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OLD CLAIMS AND RECORDS.

Among the associations, the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham holds a leading position. Not only does it possess some of the foremost and most skilful ringers of to-day, but it has a history which goes back long before the conditions existed which made most of the other societies possible. Naturally and rightly, the Guild looks upon the books which record the performances of its past members as among its chief treasures, and is jealous of anything which might impair their authority.

This was shown lately at a meeting when Mr. Albert Walker drew attention to a statement in our columns which questioned the validity of one of the claims made in the peal book, and the meeting decided that, 'until they were proved false, the Guild's peal books and the claims made in them should be regarded as true in every respect.' With this everybody will generally agree, and especially those who are particularly interested in the history of the Exercise, provided, of course, it is not in the spirit of the lady who said, "I am fully open to conviction, but I'll defy anybody to convince me!" It is related that when the Caliph Omar conquered Alexandria he found there an immense library full of books. 'If they contradict the Koran,' he said, 'they are mischievous. If they agree with it, they are superfluous. Burn them.' We do not suggest that the St. Martin's Guild looks on its peal books as another Koran, but there certainly is that tendency among the owners of old and authentic records.

To a student of history, old books and records are evidence which has to be judged and tested like other evidence. When the writers make a definite statement of fact on any contemporary matter which was within their personal knowledge, their word can generally be taken as true. But when they merely repeat, perhaps at second or third hand, what they have heard others say, and especially when they are asserting a negative, their authority is very much less. When the Birmingham men claimed that they had rung a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1820, we can believe them. But when they assert (as in so many words they do assert) that no other band had done the same, we can only believe them subject to what evidence we find in other peal books and records.

The records of the past are full of claims made by bands to have performed something for the first time, which claims can be shown to be baseless. The instances are almost too numerous and too familiar to quote. Most ringers can recall some of them. There is a board

(Continued on page 318.)

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at St. Giles', Norwich, which claims the first peal of Superlative, but the Huddersfield men had already rung one. There is a tablet at Mancroft claiming the heaviest peal of Treble Bob Major, with one man to the tenor, but several (including some six-thousands) had already been rung on the weightier bells at Spitalfields. The College Youths claimed that one of their members was the first to call Holt's Original and ring at the same time; the feat had been done four times before. The College Youths claimed the first non-conducted peal; the honour, we believe, belongs to Birmingham. So we could go on. All these claims were made in good faith, but they were baseless.

When the Birmingham men claimed to have rung the first peal of Kent Maximus they had good grounds for their claim. It was accepted by the Exercise and later passed by Jasper Snowdon, who in his day was the greatest authority on these matters. But there was, and still is, in the Cumberlands' peal book the record of three or four peals of Cumberland Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus rung in the years 1794 and 1795. At that time the Kent Variation had been introduced (it is given in the 'Clavis'), but it was not known as Kent until many years later. The Birmingham men did not call it Kent. They called it 'new.' Treble Bob.

But what did the Cumberlands ring? The peal book, of course, gives no figures of that or any other method. But the method was Treble Bob, which did not mean merely a method with a Treble Bob hunting treble. It had the ordinary Treble Bob lead-ends and the ordinary Treble Bob bob. And ordinary Treble Bob compositions were rung. What else could it have been but Kent?

Whatever we may think of this, the St. Martin's Guild can rest assured that their laurels will remain unwithered, and the prestige of their famous old society undiminished.

SIX BELL PEAL.

ALBRIGHTON, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

* On Saturday, July 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| ALBERT G. RICHARDS | ... Treble | JAMES S. WEBB | 4 |
| *ALBERT J. ADAMS | 2 | ARTHUR PRITCHARD | 5 |
| CYRIL BRETT-SMITH | 3 | JAMES FERNLEY | Tenor |

Conducted by JAMES FERNLEY.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

RADLEY, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, July 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| MISS MARGARET D. TELFORD | 1-2 | R. GORDON CROSS | 5-6 |
| JOHN E. SPICE | 3-4 | MRS. R. GORDON CROSS | 7-8 |

Composed by H. HOWLETT. Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, July 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Redrup 1, R. Buckland 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, Sgt. J. Berry (first quarter-peal in the method) 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingham (conductor) 7, Gnr. A. Ogden 8.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

ABOUT 'HUM-NOTES.'

(Continued from page 305.)

Canon Simpson has been giving his views of the lowest tone of a bell which is called the 'hum-note.' He goes on:—

And let me here say that there is a special reason why the government of the hum-note should receive the attention of founders. It has been for long a source of perplexity and vexation that small bells—such as those added to a peal of eight to make a peal of ten—are apt to behave in a very erratic fashion, appearing to sound much sharper than they were intended to be, or were believed to be. I am satisfied that, in most cases, the secret of this apparent anomaly lies in the fact that in these bells the hum-note is (for reasons not far to seek) excessively powerful, and, being (as usual) sharper than the nominal, overpowers that note, and takes the field, thus giving the result complained of. The cure is—to flatten the hum-note till it is in unison with the nominal, when, I believe, the dissonance will disappear.

If, as I have suggested, this may be done by casting such bells a little longer, a double advantage will be gained. Not only will the harmony be (so far) perfected, but the additional length of these upper bells will render them far more convenient for ringing with other large bells.

These are points, however, which can be easily settled by any bell-founder; and should they turn out as I suggest, the whole problem will be solved; and thenceforward, no founder ought to permit at least any large clock bell to leave his hands which has not its hum-note, fundamental, nominal, third, and perhaps fifth, in harmony.

I know of no such bell at present. Who will be first in the field to produce it?

But although I do not know of any completely attuned bell I should wish to do justice to modern founders; and I am bound to say that, as a rule, the bells produced nowadays by our best founders are more nearly in harmony than are the majority of our old church bells; especially is this the case with large bells:

A remarkable instance of this may be heard any day by dwellers in London. I refer to the Great Bell of St. Paul's Cathedral. This bell, weighing nearly seventeen tons, hangs in one of the western towers and is rung every day at 1 p.m. Its position in the tower, sunk as it is so much below the orifices, is very unfavourable to its carrying power, and to the even development of its tones. Nevertheless, it can be heard very well from any point of the space round Queen Anne's statue.

