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Last November, when any hopes that we should be able to ring again while the war lasted were faint indeed, we were looking forward to the return of peace and speculating on what best to do to restore ringing to its old prosperity. We suggested that it would be a good plan for the bands of neighbouring towers to pool their resources and to combine for service ringing, so that instead of two depleted bands vainly trying to carry on the ringing at two separate towers, one fairly competent band could serve alternately at both churches.

We are glad to know that this has been adopted in several instances and so far is proving a success.

To some extent this is a reversion to the older custom of the Exercise. Not, indeed, in service ringing, for regular ringing before divine service is a custom which has become common during living memory; but on the special occasions when the bells were rung to serve the public, as well as on the occasions when the ringers rang to serve themselves. In towns where there were more than one peal of bells there was usually but one company of ringers who visited the various belfries as suited their purposes. Where there were two bands it was generally on account of rivalries and quarrels.

One important result was that the ringers had little or no connection with the church authorities. They stood entirely outside any parochial organisation. The parsons, as a rule, did not bother about them, and they themselves would have resented and resisted any interference. It was a state of affairs which was good neither for the Church nor for the ringers, and not the least of the factors which during the last sixty or seventy years have improved the conditions of ringing has been the formation of bands definitely connected with particular churches and working in co-operation with the clergy and the parochial authorities.

There is not the least doubt that the future of ringing and of the Exercise depends on how far ringers can co-operate with the Church authorities. The life and strength of the Exercise depend ultimately, not on the great associations, not on the Central Council, not on expert peal ringing bands, but on the parochial companies. The problem of the rehabilitation of the Exercise is really the problem of the restoration of separate parish companies, each definitely connected with one particular church.

We must not lose sight of that ideal, but we must also face facts. In these difficult times it is a question not so much what we should like to do or even what we

(Continued on page 254.)

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ought to do, as what we can do. The only reason for which bands exist is that the bells should be rung properly, and since in so many towers at the present time there are not enough ringers to ring the bells properly, co-operation with other and neighbouring bands is almost a necessity. It is better that the bells of any church should be well rung at rather wide intervals than that they should be badly rung every Sunday, or not at all. When normal conditions return and the depleted bands are once more filled up by the members who have come back from the King's service and by suitable recruits, it will be possible for the combined bands to separate, and all the more so because in each there will be a nucleus who have retained their skill and their high standards. In the meanwhile every ringer should consider himself as belonging to one particular church to which he owes loyalty and which claims his service.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

ORAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

JOHN WHEADON Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2		EDWIN A. BARNETT 6
JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 3		EDWIN BARNETT 7
PHILIP A. CORBY... .. 4		GEORGE H. CROSS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT 17A, THE BROADWAY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
*CHARLES H. KIPPIN 3-4	*FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

ANOTHER PEAL OF EIGHT FOR HAMPSHIRE.

DEDICATION OF SHEDFIELD BELLS.

On Sunday, May 30th, two new trebles were dedicated at Shedfield, Hampshire. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was opened in 1875, and the bells, a ring of six by Taylor's, were opened by the Winchester Diocesan Guild in November, 1891. The weight of the tenor is 12½ cwt. in G, and the whole peal was the gift of a well-known parishioner.

The new bells, to complete the octave, were added by Messrs. Taylor during the ban, and were given by a legacy left by Mr. Daysh (a former parish clerk for over 50 years) in memory of his wife.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. W. Martin) and the bells were dedicated by the Rural Dean, Canon L. S. Etheridge.

Before and after the service the bells were rung in the standard methods by ringers from Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, North Stoneham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bishopstoke and several of the local company. The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild were represented by the Master (Mr. G. Williams), general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter) and Messrs. R. J. Stone and G. Pullinger (secretaries of the Portsmouth and Southampton districts).

The ringers were entertained at tea by the local branch of the Mothers' Union, and the Vicar welcomed and thanked the Guild for organising the ringing. The Master responded and congratulated Shedfield on possessing a first-class ring of eight. All present were unanimous that Messrs. Taylor had made an excellent splice.

It was decided to reopen the Portsmouth District with a quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 3rd, when the bells will be available and an opportunity given for all ringers to attend.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY. ITS TOWERS AND BELLS.

(Continued from page 244.)

To return to the bells in the Abbey itself. In 1388 an inventory was taken and it shows that there were two bells called Saint Dunstan's bells. They evidently were not hung in the tower with the ringing peal, but were used as sacring bells, and, since they are said to have been made of latten, may have been large hand bells. Latten is an old name for brass. In 1540, when the monastery was dissolved, there is a record—'solde ij bellis calld Saynt Dunstanys bells.'

Until the last restoration of the peal in 1919 the second of the ring of six was a bell cast by Richard Wymbish about 1300, and so was one of the ring that hung in the Norman tower of Edward the Confessor's church. When the octave was completed it was found impossible to tune it to the new bells, and it was taken down from the tower and placed in the Abbey museum in the Undercroft. It bears the inscription—XPE : AUDI : NOS.

Richard Wymbish was one of a family of founders who lived at Aldgate. He cast bells for the Holy Trinity Priory in the reign of King Edward the Second.

Abbot Islip completed the lower part of the west front in 1523. The southern tower was built only to the height of the aisle roof, but the northern to the height of the clerestory, the bell chamber being below the pitch of the nave roof. To this day the windows of this bell chamber (which is below the present ringing floor) have louvres.

Henry the Seventh's chapel was finished in 1519, and except for the western towers the whole fabric of the church was completed about 1530. Ten years later the monastery was dissolved and its treasures seized by the Crown. A year before the blow fell an agreement was made 'between William Abbot of Westminster of the one partie and John Whyte and John Saunder of Ryding bellfounders of the other partie for the new casting ij belles of the ryng of the said monasterie that ys to say the thirde belle and the fyfthe belle of the same ryng.' Evidently there was already a ring of six in the tower.

