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RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

The problems caused by the reaction of the general public to the ringing of church bells can be divided sharply into two classes, and the classes can be described briefly and clearly by two words—national and parochial.

About any fears we may have felt at one time of the attitude of the general public towards church bells as a whole, we can set our minds at rest. We may be confident that no attempt will be made to suppress or restrict the use of church bells as a whole, after the war, or, if made, would have any chance of success. Only last week the Government asked that the bells should be rung. Nevertheless, there still remain the problems caused by the reaction of individual persons to the ringing of the bells in their immediate neighbourhood, and these are the problems which call for the closest and most careful attention by ringers.

There is nothing new about these problems. The person who dislikes and objects to bellringing is familiar enough. He has probably existed as long as there have been bells. Certainly he has existed as long as there has been ringing. And in spite of him and all he could do, our art has flourished. During the centuries the reason why these men object to ringing has not altered. The monks of Spalding and Wymondham and many other places, who five hundred years ago complained about bellringing, had the same grievance as the present-day suburban dwellers. It interfered, or they thought it interfered, with their comfort. But we must recognise that these opinions have during recent years been considerably strengthened by certain pseudo-medical and scientific ideas about noise.

It is often said that noise is a harmful thing. 'Noise,' says a writer in the 'Manchester Guardian,' in an article referred to on another page, 'is recognised to-day as one of the major ills of modern life.' Opinions which are put forward by people who have, or are supposed to have, scientific or medical knowledge are not easily controverted by mere laymen; but in this particular instance personal experience gives a flat denial to any such opinion. Our towns and cities are far less noisy than they were fifty years ago, and far less noisy than great continental cities like Paris and Brussels. The sad picture of hard-working men toiling all the week in the din and turmoil of London, and fleeing to the calm of suburban gardens on Sundays to enjoy a brief period of quiet and freedom from noise, is mostly fiction. Actually the worker in cities usually is not conscious of any particular noise, and when he takes his pleasure and holidays generally goes where there is plenty of noise and

(Continued from page 222.)

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what is called 'life.' Solitude and absence of noise on the other hand are unnatural, and to most people would be harmful. The plea, rather prominently to the fore just now, that there must be no ringing because the noise of it has a bad effect on the health of people, is largely fudge.

But that does not solve the problem. What we must face is the fact that there are certain people who do not like ringing; and, because they do not like them, the bells can become an intolerable nuisance. These people may sometimes be unreasonable, but not always. They have their opinions, and up to a point they are entitled to them. What ringers should do with them is to give them as little cause for complaint as possible, and there are many ways in which that can be done. What are chiefly needed are tact, Christian charity and careful attention to the avoidance of those things which most jar on people's nerves—such things as ringing single bells promiscuously, pulling up and ceasing bells together without order, clashing and the like.

Every single belfry has its own problems, and things which are possible in one place may be quite inadvisable in another. The future of change ringing in many a steeple will depend on how far the ringers can recognise the peculiar local circumstances and adapt themselves to them. We need not fear that after the war there will be any general restrictions on the use of bells, but we should realise that one or two aggrieved parishioners can, if they make themselves sufficiently disagreeable, secure local restrictions which are not the less irksome because they are not legally binding.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
CAPT. MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2 | WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8
Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

ROTHWELL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, May 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | PERCY MASSAM 5-6
THOMAS W. STRANGWAYS 3-4 | ARTHUR G. WOOD 7-8
Composed by J. B. WOOLLEY. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

CHARLES HAZELDEN 1-2 | JAMES R. MACKMAN 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4 | *ERNEST J. MUNDAY 7-8
†ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 9-10

Composed by W. WILLSON. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal of Caters in hand. † First peal in hand.

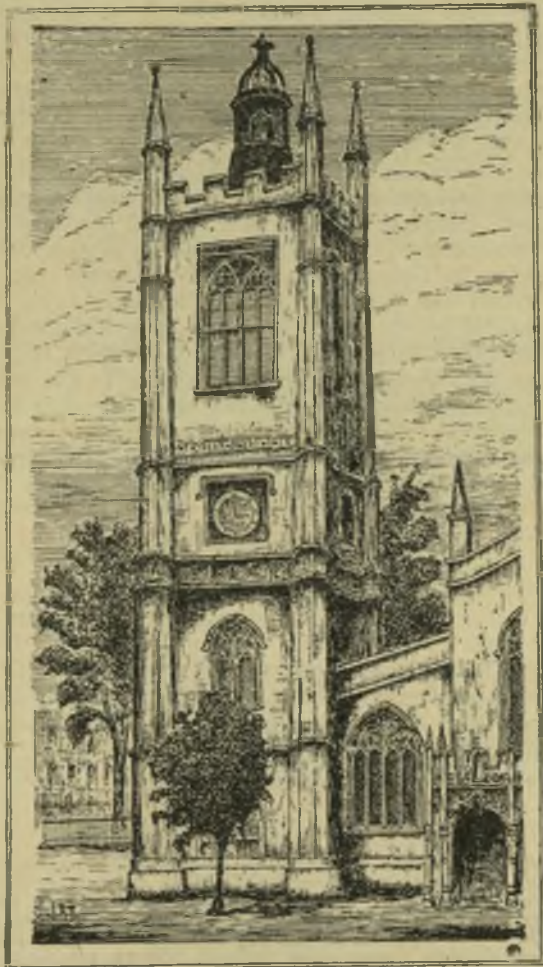
ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, May 16th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes: J. H. Manning 1, S. M. Bristow 2, F. Alderman (conductor) 3, D. C. Enticott 4, W. Stevens 5, J. Bristow 6.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 212.)

WILLIAM SHIPWAY AND EDWARD TAYLOR.

The second peal on the twelve at Shoreditch was one of Treble Bob Maximus, 6,000 changes, on December 9th, 1809. Gross conducted, and the other ringers were Shipway, Hints, Stephens, and the rest of the regular Cumberlands' band, Philip Pilgrim being at the tenor. Two months later much the same band went to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and rang 5,424 Treble Twelve there. It was the first peal by the society in the steeple which,



ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

later on, for so many years, was their headquarters. In 1812 the College Youths were still established there, and the Cumberlands only visitors.

From the time he was elected beadle in 1803 until December, 1813, George Gross took part in twenty-five peals with the Cumberlands, and he called them all. During the same period ten other peals were rung by the society, and the conducting was shared by seven men.