I have tested this bell, so far as my instruments would permit, with the result that I have found all the tones so far in perfect accord; i.e., the fundamental and the nominal are in true octaves, each being a true E flat. The tone next above the fundamental is also in perfect tune with it, but with this peculiarity—that the note instead of being a third above the fundamental is a fourth, i.e., A flat instead of G or G flat. This is a pity, and the more so that, from the position of the bell in its tower this tone is heard in undue proportion to the others. Nevertheless, the general effect is musical and very pleasing.

The hum-note of this great bell was too deep for a scientific test by any instrument within my reach, but it appears to be in complete unison with its fundamental.

Altogether the bell is a very noble specimen of modern English bell founding.

Since writing the above I have met with two more bells which appear to me to be in perfect tune as to their three principal notes. (1) The tenor of the church of Handsworth, near Birmingham, which seems to have also its third and fifth in perfect tune, though not otherwise a remarkably good bell. And (2) the old sanctus bell of Chichester Cathedral. An interesting bell, if only from the fact that it fell with the spire in 1852, and was recovered uninjured.

There still remains one very important matter to be considered, which has already, no doubt, suggested itself to those who have had the patience to read these papers. 'How,' it will be asked, 'are we to discriminate with accuracy, all these various tones, so as to be able to compare them, and note the various degrees of error?'

This is a most pertinent inquiry, for unless this can be done, I am confident that any knowledge of the methods of altering these several tones will be practically useless. And more, had I not possessed some method of eliciting each tone separately, I should never have attained what knowledge I have on this subject. The method I have used for about 20 years, I am aware is not unknown to others; but as far as I am concerned it is my own invention, quite effective, and very simple to those who know how to use it.

But it is not merely a piece of information to be imparted by words, but rather an art to be learned; and I am somewhat unwilling to risk the probability of its being pronounced a failure by those who, acting on a mere verbal description, should make nothing of it.

I will only say that the principle of it is that known as vibration by sympathy, it being a fact that any note of a bell can be elicited separately by touching the bell with the stem of a vibrating fork which is of the same pitch as the note in question.

I think that few are aware of the value of this little experimental fact, and it is not everybody who would have the patience and skill to apply it successfully. If my services were desired, by founders or others, for such guidance as I could give, I would try and arrange with them, and I can promise to founders a most valuable help in their difficult work, and to any lover of music a fruitful source of interest and pleasure.

SIMPSON'S APPENDIX.

At this point Canon Simpson ended the second of his two articles in the 'Pall Mall Magazine,' but when he published them in book form he added an appendix in which he went in greater detail into the question of hum-notes. Here it is:—

That the subordinate notes in bells are not true harmonics of the principal note is manifest at once to the ear.

On the other hand, if the various tones are respectively in any degree the special products of distinct parts of the bell, it is clear that—all the parts being in rigid connection with each other—no tone can be absolutely independent of the rest. In other words, it would seem impossible that any one tone in a bell could be altered without affecting (in however small a degree) the whole system.

But these unintentional alterations of tone may be very slight, and even inconsiderable.

(Continued on next page.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

If, then, it can be determined in the case of each separate tone the particular part of the bell of which it is (mainly) the product, it may be possible so to alter the particular parts as to bring (if required) the various tones into harmonic relations, and therefore to cast a future bell with those relations correct from the first.

The Abbé Bachman, who represents the Louvain Foundry, writes thus: 'A bell must be considered, theoretically, as a series of superposed rings—at superposed metallic zones, vibrating separately, and producing each its own tone, according to its diameter, and in proportion to its thickness of metal; a slight alteration in these elements in the curve of the bell has influence on the height of its tone.'

He means undoubtedly by this that the sound-bow is the zone which produces the fundamental. The lower waist is the zone which produces the third. The upper waist is the zone which produces the fifth. And (I suppose) the crown is the zone which produces the octave or nominal.

And there is no doubt that, to a great extent, he is right. For there is no question that, as regards the first three of these, the reduction of the metal on these zones does lower the pitch of these tones respectively.

But if the relative thickness and diameter of these zones govern the fundamental third and fifth, what parts of the bell are left to which we can refer the government of the nominal and of the hum-note?

Now as regards the nominal, I cannot but think that, like the fundamental, it is the direct product of the sound bow—under the restraint, no doubt, of other portions of the bell. At any rate, what sharpens the nominal (if anything) sharpens the fundamental, and what flattens the fundamental flattens also the nominal. At the same time it is noticeable that both sharpening and flattening of the nominal—the former exclusively, the latter slightly—can be effected by restricting our operation to the extreme zone of the bell, viz., to that part extending beyond the circle of percussion to the lip.

It seems, then, that the tone of this highest note has some special connection with this extreme zone.

Is it possible that the deepest note—the hum-note—should be specially related to the other end of the bell—the crown? For we cannot help enquiring, 'Where is its habitat?' Of what part of the bell is the hum-note the special product? Or (which is the practical point we are aiming at) what part (if any) of the bell must we operate upon in order to alter the pitch of the hum-note so as to bring it into true relation with the other tones, if necessary?

Now it has long seemed to me that the hum-note is, in some special sense, the note of the whole mass of the bell. I have been led to think this (1) partly because no special part of the bell remained unappropriated to

which we could refer it; (2) partly because this note is so much deeper than the fundamental, which is certainly the product of the principal part of the bell—the sound-bow; (3) partly because I observed that if the bell frame receives a jar, thus causing a general tremor of the bell without the special excitement of any part, it is the hum-note which is elicited.

Such being the direction of my thought, it was with great interest that I read the following observation by Helmholtz: 'The body of the bell, when struck, gives a deeper sound than the sound-bow, but the latter gives the loudest tone.'

Helmholtz is certainly here speaking of the hum-note, which he attributes to the 'body of the bell'—i.e., to the whole mass of the bell-proper.

Then, further, I have often observed that in ordinary tuning-forks there are notes which curiously correspond with the hum-notes, and fundamentals (or nominals) in bells.

