



No. 1,679. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, MAY 28th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

INSTRUCTION.

One of the most important of the problems which face the Exercise is the supply and training of recruits, and it is a problem to which at the present no satisfactory solution can be found. At the best of times, the number of recruits is small. To-day, when they are needed more than ever, if they could be had, it would not be possible to deal with them. Not only is the number of available instructors limited, but the opportunities for instruction are practically non-existent.

The problem would be a formidable one if it stood by itself, but it does not. It is much complicated by the necessity of ensuring that the small amount of ringing now possible should be of the best possible quality. Ringers are somewhat in the position that a choirmaster would be if he could only give his choir practice and instruction during the actual church services.

Anything like turning service ringing into a practice for teaching beginners should not be allowed, yet, provided care is used, much can be done to give learners an opportunity of improving their ringing.

It probably would be true to say that what is most needed at the present time is a better understanding of the most efficient methods of instruction. There are many men in the Exercise who are willing and anxious to do everything they can to form new bands and to strengthen old ones. They do not spare themselves in their efforts; but self-sacrifice, patience and enthusiasm are often wasted because they are not accompanied by the use of correct methods. These men are fully deserving of all the thanks the Exercise can give, but it is only due to them that the essential principles of the problems of instruction should be more widely known and understood.

One of the major difficulties of teaching is that the beginner usually expects to learn during the very limited time in which he actually has hold of a bell rope, and it would hardly be incorrect to say that many men think they can only give instruction when their pupils are pulling a bell. That is quite wrong. The art of change ringing is far too complex to be learnt properly in that way. If the beginner is to make rapid and satisfactory progress, much of his knowledge, perhaps most of it, must be acquired outside the tower.

This is especially true of all that is comprised in the term "method ringing." It is a clumsy and largely futile plan to try to teach a beginner plain hunting by standing behind him and telling him which bells he must strike over. The proper way is to make him understand,

(Continued on page 234.)

before ever he tries to hunt a bell, what hunting is, and when he takes his place in the steeple his task will be to put into practice what he already understands in theory. In a similar way a beginner should thoroughly understand a method before he attempts to ring it.

It is a common experience that whenever a beginner takes pains to find out for himself all he can about ringing outside the belfry his progress inside is rapid and satisfactory. He is little trouble to his instructors, and he quickly becomes a valuable addition to the band.

Anything which aids beginners to gain knowledge of ringing is of value to the Exercise. The instructor who devotes a little time to his pupil outside the tower and with the aid of pencil and paper patiently tries to make some point or other clear, may get better results than he could by many lessons in the belfry.

There is far more interest and pleasure to be got out of change ringing than what is included in the actual ringing. Beginners should be encouraged to try to find out everything they can about it, and for that the use of text books is essential. It is a happy coincidence that with the lifting of the ban has come the new edition of 'Standard Methods.' There is, of course, far more in that book than a beginner can hope to put into practice for a long time to come. But there is nothing that he cannot try to understand or that should not interest him. And when he ceases to be a beginner and can take his place as a competent ringer, he will find the book a safe guide in his progress to the highest stages of method ringing.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. Oldham mentions in his letter published in 'The Ringing World,' May 21st, that the diameter of the Felmersham tenor is 4 1/2 inches and its note approximately F flat. From these particulars, the calculated thickness of the sound bow and the weight of the tenor, taking the vibrations per second for F flat as 79.2, are as follows:—

$$\text{Thickness} = \frac{D^2 \times V}{58000} = \frac{48.5 \times 79.2}{58000} = \frac{2352.2 \times 79.2}{58000} = 3.22 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{Weight} = .0026 \times D^2 \times T = .0026 \times 48.5^2 \times 3.22 = 19.7 \text{ cwt.}$$

i.e., 19 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb.

Mr. Oldham thought the weight to be not more than a ton. I thought this information might be useful to ringers for calculating doubtful weights of tenor bells.

ARTHUR L. COLEMAN.

Aylmerton, Norfolk.

'STANDARD METHODS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have before me the tenth edition of 'Standard Methods,' and I think it should be emphasised that the diagram section has not been revised.