No doubt in thus monopolising the calling, Gross was within his strict right as beadle, and of course he had the support of a majority of the members, but we need not wonder that it was a cause of discontent and friction. There were other men just as ambitious of calling, and one or two perhaps just as capable. John Hints rang in

all the peals from 1800 until the beginning of 1810, and then, significantly, his name drops out of the peal records except for the Maximus at St. Martin's. He was connected with the rather nondescript company which called itself the Westminster Youths. William Shipway took part in all the more important peals by the Cumberlands, such as the Stedman Caters at Shoreditch and Bow, the Stedman Cinques at Spitalfields, the Treble Bob Maximus at Spitalfields and St. Martin's, and the Grandsire Cinques at Shoreditch; and he often was one of the band when the society visited some outlying tower. But it is clear that he was not one of Gross' inner circle of friends. He had his own party at Islington, and he was in touch with the Greenwich company, who then were a very skilful band.

They called themselves the Eastern Scholars, but of course they had no connection with the more famous society of that name which had passed away half a century before. Besides being Eastern Scholars, they were for the most part Cumberland Youths.

One of these men was Edward Taylor, whose keen interest in the problems of composition formed a bond of interest between him and Shipway, for Shipway had none of the selfish and exclusive spirit shown by the elder Gross and probably by his son, who kept their figures and their knowledge to themselves.

On February 7th, 1809, Taylor rang the sixth at Hackney, and called a peal of Grandsire Triples. Shipway was at the fifth, and this seems to be the first performance of Taylor's well-known bob-and-single peal which, though it was admittedly a variation of the composition in the 'Clavis,' was a great improvement, as it was (to quote Shipway) 'rendered less difficult, the singles being more regularly divided, and instead of two extra singles, two are omitted, reducing them to forty-six.'

It is true that as long as forty years before, John Vicars, of Oxford, had produced a variation quite as good and, indeed, in many respects identical, but that does not detract from the merits of Taylor's work, for Vicars' peal had never become generally known, and except for the copy which lay hidden and unnoticed among Dr. Charles Mason's papers at Cambridge, had perished. Taylor's variation was a decided acquisition to the conductors of Grandsire Triples, yet it was some time before it displaced the older Clavis peal.

Taylor produced one or two excellent peals of Bob Major on what was then the novel plan of keeping the sixth either in fifth's or sixth's at the course-end. In one of these, which he called at Greenwich in 1810 for the Eastern Scholars, he used two in-course singles as well as two ordinary singles. Such a device would now be inadmissible, but at the time all singles were looked upon by the older and more conservative men as departures from the strict method, and Taylor's justification was that he was able to get a result which could not be obtained by any other means. In his second peal, which he conducted in 1812 at Deptford for the Trinity Youths, he used bobs Before to move the sixth from in front of the tenor to behind the seventh (as a modern composer would). This increased the length of his peal by two leads and cut out eight leads of the full extent with 6, 7, 8 together.

In an endeavour to get the full extent with ordinary bobs and singles only, he produced a 6,272, which the

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Cumberlands rang at Hackney on February 26th, 1813. The peal evidently was arranged by Shipway, who rang the fifth. Taylor rang the sixth and conducted, and the band was made up of Shipway's friends. Shipway composed and called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Greenwich in 1809 with the local band, and rang in another in 1812 conducted by Samuel Wade.

On February 19th, 1810, George Gross called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Andrew's, Holborn. It was, so far as we know, the first peal in the steeple since 1738, when John Box and the 'Friendly Society' rang 6,160 changes of Bob Major.

It is not difficult to see signs of the existence of different factions within the Society of Cumberland Youths, with Gross and Shipway as the leaders of two hostile parties. For a long time Gross maintained his position, but after 1813 his name disappears from the society's records for some time. His last peal before the quarrel was Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch. Shipway succeeded him as the beadle and principal conductor to the company.

The early years of the nineteenth century must have seemed to the men of the time as a period of prosperity and advancement, and indeed it is not until some years later that we see any very marked signs of decline. Yet a decline was setting in, and one that could not be hidden from the eyes of the more discerning of the contemporary men. As early as 1813, Shipway wrote that he was 'fully sensible that for some years past the practice of ringing had been much on the decline.' He hoped that the publication of his 'Campanalogia' would help to revive it, and the event did in no small measure justify his hope; but we can see now that the real cause of the decline lay in the fact that many of the more potent of the influences which had at first created and then developed the Exercise and the art had worked themselves out and become exhausted.

The art itself was sound enough, and would ultimately show that it had abundant vitality for an indefinite amount of further advance when once those effete influences had been replaced by new and vivifying ones. Both the decline and the revival of the Exercise were slow processes spread over many years.

The first symptoms of decay in London were a lowering of the standards in the character and social status of the members of the leading companies, and the increasing popularity of Grandsire Triples as the method practised in eight-bell towers. It would perhaps be difficult to show that Grandsire Triples, as a method, is inferior to Bob Major, but history teaches the lesson that when bands start from the former their chances of advancement are very much less than when they start from the latter.

During the three years in which William Shipway led the Cumberlands after George Gross' defection, the company rang only five peals, and three of them were Grandsire Triples. The other two were Grandsire Caters in 1814, and Treble Bob Royal in 1815, both at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The peals of Triples were all in 1816. Francis Mathew called one at Croydon, and one rung at Lewisham is of interest as the first performance of Shipway's five-part with triple changes throughout.

All these performances were rung largely by outside members of the society, and it is evident that the com-

pany at headquarters was seriously weakened by dissensions. It was no doubt the reason why, when William Booth, of Sheffield, paid a visit to London, and a peal was arranged for him and rung at Shoreditch on June 16th, 1816, that, though he himself was a Cumberland Youth, the band was a mixed one made up from both the old societies. The peal was 5,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, George Gross conducted from the treble, and the band consisted of William Shipway, William Hall, William Makee, William Booth, Thomas Freith, Thomas Michael, James Nash, Thomas Grainger and Edward Bartell. Makee, Michael Grainger and Bartell were College Youths, and so at the time was Gross. The others were Cumberlands. The ringer of the tenor was not the Edward Bartell whose name we have so often mentioned. He died on July 20th, 1818, at the age of fifty-one and was buried at Whitechapel. This was his son.

The Shoreditch peal was probably an attempt, or the occasion of an attempt, to reunite the Cumberland Youths. Shipway realised that he had not sufficient influence to carry on the society successfully, and he was willing to let George Gross come back on his own terms. The result was that the company had once again a large measure of prosperity. Gross, reinstated in the office of beadle, called three peals in 1817, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Oxford Treble Bob Royal. In the next year the company rang Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major at All Hallows', Barking, and in September they paid a visit to Gloucestershire, where on the 24th they rang 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Stroud, with the sixth twelve times each way in ten courses. It evidently was the well-known one-part peal by Joseph Riley, who at the time was living at Gloucester, and who met the Londoners and stood in the band.

Next day they went to Painswick and, standing in the same order, rang another peal of Treble-ten, this time Reeves' 5,200 in nine courses. Gross called both peals.

