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FRIDAY, MAY 7th, 1943.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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LOSS AND GAIN.

The ban has been lifted. Not completely, but sufficiently for our immediate needs, and before we consider how best to meet the problems which confront us, it may be well to take stock of the loss and gain we have sustained by these nearly three years of silence.

At first sight it may seem to have been all loss and no gain. Our bells have been dumb, and our activities have been brought to a standstill, and whether we look upon our ringing as part of the service we can render to the Church and nation, or as an absorbingly fascinating recreation, we have had no small proportion of our interest suddenly and completely stopped. The deprivation has been all the more severe because there were good reasons for thinking it was not really necessary.

But that is now largely past, and it is no good regretting the peals we might have rung or the tours we might have enjoyed, had things been normal. What we cannot escape is the permanent loss the Exercise has suffered. And certainly there is loss. During these years the normal wastage caused by death and increasing age, and by loss of interest, has not been abated, while the replacement by new recruits has been negligible. To-day the Exercise is far weaker than it has been for a very long time, not only temporarily, because so many ringers are away serving the country, but permanently, because there are no new members ready to take the places of the old ones.

Much of this is, of course, due to the war, and would have happened in any case; but the ban has accentuated the evil and made it exceedingly difficult to keep interest alive. Not only so, but want of practice has definitely lowered the standard of ringing and striking, and that at a time when it is more than ever essential that the bells should be rung well.

Those are the facts we must face. It is no good pretending we have not had loss, and that we can carry on, as if there had been no long silence; nor, though it is well to take a hopeful view of things, should we deceive ourselves by the satisfaction most of us feel at finding things are not so bad as we feared they would be, and as they well might have been.

So much for the loss. Have we any gain? Well, strange and paradoxical as it may appear, we believe that the gain will, in the end, turn out to have far outweighed the loss, even to the extent of making the ban itself worth while.

(Continued on page 198.)

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What the bells of England really mean to the people of England we should never have known without these three years of silence. The victory ringing of last November was a most surprising revelation, even to those of us who knew something of the part church bells have played in the past in the life of ordinary men. But that event by itself might have deceived us. There were then special reasons why people should have been attracted to the sound of the bells. The feeling of joy and relief that a victory had been won which gave real hopes that the 'tide of war had turned at last — the dramatic announcement of the ringing by the Prime Minister at the climax of his great speech—these were almost enough in themselves to focus attention on the bells. But that event did not stand alone. We have had continued and abundant evidence, and not least in these last few weeks, that church bells mean much in the life of this country.

Not so long ago there was a general impression that the public cared nothing for bells, and would have welcomed any official action to suppress or curtail their use. We know better now. We have the general public with us, and we have the Press with us. When great journals like 'The Times,' 'The Daily Telegraph,' 'The Daily Mail' and 'The Sunday Times' publish leaders such as they have done during these last few weeks, we can look in the face, with confidence, any enemies we may have. Let us not forget, too, that altogether apart from us ringers and our particular interests, the Church of England values her bells and will use her vast influence in their defence.

These, broadly, are our loss and our gain. It is our part now to do our best to replace the loss, and to see to it that we do not by foolish and shortsighted action throw away our gain.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 25, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes.

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 22 in D flat.

* JAMES S. WEBB 1-2 | WALTER H. DOBBIE 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 7-8

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 28, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Four Minutes.

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 15 in C.

WILLIAM G. YOUNG 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.

**THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,
At 46 ACACIA AVENUE,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

*GEORGE M. KILBY 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
†FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW 3-4 | *EDWARD G. COWARD ... 7-8

Composed by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Major on handbells. † First peal of Major on handbells on an inside pair.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently.

JAMES PAGETT 1-2 | REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, C.F. 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH 5-6

Conducted by the REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS MARGARET L. TUTT ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal of Triples. Miss Tutt, of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, was proposed a member of the Guild prior to the peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

**THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.**

On Thursday, April 29, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At 92, ETWALL ROAD, HALL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*ARTHUR D. COOK 1-2 | †GEORGE E. FEARN 3-4
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 5-6

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

*ERNEST J. MUNDAY 1-2 | CHARLES HAZELDEN 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING... .. 3-4 | JAMES R. MACKMAN 7-8

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in hand. Rung after meeting short for Caters and an attempt for Stedman Triples.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SEFTON.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association held at Sefton on April 17th, ringers were present from Aughton, Ormskirk, Woolton, St. Luke's, St. Catherine's and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and the local company.

Various methods were rung on the silent bells, and in the absence of Dr. Longford, the Rector, the service was conducted by the Rev. E. D. Preston, who gave an address. Thanks to Messrs. S. Flint and R. Guy, an excellent tea was provided.

At the meeting Mr. Preston took the chair, and apologies were received from Messrs. T. R. Butler and S. Morton. A letter from Mr. F. R. Williams expressed his pleasure at the generous way his application for the affiliation fee had been met by the Sefton Parochial Church Council. In addition to the fees for 1943, they had sent the fees for 1940, 1941 and 1942.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on May 15th, if arrangements can be made. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector, to the Rev. E. D. Preston, and to Messrs. Sidney Flint and Robert Guy.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.

(Continued from page 205.)

5056.

23456	M	B	W	H
35642	2	—		
54632	1	—		
43526		—		
32654	1		2	
56423	1		1	
56234		—		1
64235	1			2
52436	1			1
35426			1	
36524	2			1
23564			1	
62345		—		2
26543	2			2
54263			1	1
34562			1	
34625		✓		1
34256	2		2	1
23456				1

The first and the last eight leads are to be rung in London Surprise, the remainder in the Bristol method.

