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**A NOTABLE PEAL.**

There is in the Exercise to-day a considerable number of men who feel that, in these days of war, peal ringing is out of place and should be discouraged. And there is a much larger number who think that peals should not be rung for trivial and unimportant reasons, but only for special occasions and events of national and public interest. They do not object to peals being rung for the reason most peals actually are rung, and always will be rung, namely, because ringers enjoy peal ringing as the highest expression of their art; but they do think that to ring a peal for (say) the birthday of one of the ringers, or of one of his nearer or more remote relatives, is, when one considers what bells are for and how wide is their appeal, quite out of proportion.

Some such feeling there has all along been in the Exercise, and it would undoubtedly have been stronger, only that everybody was fully aware that the peal was not really rung for the purpose stated in the footnote. The public knew nothing about the matter, neither probably did most of the band. The man most nearly concerned cared little, but he happened to remember that he, or his wife, or his sister's second cousin had a birthday somewhere about the date the band had arranged to go for a peal, so why not mention it? It was all done in a pleasant and friendly manner, but it very much lowered the value of the peals rung on the comparatively rare occasions when a band really does desire to celebrate some special or national event.

For this reason we think it will be advisable drastically to reduce the number of footnotes to peals, and we hope it will have the effect of throwing into greater relief those peals which express some strong emotion or are themselves of outstanding interest.

Such a peal undoubtedly is that which was rung at Crayford last Saturday, and we are quite sure that every reader of this journal, whatever he may think of peal ringing in general, will agree that it was worth ringing, and will be glad that it was rung. For the two ringers who together completed their thousand peals there will be general congratulations. The achievement of some difficult task, some far-off aim, is always admirable, and is evidence of the possession of outstanding mental and moral qualities. And if there be those who think that peal ringing is essentially selfish, it will be a more than sufficient answer to point to Mr. Coles' career. It has needed the expenditure of much time and energy to score a thousand peals, but he still has found time and energy to be a regular service ringer, to manage the affairs of

(Continued on page 330.)

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one of the great territorial associations, and to do his full share in helping other ringers.

But that is not all. The peal had another and a very special significance. Not long ago Mr. Coles lost a gallant son, fallen with honour on the field of battle. He was not himself a ringer, but he took a great interest in his father's ringing and was looking forward to the approaching thousandth peal. It was a natural and a happy thought to ring that peal to his memory. To his memory, but not muffled. The peal was not a conventional expression of mourning. There was sorrow indeed and regret. But there was also pride and thankfulness for a noble end which, with the sacrifice others are making, will not have been in vain.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GUILDFORD, SUREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. H. EARLE BULWER'S IRREGULAR TEN-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

ALFRED H. POLLING ... ..	... Treble	ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... ..	5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... ..	2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... ..	6
NORMAN HARDING ... ..	3	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... ..	7
GEORGE E. CLODE ... ..	4	C. ERNEST-SMITH ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.		Tenor 12½ cwt.	
*CHARLES T. COLES ... ..	... Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... ..	5
WILLIAM H. HEWETT ... ..	2	REUBEN SANDERS ... ..	6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... ..	3	*JAMES BENNETT ... ..	7
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... ..	4	EDWIN BARNETT ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

\* 1,000th peal. Rung in grateful memory of Capt. Frederick G. Coles, M.O., killed in action in Tunisia, April, 28th, 1943.

## SIX BELL PEALS.

GREAT EASTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Cambridge Surprise, two of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob.		Tenor 12 cwt.	
GEORGE SAUNDERS ... ..	... Treble	GEORGE SCHLEUTER ... ..	4
FLY./SGT. WILLIAM MITSON ... ..	2	H. WALTER SMITH ... ..	5
FRANK HARRINGTON ... ..	3	J. G. JENNINGS ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by J. G. JENNINGS.

Rung to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Rev. P. E. T. Widrington as Rector.

SHILLINGSTONE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.		Tenor 16 cwt.	
PHILIP H. TOCOCK ... ..	... Treble	FREDERICK H. HART ... ..	4
WILLIAM DAMEN ... ..	2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... ..	5
D. W. CHARLES CHANT ... ..	3	WILLIAM E. TREVETT ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

### HANDBELL PEALS.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX,  
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, July 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... ..	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... ..	3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ...	7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

OXFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... ..	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... ..	5-6
*JOHN E. SPICE ... ..	3-4	†MARGARET D. TELFORD ...	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* 100th peal. † First peal of Treble Bob.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM G. YODNG ... ..	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... ..	5-6
*MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	*CYRIL F. TURNER ... ..	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

\* First peal of Major 'in hand.' First peal of Major as conductor. Rung as a compliment to the Vicar, Canon Hedley R. Burrows, upon his appointment as Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral and as Archdeacon of Winchester.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, July 25, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 15 in C.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... ..	1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON ... ..			5-6

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WEST HALLAM.

At a meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association, held at West Hallam on July 24th, there were present at least 40 ringers from Darley Dale, Ilkeston, Greasley, Duffield, Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's, St. Peter's, St. Andrew's), Alverston and Spondon, and methods rung included Grandsire, Treble Bob, Stedman, Duffield and Double Norwich as well as handbell ringing, in which Messrs. James Paget, J. Bailey, Albert Ward, Fred Gobey, William Parsons, W. Buxton, A. Mould and a visitor from Swindon took part.

Four youthful visitors from Greasley from 12 to 14 years of age delighted the ringers by their handling of the bells in rounds and 'thuds,' and as there is a fairly long draught, they are a decided credit to their instructors.

The Rector (the Rev. Lloyd-Jones) arranged tea in the Church Room, and as all had brought food the picnic spirit was much in evidence.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Melbourne on August 21st. Votes of thanks for the use of the bells and for the tea arrangements were carried.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS AT YORK.

Last week we announced the death of Mr. G. Worth, of the York Minster band. He had reached his golden wedding day on June 29th and two days later another member of the company, Mr. T. F. Harnshaw, celebrated his golden wedding. The two had been members of the band for 57 and 55 years respectively. They were of the same age within a few weeks, and both retired on the same day. Mr. Worth had learned to ring on the six bells of Bishopshill.

### THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 321.)

#### SOME RANDOM REMARKS,

Canon Simpson wrote his book with the definite object of interesting the public in the tuning of bells and of persuading founders to alter their methods of tuning. He completely succeeded in his object, and one reason of his success was the clear and convincing way in which he presented his case. He used quite simple and straightforward language, and he resisted any temptation to go deeply into technicalities and details. Throughout, he carries his reader with him, and, as we read, we feel that what he says is true to experience, so far as we have any knowledge of the matter. It is only after we have studied his book much more deeply that we realise that it raises greater difficulties for the non-expert reader than it solves.

His case, we remember, is that every bell sends forth three important and distinct tones which should be in perfect octaves, but, at the time he was writing, never were. In a ring of bells only one of the sets of these tones was tuned true, and therefore it was no wonder that bells sounded out of tune.

Most ringers know of some bells that sometimes and to some people sound out of tune, though generally they are quite satisfactory to those who are not deliberately looking for faults. There are bells which always sound wrong, but we are not referring to them.

It may happen, for instance, that on a Sunday morning a band has met short and, since they cannot ring, one of them, who knows a little of music, will chime some tunes on the Ellacombe apparatus. Then in some passage a most marked dissonance will occur and someone will say, 'I never knew these bells were so much out of tune before.' Miss Hilda Snowden, in a recent letter in our columns, referred to a somewhat similar experience.

Occasionally we hear bells which, somehow or other, do not sound right, but which puzzle the non-expert ear to say what is wrong.

At rare intervals we may be peal ringing on a heavy ring of bells when the striking and rhythm are excellent, and suddenly and, as it were, without warning, four or five deep powerful notes will boom out, and for a while overpower every other tone and take full possession of the senses. A rare and transitory experience, but striking and quite pleasing while it lasts.

The vagaries of old-style small bells are well known. The trebles of very light rings of eight and ten almost always sounded wild, nor did there seem to be any reason for it. Lord Grimthorpe, who seldom admitted that he did not know, confessed that this was beyond him, and it is probable that the founders had come to the conclusion that the production of really satisfactory small bells was not possible.

In this case the experience was universal and constant, but in the others the experience was quite rare and partial. It was only now and then that otherwise quite satisfactory rings sounded out of tune.

In referring these discrepancies to the over-tones of the bells, Canon Simpson was undoubtedly right, but the question arises: If the bells are always giving out discordant tones, why is the bad effect so seldom noticeable? Surely we should expect it to be heard always or not at all.

(Continued on next page.)

## THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Simpson himself felt the difficulty and offers an explanation. Though, he says, there are in every bell (of the old style) three notes very near to each other in pitch, all struggling for the mastery, and each able under given circumstances to assert its supremacy, yet the sets of tones move, as it were, in three separate spheres and do not interfere with each other. You may listen to whichever tone you like, sometimes to one, sometimes to another, and no one interferes with another. Much, we suppose, as one can switch the wireless from one station to another. So that if all the nominals are in tune with each other, all the fundamentals, and all the hum-notes, the bells will not sound out of tune; though unless the three sets are in tune the quality of the bells will suffer.

For this opinion Simpson claims scientific authority, and we cannot contradict him. He may be right, but it does not seem to be probable. It is, of course, true that a few men (more now than in Simpson's time) have trained their ears so that they can distinguish clearly between the various tones of a bell, and can listen, as they wish, to any one of them while ignoring the rest. A similar experience is a commonplace with everybody. A man goes into a crowded room where many people are talking. He can single out one person and can carry on a conversation with him, not paying the slightest attention to the hubbub going on around. But for this two things are necessary. The man must know what he wishes to listen to, and he must exercise will power to discriminate between one noise and another. It is not that he hears one man more than the rest; his ear takes in all the sounds impartially. It is his brain which accepts one and ignores the others.

But the average person who hears a bell knows nothing of its various tones and has no idea of making any selection between them. Yet, according to Simpson, though in a bell there are (among others) three notes all struggling for the mastery, the ordinary listener only hears one at a time. There is a mystery here, and the explanation, if there is one, is probably very complex and difficult.

Simpson was correct in saying that the tuning of continental bells differed from that of English bells. Of this we had a confirmation which is worth recalling. Years ago we had a conversation with the late John W. Taylor, who was then making the experiments which more than anything else rendered it possible to put Simpson's theories into practice. He had just had a visit from Josef Denyn, the Mechlin carillonneur, who had come to England to inspect some famous English bells. Denyn was taken to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and, when there, asked that the tenor and fifth (its octave) should be sounded together. The result made him shudder. 'Are they really as bad as that?' we asked Taylor. 'Not to my ear,' he replied. 'They are better than the average Belgian bells.'

The two men were leading experts and cannot be taken as typical of the two countries, but many Englishmen have thought the Belgian bells out of tune. To Dr. Charles Burney, the historian of music in the eighteenth century, they were 'a very disagreeable jargon.' Canon Simpson was 'struck by the apparent want of harmony in the famous carillons of Bruges and other Belgian towns,' and implies that it was a common experience with Englishmen. On the other hand, to H. R. Haweis, 'day and night in Belgium are set to music,' while in England 'the roughest possible attempt at an octave is thought sufficient, and the most discordant sequences are considered sweet and lovely.' The truth in the case of Haweis was that he had gained a sentimental affection for Belgian bell music, and his ear heard what he wished it to hear, while he judged and condemned English bells and ringing partly in ignorance, but mainly because they are not Belgian. It is only fair, however, to remember that Haweis was an excellent amateur violin player, which necessitates a good musical ear.

The chief difficulty which will strike the reader of Canon Simpson's book is how to account for the fact that before him, during the long centuries in which bells hung in English steeples, these discordances were not noticed, or, if noticed, were not thought worth bothering about. Simpson's explanation is that it was due to ignorance and neglect on the part of the public, and 'bell founders and tuners naturally do not care to take any more trouble than is necessary in order to satisfy the public.'

This explanation will not do. The founders and tuners, like every other class of men, varied considerably, but many of them were true artists who took a pride in their work and would certainly have altered their style of tuning if they had thought it necessary. But they did not think it necessary, yet they had very keen musical ears.

Nor were the ordinary people indifferent as to whether their bells were in tune or not. There is plenty of evidence to the contrary. In our account of Westminster Abbey bells we saw how particular the parishioners of St. Michael's, Cornhill, were that their recast 'Rus' tenor should be in tune; how they paid several professional musicians to test it; and how they rejected several bells before they were satisfied. This was towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and the Londoners of Shakespeare's time did understand and value music. Nor was this the only instance.