Thus, if any fork is held lightly in the hand by the stem, and is struck sharply with a hard substance, about the middle of either limb, it gives out a very high and piercing, though sweet, note, quite different to that emitted by the fork when, being in a state of excitement, the stem is pressed upon the table. The 'striking' note disappears almost immediately—like the nominal in a bell—but the lower note—like the hum-note—continues persistently.

It seemed to me, then, that in the low persistent note of a fork we have something analogous to the hum-note in a bell, each being the lowest note produced by a vibrating instrument, and each, apparently, the product of the whole body of the instrument proper.

My next thought was that a bell might be considered as generated by the revolution of a fork of peculiar shape—i.e., that of a vertical section of a bell—the stem being supposed to be attached to the centre of the crown, and the question arose, 'Could not the pitch of the hum-note of a bell be governed in some such way as the corresponding note of a fork?'

Now, as the hum-note is (almost) always too sharp, we need only consider the case of having to flatten it. Referring then to the analogous case of a tuning fork, we know that this can be flattened—

1. By weakening the limbs of the fork near to where they spring from the stem.
2. By lengthening the limb of the fork, which may be done by working a file down into the cleft of the fork.

The analogous operations to these in the case of a bell would be—

1. To pare out metal all round inside the bell near to the points (or circle) where the body of the bell unites with the crown; or
2. To recast the bell longer in the waist, the other elements remaining the same.

My suggestions in the second paper are the result of this train of thought.

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The reasoning is, no doubt, open to criticism, but that the conclusions to which it led me are correct I have little or no doubt.

Neither process can well be tried except by founders or those who have special apparatus. The first has been tried and, I believe, with success.

As to casting bells longer, it is well to know that bells are hardly ever now cast so long in proportion to their width as was thought correct at one time. But there still exist a few of these 'long bells.' I know of but two—one a very small bell in Egdean Turret, and the other is the Sanctus bell of Chichester Cathedral, mentioned above. It is remarkable that in both these bells the hum-note is in unison with its fundamental, whereas in the case of almost every 'short bell' the hum-note is, as we have abundantly seen, too sharp.

One cannot help suspecting that this almost universal sharpness of the hum-note is the unintended and unobserved result of shortening bells for the sake of convenience in ringing.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF WILLIAM J. REECE.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

The death is announced of Sergt. Navigator William J. Reece, R.A.F.V.R., who was killed during operations on June 30th.

He was a member of the band at Staunton-on-Arrow, Herefordshire, and of the church choir. He learnt to ring at the age of ten, one of five schoolboys, all of whom are now serving in H.M. Forces. He was a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild and had taken part in 22 peals, the first at the age of 14. His first as conductor was on his 16th birthday. He was 20 years of age.

His list of peals was: Doubles, one method 6, conducted 1; two methods 3, conducted 1; three methods 2; four methods 3; five methods 2; Bob Minor 4; Grandsire Triples 2. A memorial service was held in Staunton Church.

THE LATE WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES.

FUNERAL AT CHISELHURST.

As already announced, Mr. William J. Jeffries, a well-known Kent ringer, died on July 3rd after an operation at the Farnborough Hospital.

The funeral was on Thursday, July 8th, at Chiselhurst Cemetery, and was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Bartle, Vicar of Sidcup. The widow was too unwell to be present, but the family were represented by the daughter, son-in-law and other members. There was a large attendance of ringers, including Messrs. F. E. Mitchell, H. Hoskins, I. Emery, P. Spice, F. E. Pitman, G. Kite, E. Mounter, J. Lyddiard, T. Lamb, E. B. Crowder, H. Young, E. A. Young, F. Richardson, T. Hurrell, H. Bennington, F. Bacon and Mrs. J. E. Davis.

The Bromley ringers rang handbells over the open grave. Mr. Jeffries, who was 73 years of age, was a trustee of the Kent County Association, a senior member of the Society of College Youths and for many years was in charge of the ringing at St. John's, Deptford.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WORTH.

The death is announced of Mr. George Worth, which took place on July 8th shortly after he had celebrated his golden wedding.

Mr. Worth was elected a member of the York Minster band in 1886 and continued to be an active member until his last illness, except for the time spent on service in France during the last war.

Owing to Mrs. Worth being an invalid, the first part of the funeral service was held at the house. The Rev. A. E. Twidle, Vicar of Acomb, took the service and also officiated at the graveside in Acomb Cemetery. Handbells were rung over the grave by Messrs. Earnshaw, Rickitt, Woodcock and Steel, and the bearers were Messrs. Rickitt, Forden, Steel and Walker. The Minster ringers present were Messrs. G. Horner, T. F. Earnshaw, E. Rickitt, F. Atkinson, H. Forden, L. Woodcock, S. Steel, H. Walker and J. Douglas.

Mr. Worth was a life member of the Yorkshire Association.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES MORSE.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Morse, of Sketty, at the age of 74 years.

Mr. Morse had been a ringer for over 45 years and was captain of the local band. He had rung several peals and was a regular Sunday service ringer. Before the South Wales Ringers' Association was disbanded he held the office of secretary.

The bells of St. Paul's, Sketty, were rung half-muffled for evening service on July 11th, 1943.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Of the band which rang the peal of Minor at Albrighton on July 17th, the treble ringer came from Codsall, the second from Banstead, Surrey, the third from Crayford, Kent, the fourth from Tunstall, Kent, the fifth from Wellington, and the tenor man from Norbury, Cheshire.

Mr. J. D. Harris has completed 50 years' membership of the Portsea band. He joined the company in 1893 as a probationer. Canon Edgar Jacob was Vicar at that time. He rang at the induction and institution of Dr. Cosmo Gordon Lang, the late Canon B. R. Wilson, Dr. C. F. Garbett, the late Canon F. J. L. Southam, Dr. G. C. L. Lunt and Canon C. H. Robins, as Vicars of Portsea. His first certificate was signed by the Rev. C. M. Harvey.

The ringer of the second in the peal at Tunstall, reported in last week's issue, was starred as having rung his first peal. Actually it was Mr. George Kenward's 150th.

At Solihull, Mr. Albert Walker referred to the statement made in this column that when the Birmingham men rang a peal of Grandsire Maximus in 1815 they thought it was the first in the method, and said that no such claim is made in the peal book. We never thought there was. Our authority for what we said was Jasper Snowdon, who can generally be relied on.