5664.

23456	M	In	Out	5ths	W	H
42356						B
53462	—	4ths	—	Out 4ths	—	2
54263	—	—	—	—	2	—
63425	—	—	—	—	—	4L B4L
53462	4ths	—	—	—	2	—
46325	—	—	—	—	—	LLBB4L
62453	—	—	Out 4ths	—	—	6L
25634	—	—	—	—	2	—
53246	—	—	—	—	—	LLBLBLL
23645	—	—	—	—	—	L6B

Twice repeated.

The whole peal contains 1,728 changes of Bristol. If a bob is added at Home in the third course of one part the fifth course-end is produced, and the peal reduced to 5,152. The number of Bristol changes will then be 1,632.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting of the College Youths, held at the Whitechapel Foundry on April 24th, was one of the best attended since the war. The Master was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, and Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, A. W. Brighton, W. T. Elson, H. Hoskins, R. F. Deal, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles, J. F. Smallwood, J. W. Chapman, F. C. Newman, E. W. Pye, W. Madgwick, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, C. H. Kippin, W. Williams, J. A. Trollope, R. Stannard, E. Barnett, W. Hewitt, F. E. Collins, P. A. Corby, Corpl. F. Shorter, J. G. A. Prior, E. Hartley, E. Jennings and B. White.

The visitors were Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Pte. Wanden, of Lincoln.

The chief topic of discussion was the lifting of the ban, and the arrangements that could be made to ring the bells of St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and Stepney.

In answer to a question from Mr. J. F. Smallwood, Mr. Fletcher gave an account of the work carried on by the Central Council behind the scenes and the part it played towards getting ringing going again. Mr. Trollope also spoke of the work that was being done.

Two new members were elected—Mr. Robert Wake, of Ferndown, Wimborne, and Mr. Frederick W. Wicks, of Wimbeldon.

Greetings were received from the Ipswich ringers, Mr. H. Eden, late of Orhey, and Mr. E. W. Izard, of Victoria, B.C.

News was received of Gunner Pat Murphy, who is in a prisoner of war camp in Italy, and the secretary was instructed to send the good wishes of the members to him.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 191.)

DEATH OF GEORGE GROSS.

The Cumberlands' 7,104 of Maximus at Southwark was John Reeves' one-part peal with the extent of the method in nine courses. On ten bells it runs to 5,200 changes and was, at the time, a popular composition with conductors, very likely because it is an easy peal to remember the calling. Throughout there are double bobs at Middle, Wrong, and Home, except that in the first course one Middle is omitted, in the second two Homes, in the fifth one Middle, and in the last one Home.

On January 3rd, 1803, the elder Gross called the peal at St. Mary-le-Bow. William Stephens and James Marlton rang the two big bells, and the rest of the band consisted of George Gross, his son, Thomas Reeves, William Herbert, James Barnard, John Hints, John Wooding, and Anthony Cavalier.

The performance confirmed Marlton's position as the foremost heavy bell ringer of his generation. He was the first to turn in the famous great bell of Bow to a peal. He had already rung it behind to 5,453 changes of Grandsire Caters, beating Philip Pilgrim's length of 5,111 changes in the same method.

William Shipway extended his system of Place Ringing to eight and nine bells. On September 12th, 1802, he called at St. Mary's, Islington, 5,040 changes of Imperial Place Major, the first, and apparently the only, peal ever rung in the method; and on the following November 20th he called at Shoreditch 5,004 changes of Imperial Place Caters.

The method was an interesting experiment and explored fresh fields, but its actual merits are few, and there is little wonder that the Exercise as a whole did not take it up, and even the Cumberlands dropped it after ringing the first peals.

The younger Gross did not ring in these performances, nor for nearly three years did Shipway ring in any with Gross, except for the long peal of Maximus at Southwark. It seems quite clear that there was jealousy and rivalry between the two men. Both were ambitious of calling peals and Shipway and his friends held regular practices at Islington.

There, two days after Christmas Day, in 1892, he called 6,128 changes of Grandsire Major and claimed it as the most ever rung in that method. The claim was an unfounded one, for nearly ten years earlier, the Birmingham men had scored their 8,000 at Deritend.

George Gross died on May 3rd, 1803, and was buried on May 8th. Since September, 1792, he had been beadle of the Society of Cumberland Youths, and he was an active peal ringer and conductor until the last. Little more than two months before his death, on February 22nd, he conducted 5,024 Treble Bob Major at Shoreditch. His is the most prominent name in the story of the Cumberland Youths, and one of the most prominent in the history of the Exercise, though it is not possible to place him among the greatest ringers of the past.

It is difficult to form an opinion of Gross' character, the evidence is so very scanty; but from a number of small hints I got the impression that he was a man without the benefit of education or of the association with educated persons, that he had great natural abilities, but was domineering and dictatorial in his manner. Such

a man will go far and do much, but his range of vision will necessarily be limited. He will be unlikely to understand the work of other people, and be prone to underestimate it, especially if it comes in competition with his own. And if, as probably was the case with George Gross, his rivals looked on him as their social inferior, that would add to the bitterness. It is perhaps significant that he, almost alone among the leading London ringers, did not subscribe to the 'Clavis.'

His right position among the composers of olden times is one of the unsolved and insoluble problems of history. We know that he produced many peals, and that in his lifetime he enjoyed, at any rate in his own society, the very highest reputation. But how far he had really earned and deserved it is doubtful. When he died the Cumberlands adopted the very unusual device of putting an obituary notice of him in their peal book. It records that he 'had served the Society as their Warner more than twenty years and by his abilities as composer and bob caller had caused the fame of the Society to be extended through these kingdoms. His compositions in the art are held in the highest estimation by all admirers of this exercise, but more especially his productions of Treble bob, in which he surpassed all his contemporaries, and which will ever remain a lasting monument of his skill.'

