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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

The members of the Kent County Association view with alarm the manner in which reports of meetings are curtailed in 'The Ringing World.' So they declared by resolution at their recent annual meeting. The Tonbridge District has suffered badly. Meetings have been held regularly through the ban, and little, if any, notice has been taken of them. Various accounts have been sent to 'The Ringing World,' and sometimes a very abbreviated account has been published, and sometimes nothing at all.

And now here are some facts. Throughout the four years of war, no report received from any association has been suppressed, and none has been curtailed except in the course of the usual and necessary process of sub-editing. During the last twelve months the Kent Association advertised fourteen meetings, and reports of thirteen have been published, as well as a fairly long paper read at one of them. For one meeting no report was received.

It must be remembered that the way news items are published by any newspaper, the style, and the words used, are the concern and the responsibility of the journal, not of the persons who send them in. The material sent to any newspaper, whether by its own reporters, or by outsiders, is always subjected to revision so it may conform to the style and standards of the paper. In the case of 'The Ringing World' this process consists mainly of cutting out words which serve no purpose, and occasionally of sentences which are unnecessary or, for some reason, inadmissible. Curtailement is not done for the sake of curtailment. In these things reports differ from letters to the editor and signed articles, which are printed, if they are printed at all, substantially as they are received.

We can quite understand that a secretary, who has devoted much time and thought to writing a report, sometimes feels disappointed when he sees how little show it makes in print. That cannot be helped. The reports we receive rarely exceed two sheets of manuscript, and that does not go far when it is set up in type.

The truth is that, though meetings are among the most useful and most enjoyable of ringers' activities, there is not much that can be said about them. The bells were raised at three o'clock and various methods were rung until five, when there was a service in church, conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address and welcomed the ringers. Tea at the Parish Hall was much enjoyed and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar

(Continued on page 374.)

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took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, one or two new members were elected, and a vote of thanks was passed. There was more ringing in the evening, and the members dispersed to their homes well satisfied with a very successful meeting.

Fill in the names of particular places and people and you have almost as much as can be said, or usually is said, about any meeting. Even so, there are things in this account which are quite unnecessary. Readers of 'The Ringing World' do not need to be told that the bells were raised before they were rung, or that the ringers went home satisfied. Those things always happen. Nor is the Exercise deprived of any interesting or startling news when (as has always been the custom of this journal) all reference to the reading of minutes is deleted.

The things which really make meetings worth while cannot be put down in words. Sometimes men try to write round the subject and use a lot of unnecessary words. Sometimes they make references to the weather, which is forbidden. Sometimes (but we are glad to say rarely) they try to be humorous, and introduce obscure references to persons and things which nobody understands. But we thankfully acknowledge that for the most part our correspondents understand the situation and accept things as they are.

There was one remark at the Maidstone meeting which was rather suggestive and somewhat amusing. In the old days people used to complain that there was nothing in 'The Ringing World' except reports of peals, which interested nobody but the peal ringers; accounts of meetings, which nobody read; and notices, which took up far too much space. Why could they not have something interesting and instructive? Now that it has been made possible (not without trouble) to print such articles, the complaint is that some of them appeal to the few. It would be a strange sort of 'Ringing World' which contained nothing except what appealed to everybody. There would not be much of it, and we doubt if there would be any full account of the activities of the Tonbridge Branch of the Kent County Association.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Another heavy ring of five is at Thorncombe, Dorset (20 cwt 24 lb.), on which a peal has been rung, the tenorman being the late Mr. N. P. G. Rainey. This is, I believe, the heaviest ringable five in Dorset. Yetminster, mentioned in your issue of August 8th, has been augmented to six.

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

Stoke Wake, Blandford, Dorset.

'ROYAL'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you tell me when and why changes on ten bells are called 'Royal,' as I have noticed in the early days they were described as 'ten in.'

E. G. HIBBINS.

Cambridge.

The earliest title given to ten-bell ringing was by the College Youths, who called the peal they rang at St. Bride's in 1725 'Bob Major Royal.' In 1733 they rang 'Bob Major Royal double.' In 1740 they rang 'Trebble Bob on ten Bells.' 'The Clavis' (1788) said that 'all ten bell peals whatsoever are distinguished by the general appellation of Ten in'; Plain Bob on ten bells was 'commonly called Plain ten in, but more properly Bob Major Royal.' Shipway was the first writer who uses the term Royal for all ten-bell methods alike. It seems that the word was for long used exclusively for Plain Bob, but the need for a distinctive title for ten-bell methods generally led to its extended use. Maximus was the term usually applied to all twelve-bell methods from the time of the first peal rung by the College Youths in 1725, but 'Twelve-in' was occasionally used.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... Treble	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	5
*SHIRLEY BURTON 2	HAROLD G. JENNEY	6
*HAROLD J. POOLE 3	†JOHN E. SPICE	7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	ERNEST MORRIS... ..	Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* 100th peal together. † First peal of Surprise.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

RICHARD J. COLLINS ... Treble	CHARLES H. PERRY ...	5
D. REES JAMES 2	ERNEST STITCH	6
ALBERT J. PITMAN 3	GLYN I. LEWIS	7
FRANK ROWSELL 4	DAVID HUGHES	Tenor

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. H. PERRY.

Rung to welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. T. Jones, to St. Illtyd's.

SIX BELL PEAL.

SILKSTONE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 21, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 changes each of Capel, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Sandal, College Exercise, Norbury and Duke of Norfolk.

Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.).

WILFRED BROADHEAD ... Treble	ERNEST BROOKES	4
ROLAND HILL 2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	5
CLIFFORD ROBINSON 3	DANIEL SMITH... ..	Tenor

Conducted by DANIEL SMITH.