When Abraham Rudhall's octave was hung at Fulham, the parish employed John Harrison to superintend the tuning, and at the time Harrison was probably generally recognised as the greatest living scientific authority on tone value.

When the twelve at St. Peter Mancroft were cast, the parish sent their organist, a Mr. Garland, to Whitechapel, to superintend the tuning, and Garland was not content to have the bells true to the ordinary major dia-

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tonic scale. Though they are in the key of C, he required them to have the temperament of E flat.

What that means is rather difficult to explain, but briefly and roughly it is this. We usually say that a major scale consists of two whole tones, one half-tone, three whole tones and one half-tone; and, broadly speaking, that is correct. But actually the intervals between the notes are not quite regular. The human voice, or a violin player with a good ear, gives the notes their correct value, but if it is done on a fixed instrument, like an organ or a piano, though the intervals for one key would be correct, for every other key they would be wrong. So what actually is done is to make a compromise.

Now, what Garland did with Mancroft bells was to give them, not the absolutely true scale, nor yet the scale to which the white notes of a piano are actually tuned, but the scale which the white notes would be in if the piano were tuned absolutely true to the key of E flat.

To ordinary ears the difference in the case of bells is probably not noticeable, yet the peculiar charm and quality of the Mancroft ring is usually ascribed to this tuning, whether correctly or not we cannot say. The point which interests us now is that not only was Garland able to ask for this minuteness of tuning, but that the tuners were able to supply it. And all the while four out of the five tones in every bell were hopelessly discordant, not only with each other, but with those of the rest of the bells.

That this minuteness of tuning was not unusual is shown by a passage in 'A Musical Grammar,' published in 1746 by William Tans'ur. Tans'ur, who was born in 1700 (or 1706) and died in 1783, was a composer of psalm and other tunes and the author of several books on

music. His 'Musical Grammar,' which is said by Groves' Dictionary to be 'an excellent work,' went through many editions, the last as late as 1829. Most of his music is now forgotten, but the English Hymnal contains a fine tune by him, No. 300, set to a little used hymn.

William Tans'ur understood bells and ringing and probably was himself a ringer. 'The many disputes,' he writes, 'that have often been amongst lovers of Ringing hath caused me to insert this chapter, and I know well by Experience that not one ringer among a Thousand rightly understands the scale of music; which if he did, he could immediately tell if a Peal of Bells were in right Tune or not. I appeal to all Gentlemen Masters of Bell Tuning whether it is not customary with them always to Tune their Peals in the Sharp and chearful Key? To which they will answer. It really is (unless desired to the contrary by some very whimsical Persons) from which it is clearly that Tenor, lowest, or greatest bell must always be C (whether in concert pitch or not), all the lesser bells above that being in a regular Diatonic Order.'

It is quite evident that it was not on account of carelessness or indifference, nor yet from any defect of ear that the public and the tuners ignored the overtones of bells.

(To be continued.)

#### THE HIGHEST POINT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Regarding your paragraph in the Belfry Gossip and Mr. Relfe's reply, I had hoped a more competent correspondent than I would have asked if you had both forgotten the peals of Spliced Surprise Major rung on handbells by the Hertfordshire men a few years ago. In my humble opinion, these performances should be described as the highest point so far reached in method ringing.

Croydon, Surrey.

F. E. COLLINS.

# John Taylor & Co.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Three ringers have now rung their 1,000th peals on Crayford bells. The first was John Cheesman, who performed the feat in 1935.

At a divisional church parade held at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday, July 25th, twelve serving members of H.M. Forces rang the bells before the service. They are all attached to the division. Two other ringers in the Forces also took part in the ringing.

'The Leek Post and Times' printed recently a letter from Mr. J. Hughes, one of the local band, who is now serving with the North African Forces, expressing good wishes and greetings to his fellow ringers.

On July 21st, Mr. David Wright, at one time of Westerham, then of Croydon and now of Enfield, attained his 83rd birthday. He still rings at Southgate Church.

On July 26th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Giles' in that city the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major.

On the same date in 1936, the Lincolnshire ringers achieved an outstanding feat by ringing nine extents of Minor (6,480 changes) in 125 spliced methods. Mr. George E. Fern conducted.

The College Youths rang the first peal in Ireland at Waterford Cathedral on July 27th, 1872, the day after the bells were opened. The method was Grandsire Triples.

James William Washbrook was born on July 27th, 1864.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner called a peal of Surprise Major in six spliced methods, his own composition, at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on July 27th, 1935.

William Cooter died on July 28th, 1912, and on the same date in 1937 the first peal of Minsmere Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

The Birmingham men rang 7,552 changes of Grandsire Major at Aston on July 30th, 1792.

### HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

There was a good attendance of members at the meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association, held at St. Albans on July 24th.

Ringing began at St. Stephen's at 2.30 p.m., and the bells were kept going to a variety of methods, including London Minor, until 5 p.m.

Tea was provided at the St. Peter's Institute by Mrs. Ferguson with helpers, and as there was no charge, a collection was made of about a shilling a head for the Benevolent Fund. It produced £1 9s. 3d.

Two unattached members were elected, and one from St. Peter's, St. Albans; three probationers were made full ringing members, and five probationers were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at North Mymms on August 14th.

The request from some towers for help on Sundays was debated. This is a difficult matter, as ringers are short, and most of the towers requiring help can be reached only by cycle. Mr. Walter Ayre, who presided, pointed out that the only way help can be given is to ring once on a Sunday at churches where at present the bells are rung twice. The members were asked to give the matter some thought before the next meeting.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicars of St. Stephen's and St. Peter's for the use of the bells, and to Mrs. Ferguson and her helpers for the tea. The bells of St. Peter's were kept going until 8 p.m., the methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Royal.

### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING AT STURRY.

A meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Sturry on Saturday, July 17th, and was attended by some 28 ringers. The six bells were kept going during the afternoon to various methods, and at 4.30 service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. Risdon-Brown.

Tea was at the Rose Inn. The Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and presiding at tea. Mr. Masters was thanked for his services at the organ.

Among the methods practised were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, the last two methods spliced, and Cambridge Surprise.

### PRACTICE MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.

A meeting for practice was held at St. Ignatius', Sunderland, on July 24th, when ringers from Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, South Shields, Bishopwearmouth and the local tower attended.

Various methods, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob Major, 'Mixed' Kent and Oxford Major and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung.

A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies for providing tea was proposed by Mr. W. Sheraton.