Before the year 1818 closed, the Cumberlands rang another peal of Treble Bob Royal—6,360 changes at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

(To be continued.)

CITY OF LONDON BELLS.

Nowhere in England has there been so great a destruction of church bells by enemy action as in central London. In the City itself three rings of twelve, six of eight, and one of six have been completely destroyed. In the districts closely bordering the City, two rings of ten and five of eight are ruined. That does not complete the tale of the loss London ringers have suffered. There are several other churches which have been destroyed, but the towers are still standing. In these the bells hang apparently unharmed, but it is doubtful if in some cases they will ever be rung again. What will happen to St. Mary's, Islington, and St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, no one knows, for the steeples now stand isolated. The tower of St. John's, Waterloo Road, for all that the church has been smashed, looks as if it has suffered no serious damage. St. George's-in-the-Borough was one of the buildings which escaped being hit, though like every other building in the neighbourhood it suffered from blast. Last November the bells were rung for the victory celebrations, but now it has been discovered that the tower and spire are unsafe and at least 20ft. of it will have to be rebuilt. Until then the bells, an interesting ring by Rudhall, must remain silent.

The bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and St. Magnus', Thames Street, have been taken down for safety, and the only ringing peals now left in the City are St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 9th, 720 London Surprise: W. Edwards 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 5, H. Wingrove 6.

BELLS WITH WELSH INSCRIPTIONS.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Some time ago Mr. Thomas quoted one of the few bells with inscriptions in Welsh. It may interest our Welsh friends to know that we have in Leicestershire, at Fenny Drayton, three bells so inscribed.

Originally there were four ancient bells at this historic village (birthplace of Fox the Quaker), one a pre-Reformation bell, 'In honore Michael Archangeli,' the second dated 1596, third 1684, and tenor recast 1710. In 1909 a new treble was added, and the old second and fourth were recast by Carr, of Smethwick. On each of these bells there is now inscribed, 'Go go niant yn y gorughaf i dduw' (Glory to God in the Highest). Also the Rector's name, 'Jenkyn Edwards.' He was a Welshman, and when on August 13th, 1921, I had the privilege of conducting the only 5,040 ever rung here, the following incident occurred.

The tower is at the west end and the base is used as a choir vestry. A ringing chamber floor has been put half-way up the great tower arch, which has been boarded over. The only means of getting to ring is by placing a ladder outside the tower door with the top through the small opening left at the point of the arch forming doorway. On ascending the ladder one literally crawls through the opening.

There being no ventilation and it being a hot August day, we decided to leave the tower door open, but to prevent anyone disturbing the peal we pulled the ladder up into the ringing room. About half-way through the peal some consternation was caused by someone throwing through the entrance two coins. These turned out to be half-crowns, and on my writing later to thank the Rector for allowing us to ring the peal, he replied that it was he who had thrown us the money in lieu of giving us tea afterwards as he had a sudden call to go elsewhere.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

DEATH OF PORTMADOC RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Owen, who passed away on Wednesday, May 5th, in his 71st year.

Mr. Owen was a member of the North Wales Association, and had been conductor of St. John's, Portmadoc, for over 40 years. During this period he instructed a large number of young ringers in change ringing, and had taken part in several peals. He was well known to many visiting ringers, whom he was always glad to welcome to Portmadoc tower. On Sunday evening, May 9th, the bells were rung half-muffled, as a tribute of respect, by the local band.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on May 8th, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope, J. F. Smallwood, G. M. Kilby, G. J. Strickland, R. Stannard, R. F. Deal, C. H. Kippin, F. E. Collins, E. Hartley, E. Owen, C. W. Roberts, W. H. Hewitt, G. E. Fearn and H. Fearn, of Birmingham, Gunner T. Fox and Tel. A. Purdom, R.N. The visitors were Stoker Petty Officer J. W. New, of Wood Green, and A. Edwin Hoare, of Poole, Dorset. One new member was elected, Mr. Norman G. N. Knee, of Warminster, Wilts.

Mr. A. A. Hughes read a letter from the Society of the Friends of the City Churches with an invitation to the College Youths to nominate a member to serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Hughes was elected to serve in the office.

An interesting and useful discussion took place on the necessity of securing the best possible ringing, especially in these days when the Exercise is on its trial.

Mr. J. A. Trollope spoke of a new edition of Snowdon's 'Standard Methods,' which Miss Snowdon had printed just as the war began and which is now on sale. The book is an entirely new one, written on the most up-to-date lines, and with the experience gained by the great advance of ringing during the last fifty years. The quality of the paper and the printing is pre-war, and the price, 2s. 10d., covers not only the new book, but also the book of diagrams which has proved of such value to ringers. Mr. Trollope said that Miss Snowdon deserved the thanks of the Exercise for taking the financial risks involved in having the book printed after war broke out, and he hoped she would be rewarded by a good sale.

Greetings were received from Mr. E. P. Duffield, of Colchester.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham on May 15th. Handbell ringing in All Saints' belfry was followed by the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, who gave an address. Tea was served at the Rectory, followed by the business meeting, at which Canon G. F. Coleridge, the branch chairman, presided. The officers were re-elected, as were also the branch representatives on the Guild Committee, with the exception that Mrs. B. C. Castle succeeds Mr. R. Darvill. Several members took part in further handbell ringing, which included touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Cycling to church on Easter Sunday, Mr. J. W. Wilkins had a narrow escape from a serious accident. His brakes failed, and he was thrown on to the pavement, just missing a crash with a horse and van. Although much bruised on the hands and face, Mr. Wilkins was able after assistance to resume his journey and to take part in the ringing and service at Wycombe and Hughenden.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who will be 78 years old to-morrow.

The first peal of Cassiobury Surprise Major was rung at Watford on May 16th, 1936.

On May 17th, 1735, the College Youths rang at St. Lawrence Jewry a peal of Court Bob Major, being the first that was ever done. The method is given in text books as Double London Court. It is now obsolete.

Ringling history was made at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on May 18th, 1846, when Henry Johnson called Thomas Thurstans' well-known peal of Stedman Triples for the first time.

Thomas Day's long length of Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram-in-Longendale, on May 18th, 1883, and on the same date in 1929 the Chester Diocesan Guild rang at Liscard the first peal of Loughborough Bob Major.

The College Youths rang 11,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on May 9th, 1777.

On May 20th, 1840, the south-western tower of York Minster was burnt out and the ring of ten bells, which had been cast in 1762, were destroyed. They were replaced by a ring of twelve, which were recast by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, in 1926.

The first peal of Wallasey Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on May 20th, 1939.

The first peal in Scotland, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at St. Mary's, Dundee, by the College Youths, on May 21st, 1873.