Rung for the victory in Sicily.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOHN E. SPICE 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS... ..	5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	7-8
†REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE	9-10

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Stedman Caters in hand. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal of Stedman Caters, and first of Stedman in hand.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE... ..	7-8
†ERNEST MORRIS...	9-10

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal of Grandsire in hand. † First peal of Grandsire Caters in hand. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Margaret Morris, daughter of the conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
†HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	†ERNEST MORRIS... ..	7-8
*REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE	9-10

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Double Bob Royal. † First peal in the method. The first peal in the method for the Association.

SHEFFIELD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT 2, WOODVALE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D flat.

*MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall)	1-2
JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's)	3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's)	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE (New College)	7-8
*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall)	9-10

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells.

KINSON, DORSET.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

On Saturday, August 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT "WEYMANS", MILLHAMS ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 11 in G.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	MRS F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4
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MISS MARY E. DAVIS 5-6

Conducted by Mrs F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Rung as a compliment to ringer of 5-6 on her 13th birthday.

LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,

AT 27, ANCASTER ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

JOHN E. SPICE 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	PERCY J. JOHNSON	7-8

*MISS JOAN HOULDSWORTH 9-10

Composed by S. MARSH. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First attempt for Treble Bob Royal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

MEETING AT HADLEIGH.

The Suffolk Guild held a meeting at Hadleigh on August 21st, and ringers attended from Ipswich, Sudbury, Earl Stonham, Rushmere, Lavenham, Haverhill, Colchester, Newton, Grundisburgh and Leytonstone. They were welcomed by the Ringing Master (Mr. C. J. Sedgley) and the hon. secretary (Mr. H. G. Herbert).

During the afternoon and evening the bells were rung in Kent Treble Bob, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise. Mr. L. Wright had cycled 30 miles to be present, and Mr. G. Dawson was also a friend from a good distance. It was decided to hold a meeting at Stowmarket on September 18th.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT WENTWORTH.

At a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Wentworth, near Rotherham, on August 14th, members were present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, Sandal, Silkstone, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

Twenty-three members sat down to tea at the Rockingham Arms, and the business meeting followed with Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, in the chair. One new member, Mr. G. West, of Wentworth, was elected. An apology was received from the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. Barnard, who was unable to be present. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hoylandswaine on September 11th.

Good use was made of the tower bells, the methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranging from Stedman Doubles to Cambridge Surprise.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 365.)

There can be no doubt that bell founding in England has vastly improved during the last half-century, and there can be as little doubt that the improvement is much more marked in some kinds of bells than in others. Carillon bells used to be the speciality of the foundries of the Low Countries, and English bells cast before the year 1890 are totally unsuited to the purpose. Now the English carillon bell can more than hold its own against any in the world.

The English foundries may fairly be said to have exploded the myth of the very big bell. In former times there were here no extra heavy bells, and even one or two of more than usual weight, such as Peter of York and Tom of Oxford, were small compared with the monsters on the Continent. Travellers from abroad talked about the great bells at Moscow and Paris, Cologne, Vienna and elsewhere, and the impression was created that the bigger the bell the grander is its sound. We know now that it is not so. The amount of metal in a really good bell is conditioned by the pitch of its note. If you want an extra deep note you must have a very heavy bell, but when the note is lower than a certain limit, it ceases to be impressive. It is probable that no grander sound can be got out of bell metal than is produced by the bells of eight to ten tons cast by the English foundries.

These improvements are very largely, though not entirely, due to tuning on the five-tone principle. So, too, is the great improvement in small ringing bells. It is almost absurd to compare old-style light peals with modern ones. Think of the twelve at Quex Park and the twelve at Surfleet. Admit to the full that both are far too light for that number. Remember that the Birchington ring was cast by a man who was a master of his craft. Then we can realise something of the debt which is owed to the men who introduced and perfected five-tone tuning.

But when we turn to medium weight and heavy-ringing peals the improvement is not nearly so striking. That there has been improvement in average quality can hardly be doubted, but whether it is entirely due to tuning may be another matter. We cannot tell. There have been improved methods of casting and of finishing the bell when cast, as well as alterations in the system of tuning, and it is interesting, though futile, to speculate what sort of bell would have been turned out now, if the tuners had continued the old custom of concentrating on the strike-note.

One inevitable result of the five-tone tuning is that the overtones of a bell are made much more prominent. In the old-style bell they were hardly noticeable. In the modern style they sometimes force themselves on the attention. And, for good or for evil, the old traditional quality of bell tone has been changed.

It was for this reason that the new style of tuning was at first greatly disliked by many people. Ringers complained that the bells 'howled,' and certainly the fuller tone and greater amount of vibration are not always so pleasing for the purposes of change ringing.

Perhaps the most remarkable and most interesting criticism of new-style tuning came from Thomas C. Lewis, who was himself a bell founder. Lewis was a

builder of organs and a maker of pianofortes. He had a fine reputation, and he turned out some splendid work. He was an artist to the core, and would never sacrifice any of his ideals for financial reasons. He showed it when he undertook bell founding in addition to his other activities. He believed that a bell should never be tuned. It must be cast true in all respects, for if once the surface of the metal is removed by the tuning machine the bell will suffer in quality of tone and resonance.

To cast a bell that need not afterwards be altered—a 'maiden' bell,' as it was called—had always been the ideal of the old founders, but it was not easy to do, and it sometimes happened that bells were left slightly out of tune in order to claim a quality they really had no right to. Lewis would not tolerate anything of that sort. If a bell was not exactly as it should have been, he broke it up and cast another. It is said that before he could produce the eight bells for St. Andrew's, Wells Street (now at Kingsbury) as he wanted them, he had to cast over twenty bells. It was most admirable devotion to a high ideal, but it did not pay, and, after he had cast a few bells, he was forced to abandon founding.