At the close a police constable awaited the ringers to inform them that, according to the Defence Regulations, church bells could only be rung on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

# ONE THOUSAND PEALS

## Mr. J. Bennett's and Mr. C. T. Coles' Achievement

By ringing the Stedman Triples at Crayford last Saturday two more men joined the select group of ringers who have a thousand peals to their credit.

It was an event which had been delayed for some years. Had things been normal, an attempt would have been made for Stedman Cinques at Lincoln Cathedral on September 9th, 1939, but war broke out and peal ringing came largely to a standstill. Then it was decided to meet at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on May 11th, 1940, and once more fate intervened, for at that time Hitler's hordes broke into Holland, and shortly afterwards all ringing was stopped.

When the ban was lifted, Mr. Coles' thoughts naturally turned to the possibility of again arranging an attempt; and, in addition, he wished to ring a peal to the memory of his son, who had lost his life in North Africa, and who had taken a keen interest in his father's ringing, and especially in the approaching 1,000th peal.

Mr. Coles and Mr. Bennett have been for long closely associated. They have rung 295 peals together and among them are some of outstanding merit. Both were in the band which, under the conductorship of William Pye, set itself the task of ringing a peal in every number of Spliced Surprise Major methods, from two to twelve, and did ring one in every number except two. Both were in the record twelve-bell peal—the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne, on August 5th, 1929. Both rang in the first peal of Royal in three Spliced Surprise methods. And both were in the only peal of Caters in three methods.

Mr. Charles Thomas Coles was born at Isington on June 5th, 1882. About the year 1900, under the instruction of William Truss, he learnt to ring at St. George's-in-the-East, one of those churches which with their bells were destroyed in the air raids on London. It was at St. George's on March 30th, 1905, that he rang the tenor to his first peal, one of Stedman Triples conducted by John R. Sharman. Since 1909 he has been attached to St. Mary's, Walthamstow.

In 1903 he joined the Middlesex Association, and in September, 1910, he was made hon. secretary of the North and East District. From that time onwards he has continuously held office in the association, which owes more to him than to any other man for its continued life and prosperity. When Arthur King, who had virtually created the association, retired, Mr. Coles took his place and carried on his work. Nominally joint hon. secretary at first, in 1933 he became what he really had always been, the general secretary of the society. His services were recognised in 1937 by the presentation of a gold watch and later by his being elected the active vice-president of the North and East District. Since 1921 he has represented the association on the Central Council, and is one of the best known and most influential members of that body.

Mr. Coles has had a great career as a peal ringer. This was largely due to his close connection with William Pye, and if he profited by the skill and energy of that great peal ringer, it is equally certain that Pye owed no small part of his success to the work and organising ability of Mr. Coles. The two men rang 621 peals together.

Mr. Coles' first peal as conductor was one of Superlative at St. James', Clerkenwell, on January 14th, 1911, and altogether he has called 272 peals in many methods.

The one thousand peals have been rung in 333 towers, in 47 counties of England, Wales and Ireland. They were rung for 32 associations affiliated to the Central Council, and with 840 ringers. Mr. Coles holds one record which will not easily be beaten; he has rung a twelve-bell peal in 52 different towers. In this he and Mr. George R. Pye were for long on equal terms, but the fact that Mr. Coles is a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths and Mr. Pye is not enabled him to go one better by standing in Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Another performance to which Mr. Coles attaches value is the

Secretaries' peal, arranged by John S. Goldsmith and rung muffled at Southwark for William T. Cockerill.

It would take too much of our space to refer to all the outstanding peals in which Mr. Coles has taken part. We have referred already to some of them. Others include the record length of Cambridge Royal, 10,440 changes, rung at Walthamstow on December 26th, 1925, the 7,392 Cambridge Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow, on December 12th, 1925, the Cambridge Maximus at Exeter on October 15th, 1932, and the only five-bell peal in the City of London—Grandsire Doubles on the pre-Reformation bells of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield—which he called. On three occasions he has rung two peals of Cambridge Maximus in one day.

Here is his full list of peals, the numbers in brackets being those he has conducted:—

Grandsire Doubles 1 (1); Triples 10; Caters 4 (1).  
Stedman Triples 118 (59); Caters 104 (54); Cinques 113 (41).  
Erin Triples 1; Caters 1 (1); Cinques 1.  
Erin, Stedman and Grandsire Caters 1 (1).  
Minor in three methods 1 (1).  
Bob Major 10 (8); Royal 1; Maximus 1 (1).  
Kent T.B. Major 11 (6); Royal 7 (6); Maximus 3 (1).  
Oxford T.B. Major 3 (2); Royal 1 (1).  
Kent (Granta) T.B. Royal 1 (1).  
Spliced Kent and Oxford T.B. Major 1.  
Little Bob Major 1, Maximus 1.  
Double Norwich C.B. Major 18 (1); Double Oxford 1; Edmonton Bob 1; Marlborough Bob 1; St. Clement's Bob 1; Winchester Bob 1; Little Albion T.B. 1.  
Isleworth Bob Royal 1.



MR. J. BENNETT.



MR. C. T. COLES.

Cambridge S. Minor 1 (1); Major 59 (19); Royal 77 (7); Maximus 75 (4).

Yorkshire S. Major 5 (1); Royal 2 (1); Maximus 1.

Superlative S. Major 101 (33); Maximus 5.

Bristol S. Major 121 (19); Lincolnshire 1; London 81 (1); London-derry 1; New Cambridge 1; Norfolk 2; Pudsey 1; Rutland 1.

Middlesex S. Royal 5.

Spliced Surprise Major—Three Methods, 1; Four, 14; Five, 2; Six, 1; Seven, 1; Eight, 1; Nine, 1; Ten, 1; Eleven, 1; Twelve, 1.

Spliced S. Royal, Three Methods, 1.

Spliced Superlative and Cambridge Maximus 2.

On handbells—Grandsire Triples 1; Stedman Triples 4; Caters 7.

Mr. James Bennett began his ringing career in 1904 at his native village of Ashbocking, near Ipswich, but he had not progressed beyond Grandsire Doubles when he joined the Royal Marines. This was in May, 1905, and from then until 1911 he had few opportunities for ringing. In 1911 he became attached to the tower of St. Mary's, Chatham, and remained a member of the band, whether he was at home or abroad, until he left the Service on May 8th, 1926. He then joined the band at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, having been elected a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths while on active service during the last war. For the last 14 years he has been attached to St. Mary's, Lewisham.