During the Reformation period nothing seems to have been done to the bells, but when the great revival of bell founding came in Elizabeth's reign, the Abbey, under Dean Goodman, employed Robert Mot to put the bells in order. Mot recast Saunder's two bells (if the contract had been carried out), the third in 1583 and the fifth in 1598. In the following year he supplied a new tenor, and this bell had a rather curious history. It was recast in 1738 and now bears the following inscription copied from older bells, 'Remember John Whilmell Isabella his wife and William Rus who first gave this bell 1430. New cast in July 1599 and in April 1738. Richard Phelps T. Lester fecit.'

William Rus was a citizen of London, and alderman and goldsmith. He was a special benefactor to the church of St. Michael, Cornhill, and the bell which he gave to that church in 1430 was called after his name and was the pride of the parish. How did it get to Westminster Abbey? We are told that there is a mystery about the whole matter, and no light can be thrown on it from the documents in the Abbey archives; but the explanation is quite a simple one, only we must look for it not at Westminster, but in the parish records of St. Michael's, Cornhill.

St. Michael's has long been famous for its bells. In 1421 a new steeple was built and in it was hung 'a fair ring of five bells,' which evidently was tuned to the minor scale, for about ten years later William Rus added a tenor to make a ring of six. Who cast it we do not know, but it weighed somewhat over 30 cwt. and was a noble bell, the pride and treasure of the parish. It was called Rus after the donor. The whole ring was accounted 'the best ring of six to be rung by six men that was in England, for harmony, sweetness of sound, and tune.'

Whoever made the frame and hung the bells did his work well, for Stow specially states that they were rung by six men only and for the space of one hundred years Rus was not only rung singlehanded for curfew and knell, but also in peals. But in the year 1587 a disaster occurred; Rus was cracked. A founder named Lawrence Wright was employed to recast it, but whether through misfortune or incompetence, his work was badly done, and when the bell was hung it gave great dissatisfaction and generally 'was not liked of' in the parish. Wright's charges were low, but in the end they turned out pretty dear for the parish. The churchwardens seem to have been undecided as to whether they should accept the bell and pay for it, and the matter was discussed in vestry. In the end it was decided to pay Wright £3 17s. for new metal supplied and £9 6s. 9d. for the recasting. That was as much as 'his due is to be accounted justly,' but the parish made the sum up to £14 out of benevolence, and promised 'to consider of him better, if the bell hold and be better liked of than it is now.'

As time went on Wright's bell was not 'better liked of.' The parish was proud of its bells, and the new tenor spoilt the ring, so in the following year, 'upon further advice of the parishioners,' the vestry 'agreed that our bell Rus shall be new cast.'

The work was entrusted to Robert Mot, who was making a name as the leading bell founder of his time, and establishing the reputation of the famous Whitechapel firm. On November 8th the bell was taken to Mot's house and there weighed, and two days later an agreement was signed for the recasting. When the new bell was ready the churchwardens and other leading men of the parish went to Whitechapel to view it, and they took with them a musician to sound the bell.

Everything seems to have been done this time to ensure that the tenor should be in tune. The 'waites of the city' 'took pains to take the note of our bells and to go to Mr. Motts to take the note of the new bell then cast,' for which they received eighteenpence; and a shilling was paid to 'a company of other musicians to take a further note of the same bell.'

It rather looks as if the parish refused to accept the first bell cast by Mot, for it was inspected on the first of December, 1588, and it was not until the twenty-second of the following June that Mot was paid £17 17s. 'for the new tenor bell called Rus which was last cast weighing 33 cwt. 42 lbs.; and not until July 25th that the trial was made in the steeple, when the ringers received three shillings and fivepence.

In the year 1598 Rus was again broken. The vestry had lately spent a lot of money on the bells, and when a motion was made for the new casting, it was decided 'to rest awhile and use it as it is until we see further

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

(Continued from previous page.)

occasion.' But a cracked Rus was a disgrace to the parish, and so at a vestry holden on February 2nd, 1598, it was agreed that 'Mr. Mott shall have for the casting of the bell, £18, hangst and set up and taken down all at his charges.' When the new bell was hung in the tower with the others it proved a failure, and on the first of November it was agreed 'that it shall be notified by the churchwardens to Mr. Mote that the bell is not according to his agreement, neither in weight nor goodness and therefore they will have a bell in the place or else have his bond.'

Mot had to submit and undertook to supply a new bell, and so on August 29th the vestry decided that he should hang it up in the tower, but if it did not agree with the rest of the bells to the liking of the parish then he should have forty shillings to cover the cost of taking it down, and should go on casting until he did produce a bell that should satisfy the parish.

The broken bell weighed 33 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs., the bell finally accepted in its place weighed 30 cwt. 3 qrs. 28 lbs., so from the contract price of £18, £7 19s. 2d. was deducted for the difference of metal and £1 0s. 4d. added for the cost of a new clapper. That made the amount £12 1s. 2d., 'and we are content to make it up to £13 by reason he casted it so often.'

That is the story as told by the St. Michael's parish records. Robert Mot's final tenor and all the rest of the ring perished in the Great Fire of London in 1666. How, then, did it happen that the tenor of Westminster Abbey bears the inscription which quite certainly belonged to the tenor at St. Michael's, Cornhill?

The answer is not a difficult one. At the same time Mot was working for St. Michael's he was doing work for the Abbey. He had just recast the third and the fifth there, and when a new tenor was wanted, instead of recasting the old bell, he took one of the rejected by St. Michael's and used that. No doubt the Dean and Chapter were less critical and more easily satisfied than the City parish. But it was not a good bell. Laughton heard it in 1734, and says it was 'dull and melancholy.' It was recast in 1738 by Lester and Phelps and the inscription, copied more or less from the first Rus of all, was reproduced.