Lewis had strong opinions on the quality of tone in musical instruments, and he published a little book protesting strongly against what he considered were wrong and harmful views and tendencies in his time. So far as bells were concerned, his protest was mainly against the ideas introduced by Lord Grimthorpe, which found full expression in such rings as those at Worcester Cathedral and St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, both of which have since been recast. Lewis totally rejected Canon Simpson's ideas, but it must be remembered that his protest was published before the founders had been able to turn out any rings in the new style. It is hardly likely he would have approved five-tone bells in general, but it would be interesting to know what he would have thought of such a ring as (shall we say?) St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. We will let him speak for himself, and here is his protest in full:—

A protest against the modern development of unmusical tone in organs, church bells, and pianofortes, by Thomas C. Lewis, Organ Factory, Brixton.

The evidence of the development of unmusical tone is constantly on the increase. Organs, Church Bells, Pianofortes, and some of the Orchestral Instruments manifest this downward grade in constructive aims. Seemingly the deviation from pure tone is cultivated deliberately with a pride in its achievement. The evil has proceeded so far that I cannot refrain any longer from raising my protest against it, well assured that I am not alone in deploring it.

How and why this vulgar and baneful tendency has become so assertive—whether it is due to sheer incompetence to judge, or to a hankering after notoriety, or to a common submission both on the part of the makers and of the public to the bad influence of certain examples—it is not my purpose to enquire. I take note of it . . . and I strongly feel that those who have the position and the power to influence should make their voices heard in combined efforts to stay the general decadence.

That is Lewis' general opening remarks. He then proceeds to deal with organs, on which he certainly could speak with authority. He comes next to bells.

Bells of modern make tell of errors, excess of weight and a craze for improvements. A very general belief

has been instilled into the minds of purchasers that bells, to be of good and even of superior tone, should be heavy in quantity of metal used and thick in the casting; and beyond this there is another belief, coming from the musician's notion that the tone of the bell should be brought to accord with his rules of theoretic harmony.

The instances in which these teachings have been followed are, as far as the true bell is concerned, lamentable failures. Not content with the ancient and genuinely characteristic tone which in itself is unique, and belongs to no other instruments for the production of sound, these modern intruders, mostly amateurs by profession, clamour for bells the thickest and heaviest that can be made to do the work, consequently the most poor and vulgar tone is poured out from many of our church towers.

Not very long since a large bell was required, but it must be the heaviest or none at all, so the directing head of affairs had decided. The size, however, was limited to the dimensions of the passage through which by necessity the bell would have to be passed. Weight, nevertheless, remained master so, not to contravene amateur dictation, the bell had to be designed of exceeding thickness to get the weight. In the result it is doubtful whether the bell can be heard even a quarter of a mile away, and in consideration of the office and purpose of a large bell there can be no greater condemnation.

People who are ignorant of, or are unable to recognise, what should be the proper bell nature shown in tone, are similarly circumstanced to those who are no judges of organ tone, who with preconceived notions rail against the mixtures, and what they please to call in their academic way, consecutive fifths.

These people, when they do become interested in bells,

are astonished to learn that a large bell must have two distinct notes, its 'tap-tone' and that which is called its 'hum-note.' Their first supposition very naturally is that these two notes should be one to the other in the relation of octaves. The hum-tone, it is noticed, is the lower note in pitch. Now, as a fact, there is nothing poorer in tone than a large bell having the top or percussion note of a stated definite pitch, and the lower or hum-note accompanying it in an exact octave deeper. On the contrary, and in defiance seemingly of harmony, a fine bell with the percussion or tap-tone, say E, should have its lower or hum tone a major seventh below, but flattened to the extent of about a quarter of a semitone; broadly speaking, its pitch should be F rather flat, and this tone forming a peculiar interval with the E above, although it might be supposed to be discording, really gives the best possible result that can be had from a bell, and the musical ear is always seeking that combination of two blended tones when the true ancient bell-tone has been appreciated. There are many harmonies heard, but these we pass by as quite subordinate in strength.

It would be a mistake to regard this deep tone as in any sense harmonic, or depending upon the tap-tone, for the tap-tone obtains its pitch from the metal and the way in which the bulk is disposed, whilst the hum-tone is due to the relative proportions of the shape given to the bell, and the reason for the choice of the particular pitch it should have is that these large bells, when the hum-tone is an octave, give unsteady sounds, confused and wavering, and long experience has led founders to perceive that this flattened major seventh best steadies the bell sounds, and seems in some way to absorb discordances.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The statement in last week's Notices that there will be ringing at Stepney on August 29th is incorrect. The next service ringing there is on September 19th, the third Sunday in the month.

The meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association at Rotherham on September 4th will be held in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society.

A very pleasant evening was spent on August 14th at St. Mary's, Ely. Ringers were present from Bury St. Edmunds, Chippenham, Wilburton, Sutton, Chatteris and the local band. Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Major and Minor, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Minor were rung.

The Grandsire Triples at Bridgend was the belated wedding peal for Miss Marian E. James, daughter of the ringer of the second. Owing to the ban it could not be rung before.

The first peal at Caerleon (where a meeting was held recently) was on January 12th, 1889. It was Mr. John W. Jones' first peal and he is one of three survivors of the band.

Fifty years ago yesterday the Cumberlands rang 5,000 Treble Bob Royal at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Mr. W. H. Barber rang the second and Mr. William Short the sixth.

On August 22nd, 1752, was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, a complete 5,040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples it being the first time ever performed by eight men only. So intricate it was thought no man could ring a bell and call the bobs.

