



No. 1,700. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1943.

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

Price 3d.

**GILLETT
&
JOHNSTON L^{td}.
CROYDON**

Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
Cast in England
and Carillons of the
BRITISH EMPIRE

in

**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**



Telephone
Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

SPEED IN RINGING.

During the last twenty-five years or so there has been a marked increase in the speed at which bells, both tower bells and handbells, are rung. This is particularly noticeable in the case of peals, where the rate can definitely be checked, and it is also evident in service and practice ringing.

For it there are several reasons. They include improvements in bell hanging and bell tuning, changes in ringers' temperament and character, the examples and influence of a few leading men, and the custom of affixing notes to reports stating that such-and-such performances were the quickest on the bells, and so creating the impression that new and desirable records had been set up. There is, in fact, among some men the idea, openly avowed or tacitly held, that quick ringing is in itself superior to slow ringing.

Such an idea was not unknown in the past, and in the prize ringing at Flixton, of which we recently gave an account, there was an extreme example. But, generally speaking, the best ringers did not recognise any virtue in ringing a particular peal of bells faster than what was looked on as the normal rate. Which is the correct view?

Now it is undoubtedly the case that when the band is a first class one, a smart, brisk pace is to them more pleasing than a slow one, especially when they are peal ringing. It is easier to maintain a good rhythm, and a competent tenor ringer, provided he has in front of him a band he can depend on, can much more easily manipulate a heavy bell at a quick rate than at a slow rate. Men ring peals usually for their own enjoyment (as they are fully entitled to do), and if a quick rate of ringing best suits their purposes, it is so far fully justified. Only they have no particular cause for boasting.

But all ringing is not done for the ringers' enjoyment, and the effect of any ringing on the outside listeners or hearers is not just the same as on those who are taking part in it. This is a point which ringers as a rule completely ignore. They usually assume (if they think at all about such things) that what satisfies them must be the best for the public. But that need not be so. To try to lay down general rules for all bells would be absurd and futile, and in the case of an individual ring any even approximately sound opinions could only be reached after prolonged experiments. But one or two conclusions seem clear.

Modern bells, tuned on the five-tone principle, should, to produce the best musical effect, be rung at a much slower speed than old style bells. We doubt if this is

(Continued on page 458.)

WM. POTTS & SONS, LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1833).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St., Newcastle-on-Tyne,
and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,



Exact size

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole, Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved — as Illustration.

got. HALL MARKED GOLD .. 45/-
HALL MARKED SILVER .. 7/6
GILT OR WHITE METAL .. 4/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can be engraved on the reverse side at a small extra charge.

GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND ENGRAVER,
6, PARK ST., NINEHEAD, SOMERSET

METHOD SPLICING

The Newest and Most Interesting Development of Change Ringing

Study this latest phase of the Art and learn how to practise it.

The System is fully explained in 'METHOD SPLICING,' price 1/3 (post free) from 'The Ringing World' Office, LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING.

ESTABLISHED 1760

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope Manufacturer,

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.E.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

usually done and the necessity for it would vary considerably. All five-tone tuned bells are not alike and all bell towers are not alike; but where there is a big weight of metal in a small bell chamber the great volume of sound calls for slow ringing.

All half-muffled ringing should be slow, as slow as the ringers can manage. Usually it is rung at exactly the same rate as a wedding peal.

Good slow ringing is very rare. It is much more difficult than good fast ringing. A really skilful band ought to be able to adapt its tempo to varying circumstances. But how many can?

What applies to tower bell ringing applies equally to handbell ringing. There the tendency has been towards much faster ringing, and since peal ringing on handbells is a matter which only concerns those who take part in it, the best rate is the rate the ringers like best. But they make a great mistake when they apply (as they usually do) the same test to the handbell ringing they perform for the public. Almost always the handbell ringing done in churches, in concert halls, and even at ringers' gatherings, is much too long and much too fast. So far as the public is concerned, three leads of Grand-sire Triples, well struck at a slow rate, are far more effective and more appreciated than a double course of Stedman Caters rung at ordinary handbell speed.

TEN BELL PEALS.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 6067 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

JOHN HADDLETON Treble	NORMAN G. LEECH 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 2	JOHN SMITH 7
J. WILLIAM SMITH 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 8
CHAS. H. WOODBERRY 4	ALBERT J. WRIGHT 9
KEITH SALTER 5	PERCIVAL RICHARDS Tenor

Composed by M. J. MORRIS. Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of John Woodberry, a ringer at the above church for over 40 years.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E flat.

EDWIN JENNINGS Treble	PHILIP A. CORBY 6
GEORGE M. KILEY 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 7
TONY PRICE 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 8
FRANCIS KIRK 4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS 9
GEORGE W. STEBBE 5	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* 50th Surprise peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor size 13 in F.

JOHN WALDEN 1-2	P. MICHAEL FREEMAN 3-4
JOHN A. FREEMAN 5-6	

Conducted by JOHN A. FREEMAN.

Rung on the birthday of John Freeman.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 12½ cwt.

* JAMES TOMSETT... .. Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON... .. 5
† THOMAS LEE 2	THOMAS W. HESKETH 6
WILLIAM F. M. STENHOUSE 3	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 7
GEORGE H. HESKETH 4	* JOHN TITTLE Tenor

Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal. † First peal on a working bell. Rung in honour of the preferment to a canonry of the Vicar, Canon Swift, and to mark the recent successes of the Allied armies.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 15 cwt 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

* WILFRED E. BOX Treble	S. GEORGE CHAPLIN... .. 5
FRANK E. HAYNES 2	GEORGE E. FEARN 6
WILLIAM C. DOWDING 3	† JOHN N. LINDON 7
HENRY H. FEARN 4	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples on an 'inside' bell. First peal on the bells since recasting.

SIX BELL PEAL.

GOSBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb.

* HORACE BENNETT Treble	HAROLD BARSLEY 4
ARTHUR J. FARR 2	* WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON... 5
† JOHN G. AMES 3	CYRIL R. BURRELL Tenor

Conducted by C. R. BURRELL.

* First peal in seven methods. † 125th peal.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT BEDWORTH.

A meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Bedworth on October 9th, was attended by about 40 members and friends. Service in church was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. F. N. Didsbury), who spoke of the legal aspect of ringing, of Canons of the Church as they affected ringers, and of others which had fallen into disuse. The organist was Mr. G. N. Knight, of the Stoke band. Mr. F. Pervin read the lesson.

Tea in the school was followed by the business meeting, the Rector being in the chair. It was decided to dispense with the November and December meetings and to hold the next quarterly meeting at Warwick in January. The members of the Bedworth band were re-elected to the Guild, and Mrs. W. Horton, of the Nuneaton band, was re-elected.

Mr. E. Stone gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting that the annual subscription should be reduced from 2s. to 1s. 6d., as no report had been issued since 1938.