This is high praise, even when we remember that, as Dr. Johnson said, the writers of obituary notices are not on their oath. In view of what John Reeves had done it was a challenge and a proof of the rivalry between the two men.

On the peal board and in the peal book which record the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, the definite statement is made that the peal was composed and called by George Gross. In the 'Clavis' the figures of the composition are given in such a way that the reader is left in no doubt that the authors of the book claimed them as their own composition.

Here are two directly opposite and irreconcilable claims, and it is difficult to resist the conclusion that there was sharp practice on one side or the other. Either Gross deliberately appropriated Reeves' peal and passed it off as his own, or else Reeves and his colleagues knowingly printed Gross' peal in such a way as to take the credit to themselves.

Of course, it is no unusual thing for two men working in the same method to compose the same peal. It has happened scores of times, it is inevitable under modern conditions, and it was not uncommon in the eighteenth century. But it would put too great a strain on our credulity to ask us to believe that Reeves and Gross both composed this particular peal independently of each other.

And it is true that the standards of the time allowed a man to take another's peal, and having altered it, to call it his own composition. This Christopher Wells did with John Holt's peal of Plain Bob Triples, and we have no reason to suppose that he was not a thoroughly honourable man. Gross did the same with Holt's Ten-part, and it may be that the peal of Royal as Reeves composed it began at a different course end. But there is nothing to induce us to think it was so.

The dispute has long since been decided by the Exercise in favour of Reeves, and almost certainly correctly

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

so. Shipway settled the matter when, in his book, he put Reeves' name to the composition. He was not only a contemporary of Reeves and Gross, but knew them well and the other men who had taken part in the performance. He was in a position to hear and judge the current opinion, and his view should be, and probably is, conclusive.

But his authority on the matter is not quite so strong as at first sight it seems to be. As I have already said, between him and Gross there evidently was little friendship and confidence, and when in the years after the other's death, he sat down to write his 'Campanalogia,' he knew no more of his compositions than what he could learn from the 'Clavis.'

George Gross quite likely was chiefly in Shipway's mind when he referred to those who 'reserved the result of their labours under the idea of possessing peals superior to those of any other person'; and, if so, the result has been that all save one or two are lost. So far from his peals of Treble Bob 'ever remaining a lasting monument of his skill,' not one of them is extant.

The survival of the few of his compositions which do remain is due to their having been printed in the 'Clavis.' That book gives four peals by him, more than by any composer other than the authors. Considering the feeling between Gross and Reeves this might seem a generous gesture on the part of the latter, but we must remember it was William Jones, and not John Reeves, who finally decided what was to be in the book, and the peals by Gross are those for which Reeves had no equivalent.

They consist of a peal of Real Double Bob Major with bobs alternately before and behind, one of Real Double Grandsire Caters, one of Real Double Grandsire Cinques, and a 7,001 of Grandsire Caters. The first is a simple adaptation of Annable's peal, but the others, and especially the 7,001, are excellent productions, and quite good enough to lead us to believe that some at any rate of his lost compositions were original and of more than average merit.

George Gross composed many peals of Bob Major; but, like the Treble Bob, they have disappeared. That is a pity, for some evidently were on interesting plans. One of them had the fifty-nine courses, and if we possessed the figures they would have told us clearly enough whether he was really an original composer or merely an imitator and adapter of John Reeves.

(To be continued.)

A LEGEND OF THE BELLS.

(From 'The Quarterly Review,' June, 1854.)

Of all the instances of the power of bells to touch a sympathetic chord of the heart, the most moving is the tradition told in connection with the peal of Limerick Cathedral.

It is said to have been brought from a convent in Italy, for which it had been manufactured by an enthusiastic native with great labour and skill. The Italian, having afterwards acquired a competency, fixed his home near the convent cliff, and for many years enjoyed the daily chime of his beloved bells.

But in some political convulsion which ensued, the monks were driven from their monastery, the Italian from his home, and the bells were carried away to another land.

After a long interval the course of his wanderings brought him to Limerick. On a calm and beautiful evening, as the vessel which bore him floated, along the broad stream of the Shannon, he suddenly heard the bells peal forth from the cathedral tower. They were the long-lost treasures of his memory. Home, happiness, friends—all early recollections were in their sound. Crossing his arms on his breast, he lay back in the boat. When the rowers looked round they saw his face still turned towards the cathedral—but his eyes had closed for ever on the world.

John Taylor & Co.

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Three or four prominent and well-known ringers have to be congratulated this week, Mr. Frank Bennett on attaining the unusual honour of great-grandfather, Mr. Edwin Barnett on becoming a grandfather, and Mr. E. A. Barnett on the birth of his first-born. Many ringers will wish Mr. Charles Roberts happiness in his wedded life.

Mr. James George has left Birmingham, and is now living at Hall View, Thorington, Colchester.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reached his sixty-seventh birthday last Monday.

Sixty years ago last Saturday the bells of St. Peter, Mancroft, were reopened after being rehung by George Day, of Eye. The Norwich Scholars had then long passed their great period, and ringing in the city was at a low ebb. A revival, however, was started which had considerable results.

Sixty years ago to-morrow Mr. Robert H. Brundle rang the eleventh at Ipswich to a peal of Grandsire Cinques. Mr. Brundle has not been very well lately, but we are pleased to say he is now much better.

The first peal of Grandsire Cinques in the county of Yorkshire was rung at Leeds on May 1st, 1841.