With regard to the 'letterpress,' it is the best text-book on a number of methods I have seen, and the section on Surprise Major alone is more than value for money. This is indeed an entirely new work, and the explanation of London Surprise places a vivid picture of the method in one's mind in the clear way it is written.

That such a work should be produced in war time puts a great trust in ringers.

F. G. BALDWIN.

49, Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon.

HANDBELL PEALS.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 16 in B.
 JACK N. A. PUMPHREY... .. 1-2 | ALBERT ROUGHTY 3-4
 WALTER C. MEDLER 5-6

Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

The peal was specially arranged for the ringer of 1-2, now serving in H.M. Forces and home on leave.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, W 1,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN H. LEWIS... .. 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
 JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by E. H. LEWIS.
 The conductor's 50th peal on handbells. A compliment to Mrs. E. A. Barnett and the ringer of 5-6 on the birth of a daughter.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT 32, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.
 ERNEST STONE 1-2 | FRANK E. PERVIN 3-4
 JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 5-6

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

A golden wedding peal for Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Roberts, of Coventry. Their marriage took place at the Church of St. Mary-de-Lode, Gloucester, on May 22nd, 1893.

CATTERICK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE OFFICERS' MESS, MARNE, LINGS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

*LIEUT. J. HINDSHAW, Royal Corps of Signals 1-2
 REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, R.A.Ch.D. 3-4
 *CAPT. D. H. FENDER, Royal Corps of Signals 5-6

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH, C.F.

* First peal.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Three Houses Inn, Sandal, on May 15th, and members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

At the business meeting, which followed the tea, the Vicar of Sandal, the Rev. A. Walls, presided, and on the motion of Mr. W. Moxon, seconded by Mr. H. Spencer, was elected an honorary life member.

Best thanks were given to the Vicar and to the local company for the arrangements made.

The Vicar said he was pleased to welcome the society once more and felt proud to be elected a member of the society.

The next meeting will be held at Barnsley on June 15th in conjunction with the Yorkshire Association.

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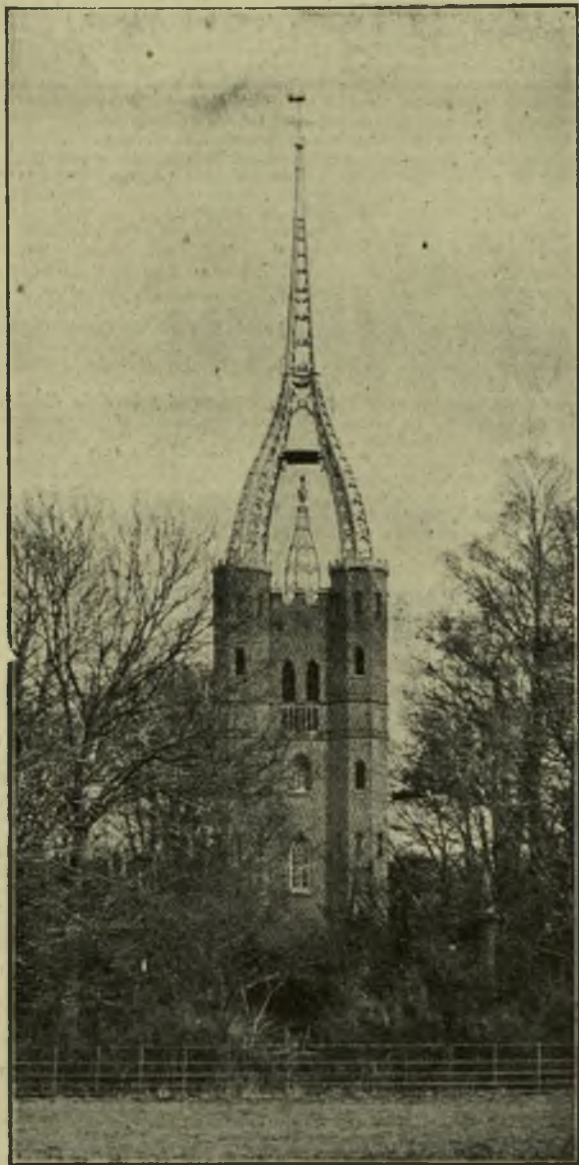
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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 224.)