On July 18th, 1798, the ring of twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, cast at Whitechapel, was opened by the College Youths with a peal of Grandsire Cinques. Thomas Blakemore conducted.

The first tower-bell peal of Cambridge Court Major was rung at Nuneaton on July 19th, 1923.

Isaac George Shade, a very well-known ringer and one of the few who have rung over a thousand peals, was killed in a road accident on July 19th, 1926.

On the same date in 1939, the Lincolnshire men, with Mr. George E. Feirn as conductor, rang at Bigby a peal of Minor in 104 spliced methods.

Mrs. Fletcher called the first peal rung by ladies, at Cubitt Town on July 20th, 1912.

The first peal of Deben Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on July 20th, 1834; and the first peal of Oxhey Surprise Major at Oxhey on the following day.

On July 21st, 1923, at Over in Cheshire, 17,280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. Mr. Robert Sperring conducted and Mr. James H. Riding rang the tenor.

On the same date in 1928, the Yorkshire Association rang the first peal of Gainsborough Little Bob Major at Tickhill.

The first peal of Edmundsbury Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on July 22nd, 1932.

William Pye called the first and only peal in eleven Spliced Surprise Major methods at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on July 24th, 1930.

Fifty years ago to-morrow the first peal of Major at Gloucester Cathedral was rung. Henry Law James conducted from the tenor, and Mr. John Austin rang the fourth.

BELLS OF ALL HALLOWS', LOMBARD STREET

According to a statement in 'The Richmond and Twickenham Times,' the ring of ten bells which once hung in the demolished Church of All Hallows, Lombard Street, and which had been offered to the Cathedral at Guildford, are to be given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the new Church of All Hallows, Twickenham, to which the fittings from the Lombard Street church have been transferred. When this church was built a covenant was entered into restricting the use of bells, and this will have to be altered by consent. The legal expenses will be paid by the parish.

There are no particular grounds for satisfaction in this decision, for it is pretty certain that the bells will never be rung. Though the stone facing of the Wren steeple at Lombard Street was replaced on the new building at Twickenham, the tower is very thin, has no buttresses, and is unsupported by the fabric of the church itself.

WATFORD RINGER AWARDED D.F.C.

For courage and devotion to duty, the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Flight Officer A. E. Dawes, R.A.F.V.R. He has been engaged in operations with both Bomber and Coastal Commands and has participated in numerous anti-submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay, and in attacks on targets such as Berlin, Stettin, Essen and Duisberg. The citation announcing the award says: 'On several occasions he has been forced to make crash landings, but these harassing experiences have not in any way diminished his enthusiasm for operational flying, and F/O Dawes remains a most outstanding captain of aircraft.'

Alfred Dawes learned to ring at Watford Parish Church in 1935 and quickly became a useful member of the band. After he left the town he rang at Southampton and in Norfolk, where he took part in a peal of Minor.

BRIDGNORTH.—On Saturday, July 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Cottrell 1, W. Hayward 2, R. C. Fowler, R.A.F. 3, T. Tyler 4, B. Head 5, W. Overton (conductor) 6, H. W. Overton 7, W. Fowkes 8. A farewell to the ringer of the 3rd.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM, GUILD.

THE SOCIETY'S RECORDS.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at Solihull on July 3rd.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, Mr. Edgar Shepherd being at the piano, and 43 sat down to tea at the British Restaurant. In the absence of the Master, Mr. A. Paddon Smith, the chair was taken by Mr. Albert Walker.

Sympathy was expressed with the Ringing Master of Solihull, Mr. Roland Bragg, who was lying seriously ill, and with his family.

Mr. Walker stated that the peal books were still in his possession, and it was for the convenience of Mr. George Fearn, who was engaged in getting out certain details from them. The Guild's wishes that they should be placed in the care of Mr. George Swann, the librarian, would be complied with shortly.

Mr. Walker referred to some items appearing in 'The Ringing World,' which cast doubt on the Guild's records. In the issue of May 14th the Editor wrote: 'When the Birmingham men rang their peal in 1820 they quite honestly thought it was the first in the method, but they were not likely to have known of the other performance.'

'We of St. Martin's Guild,' said Mr. Walker, 'do not agree. We feel sure that the members in those days would be quite aware of what was taking place in other parts of the country, for they moved about the country in the same way as we have always done. So until our records are proved false we shall claim that the peal of 7,200 rung on April 17th, 1820, was the first peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the Kent Variation.'

'Then again in Belfry Gossip of June 11th appears the following: "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." No such claim had ever been made. The peal book simply records a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Maximus. These early records are precious possessions and we are very jealous of their authenticity.'

Mr. George Swann and Mr. Frank Perrens also spoke, and it was agreed that until they were proved false the peal books and the claims made in them be regarded as true in every respect.

Mr. Arthur Hemming and Mr. John Pinfold were elected as full ringing members, and Mr. Nelson Elliott, of Crawford, Essex, as a life member.

Mr. D. T. Matkin proposed and Mr. H. Withers seconded that the next quarterly meeting be held at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, October 2nd, and this was agreed to.

Mr. W. C. Dowling referred to the loss sustained by Mr. C. T. Coles, whose gallant son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., had been killed in action, and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Coles. This was seconded by Mr. A. Walker and agreed to.

Mr. G. E. Fearn mentioned a letter from Mr. William Short regretting his absence. Forty-three years ago next September he called Mr. John Day's last peal on the bells of Solihull. Mr. Short was still hale and hearty and looked forward to coming among them on many occasions.

The next meeting of the Worcester Association will be held at Halesowen in August, and the branch secretary, Mr. Bernard Ashford, hoped that as many members of the St. Martin's Guild as possible would join them then.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Edgar Shepherd, the Deputy Ringing Master at Solihull, for making the local arrangements, proposed by the secretary and seconded by the chairman, was received with acclamation.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.

By invitation of the local band, an open meeting was held at Isleworth on Saturday, July 17th, at which 50 ringers and friends were present, including 14 members of the local company, and visitors from Hounslow, Heston, Stanmore, Hershams, Leytonstone, Brentwood, Weybridge, Egham, Croydon, Leatherhead, Epsom, Willesden, Bushey, Wembley, Westminster, Fulham, Manchester, Ipswich and Swindon.