Thanks were voted to the Rector and to the ladies who had prepared tea.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The peal rung at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, on Sunday, September 26th, was Grandsire Caters, not Stedman as printed in 'The Ringing World'

I should be obliged if you would insert this correction.

A. PRITCHARD.

Station Road, Hadley, Salop.

GREAT PAUL.

ENGLAND'S BIGGEST BELL.

Great Paul, the big bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, is still the heaviest bell in this country, though not the heaviest that has been cast here. General opinion will probably be that in quality it has been surpassed by smaller bells from the same foundry, which now hang at York and Bristol and perhaps elsewhere; and it is not heard to the best advantage. Its casting in the year 1881, however, was a notable event in English bell founding.

Here is a report by Sir John Stainer, the organist of the Cathedral, which appeared in 'The Times' of December, 1881:—

'Big Ben sinks into comparative insignificance by the side of Great Paul, now lying comfortably mouth upwards in the foundry of Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough. She (for I fear Great Paul, as a bell, must, like all other bells, be considered feminine) will take her rank among the six or eight heaviest bells in Europe. At present her position cannot be accurately assigned, as she has not yet passed the scales; but it will probably lie between the great bell of Olmutz, weighing 17 tons 18 cwt., and that of Vienna (cast in 1711), weighing 17 tons 14 cwt.

THE CASTING OF THE BELL.

'Three furnaces, one of which was specially built for the purpose, poured out more than 20 tons of molten metal into the gigantic mould of Great Paul, and after writing off 43 cwt. as overplus, and 8 cwt. as waste, this will leave 350 cwt. actually in the mould, or a weight of 17 tons. This mass of metal, consisting of pure tin and copper in due proportions, was about 8½ hours in course of melting; it was placed in the furnaces in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 23rd of last month, and was pronounced fit for use at half-past 10 at night. Four minutes after the rush of molten metal the mould was full, and Great Paul came into existence in one of those deep pits so mysterious to lookers-on.

'It was not until the evening of Tuesday, the 29th, that the heat had sufficiently abated to allow the men to hoist out of the pit the mould and bell in their case. This cast-iron case had an all-important duty to perform; it had to resist the enormous strain of such a weight of metal when forcing itself impetuously into the mould; and so, in order to prevent the bursting asunder of the mould, it was made strong enough to bear a pressure of 200 tons. The upper part of the case weighed 14 tons; the lower plate on which it rest 7 tons. Including clamps and bolts, it is probable that the whole weight of this huge box was not far short of 25 tons.

'It may be easily imagined how great was the anxiety of all when the case was being taken to pieces, the clay mould broken up and the mighty bell, bit by bit, exposed to view. The casting proved to be as smooth and delicate in surface and outline as if it had been a little treble of 5 cwt.

ITS DIMENSIONS.

'I have to-day, in conjunction with Mr. F. C. Penrose, been examining the bell and testing its tone. The skin of the casting showed no flaw of any kind whatever, and when the tone was produced by swinging a heavy bell of iron against the sound-bow, a musical note boomed out which was impressive beyond description.

'The dimensions of the bell are as follows: Height perpendicular (from lip to top of canons), 8ft. 10in.; diameter (from edge to edge of lip), 9ft. 6½in.; thickness (of middle sound-bow), 8½in., or about 1-13th of the diameter. The note is E flat, the upper particles B flat, E flat and G, being just audible with the sonorous ground-tone.

'The general appearance of the bell is handsome, and all campanologists should, if able to get to Loughborough, take a walk round her, and also have an eye to the many valuable appliances which Mr. Taylor has brought together for the perfecting of his art.

'The cost of the bell and hoisting it into its place in the upper part of the north-west tower will be about £3,000, a portion of which has already been contributed. It has been decided to use the bell on Easter Sunday next, when I shall be surprised if Londoners do not realise the fact that Great Paul is worthy alike of their ancient city and splendid cathedral.'

The actual weight of the bell is 16 tons 14 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. and it actually is hung in the south-western tower. It would seem from Sir John Stainer's statement that the original intention was to hang it in the other tower above the ringing peal. Probably it would sound better there, but the problem would be how to get it there.

DEATH OF MR. PETER CHARMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Peter Charman, who passed away on October 7th. He was an old member of the band at Warnham, Sussex, and had taken part in 85 peals, including 10,432 Kent Treble Bob Major.

The funeral was at Warnham on October 12th and was attended by members of the local band and by Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford, Mr. Raymond Wood, of Billingshurst, and Mr. George Woodman, of Lower Beeding. Handbells were rung over the grave.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Michael's on Sunday, October 17th, for evening, 1,260 Bob Minor: H. E. C. Goodenough 1, Miss B. Copson 2, A. Howkins 3, W. J. Arnold 4, R. F. Ewer 5, S. Farmer (first quarter-peal as conductor) 6.

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

A DISTINGUISHED BYGONE SOCIETY.

The year 1660—the year of the Restoration of King Charles the Second—is an important landmark in the history of England. It marks the fall of puritanism as a political power, and was the beginning of a violent reaction against the tendencies which, since the death of Elizabeth two generations before, had been dominant in religious, social, and political opinion.

For twenty years or so the Church of England had suffered from humiliation and disaster, her liturgy forbidden, her buildings defaced, and many of her ministers ejected from their livings. She now returned triumphantly to power, and her enemies were crushed by severe penal laws. For the next half-century she enjoyed a greater amount of political power and influence than at any other time since the Reformation, and probably a greater amount of popularity among all classes of people. The restrictions of harmless and innocent amusement under the recent 'reign of the saints' led naturally to a correspondingly increased laxity of manners, though the effect on the English character of the genuine elements of puritanism was permanent.

These things were bound to affect change ringing and they did, but not quite in the way we should have expected. Puritan opposition to bell ringing was two-fold. It was objected to as superstitious, and also because it was a Sabbath-breaking sport. On the first point the Puritans won so completely that, not only was all semi-liturgical use of bells abolished in England, but change ringing was almost entirely divorced from the service of the Church, and only in comparatively recent times has been recovered as part of the ritual of divine service. But secular ringing and ringing as a sport the Puritans could not stop. It went on during the time of the Commonwealth much as it had done in previous years, and though there was little or no bell founding during the Civil War and the years which followed it, as soon as the country became settled under the rule of Oliver Cromwell the number of new bells cast each year steadily increased, and in the year 1660 the Exercise was ready for a great expansion in everything connected with ringing. New bells were cast and hung, the fittings of the old bells were improved so that they could be rung higher, new methods were introduced, and new societies formed. 'Whole-pulls was altogether practised in former times,' wrote Richard Duckworth in 1667, 'but of late there is a more quick and ready way practised called half-pulls, which is — only once round in a change, that is one change made at the Fore-stroke and another at the Back-stroke, which way is now altogether in use (unless it be at some great bells which are too weighty to be managed at so high a Compass at the Back-stroke as Half-pulls requires) it being now a common thing in London to ring the 720 changes, Trebles and Doubles and Grandsire Bob, Half-pulls, which is commonly rang with so round and quick a compass that in the space of half an hour or little more the 720 changes are rang out from the beginning to the end. And also the Six-scores, Doubles and Singles, Old Doubles, Grandsire, and many other cross peals on five bells are commonly rang Half-pulls.'

