



No. 1,703. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 1943.

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

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

By far the most important item at the luncheon gathering of the College Youths last Saturday was the statement Mr. Edwin H. Lewis made concerning this journal and its future. By a deed of assignment, dated October 20th, the ownership of the paper passed from the executors of the late John S. Goldsmith to the three men who form the sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Central Council which was appointed to negotiate with the former owners.

The completion of their task is a great cause for congratulation and thankfulness. For more than sixty years the Exercise has never lacked the services of a weekly paper, its organisation and activities are largely dependent on some such journal, and it is difficult to see how they could have survived in anything like their present form if 'The Ringing World' had had to cease publication.

That such a thing might happen was much more than a possible contingency when Mr. Goldsmith died. He had founded the paper, and until shortly before his death its life and welfare were dependent almost entirely on his exertions. Then when the war came, in addition to his failing health, the increased cost of production and the fall in the circulation raised financial problems which well might have proved insoluble.

It was fortunate that there were at the late Editor's funeral sufficient members of the Standing Committee of the Central Council to take action in the name of the Council and for the Exercise. It is fortunate that they were then able to come into contact with the managing director of the company which prints the paper, and with Mr. Goldsmith's executors. They acted promptly, and by guaranteeing the paper against loss, until the general situation could be reviewed, they averted the danger of an immediate cessation of issue. There followed a long and minute investigation of the books and accounts, made by Mr. G. W. Fletcher, with the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Fletcher, which furnished the basis on which the present settlement is formed. The terms of that settlement have been circulated to the members of the Council and to the affiliated societies. They may be taken to be fair and just, and from them all parties to the agreement will alike benefit. How great is, and will be, the benefit accruing to the Exercise generally will never be known; for no one can tell what would have happened if at this particular time ringers had been left without a journal. Perhaps those critics who have been complaining of the inaction of the Coun-

(Continued on page 490.)

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cil and its officers now wish they had waited until they knew just a little more.

The future of 'The Ringing World' and its success is assured, but only if ringers do their share. This paper, like every other paper, can only exist if the circulation is large enough to make it financially sound. The Exercise is quite large enough to support a journal, and if the associations use their powers and their influence, as they can, there is no reason why an adequate circulation should not be reached. On the other hand, the paper must justify itself, and prove its worth.

For some time now, even from before the lifting of the ban on ringing, the circulation has been increasing; though there is still a long leeway to make up before the slump caused by the outbreak of war and the total cessation of ringing is overcome. Paper shortage badly hampers all publications, and no real solution of our difficulties can be looked for until something like normal times return. But, if ringers generally, and the associations in particular, respond to the appeals and requests made by the officers of the Central Council we may face the future with confidence.

Meanwhile, in its management and general style the paper will continue as it has been during these last two years. The aim has been not only to supply current news of general interest, but to give readers something worth reading week by week, and not least to afford ringers a full opportunity of expressing their opinions on any and every subject which relates to bells, bellringing and bellringers.

SIX BELL PEALS.

ACTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Six 120's Plain Bob, six 120's April Day and thirty 120's of Grandsire. Tenor 14 cwt.

STANLEY SUTTON... .. Treble	FRANK OLLIER 4
FRANK BARNARD 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
JOHN E. BROUGH... .. 3	*WILLIAM J. FAULKNER ... Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles in three methods by all the band

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One extent each of Double Court and Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb.

BERNARD H. DALTON ... Treble	LEONARD P. WILSON... .. 4
*PERCY MARKHAM 2	†GEORGE R. DAWSON... .. 5
ALBERT H. BENNETT ... 3	SFR. CYRIL WANDER, R.E. Tenor

Conducted by C. WANDER.

* First peal in four methods. † First peal.

SUNNINGWELL, BERKS.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt.

*MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) .. Treble	*MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 4
†BETTY SPICK (Somerville) 2	†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5
‡JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3	JOHN E. SPICK (New College) Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICK.
* First peal of Minor. † First tower-bell peal of Minor. ‡ First peal on tower bells. An 86th birthday compliment to Canon G. F. Coleridge.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEANOR, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.

RALPH NARBOROUGH... .. 1	reble	JOHN E. HOBBS 5
* ARTHUR ELLIOTT 2		FRANK BRADLEY 6
ALEX HUTCHISON 3		THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7
WALTER NICHOLS 4		REV. R. ST. J. SMITH, C.F. Tenor

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAM (C.C.C. No. 26).

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. JOHN SMITH, C.F.

* First peal of Major.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BATHOLOMEW

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAY'S SIX-PART.