On May 2nd, 1715, the Norwich Scholars rang 'that most Incomparable Peal call'd Gransir Bob Triples, being the 3d. whole peal that they have Rung, but the first whole Peal that ever was Rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever.'

One of the many long peals at Painswick was rung on May 5th, 1817, when the local men accomplished 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters.

The first peal of Buckingham Surprise Major was rung at Wigston Magna on May 6th, 1935.

WEDDING.

MR. C. W. ROBERTS AND MISS G. CHURCH.

A wedding of interest to ringers took place on Easter Monday at Holy Trinity, Waltham Cross, when Mr. Charles W. Roberts, of London, the well-known ringer and composer, was married to Miss Grace Church, of Waltham Abbey, a member of the Ladies' Guild. She is also an organist and has on several occasions played at services of the London District of the Guild.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. R. Edwards, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church. The bride, who was given away by her brother, wore a dress of powder blue marocain with navy blue accessories. The best man was Mr. F. Digby.

At the conclusion of the service and in place of the customary wedding march, a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher. A course of Bob Major was also rung.

The guests were entertained at the bride's home, and touches of Stedman Caters, Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Royal were rung, the bride and bridegroom both taking part.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held on April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Sports Club and Institute, Nuneaton, members and friends were present from Allesley, Birmingham, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Nuneaton, Stoke-in-Coventry and Wolvey.

An excellent tea was enjoyed by all and the business meeting followed, presided over by the Vicar of Nuneaton, the Rev. Marcus Knight, a vice-president of the Guild.

Apologies were received from the president, the Rev. F. W. Moyle, the Ringing Master, Mr. J. H. W. White, Mr. T. W. Chapman, Worcester, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann, Rugby.

The report and balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £16 0s. 7d., were adopted. Three handbell peals had been rung during 1942, two of Stedman Caters and one of Grandsire Doubles.

The officers of the Guild were re-elected en bloc. It was agreed to dispense with the monthly meetings and to hold the next quarterly meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry in July.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. J. B. Fenton, of Rugby, be made an honorary life member of the Guild in recognition of his service since the Guild's inception.

Votes of thanks to the officers of the Guild for their services and to Mr. J. F. Clarke for his kindness in providing a meeting place brought the business to a close.

On handbells, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters and Bob Major were rung with varying success during the evening. Piano selections by Mr. Daft, Miss M. Beamish and Mrs. Beamish were well received. The high light of the evening was the singing of Mr. Alec Gibson (tenor) of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was an excellent voice and his rendering of 'Border Ballad,' 'Macushla,' 'O Mistress Mine,' 'To Daisies' and 'Nancy's Hair' will be long remembered. He was accompanied on the piano by Miss P. Godderidge.

DARTFORD.—At 20, Swaisland Road, on Sunday, April 18th, 720 Bob Minor: J. E. Bailey 1-2, J. L. Millhouse (Lincoln) 3-4, G. H. Cross (conductor) 5-8.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

THE NEW ORDER.

The following is the text of the new order controlling the sounding of church bells, which has been issued by the Ministry of Home Security:—

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

1943 No. 624.

EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE).

CONTROL OF NOISE.

The Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1943, dated April 21, 1943, made by the Minister of Home Security under Regulations 24 (1) and 38 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by Regulations 24 (1) (d) and 38 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, I hereby order as follows:—

1. No person shall, in any area in Great Britain, sound any church bell or cause or permit any church bell to be sounded except for the purpose of summoning persons to public worship on a Sunday, Christmas Day or Good Friday.

2. In this Order the expression 'church bell' includes the bell of any church, chapel or other place of worship ordinarily used or intended for summoning persons to public worship or for any like purpose and any bell ordinarily used or intended for tolling at a cemetery.

3.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1943.

(2) The Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1940, and the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1943, are hereby revoked.

HERBERT MORRISON,
Minister of Home Security.

Whitehall,
21st April, 1943.

It will be seen that between this order and what might otherwise have been inferred from the statements by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, there are some discrepancies. It is important to realise that it is this order which controls the situation, not what people may think is implied by what Mr. Churchill said.

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

'The Manchester Guardian' published a letter from the Rev. Geoffrey G. Willis, of Ilkeston, in which he says: 'You reported the Prime Minister as saying in the House of Commons that the use of church bells as an invasion warning was redundant. But if it is unnecessary for the Government to rely on bells for the purpose, and is considered sufficient to allow any invasion to "leak out," may we not justifiably ask why the ringing of church bells should still be prohibited on weekdays?'

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EPSOM.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, and about 25 members and friends attended from Beddington, Carshalton, Croydon, Epsom, Ewell, Ealing, Leatherhead, Ruislip and Southwark.

Handbells were rung during the afternoon in the church, followed by a service conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. McMullan. Tea, prepared in the Parish Hall by Mrs. Massey, followed. The Vicar presided at the business meeting and one new member was elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ewell on Saturday, July 3rd, if possible.

A hearty welcome was given to Mr. J. Crawford, of Christ Church, Epsom, who has been a member of the association for 51 years, but now unfortunately is blind. He still takes a keen interest in ringing activities. A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his attendance and to Mrs. Massey for the excellent tea concluded the meeting. More handbell ringing followed.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held in St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, when, considering war conditions, there was a good representative gathering from both dioceses.

In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar of Cardiff, the chair was taken by the senior curate, the Rev. F. J. Rees, who opened the proceedings with prayer. The hon. secretary read the names of those members who had passed away during the year, and all stood for a few moments in silence.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Mr. F. Hannington, Master; Mr. J. W. Jones, hon. secretary; Mr. C. Greedy and Mr. W. Phillips, auditors. The statement of accounts for the year was adopted. A review of the year's ringing incidents was given by the hon. secretary.