JOHN POWELL POWELL.

John Powell Powell was a wealthy man who had a great love and enthusiasm for change ringing. He was a belated successor of Henry Smyth, Henry Brett, William Fortrey, Theodore Eccleston and the other gentlemen patrons of the art, and; like them, he spent money



BELL TOWER, QUEX PARK.

freely in the pursuit of his hobby. He probably learned to ring at Fulham, where he had a house, and with which parish his family had been for some generations connected. His country estate was at Birchington, near Margate, in Kent, and at Quex Park, his seat, he built a special bell tower, and in it installed a ring of twelve bells from the Whitechapel foundry with a tenor of 15 cwt.

The opening took place on August 4th, 1819, and was

a more or less public event, being attended by a 'considerable concourse of fashionables' from Margate. Both the societies of College Youths and Cumberland Youths were invited to send bands to the opening, and each in turn rang a touch of about 900 changes of Cinques.

The Cumberlands then rang the first peal in the steeple—5,213 Grandsire Cinqes in 3 hours and 39 minutes. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, and the band was made up of James Nash, William Shipway, John Hints, Peter Jones, James Blacklock, Thomas Freith, Thomas Ovenden, James Stichbury, Joseph Riley, Thomas Grainger and Francis Mathew.

The College Youths did not attempt a peal, which shows that many of their leading men had now reached the stage when they did not care to face the ordeal of standing for three and a half hours. Instead, they contented themselves with two or three touches of an hour's duration. Between May, 1816, when George Gross called a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and March, 1820, when John Povey called one of Grandsire Cinqes at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the society rang only four five-thousands, and all were by the members who lived in the villages of West Middlesex and the Thames Valley.

Powell's intention was, of course, to form a local band at Quex Park, and he had some measure of success. The men on his estate were induced to join, and William Shipway was engaged as instructor. In the year 1820 he called Holt's ten-part on the back eight.

Powell himself did not attain to much skill as a practical ringer, and the most that he did was to ring the tenor behind. He had, however, large ambitions to be a composer, and especially of Stedman Triples, to which method Shipway was devoting a lot of attention. In 1828 he published a folio of twenty pages, giving the result of his and Shipway's investigations up to date. It contains nothing of real value, but is an interesting landmark in the development of composition.

Powell joined the Society of Cumberland Youths and for some years was a member, but before his death both he and Shipway went over to the rival company. Shipway remained in Kent for some time, but he soon got homesick for his old associations and friends in London, and he ultimately went back to them.

Soon after the peal at Quex Park, one of Treble Bob Major was rung at Bethnal Green. It was 'by particular desire of Mr. Malachi Channon, it being the last he intended to ring.' He was then 72 years of age, and had been a member of the society for 52 years.

I have now given a detailed account of the Society of Cumberland Youths from its foundation down to the time when a general decline in London ringing had set in. This was the point at which I intended to conclude the history of London ringers and ringing I set myself to write. My account of the Cumberland Youths is largely taken from that history, and I must now bring it to an end for want of further information, for under the present circumstances research work is impossible, and much has to be done before the story of ringing in the nineteenth century can be properly told.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, May 9th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. G. Wareham 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, W. C. Shute 4, H. White (conductor) 5, G. Wareham 6.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Tuesday, June 1st, is the first anniversary of the death of John Sparkes Goldsmith, for 31 years proprietor and editor of 'The Ringing World.'

St. Paul's Cathedral bells were rung last week for the thanksgiving service attended by the King and Queen. It was the first time since the ban that bells have been rung on a weekday, and a special order signed by the Minister of Home Security was necessary.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. C. Limpus, of Vancouver, British Columbia. He tells us that Mr. J. B. Cherry, who lives not far from him, is still alive. Now that John Martip Routh has passed away, Mr. Cherry is undoubtedly the oldest member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. They were elected in the same year. Mr. Cherry is 88 years old. Last year he visited the belfry and rang the tenor.

The first peal of Leicestershire Surprise Major was rung at Wigston on May 23rd, 1936, and the first peal of Hitchin Surprise Major at Hitchin on May 24th, 1938.