So far as London is concerned we may place the beginning of modern change ringing in the early days of Charles the Second's reign. Plain changes had served

their purpose and were practically obsolete; Cross Peals in half-pulls were the usual methods practised; and a modern ringer, could he take a rope in one of the then companies, would have found little difference from the ringing in his own tower.

Eight bell ringing was still a thing of the future. In 1667 the longest length on seven bells was 1680 Plain Changes. The College Youths rang Grandsire Bob Minor with 4-8 behind as covers; and Grandsire and Tendring's Doubles with three bells lying behind, varying the three bells and sometimes bringing the tenor into the work. Another way was to ring Minor on the middle six bells with the treble always leading and the tenor as a cover.

Between the year 1660 and the end of the century bell ringing, as a sport, was widely popular among all classes of people, ringers and non-ringers. It was still simple enough for ordinary people to know something about. Later it became so highly technical that none but the initiated could appreciate it.

This popularity of ringing led to the establishment of many new societies. Most of them have long since disappeared and been forgotten. The names of one or two have survived buried in the pages of rare books, like the Loyal Youths of Lichfield and the Society of Western Greencaps. Copies of the rules of others are among the manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, among them the Northerne Youths and the Greenwich Youths. The important Society of London Scholars dates from soon after this time, and particulars of another prominent company have within recent years come to light.

This society was founded in 1662 by Henry Chauncy, who had joined the College Youths in 1660; but, for some reason, had left them. It consisted mainly of members of the Middle Temple with some other people, some of whom probably held minor appointments connected with the royal household. They called themselves the Esquire Youths and were an exclusive body who apparently did not admit anybody beneath the rank of esquire, which in those days was a real rank and not merely a polite form of address. The rules of the society and the list of original members are extant, and the reason they have survived and come down to us is curious.

One of the early English poets was a man named John Skelton, who lived between the years 1460 and 1529. He was a clergyman of somewhat dubious reputation who wrote a number of poems in a short vigorous metre. One of them was called 'The Tunnyng of Elynour Rummyng,' a fantastic description of an old ale wife and her guests who visited her establishment near Leatherhead. It is rather funny and very coarse. A manuscript of this poem belonged to King Charles the Second. It is written in an ornamental hand in a little book handsomely bound in leather and embossed with the royal crest—a crown and CR II. This poem fills up only part of the book, and when the Esquire Youths wanted something to write their rules in, they took this book, turned it upside down and used the blank pages. How they got hold of it I cannot tell. Perhaps the king gave it them; or he may have tossed it aside after reading it and someone picked it up; or the Esquire Youths may have gone into the royal library and helped themselves. Anyway, they were using it only a few months after it had been bound for the king, which seems to show that some of them, at any rate, were fairly closely connected with the royal court.

And what became of it after the society lapsed I cannot say. Such a book, the property of the king, and containing a rare poem, would naturally be valued by anybody into whose hands it might fall. Most likely it got into the library of some country house and came on the market when that library was sold and dispersed. Eventually it was in the possession of Messrs. Sotheby, the booksellers of Piccadilly, and from them was purchased by the British Museum in 1870, and there it is now. The chief value to the Museum is, of course, in Skelton's poem, but the history of this MS. and of the College Youths' name book suggests the possibility that there are still books buried in country libraries which may yet throw more light on old ringers and ringing.

The rules of the society are in two different hand-writings, and are partly in English and partly in Latin, with occasionally a sentence in Greek. They are headed with the aphorism *Salus populi suprema lex este* (Let the welfare of the community be the first rule) and the statement, *Omnium societatum nulla prestantior est nulla firmiter quam conjuri boni moribus e simul sunt familiaritate conjuncti* (No society is stronger nor more excellent than when men of good nature are joined together in friendship).

The officers consisted of a Generall or Principall, whose title is given in Greek, a Treasurer, Clericus or Clerke, senior and junior Stewards, and senior and junior Wardens. Under each officer is a description of his duties. The Treasurer was to gather steepleage 'at all extra ordinary peals and forfeitures for use of ye company.' The Stewards were to prepare for the yearly feast and to 'consult the Treasurer on what moneys he can spare and what can be gathered.' Mention is also made of a Warner, who, among other duties, had to

give notice to the members on the marriage or death of any member so that suitable peals could be rung.

Candidates for admission to the society were required to sign 'an Engagement for all those who are desirous' to be Installed members of the Society—I doe declare and promise to keep and maintain all these orders to my full power and utmost endeavour as they are now established by the whole society and further engage to have not now or hereafter any interest in any company but this of the esquires.' The same form appears again with the names of the members written beneath. They are not, however, signatures, but the same handwriting.

Provision was made for monthly and quarter (i.e., quarterly) peals, and the following form was provided to summon the members on these occasions: 'Form of a Warrant. Whereas it is ye pleasure of the generall and his assistants to approve the next monthly peale for the company at B. These are therefore to will and require you upon sight hereof to make yr personall appearance at the aforesaid Church on Tuesday next the 12th day of July between 4 and 5 of ye clock by the same Church Clocke in the afternoon there to help and perform the sd. Peale to your best skill and utmost Indeavour and hereof you are not to fail on pain of forfeiture. A.B. Generall.'

Two of the rules are as follows:—'None shall find fault with another's ringing but the generall or whom he shall appoint. None shall prate or make any noise at peals.' 'None shall engage the Company in a Challenge without the Generall's consent on pain of being amerced 2s. 6d. and in case the Company shall be engaged every man shall lend his best assistance if required and contribute his equal share to the rest of his fellow members.'

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON

E.1

Telephone BISHopsgate 2599

Founders of the new ring
of twelve for
Liverpool Cathedral
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first peal on the old bells of St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, was rung 65 years ago, on February 20th, 1878. Two of the band, Messrs Thomas Miller and R. H. McDonald, are still alive. R. H. McDonald now lives in Australia. It was Mr. Miller's first peal, and was the same method and composition as the peal rung upon the new bells on Saturday, October 16th, which appears in this issue.

At Bramley Church, near Guildford, the band has the valuable services of Mr. J. R. Mackman, who is training recruits.

Last Monday was the 100th anniversary of the death of Thomas Tolladay. In his time he was a leading man among London ringers and he probably did more than anyone else to make the St. James' Society one of the principal Metropolitan companies.

The anniversaries of the deaths of two other famous ringers fall within this week: John Martin, of Leicester, October 16th, 1799, and Charles H. Hattersley, October 21st, 1915.