It was thought that now is a fitting time to resume practice nights and having a few bells tied so as to teach recruits and make good the losses caused by the war and death. It is hoped the suggestion will be adopted. Several new members were elected.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at All Saints', Newport. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the Schoolroom and to the chairman for presiding brought the meeting to an end.

THE BELLS OF NEWCASTLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his interesting account of the bells of St. Nicholas', Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr. Ernest Wallace mentioned a mediæval bell dedicated to St. Michael and bearing a shield charged with a chevron and three 'lave' pots.

This device, illustrated in Fig. 39 of my 'Church Bells of Berkshire,' was first used on bells by John Langhorne, the owner of the second and more important mediæval London bell foundry, whose business career extended from 1379 to 1406. The arms are those of the Underhill family, and their connection with John Langhorne is puzzling.

Langhorne's bells fall into two main groups: (1) Bells bearing the cross, Berks, Fig. 84, the wheel-stop, Berks, Fig. 85, and an inscription in capitals similar to those illustrated in Berks, Fig. 80. (2) Bells with the cross, Berks, Fig. 84, the 'laver' shield, Berks, Fig. 39, and an inscription in mixed Gothic lettering, of which the capitals are the same as in group (1). Connecting groups (1) and (2) are bells which bear the 'laver' shield in addition to the marks described for group (1).

The laver shield, Berks, Fig. 39, was subsequently used by William Dawe and his successors.

A careful examination of the lettering and other marks on the Newcastle bell would reveal its authorship, and if Mr. Wallace would care to send me a rubbing I would gladly give him my opinion in the matter.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

TRAGIC DEATH IN BELFRY.

On Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, Mr. G. R. Jones was calling a touch of Grandsire Triples when he collapsed and died. He was about 60 years old and had formerly held the office of churchwarden.

LETTER FROM MR. A. P. CANNON

We have received an aigraph letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who is now in India. He says he has just received 'The Ringing World' containing the accounts of the Victory and Christmas ringing. 'It is really cheering to read of bands getting together in so many towers and to see the old names again. Let us hope the ban will soon be lifted for good.'

Mr. Cannon says he has always been on the look out for ringers and has met five—Philip Morris, of Kildown, Fred G. Jeffs, of Leighton Buzzard, Owen Giles, of St. Clement's, Hastings, Kenneth Pardee, of Stourbridge, and Fred Pullen, of St. Giles', Oxford. He has had also news of Harold Smith, of Melksham, Wilts, and John Rodmell, of North Stoneham, though he has not actually met them.

Mr. Cannon refers to the letters about central towers where ringing is done from the church, and mentions nine he has rung at. He adds, 'I believe the lightest ring of five bells to be Foots Cray in Kent, tenor 3½ cwt. I called a peal of Doubles there in 1935. Does anyone know of a heavier peal of five than Felmersham, Beds, tenor 26 cwt.?'

He says that reading 'The Ringing World' cheers one up and takes one's memories back to the good old days, and he wishes all the very best to everyone and hopes they will keep the flag flying.

STOKE WAKE, DORSET.—At Ridouts on Easter Monday in 40 minutes, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Pte. W. G. Young 1-2, E. T. P. Field (conductor) 3-4, W. E. Trevett 5-6. Specially arranged and rung for Pte. W. G. Young, who was on leave.

TOWERS AND SPIRES.

By ERNEST MORRIS, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S.

As we have already seen, there are a number of English churches with leaning towers and spires, but very little is known of churches which possess both tower and spire separately. Indeed, they are not numerous. Perhaps the most interesting and best known is that of Ormskirk, Lancashire, where it is said that the church was built by two sisters, daughters of Orme, a famous pirate, who, failing to agree over the question of tower and spire, built both. A very happy way of ending the dispute—the one of compromise:—

'Sister,' said one, 'tis my desire
The church should have a tapering spire,
To point to realms where sin's forgiven,
And lead men's thoughts from earth to Heaven.'

The other wanted a tower and so—

The other said, 'I like a tower
It speaks of strength, of might, of power—
An emblem of the church's strength
To overcome the world at length;
To show that 'gainst the church though frail,
The gates of Hell shall not prevail.'

The outcome of this dispute was that they made 'Orme's Kirk' unique by erecting a massive tower 84 feet high and 37 feet square, and also a low octagonal tower with a graceful spire reaching about 25 feet above the other tower. The tower contains a ring of eight bells, tenor 25 cwt. As early as the 1552 returns, we read that there were 'fyve bells and iij sacring bells' here, and up to 1679 five bells are alluded to. In 1714 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th were recast into five by Abraham Rudhall, and the 4th (the present tenor) became the sixth or tenor. This ring of six continued until 1774, when two trebles were added by Thomas Rudhall and the present 7th, 'having been cracked and lying idle on the floor,' was recast.

The tenor is an interesting casting and, with exception of initials R.B. and the date, 1497, and fylfot ornament immediately following, all the letters of the inscription (which states that it was cast in honour of the Trinity) are on separate pateræ, and are probably taken from the original bell of 1497 at its recasting in 1576. The initials R.B. are probably those of the founder in 1576, the same occurring at Warton, near Carnforth, in 1574, and Warburton, Cheshire, in 1575.

These rules, dated 1775, are on a board in the ringing chamber:—

'Ye ringers all, observe these Orders well,
He pays his Sixpence that o'eturns a Bell.
He that doth ring in either Spur or Hat,
Must pay his Sixpence for his fault in that.
He that in Ringing doth disturb a Peal
Must pay his Twelvence or his gun of Ale
He that doth Swear or doth begin a Fight
Must pay Twelvence e'er he goes out of Sight.
These Laws are Old, they are not New,
That Bells and Ringers both may have their due.'