Ringing commenced at St. Paul's, Hounslow, soon after 2.30 p.m. and continued until 4 o'clock. Tea was at the Blue School, Isleworth, and was arranged by the Church Catering Committee.

After tea Mr. Charles Wenban from Stanmore, and Mr. William Simmonds from Hershams entertained the company with some tune ringing on the handbells; this was greatly appreciated.

A welcome was given by Mrs. Rogers to the visitors, to the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson, the curate in charge of All Saints, and to Mr. G. Taylor, churchwarden. The Rev. Toole-Mackson and Mr. Taylor warmly welcomed the visitors, and said they were pleased to be with such a large gathering of ringers. Mr. Simmonds thanked the curate and the churchwarden for their welcome, and the members of the local company for arranging the meeting.

Thanks were accorded to the ladies who prepared and served the tea. Further ringing then took place on the ten bells of All Saints', Isleworth, and continued until 9.30 p.m.

Besides rounds for beginners, the methods rung throughout the day were Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal, with an attempt, though unsuccessful, for Cambridge Royal.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 336 | | 336 | |
| 234567 | | 234567 | |
| 752634 | 1 | 672453 | 2 |
| 237546 | 3 | 346572 | 1 |
| 462753 | 2 | 723654 | 2 |
| 374562 | 1 | 357246 | |
| P.L. 357246 | 1 | | |
| 504 | | 378 | |
| 234567 | | 234567 | |
| 752634 | 1 | 462375 | 3 |
| 527634 | 4 | 534762 | 1 |
| 735246 | 3 | 625473 | 2 |
| 357246 | 4 | 346725 | 1 |
| | | P.L. 357246 | 2 |

All twice repeated.

BOB MAJOR.

| | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | 352. | | 384. |
| 23456 | W B M R | 23456 | W B M R |
| 25463 | 1 — | 45362 | — 1 — — |
| 34256 | — — — | 23564 | — — — |
| 23456 | — — — | 23456 | — 2 — — |
| | 352. | | 384. |
| 23456 | W B M R | 23456 | W B M R |
| 52364 | — 1 — — | 45236 | — — — |
| 35264 | — — — | 23564 | — 1 — — |
| 23456 | — — — | 23456 | 2 — — |
| | 352. | | 400. |
| 23456 | W B M R | 23456 | W B M R |
| 25463 | 1 — | 45362 | — 1 — — |
| 45362 | — — — | 64352 | — — — |
| 23456 | — — — | 23456 | — 3 — — |
| | 352. | | 400. |
| 23456 | W B M R | 23456 | W B M R |
| 52436 | — — — | 54326 | 3 — — |
| 35264 | — 1 — — | 34625 | — — — |
| 23456 | — — — | 23456 | — 1 — — |

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

72
Call one bob on 6-7, one on 7-4, and two on 4-6. Or call the seventh 6-7 up, 6-7 down after quick, and in and out quick.

216
Call the treble out quick, in slow, last half turn, out slow, make the bob, in quick. Repeat twice.

252
Call the treble out quick, 6-7 up, 6-7 down, make bob after slow Repeat twice.

504
Call the treble out quick, last half turn, in slow. Repeat twice. The last three touches have Queen's and Tittums as part ends.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HALEWOOD.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Halewood on July 10th and was attended by ringers from Childwall, Sefton, Prescot, Farnworth, Woolton, Liverpool and the local company. The visitors were Messrs. J. C. E. Simpson, of Chester, H. Dexter, of Leicester, E. G. Coward, of Mere, Wiltshire, C. Raddon, of Grappenhall, and S. Hough, jun., of Knutsford.

A short service in church was conducted by the Rector. At the meeting the memory of the late J. Roberts, of Woolton, was honoured. Mr. S. Hough was elected a non-resident life member and Mr. J. L. Carruthers a performing member. Nominations were made for the offices of the association. Great Crosby was chosen as the place of the next meeting.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

A special meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at St. Peter's Church on July 10th. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, and was followed by tea and a business meeting, at which Mr. R. S. Cowley was elected hon. secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. C. Dean. The bells of St. Peter's were available, and ringing was enjoyed by a good attendance of members.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

AN OLD MANUSCRIPT

The idea of chiming hymn tunes on church bells is not a new one; it goes back for some centuries, though in olden times it was much restricted by the small number of bells in a ring. The earliest reference to it seems to be in a manuscript book now in the British Museum written by John Locke, who lived between the years 1623 and 1655, and was the father of Locke the famous writer and philosopher.

John Locke was a country solicitor, and his memorandum book consists chiefly of forms of licences, bonds, warrants and other legal documents, but among them are six tunes to be rung on five bells. We have not traced any of these tunes in any collection, and some of them (certainly the first) seem to have been 'adapted' to the small range of notes.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 53123434 | } The | 163 psm. |
| 431121 | | |
| 53123454 | | |
| 123245 | | |
| 53425432 | } The | 42 psm. |
| 234334 | | |
| 43243345 | | |
| 343245 | | |
| 535445 | } The | 25 psm. |
| 343245 | | |
| 43241234 | | |
| 123245 | | |
| 3435222 | } Ladies' | Hall |
| 53454 | | |
| 5435222 | | |
| 345445 | | |
| 3452145 | } Ladies' | Hall |
| 221324 | | |
| 22134145 | | |
| 132145 | | |
| 1321 | | |
| 2345 | | |
| 343543 | | |
| 21345 | | |

'MUTILATION' OF TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir—Mr. Ashford appears to have omitted a number of tunes from his list of 'A. and M.' suitable for eight bells or less, namely, 78, 109, 135, 265, 309, 534 and 569 (2nd tune). Others also omitted are duplications. No. 268 is a ten-bell tune. Mr. Fox might add to his list of six-bell tunes No. 94 ('Lord in this Thy mercy's day') and 266 ('Lead, kindly light').

With regard to the latter, tunes with the same note in a row in one line (in this case six) are not desirable, especially if played just before service commences, as they are apt to be mistaken for the five-minute or 'ting-tang' bell.