The inscription on the present bell says that it was new cast in July, 1599, and in April, 1738. The St. Michael's vestry agreed to give Mot the order for a bell in February, 1599, and on November 1st the churchwardens were ordered to notify him that the bell was not according to contract and to demand a new bell which he, in course of time, supplied. It was fortunate for him that he was able to use the rejected bell for the Abbey, for his transactions with St. Michael's can have brought him little financial profit. The present tenor at the Abbey was never hung anywhere else, though it is often said that it came from Cornhill.

Throughout the seventeenth century the ring, as left by Robert Mot, hung in the unfinished Abbey tower. A manuscript, dated about 1685, by W. Boghurst, says, 'Of Bells in ye Abbey Steple 6 belles, ye biggest is 5 yards in compas wanting 2 inches.'

In the early days of the eighteenth century extensive repairs to the whole church had to be undertaken, with

Sir Christopher Wren as architect. Wren wished not only to complete the western towers, but also to add a central spire, and a wooden model made to his designs is preserved in the Abbey museum. His actual work, however, was confined to thorough repairs to the vaulting and the practically entire recasing of the exterior.

William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple in 1734, and he wrote his impressions of it. He said that 'they are about to case and raise the towers above the roof if they can find money enough.' It was strange that for such a space of years they should have stood unfinished. The bells were an ancient peal of six, the fifth ranting and jolly, the tenor dull and melancholy, and some of the other bells very dull and as bad as the tenor. But when the towers had been raised higher they were to be recast and made into a ring of ten.

The Ramblers rang 720 changes of Plain Bob and eighteen-score of College Single. They attempted Treble Bob, but the fifth rope broke. Until the bells were put in order, Laughton declared, he did not intend to go there again.

Most likely that was the only change ringing done on the bells for many a long year, but they were regularly rung, for there was plenty of paid ringing.

(To be continued.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BATLEY.

The May meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Batley on May 29th. Method ringing started at half-past three with Bob Major and continued, except for a break for tea, until 7 o'clock, when the business meeting was held. Other methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, Superlative Surprise and Stedman Triples.

The ringing, on the whole, was good considering that the majority present had not had the privilege of ringing anything other than Doubles and Minor at their own towers.

At the business meeting members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Rothwell and the local company, as well as Bbr. Woolley and Pte. R. Davison, of H.M. Forces.

One new member, Pte. R. Davison, was elected.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Batley and the local company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, who referred to the unexpected pleasure of open ringing at meetings. Mr. T. W. Strangeway seconded.

The next meeting will be jointly with the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association at Shipley on June 19th.

DEATH OF MUCH HADHAM RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank Miles, who passed away suddenly on May 19th. He had been a ringer at St. Andrew's, Much Hadham, for fifty years.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MALINS LEE.

About thirty members attended the meeting of the Shropshire Association at Malins Lee on May 29th. Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Little Bob and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were rung on the six bells, and a fair use was made of the handbells.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, and Mrs. Hobbins played the organ. At the meeting eight new members were elected, two from Malins Lee and six from Coalbrookdale, all young people.

An excellent tea was provided and served by the local ringers, their wives and friends.

WINCHESTER.—At 6, Cathedral View, 720 Grandsire Doubles, six different callings: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice 3-4-5-6.

BLACKPOOL.—On Sunday, May 23rd, in St. John's belfry, a quarter-peal of Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Major, 1,292 changes: *John H. Crampion, R.A.O.C. 1-2, Harold Chant, R.A.F. 3-4, *Arthur Hague 5-6, †Thomas W. Lewis, R.A.F. 7-8. *First quarter-peal of 'Spliced' in hand. †First quarter-peal of Major in hand. A birthday compliment to Mr. W. Lewis, father of the ringer of 7-8.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir, — In 'The Ringing World' for May 28th, Mr. A. C. Webber asks for hints on chiming. This, I think, would be interesting, as at the present time there is no doubt there will be more chiming than ringing owing to the scarcity of ringers.

Like everything else, this becomes easy with practice, and it seems to me that is all there is in it. But tune playing may be different. I do not think ringers as a rule take much interest in chiming. I was told by a Devonshire ringer that it did not matter much about chiming. But there are plenty of the general public who would rather hear chiming than ringing.

Tune playing is one thing at home and another in the belfry. I find it easiest to number the tunes up the scale, tenor being 1 and always 1. Tunes cannot be played from a hymn book, as a tune may be written in three sharps or flats, and the bells may be in C. So my advice is try a tune on the white keys only. If it goes below C, as many tunes do, or above the treble on 6, 8, 10 or 12, leave it alone.

Some of our best tunes cannot be played on an ordinary octave. Take hymns A. and M., 'Fight the good fight,' 'The King of Love' and 'Alleluia, sing to Jesus,' cannot be played. In the English Hymnal these hymns are set to Duke Street, St. Columba and Hyfridol, all good tunes, and there are many others.

Time is very important. I heard 'God moves' being played with a break between the lines, which was wrong. This tune, like many others, starts on the fourth beat, the first and second lines being played as one line then three beats on the last note. Third and fourth lines as one, three beats on the final note. The fourth starts the next verse. 'Conquering Kings' and many others are altogether different. I mention this for the benefit of those who do not understand music as written.

I hope someone will add to this. I should be pleased to help anyone who requires it in my own way.

F. SMITH.

16, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

CRANFORD.—On Sunday, May 23rd, at the Church of St. Dunstan, for the patronal festival, 720 Bob Minor: A. A. Hughes 1, H. Belcher 2, Mrs. J. Thomas 3, J. Thomas (conductor) 4, F. G. Baldwin 5, W. H. Coles 6. The first 720 on the bells.

NETHERTON.—On Saturday, May 29th, 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor: Andrew Round 1, Harry Hill 2, Alfred Davies (conductor) 3, Harold J. Shuck 4, Thomas Townsend 5, Sergt. Stanley Prestidge, R.A., 6.

WEDDING OF MR. REGINALD DARVILL.