In the smaller spire steeple at the west end of the south aisle there is a Priest's Bell (17 inches diameter), dated 1716, and came from the Wigan foundry of Ralph Ashton.

Llandaff is the only cathedral with both a tower and spire separately, and these are both at the west end. The

tower is called 'the Jasper Tower' because it was erected at the order of Jasper, uncle of Henry VIII., and it has a ring of ten bells. The tower with spire is modern, having been erected about 1870.

There is evidence that a church existed here prior to 521 A.D., though no trace of it can now be found. Tradition gives its length as 28 ft. long, 15 ft. wide, and 20 ft. high. It was apparently rebuilt in the 12th and 13th centuries, being finally consecrated in 1296. It had a chequered career and, according to local report, has had within its walls an alehouse, a stable, and a post office. It certainly fell into decay and in 1723 about 50 feet of the roof of the nave fell in. The western tower had previously fallen. The ruins of the nave remained until 1851. Restoration commenced in 1856 and part of the nave opened for choral services which had discontinued since 1691.

Llandaff now possesses a fine ring of ten with a tenor 22 cwt. The latter is dated 1782 and is by Thomas Rudhall, of Gloucester, and Mr. A. Wright, of Lewis School, Pengam, Cardiff—an authority on bells—says, 'it bears a long Latin inscription in small neat Roman lettering and a distinctive band of ornamentation under.' To this bell Messrs. Mears and Stainbank added seven more in 1879, while in 1919 two further trebles were added through the generosity of Mr. J. T. Duncan. The cost of rehanging the old octave was also defrayed by the same gentleman, who was a great benefactor to the Cathedral.

The Dean writes: 'January 2nd, 1941, will be remembered for many years as the day on which an enemy bomb fell in the old churchyard about twenty yards from the south aisle of the Cathedral. It caused widespread and serious destruction to the church as well as to houses and other buildings in Llandaff. It hurled great grave-stones on to the green: the heavy oak roofs over the south nave aisle, the south side of the nave and the Chapter House crashed down; both towers have had steeple-jacks busy taking down dangerous pinnacles, etc., and shortening the spire by 32 feet.' In spite of all this, the bells in the Jasper tower were able to broadcast to the world of the great victory in Egypt in November, 1942.

Two small Wiltshire churches share the same distinction of having both a tower and a tower with spire, viz.: St. Andrew's, Wanborough, which has a western tower with pinnacles containing a ring of five bells, and a tower with spire quite separate. Purton St. Mary has a central tower and spire rising from the intersection of the chancel and nave, and an embattled western tower containing six bells.

Of Wanborough bells the treble is dated 1730 and cast by John Corr, the second by A. Rudhall 1706, third and tenor by William Purdue 1662, and fourth by William and Roger Purdue 1664. There is also a Sanctus bell by R. Wells, of Aldbourne, dated 1783. Purton bells (six) have a tenor of 20 cwt. 14 lb. in C sharp, the ring having been increased from five by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1924. The 4th bell is the only one in this county (Wiltshire) by Joseph Carter, of Reading. It bears the coat-of-arms of Chertsey Abbey derived from earlier foundry and is inscribed: 'This bell was made in the year of our Lord 1598 I X C.' There is also a Sanctus bearing 'come away make no delay 1760.'

(Continued on next page.)

TOWERS AND SPIRES.

(Continued from previous page.)

The church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs at Cambridge has a central tower and also a separate tower and spire, but the church of St. Andrew, Rugby, has the still more unique feature—it has two separate and complete rings of bells, being the only church so blessed. Several of our cathedrals have bells in more towers than one, but none have two complete rings. At Rugby the old church had a low tower with a ring of 5 bells all of the date 1711 and cast by Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, and these are in perfect ringing order, the tenor being 9 cwt. 19 lbs. in G. On the enlargement of the church, a new tower and spire were erected, and a grand ring of eight with a tenor 24 cwt. 3 qrs. 8 lbs. in D installed by Mears and Stainbank in 1895. The writer had the honour and privilege of ringing in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on these bells and can testify to their grand tone.

Rugby is also unique in the fact that as well as the parish church having both tower and spire separate, the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary also has both. In the tower with spire there is a very fine set of eight bells hung for chiming only—tenor 15 cwt.—but the old tower has no bells.

Scotland and Ireland both have similar examples. The former at Dunfermline, Fifeshire, where the New Abbey Church built in 1821 on the site of the old Abbey, has a large central tower, while it also retains the tower and spire of the old Abbey. The latter has an example in the church of St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus, seaport town of Antrim, where there is a tower with a ring of eight bells, tenor 14 cwt., and at the other end of the church is a tower and spire.

At Ottery St. Mary, Devon, the church has two towers which form the north and south transepts, being the only church in England possessing such a feature. Exeter Cathedral has two towers in similar position, but Ottery differs by having a lead spire on the north tower, at the apex of which is the famous whistling weathercock. The tower is now vacant, but prior to 1645, when Cromwell was at Ottery, it contained four bells which were taken together with the lead from the roof, and other ornaments. The apertures where the bell ropes used to pass through the vaulting are still there, carved in the form of lions' heads with the ropes passing through the mouth, one of which has a groove about an inch deep worn in the stone by the rope. The south tower contains a clock and eight bells, and the ringing is done from the ground floor among the pews in full sight of the congregation. Six of the eight ropes come down along the east and south sides of the transept, and the other two—7th and tenor—actually fall among the seats of the transept. They are somewhat difficult to handle on account of the long draught of rope.

