yourself, as I had to.' It would have been quite in accordance with the spirit of the time. Shipway remotely refers to it in his book, and so to the end he was ignorant of what Gross had really done in composition.

This may be the reason why during four years he took part in only three or four peals with the Junior Cumberlands. The most interesting of them was the Double Norwich Court Bob Major, to which I have already referred. In the year 1787 the Junior Cumberlands rang John Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major in the Kent Variation, at St. Mary's, Matfelon. The performance is not entered in the peal book, but there is no doubt it was rung, for Shipway states that he took part in it himself; and the peal book, after the first few entries, is by no means a reliable authority. Whether George Gross was one of the band is doubtful, though it is difficult to see who else could have called it. Shipway, in his historical references, nearly always gives the names of the conductors of peals; but he does not do so in this instance, nor does he mention the exact date.

What is certain is that the society was being torn by quarrels and dissensions. Shipway rang no more peals with them. Anthony Cavalier stood in a five thousand which the younger Gross called, at Hackney on November 18th, and soon afterwards followed Shipway to the 'old' Cumberlands. It may be that the better-class members were beginning to be disgusted with the conduct of the more disreputable; it may be that the younger members had begun to revolt against the autocracy of George Gross and his son; it may have been only one of the trivial and sordid quarrels which were so common among the ringers. The upshot was a general break-up of the company and, though the Society of Junior Cumberlands still continued to exist, it dropped out of notice and rang no more peals until, after some years, a new generation had revived its fortunes.

George Gross was once again without a band. No doubt he had long been watching for an opportunity to return to the senior Cumberland Youths, and it is pretty certain that he now made an attempt. His son, the younger George, who had been closely associated with his father in the junior society, did join the others, and took part in the peal of Stedman Caters at Shoreditch. But Gross had delayed for too long. John Reeves had got the post he coveted, and so long as his rival was beadle, he would not join the Cumberlands. For four years his name is absent from any of the records, but we need not suppose he had temporarily given up ringing. There was a considerable number of men, unattached to any particular company, from whom he could pick a band of a sort; and it is not unlikely that he scored with them peals which are now forgotten.

One non-society peal he did ring in about this time. On one St. George's Day, eleven men named George met at St. George's-in-the-Borough, and, eight of them having been selected, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was started for. After ringing some changes, one of the ropes broke, and as on inspection some of the others were found to be rotten, the band went to St. Olave's,

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

where the peal was duly accomplished. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, and his son the second. The rest came from different companies.

The younger Gross did not stay long with the Cumberlands. Soon after the peal at Shoreditch he rejoined his father.

The Cumberlands' peal of Stedman Caters was the composition of John Reeves. The figures have not survived, which is rather a pity, for evidently it was an improvement on the peals in the 'Clavis.'

A finely written board was erected in the belfry to commemorate the performance. In later years it was removed to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where it now is. It has been thoroughly restored. Perhaps this is the origin of the legend I referred to in an earlier chapter of the portrait of himself presented to the society by the Duke of Cumberland having been transferred from St. Leonard's to St. Martin's.

John Reeves was an accomplished ringer, but as a leader he was not the equal of George Gross, and notwithstanding the number of excellent ringers they possessed, the Cumberlands, while he was beadle, rang only a few peals. He called 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in March, 1788, the opening peal at Edmonton in the following May, and the first peal of Royal at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in January, 1789. The Edmonton peal, which he composed, was 5,280 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in fourteen courses. The figures are not given in the 'Clavis.'

After these peals and the Double Norwich and Stedman Caters, Reeves dropped out of the Cumberlands' peal band, and in 1790, or soon after, he vacated the office of beadle. It seems to have been his fate—his fault or his misfortune—never to remain on good terms with any one company for very long. Perhaps the fact that William Jones joined the Cumberlands had something to do with his retirement; for the three authors of the 'Clavis,' who had worked together for so long, in the end quarrelled and each went his own way.

Jones called a peal of Bob Major at Edmonton on May 18th, 1789, with Shipway and Stephens in the band, but Reeves did not ring. Reeves conducted when the society went to Sevenoaks in 1791, but Jones was not in the band. And three months later, when Jones called another peal of Bob Major at Clerkenwell, Reeves did not take part.

This was the first peal on the bells. The church had only just been rebuilt in its present form, and, indeed, it was not consecrated until nearly a year after. William Gibson, John Darby, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, Edward Bartell, William Stephens and Thomas Morris made up the band.

After this peal, William Jones went back to the College Youths of his own district in the western suburbs, and continued to ring an occasional peal with them for several years more.

Meanwhile James Devine, who appears to have headed the revolt against George Gross in the Junior Cumberlands' company, had joined the senior society, and for them he called three peals—Grandsire Triples at Islington in 1789, and Bob Major at Hackney, and Grandsire Caters at West Ham in 1790. After these, except for a

peal of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes' in 1793, his name disappears.

Shipway's first peal as conductor was at Islington on December 11th, 1791. The method was Treble Bob Major, and the composition he called was Reeves' 5,280 in fourteen courses, for he himself to the end of his life did very little composition in Treble Bob with the tenors together. Probably he thought that the elder man had so thoroughly explored the subject that there was little scope left for him.