On Saturday, June 5th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, the wedding took place of Mr. Reginald Darvill and Miss Kathleen West. The bride wore a white satin dress and carried a bouquet of yellow and pink roses. There were two bridesmaids dressed respectively in pink and blue. The Rev. K. Davis (Swindon) officiated, and Mr. Frank Lufkin (Southend) was the best man. This was the first wedding in the city at which bells were rung since the removal of the ban. The local band was assisted by several of the guests (including Miss Edna Bedford, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Botham and Mr. E. Hartley). Touches of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal and Stedman Caters were rung before and after the ceremony, as well as rounds by learners who had been taught recently by the bride and bridegroom.

The reception was held afterwards at 34, Holywell Hill, at which about 60 of the many guests who had been at the church spent a most enjoyable time. Handbells were rung calling forth much appreciative comment from the non-ringing guests. The bridal couple left afterwards for a honeymoon in London and Gloucestershire.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WOOLTON.**

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association held at St. Peter's, Woolton, on June 5th, ringers were present from Liverpool, Southport, Ormskirk, Halsall, Waverton, West Derby, Huyton, Sefton, Farnworth, Childwall, Halewood, Garston and the local company.

The tower bells were made good use of before and after the meeting. Mr. T. Hesketh presided, and apologies were read from the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Messrs. P. W. Cave and T. R. Butler, the latter being in hospital recovering from the effects of a serious operation. Reference was made to the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Howson, for long warden of the Liverpool Guild.

A letter was read from Mrs. Gardner thanking the members for their letter to her on having heard that her husband, Mr. J. W. Gardner, of Halewood, was safe although a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

Nominations were made for association and branch officers, which will come up for election at the meeting at Halewood on July 10th. The meeting expressed appreciation of the efforts of members of both Houses of Parliament to have the ban completely removed. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and providing tea.

The secretary informed the meeting that permission had been given by the Dean for members to visit the tower of Liverpool Cathedral on January 26th.

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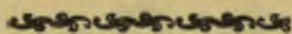
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. George Williams tells us that the peal of Stedman Caters at Winchester Cathedral in 1914 was not a Central Council peal, as the ringers of the seventh, eight and tenor were not members. It was rung on the occasion of the visit of the Council to Winchester. The mistake was not Mr. Williams'.

Mr. F. E. Pitman, of Bromley, has had to go into hospital and does not expect to be able to do any ringing for two months.

Last week a paragraph in Mr. Ernest Morris' articles on Twin Towers was printed out of its correct place. This week it reappears in its right context.

Mr. James George is now living at 9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

The anniversaries of three long lengths of Treble Bob Major fall in this week. On June 6th, 1892, a band, made up from Ipswich and East Suffolk, rang Thomas Day's 16,608 in the Oxford Variation at Debenham. Mr. Frederick Tillett, who rang the tenor, and Mr. Robert Brundle, who rang the fifth, are happily still with us. James Motts conducted.

On June 8th, 1906, at Mottram in Cheshire, a new record was set up by ringing 16,800 changes in the Kent Variation. The composition was by Edwin Timbrell and was a fine performance, but the quality of the ringing did not escape criticism.

It was also at Mottram on June 10th, 1922, that 18,240 Kent Major was rung. Here, too, there were reports of false ringing, but any discussion of them was rendered superfluous when it was discovered that the composition itself was false.

The first peal of Wymondham Bob Major was rung by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild on June 6th, 1937.

The first peal of Manchester Surprise Major was rung at Norbury on June 7th, 1934; the first peal of St. Bleise Surprise at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on June 8th, 1927, and the first peal of Rochester Surprise at Leiston on June 9th, 1924.

Squire Proctor and his band rang 6048 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at Bennington on June 9th, 1855. It was the first time that the extent of the method with the tenors together had been accomplished.

On the same date in 1883 the last peal on the old ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, was rung. At one time those bells were generally esteemed one of the best rings in the country, but opinions change and standards alter. It was no longer considered safe to ring in the steeple, and bells which sound well when rung do not always sound well when chimed. The old ten were therefore replaced by a chime tuned on modern principles.

John Carter called the first (and, we believe, only) peal of Handsworth Major, at Handsworth, on June 11th, 1910.

Two years later, on the same date, the Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Little Bob Royal on handbells.

A definite stage in the development of peal ringing was reached on June 11th, 1927, when Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of Spliced Surprise in the four standard methods. It was at Warnham, and John S. Goldsmith was in the band.

The first peal of Irthlingborough Surprise Major was rung at Irthlingborough on June 11th, 1932.

The Birmingham men rang a peal of Grandsire Maximus at St. Martin's on June 12th, 1815. They thought it was the first in the method, but it was not.

ALL SAINTS' ISLEWORTH.

BELLS AND BELFRY SAVED.

As we announced last week, the Church of All Saints, Isleworth, was completely destroyed by fire during the night of Friday, May 28th. We are glad to hear that the tower with the bells and ringing chamber are unharmed though badly blackened.

The building was well alight before a passer-by, between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., saw the flames and gave the alarm to the fire station.

By the time the brigade arrived the whole building was so enveloped in flame that it was not possible to save it.

Efforts were concentrated on the vestry, and under great difficulties the parish registers were saved though scorched, and the valuable Communion plate was also got out unharmed except for blackening.

The fire-fighters were able to pump plenty of water from the river, but even so late as 10 o'clock in the morning firemen were still playing on the pile of ruins. The large quantity of woodwork provided plenty of fuel for the flames.

Only the walls are now left standing. The beautiful stained-glass windows, of which there were many, have gone, and some of the valuable marble memorial tablets to old inhabitants, some of them well-known personages, are cracked with the heat and blackened, while the war memorial chapel was destroyed as the galleries fell.

The fine old organ, a Father Green instrument, has also gone. The flames, once they got hold, were well fed, and the blaze was visible for many miles round.

Following inquiries by Scotland Yard, two boys appeared before a juvenile court accused of causing fires in churches in the Hounslow district.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Leeds on Saturday, May 1st, and was attended by some 40 members and friends. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. Lewis, J. W. Addison and F. W. Dale.