The first peal of Runnymede Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on August 22nd, 1934.

The Cumberland Youths rang the second peal of Stedman Oaters ever accomplished at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on August 23rd, 1788.

If places in 5-6 are made round a plain hunting treble on ten bells, a theoretically correct extension of Double Court Bob Minor is obtained. A peal of it was rung at Surfleet on August 23rd, 1919, under the title Double Court Royal. Henry Law James conducted.

Henry Hubbard, composer and author of a text book on change ringing, was born on August 25th, 1809. On August 24th, 1868, he conducted a peal rung by a band whose united ages amounted to 553 years.

The first true peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on August 26th, 1718.

On the same date in 1776 the College Youths rang 10,640 Bob Major at Mortlake.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Original Major at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on August 26th, 1908.

The first peal of Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples was rung on August 26th, 1939, at Bushey, Hertfordshire. Mr. Harold Cashmore conducted.

The first and only peal of St. George's Bob Major was rung by the College Youths at St. George's, Southwark, on August 27th, 1750. The method was a poor variation of Plain Bob.

On August 27th, 1814, Shipway's long peal of Treble Bob Major, 12,320 changes, was rung at Otley in Yorkshire. Two men were needed for the tenor and the bobs were called from manuscript by a man who did not himself ring.

Matthew A. Wood died on August 27th, 1912, at the age of 87.

The first peal of Sedburgh Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on August 27th, 1938.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT CAERLEON.

There was an excellent attendance at the meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, held on August 14th at the old Roman city of Caerleon in Monmouthshire. Several young recruits were present.

The light eight bells were rung from three o'clock until four, when a short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. O. Williams, the lesson being read by the Rev. J. H. Williams.

The ringers were entertained to tea on his lawn by Mr. Lovatt, and the business meeting followed presided over by the Vicar. Mr. J. W. Jones, the hon. secretary, announced the sudden death of Mr. Alex Hook, at whose funeral at Penhow on Friday several ringers attended.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Caerphilly.

Good reports were received of the training of recruits. The question of peal ringing was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that it should be discouraged, except for very special local or national occasions, until the end of the war.

Over a dozen new members were elected.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Lovatt for his hospitality and to the Vicar.

Caerleon bells are for the time being silent, as the whole of the ringers are engaged in the national effort. The ringing was, therefore, most welcome.

DEATH OF MR. ALEXANDER HOOK.

The death is announced of Mr. Alexander Hook, of Penhow, Monmouthshire, which occurred suddenly while he was at work last week. He was a member of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. At the funeral on Friday several ringers were present, and Mr. John W. Jones represented the association.

DEATH OF MR RICHARD F. LANE.

The funeral took place at Loughborough on Friday, August 13th, of Mr. Richard Farmer Lane, who died at the age of 83 years after a very short illness. A native of Earl Shilton, near Hinckley, he joined the famous firm of John Taylor and Co. (then John Taylor and Sons) in the 1870's, and was associated with the installation and re-hanging of hundreds of peals in all parts of the British Isles. He assisted in the hanging of the ring of 12 at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1878 and well remembered all details of the opening ceremony. Mr. Lane was very thorough in his work and took infinite pains to ensure that a job was well done; of a jovial disposition, he had a fund of anecdotes which made him jolly good company—he had a marvellous memory and could recall in detail, with accuracy and vividness, happenings of 70 years ago.

'Old Dick,' as he was known to the present generation, joined the Midland Counties Association in 1883 and rang for it over 100 peals, many of which he conducted, particularly Stedman and Grandsire Caters, of which he was very fond.

He retired about 10 years ago, but his interest in bells and the foundry, where he had spent the greater part of his life, never flagged. He was a wonderful old man who will be greatly missed. For some years he was a sidesman at Loughborough Parish Church, where the service before the interment was conducted by the Archdeacon, the Ven. W. J. Lyon, who paid testimony to his services as a bellringer and church worker. The local company was represented by Messrs. John Grundy and John Saddington, and the firm of Taylors by Messrs. John Oldham and Colin Harrison, floral tributes being sent by Mr. Denison Taylor and the Parish Church ringers.

Mr. Lane had been married three times and leaves a widow and six sons and daughters besides a host of friends to mourn his passing. Nothing could be more fitting to conclude this short obituary than 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

DEATH OF MR. SEPTIMUS RADFORD.

As a result of a road accident early on August 10th, Mr. Septimus Radford, of Guildford, met his death. He was cycling to work when he met an Army lorry. There was no evidence of a collision, but he fell off his bicycle and suffered injuries from which he succumbed in the Royal Surrey County Hospital on August 13th. He was 70 years old.

The funeral service on August 17th was at S. Nicolas', where for 46 years Mr. Radford had been ringer, steeplekeeper and conductor, the last two offices being often combined. The Rector, the Rev. P. R. Lobb, officiated, and was assisted by the Rev. E. O. Ware.

The bells were rung half-muffled, first to a touch of Grandsire Triples and the whole pull and stand seventy times, and, as the coffin was leaving the church, to a touch of Stedman Triples. Four of the ringers were from S. Nicolas' band and four from the Cathedral. They were Messrs. H. Hutton, E. Etheridge, H. Mason, W. R. Robertson, A. C. Hazelden, A. H. Pulling and E. G. Heath (tenor).

At the burial in Stoke Cemetery, in addition to the family mourners several ringers were present, including Messrs. G. L. Grover (representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild), H. Harris, A. J. Bartlett (Chiddingfold), G. Tomsett, T. Theobald and T. W. White, Mrs. Hazelden and Miss Avenall. Wreaths included tributes from his late employer, Mr. Stanley Ellis, his workmates and S. Nicolas' bellringers.