On Whit Monday, May 21st, 1888, 15,054 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at St. Mary's, Cheltenham. At the time it was the longest length in the method. Canon Coleridge rang the ninth.

The most splendid failure in the history of change ringing was the 12,675 Stedman Cinques rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on May 21st, 1923. The ringing was by common consent excellent, but a small error in the composition rendered the peal false.

The first peal of Ipswich Surprise Major was rung at Newchurch on May 21st, 1927; and the first peal of Kendal Surprise Major at Bushey on May 21st, 1938.

The first peal of Stedman Triples, which is generally supposed to be true, was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on May 22nd, 1799, and exactly 100 years later Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor and called 17,024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK G. COLES.

REPORTED MISSING AFTER HONOUR.

The sympathy of the Exercise will go out to Mr. Charles T. Coles and Mrs. Coles, who have just received notice that their second son, Captain Frederick G. Coles, is reported missing in North Africa.

A few weeks ago, Lieut. Coles (as he then was) was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field, and promoted to a captaincy. The official story is as follows:—

'On February 26th, Lieut. Coles was an officer in a company detailed to carry out a counter-attack against enemy penetrations south-east of Medjaz el Bab. During the early stages of the operation his Company Commander was killed, and Lieut. Coles took command. He continued the direction of the operation with skill, coolness and without thought of his personal safety.

'The Germans were in considerable strength, but Lieut. Coles pressed home his attack with such vigour that the enemy force was completely destroyed and more than 100 prisoners were taken, as well as a large quantity of arms and equipment.

'Lieut. Coles displayed gallantry and military ability of a high order.'

Captain Coles joined the Gloucester Regt. in March, 1940, serving with them in Northern Ireland, and later in England. In July, 1942, he was given a Commission in the Queen's Royal Regt., and shortly after his transfer to the Lancashire Fusiliers in November, 1942, went to North Africa. He was promoted to lieutenant in January last and captain a few weeks ago.

It will be remembered that more than one ringer, reported missing, has since turned out to be alive and well, and all will wish that Mr. and Mrs. Coles will soon receive similar good news.

Mr. Coles' youngest son, Albert, is a Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. He was on the aircraft carrier 'Victorious' during the action in which the German battleship Bismarck was sunk.

THE MORAL VALUE OF BELLS.

Speaking of the lifting of the ban, the Bishop of Bristol said: 'I am delighted to hear it. It will do a great deal to stimulate and uplift the morale of the people and will greatly increase their sense of the value of what the Church stands for in the present life and future of our country.'

STANDARD METHODS

IN THE ART OF CHANGE RINGING.

A NEW TEXT BOOK.

BY ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

One of the principal causes of the development of change ringing during the present century has been the excellent series of text books known as 'The Jasper Snowdon Change Ringing Series.' Although Jasper Snowdon died over sixty years ago, these books are still standard works, and altogether about 40,000 copies of the books of this series have so far been sold. 'Standard Methods' has long been regarded as a book which every enthusiastic ringer should possess, and many always carry a copy of the diagrams whenever they go ringing.

It is inevitable, however, that such a book should get somewhat out of date; indeed, it has already been revised once, when it was thoroughly overhauled by William Snowdon in 1908. A second revision, undertaken just before the war, by J. Armiger Trollope, is now available to the Exercise. In this book will be found instructions for ringing 5 Doubles, 36 Minor, 4 Triples and 14 Major methods. There must be few ringers who can at a moment's notice ring all these. The letterpress has been entirely rewritten and is practically a new book, and deals with the subject in the inimitable way we have learnt to expect from his writings.

Revision was needed for two reasons. The first is set out in the Preface, where an answer to the question, 'What are the Standard Methods?' is given. 'So far as eight-bell ringing goes, the best answer is that the standard methods are those which a competent and well-equipped ringer may at any time need when he goes to a ringing meeting or into a strange belfry.' These methods have not always been the same, and a number of methods, such as Little Bob Major, Bristol Surprise and Yorkshire Surprise, have during the past thirty years gained a popularity which entitles them to be included in this select group. On the other hand, it is possible that such methods as Oxford Bob Triples, Plain Bob Triples, and Albion Treble Bob Major, have outlived what popularity they ever had. The necessity of using Holt's Singles in peals is no doubt the main reason why Oxford Bob Triples and similarly constructed methods are not rung so much as they might be. Duffield is included, presumably as an example of an even-bell method without a hunt bell. This method has never been practised extensively.

The second reason for revision was due to new ideas in teaching method ringing by impressing on the learner the importance of keeping the treble under observation, and also of having a clear understanding of what is meant by Coursing Order.

Mr. Trollope has had fifty years' experience of writing about ringing, and his articles in the ringing Press have been widely read and much appreciated by ringers all over the country. His knowledge of the history of our art is unsurpassed by anyone, and the material for his technical articles has been derived from his vast practical experience of ringing in all methods. Just over five years ago he revised 'Stedman,' another book in the Jasper Snowdon series. A careful study of this book cannot fail to repay the reader by giving him an added interest to his ringing and increasing his knowledge of this most fascinating and popular method.

'Standard Methods' does not neglect the all-important subject of good striking, and I make no apology for quoting some of Mr. Trollope's remarks on this subject, for they might be studied with advantage by many who would consider themselves sufficiently advanced in method ringing and in no need of a book such as 'Standard Methods.'

'Good striking is a part of method ringing, not merely a desirable quality which may or may not be acquired after the method is learnt. What happens too often is that a beginner attempts to ring a method before he has thoroughly learnt it, with the result that he is far too much occupied in trying to find out where he should be to concern himself with the way he is striking. But good striking should come first. Actually it takes more skill and more practice to ring and strike Treble Bob well than it does to ring Cambridge or Superlative in the way it is often performed.'

It would not be fitting for me to close this little appreciation of 'Standard Methods' without acknowledging the great debt which we ringers owe to Miss M. E. Snowdon, who, although not herself a ringer, takes a keen interest in ringing, and has made available to ringers, through this series of books, the knowledge patiently accumulated by her uncle and father. The fact that this new edition (the tenth) of 'Standard Methods' was printed in 1940 is proof enough of her confidence in the future. This book, the paper and printing of which are of pre-war quality, is now on sale at a pre-war price. It is indeed a happy coincidence that the old edition has recently been exhausted, and now that the ban on ringing has been lifted, a text book such as this should play an invaluable part towards the instruction of new recruits to the Exercise.

Text books are now more than ever essential to learners. Few instructors just now have the time to teach learners the mysteries of change ringing and, since bells are not yet allowed to be rung for practices, the learner possessing a book which reveals the vast scope and interest of method ringing is most likely to retain his initial enthusiasm, even though rounds and perhaps call-changes are all that he can attempt at present.