The bells of St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, a light ring restored and increased to eight in 1907-8, were rung for the first time for some years on October 10th. It is hoped to ring them regularly during the winter on Sundays at 6.15 p.m. for evensong.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

PRESENTATION TO CANON BURROWS.

On October 9th, the ringers of Bournemouth and district met at St. Peter's to ring on the occasion of a presentation to Canon Hedley Burrows, the late Vicar, who has been appointed Archdeacon of Winchester. Thirty-five ringers were present from a wide area, and the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Tea was in the small hall while a parochial presentation was being made in the large hall. When Canon Burrows joined the party Mr. Martin Stewart took the chair. He spoke of the many services the Canon had rendered to ringing during his ministry at St. Peter's and while the ban was in force. The Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. George Preston, the local secretaries, then presented Canon Burrows with an altar book suitably inscribed from the Bournemouth and district ringers.

Canon Burrows, in his reply, said he loved the sound of bells and had always been accustomed to hearing them rung at the churches where he had ministered. He had learned to handle a bell, but had never persevered with change ringing. He thanked them all for their comradeship and services in the tower.

Handbells were rung to Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

A meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on September 18th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Wallis. Tea and the general meeting followed, the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, being in the chair, supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the peal secretary, Mr. W. Barton, and the vice-president (Western District), Mr. P. J. Johnson.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, F. Cryer, E. Hudson, H. Armitage and G. Lewis. Mr. S. F. Palmer, who had attended the committee meeting, was unable to remain to the general meeting.

Mr. P. J. Johnson moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens. This was seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and carried. The Vicar replied.

A vote of thanks to the local company was moved by Mr. W. Barton. He said that many years had elapsed since the association had held a general meeting at a six-bell tower. He could see no reason why that state of affairs should continue. Mr. W. H. Senior seconded and Mr. J. W. Moxon replied. He said the secretary assured them that it was about time a general meeting was held at a six-bell tower, and this had encouraged them to do all possible to make the meeting a success.

The following out-county members were elected on the motion of Mr. S. Briggs, seconded by Mr. J. F. Harvey: W. L. B. Leese and E. C. S. Turner, of London, Mr. J. E. Spice, of Sittingbourne, Kent, and Miss Joan Houldsworth, of St. Annes-on-Sea.

DICKENS AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have read with some interest the article by Mr. E. Morris in his series on central towers, in the course of which he deals with the tower and bells of Southwark Cathedral.

Mr. Morris quotes from an article published in February, 1869, in 'All the Year Round,' of which Charles Dickens was then editor. Because of this fact, many people, including, it would seem, Mr. Morris, have concluded that Dickens himself visited the College Youths in their meeting house and in the Southwark tower, afterwards writing the article describing his visit.

This question has always been a debatable one, which has from time to time cropped up during the whole of my ringing experience. Some writers have argued that Dickens did not and could not have written the article. Mr. Morris is evidently of the opposite opinion, and the confidence which is evident in his comments leads one to a belief that information in his possession alone puts the authorship question beyond doubt.

For my own part, I have always regarded the article as an ordinary piece of journalism written for the popular press of the time, and not at all in the Dickens style. I am rather confirmed in this view by the very trifling effect this visit and subsequent article had upon the ringers present. I have met and rung with a number of men who were certainly ringing in 1868-9, and, being College Youths, would almost as certainly be present at Southwark. For instance, the late Mr. Harvey Reeves, at that time about 30 years of age, a journalist by profession, would at once assess at its full value such a visit by the great Dickens. He appears to be as silent as others, which, remember, included such men as Matt Wood, Hayworth, Cooter and Pettitt. The latter was Master in 1868 and was succeeded in 1869 by Edwin Horrex, who was probably steward in 1868. It is, therefore, probable that both gentlemen were present at Southwark. Their silence is significant.

Guildford.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

JOY BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Perhaps the meagre information supplied in the report of the annual meeting of the Lancashire Association with regard to 'Joy Bells' has caused some misapprehension as shown in this week's leader of 'The Ringing World.'

When peace does come, 'authorities' will be the last thought in any ringer's head. It will be a ringer's day of days.

As the one who brought this matter up at this meeting, I had in mind some lead as to when to celebrate or mourn. The Press have announced from time to time special calls to prayer, etc., recently great publicity was given for the celebrations and thanksgiving for the Battle of Britain. For this occasion 'The Daily Telegraph' announced the special services and 'the ringing of bells.'

In Moscow, Stalin orders the firing of guns to celebrate great events and achievements of their forces. The public know why they are being fired, and I presume that if the event was not publicly announced, panic would ensue.

I suggested a letter to the secretary of the Central Council to see if it was possible to get in touch with the Minister of Information with the object of having a day, other than Sunday, set aside for the special ringing of bells, whether it be to celebrate or mourn some great loss. The ringers' share in these events would then be more appreciated by the public generally.

I know many ringers who lamented at not being able to muffle the bells for the late Duke of Kent. Traditions must be upheld. Last December, ringing was on the front page. Let us keep our place on that page. In these times the public would listen with an appreciative ear to a special occasion, but would have no interest in peals or long touches if they were ignorant of the reason for the ringing. Sunday ringing is generally accepted as a call to prayer.

During the 6 o'clock news of this date the bells could be heard ringing from a town in Italy occupied by the Allies.

PETER CROOK.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT RIPPINGALE.**

A meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, held at Rippingale on October 16th, was attended by about fifty ringers from Peterborough, Deeping St. Nicholas, Market Deeping, Thurlby, Bourne, Morton, Edenham, Billingborough, Donington, Heckington, Great Hale, Sempringham, Folkingham and the local band. Good use was made of the six bells, and the methods ranged from Plain Bob and Grand sire Doubles to London Surprise Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. Williams, conducted a short service, and tea, provided by the churchworkers and ringers of Rippingale, was served in the parish room.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting and tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. T. L. Bainbridge, an old and valued member of the Southern Branch. Seven new performing members were elected, and it was proposed to hold the annual meeting next January at Grantham, subject to permission being granted.

BELLS AND THE MEMORY.

One of the most remarkable things about church bells is the power they have of touching emotions and awakening memories in those who hear them. This power is felt by many persons of widely different character and in widely different circumstances, though, for obvious reasons, ringers are, as a class, probably less susceptible to it than others.

Many of our readers will remember the striking experience related by Earl Baldwin in one of his books of collected speeches. He was, he said, standing on the terrace of a beautiful villa near Florence one September evening. 'And then I heard a bell, such a bell as never was on land or sea, a bell whose every vibration found an echo in my utmost heart. I said to my hostess, "That is the most beautiful bell I have ever heard." "Yes," she replied, "it is an English bell." And so it was. For generations its sound had gone out over English fields, giving the hours of work and prayer to English folk from the tower of an English abbey, and then came the Reformation and some wise Italian bought the bell whose work at home was done, and sent it to the Valley of the Arno, where after four centuries it stirred the heart of a wandering Englishman, and made him sick for home.'