William Richardson came to the Cumberlands from the junior society, and made his mark, instead of signing his name, when he joined on November 28th, 1789. He rang in one or two peals, and on February 12th, 1792, called 5,201 changes of Grandsire Caters at Horsleydown. Shipway, Gibson, Stephens and Bartell took part, and the ringer of the fourth was George Harris, who had been one of William Jones' band in the ancient Society of College Youths, and had distinguished himself by turning Southwark tenor in to 6,048 changes of Double Bob Maximus.

Grandsire on even numbers of bells was never so popular in London as it was for long in Birmingham and the Midlands, but it was occasionally practised. On October 11th, 1773, the Cumberlands rang at St. George's, Southwark, 5,071 changes of Cumberland eight-in, which can hardly have been anything else than Grandsire Major, and the first peal in the method. George Gross conducted.

Eighteen months later, on April 26th, 1775, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, John Reeves called for the London Youths 5,151 changes of Grandsire Eight-in. Reeves, we know from the 'Clavis,' had a high opinion of Grandsire on even numbers, and especially of Grandsire Maximus. On May 7th, 1792, he induced the Cumberlands to ring a peal of it at St. Saviour's, Southwark. He conducted from the treble, and the others in the band were Edward Bartell, William Gibson, William Richardson, John Darby, John Frazier, Thomas Reeves, William Shipway, Abraham Smith, Malachi Channon, William Stephens and Thomas Morris.

After this performance, Reeves severed his connection with the Cumberlands. He was now just turned fifty years old, and had nearly thirty more years to live, during which he rang two more peals.

(To be continued.)

BOURNEMOUTH MEETING.

Bournemouth and district ringers held a very successful meeting at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, on Mar. 20th, when some 20 members of the neighbouring branches of the Salisbury and Winchester and Portsmouth Guilds met during the afternoon and kept the handbells going. The company included some non-ringing friends, and all shared the excellent tea provided and served by the ladies, under the leadership of Miss Child, of the St. John's, Surrey Road, band.

The Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, Mr. George Williams, was present, and the secretary of Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Guild, the Rev. C. A. Phillips, distributed the Guild reports for 1941-1942.

Eight peals rung by the Bournemouth handbell band were recorded for the Salisbury Guild and published in the report. Several ringers were prevented from attending the meeting, among them being Mr. George Preston, of Christchurch, and Messrs. Eli Waters, W. E. Cheater and P. J. Small, all of whom sent good wishes to the gathering.

During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on the handbells. Plain courses of Grandsire Caters were successfully brought round, but Stedman Caters proved elusive. Miss Mary E. Davis was proposed a member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.**

A very enjoyable meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on March 27th. Handbells were rung both before and after the meeting, and the Rector kindly gave facilities for the making of tea. The Rector, who regretted not being able to stay for the meeting, cordially welcomed the members and invited them to come again whenever opportunity occurred.

Mr. J. Ridyard occupied the chair and was supported by the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. Leslie Evans.

The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. E. Wilson, of Blackburn. The secretary had written to Mr. Tom Wilson, the ringing secretary of the association, sympathising with him on the death of his father, and Mr. Wilson had replied thanking the members.

Apologies were received from Messrs. T. R. Butler and W. R. Birchall. It was agreed that the next meeting be held at Sefton on April 17th if suitable arrangements can be made. If not, the Rev. D. P. Roberts' invitation to St. Catherine's Church, Edge Hill, will be accepted.

The towers represented were Sefton, St. Luke's, Liverpool, Oxton, Wallasey, Southport, Waverton and St. Nicholas', Liverpool.

The Rev. D. P. Roberts proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves, for permission to hold the meeting, for the use of the vestry, crockery, etc., and this further evidence of his kindness.

DEATH OF HAGBOURNE RINGER.**KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.**

News has been received of the death of Tony Allen, of York Farm, West Hagbourne, who was serving abroad as a despatch rider in the R.A.S.C., and met with an accident which resulted in his death on March 10th. He was 28 years old and had been a member of the Hagbourne band and the Oxford Diocesan Guild for ten years. He had been unfortunate in not getting a peal to his credit, but was a good method ringer and was keen and regular at practice and at Sunday service ringing.

A memorial service was held at Hagbourne Church on Sunday, March 21st, at which a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, and on Monday a 504 each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples was rung at the Fleur de Lys on the handbells.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LATTER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Latter, which occurred at Tunbridge Wells on March 24th.

Mr. Latter, who was 77 years of age, had been verger at St. Peter's Church for many years and a member of the band of ringers for still longer. He had been hon. secretary of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association for over 40 years.

The funeral service at St. Peter's on March 27th was conducted by the Vicar, who paid tribute to Mr. Latter's services. The ringers present were Mr. T. Saunders (East Peckham), Mr. A. Battin (Tunbridge Wells) and Mr. T. E. Sone (Paddock Wood).

DEATH OF MR. W. WILDE.

The death is announced of Mr. W. Wilde, a member of the band at St. John's, Blackpool, at the age of 78.

Mr. Wilde went to Blackpool from Denton upwards of 30 years ago, and for a few years was a member of the band at Holy Trinity, South Shore. He later joined the band at St. John's. He left Blackpool following the death of his wife and on account of his own ill-health. His death took place at Denton on March 21st, and he was interred there on March 24th. He will be greatly missed in the Fylde Branch, where his droll humour was always a source of merriment. His tales concerning his early days were always welcomed.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT A. TRUEMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert A. Trueman, of Blunsdon, Wilts, at the early age of 19 years, after a short illness.

Mr. Trueman started ringing about five years ago. He joined the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association in June, 1938, and soon became an efficient ringer. He was also a member of the choir at Blunsdon and will be greatly missed.