'Standard Methods' is published in two parts, The Letterpress, price 1s. 6d.; The Diagrams, price 1s. 6d.; or the complete work 2s. 10d. post free, and is obtainable only from Miss M. E. Snowdon, Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs.

BROADCAST KINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As I was unable to hear the broadcast ringing on Sunday morning, I inquired about it on my return home. After giving details my wife made a point which I think is worth consideration.

She remarked that it would be a good idea if the names of methods were announced before any broadcasts of ringing. I pointed out that no one would be interested except ringers. Her reply was that in pre-B.B.C. days a very large number of people were completely ignorant of the meaning of musical terms such as overture, concerto, etc., and regarded any mention of them as 'highbrow.' Through constantly hearing them used in broadcast announcements, almost everyone has a little idea of the meaning of these words, and their appreciation of music has increased as a result.

There has been a big outcry for the ban to be lifted by people of all walks of life, and yet hardly anyone understands the first thing about ringing and the terms connected with it. The time is very opportune to start the practice of broadcasting method names, etc. The educational effect through the almost universal medium of the wireless is likely to be far greater than anything we can hope to achieve by individual effort.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.

The 46th annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, May 15th, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Ringing on the silent tower bells occupied members from 2.30 p.m. until the time of the service. A course of Grandire Caters on handbells was rung in church by G. M. Kilby, E. C. S. Turner, F. Smallwood, E. A. Barnett and C. W. Roberts.

The service was conducted by the assistant Rector (the Rev. D. Oldaker), whilst the Rev. — Tranter, of St. James, Islington, assisted with the accompanying music. The service was in the nature of a thanksgiving for recent victories, as well as an intercession for final victory. In the prayer for the safety of our forces a special intercession was made for Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., recently reported missing in North Africa. Mr. D. Oldaker, in his address, welcomed the members to Bishopsgate, and referred to the partial raising of the ban as being inadequate for the needs of ringers. The service was concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.

Tea was served in the adjoining hall, over 60 sitting down to a very satisfactory meal.

The annual business meeting followed, with the president, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, in the chair. The names of 14 members who had died since the last annual meeting were read by the hon. secretary, and members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report, read by Mr. C. T. Coles, contained the following items:—

'Despite increasing difficulties in arranging meetings, several were held. These were at Southgate, Cranford, Finchley, Acton, St. John's, Waterloo Road (jointly with the Society of Cumberland Youths), and a practice meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. There is still room for improvement in the attendances.

Ten new members were elected during the year, all in the North and East District. Peals rung numbered 26, all on handbells, and 33 members took part, an increase of 20 on 1941. There were six conductors as follows: E. C. S. Turner (14), J. Thomas (7), Mrs. Fletcher (2), and I. J. Attwater, H. G. Cashmore and W. Williams, one each. H. Harris rang his first peal, and K. Arthur, F. E. Collins, P. A. Corby and H. M. Page their first handbell peals.

'We deeply regret the loss, by death, of E. Brett, C. Charge, C. W. Clarke, the Rev. Dr. Flecker, J. Flint, R. E. G. Geare, A. Gill, J. S. Goldsmith, Miss I. L. Hastie, C. Mee, J. W. Meldrum, A. Nash, W. J. Nevard, W. E. Pitman, the Rev. G. Richardson, G. Saunders, W. Seeley and Sergt. Pilot R. Tinsley. The last named was killed on active service. He was a promising member of the Moncken Hadley band. To the bereaved relatives in each case we extend our sincere sympathy. The death of Mr. Goldsmith, Editor of "The Ringing World," was a great loss to the Exercise.

'Five members have been reported as prisoners of war. They are J. Boomsma (Stepney), D. Brock (Sunbury) and N. H. Manning (Chiswick) in Italy, W. Barlow (Edmonton) in Germany, and H. Ireland (Edmonton) in North Borneo. After having been posted as missing it was a relief to us all to hear of their safety, and we trust that they will soon be safely home and amongst their friends again.

The departure of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher from the county deprives us of the active services of two valued members. Both of them have been loyal members for many years, and the Edmonton band in particular will feel the loss of their services when ringing starts again. Mr. Fletcher has been vice-president of the association since 1934, and has always been active and regular in his duties, especially at meetings. Much of the work done by him and Mrs. Fletcher has been of great assistance to the secretaries, and this we earnestly hope will not be lost to us. We place on record our sincere thanks for all they have done for the association, and trust that they will have a happy and useful life in their new surroundings at Great Yarmouth.'

The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The statement of accounts, showing an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £3 14s. and total assets of £168 6s. 6d., was submitted by Mr. W. H. Oram (hon. treasurer) and adopted.

The Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane was re-elected president, amid applause. The other official positions were filled as follows: Active vice-presidents, Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. A. Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. S. Turner; hon. auditor, Mr. E. M. Atkins; and trustees, Messrs. Oram, Coles and Turner.

In proposing Mr. C. T. Coles as active vice-president. Mr. Oram said that the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, owing to removal from the county, had been considered by the committee, who thought that they should invite Mr. Coles to fill the position, especially in view of his past services to the association. Mr. Lock seconded, and Mr. Coles said he was mindful of the honour, but it was rather unusual for one man to hold two important positions. He was willing to stand until the end of the war, or until such time before then as members were content.

After Mr. Coles had been elected, the President spoke of his long term of office as hon. secretary, and then referred to the great distinc-

tion recently conferred by the King on his son, then Lieut. Coles, with the award of the Military Cross for an act of great bravery in North Africa. Promotion had quickly followed, but they now heard the sad news that Capt. Coles had been reported missing. After congratulating the hon. secretary on the distinction gained by his son, the President expressed the hopes of all present that the anxiety of him and Mrs. Coles would soon be relieved and that they would hear that their son was safe and well.

Mr. Coles thanked the president and the members for their sentiments, especially for their good wishes on behalf of his son.

MR. AND MRS. FLETCHER.

The retirement of Mr. G. W. Fletcher from the vice-presidency, consequent upon his removal to Great Yarmouth, was referred to, and Mr. T. J. Lock proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for their sterling work for the association. Mr. Lock gave details of the many activities of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for the association, and he also proposed that they be elected honorary life members as a mark of appreciation of their long and loyal service. He also wished them happiness and success with the Norwich Diocesan Association, saying, 'Our loss is the gain of that association.' Mr. Cockey seconded, and Mr. Coles supported the resolutions, which were carried unanimously.

Mr. Frank Smallwood, of Kenton, and Sergt. Pilot Brian Wayman, of Teddington, were elected members.

The President proposed a resolution of good wishes to all members serving in H.M. Forces, which was carried.