A DESERT EXPERIENCE.

An earlier and more remarkable incident is related in a book called 'Eothen,' written by a man named A. W. Kinglake, who had a considerable reputation as a writer and was the author of a many volumed History of the Crimean War. 'Eothen' is an account of a journey through Turkey, Syria and Egypt in days when those lands were little visited by Englishmen. He described his journey on a camel through the desert, and he goes on:—

After my first two days this way of traveling became so familiar to me that (poor sleeper as I am) I now and then slumbered for some moments together on the back of my camel. On the fifth day of my journey the air above lay dead, and all the whole earth that I could reach with my utmost sight and keenest listening was still and lifeless, as some dispeopled and forgotten world that rolls round and round in the heavens through wasted floods of light. The sun, growing fiercer and fiercer, shone down more mightily now than ever on me he shone before, and as I drooped my head under his fire, and closed my eyes against the glare that surrounded me, I slowly fell asleep—for how many minutes or moments I cannot tell—but after a while I was gently awakened by a peal of church bells—my native bells—the innocent bells of Marlen that never before sent their music beyond the Blagdon hills!

My first idea naturally was that I still remained fast under the power of a dream. I roused myself, and drew aside the silk that covered my eyes, and plunged my bare face into the light. Then at least I was well enough wakened, but still those old Marlen bells rang on, not ringing for joy, but properly, prosily, steadily, merrily, ringing "for church." After awhile the sound died away slowly; it happened that neither I nor any of my party had a watch by which to measure the exact time of its lasting, but it seemed to me that about ten minutes had passed before the bells ceased.

AN AURAL ILLUSION.

'I attributed the effect to the great heat of the sun, the perfect dryness of the clear air through I moved, and the deep stillness of all around me; it seemed to me that these causes, by occasioning a great tension, and consequent susceptibility of the hearing organs, had rendered them liable to tingle under the passing touch of some mere memory that must have swept across my brain in a moment of sleep. Since my return to England it has been told me that the sailor, becalmed under a vertical sun in the midst of the wide ocean, has listened in trembling wonder to the chime of his own village bells.'

'During my travels I kept a journal which enabled me to find out the day of the month and the week according to the European calendar; referring to this, I found that the day was Sunday, and roughly allowing for the difference in longitude, I concluded that at the moment of my hearing that strange peal, the church-going bells of Marlen must have been actually calling the prim congregation of the parish to morning prayer. The coincidence amused me faintly, but I could not allow myself a hope that the effect I had experienced was anything other than an illusion—an illusion liable to be explained (as every illusion is in these days) by some of the philosophers who guess at Nature's riddles.'

A FAMOUS CARILLON.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I thought perhaps you would care to know that I have recently had the opportunity of visiting the Rockefeller Memorial Church, Riverside, New York. As you know, Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's famous carillon are hung in the tower of this beautiful church. Having heard them in the foundry on 'Ringers' Day' at Croydon some years ago, it was a unique experience to hear them in their true setting. They have recitals played on them once or twice a day and more so at week-ends.

I was able to ascend into the tower, where there is a public gallery immediately around the bells. I also met the carillonneur, M. Kemell Le Fevère.

A. PURDOM.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 453.)

In his article last week Mr. Morris quoted from an account of a visit to Southwark Cathedral said to have been written by Charles Dickens (though the authorship is disputed). It continues:—

'After we had received and modestly declined a polite invitation to try our hand at a bell, we file down the corkscrew stairs, not without a comfortable feeling that, if we were to slip or stumble, an avalanche of College Youths is behind certain to be precipitated on to our prostrate body. Reaching the chapel again without damage, though with a good deal of damp and dust on our coats from the walls of the staircase, we find the organist still at work (we wonder how he likes the bells ringing overhead while he is practising), and passing over the stone that marks Massinger's last resting place, emerge into the churchyard. Thence, pursued by a triumphant burst of sound from the organ, as if the organist were glad to get rid of us, we troop off to the meeting place of the society at the King's Head.'

Dickens then gives an elaborate but minutely correct account of the proceedings, remarking that: 'It soon becomes pleasantly apparent that change ringing is by no means merely an excuse for beer. There is an excellent rule, strictly enforced, that no refreshments are allowed in the belfry, and moderation is clearly the custom in the club room.'

Thus we see a very good description, not only of the ascent and descent of the famous central tower of Southwark Cathedral, but a vivid description of the grand ring of twelve housed therein.

As early as 1424, in the time of Prior Wentworth, there were seven bells, of which the weights and names were: The largest, called Augustus, 38 cwt. 7 lb.; Maria, 27 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.; Stephen, 19 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.; Anna Maria, 15 cwt. 19 lb.; St. Laurence, 13 cwt. 8 lb.; Vincent, 12 cwt. 21 lb.; St. Nicholas, 5 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb. Afterwards, in the same year, the Prior caused other bells to be made and of greater weight, and added an 8th, altering the names, as may be seen in the Leiger Book. They are St. Trinity, Mary, Augustine, St. Laurence, Gabriel, All Saints, St. John Evangelist, and Christ. In 1735 the bells were new cast and made into a ring of twelve by Samuel Knight. The 10th was recast by C. and G. Mears in 1844, the 11th by T. Mears in 1820, and the tenor in 1911 by Mears and Stainbank. It now weighs 50½ cwt. In 1931 the same firm recast the 7th bell.

Southwark has been the scene of many famous peals, and it was here that one of the very earliest performances of which we have records was achieved. It was upon 'the six large bells' that the College Youths in 1684 rang three 720's, consisting of 2,160 changes, without stopping, and the methods were, we are informed, Oxford Treble Bob, College Single and Oxford Single.

The College Youths also rang on March 12th, 1758, 'a complete Peal of 5,040 tripple bob 12 in, in 4 hours

13 minutes, being the greatest performance ever done on twelve bells.'

In the same year 6,336 Bob Maximus in 5 hours 13 minutes; and in 1784 another peal of 7,008 Triple Bob Twelve In in 6 hours 5 minutes. On peal tablets in the ringing chamber are records of many famous peals rung during the last 150 years, by the College Youths and the Cumberland Youths, many of which have been quoted in these columns, in Mr. J. Armiger Trollope's histories of these ringing societies. The present writer had the privilege and honour to take part in one outstanding peal here when, on April 9th, 1938, a peal of 5,007 Stedman Cinques was rung in 3 hours 57 minutes by twelve secretaries of twelve different ringing associations and guilds. It was composed by the late Gabriel Lindoff, of the Irish Association, and conducted by Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, of the Ladies' Guild. Rung with half-muffled bells to the respected memory of the late Wm. T. Cockerill, for 46 years secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

We have already described the peculiar ringers' gallery and the unusual approach to it, in the Minster at Southwell, Notts (see page 368). This gallery has only one other equal in Great Britain and that is at Merton College, Oxford.