JAMES W. KAY 1	reble	CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT 5
THOMAS W. SMITH 2		*SGT. E. BUDGEN, R.E.M.E. 6
ALBERT GREENHALGH... .. 3		PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
EVEREST FORD 4		WILLIAM SMALLEY Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal in the method. Rung to welcome home a member of the local band, Harry D. Shackleton, who has recently been repatriated.

DUFFIELD, DERBY.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(DERBY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALMUND

A PEAL OF KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ILKESTON VARIATION.	Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.	
VICTOR E. TAYLOR 1	reble	CYRIL J. JENNINGS 5
WILLIAM LANCASTER 2		WILFRED H. BUXTON 6
ALEX HUTCHISON 3		WILLIAM A. PARSONS... .. 7
JACK W. GLEW 4		E. FRED GOBEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. FRED GOBEY.

Rung after meeting short for Royal. First peal in the method for ringers of treble, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, October 31, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S ROOM, ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation) Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2	reble	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4		FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS

Rung to mark the appointment of the Rev. Preb. Norman R. Boyd, M.A., Vicar of Hendon, to be Vicar of Bournemouth.

CORFE MULLEN, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HUBERT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

*JOHN V. DAVIS 1	reble	WILLIAM E. CHEATER... .. 4
CYRIL F. TURNER 2		WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3		ARTHUR V. DAVIS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal on tower bells and first attempt. Rung to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the six bells.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRID F. MORETON .. 1-2	reble	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4		FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Saturday, October 10th, at All Saints' Church two 720's Plain Bob Minor were rung: H. W. Pratt, 1 B. Norman 2, A. W. T. Ginn 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, L. Fisher 5, G. E. Crisp 6.

HINCKLEY.—On October 10th, 1,248 Bob Major: C. Ison 1, J. Ison 2, E. Vallance 3, H. Knights 4, G. Thompson 5, D. Aldham 6, F. Trotman 7, W. P. Whitehead (conductor) 8. Rung for harvest festival.—On October 24th, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. P. Whitehead (conductor) 1, J. Ison 2, G. Thompson 3, C. Ison 4, E. Vallance 5, B. Ridgway 6, F. Trotman 7, F. Cotton 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, October 31st, at All Saints', 720 Bob Minor with 6-8 covering: D. Chamberlain (first 720 away from a cover bell) 1, F. Bishop 2, G. Dodds 3, A. Thirst 4, S. Croft 5, H. Brooks 6, H. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, October 24th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Woodall 1, V. Warr 2, L. Clissett 3, W. H. Webb 4, H. Shilcock 5, T. Greenhall 6, J. H. Cox (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8. Rung to celebrate the completion of 45 years' service in the belfry by the Ringing Master, Mr. W. H. Webb.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS, NOTTS.—On Sunday, October 24th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: L.-Cpl. S. G. Vessey 1, Mrs. L. W. Mayer 2, K. T. Vessey 3, J. C. Vessey 4, J. L. Millhouse (conductor) 5, R. W. Mayer 6.

WARWICK.—At the Church of St. Mary, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Male, jun (first quarter-peal) 1, E. H. Adams (conductor) 2, T. Male 3, J. F. Simpson (first quarter-peal on 10 bells) 4, E. D. Brown 5, W. Collett 6, H. Huxley 7, J. Price 8, C. Wildsmith 9, E. Bosworth 10.

EWELL, SURREY.—On October 12th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: *Miss E. Harrington 1, C. Lord 2, J. E. Beams 3, W. Sparrow 4, A. Hadley (conductor) 5, H. W. Barrett 6. *First 720 of Bob Minor. Arranged for Mr. Lord, who last rang in a 720 of Minor over 43 years ago.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Sunday, October 10th, for Confirmation service, 1,320 Grandsire Cinques in 64 minutes: G. Preston 1, Miss Sparshott 2, *F. M. Turner 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, Martin Stewart 6, E. T. Griffin 7, E. Waters 8, L. Stone 9, F. Sparshott 10, G. Scragg 11, H. Gillard 12. *First quarter-peal of Cinques. On Friday, October 15th, on the occasion of a visit of the High Commissioner of New Zealand, an attempt for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Cinques was lost after 50 minutes' ringing. The band was as above, with the exception of Mrs. Marshallsay and A. V. Davis standing in place of F. M. Turner and L. Stone.