As no invitations had been received, it was decided to try and arrange the next meeting on September 18th, the venue being left for the officers to decide upon.

The President announced that the printers had not been able to complete the printing of the annual reports, but as soon as they came to hand supplies would be despatched to the district secretaries. Copies of the committee's report and the balance sheet were available.

Presenting the committee's report, the President said it was another war-time report, and to economise paper certain items were omitted. Regarding membership, the position was far better than might have been expected, the number of fully paid up members being higher than in the previous year. Actually, the membership now stood at 1,127. Two honorary members and five ringing members had been elected.

LOSS BY DEATH.

Twenty members had passed away. Special mention should be made of George Barraclough, of Leeds, who was one of the original members of the association, and had rung peals with their first president, the late Jasper W. Snowdon; Albert Nash, of Rotherham, and Arthur Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, both not only accomplished ringers, but very loyal members of the association. They took part in and Albert Nash conducted the peal of 10,800 Surprise Minor in 15 Surprise extents, which was rung at Rotherham Parish Church on January 1st, 1931, and which remains the record length of Minor by the association. John Flint, of Bolsover, had been very closely connected with the association for many years, and was one of the pioneers of Surprise ringing. John S. Goldsmith was a household name among change ringers, and the Yorkshire Association would be behind none in acknowledging the debt owed to him for all he had done for the Exercise and in particular for his editorship of 'The Ringing World' for so many years. F. E. Dawe, of Woking, had been a member since 1880 and was associated with their first president. Throughout his life he had been a most active and enthusiastic exponent of the ringing exercise.

Three general meetings had been held during the year. The annual meeting was at Leeds, as being the most central place. The June meeting took place at Selby, where the association was glad to make the acquaintance of the new Vicar, Canon A. E. M. Glover. The autumn meeting was at Barnsley, and two important business items were transacted. It was decided to change the financial year to coincide with the calendar year, and a new rule was made enabling permanently disabled members to become honorary members of the association, if accepted by the committee and by the members at a general meeting.

PEAL RINGING.

The peal secretaries' report showed that 20 peals had been rung between October 1st, 1941, and December 31st, 1942, and the variety was very encouraging. The checking of peal compositions rung by the association was progressing and nearing completion. Nearly 2,000 had been proved and a further 11 false ones had come to light.

The committee desired to express the debt of gratitude the association owes to Mr. W. Barton for his report and undertaking the gigantic task of proving all the peal compositions rung by the association. It entailed a vast amount of labour and a very high degree of skill.

The balance sheet showed a gain of nearly £28. The total assets of the association now stood at £385 6s. 4d. This result was most satisfactory, and the committee desired to place on record their gratitude to the treasurer.

The committee's report was accepted on the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall. Mr. G. Horner moved and Mr. F. Cryer seconded that the balance sheet be accepted. This was carried. Moving a vote of thanks to the treasurer, Mr. E. Hudson paid tribute to the painstaking manner in which he had fulfilled his office. This was seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall and carried. Moving a vote of thanks to the hon. auditors, Mr. P. J. Johnson said that in these extremely busy days it was difficult to find people who were able and willing to devote the time necessary for the purpose, and their best thanks were due to Mr. Talbot and Mr. Sherwood. This was seconded by Mr. D. Smith and carried.

(Continued in next column.)

SUFFOLK GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on May 8th, and was attended by members from Ipswich, Grundisburgh, Ufford, Rushmere, Sudbury, Lavenham and Mistley. Mr. C. J. Sedgley presided.

Mr. C. E. Fisher, the treasurer, presented his accounts, which showed a credit balance of £14 4s. 4d. and total assets of £54 7s. 5d. The three representatives on the Central Council were re-elected—the Rev. H. Drake, Mr. C. J. Sedgley and Mr. S. H. Symonds.

During 1942 the following members had passed away: F. J. Smith (St. Mary-le-Tower), J. Smith (St. Margaret's, Ipswich), G. Whiting (Helmington), W. G. Crickmer (Earl Soham) and E. Rivers (Sproughton).

The trustees of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson's gift of handbells reported that 15 had been lent to Mr. C. W. Pipe, of Grundisburgh, and 13 to Mr. C. E. Fisher, of Ufford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT RAINHAM.**

A meeting of the Kent County Association, arranged before the total lifting of the ban, was held at Rainham on Sunday, May 30th, and was attended by no less than fifty members and friends.

Ringing began at 3 o'clock, and at 4 o'clock the ringers' service was conducted by the Vicar of Rainham. The collection, amounting to £1 9s. 6d., was appropriated to the Rainham 'Wings for Victory' effort.

A first-class tea was kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. C. Belsey and family in the Church Hall.

At the meeting which followed reference was made to the loss by death of the following members: W. Haigh, Gillingham; W. Lane and F. Ring, Swanscombe; F. Belsey, Chatham; J. Harris, Haling; W. Hunt, Rochester; H. Poulter, Gillingham; J. Atkins, Frindsbury; and G. Ambrose, Milton, Gravesend.

The next quarterly meeting which it was hoped to hold in July, was fixed for Tunstall.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

In reply, Mr. F. G. Sherwood said that the task had been made very simple and straightforward by the careful manner in which the treasurer kept his accounts.

Mr. H. Lofthouse moved the re-election of Mr. S. F. Palmer as treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. S. Briggs and carried unanimously. In reply, Mr. Palmer thanked the members for their continued confidence and support, and said that he would do his best to maintain the traditions of the association.

Reporting that the General Committee had unanimously re-elected Mr. W. Barton as peal secretary, the President spoke of Mr. Barton's skill and qualities and again drew attention to the great debt owed to him. Mr. Barton said that he regretted he had had to reduce the peal totals of some members, but he had largely completed the work of proving and he hoped all the false ones had been found.