The funeral took place on March 17th, a company of the 1244th Squadron A.T.C., of which he was a member, forming a guard of honour. Messrs. Vincent and Ball represented the local ringers, and Mr. W. B. Kynaston, secretary of the Swindon Branch, was also present. Mr. W. H. Trueman, chairman of the branch, is Mr. Trueman's uncle and was with the family mourners.

BUSHEY.—At 50, Rudolph Road, on Thursday, March 25th, 1,276 Bristol Surprise Major: *E. Jennings 1-2, *E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. * First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

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LOUGHBOROUGH

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MUFFLES,
Etc,

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis has had good news. His son, Sub-Lieut. J. H. Lewis, R.N.V.R., who has been a prisoner of war in Italy, has been exchanged and is now on his way home.

We made a mistake when we said that William Pye called the record peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells. His brother, George R. Pye, conducted, and to him we offer apologies.

On March 28th, 1750, the Cumberland Youths rang at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. '5,040 New Double Trebles (being the first ever done in that method) and in 3 hours and 30 minutes 'twas perform'd.' George Partrick called the bobs.

At St. Mary's, Battersca, on March 28th, 1885, John Martin Routh called Holt's Original, his first attempt to conduct a peal. Challis Winney, F. E. Dawe and E. F. Strange were in the band.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on handbells was rung at Romford on March 28th, 1902, by William, George and Ernest Pye and William Keeble.

Mr. Ernest Turner called a peal of Surprise Major, in seven spliced methods, on March 28th, 1936, at St. Mary's, Staines. The methods were London, Bristol, Cambridge, Superlative, Rutland, Ealing and Wembley.

One of the earliest peals of Grandsire Triples was rung at Wye, Kent, on March 29th, 1736, by nine men 'being the first set that ever rang it in the county, without the assistance of Londoners or others.'

On March 29th, 1762, the ancient Society of College Youths rang 10,000 changes of Grandsire Caters at All Saints', Fulham. It was the first single-handed ten-thousand on ten bells ever rung.

The College Youths rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on March 29th, 1802. Charles Barber, of Kensington, conducted.

The Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Double Bob Royal on handbells on March 29th, 1922.

The first ten-thousand ever accomplished was rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, on April 1st, 1727. The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major, and there is little doubt that the composition was true.

On April 1st, 1755, the Cumberland Youths rang at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel, a peal of Cumberland Pleasure, 'being the first that was rung in that method.' The figures are lost, and it is uncertain whether it was Triples or Major.

The first peal on the present bells at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, and in the present steeple, was rung on April 1st, 1834. Thomas Tolladay conducted.

The first peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Maximus was rung at Chelmsford Cathedral on April 1st, 1929.

The first peal of Napsbury Surprise Major was rung at Bushey on April 1st, 1939.

On April 3rd, 1899, William Pye conducted 15,072 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Erith. This beat the 13,440 by the Cumberlands at Romford in April, 1894, but it stood as the second for less than two months. On May 22nd, 1899, James W. Washbrook conducted a 17,024 at Kidlington. This latter was subjected to much criticism and led to a heated controversy in the pages of 'The Bell News.'

INSURANCE OF BELLRINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is an abstract from a letter which I have received from a church officer:—

'Mr. B— has been talking to me with regard to the position of the bellringers here being insured against accidents. I confess I am not clear on the subject. So far as I know, I believe the fact of the ringers not being paid servants absolves the cathedral authorities of any liability. There is no doubt, however, that there is a certain danger incurred by the ringers, but they could hardly be expected to insure themselves at their own expense. I would feel obliged if you could enlighten me on the subject and let me know what arrangements exist at other churches.'

This is a problem which never occurred to me and I am personally unable to answer. I shall be glad to have the views of your readers on the matter and shall be grateful to hear if bellringers are insured by church authorities at all.

FRED E. DUKES, Hon. Secretary,
Irish Association of Change Ringers.

1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin.

PHANTOM BELLS.

Oft in the forest far one hears
A passing sound of distant bells;
Nor legend old nor human wit
Can tell us whence the music swells.
From the Lost Chord 'tis thought that soft
Faint ringing cometh on the wind;
Once many pilgrims trod the path,
But no one now the way can find.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.**WHAT DOES IT MATTER?***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Possibly some of the wording of my previous letter was rather loose, but I certainly did not intend to imply that Mr. William Pye rang many of his peals to do honour to the Middlesex Association, but that he credited them to the association for that reason, a very different thing.

To return to Mr. Pye's 1902 tour, let us suppose that if he had known the views of the Rev. Earle Bulwer, presumably shared by Mr. Borrett, that if he published the peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association they would be regarded, like the two Mr. Borrett mentions, as 'a nuisance and a bugbear to those interested in the ringing progress of a society,' he would have credited them to the Yorkshire Association, in whose territory they were mostly rung.

In the band on that tour there was only one Yorkshireman; of the other members three were from Essex, two from Dublin, one each from Rugby, Birmingham, Norfolk, Suffolk, Manchester and Greenwich, so that the peals would have been almost as 'foreign' to the Yorkshire Association as they were to the Norwich Diocesan. Would they not, therefore, have fallen under the same condemnation and made the Yorkshire Association's comparisons equally valueless, or, in fact, those of any other society for which they might have been rung?