Mr. Radford began his ringing at Taunton, where he was associated with Mr. Albert Walker and the late James Hunt, as well as his brother, Mr. T. W. Radford, who happily survives him. He went to Guildford in 1897 and became a member of the band at S. Nicolas'. Three years later the company, having been joined by Mr. A. C. Hazelden, began to practise Double Norwich, and passing on to Superlative, laid the foundation of the Surprise ringing which has not since died out.

Mr. Radford was a safe ringer in any method he knew, and could be relied on to put up a good performance in almost any difficult conditions. His last ringing was on Sunday, August 8th, when he took part in three courses of Grandsire Caters with his brother and his son, Mr. F. W. Radford.

JOINT MEETING AT ROTHERFIELD.

The Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead District Guild held a successful joint meeting at Rotherfield on August 21st, at which ringers attended from Eastbourne (St. Saviour's), East Grinstead, Heathfield, Hastings (All Saints' and Blacklands), Lamberhurst, Mayfield, Paddock Wood, Southover, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield, Wadhurst and the local band. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Stedman, of Weymouth, Mr. J. Thorly of Thorne, Yorks, Mr. H. R. Butcher (Master, Sussex County) and Mr. Bernard Saunders.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. E. Collins, who also played the organ and gave an address. Tea in the Institute was generously provided by the Rector, who took the chair for the two meetings that followed. Two new members (Mr. Keely, of Rotherfield, and Mr. C. Bassett, of Wadhurst) were elected to the county.

The next two meetings of the East Grinstead Guild were announced as Turners Hill on September 11th and Withyham on October 9th. Mr. H. R. Butcher thanked the Rector on behalf of those present. After some touches on the handbells, the company returned to the tower till 8 p.m. The methods ranged from rounds to Cambridge.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The resolution unanimously adopted by the Kent County Association seems to indicate a singularly narrow parochial outlook, and is not, I hope, representative of ringers in general. Here it is: 'That the Tonbridge District views with alarm the manner in which reports of meetings are curtailed in "The Ringing World." The district has had meetings regularly during the whole of the ban and little if any notice has been taken of it.' Then follow comments by several members, one deploring the fact that two pages were devoted to Simpson tuning.

The Kent County members seem to overlook the fact that 'The Ringing World' is a national paper and for that reason must give preference to matter which has a national appeal. Reports of meetings have local interest only and in any case make dull reading, with their inevitable accounts of numbers present and votes of thanks, etc.

I suppose that you must publish some reports, but, please, Mr. Editor, don't encroach on the space you reserve for your invariably interesting leader and the articles similar to Mr. Morris' and those on bell tuning.

In closing, I wish to add that in my opinion 'The Ringing World' as published during the ban has been better than ever.

H. P. CLIFF.

108, James Street, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

SOUND CONTROL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. Hardcastle's letter in your issue of August 13th is particularly interesting and provides another striking instance of how easy it is to deal with noisy bells if only the job is handled properly and the authorities are not afraid of the expense. The use of wired or 'armoured' glass for closing up the louvres is admirable, as it serves the dual purpose of controlling the sound while still admitting daylight to the belfry.

Apart from those towers which have a lot of space or spires above the bells, the opening of the tower roof and construction of a 'lantern' with louvre openings, as was done at Bradford, is undoubtedly the best method of all. Naturally it is more costly, but provided funds can be raised (and they usually can if the authorities set about the job in earnest) it is well worth it. The difficulty, I find, is to convince those concerned of the real desirability of carrying out the proposed change. Their attitude usually is that as their bells and tower have been in the condition they are for the past three hundred years or so, there is no need to go to the expense and trouble of altering them. In some cases they even positively disbelieve one's statement as to the advantages which would accrue.

As to the Bradford bells being more noisy in the ringing chamber after the alterations, I think one may conclude that this would be due to the more correct tuning of the bells following recasting, as their tone would then naturally be more penetrating. It could not be caused by closing up the windows and opening up the roof.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

CANADIAN RINGER DECORATED.

Squadron Leader R. J. Lane, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who had already won the Distinguished Flying Cross, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The official statement contains the following:—

'As a flight commander, Squadron Leader Lane has rendered most valuable service, and his leadership and example have been inspiring to all the air crew with whom he has come into contact. This officer has recently been on operational sorties to such targets as Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich, and by his courage and devotion to duty has achieved many outstanding successes.'

Squadron Leader Lane was one of the Cathedral Boy Scouts when the bells arrived in Victoria, British Columbia, and became one of the best ringers. He always took a very active interest in ringing and has rung in many a quarter-peal.

THE TEN RINGERS.

'There were ten ringers, five were wise and five were foolish. Now the wise ringers, seeing that their numbers were depleted by the war, took unto themselves ten others, and during the enforced ban revealed unto them all the secrets of their art.'

'The five that were foolish, however, all slumbered and slept. Now one day there was a cry made, behold the ban is lifted; go ye into your towers to ring.'

'The wise ringers, therefore, arose, and with their new-made pupils made a joyful noise upon their bells every Sunday.'

'One day the foolish came and said unto the wise: Give us your ringers for our band is depleted.'

'But the wise answered, saying: Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you, but go ye, rather, and seek for yourselves; train as we have trained, so that plenty may reign once more in both our towers.'

(Communicated.)

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.

WHICH WAS THE FIRST PEAL?

The historian who tries to unravel the secrets of the past has often very few definite contemporary statements to work on. He has to rely on circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence consists of a large number of items, any one of which by itself is inconclusive and relatively unimportant, but when all are put together they point to an irresistible conclusion. They are like the strands of a rope which can easily be broken one by one, but which, properly bound together, are immensely strong.