Mr. Bennett's peals were rung with 934 ringers, for 32 associations, in 47 counties of England, Wales and Ireland, and in 314 towers. Every county in England is included, 49 of the steeples were twelve-bell towers, and a peal was rung on every one of the 366 dates of the calendar. Three hundred and twenty-one of the peals were with William Pye, and the others include the first by a Navy and Army band, and the first rung by Freemasons in the City of London. This Mr. Bennett called. He too has on three occasions rung two peals of Cambridge Maximus in one day.

Some years ago Mr. Bennett rang the tenor at Canterbury Cathedral to a five-thousand of Treble Bob Royal. The number was completed and the bells came round, but during the last three leads the clapper of the eighth bell fell out and the bell was silent until the end. The peal is not included in the following list. Mr. Bennett has conducted 88 peals, and the numbers in the different methods are shown in brackets:—

(Continued on next page.)

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD RECORDS.****THE FIRST KENT MAXIMUS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the leading article in your issue dated July 23rd, the St. Martin's Guild do not adopt the attitude of the lady who defied being convinced or of the Caliph Omar, but what we do assert is that the early members of the society knew what they were doing in their day, and were also likely to know what was being done by ringers in other parts of the country.

The first peal book states that it was purchased in September, 1822, and contains a correct account of the peals rung by the society as well as the names of those persons who were engaged in their performance since the year 1755 in which the same was established.

Even in those early days the St. Martin's men went about the country, for we find recorded that on June 6th, 1814, they visited Liverpool for the opening of the peal of 12 at St. Nicholas' Cathedral and competed and were awarded a beautiful silver cup valued 20 guineas presented by the town for the best performance of a touch of upwards of 3,000 Grandsire Cinques. On the following day, June 7th, they rang the first peal on the bells, a peal of 5,016 Grandsire Cinques.

Again on May 20th, 1815, they went to Lichfield Cathedral and rang a peal of 5,039 Grandsire Caters, and the footnote to this peal states: 'The above was the first peal ever rung upon these bells, having been hung 127 years.'

The peal of 7,200 rung on April 17th, 1820, is recorded as follows: 'A complete peal of 7,200 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (with the Kent Variation),' and the footnote reads, 'This was the most Treble Bob ever rung on 12 bells and is the first in the Kent Variation.'

You ask in your leading article, 'But what did the Cumberlands ring?' They record it as Cumberland, whereas the St. Martin's men record theirs as Kent Variation, and claim it as the first; not 'new' as you mention in your article.

THOMAS H. REEVES, Hon. Secretary.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**COMMENT BY J. A. TROLLOPE.**

What I said about the first peal of Kent Treble Twelve was written before I was Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and as it is not very desirable that this journal should seem to be in controversy with a society like the St. Martin's Guild, I should like to reply to Mr. Reeves in my private and personal capacity.

The real point is not what the Birmingham men did or thought, but whether the peals rung by the Cumberland Youths in 1794 and 1795 were Kent. For a variety of reasons I am quite convinced that it is not possible they could have been anything else, and, therefore, a merely negative statement made by the Birmingham men a quarter of a century later has no value. In the circumstances of the time it would have been almost impossible for the Birmingham men to have known anything about the details of the earlier performances.

The St. Martin's peal book is not first-class evidence for anything which happened before 1822. The first-hand evidence for the 7,200 Treble Twelve is the broadsheet issued by the company directly after they had rung the peal, and an original copy of which is before me now. It is headed: 'A Superlative Achievement in the Art of Ringing,' and says: 'The peal comprised 7,200 Changes of new Treble Bob Maximus; and what eminently combines to enrich the performance is that it was rung at the first attempt, was the first peal of new Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of Changes ever rung on 12 Bells.' The word Kent nowhere appears.

It is perhaps fair comment that if the Birmingham men could ring Kent and call it new Treble Bob, the Cumberlands could ring Kent and call it Cumberland Treble Bob.

That the statement that the peal book 'contains a correct account of the peals rung by the society as well as the names of the persons since the year 1755, in which the same was established,' is hardly accurate, is shown by the fact that I have full details of ten peals rung by the St. Martin's company during the years 1773 to 1786, all of which are omitted from the book and, I believe, completely forgotten in Birmingham. My own opinion is that the statement that the Guild was formed in 1755 is based on nothing more than the fact that the first recorded peal was rung in that year. I believe the Guild is much older.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Oxford on July 17th and was attended by 101 members, all the 15 branches being represented. The officers were all re-elected, and the next annual meeting provisionally fixed for July, 1944, at Oxford.

Tea in the Rectory Room, St. Aldate's, was served by the Oxford Co-operative Society, and 90 sat down. At the service in St. Aldate's Church the Rev. C. E. Webb, Deputy Master, gave an address.

It was much more like an old-time annual meeting than those of the past three years. In 1940 and 1941 there was neither a dinner, nor tea, nor any ringing. Last year there was a tea, but no ringing. This year there was ringing on the twelve bells of the Cathedral, the ten at New College, and the eights at St. Ebbe's and All Saints'.

**TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.****ALL SAINTS', HIGH WYCOMBE.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—The tower of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe, was built in 1522 by the then Vicar of the parish, the Rev. Roland Messenger, an architect of no mean ability. It now contains a peal of twelve bells, tenor 32 cwt., which has developed in four stages. Prior to 1711 the tower contained six bells. In the latter year a new peal of eight bells was installed from the Whitechapel Foundry with a tenor similar in note and weight to the preceding peal (approximately 28 cwt.). In 1756 the fourth was replaced by a new casting from the Reading Foundry. In 1788 two trebles were added by John Briant, of Hertford, increasing the peal to 10 bells. In 1802 the peal was completely reconstructed, the tenor disappeared, several bells were recast and with a new treble of smaller size and a tenor of 22½ cwt. (E flat) a lighter ring of ten came into being. These bells were hung in the old 1711 frame.

Early in the present century, restoration had been long overdue. To arouse interest in the condition of the bells an old friend of the belfry, Mr. W. H. Fussell, defrayed the cost of recasting the flat treble in 1905. Thanks to the generosity of the late Dame Francis Dove (first pupil of Girton) and her pupils of Wycombe Abbey School, a new treble and a new tenor were presented, with the help of a generous public a four figure scheme was launched. On All Saints' Day, 1909, the present peal of 12 bells was heard for the first time.