A resolution of sympathy and good wishes with Mr. G. R. Pye, a loyal and valued member, who had for many years been a regular attendant at meetings, on his long illness, was carried unanimously.

Arrangements for the next annual general meeting were left to the hon. secretary.

Mr. Lock referred to the present difficulties due to shortage of ringers, and urged unattached members to contact with towers for Sunday ringing, and also bands to help each other as far as possible.

Earlier in the proceedings the President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. D. Oldaker for his address, and for his invaluable help in arranging this meeting. This was seconded by the hon. secretary and carried unanimously. The Rev. D. Oldaker thanked the members, saying that the association was always welcome at Bishopsgate.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. — Tranter for his harmonious assistance, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis for their help, especially in connection with tea arrangements, which he said were excellent. He also added thanks for the ladies who helped Mrs. Davis. This was carried with applause.

A vote of thanks to the president concluded the business.

Silent tower bells, and handbells, were in use during the afternoon, and many ringers took part in the ringing of several methods.

SS. PETER AND PAUL'S, ORMSKIRK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In one of his recent articles on Towers and Spires, Mr. Ernest Morris referred to the ancient Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Ormskirk, Lancashire. Whilst living in Southport and also when on holiday in that town, I have paid visits to this church and the neighbouring churches at Halsall, Aughton, Sefton and the ruined Burscough Priory, all of which are full of interest for the antiquarian.

Mr. Morris refers to the rather odd legend concerning the origin of the dominant feature of Ormskirk Church, i.e., the tower and spire adjoining each other and yet separate. A few details may be of interest to your readers. A writer has suggested that the suffix 'kirk' denotes that the origin is Norse dating back to about the year 800. The first reference to Ormskirk is in the foundation charter of Burscough Priory in the year 1189. It is recorded that the church, together with its endowments, were bestowed by Robert, Lord of Lathom, on the Canons Regular of Burscough. Here began a connection which was not severed until the Reformation.

The south-west tower with its spire was added to the church in the year 1430, and this is one of the oldest parts of the church (part of the chancel, containing a Norman window, being older). The upper part of the tower and the spire were rebuilt in 1826, having been struck by lightning. As the priory at Burscough was one of the smaller monasteries, it was dissolved in the year 1536 and demolition began almost at once. All that now remains above ground are the two eastern piers of the crossing, the northern containing a piscina and the jamb of a window. The site has not been excavated, but several large grass covered mounds seem to suggest that quantities of fallen masonry are still on the site. Some of the bells were sent to Ormskirk, and the great west tower housing them was built between 1540 and 1550 with stone from the ruined priory church. One hundred and ten years elapsed between the building of the south-west tower and the great west tower. As the earlier tower was built 241 years after the first mention of the church, the two sisters must have reached a ripe old age by the time their work was complete! For the dates and details relating to Ormskirk Church I am indebted to the writer of a handbook, which is (or used to be) on sale in the church.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

RINGING PRIVILEGES.

WILL PRE-WAR CONDITIONS RETURN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—For the first time in history, church bells have been silenced for three years by Government Order. In the very critical year 1940, when invasion of this country was expected, the defence authorities decided to use the bells as an alarm signal. Let us be generous and say that they honestly believed such a measure was necessary, and that it would effectively spread the alarm.

We now know that the idea was neither necessary nor practical. The opportunity, however, was quickly seized by those who have an antipathy to bells to keep this measure in force as long as ever possible, and it was only after considerable agitation in Parliament, culminating in great pressure in the House of Lords by the Archbishop of York, that the ban on ringing was rather grudgingly lifted so as to permit the ringing of bells for Sunday service and Christmas Day.

The Prime Minister very clearly announced in the House that the use of bells as a warning was now abolished, and surely it is pertinent to enquire on what grounds is the ringing of bells on other days than Sunday or Christmas restricted?

Perhaps it is just as well that some restriction is imposed, as certain irresponsible persons might have commenced an orgy of peal ringing which would have had disastrous effects on the present very favourable general public attitude towards bells and ringing.

NEED FOR VIGILANCE.

We must keep a watchful eye on the position, however, or what is now imposed as an emergency measure might become a permanent regulation.

It seems to me we have got to do some constructive thinking in the near future if we are ever to return to anything like the same ringing privileges we enjoyed before the war commenced.

The bells were originally placed in our steeples primarily for purposes of worship, service ringing and expressions of public joy and sorrow. Naturally, the ringers would need facilities for practice, and out of that custom probably peal ringing came.

Can we make out a good case for the restoration of peal ringing facilities? I suggest that under the conditions at present obtaining in most crowded cities, peal ringing and ringers' meetings are definitely a public nuisance, and that we have no right to indulge in either peals or meetings if by so doing we cause annoyance to those living close to the towers.

In the past, when people have complained, it has in some cases been rather ruthlessly suggested by the ringers or the clergy that as the bells were there long before those who have complained came to live there, the remedy was obvious—let them go and live somewhere else!

Is it expected that this sort of reasoning will work after the war? Leaving out all ideas of Christian charitableness, it is not possible for people to move about easily in these days of house shortage, and it is doubtful whether it would be tolerated, now that the bells have once been silenced by the authorities.

NOISE CONTROL.

We have got to face squarely up to the position and find out how we may retain our ringing privileges and still give no cause for annoyance to anyone. There has been a tremendous amount of research and experiment made in the past, on the possibility of reducing noise in the vicinity of the towers, and I understand that if proper measures are taken it is quite possible to stand outside a tower where a heavy peal is going and hold a conversation quite comfortably. Yet the bells are heard quite clearly in the distance.

Possibly the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council has all this information; if so, let them make it readily available; if not, then they should obtain it at once, so as to be in a position to advise when restorations, etc., are undertaken.

No doubt the bell founders have already realised that the changed conditions will not allow repetitions of the errors of the past. More will be expected of them in the future, and it will not be sufficient to just put in a modern tuned peal of bells and leave it at that. They are the most appropriate people to advise Church authorities on how to quieten the bells in the vicinity of the church, and it is to be hoped they will do so.

Since the ban was imposed, a lot of work in connection with 'silent apparatus' has been done. I do not know whether any perfect scheme has been evolved, but it seems to me that we shall need to know all there is to know about such facilities if we are to be allowed to practise in future.

From the foregoing it will be plain to all that there is plenty of work to be done if lost ground is to be recovered and former privileges enjoyed. Now is the time to get busy, with our Central Council directing and leading. Should they meet? I think so!

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

99, Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Middlesex.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Monday, May 3rd, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, 1,260 changes: H. Wingrove 1-2, D. R. Fletcher 3-4, K. E. Fletcher (first as conductor) 5-6.

THE LATE PHILIP HODGKIN.