Besides being unusual in its actual ringing gallery arrangement, Merton 'approach' is somewhat out of the ordinary. Passing through the main gateway of the college, veer slightly left by the east window of the chapel; turn right under an arch out into a small quadrangle—the oldest portion of the college, dated 1264. Pass through another arch and thence go up a spiral stairway which brings you out on top of the chapel roof. (The spiral itself is surmounted by a conical top.) Then walk along the chapel roof into a hole in the corner of the tower and up two or three steps: immediately left through a door and you are on the ringers' gallery by the side of the fourth bell right, and fifth bell left. The only light is from a little west window behind the seventh rope.

Merton College possesses the most ancient collegiate buildings in Oxford. It was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton at Malden in Surrey, but was transferred to Oxford some ten years later. The chapel—by far the finest in the University—was begun in 1277. The interest attached to the building is increased by the existence of Bursar's Rolls dating from the foundation of the college. These Rolls show that the chapel was built bit by bit, according to the state of the college revenues.

The most beautiful feature of the spacious choir—120 feet long—is the splendid east window of seven lights. It is of the intersecting mullion type, with a fine wheel under the point; but, in addition to the tracery, each light is surmounted by a fine pediment with pinnacles in between. There are seven three-light decorated windows on each side.

Like all other Oxford College chapels, Merton possesses no nave, the choir being used for college services:

G. & F. COPE & CO.
NOTTINGHAM
 Tower Clock Manufacturers

Estimates submitted for New
 Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
 pairs, or Repainting of Dials

while the transepts were originally intended for Scholars' 'disputations,' though at a later time they were used as the parish church of St. John.

The beautifully moulded tower arches rise from lofty clustered piers, and date from 1330. The tower—one of the most conspicuous in Oxford—has eight large belfry windows, and is crowned by tall pierced battlements with bold pinnacles rising some 120 feet above the ground. Owing to its breadth it has a somewhat stunted appearance, though it is to some extent relieved by the skilful disposition of the ornamentation.

It was built in 1420, but a tower of some description must have existed previously, as mention is made of bells in the Bursar's Rolls as early as 1288, and in 1330-1 there is an account of a heavy outlay upon the belfry tower.

A new ring of five was given by Henry Abyndon, the warden, in 1448: the work took two years to accomplish, and was superintended by Thomas Edwards. On September 15th, 1655, a great part of the roof of the south transept adjoining fell, breaking many of the monuments below.

It was decided in January, 1657, to melt down the old bells and to recast them into a ring of eight. This decision met with great opposition, especially from Anthony Wood, who advocated the simple addition of a treble, saying that the great bell passed for one of the finest in England. The new bells, by Michael Darby, were not a success, and they were recast by Christopher Hodson, of London, in 1680.

The bells had originally been rung from the ground, but in 1680 a floor was made just above the top of the tower arches. This remained until 1845, when it was taken down to display the finely carved tower-roof, and the present ringers' gallery was erected.

The tower itself is square, the internal measurement being 25 feet each way: the gallery is octagonal, wood-work 15 feet long running parallel to each wall, alternating at each corner with woodwork 3 feet 9 inches long, running off at an angle of 45 degrees. The wood-work is 3 feet 6 inches wide, except, of course, at each corner of the tower. The distance between each pair of ropes averages about 10 feet. The tenor is quoted as 27 cwt., and usually took two men to ring her through a full peal. In 1889 (August 24th) Mr. Francis E. Dawe visited the tower and conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples on the bells, James W. Washbrook ringing the tenor single-handed. Later on Mr. Washbrook succeeded in ringing a peal of London Surprise on these bells. The bells, being only some 20 feet above the ringers' heads, the noise is very great and, to add to the difficulties, the gallery was only lighted by candles.

(To be continued.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORTHWRAM.

About thirty members of the Yorkshire Association attended a meeting of the Western District, held at Northwram on October 9th. Among the visitors were Capt. Wright, the Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith and Mr. C. W. Woolley.

The business meeting in the schools was presided over by Mr. P. J. Johnson. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Marshall, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, Mr. W. Barton, Mr. H. Armitage and Miss L. K. Bowling. It was decided to hold no meeting in December, and the spring meeting in April, in the Huddersfield district. Thanks to the local company were expressed by Mr. J. F. Harvey, seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall. One new member was elected, and the collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 7s.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

(Continued from page 451.)

A printed bill gives particulars of the bells of Cambourne Parish Church on Easter Tuesday of some unspecified year. The ringers were the Devonshire Guild, the services were Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m., morning prayer at 11, and evening service at 3.30. At 5.30 there was a public tea, and at 7.30 a lecture by Lt.-Col. H. R. Trelawny on 'Church Bells and Bell Ringing,' illustrated on handbells by the ringers of St. Mary's, Penzance. The public were afforded 'an opportunity of hearing Touches of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major on eight bells, Grandsire Caters on ten bells, Grandsire Cinques on twelve bells.' Heywood noted that 'the handbell performance was by the Miss Trelawnys.'

In bygone days it was the custom of ringers to compose doggerel verses in praise of some outstanding peal and to sing them, at suppers and convivial meetings, to some traditional folk tune. Men still alive remember James Dwight's song beginning 'The famous peal of Stedman Cinques, the College Youths did ring,' which was in the true line of these effusions. They were all of the same pattern, each verse or couplet being devoted to the praise of one of the ringers who took part in the peal. Heywood preserved one or two of these 'poems.' The oldest is in manuscript, and is 'A Song to celebrate a peal of Bob Maximus rung at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, in 1801.' One verse, the second, will serve to show what it is like:—

'Thomas Spilove the treble with pleasure did ring,
The bells are melodious and sweetly did sing,
Richard Cross at the second with memory great
This peal he composed, and the bobs did repeat.'

Later on in Heywood's book is another one of these songs. It was composed by James R. Haworth, and was in praise of a peal of Stedman Caters, rung by the St. James' Society at All Saints', Fulham, in 1842. One verse of this shows how all these songs were on the same model.

'Henry Haley, the treble, who rung it so well,
Took hold of the rope and soon pulled up the bell;
John Fairbairn, the second, who did the same thing,
And all of the band were soon ready to ring.'

Someone was persuaded to pay for the printing of Haworth's verses. He says in an introductory note that 'the poetry is not of a high order,' which can hardly be said to be an overstatement.

A newspaper cutting, dated 1851, gives an account of the death of Benjamin Thackrah, of Dewsbury, who in the early years of the last century held a prominent position among Yorkshire ringers. He rang over fifty peals, among them being the first true peal of Superlative Surprise Major, and he has the distinction of being the author of the very worst text book that has ever been published on change ringing.