Of the 84 peals rung in the tower to date, three of outstanding interest might be mentioned. The first peal on the original eight on December 28th, 1751, 5,040 of Bob Triples by the Union Scholars, conducted by John Holt. On Easter Monday, April 8th, 1792, 5,040 Grandsire Caters by the Society of College Youths, conducted by John Povey, the first and only recorded peal on the oldest peal of 10. On Sunday afternoon, February 12th, 1933, 5,007 Stedman Cinques by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, being the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung by 12 residents of one parish, rung by the local band, and conducted by Fred Hayes.

The list of peals is as follows: From 1751 to 1940, on old bells 15, on present bells 69, total 84. Stedman Cinques 35, Caters 22, Triples 3, Grandsire Cinques 1, Caters 4, Triples 7, Cambridge Maximus 2, Kent T.B. Maximus 3, Plain Bob Maximus 2, Royal 1, Major 1, Triples 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Erin Caters 1.

FRED HAYES.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT BOTTESFORD**

On Saturday, July 17th, the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association held a meeting at Bottesford, when 30 members were present from Daybrook, Derby, Bulwell, Basford, Sawby, Southwell, Grantham, Newark, Folkington, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's) and the local company.

The bells were kept going continuously from 3 o'clock until 8, except for the interval for tea. Handbells were rung in the church porch. Two new members were elected, and it was decided to apply for permission to hold a meeting at Cotgrave in August, and at Newark in September.

The ringing did not develop beyond Double Norwich, but, as at Greasley in June, there was a demand for call-changes, which was quite encouraging, as it applied to recruits who had started since the bells were opened again.

A vote of thanks to the authorities and the local secretary concluded a most pleasant afternoon.

**ONE THOUSAND PEALS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Doubles in five methods 1.  
Minor in 1 to 7 methods 34 (15).  
Triples—Grandsire 37 (10); Stedman 108 (4); Union 2; Erin 2; St. Clement's Bob 1; Oxford Bob 1; Plain Bob 1.  
Major—Plain Bob 32 (15); Reverse 1; Canterbury Pleasure 2; St. Clement's 1; Painswick College Bob 1; Pulford 1; Double Bob 2; Double Oxford 2; Double Norwich 83 (3); Real Double Norwich 1; Spliced Double Norwich and Plain 1.  
Little Bob 1; Little Canterbury Pleasure 1; Dartford Little Bob 2; Crayford Little Bob 1.  
Kent T.B. 51 (24); Oxford 13 (2); Spliced K. and O. 3; Cam. T.B. 2. Superlative S. 74 (4); Cambridge 111 (8); Bristol 64; London 81; Norfolk 4; New Cambridge 3; Londonderry 1; Lincoln 2; Yorkshire 7; Rutland 1; Pudsey 2; Painswick 1.  
Spliced Surprise—Three Methods, 1; Four, 23; Five, 2; Six, 1; Seven, 1; Eight, 1; Nine, 1; Ten, 1; Eleven, 1; Twelve, 1.  
Caters—Grandsire 1; Stedman 48; Erin, Stedman and Grandsire 1.  
Royal—Plain Bob 3 (1); Isleworth Bob 1; Little Bob 1; Kent T.B. 12 (1); Oxford T.B. 1; Cambridge S. 38. Spliced Surprise, three methods, 1.  
Cinques—Grandsire 1; Stedman 66; Erin 1.  
Maximus—Plain Bob 1 (1); Kent T.B. 4; Cambridge S. 42; Superlative 3; Yorkshire 1; Spliced Superlative and Cambridge 2.



## TRIPLE TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 326.)

Of the English cathedrals that have triple towers, excluding St. Paul's with its towers and central dome, there are Canterbury, Wells, Bristol, Lincoln, York, Durham, Ripon and Southwell. To these might be added Peterborough and, of course, the three-spired cathedrals of Lichfield and Truro. As there has already appeared in these columns that excellent series of articles on 'Bells of English Cathedrals,' by the late Mr. J. R. Jerram, I will confine my notes to commonplace or additional matter to that already published.

Canterbury Cathedral has now a ring of twelve, hung in the south-west tower, with a tenor of 32 cwt. Two trebles were added to the old ten as a memorial to the 56 members of the Kent County Association who fell in the Great War, 1914-18. They were cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1923. Originally there was a ring of eight cast by Samuel Knight in 1726, the tenor having been recast by Pack and Chapman in 1778. Two trebles were added by Thomas Mears in 1802, and the 3rd and 5th bells recast by C. and G. Mears in 1855. As stated above, the completion to twelve was carried out in 1923.

In a pent-house on the top of the south-west tower hangs the 'Dunstan bell,' weighing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons which, according to its inscription, was cast by Lester and Pack, of London, in 1762, and 'Wm. Chapman molded me.' The original 'Dunstan' bell was given by Prior Molash in 1430. Whether this bell survived until 1758 is not known, but in that year 'Dunstan' became cracked. A futile attempt to mend the crack was made without success. Eventually it was recast within the cathedral precincts in 1762 by William Chapman, then foreman and afterwards partner in the firm of Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel Foundry. While Chapman was moulding the bell he noticed a young man who appeared to be intensely interested in the work: he offered to take him back to London with him to learn the art of bell founding. The offer was accepted. That young man was none other than William Mears, and thus the Whitechapel Foundry came into the hands of the Mears family, who carried it on for several generations.

The central tower contains a call-bell known as 'Bell Harry,' which is usually rung for the last quarter of an hour before services. It was cast by Joseph Hatch in 1635, and concerning it is a legend that the original bell was given by Henry VIII., hence the name by which it is known. From 'Anglia Sacra' it appears that Prior Ernulph gave a large bell about the year 1100, which was recast by his successor Conrad, who added four smaller ones to it. Some 60 years later, Prior Wybert added a sixth of very large size, and it is recorded that it took 32 men to ring it. This shows that the bell must have been rung by treading the plank, and not by means of the rope. Large bourdon bells on the Continent are still rung in this manner even to-day. These bells were hung in a detached campanile, which fell in 1382 in consequence of an earthquake, when doubtless the bells were broken, but there is no record of the disposal of the metal.