The President announced that the committee had considered an application for transfer to the list of honorary members from a member of the Mirfield company and recommended that the transfer be made. Mr. J. F. Harvey moved and Mr. J. Moxon seconded that the committee's recommendation be endorsed and it was carried. On the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood, Lieut. J. Hindshaw, Capt. F. F. Rawcliffe, Mrs. F. Rawcliffe, H. E. Ellis, Capt. D. H. Fender, G. R. H. Smith, the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith and Mrs. D. M. Weddall were elected as members.

The President read a letter from the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith, C.F., who had done fine work among his colleagues at Catterick, and it was unanimously agreed to send a congratulatory note to Mr. Smith.

Mr. E. Hudson moved that a letter be sent to Dr. Garbett, Archbishop of York, expressing the appreciation of the association on his efforts to secure the removal of the ban on ringing. This was seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. Barton to Canon Marshall for presiding, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson and carried with applause. Canon Marshall suitably replied.

An adjournment for tea was then made, after which those who were able to stay returned to enjoy a delightful social evening, the programme including an excellent conjuring show, musical and vocal items, interspersed with handbell ringing.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS, F.R.HIST.S.

(Continued from page 250.)

Another church with twin western towers, both different in style, is that of St. German's, Cornwall. The south tower is square, but the north tower is octagonal in its upper stages. The former contains a ring of eight bells, six cast in 1775 and two added by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1913, when all were rehung in a new steel and iron frame, this work being carried out by Mr. John Thomas. It is said that in ancient times there was a ring of bells in the north tower, but to-day there are none. Ringing here is done from the ground floor, and as the tower is 'built in' and on the corner of the church it is open on two sides, standing on these sides on two great arches, thus exposing the ringers to the view of the congregation.

The glorious Minster of Beverley, Yorkshire, has twin towers at its west end as well as the beginning of a central tower at the crossing of the transepts. Although Beverley is not a cathedral, its minster is certainly worthy to be ranked as such. Maybe some day, when our dioceses are again divided, it may have a Bishop of its own. The west front is one of the finest examples of the Perpendicular style in England, and consists of two towers flanking a large window, above which is a high gable, and, below, a deeply recessed door. Many have sung the praises of Beverley Minster, and Sir Gilbert Scott declared that 'it is the finest Gothic church in the world.' The foundation of the minster is traditionally ascribed to Lucius, the first Christian king, in the year 157, but its reliable history commences in the year 690. Soon after this, the church on this spot, dedicated to St. John-the-Evangelist, was rebuilt by St. John of Beverley, who lies buried in the nave, together with Brithunus, the first abbot. It was destroyed by the Danes in 800, and later, after rebuilding, was partly destroyed by fire in 1188. From this time the present stately structure dates, and occupied about 200 years in reconstruction.

Of the early bells, it is stated in 'Beverlac,' by S. Poulson, 1829: 'A.D. 1050. Kinsius, Archbishop of York, the next Prelate, who became a benefactor to the church, was a man of great austerity who walked bare-foot in his parochial visitations. He built the high tower to the church of Beverley, and placed two great bells in it.' (He gave two bells of the same mould to Southwell and two more to the Church of Stowe. . . . Drake, page 41.)

The inventory of 1552 gives, 'Item sexe belles.' There remained six until 1747, when T. Lester added two trebles and recast the then 5th bell. These bells are now replaced by the glorious ring of ten with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in C, which hang in the north-west tower, while in the south-west tower hangs the bourdon 'Great John,' weighing 7 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb., with a diameter of 7ft. 3in. Note G. In this tower also are the ancient bells, 'Peter' (the Prayer Bell), and 'Brithunus,' by Johannes de Stafford about 1330, and the inscription rings of two other bells of 1663 and 1747. The Yorkshire Association Report, describing these bells, says:—

'The reader will wonder when he reads that a bell of such a weight as this Bourdon is raised and rung with ease. The hanging of it must be truly magnificent. The tenor of the ring of ten in the north tower is something, we may suppose, like the back ten of St. Peter Mancroft

and St. Michael's, Cornhill. All the bells, as well as "Great John," are from the Loughborough Foundry, and are held to be among Messrs. Taylor's greatest triumphs.'

Wimborne Minster, Dorset, has two separate towers placed in an unusual position. The church is cruciform in plan, and one tower is in the centre, while the other, built three centuries later and containing the bells, is at the west end. The height of the central tower is 84 feet, while that of the west one is 95 feet. The length of the Minster is 193 feet, breadth of nave 54 feet, and across the transepts it is 106 feet.

The central or Norman tower, with its interlacing arches on its faces is worthy of notice. The corbels above are very quaint, one showing the head of a man gnawing a bone. Until 1686 Wimborne had but five bells, but in that year a sixth was added, and 170 years later—in 1856—they were increased to eight.

The two small bells (in addition to the peal) in one of the windows of the north wall of the western tower, upon which the military or 'jack' strikes the quarter hours in connection with the clock, having been found to be cracked, were recast in 1911 in correct harmony with the peal. The figure itself, which apparently was made in 1613, an entry in the church accounts of that year recording 'Item to one of Blandford for carving the Jacke 10s.,' was also repainted in the uniform of the Grenadier Guards of a century ago.

At the same time, i.e., in 1911, the ring was increased to ten by the addition of two trebles by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, who also recast the old bells, reproducing the ancient inscriptions. The whole were rehung in a new iron frame with all new fittings. The tenor is 29 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lbs. and the old inscription (in Latin) reads 'Mr. Wm. Loringe first made me in honour of St. Cuthberga. I was recast at the expense of the parish by Anthony Bond in the year 1629.' The original date of the bell is not known, although surmised to be about 1385, as Mr. Loringe was (according to Hutchins) one of the canons of the Minster in the 8th year of Richard II., which was 80 years before the west—or bell—tower was built, and in all likelihood it hung in the lantern—or central—tower. It was recast in 1530 and again in 1629, the last time in the garden of Henry Allen near the churchyard, where a pit was dug and furnace constructed by Anthony Bond.