Mr. Borrett's view would seem to be that unless a peal is attempted with all the band resident members of the association within whose area the attempt is being made, it should not be credited to any association at all (except perhaps the Cumberlands or College Youths, which are, of course, different) or—heaven forbid—some nebulous 'National Association.' Certainly he does not say that, but it seems a logical conclusion from the second paragraph of his letter. If not, what?

I may be a long way out, but I do not see that it matters a scrap for what association any peal is rung, nor whether it is within or without its boundaries, because peal ringing is not a true guide to the progress of a society. In the ten years or so before the war both the Hertfordshire and Sussex County Associations would from their peal ringing records have been judged very progressive, largely because of the efforts on the one hand of Mr. Harold Cashmore and his band from the Watford area, and on the other of Mr. Oliver Sippetts and his band at Crawley. But if either of these bands, while maintaining their enthusiasm and proficiency, had for any reason done little or no peal ringing, the story would have been very different. No, the only good guides are, I believe, strong resident membership, frequent and well-attended meetings, and the majority of towers in the county or diocese in union with the association. With all these, any society could regard peal ringing as of minor importance.

One last point, I quite agree that 'the Greater London area is not on all fours with the provinces.' But by no means all Mr. Pye's Middlesex peals were rung in the Greater London area. For example, at least four were at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, which is not exactly part of what 'The Bell News' used to call 'The Metropolis' to distinguish it from the wilder parts, 'The Provinces.'

E. A. BARNETT.

42, Clay Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts.

THE BEST WAY.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles Borrett has made out a good case and it is not easy to answer him. But every year in peace time tours are arranged and visiting bands ring peals for associations which they join for that purpose. The associations do not object, or if they do, they do not say so. Perhaps the best way would be for the visitors to ask the associations first if they have any objections, and to give them time to find out what the ordinary members really think.

'A VISITOR.'

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Dear Sir,—It would be far better if the conductors of touring parties, when they decide to ring a peal for a certain guild or association, and find that some of the band have to be proposed members of that guild or association, should collect the subscriptions before they start for the peal to be forwarded to the right authority.

Nine times out of ten, if the attempt fails, so do the proposed members' subscriptions. I know of several parties touring this way, when the attempt has failed the subscriptions have not been paid. At the last attempt at the Cathedral here the conductor decided to ring it for the Devonshire Guild. Some of the band were proposed members before starting. The attempt failed, and so did the proposed members.

This is where touring parties don't do guilds or associations a ha'porth of good.

W. H. HOWE, Hon. Secretary.

Exeter Branch, Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, March 14th, at Severalls Hospital, by kind permission of Dr. Duncan, medical superintendent, 1,296 Bob Major in 44 minutes: G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, E. P. Duffield 3-4, W. Keeble (conductor) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Keeble and to Messrs. F. L. Bumpstead, V. Kerridge and G. M. Rashbrook, members of St. Peter's company.

A RINGING TOUR**OF FORTY YEARS AGO.**

References have recently been made in our columns to a ringing tour which took place in Scotland and the North of England 40 years ago.

The company met at Edinburgh on Saturday, April 13th, 1902, and rang the first peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at St. Cuthbert's. The band was William Pye (Chadwell Heath), William Keeble (Stratford), Isaac G. Shade (Greenwich), Ernest Pye (Chadwell Heath), Gabriel Lindoff (Dublin), James George (Rugby), Charles Jackson (Hull) and William H. Barber (Birmingham). Mr. Barber conducted.

The company decided to ring the peals under the name of the Norwich Diocesan Association, although not one lived in the diocese, and only Lindoff could claim a birth qualification.

On the following Monday they rang a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Mary's Cathedral, with William Pye as conductor. The band was made up by Charles Mee from Sroughton, and Robert Murphy from Dublin.

Later in the same day they rang another peal of Stedman Caters at Newcastle Cathedral. Gabriel Lindoff stood out and a local man, Robert Richards, rang the tenor.

On Tuesday the same men who rang at St. Mary's, Edinburgh, rang a third peal of Stedman Caters at North Shields.

Some lost peals followed, but on the Thursday Stedman Cinques was scored at Halifax, the first peal ever rung on the twelve. For this James Motts, of Ipswich, and Harry Chapman, of Manchester, joined the party.

On the Friday, New Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at St. Michael's, Headingley, and Stedman Cinques at Sheffield. Mr. Fredk. R. Borrett, of Pulham, Norfolk, rang in these.

The last peal was Superlative Surprise Major at Washingborough, Lincolnshire, on Saturday, September 20th. Peals had been attempted and lost at Glasgow Cathedral, Leeds Parish Church, East Retford, Darlington, Newcastle, and York Minster on the old ring of twelve.

At the time it was probably the most ambitious ringing tour ever undertaken. A few years later the band would have attempted Cambridge Royal and Maximus, but they were then unknown.

VISITORS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The letters from Mr. Borrett and Mr. Barnett are a proof of the need of a National Association.

If we had a National Association Mr. Borrett would not have to complain that outside bands use his association for their peals. Everybody would pay his fair share towards the printing of peal reports. The peals of each district would be kept together and a special section could be kept for visiting bands.

Another thing, it would be possible to arrange ringing tours on a national basis so that anyone who wanted to could have a chance of taking part, instead of their being run by cliques for their own amusement.

CHARLES GREEN.

RINGING TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Wallowing as I do in ignorance of most things etymological and in particular of what may have been discovered before of the origin of ringing terms, I have found myself thinking along the following lines. We have caters and cinques, so what can have become of the aces, deuces and tierces? Besides it is so easy to go on. For numbers above 11 there are sizes, sets, weets, newves and deeces. 'Sextuples' is terrible!