SPLICED SURPRISE.**PEALS OF LONDON AND BRISTOL MAJOR.**

By JOSEPH W. PARKER.

In endeavouring to discover a peal of London and Bristol Surprise Major with the tenors together, and containing all seven leads of each, certain conclusions seem forced upon us.

First, peals will contain few, if any, more than nine leads of London, the remainder being Bristol. Although proof of this is not possible, it is clear that no one course of London, standing alone and in its entirety, can be incorporated within a round block of Bristol. This is due to the falseness between the two methods within the courses joined by the Q sets. To unite them it is necessary to have two additional leads of London, such as the 7th lead of 34256, and the first lead of 42356, joined to the plain course at the beginning and the end by bobs H. It will be understood that, the sixty course-ends being on a regular plan, what may be said of 23456, is true of all other courses. These nine leads leave sufficient courses and leads of Bristol to unite with them to produce peals, an example of which is enclosed.

Such cannot be considered satisfactory as spliced peals, and it is questionable whether they are worth ringing. However, it seems the only possible way, for with two courses of London, or the equivalent, the remaining true courses and leads of Bristol cannot be united to give 5,000 changes. Neither can a peal be found with the fewer number of rows in the Bristol method, for, with one course of Bristol, the available courses and leads of London—owing to its internal falseness—will not give a peal.

Assuming the foregoing conclusions to be correct, then, if the changes of each method can be equalised, the tenors will be parted, and In and fifths seems a likely plan. However, owing to the falseness of Bristol against the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th leads of London, very few changes of Bristol can be included, and results are no better than with the tenors together.

The only plan which gives an improved result is to make use of courses with bobs In, Out and 5ths twice, with the methods LLBLBLL. A peal found by using these courses is also enclosed. This has three full courses of Bristol, with tenors together, and, in a shortened form, almost one third of the whole in that method. Most of the remainder (London) has the tenors together.

I have investigated other lines, but none seem to promise any better result than the two sent herewith. I cannot give a proof, but it appears that no peal exists in the two methods only, under the conditions named, with an approximately equal number of changes of each.

(Continued on page 199.)

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

(Continued from page 184.)

On ascending the Westminster Abbey tower with notebook and candle, after being told that the bells were all rather modern, I was agreeably surprised to find at least one or two interesting specimens. There are in all seven bells. Each is rung by a rope and wheel, and has a clapper inside and, in addition to this, each is acted upon by an external hammer worked by the striking apparatus of the clock.

They are, as a rule, in quite as good a condition as the Belgian bells of an equal age. The largest bears this inscription:—'Remember John Whitmell, Isabel his wife, and William Rus, who first gave this bell 1430. New cast in July, 1599, and in April, 1738. Richard Phelps, T. Lester fecit.'

The oldest bell, somewhat smaller, dates from 1583. The next oldest is the second largest bell, date 1598. It bears an inscription, 'Timpanis patrem laudate sonantibus altum. Gabriel Goodman Decanus 1598.' Gabriel Goodman was dean 1561 to 1601.

A smaller bell bears this inscription, 'Thomas Lester, London, made me, and with the rest I will agree, Seventeen hundred and forty-three.' Another small bell by T. Lester bears the same date, whilst the smallest of all, hung at an almost inaccessible height, is by Richard Lester in 1738. One bell bears no date. It is inscribed, '+ Christe: audi: nos.'

The Rev. Mr. Ellacombe, of Clyst St. George, a well-known writer on bells, has been good enough to send me an extract from 'Notes and Queries' by Mr. Thomas Walesby, giving a more accurate and detailed account of the Westminster bells than I obtained on my first visit to the tower.

The Westminster bells fail to inspire us with much interest. They are the products of manufacture, not works of art. Unlike almost all the Belgian bells, they are, one + excepted, without symbols or ornamentation of any kind. There has been no labour of love thrown away upon them—not a spray or a branch relieves the monotony of the metal surface. Not even a monogram, or an ecclesiastical coat-of-arms, is bestowed upon any of them. The Latin, like a great deal of bell Latin already quoted, is very bad: the spelling is equally indifferent. The type is poor and devoid of fancy, and the wax in which the letters were originally moulded has been so carelessly laid on that the tops of T's are often twisted down upon the letter, and the dots of the full stops have got displaced. It is interesting to notice that all the dates, even the earliest, 1583, are in the Arabic, and not, as we should naturally expect, in the Roman numerals.

(To be continued.)

EASTER RINGING.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—720 of London Surprise Minor: C. J. Chalwin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, Flight-Lieut. L. Betts 3, L. Haddon 4, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 5, W. Edwards tenor. For evening service, touches of Cambridge Surprise and London Surprise.

CESHUNT.—Bounds and Grandsire Doubles: T. Chadwick, H. Tulley, E. Pickett, W. Newnham. A. J. House, J. Springlett.

COWLINGE.—For evening service, Grandsire Doubles: S. Coote, J. H. Savage, H. J. Stubbings, C. Gooch, S. Pledger and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

HAYERHILL.—Rounds, call changes and Bob Minor: H. Backler, Miss M. C. Backler, F. Morley, N. Nunn, F. H. Making, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

HELMINGHAM.—Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman Triples. **LICHFIELD.**—At the Cathedral, before evensong, handbells were rung from the choir screen by five of the Cathedral by choristers.

LITTLE MUNDEN.—720 Oxford Delight Minor: W. Williams; A. Woolston, B. Patmore, A. Phillips, E. Overall, S. Carter.