I believe that the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 9th, 1795. For this belief I have not a scrap of direct contemporary evidence, yet I think the fact is beyond question.

To clear the ground, there are one or two things which must be stated. There is no doubt whatever that the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang a peal of Kent Maximus in 1820. There is no doubt that they thought it was the first in the method. There is no doubt that nobody connected with the Cumberlands has ever challenged their claim, nor, until now, has anyone else. No earlier performance has been recorded as Kent Maximus.

Having made those things quite clear, we can put them aside for the time being and turn to another aspect of the question.

EARLY HISTORY OF METHOD.

Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus were extensively practised during the eighteenth century, especially in London, but almost entirely in the original, or Oxford, variation. James Barham's band at Leeds in Kent rang Major and Royal during the second half of the century, and soon after 1770 someone (who we do not know) introduced to them the plan of making double handstroke places in 3-4 instead of backstroke places. They adopted the plan in Morning Exercise as well as in Treble Bob. These variations were not considered as distinct methods; they were simply called 'new' Treble Bob and 'new' Morning Exercise.

The variation in due time was brought to London, but the Londoners had no great opinion of the Kent ringers, they did not recognise the advantages of the variation, and bands like the College Youths do not appear to have rung even occasional courses of it. It was, however, included rather perfunctorily in the 'Clavis,' still as new Treble Bob.

In the year 1787—that is the year before the 'Clavis' was published—the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 8448 changes in the variation. There is something mysterious about this performance. There is no record of it in the peal book, but there can hardly be any doubt it was rung, for Shipway says he took part in it himself. It was his last peal with the society. The fact that thirty years later he called the method Kent proves nothing as to what it was called when the peal was rung. No particulars are given and the name of no conductor. At the time there were quarrels and dissensions which shortly afterwards nearly wrecked the society, and if someone other than George Gross (who was then leader) arranged and conducted the peal, that might account for the omission of the record from the peal book. This is the only definite reference to any ringing of Kent in London during the eighteenth century.

THE CUMBERLANDS.

The senior Society of Cumberland Youths was one of the leading metropolitan societies. They were active peal ringers, and, much more than most companies, were inclined to make experiments and ring peals in variations of the standard methods. When they did so, they exercised the right, which was supposed to exist, of giving their own name to the variations. When George Partrick was their leader they rang Cumberland Bob, Cumberland Fancy and Cumberland Pleasure. What the methods were there is no means of knowing. When George Gross returned to the society they rang Cumberland eight in (evidently Grandsire Major), Cumberland Grand New Double Major, Cumberland Caters real double, and Cumberland Cinques. We can identify these latter because the compositions are given in the 'Clavis' (not, however, with those names) and they turn out to be Real Double Bob Major, Real Double Grandsire Caters, and Real Double Grandsire Cinques. The Cumberlands gave their name to the variations, but in no instance did the Exercise accept the name. If, therefore, the Cumberlands rang peals of Kent Treble Bob we should expect them to call the method Cumberland, especially as it had not yet received any name. This, of course, is no proof that they did ring peals of Kent Treble Bob.

On December 13th, 1794, at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the society rang 5,200 changes of Cumberland Royal Treble Bob. On March 9th, 1795, they rang at St. Saviour's 5,232 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus. On May 4th, 1795, they rang, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 5,504 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Major, and on May 26th, in the same year, they rang at

Edmonton, 5,120 changes of the same. All four peals were called by George Gross.

WHAT DID THEY RING?

What did they ring? In the first place it was Treble Bob. Treble Bob meant the method in which all the bells (not merely the treble) normally had a dodging path. Secondly, the method was one which could be rung equally well on eight, ten, and twelve bells. It could be rung by a good ten-bell band who normally had no opportunity for practising Maximus, for at the time there were twelve bells neither at Shoreditch nor Spitalfields.

Thirdly, the method had the ordinary Treble Bob leads and the ordinary Treble Bob bob. This is shown by the number of changes in the peals. But what to my mind is the most convincing proof is the statement that the Royal was 'the most that can be rung in 9 courses.' This was the statement usually made when Reeves' one-part peal of Treble Ten, 5,200 changes, a popular composition, was rung. It will seem a small point to most readers, but not to one who has studied and knows the old records.

Well, what did they ring? What methods are there which can fulfil the necessary conditions? There are millions of twelve-bell methods, but only three which can possibly meet the case. They are Kent, Oxford places in 5-6, and Kent places in 5-6. It is hardly likely that any band would be tempted to practise either of the latter two, and that leaves only Kent.

And why should they not have rung Kent? It was the natural thing to do. If it had been a new and unknown method it would certainly have been the composition of George Gross, and he was not the man to omit saying so in the peal book. Shipway rang in one of the peals of Major. He knew what was rung, and would hardly have omitted all reference to the method in his book if it had been anything different from the standard methods.

But, it will be argued, how was it that all knowledge of the peals was forgotten, not only in the Exercise, but in the Society of Cumberland Youths itself? That does seem a difficulty; but when one has studied the records of the old societies, one realises that it is just the thing which did usually happen. The men who rang in the peals were very secretive about what they rang, and the men who followed them cared little or nothing about it. There is the striking instance of Henry Hubbard, a composer and the author of a ringing text book. For years he rang in Mancroft belfry in sight of the fine board which records the peal of Double Norwich Maximus and in company of many of the men who took part in it. And he never knew what was rung.

What really decides the question seems to be this—With all our knowledge of method construction we cannot discover any method except Kent which will meet the circumstances of the case, and since there was every reason why the method should have been Kent, we conclude that it was Kent.

J. A. T.

THE BELLS OF PETERBOROUGH.