On May 24th, 1837, the first peal of Albion Treble Bob Major was rung at Liversedge. Many good things have been said of this method, but it has never been popular among ringers.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first and only peal of Canterbury Pleasure Maximus at Canterbury Cathedral on May 24th, 1930.

The first peal of Little Bob Maximus was rung at Newcastle Cathedral on May 26th, 1923.

The record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 15,264 changes, was rung at Hornchurch on May 27th, 1912. Mr. Reuben Sanders, who rang the treble, and Mr. George R. Pye, who rang the second, are the only survivors of the band.

The first peal of Sandringham Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on May 27th, 1936.

The first peal of Stedman Caters was rung by the 'ancient' Society of College Youths at St. John's, Horsleydown, on May 28th, 1787.

On the same date in 1901, John S. Goldsmith called the first peal of Surprise Major rung outside England.

The Ashton-under-Lyne band rang 10,075 Grandsire Cinques on May 29th, 1896.

The first handbell peal in four Spliced Surprise Major methods was rung at Bushey on May 29th, 1936.

On the same date in 1934, the first peal of Truro Surprise Major was rung at St. Andrew's, Hillington; and in 1937, the first peal of Langley Surprise Major at Aldenham.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK G. COLES.

The hopes expressed last week have unfortunately not been realised, and definite news has come that Capt. Frederick G. Coles has been killed in action. All ringers will join in an expression of sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles on the death of their gallant son.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on May 22nd, and was supported by the treasurer, the hon. secretary and Messrs. E. A. Young, W. H. Pasmore, J. F. Smallwood, J. H. Shepherd, A. W. Brighton, R. Stannard, G. N. Price, H. Hoskins, E. Pye, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts, C. M. Meyer, E. Hartley, R. Spears, F. Coles, W. H. Hewitt and John Austin, of Gloucester. The visitors were Mr. J. B. Davis and Driver W. Grice, R.A.S.C., of Maidstone.

Mr. A. A. Hughes reported on a meeting of the Friends of the City Churches. He represents the College Youths on the Executive Committee.

Congratulations were expressed to Mr. E. A. Young on his 78th birthday. In a cordial reply Mr. Young said he was specially delighted to spend the afternoon with the College Youths. He had a visit in the morning from Mr. Isaac Emery, who sent his good wishes to the members.

The meeting heard the sad news of the death of Capt. F. C. Coles, son of Mr. C. T. Coles, and the secretary was asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Coles.

CO-OPERATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that the ban has been lifted we must get out of the old way of sticking to our own tower each Sunday, and make local arrangements to meet at different towers and give the depleted bands a chance of having a decent ring. How can some local people be expected to support ringing societies if all they hear is rounds and call changes on about half of the bells? We must endeavour to keep the interest alive so that when our ringers return and more material is available we can try and pick up the threads, dropped some three years ago.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

HAYES, KENT.—On Sunday, May 23rd, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Keech 1, G. F. James 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, J. Lyddiard 4, P. Spice 5, I. Emery (conductor) 6.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES.

A society has been formed under the name of The Association of the Friends of the City Churches with the object of securing that as far as possible all the London City churches damaged in the course of the war shall be restored to use, and that in any case their sites and churchyards shall be preserved.

The Council of the association is a strong one and includes many prominent and influential persons, including Professor A. E. Richardson, Sir Banister Fletcher, Sir Edwin Lutyens, and the Deans of St. Paul's and York Minster. Mr. A. A. Hughes has been appointed as the representative of the Ancient Society of College Youths on the Executive Committee. Lord Faringdon is the president.

In the statement of policy the association expresses the opinion that wherever possible the twenty-one City churches which were destroyed or damaged in the heavy air raids of 1940-41 should be rebuilt on their original sites and re-used. If in any instance full reconstruction is found to be impracticable, the association urges that the tower, together with any spire or steeple that may have been destroyed, should be restored and preserved, and the site of the church, together with the churchyard, kept as an open space in perpetuity. When a decision has to be taken for or against rebuilding, the association will endeavour to secure that in each case full and proper regard is paid to spiritual, architectural, historical, civic and even imperial considerations which it believes ought, in this matter, to carry at least equal weight with those of a purely monetary or administrative character.