Another cutting from the same paper gives this interesting piece of information: 'On Saturday, the 15th ult., the Painswick Youths ascended the tower and rang a touch of Triples on Stedman's Principle, containing 1,851 changes (being the date of this eventful year) in the space of one hour and sixteen minutes. The touch was composed by James Escourt (thirteen years of age) and conducted by Mr. William Escourt.' Was the touch true? we wonder.

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.

THE BELLS AND RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwin Jennings' account of Bushey bells and some of the many notable performances accomplished there was very interesting, particularly to me, because during a stay of over three and a half years in the district I had many opportunities of appreciating the very high standard of ringing which is maintained thereabouts.

His remark that 230 peals had been rung on the bells brought back a question which occasionally crops up in my mind—at which tower have the most peals actually been rung? There are a number which appear consistently in the peal columns year after year—Lejston, for example, Warnham for another, and, if it can be included, Loughborough Bell Foundry. Despite these, however, I should be surprised if first place does not lie between two towers in adjacent parishes, St. John the Baptist's, Erith, and St. Paulinus', Crayford. Well, Erith must be left for an Erithian to champion, though it may be mentioned that Charles Wilkins, who up to a month or two ago still resided there, completed his century on the bells as far back as 1902, since when there has been no diminution in the flow of peals from that tower.

A SPLENDID LIST.

Meanwhile, for those who, like myself, are statistically minded, here are some details of Crayford peals. From 1889 to date, no fewer than 378 have been accomplished. I have no facilities for finding a complete list of those rung between 1877, when the bells were augmented to eight, and the end of 1888, but I do know of 12 rung in that period. This brings us to 390, and it would not be unreasonable to assume that 400 is a fair approximation of the complete total. Crayford cannot compete with Bushey's imposing array of some 25 Surprise methods, a modest 13 having been rung, but, nevertheless, 42 methods are included, as well as four Spliced Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Spliced or Combined, four different combinations of plain Major methods and one of Cambridge and Superlative Surprise. There have been nine Triples methods—that would take some beating. This is the complete list of known peals:—

Triples.—58 Grandsire, 54 Stedman, 8 Union, 3 Oxford Bob, 3 Plain Bob, 2 Darlaston, 2 Erin, 1 each Court Bob and Canterbury Pleasure.

Major.—

- (a) Plain.—48 Double Norwich, 32 Plain Bob, 8 Double Oxford, 8 Canterbury Pleasure, 3 'Real' Double Norwich, 2 each Reverse Bob, Double Bob and Hereward, 1 each St. Clement's, Painswick College, Pulford Bob and Cheltenham Bob, also 1 each combined Double Norwich and Bob Major, Double Norwich and Double Oxford, Double Oxford and Bob Major, and Bob Major and Canterbury.
- (b) Little.—3 Little Bob, 2 Erith Little Bob, 1 each Dartford Little Bob and Crayford Little Court.
- (c) Treble Bob.—32 Kent, 3 Oxford, 1 Granta, also 3 Kent and Oxford (1 Spliced, 2 Combined).
- (d) Surprise.—40 Cambridge, 14 London, 11 Superlative, 7 Bristol, 5 Four Spliced, 5 New Cambridge, 4 Yorkshire, 3 Lincolnshire, 3 Norfolk, 1 each New Cumberland, Crayford, Staffordshire, Painswick, Pudsey and Ipswich, also one combined Cambridge and Superlative.

Of these peals, 26 were the first of their kind for the Kent County Association.

It might be assumed that this total was amassed by an even flow of peals during 60 odd years, but actually this is not so. For instance, whereas in the 25 years 1896-1920 only 63 peals were rung, the 12 years 1928-1939 produced 211, and since the first peal in June, 1923, after the bells were rehung, to date there have been 256.

THE STORY OF THE BELLS.

While I am writing, perhaps a few details concerning the bells themselves and the ringing generally might be of interest. A board in the belfry records that 'On Wednesday, January 10th, 1877, this peal of bells were dedicated.' Previously there was a peal of five, the tenor of which was inscribed: 'Thomas Bartlett made me 1624.' These were recast and new metal added by Mears and Stainbank, by whom the subsequent rehanging was also carried out.

As often happens, it is from churchwardens' accounts that the only information about early ringing can be obtained. We read that on September 30th, 1725, 'Paid Mr. Gilburd for ringers when ye King dined at May Place, 11s. 0d.' A later royal visit apparently provoked greater thirst than usual, another entry reading: '1820, November 17th. For beer for the ringers for the King's coming through Crayford, 10s. 0d.'

When the new bells came to Crayford, they were taken from the railway station to the church by Mr. Edward Audsley, who died at a great age in 1941. He himself was not a ringer, but four of his sons have been, of whom the youngest, Mr. Herbert E. Audsley, is, of course, very well known.

On November 17th, 1877, the first peal, Grandsire Triples, was accomplished by J. Sloper treble, E. Hammant 2, W. I. Reeve 3 F. J. French 4, A. Payne 5, A. Coles 6, J. Garard 7, and J. Foreman tenor. The conductor was Edwin Hammant, who before his death in 1879 at the early age of 39 had called a number of peals in the district. He

was the parish clerk and verger. Of the others, William Reeve, a native of Essex, was also a verger at the church in the neighbouring parish of Bexleyheath, and custodian of the cemetery there. Frederick J. French, a Bexley man, was a master builder. Alfred Payne and Alfred Coles were Crayfordians, the former having learned on the old five. His occupation was delivering bundles of firewood, the result of the Union Workhouse inmates' activities, to shops in the district. John Garard came from Suffolk, and for many years had charge of St. John's, Erith, bells, it being largely due to his efforts that his employers gave two new bells to complete the octave there. The other two, Joseph Sloper and John Foreman, were also Crayford men.

GEORGE CONYARD AND EDWIN BARNETT.

After Edwin Hammant's death, George Conyard became parish clerk and also towerkeeper. He will no doubt be remembered by many older ringers, and some of his compositions are occasionally still rung. He in turn was succeeded about 1909 by Edwin Barnett, sen., who had come to Crayford in 1889. So much has been written about my grandfather's qualities as a ringer and a gentleman that I hesitate to attempt to add to it, except to say that the number of people whose first peal he called must be nearly a record. Not all these were at Crayford, of course, but notable ringers who began their peal ringing career there are Herbert E. Audsley, Frederick J. Cullum, Arthur Mason (who for several years after the last war was a regular member of William Pye's band), and, of course, my father. I believe Charles Wilkins' first was at Crayford, too. He is probably the only survivor of the 13,446 Double Norwich at Romford in 1894, and with George R. Pye of the 15,072 of the same method at Erith in 1899.