Mr. Edward Lankester sends us an account of the bells of Peterborough Cathedral, which, as he says, differs somewhat from that given by Mr. Ernest Morris a few weeks ago in our columns. On August 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Lankester visited the Cathedral, and made a close inspection of the bell tower. The guide told them that about 60 years ago seven bells hung in the tower, but two were taken down to ease the strain. He pointed to the frame where the two bells used to hang. 'We mentioned,' says Mr. Lankester, 'it was rather strange that there were seven bells. Why not eight? There was no sign as far as we could see where another bell or three bells could have been. Maybe part of the frame went with the three bells taken out in 1831 (we did not know anything about ten bells being there until we read Mr. Morris' article).

'On reaching my wife's home we mentioned what we had seen and heard, and to our surprise my wife's mother in an instance said, "That's correct." She told us when a girl she went up the tower on the very day the two bells were taken down. Her party was told the same tale—to ease the strain on the tower—thus confirming the guide's story.'

Thomas North's account is very circumstantial. He says that the ten bells, hung in 1709, were only rung for a few years, it being thought that the vibration endangered the safety of the west front of the Cathedral. In 1831 the front five were sold and taken down. 'The present five,' says North (1878), 'which remain in the position they occupied when there was a ring of ten, are never rung in peal.' He says nothing about two extra bells.

Towards the end of the last century grave fears began to be entertained of the safety of the fabric of the Cathedral. In 1883 the central tower was pulled down completely and afterwards rebuilt. Some years later the whole of the west front was taken down and rebuilt with the same stones in the same positions. The bell tower is immediately behind the west front and it is easy to see why no ringing was allowed.

Mr. Lankester says that the bells are hung for ringing. Five ropes hang down into belfry, four look very old, but the tenor rope is not too bad.

ROUND TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

Round towers are common in Norfolk and Suffolk, and other examples occur in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Sussex. They have been regarded as survivals of Roman forms, such as the Roman Pharos at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Dover, which, however, is octagonal. Round towers of the sixth century still remain at Ravenna, St. Apollinare in Classe (Italy). From the end of the ninth century to the beginning of the thirteenth century the Irish were building round towers, and these served as detached belfries, watch towers and strongholds for ecclesiastics and their valuables. Of the 120 recorded instances, 10 still retain their conical caps, including Ardmore, Co. Waterford (95ft.), Clondalkin, Co. Dublin (90ft.), and Devenish, Co. Fermanagh (85ft.).

They also occur at Peel, Isle of Man; Abernethy, Perthshire; Brechin, Forfarshire (87ft.); Eglilshay, Orkney. They had an ultimate Byzantine derivation, through the campaniles of early Ravenna, whence the Moslem minaret may have sprung. Of greater antiquity are the shorter and wider megalithic round strongholds, as in Rabboth Ammon, Syria, the Balearic Islands, Scotland and Sardinia.

The round tower at Windsor Castle was built by Edward III. But in the case of the English examples it is explained that they were almost wholly in chalk districts, where for the outer facing nothing but flint was available. It was easier to construct flint-cased towers circular, so the towers were made round. If they had been made square it would have been necessary to import freestone quoins from long distance. In his book, 'Parish Churches of Norfolk,' Mr. C. J. W. Messent (1936) gives a list of no less than 135 examples in that county, of which 129 are still remaining, whole or in part, the others having the foundations only remaining. Over 75 are entirely round from top to bottom, and some of these form part of ruined churches.

In Suffolk, 41 round towers still exist. If these towers be chartered on a map it will be noticed that the majority of them are grouped in the north-east corner of the county, about the estuarial confluences of the rivers Waveney and Yare.

The largest circular tower in England is that of Wortham, which is 29ft. in diameter externally, and 60ft. high. Unfortunately it is now in ruins. A feature of the round tower at Thorington is the tall but shallow arcading which surrounds it about 16ft. from the ground. It is formed entirely of rubble, of which the tower is built, and may well be pre-Conquest. Nearly all round towers have had later windows inserted in them, and most of them have upper storeys constructed in mediæval times. The earliest is probably that at Ashby. This for two-thirds of its total height is a gradually tapering octagon constructed in brickwork. Many others have flint and stone octagonal extensions with typical 15th century

battlemented parapets. Only two of these round towers have buttresses. That at Ramshoft, which in plan is more oval than round, has three buttresses—north, south and west. That of Beyton, two—south and north-west.

The three Sussex round towers are all to be found in the valley of the Ouse, and situated on the west bank of the river in each case. The three churches that have these towers are St. Michael's, Lewes, Southease and Piddinghoe. All are situated on high ground, though that of Lewes is not seen from a distance, as it is so shut in by the other buildings of the High Street, but Southease and Piddington are visible to each other. One theory advanced to account for their construction is that in the days when the Ouse was wider and more used for traffic than it is to-day, they served as beacon towers. This may be possible, as a glance at the map shows that these three churches are in a direct line, and the light from each would be quickly picked up, though there are no signs of where a beacon would be displayed. These three towers do not contain ringing peals of bells, Lewes and Southease having but two bells, and Piddinghoe three.

Of the Norfolk round towers, the bulk of them have but one bell, while several hold two, three and four bells. The following briefly describes the rings of five and over. Acle, which has a round base and octagonal belfry stage, had its tower restored and bells increased to six in 1933. It also has a Sacring bell and clock. The tower is probably unique, inasmuch as the bells hang in tiers in a new steel frame, which in its turn is suspended from a steel tower which has been erected inside the walls of the old tower by Boulton and Paul, Ltd., of Norwich. It is believed to be the only instance in England where a steel tower has been erected in such circumstances. It is about 35ft. high and 10ft. square, and braced completely. The new treble was by Gillett and Johnston, and the rest are dated 1623, except the 5th, which is by John Brend and dated 1654. The tenor weighs 9 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb.