Speaking of the spiritual value of the churches, it is pointed out that their number is not excessive if considered in relation to the numbers whose daily lives are spent in the parishes they serve. Their potential influence for good is so great that all of them, damaged and undamaged alike, can be, and ought after the war to continue to be, used where they are, as they stand, for the worship of God and the teaching of the Christian faith.

The churches are essential to the architectural and civic dignity of the City of London. In no other city in the world is there so noble a group of late 17th century churches to be found. The quiet beauty of the towers and the soaring majesty of the spires and steeples are a precious enrichment of the London scene.

To ringers the best known of the churches are St. Andrew's, Holborn; All Hallows', Barking; St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Dunstan's-in-the-East; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Olave's, Hart Street; and St. Mary-le-Bow.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

Ringers from Bexley, Bromley, Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Deptford and Woolwich attended the quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association at Shoreham on May 8th.

Handbell ringing in the afternoon was followed by a short service with an address, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. Ford, who extended a warm welcome to the members.

After tea a business meeting was held, Mr. W. J. Jeffries (trustee) in the chair.

A silent tribute was paid to the memory of W. Haigh, F. Ring (Swanscombe), W. S. Lane (Swanscombe), P. Hodgkin (Headcorn), F. Belsey (Chatham) and W. Latter (Tunbridge Wells), whose deaths had been announced during the last two months and whose aggregate membership totalled over 300 years, and also of F. Dawe, a very old friend to the association.

It was suggested that in the present circumstances of travel restriction the established rota of visits to the different districts for the annual meeting be waived, and a central venue, e.g., Maidstone, be chosen. This suggestion was forwarded to the general secretary for the consideration of the Management Committee.

News of various members on active service, both at home and abroad, was thankfully received, and arrangements made that each should be accorded the meeting's good wishes.

Bexley was chosen as the place of the next meeting, to be held on Saturday, July 17th.

Cordial votes of thanks to the Vicar and the lady organist concluded the business.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LINES.

The death is announced of Mr. George Lines, who for nearly 50 years had been a ringer at Burton Latimer. During the funeral service on May 14th, which was conducted by the Rector, a course of Bob Minor was rung on handbells by W. Perkins (Irthlingborough) 1-2, B. J. Saddington (Burton Latimer) 3-4, B. P. Morris (Warkton) 5-6. Among the many floral tributes was one from the local band.

Mr. Lines had rung 80 peals. Forty of them were Minor, 4 Triples and 33 Major. He had conducted 10.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On May 16th for matins, 720 York Surprise Minor, and for evensong 720 Durham Surprise Minor: J. Ryles, J. Jolley, W. C. Corfield, J. E. Wheeldon, J. Walley, W. P. Deane, W. C. Lawrence, S. B. Bailey, C. S. Eyles and G. E. Lawrence.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

'The Manchester Guardian' printed a letter from 'Mass-Observation' giving the result of a sample opinion census on the subject of church bells. How far these polls accurately represent public opinion we should not like to say, but in this case the result is pretty much what we should have expected from our own knowledge and observation.

'The recent correspondence on the subject of the ringing of church bells suggested to "Mass-Observation" that it would be pertinent to ascertain how feeling was actually distributed on the subject. A representative London sample was questioned, and results were as follows:—

View held.	Percentage.	
	Men.	Women.
Like ringing of bells	59	66
Indifferent	23	7
Dislike ringing	9	3
Miscellaneous and vague	7	14
Unaware that bells were rung ...	2	10

'Dislike of the ringing of bells is centred among the unskilled working class, though even here feelings were—Likes 50 per cent., indifferent 19 per cent., dislike 15 per cent., miscellaneous 11 per cent., and unaware 5 per cent.—thus showing that a three to one majority like the bells even in the most critical class.

'The following random selection of verbatim comments gives a good indication of the general tone of feeling:—

'I thought it was very pleasant. I was away for Easter, and they sounded quite charming across the fields—they made one feel positively sentimental. (Man, 50, upper class).

'I enjoyed it very much; it was delightful. Silly, of course, but it made one feel the war was as good as won. (Woman, 40, middle class.)

'It's quite a good thing, I suppose. (Man, 45, middle class.)

'I didn't know they were ringing again. (Woman, 40, artisan class.)