TENTERDEN TENOR

Philip Hodgkin, whose death we announced recently, was very well known among Kent ringers, especially as a very strong and powerful tenor man. A couple of years ago he wrote a short account of his ringing career, which included the following:—

'I was born at Aldington, Kent, on April 11th, 1863, and started ringing at St. Martin's Church on June 7th, 1877. We only used to ring in the winter at that time, and there was no Sunday ringing, only on Easter and Whit Sundays, so we did not get much chance to learn very fast. I had to learn on an inside bell and rang my first 720 Bob Minor on December 4th, 1879.

'I used to visit Mersham and Ashford, we soon had some more learners and in a few years we managed to ring Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. There was not much Grandsire rung in this part at that time, so we used to ring with open leads, which I always prefer instead of tenor behind.

'In 1891 I shifted to Headcorn on the permanent way. The fine ring of eight bells had just been recast, three of them, and all rehung with new wheels and sliders and stays. There was only a stoney band who used to ring a little bit in the winter and on the first Sunday in the month. But there were several lads who wanted to learn, so they kept on at me to give them a start, and we soon had quite a lot able to ring. We have always practised rising and falling in peal and do it fairly well.'

Mr. Hodgkin was always proud (and with reason) of the peal of Major at St. Mildred's, Tenterden, to which he rang the tenor. For a long time the bell was hung in roller bearings, which were not a success, and the 'go' was very bad.

The first peal of Major on the bells was 5,184 Oxford Treble Bob on May 20th, 1771, by the Leeds band. Thomas Lacy rang the tenor with help.

'The next that I have any account of was William Hobbs, of Aldington, a very able ringer. They used to call him Glorious Hobbs, but he never managed to do it. The next I know of was William Pye, from Chadwell Heath, Essex, and he did not get through a peal. It fell to my lot to have a try on October 7th, 1907, when I had to give up after two hours' first rate ringing, and then had to walk back to Headcorn, a distance of nine miles.

'There had been a lot of rain a day before and the water had run right down the turret, and after making a survey of the tower they found one of the pinnacles near the turret was in a very bad state. They pulled it down and rebuilt it, and then they thought the best thing to do would be to rebuild the other three turrets. So we had to wait four and a half years before we got another chance for a peal attempt.

'It was on April 8th, 1912, and there was no means of getting there only to walk, which I did, starting soon after 5 o'clock from Headcorn. I had a look round the ropes and oiled the bearings, and everything was ready for a start about 10 o'clock, when we started and rang a splendid peal of Bob Major in 3 hours and 15 minutes. Then I had a bit of lunch and walked back home again, not feeling very much the worse for it.'

AFTER THE BAN.

The enclosed letter from the president of the Lancashire Association appeared in 'The Manchester Guardian':—

Sir,—Now that the ban on Sunday ringing has been lifted, may I make a twofold appeal? First, to all Service men and women who are ringers to give what help they can at the nearest tower where there is a ring of bells; secondly, to all tower captains to train young ringers; this will have to be done during the week with lashed clappers.

Unless an effort is made in both these directions it will be found that in few towers will the bells be fully manned, for during the last three years the English art of change ringing has received the most serious setback in its history.—Yours, etc., F. F. Rigby, President of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers. Ashton-under-Lyne. April 22nd.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—Mr. A. P. Cannon, in his interesting letter published in 'The Ringing World,' May 7th, mentions that the tenor of the peal of five at Felmersham, Beds, weighs 26 cwt. I measured the diameter of this bell in 1919 as 4ft. 0½in. and its note is approximately E flat. North, in his 'Church Bells of Bedfordshire,' gives the diameter of the bell as 47¼in. I should say it is very doubtful whether the bell weighs more than a ton. I thought Mr. Cannon, to whom I send best wishes, might be interested to have this information.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—On May 2nd, at Holy Trinity Church, for evening service, 1,260 changes Grandsire Triples: A. J. Print 1, H. Brookes 2, Cpl. A. H. Rainey, R.A.F. 3, F. C. Lyne 4, Sgt. N. Goodman, R.E. 5, A. Price 6, V. B. Hunt (conductor) 7, W. Cockings 8.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

While the ban was on there were many demands in newspapers for its abolition, both in editorial leaders and in letters from correspondents. Now it has been partially lifted we must expect some expressions of opinion on the other side. Ringers will not agree with them, but they should take note of them.

Here is a letter from a correspondent in 'The Daily Telegraph':—
 'As one who lives exactly opposite a church that has a "peal of bells," may I answer your correspondent who is anxious to have practice ringing in addition to Sunday ringing?

'In this age of nervous tension and noise is it really necessary to peal bells for one hour to summon people to worship at a service which lasts one hour? People who wish to attend divine worship require no summoning by bells or other extraneous methods. Chapels (which have no peal of bells) are probably the most filled churches in the country.

'It is impossible to hear one's self speak during this pealing, air raid warnings cannot be heard, many night workers, who are obliged to sleep during the daytime, have their rest broken by this noise of bells. If practice ringing is to be allowed, it will add to the surfeit of din caused by the present conditions of life due to the war.

'I submit that bellringing is only a hobby of a certain section of the community and is not an adjunct to religion or an incentive to church going. It would be interesting to know how many bellringers attend the divine service they advertise by their ringing.'

'THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.'

'The Manchester Guardian' printed the following from the Rev. J. C. Hardwick, Vicar of Partington:—

'The lifting of the ban on the ringing of church bells is a legitimate cause of delight in so far as it is a sign that the danger to our country is less imminent, but in no other respect does it seem to me to be fortunate.

'I suppose the original purpose of the jangling of bells was to drive away evil spirits, and certainly one cannot imagine a method more likely to be effective. The present use of these bells is ostensibly to summon people to public worship in church. But your Sunday hiker dreaming over the stile has no intention of attending divine service, and in point of fact bells are quite redundant as summoners to church when every house, however humble, has a clock and the wireless. If the people wish to attend service they will do so without all this noise being made to remind them of the hour. Cinemas do not ring bells, but they are better filled than churches which do.

'The quiet sound of distant church bells' may be very delightful, but as one who for more years than he cares to count has lived near to a church I can assure you that contiguity takes away all the charm. One cannot say that this war has bestowed many benefits upon us, but the relief from a distracting and irritating noise during the past three years has been a godsend.'

This was followed by several letters in much the same strain. A Mr. W. Tyldesley wrote:—

'I feel very grateful to the Rev. J. C. Hardwick for his protest against the ringing of church bells and to you for publishing his letter. The ringing bells are a hideous, nerve-shattering din when near; in the distance they are the most melancholy noise known to man. Why should churches be privileged to destroy the Sabbath quiet, not to mention their weekday occasions and practices? If I arranged a meeting and jangled bells outside the doorway for ten minutes I should undoubtedly be prosecuted.