The old 3rd had the apt phrase (in Latin) 'I am the least bell here but to each little one is its own charm.' On the two new trebles (also in Latin) are inscriptions to this effect, (1) 'May Lioba's bell sound forth for many years,' (2) 'We render thanks to God for the Lady Margaret, foundress of the school and benefactress of this church.'

St. Lioba, it may be noted, was the eminent Saxon saint who was educated here, and who rendered such material service to St. Boniface in the 8th century in the evangelism of Germany. Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII., originally founded the Grammar School. Her parents' tomb is of marble, situate on the south side of the chancel, and bearing the effigies of John de Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and his Duchess, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp. To the presence of this tomb, it is said, Wimborne was no doubt indebted for much of its old endowment.

(To be continued.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

CANON A. B. SIMPSON'S PAMPHLET.

(Continued from page 248.)

At the end of the quotation from Canon Simpson's book, given in our last issue, he had begun to analyse the overtones of several rings of bells in order to prove his contention that the fundamental, nominal, and hum-note were meant to be in true octaves; but, as a matter of fact, it is the exception to find a bell in which any two of them are in accord. Almost always the fundamental is the flattest of the three (irrespective of octave), the hum-note is almost always the sharpest, and the nominal generally between the two.

He goes on with his examples—

2. Take next the little peal of six bells in the church of Fittleworth, Sussex. Of these, three are new, the fourth is about fifty years old, the fifth and sixth very ancient. In each of the six, without exception, the nominal is a quarter of a tone, more or less, sharper than the fundamental. And in all but one, the hum-note is a trifle sharper than the nominal; the exception being the tenor, a very ancient bell, in which the hum-note and the nominal are in unison. Can we help feeling that the general small defection from perfect octaves is an error from a *design* which is fulfilled in the exceptional case?

3. In the tower of Eastry, in Kent, are five bells, the tenor about a ton in weight. In all these the common rule, as stated above, holds good, with the exception that in the fourth bell the nominal is a shade flatter than the fundamental—an unusual case, but still tending to confirm the theory that these notes were meant to be true octaves.

4. There is a very fine peal of six bells in the tower of Stoke-by-Nayland, in Suffolk. Every one of these, with possibly one exception, follows the same rule: the nominals, fundamentals, and hum-notes being nearly in octaves, the hum-notes being the sharpest, the fundamentals the flattest, and the nominals between the two.

5. One of the finest peals of eight in the kingdom is that at Lavenham, in Suffolk. Here also every one, with one notable exception, follows the same general rule of slightly imperfect octaves between the three principal notes; the errors in each bell being of the same kind—i.e., all the hum-notes a little sharper, and all the fundamentals a little flatter than their respective nominals. The one exception is the tenor, a marvellously fine-toned bell, which has indeed the reputation of being about the finest in England. In this the fundamental and the nominal are apparently in perfect octave—a very noticeable fact taken in conjunction with the reputation of the bell.

6. These are all instances of English bells. But, to guard against the supposition that these coincidences or irregularities are peculiar to our bells, I will mention next a peal of eight bells cast at Louvain about eight years ago (i.e., about 1887) and placed in the tower of Lower Beeding, near Horsham, in Sussex. I had an opportunity of examining these bells on their arrival in this country. There was much to learn from them, which I may hereafter refer to. But with respect to the point now before us—viz. the relative positions of the three principal tones—there was nothing to distinguish them from an ordinary English peal. There was the usual approximation to octaves, but I only noticed one

instance in which the relation was true. In the seventh bell the fundamental was a true octave below the nominal. But it was evident that this bell has been greatly altered, and I have reason to feel sure that originally the fundamental had been flatter than the nominal, as in most English bells, and as was, and is, the case with the tenor bell by its side.

7. To give one more instance, and this time of a French founder. There are four bells by Messrs. Paccard, of Annecy in Savoy, in the church of St. John, St. Leonards-on-Sea. They are remarkably good and sweet-toned, and are in much better tune with themselves than the generality of bells that I have examined. But still the same general errors are apparent. In three out of four the nominals are a little sharper than the fundamentals, and the hum-notes decidedly sharper than the nominals. In the fourth and smallest bell the hum-note and the fundamental are practically in unison, but the nominal is notably sharper than either.

If now I have carried my readers with me so far they will no longer be surprised at any difficulty they may have experienced in determining the note of any particular bell. For here we see that in the majority of bells we have three notes, very near to each other in pitch, though in different octaves, all struggling for the mastery, and each able—let me say here—under given circumstances, to assert its supremacy. Is it any wonder that even a skilled musician, if not learned in bell tones, should be in doubt as to the true note of a bell submitted to him. Is it so very surprising that 'experts' differed as to whether the note of the Gloriosa bell was C sharp or D?

I have not a doubt that the explanation of this is that the sharper tone heard was the nominal, and the flatter the fundamental: this great bell following, in this respect, the common rule which we have so fully illustrated above.

'But'—I imagine my musical readers exclaiming—'if this be so, how is it that the sounds of bells are even tolerable? Any other instrument which gave forth simultaneously, e.g., C with a rather flat C sharp above and a rather flat D below would be unbearable—and the succession of a series of bells of this imperfect character would surely produce nothing but a hideous noise.'

So one might think; but it is not so. For reasons which satisfy the learned in acoustics, the differences in quality of these sets of tones is such that they do not interfere with one another, so as to give the sense of discord which we should expect. The tones of nominals, fundamentals, and hum-notes seem to move, as it were, in three separate spheres. And though any discord between at least the nominal and fundamental in a bell cannot but seriously detract from the purity and fullness of its tone, it does not produce 'beats' nor affect the ear painfully. Consequently there are thousands of bells, having their principal tones quite out of tune with each other, which, considered individually, are good and pleasing. They might be made much better perhaps; but as long as they stand alone, no alteration is necessary in order to satisfy the ordinary musical listener. You may listen to whichever tone you like—sometimes to one, sometimes to another; all are pleasing and no one interferes with another.

But when it comes to peals and carillons the case is

(Continued on next page.)