'I think it was a very good idea. They do cheer people up. (Woman, 40, artisan class.)

'I don't like the things. Never did. (Man, 35, working class.)

'The sample used was of such a size that the probability of the majority in favour of bellringing being due to chance sampling errors is of the order of one in four hundred million.'

NEED FOR PRACTICES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The members of St. Mary's Youth Fellowship, Cheshunt, have been learning to ring the bells since last December. We were thrilled when the ban was partly lifted and we could share the honour of ringing Easter bells and Victory bells.

We are very much handicapped, however, by having only silent practices and were therefore glad to read opinions on this matter in your correspondence column. In our parish, and doubtless in others, this is resulting in a much lower standard of bellringing than is necessary, even in these difficult days.

We are also grateful to those who have spoken so forcibly about Ascension Day.

We, too, find it hard to believe that the Government should ignore the ancient tradition that bells are always silent on Good Friday, thus giving us a useless concession, while withholding one for the Coronation Day of the King of Kings.

In this parish we are making special efforts for the wider celebration of Ascension Day, and, therefore, sincerely hope that every possible effort will be made to get permission for the bells to be rung on June 3rd.

E. M. ROBINSON, Secretary, St. Mary's Youth Fellowship.

CLERICAL OPPOSITION.

Dear Sir,—As a newcomer to the art of campanology, I am amazed to read that such opposition exists to pealing of bells, especially amongst the clergy.

Generally speaking, I should say the public at large are not worried either way. Could not the dislike of bellringing by certain sections be attributed not truly to the alleged 'jangle,' but to the reason that pealing of bells is usually a reminder of the Sabbath and all that day implies?

I should like views and hints on chiming bells by hand. At the Parish Church there are eight bells and I am interested to learn the correct way to chime these.

ALBERT C. WEBBER.

3, Hearn Road, Romford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Dear Sir,—It has made interesting, if not amusing, reading of Press comments about the lifting of the ban on ringing for Sunday services. A notable divine in the North is not pleased with the ringing of a single bell for early celebrations, whilst another prominent gentleman is annoyed by the pealing of bells because, as he says, it disturbs his morning nap, I suppose because of a late and hectic preceding night.

One gentleman in the far west says the sirens could not be heard when the bells were ringing. What a blundering statement to make! Whoever heard of bells ringing when alerts were sounded? The three years' ban on ringing must not have been a known fact to him.

I don't know whether the same thing has happened anywhere else or not, but the authorities have placed a siren on the top of our church tower (again making it a legitimate target for the enemy), and I would challenge anybody to be able to hear the sound of the bells at the same time as the siren was sounding. If you heard it you would never forget it. It is unfortunate to us, as ringers, that even a limited amount of time has not been granted to perfect our ringing and train new recruits by open practice ringing.

If we are to understand the restrictions are because of so-called noise, then bells cease to be a musical instrument. Personally I shall need more persuading to believe it is, and has not been an attempt and largely successful, by those who have no love for England's valued treasure. Take bells out of the life of the people and the poet becomes an impoverished soul. Until more favourable times come, let us bear as cheerfully as we can our disappointments, which always seem to be the lot of struggling ringers.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

A RIDICULOUS ARGUMENT.

Dear Sir,—In your collection of extracts from the rather ridiculous letters that appeared in 'The Manchester Guardian' against bells, you left out one beautiful example.

The gist of 'Artifex's' argument was that bells must be injurious to health even when heard in small doses because they are fatal in big doses, and as proof he quotes Dorothy Sayers: 'As all readers of Miss Dorothy Sayers' book, "The Nine Tailors," know, anyone shut up in the bell chamber during a peal dies a horrible death. By the same kind of argument I have expected Mr. Middleton to warn gardeners in all seriousness not to let stray beans drop near the kitchen door, for, as all readers of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' know, beans dropped near the kitchen door grow to an enormous height, and there is a real danger of young children climbing up them and being caught by giants, etc., etc.'

HUGH BENSON.

Sneyd Vicarage, Stoke-on-Trent.

ST. DUNSTAN'S, CRANFORD.

On Easter Sunday, the newly-restored and augmented ring of bells at St. Dunstan's, Cranford, Middlesex, were rung for the first time.