'This mechanised age has proved how destructive of health and temper noise can be, and our aim should be to reduce it as far as possible. Let us have an end to this stupid practice of bellringing, and let us at the same time silence the public clocks that noisily toll the passing of time.'

AN EXTRAVAGANT LETTER.

That was addressed from Hereford. The following, which defeats itself by its extravagance, was from London:—

'On one of the last occasions when I was in Italy before the war the church' bells of Tivoli were rung furiously to frighten away a thunderstorm. As Mr. Hardwick says, bells were originally used to drive off evil spirits, and their use to-day is as unnecessary as it is distracting and irritating.

'But if bellringing is to be permitted let us at least hope that Mr. Rigby's wishes are not granted, but that "change ringing" in a populated district will be prohibited. Cannot those who find bellringing amusing be limited to practising it on small bells out in the fields?

(Continued in next column.)

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD MEETING AT SEDGLEY.

A meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at Sedgley on Saturday, May 8th. The attendance was somewhat small, a welcome visitor being Mr. W. Saunders, of Coalbrookdale. The bells, with tied clappers, were rung to Grandshire and Stedman Triples, with Doubles and Minor on handbells. At the service the Rev. C. H. Barker read the prayers and the Rev. T. H. H. Kilburn (Vicar) gave an interesting address.

Cups of tea and an assortment of home-made cakes were kindly provided by Mrs. Fullwood in the Schoolroom. Four new members were elected. It was provisionally arranged to hold the annual meeting at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 26th. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, to Mr. B. Fullwood for seeing to the bells, etc., and to Mrs. Fullwood and her lady helper for arranging the tea was passed with applause. The Vicar replied.

Handbells were then brought into use, and the methods included Grandshire Triples and Caters and a course of Bob Major.

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

'I was once living in a house very near to a church with a large peal of bells. One afternoon suddenly a most hideous clangor arose. Changes were being rung by competing ringers. The very house seemed to rock. The deafening, stunning, shattering reverberations clashed and clanged mercilessly. It was impossible to shut them out; impossible to read, write, do anything but run to the nearest bus and escape. To the sick and aged, unable to get away, the din must have been torture.

'Such practices cannot popularise the Church or promote Christianity. Away with them.'

More important than these letters was an article in the paper signed 'Artifex', a nom-de-plume which conceals one of the best known clergymen in Lancashire. The article is a long one and an extract will be sufficient to show its nature: 'I am surprised and I will confess disappointed that the letter of the Rev. J. C. Hardwick on the subject of church bells has called out so little support. For the matter seems to me one of real importance. Noise is recognised to-day as one of the major ills of modern life. Yet the magistrate who will protect us against barking dogs and crowing cocks would almost certainly refuse to interfere if the complaint were about the worse nuisance of church bells. For brain workers, night workers, invalids and children, and many other classes quiet is not merely a question of comfort; it may well be a matter of health.

'What need is there to call people to church? Most people over sixteen have watches. If the bell is not loud enough to wake everybody in the district it fails in its object, and if it is loud enough to do so it is an intolerable nuisance to many who do not in the least desire to be awakened.'

A REFRESHING LETTER.

It was very refreshing to read the following from a lady:—

'Not everyone feels the same dislike of church bells as your correspondents the Rev. J. C. Hardwick and Mr. W. Tyldesley. Yesterday I was visiting a woman who has been bedridden for five months. She said to me: "Wasn't it lovely to hear the bells on Easter Sunday? My daughter opened the window so that I could listen to them."

'The Church Times' continued to publish letters on bells and ringing. A very sensible one signed 'Padre' contained only one short sentence, 'Some are never satisfied.'

One correspondent made the not very wise or practical suggestion that the clergy should set the Control of Noises Order at defiance:—

'I suggest that on May 30th incumbents should have on their notice boards, and give out in church, a notice that on Ascension Day their bells will be sounded, and that they should be ready to take the consequences, if any. No one would then be deceived.'

We must expect to have a lot of ignorant nonsense talked about bells, but the following would be hard to beat:—

'Bells were never meant to be rung in the fashion they are rung in some places to-day—standing so many hours and ringing so many changes of different methods. Nowhere but in England is this method adopted, and at what a price!

'I know numbers of churches whose towers have fallen, bells cracked, frames dislocated, and the cause has been traced to this costly amusement. I have stood outside the Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, and listened to the chiming, not ringing, of those bells. There was no vibration to speak of on the tower, no complaints around of the loud clanging noise, but only the sweet mellow and subdued tones which the bells throw out.'

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon, Sat., May 22nd. Service at St. Mary's Church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

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.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. 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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 22nd, 3 p.m. Bells available ('silent'). Tea at 'Shoes' 5 p.m. and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. All requiring tea please notify me not later than May 24th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Sawley on Saturday, May 29th. Church bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Meeting in Vestry 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Handbell ringing and social hour after. Names for tea to Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Ditton, Notts, by Wednesday, May 26th. Important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Apsley End, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3.30. Short service 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at the 'Woodbarbers.' Those requiring tea must let me know by May 26th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 29th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 6 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Bowdon, Saturday, May 29th. Bells (silent) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, at a small charge for all who send to Mr. D. Vincent, 6, Stanway Drive, Hale, Cheshire, by May 26th. Handbells after tea.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Meeting Saturday, May 29th. Silent ringing at St. John's 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.30 p.m. As the business is of special importance, it is hoped that all members will make an effort to attend.—W. G. Emery, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Rickmansworth Saturday, May 29th. Handbells at British Legion Club, Ebury Road, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Oasis Cafe, near L.M.S. Station, 5.45. Names for tea to F. W. Elliott, 48, Talbot Road, Rickmansworth, by May 27th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Batley on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells in tower from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in local cafes. Business meeting 7 p.m. All towers are requested to send a representative to consider Mutual Assistance Schemes.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham (Kent) on Sunday, May 30th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4 p.m., followed by light refreshment and meeting in Church Hall. Ringing at 5.30 for evening service. Those requiring tea must advise me by not later than May 25th.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 5th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting at the Church House. Names for tea by May 31st.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general sec. by June 4th. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST, LEYTONSTONE.—Ringing on second and fourth Sundays in each month at 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

ST. NICHOLAS' CATHEDRAL, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Sunday ringing (12), 10.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Members of H.M. Forces especially welcomed.—J. Anderson, Hon. Sec., 3, Salters Road, Newcastle, 3.

DEATH.

WOOD.—On May 14th, at 4, Stanley Villas, Queenborough, the dearly loved wife of William J. Wood, aged 65.

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