Since 1889 there have been many peals of more than passing interest. A peal of Double Oxford in 1900 was the only one rung in that method by William, Ernest and George R. Pye. It always looks very lonely in their huge totals of peals. A peal of Erin Triples by a local band in 1911 was, I am told, completed with a remark by my grandfather that 'he would never call another bob in that method as long as he lived.' In more recent times the first Masonic peal of Cambridge was rung in 1926, and one of Bob Major, also, I believe, the first, in 1936.

SOME OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES.

Mrs Fletcher called the first peals of Cambridge in 1928 and Superlative in 1936 for the Ladies' Guild, and several gallant attempts for London were made before success was finally achieved at Harlow Common Peals of Stedman Triples in August, 1929, in 2 hours 14 minutes—on the hottest day of the year—and Bob Major in 1930 in 2 hours 47 minutes are the two quickest peals on eight church bells, Loughborough Bell Foundry alone, with a tenor half the weight, having recorded a peal in less time. The first peal of Erith Little Bob in 1930 recalls that when the method was later rung elsewhere under another name, the ringer at whose instigation the new name was used not only declined, contrary to all precedent, to recognise the prior claim, but also contended that his name of 'Double Little Bob' was a better one for a method not even symmetrical, let alone Double.

In 1934, Miss Margaret Pack, at the age of 17, took part in a peal of four Spliced Surprise, the youngest lady to do so. Another notable peal of four Spliced was in 1935 by a band of average age 2½ years, conducted by Ernest C. S. Turner. In the previous year a peal of Bob Major had been rung by eight ringers whose combined ages, including all their odd months, totalled only 120 years, a performance of which all were very proud, for, as 'The Ringing World' said, 'not only did they ring the peal, but they rang it supremely well.' Of the band, one, Sgt.-Pilot Arthur W. Jones, of Croydon, has made the supreme sacrifice during this year. A peal of Cambridge in 1935 was John H. Cheesman's 1,000th peal, while one in the same method in 1937 was the first of Surprise by a local band. A fitting climax to the peals so far rung was one of Stedman Triples in July this year, the 1,000th by Charles T. Coles and James Bennett.

It is only to be expected that individual totals would be high. Edwin Barnett, sen.'s, 235 on the bells still leads, and his son is second with 197, closely followed by Herbert E. Audsley with 196. Of living ringers the writer is next with 142, but John H. Cheesman rang 155. Thomas Groombridge, sen., and Harry Hovard are in the 120's, and Thomas Groombridge, jun., has registered 101. James Bennett and John Wheadon have both rung over 60, and P.O. Derek M. Sharp, missing since July, had rung 57 before he went away.

Whatever, therefore, may be held in store for ringing at Crayford, a future ringing historian will surely find something worthy of comment in what has already been achieved.

E. A. BARNETT.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A monthly meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Warmley on October 9th. The bells, a ring of six, were set going at 3.30 p.m. Service was held in the church at 4.30 p.m. and was taken by the Vicar of Warmley. About 40 members attended from Warmley, Mangotsfield, Henbury, St. Werburg's, Abson, Bitton, Westerleigh, and Coalpit Heath. At the meeting votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to the organist, and to the ladies for providing the tea.

Bitton was chosen for the next meeting on Saturday, November 13th.

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Wollaston (6), Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Bring own sugar.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual meeting at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 2.30 p.m.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 306th anniversary luncheon at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, at 1.30 p.m., Nov. 6th. Tickets 6s. 6d.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby Cathedral, October 23rd. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norwich on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing at St. Miles', 2 p.m.; Mancroft, 4 p.m. Service at Mancroft 4.45. Tea in Mancroft Parish Hall, 5.15; bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Church Kirk, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—F. Hindle, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Gateshead, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring own refreshments. — F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Ufford on Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — Meeting at Bray on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 3 to 7 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Standon on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 26th. Train leaves St. Margaret's for Standon 2.15 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Mary, Balderstone, on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells at 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Twyford on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 6-8.30.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Martock, Saturday, Oct. 30th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, North Street, Martock.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Thorne, Saturday, Oct. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by Oct. 26th. Buses every 15 minutes from Doncaster.—W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION and CHESTER GUILD.—Meeting at Port Sunlight on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30. No tea arrangements yet made. — H. S. Brocklebank and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—A combined practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30 to 5 p.m. — G. Pullinger.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54. Names for tea to A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Nov. 1st.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

A set of 27 handbells, diameters ranging from 2 to 5 inches. Offers to Messrs. Belcher and Son, Auctioneers, Darlaston, Staffs.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VIII., to be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price 1s.

WANTED.—Parts IV. and VII. of Walter's 'Church Bells of Worcestershire.' Write, stating condition and price, F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.—On Sunday, October 10th, 720 Boh Minor: Mrs. R. March 1, F. Wallington 2, P.C. J. Rawson 3, W. Wallington 4, R. March 5, W. Hector (conductor) 6.

SOUTHGATE.—At Christ Church on Sunday, October 10th, for morning service, 1,167 Stedman Casters: D. Wright 1, J. G. Nash 2, W. J. Bowden 3, S. Wade 4, E. King 5, J. Miller 6, N. A. Tomlinson 7, H. Miller 8, J. Armstrong (conductor) 9, G. S. Piper 10.

Send for Booklet

SMITH of DERBY

Estimates and Advice Free

for Church and Turret Clocks

Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous Clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works—**QUEEN STREET, DERBY**

Tel. No. DERBY 45569
Grams CLOCKS, DERBY

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—The Times.

'Mr. Trollope has achieved more than his immediate purpose of writing a history of the Society of College Youths. So closely has the Guild been identified with English change ringing, that its history is, to a very large extent, an account of how the ancient sport of ringing developed into an elaborate art.'—The Guardian.

'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE,' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages; commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; 2s. 10d.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss MARGARET E. SNOWDON
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9
(6 copies for 15/-); 6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp.,
1/2 (6 copies for 6/-)

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

BUY AN EXTRA COPY

OF

'THE RINGING WORLD'

and send it to a Serving Member of your Tower

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

NOTED FOR EASY HANDLING AND NON STRETCHING

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) Ltd.

LOUGHBOROUGH

Order your Bell Ropes now, before prices increase, pre-war quality, and send us your old Bell Ropes for repairs whilst not in use.

Clock and Chiming Ropes. Flexible Ends, Splicing and Repairs
RINGING MATS AND BELL MUFFLERS

SILVER BELL INKSTANDS



WE MUCH REGRET

that we are no longer permitted to make SILVER BELL INKSTANDS, and our reserve stock has now gone.

When normal times return we hope we shall renew the pleasure of supplying our numerous bellringing clients.

T. E. RUSSELL, Jeweller,
29, CHERTSEY ROAD, WOKING

PUBLICATIONS.

'GRANDSIRE DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, Simply Explained,' 9th thousand, 6½d. each, or 5s. 9d. dozen, post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Wonersh, Surrey.

'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 2nd thousand. For Beginners on 6 bells. Same price and address as above.

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