For some years past a careful and thorough restoration of this ancient church has been in progress, and this included the strengthening of the tower and the addition of three bells to make a ring of six. The present treble is one of the oldest in the country. It was cast, probably by William Burford, of Aldgate, about the year 1390, and is inscribed XPE PIE FLOS MARIE. The third was cast by Bryan Eldridge, of Chertsey, in 1636. The new bells and the hanging are by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

Those who took part in the opening ringing were G. Orford and A. Chesney (of Cranford), J. Thomas (Enfield), T. Price and M. Beauchamp (Feltham), E. G. L. Coward (Mere, Wiltshire) and W. H. Coles (Hillingdon).

The Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child, in an address at evensong, outlined the history of bells and ringing. He referred to the old bells which hung in the church before the restoration. This is probably the only church bell restoration in the whole country carried out in the last three years.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAWKHURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Hawkhurst on May 15th, and was attended by several members, who received a very hearty welcome from the Vicar. One honorary member was proposed by the secretary. During the afternoon and evening several touches were rung on the handbells. The next meeting will be at East Peckham on June 26th.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

Besides those churches which possess both tower and tower with spire separately, there are a number also which have two towers—not always identical in structure or architecture like Westminster Abbey or say Worksop Priory, but sometimes quite distinct in every feature of style, shape and height. The fascinating feature in the study of church towers is—like that of the churches themselves—no two examples are ever alike, though occasionally they may be similar.

In taking the subject of twin-towers one naturally turns to Westminster Abbey as the most famous, it being the burial place of many Sovereigns and other illustrious personages, the scene of the Coronations of Kings and Queens since Harold, and that of innumerable other national ceremonies. Officially it is the Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster. Its early history and that of the Benedictine Monastery associated with it are shrouded in legend. The first church of which record exists stood in the 8th century to the west of the present structure, and was dedicated to St. Peter. It has been rebuilt and reconstructed many times in the succeeding centuries. From 1540-50 the abbey was a cathedral with a bishop. The present church is cruciform with an extreme length of 530 feet, the nave being 166 feet long and 101 feet 8 inches high. There is a lantern tower at the intersection of and transepts which rises to 151 feet. The main entrance is at the west end, and here are the twin towers, each 225 feet 4 inches high. They are in the pseudo-Gothic style, completed in 1739 from designs left by Sir Christopher Wren, and in the north tower is a ring of eight bells, tenor 28 cwt. Originally Westminster Abbey had a detached bell-tower situated a little distance north-west of the building near the old Sanctuary, on the site now occupied by the Westminster Hospital. From an old engraving (reproduced in my book 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' p. 580) it appears to have resembled the old campanile of Salisbury Cathedral, which was demolished about the end of the 18th century. How many bells the Westminster bell-tower contained at the time of its demolition has not been ascertained, but the 3rd, 5th and 7th bells of the present ring must have hung there originally.

Dean Stanley, in his 'Memorials of Westminster Abbey' (quoting from an old record), remarks with regard to the bells and campanile, 'here hung the Abbey bells, which remained there till Wren had completed the Western Towers (i.e. 1739) and which rang for coronations, and tolled for royal funerals. "Their ringings," men said, "soured all the drink in the town."' The bells must have been removed to their present position in the north-west tower some time between 1739 and 1750, the sanctuary and the old bell-tower being demolished at the latter date.

There was a ring of six here until 1919, when two new 'Peace' bells were added, and the actual casting of these was witnessed by the King and Queen at White-chapel Foundry. It is of historic interest also to note that the same foundry placed one of the bells in the original tower in 1583, and all the other bells from time to time since the days of Robert Mot. The old six bells were dated (1st) ascribed to Richard de Wymbish about

1310, (2nd) 1743 T. Lester: (3rd) 1583 R. Mott: (4th) 1743 T. Lester: (5th) 1598 R. Mot: (Tenor) 1738 R. Phelps & T. Wester. The 2nd, being cracked, was recast, but the treble was replaced by a new bell; the old one—a wonderful 14th century relic—was happily preserved in the Abbey.