With regard to the banning of the substitution of other notes in place of accidentals in otherwise suitable tunes, I think it is a pity, as it debars such favourite hymns as 'Abide with me,' 'How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds,' etc., which I find are much appreciated in spite of their 'mutilation.' In the case of No. 76 ('How sweet the name'), the difficulty can be got over by introducing the tenor part in the last line with the melody. The transposition of the last note but one will not then be noticed.

There are also, of course, other tunes such as the two 'Holsworthy Airs,' the British Legion hymn, 'O valiant hearts,' and numerous 'secular' airs, besides carols for Christmas time. On occasion I have introduced into the programme of Boy Scout entertainments a fine set of 12 handbells, size 25 in D, and tapped tunes suitable to the particular 'show.' The effect is very striking when the sound of the music is coming from an ante-room adjacent to the main hall, and when the camp fire turn is on, with the lights turned down and the Scouts joining in the choruses with subdued voices, and with a piano accompaniment. This, by the way, has been the means of interesting the Scouts in bellringing and eventually gaining one or two probationers to the tower-bell company.

H. D. HARRIS.

Woburn, Beds.

TUNES v. CHANGES.

Dear Sir,—Tune ringing will never be a serious rival to method change ringing. At least, that is my opinion based upon the reception given by many varied audiences to the handbell demonstrations we have made in the Bournemouth district during the past three years. The tunes, provided they are well rung, are well received, but a course or touch of (say) Triples, Caters or Major will 'bring the house down.'

We have a small eight-bell carillon installed in a church near here, and I have heard many complaints about the bad chiming and poor hymn tunes. We hope to do something about it.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

SOME ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—May I offer some advice to the would-be hymn tune chimer?

He should first of all select two or three simple tunes which he knows thoroughly. They should be ones in which all the notes (as written) are of the same length, and which require to be played in fairly slow time.

There are a number of these tunes available and three will serve for examples—'We love the place,' 'Ye choirs of new Jerusalem' (Gauntlett, English Hymnal, 139), and Tallis' Ordinal, 'O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace' (E.H. 453, A. and M. 78).

The chimer should write these out by numbers plainly on a card, then hang up a set of handbells and practise each tune, going through it over and over again, using the words at the time and, if possible, singing them, until he knows that he can reproduce the tune not only accurately, but so as to express the meaning of the music and the words.

Before using the chiming apparatus the chimer should carefully adjust the ropes so that the pull is short and exactly the same for every bell. This is most important.

He should practise rounds, queens, tittums and as many other musical set changes as he knows. This should not be done haphazardly, but he should know every change he intends to chime. He should aim at accuracy, smoothness and smartness. This practice is as important to the chimer as scale playing is to the pianist.

Change ringing should not be attempted. It is an entirely different thing and outside the present subject. If the chimer wishes to chime changes he can leave the learning how to do it until he has mastered the art of hymn tune playing.

The chimer should understand his instrument and realise its capacities and limitations. He cannot vary the loudness of his music and should not try to do so. He cannot play a sustained note; he can only suggest one. For expression he must concentrate on perfect phrasing, and that, after all, is one of the most important things in music.

It is not easy. Some tunes look quite easy, but are very difficult to chime with the proper expression. Take as an example one which has been referred to in this correspondence, 'Fight the good fight.' In any case that tune is barred, because it needs notes which cannot be had on an ordinary peal of bells. I only want to use the first line as an illustration. It is 6666.67.85. The first five words are all on the same note, and all are shown of equal length, except the fourth, which is double the length of the others. But anyone who knows the tune and the words will realise that if these notes (or four of them) are given the same value, the expression and spirit of the hymn will be missed.

The chimer who can play that line really well would be worth listening to.

CHARLES GREEN.

'A. AND M.' AND 'THE ENGLISH HYMNAL.'

Dear Sir,—The references given in your columns to hymn tunes have been mainly to 'Hymns A. and M.' It is worth noting that this book in every case but one gives wrong time-versions of the older tunes. In the first edition (1861), the editors 'ironed out' all the varied rhythms into plain blocks of regular triple or common time, and the error has been perpetuated in all subsequent editions. The older and more current versions can be found in 'English Hymnal' and 'Songs of Praise'; and I suggest that these original versions should always be used when chiming.

Experience during the last 35 years in churches and cathedrals all over the country has proved how much more 'alive' these tunes are when sung from the older versions. Compare, e.g., the two versions of 'London New' (A.M. 373, E.H. 394), also 'Angels' Song' (A.M. 8, E.H. 259) and 'Les Commandements' (A.M. 201, E.H. 277). (Neither of these two latter can be chimed.) It will be found that if such tunes are chimed according to the original version, the use of the longer and/or shorter notes will give better rhythm, clearer definition and therefore greater interest to listeners.

(Rev.) A. M. SAMSON, Mus.B.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

P.S.—One reason why change ringing does not always appeal to the musical listener is that the musical rhythm and accent is generally indefinite. But this is another story.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CLERKENWELL.

Over fifty members and friends of the Middlesex Association attended a meeting held jointly with the Royal Cumberland Youths at St. James', Clerkenwell, on July 10th.

A service was conducted by the Rev. — Maxwell, assistant to the Vicar, who was away on holiday, and Mr. W. Prockson, a member of the local band home on leave from the Services, played the organ.

After tea, provided through the energies of the Misses Bailey and Prockson and other lady helpers, words of satisfaction were expressed on the effect of the joint meeting and votes of thanks were passed.

The ringing included rounds for the beginners and ranged up to courses of Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

The arrangements for future meetings are as follows: At Bishops-gate on July 31st, and at Stanmore on September 11th.

TRIPLE TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS,

As we have already noticed, there are a number of churches in England with two towers. There are some instances, particularly in cathedrals, where the church possesses three towers. The only instances I can recall in this country where there are four towers are St. John's, Westminster, and Out-Rawcliffe, near Garstang, Lancashire.

St. John's was designed by Archer, and before it was completed the fabric began to settle. A tower was therefore added to each corner to strengthen the building. The church was burnt out during one of the air raids.