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.**

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6 o'clock. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

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.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. — Meeting at Newhall, Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 4.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables. —J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. 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.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Long Sutton on Whit Monday. Bells from 2 o'clock. Service 3 o'clock. Bring food, tea for drinking will be provided.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck.

IPSWICH. — Whit Monday, 2 p.m., St. Mary-le-Tower, for 8, 10 and 12 bell ringing. St. Matthew's and St. Clement's for 6 bells.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

different. In order to get any really musical effect it is absolutely necessary that some one at least of the sets of tones in the series of bells should be properly in tune with itself—i.e., all the nominals in tune with each other, or, similarly, all the fundamentals, or all the hum-notes. This, it is evident, is the very least than can be attempted. And, as a matter of fact, the choice is more restricted than this; for, important as are the hum-notes—far more important, as we are prepared to maintain, than either foreign or English founders seem to think—we are quite ready to allow that, unless all three sets are to be made to move in true octaves (which is devoutly to be wished) the hum-notes must be neglected, in comparison with either of the other two.

At this point therefore—again to 'lighten the ship'—we drop all reference to the hum-notes for the present and confine our attention to nominals and fundamentals.

(To be continued.)

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, Stepney, June 20th, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Countesthorpe on June 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Tea, at King William IV., for those who notify me before June 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Southern District. —Joint meeting with Barnsley and District Society, Doncaster and District Society, and Sheffield and District Society, at Barnsley, on Saturday, June 19th. The tower bells of the Parish Church will be open for ringing from 2 p.m. to 3.15 p.m., and again from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. A room available at the Royal Hotel from 2.30 p.m. for handbells, etc. Tea at same place 5 p.m. Plain tea, 1s. 6d.; meat tea and chips, 2s. 6d.—Notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by June 16th, stating which tea. Business meeting after tea, followed by social evening.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Diss on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2. Service 4. Preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea and meeting in Coffee Tavern 4.30. Names for tea by June 12th, please.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery. — Meeting at Yatton on Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. — Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Daventry, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (approximately) 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Important: notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Nuneaton Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, June 19th, at 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at a moderate charge. Bring own sugar. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. It is hoped to provide cups of tea. Bring own food. Bus from Hounslow West to Berkeley Arms.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Colchester, on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. — L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Lavenham on Saturday, June 19th, jointly with the ringing anniversary there. Bells (8) 2.30 till 7.30.—H. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Quarterly meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and social evening to follow.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District. — Meeting at Tring on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must let me know by Wednesday, June 16th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch. — Meeting at Abbotsbury on Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30, followed service and business. Convenient train service. Notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3 p.m. No arrangements will be made for food.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at Todmorden Unitarian Church, Saturday, June 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30. Bring own food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Western Division and Leeds and District Society at Shipley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Ramble arranged to start from Church Schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) at 5.30 in Schools, only for those who send names to Mr. E. H. Simpson, 53, Fairbank, Windhill, Shipley, not later than Wednesday, June 23rd. Business meeting in Schools at 6.30 p.m.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Meeting at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th. Details later.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (12) 3. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in the Girls' School 5.30. Bring food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts, East Peckham, Saturday, June 26th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Bus service No. 7 from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. Get out at Forge Gate. Ten minutes' walk. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid. A cup of tea for those who let me know by June 22nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to Mrs. J. E. Beams,

4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, by Wednesday, June 30th.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

HIGH WYCOMBE. — Twelve bells. Practice every Monday, 7.15 till 9. Special practice on last Saturday in month, 9.30 till 9. Sunday ringing, 10.10 till 10.55 morning, 5.50 till 6.25 evening.—R. Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—Ringing arrangements: St. John's (10), 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays in morning, 2nd and 4th in evening. Practice on alternate Wednesdays, commencing June 9th, at 7.45 p.m. St. Andrew's (8), near R.A.F. Depot, 2nd and 4th Sundays in morning, 1st, 3rd and 5th in evening. Practice on alternate Tuesdays from June 1st, at 7.45 p.m.—F. G. Goodfellow and F. Corke, Tower Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Will any men in H.M. services who are in this district get in touch with Mr. T. Groombridge, Dornock Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham?

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Open practices second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. C. W. Roberts is now 5, Monkswood Avenue, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

DEATH.

BREEZE. — On May 28th, 1943, at 24, Elmside, Onslow Village, Guildford, May Gertrude, the beloved wife of Sidney Breeze, aged 51.

THE HEAVIEST RING OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—About three years ago I raised the question of the lightest and the heaviest peals of five. I believe it was Mr. Pearl Inskip who replied to say that Felmersham was the heaviest five and gave the weight of tenor as 26½ cwt. The letter of Mr. Oldham goes to bear out my own belief and that told to me by ringers at the neighbouring village of Sharnbrook once—that the tenor of Felmersham was 20 cwt.

I queried the point because I wished to know if there were a heavier five than Castle Ashby, Northants, whose tenor has always been reputed to be 23 cwt. (although the Rev. E. S. Powell in his Northants inventory states it to be 20 cwt., the same as Felmersham). Both tenors are E flat, but there is a difference of 2 inches in diameter, Felmersham being 48½ inches and Castle Ashby 50½ inches, which leads me to believe that the last named is heavier than the first. It is not possible, however, to always go on the note as a guide to weight. Now does anyone know of a heavier five than Castle Ashby?

P. AMOS.

Northampton.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—On Friday, May 21st, 720 Double Bob Minor: Pte. G. Ballard, R.A.O.C. 1-2, W. H. Barber (conductor) 3-4, E. Wallace 5-6.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 23rd, for evensong, 1,191 Stedman Caters: F. Haves (conductor) 1, F. West 2, F. H. Hicks 3, E. Markham 4, A. J. Hoing 5, R. Coles 6, G. R. Goodship 7, S. T. Goodchild 8, C. A. Smith 9, W. H. Plumridge 10.

BUSHEY.—On Friday, June 4th, at 50, Rudolph Road, 1,664 Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. J. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8.

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