Were all these terms the original ones used by the sporting and hard drinking fraternity in the dim past when Norman French was the language and which would make ringing, no doubt of call changes, considerably older than 1,600 odd?

When scientific parsons like Duckworth came along they may have thought the terms wanted purifying and have purposely removed everything smacking of cards or dice. If Duckworth had got on to nine and eleven bell ringing he might have purified them too!

By the way, everything to do with the in and out of course of changes might quite conceivably have arisen in the tower when calling call-changes where the conductor would always be changing the bells in couples and often wondering how quickly he could get the bells round. Even this can be associated with a game, as the chance of a solution in the fifteen puzzle is said to depend on whether the number of moves required is odd or even.

'BELLITIS.'

THE AMENDED ORDER.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The amended order on noises may turn out to be a good thing for us. If the war lasts a long time the shortage of metals will become acute and people will begin to suggest that church bells should be taken for salvage. A complete answer will be that the military authorities need them for warnings.

E. T.

THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

BY EDWIN JENNINGS.

(Continued from page 142.)

The first peal on the bells was rung on Friday, August 12th, 1796, by the local band. The method, Grandsire Triples, Holt's ten-part, was rung by the following in three hours and twenty minutes: James Wilson treble, Nicholas Wilson 2, Edward Nicholson 3, Robert Harrison 4, William Salisbury 5, William Simpson 6, Gerrard Huch 7, John Jennings tenor. Conducted by Nicholas Wilson.

The writer, while living in Kendal, collected several notes regarding the foregoing ringers and the ringers who took part in all the other peals rung to 1884, these now being in the possession of the Kendal ringers.

The same band also repeated this performance on Monday, April 12th, 1802, in three hours and twenty-three minutes.

On Monday, February 22nd, 1819, Shipways 5,147 of Grandsire Caters was rung in three hours and twenty-nine minutes by the following: Joshua Atkins treble, Nicholas Wilson 2, Robert Braithwaite 3, Thomas Preston 4, Thomas Best 5, Robert Dennison 6, Thomas Scott 7, Thomas Atkins 8, James Tyson 9, Jonathan Chorley tenor. Conducted by Thomas Scott.

Thomas Scott was a fish hook maker by trade, and was a nephew of John Jennings, who rang the tenor to the first peal. He had an only son, George, who died in the prime of life, and during his lifetime he collected a large collection of books and early files of the local newspapers. These were purchased by Alderman Fisher and presented to the Kendal Literary and Scientific Society, and afterwards placed in the borough library. Among these early newspapers were the first files of the Kendal newspapers. John Jennings was for 46 years chief sexton at the church.

In 1857, Mr. George Jennings called Holt's original, and several peals were rung on the bells between this date and 1884, all Grandsire Triples by the local band.

In 1894, the bells were rehung, and in 1898 Mr. Brown-Walker, of Kendal, called his own composition of Grandsire Caters on Tuesday, February 22nd, 1898, viz., 5,220 changes, by Richard Dennison treble, G. Wilfred Graham 2, Jacob Baxter 3, William Tyson 4, Richard Everson 5, Thomas Haslam 6, William Atkinson 7, Brown Walker 8, John Braithwaite 9, James Salmon tenor.

Brown-Walker also called Holt's Original in 1904, and from 1796 to 1904 eleven peals were rung, nine of Grandsire Triples and two of Grandsire Caters, all rung by the local band.

In February, 1909, Mr. W. Robinson, of Ambleside, with a band mixed of Ambleside and Kendal ringers, called the first peal of Bob Major on the bells.

In October, 1925, Mr. William Keeble called the first

(Continued in next column.)

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Irish Association held its annual meeting in Dublin this year on St. Patrick's Day. Twenty members were present, representing Bray, Dublin (St. Patrick's, Christ Church, St. George's and St. Paul's), Kilkenny and Waterford.

The president, the Very Rev. E. H. Lewis-Crosby, Dean of Christ Church, took the chair, and the Rev. Canon Campbell opened the proceedings with prayer.

Apologies were read from Mr. W. Pratt, hon. secretary, Northern Branch, Arklow Guild, St. Mary's and Mount St. Alphonsus Societies, Limerick.

The report and statement of accounts were taken as read. The report referred to the following points: Two tower bell peals and one handbell peal were rung for the association during 1942. The Attendance Shield was won by Waterford Society with 100 per cent. Three members had passed away, Col. G. M. Grogan, D.S.O., Arklow, J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and J. Johnson, Christ Church. Statements of accounts show balances in hand.

Thirteen new practising members were elected at the meeting.

The place for the next annual meeting was left to the committee for decision on account of the uncertainty of transport. In the event of an improvement Waterford is to receive first preference.

The Chairman in his remarks dealt with the most interesting subject of bells, their history and their uses. He concluded his remarks saying that his interest in the association will not diminish, although his year of office is now at an end.

The Attendance Shield was then presented to Mrs. J. Baldwin, who travelled up from Waterford specially, with her sister-in-law, Miss M. Baldwin.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, Canon of St. Patrick's and Rector of St. George's, Dublin; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson, Bray; hon. secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, 1, St. George's Villas, Inchicore, Dublin; Ringing Master, Mr. Robert S. F. Murphy, Dublin.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed permanent memorial to the late Gabriel Lindoff, as a result of which the following were appointed to act on a sub-committee to carry through the project: The president, Messrs. R. S. F. Murphy, M. Hogan, J. B. Tough, J. A. Atkinson, W. E. Lynch, D. Kennedy and the hon. secretary.