The Church of St. John at Out-Rawcliffe is a small edifice of brick in Norman style which is unique. It is an oblong building with a square turret at each of the four corners, the south-west having one bell. This unconventional style of architecture was designed, it is said, from a portion of Glastonbury Abbey. With ivy covering its walls, it certainly presents a picturesque appearance, but an unromantic person is said to have compared it to a chest of drawers turned upside down. The church has no chancel, but can boast of 42 windows and a fine west door of Norman architecture.

The Church of St. James, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, is on an unusual plan, being a cruciform building on the plan of a Latin cross in the Byzantine style, of various coloured bricks and stones, and having an octagonal dome 67ft. high, rising above the intersection, and flanked by four turrets. It also has a campanile 80ft. high and 12½ft. square, containing a clock and five bells. The latter are by J. Warner and Sons, hung dead, erected in 1888, the tenor being 10 cwt.

The incomplete Church of St. Michael, Croydon, has several spired turrets and eventually will have a tower with a ring of bells, and similar instances might be noted.

On the Continent it is not unusual to see churches with many towers and spires. Thus in Germany there are five towers at Paulinzelle: St. Castor, Coblenz, and Apostles' Church, Cologne. Similarly in France there are five towers at Angoulême Cathedral, and Déols, Indre.

At Cluny, Tournai, Limberg, Speyer, Worms and Laach there are six.

Rouen, Rheims and Laon were intended for seven towers; five of them like those still surviving at Tournai were to be central. Chartres was designed for eight.

Except at Peterborough, we in England were less ambitious. Of our forty-three cathedrals, eight have triple towers, and two have triple towers with spires, not counting St. Paul's, London, which, besides its great central dome rising to a height of 363ft. (including the surmounting cross), has two western towers, each 222ft. high. To these might be added Peterborough, which, besides its central tower containing five bells, has at-

tached to its fine western portico—said by many to be the finest in Europe—on the north and south two lofty turrets flanked at the angles with clustered shafts and crowned with spires. Of the other English cathedrals, as we have already noted, Exeter has twin towers at the transept crossings. Nine have western towers; three have west towers with spires; eight have central towers; and seven central towers with spires. The ancient Cathedral of Peel (Isle of Man) is in ruins, and Bury St. Edmunds has its detached tower, already noted in these articles.

Triple towers also occur at Selby Abbey and Melbourne, Derbyshire, while the little Church of St. Martin-of-Tours, Werrington, Devon, besides having its central west tower has two smaller tower-like abutments with battlements and crocketed pinnacles, each being a small replica of the larger tower. The latter has a fine ring of eight bells by J. Taylor and Co., tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb., erected in 1898.

Melbourne, as all the world now knows since the recent broadcast, has a ring of eight bells which hang in its central tower. This magnificent specimen of Early Norman work stands open to the road without any enclosing churchyard. Besides the central tower there are two small towers at the west end, surmounted by dwarf spires. The church was given by Henry II. to the Bishop of Carlisle, who used it as a retreat when there was any fighting on the border. There were originally four old bells, the first three by members of the Oldfield Foundry and dated 1610, 1632 and 1614 respectively. The tenor was by Hedderley in 1732. In 1882 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. added a treble and tenor, recasting the old bells at the same time, and in 1887 two more bells were installed. These were all rehung in 1935, and the tenor weighs 15 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb. The ringers here stand in the choir before the chancel screen, and before commencing to ring, the stalls on either side, which are hinged, are tipped back out of the way. A number of peals have been rung here by the local company, who in days gone by rang most of the compositions of Grand-sire Triples, composed by A. E. Bames, of Melbourne, Australia. The band of tourists who went to Australia in 1934, and among other peals rang one at Melbourne there, later visited this tower and repeated the performance.

Selby, Yorkshire, is justly proud of its fine abbey and the glorious ring of ten bells. Originally five were installed by Sellers, of York, in 1710, after the fall of the tower in 1690. A treble was added to these by T. Mears, of London, in 1821, and in 1863 the octave was completed by two trebles, also by Mears, who recast the tenor at the same time. A most disastrous fire occurred on the night of October 19th-20th, 1906, which, besides doing much material damage, destroyed the bells, which fell. After the great restoration, a new ring of ten was pro-

(Continued on next page.)

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TRIPLE TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

vided from the remains of the old bells with additional metal, cast by J. Taylor and Co., with a tenor 25 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb. They are hung in an iron frame. The Restoration Committee paid for the actual casting of the old eight bells, while the difference to increase the ring to ten was collected by the ringers. On November 23rd, 1918, to mark the signing of the Armistice and in honour of the Vicar, Rev. J. Solloway, D.D., being appointed Canon of York Minster, the writer (then Sergeant E. Morris, R.A.S.C.) had the pleasure of conducting Matthews' 10-part peal of Grandsire Triples in 3½ hours.

Like many ascents to central towers, the approach to the ringing chamber at Selby is first by a spiral stairway at the end (inside) of the north transept in the left-hand corner under the north window. At the top of this stairway you come out on a narrow balcony, which takes you back to the south end of the transept, thence up some sloping steps, which brings you to the rather twisting spiral stairway of the tower proper, and so to the ringing chamber.

At the west end of the abbey are two towers with battlements and tall crocketed pinnacles.

(To be continued.)

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT STOKE.

The quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, July 17th, was well attended by members from Allesley, Birmingham, Broughton Astley, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Leicester, Manchester, Nuneaton, Rugby and Stoke.

Various methods were rung during the afternoon and evening. A service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. Ashcroft), assisted by the curate (the Rev. Gosling).

Tea in St. Andrew's Hall followed, the Rector and curate being guests of honour. The Rector was voted to the chair for the business meeting. Apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. W. Stote, and an invitation from Mr. W. A. Wood, hon. secretary of Hinckley District, to a joint meeting at Earl Shilton on August 21st. This met with approval. Wolvey and Bedworth were selected as the places of the September and October meetings.

The election of Mr. Nolan Golden, of Norwich, at the Nuneaton meeting in June was ratified.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector, the curate, Mr. R. Hayne, who had arranged the tea and the ladies who had prepared it.

Grandsire Caters, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells, Messrs. Argyle, White, Webb, Pervin, Beamish and E. and P. Stone taking part. Mr. C. H. Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Beamish rang tunes on the handbells.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TWICKENHAM.