The central or 'angel' tower does not appear to have possessed bells until 1317, when Prior Eastry placed

three therein. Archbishop Arundel also placed four bells in this tower about 1390. At the close of the fifteenth century the central tower was rebuilt, and the five bells known as the 'Arundel ring' were removed to the north-west tower, which was thenceforth called the 'Arundel tower.' Other bells remained in the central tower, viz., Eastry's three and two others. These five were confiscated by the Crown at the dissolution in 1540, and their metal sold.

Regarding the bells in the north-west tower, it is recorded that in 1316 Prior Henry, of Eastry, placed four bells therein, three forming a ring and a small bell used to summon the chapter. To this tower, as already noted, the Arundel ring was removed, but there is no further record of changes or additions. It is certain, however, the tower contained six bells in 1726, which were taken down and cast into the back eight of the present twelve. Previous to this date only the 'Dunstan' bell hung in the south-west tower, but from that date the ring was hung here, and the old ten hung in a two-tier timber frame, five above and five below. In 1897 they were rehung in a massive cast-iron frame, all on one level, designed by the late Mr. J. R. Jerram and executed by Mr. Thomas Blackburn, of Salisbury. At the same time new quarter chimes were added, composed by the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, Precentor of the cathedral.

Like a good many of the cathedral belfries, the approach to the ringing chamber is unusual and somewhat involved, even though the bells hang in a western tower. One starts by climbing a spiral stairway of 77 steps in the south-east turret of the south transept. Then travel along the triforium, through the wall and along the ceiling over the entire length of the south aisle of the nave and so into a room below the ringing chamber, from which a further ladder takes one into the ringing room.

As stated above, the bells were once in the north-west tower, and it is thought the old ringing chamber was on a level with the transept roof, as there are some figures—rather faint—on the west wall of the tower. There is now only one bell in the central, or 'Bell Harry,' tower, approximately the same weight as the 6th of the peal, though a little sharper in tone. In this tower is preserved the large treadmill used in connection with the building of the tower.

(To be continued.)

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT MEASHAM.

At the meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Measham on July 24th, there were ringers present from Ashby, Netherseale, Overseal, Appleby, Ibstock and the local company, as well as Pte. F. G. Bailey, home on leave, and Mr. G. Oliver, of Lichfield.

Tea was served in the Schoolroom, and at the business meeting the new Vicar, the Rev. W. G. Allison, was welcomed by Mr. W. H. Curson and voted to the chair.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at St. Paul's, Burton, on August 28th.

Thanks were given to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the bells, and to the ladies who prepared tea.

The ringing consisted of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Minor, and a few rounds for beginners.

## DEATH OF MR. J. C. BLACKWELL.

News has been received of the death of Mr. J. C. Blackwell, of Woburn, Beds, which occurred through an accident while on active service with the Royal Engineers in Irak. He was a newcomer to the Exercise, but was very keen, and was making good progress in the elementary stages before being called up.

## THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

MR. GROVER EXPLAINS.  
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of your leading article of June 25th last and Mr. Herbert Drake's letter in your issue of July 16th, I ought perhaps to give the following facts:—

At their annual meeting in April, 1939, the members of my Guild, on Mr. Goldsmith's suggestion, committed themselves to provide a sanctus bell for our new cathedral. The plans of the building provide for a turret over the Lady chapel to house a 3 cwt. bell, and it was the provision of this bell that we had in view. The turret has not yet been erected, although the structure of the Lady chapel, which is in the first part of the building to be commenced, is practically completed.

But for the war, the Guild would no doubt long ago have completed its gift and pending the building of the turret the bell would have been hung temporarily in some part of the completed building. Owing, however, to the war and Mr. Goldsmith's health, little was done in connection with the proposal, and at the moment, as the Cathedral authorities deprecate any wide appeal for funds in connection with any cathedral building project, nothing on a large scale is likely to be attempted.

At our last annual meeting it was agreed to proceed with the scheme as a Guild memorial to Mr. Goldsmith, subject, of course, to the consent of the diocesan authorities (as to which we understand there will be no difficulty), and I was authorised to invite subscriptions from members.

The question of widening the scope of the appeal was discussed, but no definite decision on the point was made. Although personally I should prefer this particular scheme to be exclusively a Guildford Guild affair, I cannot answer Mr. Drake's query without referring the matter once again to a general meeting, and we are not likely to hold one until next year.

In addition, we must comply with the wishes of the diocesan authorities as to appeals for funds.

G. L. GROVER, Hon. Sec.

East Clandon, near Guildford.

### A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

Dear Sir,—According to your leader of June 25th, the provision of a sanctus bell for the new Guildford Cathedral is in the nature of a 'family' memorial by the Diocesan Guild, and it seems hardly fitting that there should be any attempt by the Exercise in general to 'muscle in' on the Guild's own memorial scheme, but rather that an independent and possibly a more ambitious scheme might be launched for the benefit of ringers in general.

In recent years there have been many notable memorials to ringers: the restorations and augmentations at Cambridge, Leytonstone, Tewkesbury, Surfleet and Duffield being but a few examples. The 'Stedman' memorial scheme owes its inception to our late Editor, and the other schemes might not have received such support without the medium of 'The Ringing World.'

Surely the work of John Goldsmith and the incalculable benefit which it has conferred on the Exercise in general is worthy of a better memorial than the mere provision of fittings or even the building of a turret to house a non-ringing bell!

The design of the new Cathedral incorporates a ring of ten of, I believe, medium weight, not unlike Jack Goldsmith's favourite, or at least one of his favourite, peals—St. Mary's, Southampton. On one occasion—I believe it was at the reopening of Albury bells in 1935—he himself told me that he would like to ring a peal at St. Mary's, Southampton, above all other peals. Whether or not he ever achieved this ambition I do not know.

One realises that there will be considerable difficulties to overcome and that the final choice of bells rests with the Cathedral authorities, also that it may be years before the tower is ready to receive the bells, but I suggest there could be no finer memorial than a ring of bells such as John Goldsmith might have chosen himself had the choice lain with him.

The provision of the full ring might prove beyond the capacity of the whole Exercise, but it should be possible to ensure at least a nucleus of the peal, although if certain of the wealthier associations were to make themselves responsible for individual bells, the full peal might not be beyond the bounds of possibility.

Possibly other readers may have alternative suggestions to offer, but one thing is important. Something should be done *now* while the memory is fresh, for with the passing of time the number of those who knew John Goldsmith personally must necessarily grow smaller and already a year has gone by since his death.