LYMINGTON, SUSSEX.—Call changes and Grandsire Doubles: A. Elliott, W. Aylmore, H. Hunt, G. Snow, J. Netley, G. Lee, T. Wells.

NORTON, STAFFS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor and 720 London Surprise Minor: J. F. Ryles, W. C. Lawrence, G. E. Lawrence, J. E. Wheelton, J. Walley, W. P. Deane, F. Triner, W. C. Corfield and S. C. Bailey. Conducted by J. E. Wheelton.

OVER, CAMBS.—1,200 Bob Major: B. Norman, M. Ginn, D. Adams, R. Smith, A. W. T. Ginn, F. G. Gleaves, A. J. Ginn, F. Warrington (conductor).

SAFFRON WALDEN.—Four courses of Stedman Caters: F. J. Pitstow, A. E. Pitstow, Mrs. F. W. Housdon, F. W. Housdon, G. Sparrow, F. Depch (conductor), R. A. Strong, L. E. Pitstow, A. L. Simmonds, W. Parish. Also touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples for evening service.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith, D. Adams, A. W. T. Ginn, F. G. Gleaves, M. Ginn, F. Warrington (conductor). Also 720 Bob Minor: B. Norman, D. Adams, A. W. T. Ginn, R. Smith, F. Warrington (conductor), M. Ginn.

USK, MON.—434 and 756 Grandsire Triples: C. Cooper, R.N., L. Jones, E. W. Luff, E. Perry, A. Hawkins, S. Kear, R.A.F., D. G. Clift (conductor), E. Bowyer.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—Plain Bob, rounds and Queens: Miss L. Wickens, H. S. Wickens, Gunter T. Fox (Stepney), W. J. Lancefield, M. Lancefield, T. Mogg, A. Johnson, R. Newton, M. Gillham, J. Ireland and E. S. Ruck.

DEATH OF MR. PHILIP HODGKIN.

The death is announced of Mr. Philip Hodgkin, who passed away on Saturday, April 24th, in his 80th year.

Mr. Hodgkin was a foundation member of the Kent County Association, and during 52 of his 66 years as a ringer he was a member of the Headcorn band. He had taken part in 66 peals, the last being at Headcorn in 1939. In his prime he was a very powerful man and usually rang at the back end. One of his best performances was to turn in the tenor at Tenterden to Major when it was going very badly.

For many years Mr. Hodgkin was employed on the Southern Railway as a ganger, only retiring when he reached the age limit, after which he worked for Messrs. Cashford and Son, builders, at Headcorn, until a short while ago. He was a widower and leaves two sons and one daughter.

The funeral service was on April 27th and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. G. Bryant.

DEATH OF TWO OLDHAM RINGERS.

The Parish Church band at Oldham has sustained a loss by the death of two of the oldest members.

Mr. Mills Newton, who was 73 years of age, died on March 7th. He had been a ringer for 50 years and had rung three peals.

Mr. Charles Hadfield Marsland was 71 years of age. He had come to Oldham from Mottram 30 years ago. He took part in about 80 peals, including 16,800 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Mottram, in 1906. He then longest length in the method.

RUISLIP.—On Sunday, April 11th, at 46, Acacia Avenue, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 40 minutes: *George N. Kilby 1-2, *Frederick W. Goodfellow 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner (conductor) 5-6, *Thomas Bannister 7-8. * First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

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NOTICES.

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For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. Bells (silent) available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.45, with address by Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn, B.A. (Vicar). At 5.30 cups of tea will be provided; please bring own sandwiches. Handbells available.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual general meeting on Saturday, May 8th, in the ringing chamber of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, at 3.30 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday, May 8th. Belfry available for use from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow.—A. G. Hill, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton on Saturday, May 15th. Tower bells (silent) from 3 p.m., also handbells. Meeting at 6 p.m. Please bring your own food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Meeting at Hallow on Saturday, May 15th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, May 15th. Service in church 4.30. Tea will be arranged if possible.—T. Saunders, Hon. Djs. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Warkton on Saturday, May 15th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Church bells (silent) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a charge of 1s. 4d., at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. To ensure getting tea, please send names to me by Monday, May 10th.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, May 15th. Handbells, 2.30 p.m., at The Three Houses Inn. Tea

4.45 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, near Wakefield, not later than May 12th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Long Ashton on Saturday, May 15th. Bells (silent apparatus) from 3 o'clock. Tea and light refreshments 4.30.—Percy G. Yeo, Local Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting at Wokingham on Saturday, May 15th. Service at All Saints' Church 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at All Saints' Rectory. Handbell ringing in tower from 3.30. Please notify for tea by May 11th.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfield Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 15th. The Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells provided; also cups of tea. A short service at 5.30.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon on Saturday, May 22nd. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards. Numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, May 19th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Cup of tea for those who notify me by Tuesday, 18th. Bring your own food and sugar.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Halstead on Saturday, May 22nd. Handbells from 2.30 in church. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the school. Please bring own food.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to be sent to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2 (Tel. Hampstead 4510) by previous Thursday.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Malins Lee, Saturday, May 29th, 3 p.m. Silent tower bells, handbells and service. Tea will be provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, PUTNEY.—Ringing every Sunday at 10.15. All ringers heartily welcomed.—W. T. Elson.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.—Ringing every Sunday. Meet 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. All ringers heartily welcomed.—William Saunders.

HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Ringing at All Saints' Church every Sunday evening, 5.30-6.30 p.m. Visitors cordially welcome.—Geo. Ditton.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. W. Rogers, Hon. Sec., Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, is now 212 Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

BIRTH.

BARNETT.—On April 28th, 1943, at Marchwood House, Roffey, Horsham, to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Barnett, a daughter.

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