A tribute to Gabriel Lindoff was paid by Mr. Michael Hogan. Mr. Hogan was one of the last persons to visit Mr. Lindoff and was responsible for his transfer to hospital. A memorial fund is to be opened for the purpose of defraying the cost of a memorial, and subscriptions will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary.

Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing president and to the Dean of St. Patrick's for so kindly placing the room at the disposal of the meeting.

The bells of St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals were made good use of by the members after the meeting, when touches of Stedman and Grandsire were rung.

There was no Striking Cup Competition, nor was there any luncheon.

THE CHURCH & BELLS OF KENDAL

(Continued from previous column.)

peal of Royal on the bells, 5,040 Kent Treble Bob Royal in three hours and thirty-three minutes.

The writer called peals of Grandsire Triples in 1927, and during the same year Mr. W. E. Wilson, of Blackburn, called the only peal of Stedman Triples rung in the county.

In 1931 Mr. William Pye called one of his own compositions of Cambridge Royal, being the first peal of Cambridge in the county. The writer had the privilege of taking part in this peal.

In 1933, Mr. Frank Bennett called Middleton's peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and the last peal rung on the bells was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major in August, 1936, conducted by William Sharples, of Brindle, Lancashire.

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HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.**A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.**

(Continued from page 131.)

Haweis' remarks on bell tuning are interesting, for they quite fairly represent the general views before the investigations which followed Canon Simpson's book.

A good bell, when struck, yields one note so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is. This note is called the consonant, and when it is distinctly heard, the bell is said to be 'true.'

Any bell of moderate size (little bells are too small to be experimented upon) may be tested in the following manner: Tap the bell just on the curve of the top, and it will yield a note one octave above the consonant. Tap the bell about one quarter's distance from the top, and it should yield a note which is the 'quint' or fifth of the octave. Tap it two quarters and a half lower, and it will yield a 'tierce,' or third of the octave. Tap it strongly above the rim, where the clapper strikes, and the quint, the tierce, and the octave, will now sound simultaneously, yielding the consonant or keynote of the bell.

If the tierce is too sharp, the bell's note (i.e., the consonant) wavers between a tone and a half-tone above it; if the tierce is flat the note wavers between a tone and a half-tone below it. In either case the bell is said to be 'false.' A sharp tierce can be flattened by filing away the inside of the bell just where the tierce is struck, but if the bell when cast is found to have a flat tierce, there is no remedy. The consonant or keynote of the bell can be slightly sharpened by cutting away the inner rim of the bell, or flattened by filing it a little higher up inside just above the rim.

The greatest makers do not appear to be exempt from failure. In proportion to the size is the difficulty of casting a true bell and one that will not crack; and the admirers of the great Westminster bell, which is cracked, may console themselves with the reflection that many a bell, by the finest Belgian makers, has cracked before our Big Ben. The Salvator bell at Mechlin, renowned as was its maker, Peter van den Gheyn, cracked in 1696—i.e., only fifty-eight years after it was made.

On the summit of Mechlin tower we fell in with the man who helped to break up the old Salvator, and, although he admitted that it has now issued from Severin van Aerschodt's establishment, cast for the third time, as fine as ever, he shook his head gravely when he spoke of the grand old bell which had hung and rung so well for two hundred years.

When a bell is recast, the fact will usually be found recorded on it by some such inscription as that on the St. Maria bell at Cologne Cathedral—*Fusa anno MCCCCXVIII—refusa per Ionnem Bourlet MDCLXXXIII.* The name of Bourlet is still to be found in the neighbourhood of Cologne.

The names that most frequently occur in Belgium are those of the Van den Gheyns, Dumery and Hemony. We have come across many others of which we can learn nothing. 'Claude & Joseph Plumere nous ont fait,' and underneath, regardless of grammar, 'me dissonam refundit, 1664.' 'Claes Noorden Johan Albert de Grave me fecerunt Amstetodamia, 1714.'

The above were copied in the belfry of St. Peter's at Louvain. The name of Bartholomeus Goethale, 1680, is

found in St. Stephen's belfry at Ghent, and that of Andrew Steilert, 1563, at Mechlin. Other obscure names occur here and there in the numberless belfries of this land of bells, but the carillon of Bruges (which, by the way, is a facsimile of the Antwerp carillon, and consists of forty bells and one large Bourdon, or Clocke de Triumphe) bears the name of Dumery.

Sixteen bells at Sottighen, several at Ghent, and many other places, bear the same name.

Perhaps, however, the most prolific of all the founders was Petrus Hemony. He was a good musician, and only took to bell founding late in life. His small bells are exceedingly fine, but his larger bells are seldom true. It is to be regretted that the same charge may be brought against several of Dumery's bells in the celebrated carillon at Bruges.

'Petrus Hemony me fecit,' 1658 to 1668 is the motto most familiar to the bell seeker in Belgium. The magnificent Mechlin chimés and most of the Antwerp bells are by him.

Besides the forty bells which form the carillon of Antwerp, there are five ancient bells of special interest in that tower. These five are rung from the same loft at an elevation of 274ft. The oldest is called *Horrida*. It is the ancient tocsin, and dates from 1316. It is a queer, long-shaped bell, and out of consideration for its age and infirmities has of late been left unring.