Aslacton, St. Michael's, has a ring of five dating from 1607 (treble, 2 and tenor) and 1614 (3rd and 4th). Bedingham, St. Andrew's, round tower, which has an octagonal top, also has five bells, tenor about 7 cwt. They are a mixed lot, the treble being by J. Taylor, 1842; 2nd by John Goldsmith, 1710; 3rd by Pack and Chapman, 1778; 4th by John Brend, sen., 1573; and tenor a mediæval bell, with a queer, unintelligible inscription.

Brooke, St. Peter's, round tower, believed to date back to the reign of King Stephen, and restored in 1908, contains six bells, which were rehung in 1910. Except the 4th, which is a pre-Reformation bell by Brasyer, of Norwich, they are by Joseph Mallows, of East Dereham, and dated 1758. The fifth has this very apt inscription:—

'Come rais us well and ring us right,
Then all that hear will take delight.'

(Continued on next page.)

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ROUND TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Gissing, St. Mary's, has five bells, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th by John Darbie, of Ipswich, 1670, and others by William Dobson in 1832.

Forngett's round tower has five bells, restored by J. Taylor and Co. in 1938. The first three are dated 1602, the 4th 1737, and tenor 1783. The latter weighs 13 cwt. 12 lb.

Haddiscoe, St. Mary's, round embattled tower, of Saxon and Norman date, contains five bells, rehung in 1890. The tenor is about 7 cwt.

Intwood, All Saints', has a tower with round base and octagonal belfry storey, and contains five bells placed here in memory of Clement William and Mary Anne Unthank by their children. Originally there was one bell by Thomas Newman, 1737.

Kirby Cane, All Saints', round tower, was restored in 1925, and it has five bells, the treble and tenor dated 1626, 2nd and 2rd by Edward Tooke, 1677, and the 4th recast 1811. Newton-Subcourse, St. Mary's, has six bells, two presented in 1893 by the Rev. A. T. J. Thackeray, Vicar here from 1885 to 1925.

Norwich, St. Mary Coslany, has an ancient west round tower, and during restoration work in 1909 four Saxon windows were discovered in it. It had six bells, now removed to a modern church. As early as 1552 there were five bells here, 'whereof one was called a gabriel bell and weighed one cwt., the others weighed 5, 8, 10 and 12 cwts.'

St. Mary's is the only six-bell tower in Norwich in which a peal has been rung. There is, or once was, a board in the belfry with the following wording: 'St. Mary's Parish. On Monday, Janr. 3rd, 1824, was Rung in this Steeple, Seven Peals of Grandsire Bob. Each Peal containing 720 changes called Seven Different Ways, the whole being a compleat 5,040 changes in three hours and eight minutes Without a bell out of course Conducted by George Watering. And rung by the following persons: George Watering treble, Thomas Roberts 2nd, John Thurtle 3rd, Robert Baxter 4th, James Ward 5th, Joseph Wild tenor. This tablet was erected to commemorate their science in ringing.'

Quidenham, St. Andrew's, standing on an eminence a short distance from the hall, has a west tower of flint and stone, round at base, with octagonal belfry stage, and a spire. It contains eight bells and a clock. Tenor, 16 cwt., was presented by Lady Louisa Charteris and Mr. and Lady Augusta Noel, as a memorial to General George Thomas, 6th Earl of Albemarle, who died in 1891. In the church are numerous memorials to this illustrious family. In 1494, William Erle of Quidenham gave by his will 12d. to the melting and repairing of the great bell. In 1552 there were three bells of 4, 6, and 8 cwt.

Great Ryburgh, St. Andrew's, tower is round at base and octagonal above, and has six bells presented in 1891 by the Smith family. They are by J. Taylor and Co. and hang in an iron frame, the tenor being 12 cwt.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. W. HAWKINS.

Among the victims of a recent air crash were Mr. and Mrs. W. Hawkins, of Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Mr. Hawkins was a member of the local band and had been a regular Sunday service ringer for over 30 years. He had rung one 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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on August 28th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, September 5th, 10.30 a.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Old Windsor on Saturday, August 28th, 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring tea, if required.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Ottershaw on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (6) at 5 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Ringing after until 8.45 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) available at 4 p.m. Teas in advance at nearby cafe.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Cotgrave, Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting follows.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. James' Church, West Derby, on Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by the meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but bring own food.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Annual meeting at Leyland Parish Church on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, August 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, September 4th, at 5 p.m. Bells 4 p.m. and after meeting. Make own arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West and North and East Districts.—Joint meeting at Ruislip, on Saturday, September 4th, at 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea may be provided in Church Room,

Bury Street, followed by meeting, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells (8) available 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bus from Ruislip Church to Pinner every 20 minutes.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Rotherham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea in the Parish Church Hall, Moorgate, at 5 p.m. at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head. Those requiring same must notify Mr. T. C. Ryder, 19, Middle Lane South, Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, September 1st. Business meeting to follow.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Chicheley on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea by August 28th to P. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Helmingham, 3 p.m., Saturday, September 4th. Framsdens bells (8) also available. Tea at Framsdens Greyhound at 5 p.m.—T. W. Last, Helmingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Soberton on Saturday, September 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who inform H. Dudman, Station Road, Droxford, Hants, by August 31st.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's (8 bells), Brunel Terrace, Elswick, Newcastle, on Tuesday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Important business.—Ernest Wallace, Vice-President.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock. Names to Miss J. Taylor, 165, Dunhill Road, Goole, by September 8th.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich

Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by September 6th.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting (with Bristol City practice) at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Names by September 8th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

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