Thus the four front bells are new, and the four back ones are old. The old wood frame was removed and a new steel frame erected, and all the bells fitted with new stocks, bearings, etc. The new octave was dedicated on June 3rd, 1919, and on July 5th of that year the first peal, 5,040 Stedman Triples, was rung in 3 hours 18 minutes by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, conducted by the late Challis F. Winney.

Inverness Cathedral (St. Andrew's) also has twin towers at its west end, both identical in design and height. It is the cathedral of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and was erected 1866-9. In 1877 eleven bells, comprising a ring of eight and three semitones, were installed by Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry. These were rehung in new fittings after being retuned, and a chiming apparatus fixed by the same firm in 1914.

Similarly Worksop Priory Church, Nottinghamshire, has twin western towers of identical design. Formerly an Augustinian Monastery founded in 1103, it is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Cuthbert. To reach the ringing chamber one ascends first one tower, then crosses over to the other. It is thus described:—Access is through a door in the south aisle wall under the south tower, from which a spiral staircase leads up 26 steps to the triforium level. Just before reaching this level a door on the right leads to the lower clock chamber. The passage then opens out at the base of the great west window with a fine view eastward down the church. Crossing over to the north tower a similar passage leads through a door forward to the spiral staircase for the ascent to the bell chamber and the top of this tower. A door to the right—before the ascent—up two steps leads to the ringing chamber. Here is a ring of eight bells by J. Warner and Sons, 1883, with a tenor approximately 15 cwt. In 'Dukery Records,' by Robert White, it is stated that certain moneys were collected 'in the thyrd and iijth yeres of the Reynes of our souereyne lorde & lady kyng Phyllype & Quene Mary' for casting the bells and making the bell frame.

(To be continued.)

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Golden Wedding

GOLDEN WEDDING

ROBERTS—TALBOYS.—On May 22nd, 1893, at the Parish Church of St. Mary-de-Lode, Gloucester, by the Rev. H. M. Loy, Adolphus Roberts, of Pershore, Worcestershire, to Emily Talboys, of Gloucester. Present address, 30, Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry.

DEATH.

KNIGHT.—Olive Edith, on May 14th, at the County Hospital, Chatham, the dearly loved wife of William A. J. Knight, Gillingham, Kent.

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/-.

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'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.**

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. A free tea at 5.0 p.m., business meeting to follow.—J. H. Crampion, 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. 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 'Woodbarners.'—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. Handbells after tea.

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.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

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.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Woolton Saturday, June 5th. Silent bells until 5 p.m. Tea and handbells at Sunnyside, Mossley Hill. Send names for tea before Wednesday, June 2nd.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphil Road, Liverpool 17.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Guild and Guildford District at Guildford on Saturday, June 5th. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meetings at Ayers' Cafe 5 p.m. Numbers for tea by June 2nd.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kingsley on Saturday, June 5th. Handbells in tower from 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided. Bring own sandwiches.

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.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Woodbridge on Saturday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. Handbells and eight silent tower bells. Tea shops near the tower.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting on Saturday, June 5th, in the Clergy House, Doncaster. Committee meeting 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Plenty of cafes near the church. Handbells available.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden Saturday, June 12th. Silent tower bell and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea, in Manor House Cafe, for those notifying Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by Wednesday, June 9th. Moderate charge. Business meeting at 6 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. Silent tower bells (8) from 3 p.m. Handbells also. Festival service at 5.30 p.m. Tea in St. Peter's Hall at 6 p.m. Canon Hedley Burrows, Vicar of St. Peter's, will preside.—George Preston, Winchester and Portsmouth Guild; Rev. C. A. Phillips, Salisbury Guild; Arthur V. Davis, Tower Captain.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford on Saturday, June 12th. Service in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting in the Chapter House. It will not be possible to arrange for tea.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec. (pro tem), Boones Farm, High Garrett, near Braintree.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, on June 12th, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver. Please send post card.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

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.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.—Ringing every Sunday 9.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Practice Tuesdays 6.30 to 9 p.m., silent tower bells and handbells. When cathedral is closed, entrance by north-west door.—W. H. Southard, Penkeard, Bodmin Road, Truro.

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Printed for the Proprietors, Executors of the late J. S. Goldsmith,
by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls
House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.