Next comes the *Curfew*, which hangs somewhat apart, and is rung every day at five, twelve and eight o'clock.

The third is the St. Maria bell, which is said to weigh 4½ tons. It rang for the first time when Carl the Bold entered Antwerp in 1402, and is still in excellent condition.

The fourth is St. Antoine.

The last, but greatest and best beloved of all, is the *Carolus*. It was given by Charles V., takes sixteen men to swing it, and is said to weigh 7½ tons. It is actually composed of copper, silver and gold, and is estimated at £20,000. The clapper, from always striking in the same place, has much worn the two sides, although now it is rung only about twice a year. The Antwerpians are fonder of this than of all the other bells; yet, it must be confessed, notwithstanding the incomparable richness of its tone, it is not a true bell.

I had some considerable difficulty during the greater part of a day spent in the Antwerp belfry in gaining access to this monarch amongst bells, for it is guarded with some jealousy by the good Anversois.

After some trouble, I got into the loft below it where the rope hangs with its sixteen ends for the ringers; but I seemed as far as ever from the bell. It appears that the loft where *Carolus* and its four companions hang is seldom visited, and then only by special order. At length I found a man who for a consideration procured the keys and led the way to the closed door.

In another moment I stood beside the *Carolus*. It was not without emotion that I walked all round it, and then, climbing up on the huge segment of the wheel that swings it, endeavoured in vain to read either the inscription or the date, so thickly lay the green rust of ages about the long thin letters. Creeping underneath its brazen dome, I found myself close to the enormous clapper, and was seized with an irrepressible desire to hear the sound of the mighty bell.

(Continued on page 155.)

LEANING TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

In various parts of the world there are examples of towers that deviate from the perpendicular. Here in England the best known are Chesterfield Parish Church, Ermington, in Devon, Surfleet, in Lincolnshire, and the Temple Church, Bristol.

These curious specimens of architecture afford, perhaps, the most striking and remarkable examples in existence of that most important principle of the laws of gravity—'that a body will be supported—or it will stand—provided that its line of direction falls within its base,' in other words, provided it keeps its balance. It has been found by experiment that most lofty buildings of any antiquity are slightly inclined from the perpendicular. The Monument, near London Bridge, is one of many instances. The leaning towers of Bologna and Pisa in Italy, and at Caerphilly (Glam), Bridgnorth (Salop) and Corfe Castle (Dorset) in our country are the most remarkable.

Bologna, city of Italy, is noted for its churches and its leaning towers. Asinelli—built A.D. 1109—is 320ft. high and 4ft. out of plumb, and Torre Garisendi is unfinished, being 160ft. high and inclining 9ft. out of the perpendicular. The masonry and woodwork incline from the horizon which corroborates the opinion of Montfaucon, the antiquary, who says 'its inclination is caused by the slipping of the earth, some went to ruin when it slipped, as the ground on the inclined side was not so firm, which may be said of other towers that lean; that for the bells at St. Mary Zibenica at Venice leans, and at Ravenna, and between Ferrara and Venice and in other places numerous instances might be found.'

The most remarkable leaning tower in Great Britain is that of Caerphilly Castle, in Glamorganshire, and for its height leans more from the perpendicular than any other in the world. It is between 70 and 80ft. high and 11ft. out of the perpendicular. The castle, of which the tower forms a part, was built about 1220, the one previously on this spot having been razed to the ground by the Welsh in an attempt to free themselves from the yoke of the Norman conquerors. It is inferior in extent only to Windsor Castle, and must have been a magnificent building, its various portions and fortifications covering nearly 11 acres.

The leaning towers at Bridgnorth and Corfe Castle are both much inferior to that of Caerphilly. They were placed in their present positions through explosions in the civil wars.

The Torre Nueva (or New Tower), Saragossa, was erected in 1594, and its present use is as a belfry. It leans rather fearfully towards the church, which stands on the side of the street. It is rather lofty, the ascent being by 250 steps.

China has a leaning tower. Near Soochow, some fifty miles from Shanghai, is the leaning pagoda. Of exquisite beauty, it is now in a sad state of repair. It

stands on an artificial mound known as the 'Hill of the Tiger,' and it commemorates the burial place of Ho-lu-Wang, who founded the city of Soochow in A.D. 484.

At Aksum, the sacred city of the Ethiopians, are a number of carved and ornamental stelae or stone pillars of lofty dimensions. They vary from 50 to 100ft. in height, and many incline from the perpendicular. Each has an altar at its foot, and are probably tombstones erected in the fourth century by the Semitic conquerors of Abyssinia.

The famous leaning tower of Pisa, begun in 1174 by Bannano, and completed in 1350, is 179ft. high, and leans more than 16ft. out of the perpendicular. The walls at its base are 16ft. thick, at the top about half as much, and it is constructed throughout of marble. The eighth story contains the bells, and is much smaller in diameter than the rest of the tower. The Pisans suggest that the deviation is part of the original design, but it is manifestly due to the sinking of the ground, from which the Cathedral has also greatly suffered. It stands about 40 yards to the eastward of the cathedral, and is approached by a descent of half a dozen steps into a marble moat or trench, then a couple of steps up into the doorway, and the end of a short passage through the thickness of the wall emerges into the immense tube or well of marble, broken only at rare intervals by the apertures, one at each story that opens on to the staircase, which is built in the thickness of the walls. Daylight can be seen through what appears to be a small iron grating at the top, which, when seen at its own level, is really about 12ft. in diameter.