R. H. DOVE.  
Leeds.

**DINDER, WELLS, SOMERSET.**—On Sunday, July 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): F. Harvey 1, P. Hull 2, F. Rickards (conductor) 3, R. Webb 4, F. Bird 5, C. Dinham (first quarter-peal) 6.

**CHEADLE, STAFFS.**—On Saturday, July 24th, at the Roman Catholic Church, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. E. Wheelton 1, J. G. Cartledge 2, E. Steele 3, H. Carnwell 4, W. Carnwell 5, C. H. Page 6, A. Thompson 7, A. W. Hall (conductor) 8.

## CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

'FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My letter seems to have caused rather a discussion. It seems as though I was asking chimers to use 'Fight the good fight' tune only. I was merely explaining the way I use these higher notes. Perhaps that particular ring Mr. Smith heard were, as Miss Snowden pointed out, not suitable. One can hardly say the bells that I pointed out for the finish of 'Fight the good fight' (tune Pentecost) were wrong notes, as they were the proper notes an octave higher. I quite agree it's not advisable to use another bell where a half tone comes in, but sometimes one finds a very beautiful hymn will go except for one half tone and this is where one is tempted to try it.

But what does all this boil down to? Well, the majority of change ringers dislike chiming and will try to discourage it.

I am a change ringer and whenever it is possible I seize the opportunity of doing so, but, as with most bands to-day, we are too small in numbers to do much.

I shall not, however, despise chiming, because I believe it plays a great part towards the public. In my own village 70 per cent. prefer it to change ringing.

After all, it's not what or how we ring, but the spirit in which it is done. Bells, whether chimed or swung, are still bells.

J. W. DYER.

The Chase, Great Tey.

[The notes of a hymn tune played an octave too high or too low are wrong notes, and one incorrect half tone will completely ruin the most beautiful tune.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

### MORE SIX-BELL TUNES.

Dear Sir,—In case any would-be chimer with only six bells at his disposal should be misled by Mr. Fox's letter, suggesting there are only four tunes in 'A. and M.' suitable for six bells, below are six more:—

'A. and M.' 29, 94, 266, 268, 286, and the following, whose number I cannot recall at the moment:— 6 6 6 5 4 3 3 4, 2 4 3 2 1 5 5, 2 2 2 4 3 5 4 3, 4 3 2 1 4 5 6.

With regard to Mr. Harris' letter, my list did not purport to be complete. I have lots of others suitable for chiming, but have not the time to sort them out at present. No. 268 in 'A and M.' is certainly a six-bell tune, using the 3rd in a six or the 5th in an octave as the tonic. On ten bells all these could be got on the front six or the back six.

As Miss Snowden said, all peals are not suitable for chiming tunes. They may sound not too bad when properly rung in changes, but like pans when struck by a chiming hammer. This is due to the fact that a blow from a chiming hammer can never produce the volume of sound that the clapper does when the bell is rung up. The much heavier blow of the clapper produces such a volume of sound as to hide many of the bell's imperfections.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

### A FINE TUNE.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent A. H. Fox omits from his list of six-bell tunes in 'Ancient and Modern' No. 109, 'Sweet the moments, rich in blessing.'

For my own part, I would rather hear two musical bells properly chimed in motion, like the two used for the daily offices at Magdalen College, than any number struck by chiming hammers. As, however, chiming tunes is taken quite seriously in various places, I can make one really useful suggestion by way of a change from the usual selection. The fine Welsh tune Hyfrydol, No. 301 in the 'English Hymnal,' can be played on six bells. This air is in its way a masterpiece of composition, as it is a magnificent melody all written on the last five notes of the descending scale, except that a sixth note is introduced in the last line.

It may be of interest to mention that here we have sometimes rung 'Now the day is over' on our five bells.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna, Dorset.

## ITALIAN CHURCH BELLS.

Last week the German Overseas News Agency reported from Rome that in the event of enemy action against the Italian provinces of Lazio and Tuscany, warning of a state of siege will be given if necessary by the ringing of the church bells.

**WORLINGWORTH, SUFFOLK.**—On Sunday, July 11th, 720 Bob Major: W. W. Miller, jun. 1, F. Ruffles 2, W. J. Groom (conductor) 3, W. E. Maulden 4, E. G. Curtis 5, T. H. Chappell 6, H. Hall 7, J. H. Hall 8.

**HENLOW, BEDS.**—On Tuesday, July 13th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Church 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. Houghton 3, H. Harding 4, Brian F. Sims 5, L. Bywaters 6.

**WILLINGHAM, CAMBS.**—On July 11th, 840 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith 1, C. Robinson 2, F. G. Leaves 3, A. W. T. Finn 4, R. Thoday 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

**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. — 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. 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.

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.—B. C. Castle and E. G. Foster, Hon. Secs.

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 to A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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. 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.

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 available 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, Sedgemoor, Evesham.

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.—D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon on Saturday, August 7th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea before August 3rd.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Handsworth (8 bells) on Saturday, August 7th. For tea, 3 p.m., notify Miss L. M. Kelly, 1, St. Joseph's Road, Sheffield 9.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Reigate, Saturday, August 14th. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. Names before August 9th. Talk by Mr. A. A. Hughes, 'Bells and Bellringing,' 6.30 p.m.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.—St. Edward's (8 bells). Practice second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—E. W. Pye.

**MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.**

KIDDINGTON, ESSEX.—On Sunday, July 11th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Making 1, H. Backler 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, G. W. Moss 4, J. W. Jennings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

EXETER.—On July 18th, at the Church of St. Thomas, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: \*E. J. Ryall 1, W. H. Howe 2, J. Hosgood 3, J. J. Hole 4, R. Truman 5, Capt. W. J. Rawlings, R.E. 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, \*P. Court 8. \* First quarter-peal of Triples.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 18th, Thurstans' quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: T. Groombridge (conductor) 1, Miss I. B. Thompson 2, E. Fletcher 3, C. J. Baker 4, F. J. George 5, E. F. Goby 6, E. G. Goby 7, H. Beardsley 8.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On July 18th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: D. Scott 1, H. Taylor 2, W. Hector 3, H. W. Gregory 4, J. Saunders 5, B. Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

STOKE-ON-TERN, SHROPSHIRE.—On July 20th, 720 Bob Minor (42 singles): G. Berry 1, W. J. Chester 2, F. N. Golden, R.A.F. (conductor) 3, W. Lyoett 4, F. Price 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6. Also several short touches of Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Spliced Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

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