At a meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at St. Mary's, Twickenham, on Saturday, July 17th, 22 members and friends were present from Burnham, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Egham, Feltham, Hastings, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Ruislip, Twickenham, Westminster (St. Stephen's), Willesden and Windsor. The bells were raised shortly after 3 p.m. and were kept going at intervals till about 8 p.m., some good ringing being accomplished in Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, president of the association, who invited those present to tea at St. Mary's Hall. After tea a short business meeting was held, at which the secretary read an airgraph letter from the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson, now on service in North Africa, and was asked to convey to him the best wishes of all present for good luck and a safe and speedy return. A vote of thanks was proposed to the president by the secretary for his kindness and welcome, and was carried by acclamation.

ALDERSHOT.—On Sunday, July 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: *John Rowsell 1, Harold Hobden (conductor) 2, Miss Edna Southby 3, Miss Hilda Mills 4, William Viggers 5, Maurice Hodgson 6, Cpl. L. Fox 7, *Douglas Scott 8. * First quarter-peal.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45. Service 6 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Hon. Sec., Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, July 24th. St. Stephen's bells (6) 3-4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Institute, with St. Peter's bells (10) to follow. Numbers for tea to R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting, Measham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea at 4.45. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Debenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 2.30. Teas can be obtained in the village.—W. C. Rumsey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea in Schoolroom.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sandy on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Will arrange tea if possible.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terlington St. John, Wisbech.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—All Saints' (12 bells). An open practice on Saturday, July 31st, 7 till 9 p.m. Sunday, August 1st, for service, 5.55.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 31st, 3 p.m. Tea provided. No food. — F. Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Ringing meeting at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, July 31st, at 3 p.m. No other arrangements will be made. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting of the Eastern District and the Leeds and District Society at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 2s. each, for all who notify Miss D. M. Hawley, East View, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Tuesday, July 27th. Buses leave Selby at 1.30 and 3.30, and leave Leeds Bus Station hourly at 23 minutes past the hour, and trains leave Leeds at 1.5, 2.26 and 5.13 p.m. — H. S. Morley and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Hatfield (8 bells), July 31st, at 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. Rodwell, 349, Broadway, Dunsvill, Hatfield, near Doncaster, before July 26th. Buses leave Doncaster every ten minutes. — W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Newport Pagnell Deanery. — Meeting at Olney, Saturday, July 31st, 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30, 1s. 6d. each. Numbers for tea by Tuesday, 27th. — Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Wigan Branch. — Meeting at Ormskirk on Saturday, July 31st. Bells 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. — S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch. — Meeting at Alsager (8 bells) on Saturday, July 31st. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning and Reading Branches. — Meeting at Sonning on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea (1s. 3d.). Notify Mr. E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading, by July 27th. — B. C. Castle and E. G. Foster, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch. — Meeting Boughton, Saturday, July 31st. Ringing 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Cup of tea provided.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Meeting at Pitstone on July 31st, by invitation of Mr. E. H. Lewis. Euston 1.45, due Tring 2.39. Members only. Ringing at Ivinghoe about 3 p.m. Names by 26th latest to A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION, N.W. District, and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Leatherhead District. — Meeting at Leatherhead on Monday, August 2nd. Bells during afternoon and evening. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible. — D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Worcester, Monday, August 2nd. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided 5 p.m. Bring food. Bells avail-

able at 5.30 p.m.: Cathedral (12), also handbells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6). — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgberrow, Evesham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Maidstone, Bank Holiday, August 2nd. Committee meeting 11.30. Service at 3 p.m. Tea in the Old Palace 4, followed by business meeting. Names before July 26th. During morning bells available at Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8). — Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WOODBIDGE. — Monday, August 2nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Bring own food.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5. Names before August 3rd to J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — A combined practice every Friday at Tonbridge, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WANTED, 'THE RINGING WORLD,' August 1st, 1940, clean for binding. — P. Field, Stoke Wake, Blandford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BALCOMBE.

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild at Balcombe on July 10th when ringers were present from Hartfield, Lindfield, Tunbridge Wells, Twineham, Paddock Wood, Reigate, Wadhurst and the local company, as well as Mr. Clark, of Three Bridges, a visitor from Camberwell and Mr. George Cecil, of Stepney, now living at Haywards Heath.

After a tea the business was soon disposed of. The Vicar sent a note of apology for absence, Mr. Cecil was elected a member, and Messrs. E. T. Exeter, Balcombe, and W. Clayton, Reigate, were re-elected. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. A. Laker for making the arrangements. Those present agreed that 'The Ringing World' was most interesting in these days and approved the leaders dealing with learners.

Further meetings were arranged for Rotherfield on August 21st, and Turners Hill on September 11th.

Before and after the meeting the light ring of eight were made good use of.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, July 10th, when 26 members were present from Doncaster, Eastwood, Felkirk, Barnsley, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, Sandal, Silkstone, South Anston and Sherburn-in-Elmet.

The bells were put to good service during the afternoon, and tea was served in the Church House. The vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, was chairman at the business meeting, at which three new members were elected—Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradley and Miss D. M. Hawley, all of Sherburn-in-Elmet.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, August 14th.

Further ringing followed, both on handbells and tower bells. The methods rung in hand were Bob Minor and Major and Grandsire Triples and Caters. In the tower, Bob Minor and Major, Treble Bob Minor and Major, and Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEIGH.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th, and was attended by members from Horsmonden, Benenden, Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, East Peckham and Penshurst, in addition to Mr. A. Relf (Lamberhurst), Mr. C. Bassett (Wadhurst), Mr. T. E. Sone (Paddock Wood) and two members of H.M. Forces.

Service in church was followed by tea at the local restaurant, over which Mr. W. Gibbons presided. Mr. H. Head was elected a member of the Tonbridge band; Penshurst was selected for the next meeting on Saturday, August 28th; Mr. H. Goodwin proposed thanks to the Vicar and organist, and Mr. A. Batton proposed thanks to Mr. B. Pankhurst for making the arrangements. Some members enjoyed handbell ringing in the vestry, while others kept the tower bells going in methods from Doubles to Cambridge up to 8.30.

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