Two ropes more than an inch thick hang down the whole depth of about 150ft., and, of course, hanging perpendicularly, serve to emphasise the terrible tumbling-over look of the building.

The bells hang in lofty arches, on gudgeons let into the walls, and they are chimed or swung by means of long levers secured to the stocks. The campanaro, or ringer, has to mount nearly 300 steps when the service of the cathedral demands that either of the other five bells without ropes should be rung. There are six arches in the circumference of the wall, and in five of them hang the large bells, the sixth giving entrance: the two smaller bells hang in smaller embrasures and higher than the large ones. The 7th or largest bell is credited with the weight of six tons, and it is said in the guide books to be hung on the high side of the tower so that its weight shall not overhang, but it is really hung at about right angles to the inclination of the tower, for the embrasure in which it hangs is just about as wide as its diameter. Being hung perpendicularly, one side of the lip of the bell is clear of the wall by about six inches, while of the wall on the opposite side some six inches of marble has been cut away to give clearance to the lip. So in a less degree has the wall been cut out on one side to give the 6th bell a clear swing.

(To be continued.)

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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).—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.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

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.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next ringing meeting will be held at Croft on Saturday, April 10th. Bells ready 5.30. Short prayers 6.45. Meeting 7 p.m. in Club Room at Heathcote Arms, where handbells and light refreshments will be available. Late trains to Hinckley and Leicester.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. G. E. Feirn is now Cleatham, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincs.

GOOD STRIKING.

When bells ring round and in their order be
They do denote how neighbours should agree.
But if they clam the harsh sound spoils the sport.
—'The Tintinnalogia.'

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.—16 HANDBELLS, G18 to E6, with F sharp and 2 C sharp, giving peals of 12 and 10, and three peals of eight, in good condition. What offers?—Rev. Prebendary Cox, Tedburn St. Mary Rectory, Exeter.

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EWELL, SURREY.

A well-attended meeting of old and new ringers of Ewell Parish Church was held on Sunday, March 7th, after evensong. The Rev. C. G. Holland was in the chair. Mrs. Holland and Mr. A. F. Stanford and Mr. H. M. Mugeridge (churchwardens) were also present.

Mr. Charles Read, who has been the captain of the band for many years, regretfully tendered his resignation on grounds of ill-health. He was appointed honorary adviser to the band. Mr. Beams was elected captain, Mr. Hadley deputy leader and Mrs. L. Beams secretary.

Mr. E. Groves mentioned the close connection of the Beams family with St. Mary's Church. The new leader's father, grandfather and uncles had all been ringers there.

A tribute was paid by the Vicar to Mr. Hadley for his untiring efforts in teaching the beginners, of which nine were admitted to the company as probationers. Miss Harrington also deserved praise for her enthusiasm and the hard work she had put into the job of arousing the interest of likely people in change ringing. For nearly two years after the ban was imposed ringing at Ewell had been at a standstill. Last May a fresh start was made in the Vicarage, where instruction in handbell ringing was given by Mr. Hadley to some choirboys. Shortly afterwards some of the tower-bell clappers were removed and practice was continued on the ropes.

The presence that afternoon of 23 people interested in the art proved that this hard work had not been in vain. They had now started regular handbell ringing for Sunday service once a month.

Miss Harrington said that the rule guaranteeing the ringers a sum of not less than £20 yearly, to be collected by two offertories and a subscription book at Christmas, was definitely bad, and Mr. Read proposed that it should be omitted for the present.

The Vicar said that the ringers' subscriptions to the associations to which they belonged might be paid by the church, and this will be considered at the next Church Council meeting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SEVENOAKS.**

A meeting of the Kent County Association was held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th, and was attended by 20 members.

Eight silent bells were kept going during the afternoon, and service was at 4 p.m., after which tea was served in the Aplini Cafe, followed by the business meeting, Mr. A. Battin taking the chair. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at East Peckham in June and to try and get a by-meeting at Hawkhurst. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, the organist and Mr. H. Ford for making all the arrangements. Handbells were made good use of before and after the meeting.

HUGH REGINALD HAWES.

(Continued from page 153.)

But, alas! where were the sixteen men? It might take that number to move the bell; but it immediately struck me that much less was required to swing the clapper as it hung. Seizing it with all my might, I found with joy that it began to move, and I swung it backwards and forwards until it began to near the sides. At last, with a bang like that of the most appalling but melodious thunder, the clapper struck one side and rushed back; once, and twice and thrice the blow was repeated. Deaf to the entreaties of my guide, who was outside the bell, and did not care to come in at the risk of being stunned by the vibrations, not to say smashed by the clapper, I felt it was a chance that comes but once in a lifetime, and so I rang the Carolus until I was out of breath, and emerged at last, quite deaf, but triumphant.

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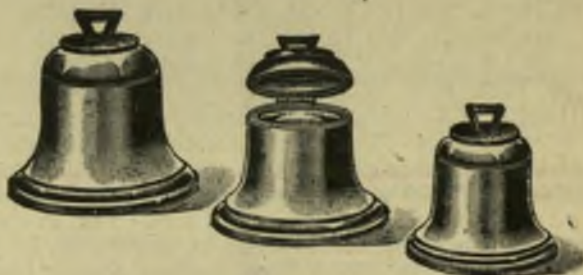
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