MONKS ELEIGH.—On Sunday, October 17th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: B. Cornell (Little Walsingham) 1, D. Elliott (Groton) (conductor) 2, W. Jarvis (Lavenham) 3, M. T. Symonds (Lavenham) 4, R. Chambers (Preston) 5, A. Haynes (Sudbury) 6.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, October 17th, at St. Peter's Church, 720 Bob Minor: G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, G. Rashbrook 3, Flight-Sgt. R. Cadamy 4, W. Chalk 5, E. P. Duffield (conductor) 6.—For evening service, 1,008 Bob Major: G. B. Andrews 1, G. Boyden 2, H. T. Pye 3, G. Rashbrook 4, R. Cadamy 5, W. Chalk 6, H. J. Millott 7, E. P. Duffield (conductor) 8.

HILLINGDON.—At St. Andrew's, on Tuesday, October 5th 1,260 Grandsire Triples: P. E. Jones 1, F. W. Goodfellow 2, J. Barber (first quarter-peal) 3, T. Collins 4, F. Corke (conductor) 5, W. Honer 6, T. Bannister 7, S. Humpreys 8.—On November 2nd, 1,280 Bob Major: J. Barber (first quarter of Major) 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, T. Collins 3, W. Gutteridge 4, P. E. Jones 5, F. W. Goodfellow 6, F. Corke 7, T. Bannister (conductor) 8.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKS.—On Sunday, October 31st, for evening service, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Barnes 1, C. Urch 2, S. Harrison 3, M. C. Fowler 4, J. E. Cawser (conductor) 5, E. C. Stacey 6, H. Wagstaff 7, E. Dalingwater 8. Longest length in the method by ringers of 1, 2 and 6.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's on October 31st for morning service, 840 Stedman Triples: H. Street 1, C. T. Coles (conductor) 2, R. Maynard 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Smith 5, H. Rumens 6, F. C. Maynard 7, F. C. Taylor 8.

MEPPERSHALL, BEDS.—On Sunday, October 31st, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Lawrence 1, A. Sinfield 2, R. Sharpe 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters (conductor) 5.

BINFIELD.—On Sunday, November 1st, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: Mrs. A. J. W. Rance 1, C. W. Bailey 2, B. C. Castle 3, T. E. Davis R.A.F. 4, A. J. Rance (conductor) 5, A. J. W. Rance 6. Rung on the eve of the patronal festival.

OXFORD.—At New College, on Sunday, November 7th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters: H. Miles 1, Miss B. Spice 2, Mrs. A. E. Locke 3, *Miss M. L. Tutt 4, J. E. Spice 5, F. A. H. Wilkins 6, W. F. Judge (conductor) 7, V. J. F. Bennett 8, J. H. R. Freeborn 9, G. Caudwell 10. *First quarter-peal of Caters.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.—At All Saints', on Sunday, November 7th, for Armistice service, a quarter-peal of Minor in 45 minutes: *W. Thompson 1, A. Sheppard 2, Miss M. D. Hawley (conductor) 3, Mrs. E. M. Bradley 4, Mrs. J. Render 5, E. M. Bradley 6. *First quarter-peal and first attempt. First quarter-peal as conductor.

THE BELLS OF LAMBETH.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century there were at Lambeth three bells, one of which was dedicated to St. Thomas. In 1514 the parish paid three shillings for tightening the bells on their stocks and for putting a stay to the tenor. The charge for nailing the stay was one shilling. What this means we cannot say. It was not like a modern stay of course, for such things were unknown and would have been useless, since the bells were not rung up to a set pull. Perhaps it was a strut to strengthen the frame.

In 1515 a bell clapper cost three shillings. This probably was for the saunce bell or the treble, as the cost of repairing the clapper of St. Thomas' bells was three shillings and fourpence. Philip, the smith, of King's Street, put his mark on that as a token of his promise to guarantee his work for seven years, 'and if it break within that time, he to make it at his proper cost and charge.'

Seven years is a long time for a man to guarantee his work, the old custom being to undertake to put right any defect which appeared within a year and a day. Perhaps Philip Smith's work did not stand so long as he thought it would, for in 1520 two pence was paid 'for bearing the bell clapper to Whitechapel parish.' Why did the churchwardens depart from the usual custom of employing the local tradesman? Whitechapel was a long way from Lambeth, and all London lay between. It may be that someone was already beginning to be known as a clever man with anything connected with bells and the foundations of the famous Whitechapel foundry were already laid.

In King Edward's reign the Commissioners reported that they had left in the church 'remaining to the king's use fyve bells and a saunce bell.' When at the accession of Mary it was evident that the fear of church bells being looted had passed, the parish had the second recast, and the reaction against the late violent changes in church doctrine and ritual is shown by the payment for ringing on Corpus Christi day.

The bellfounder, who came in 1579 to give his advice about mending the clappers and was regaled with wine and beer, was certainly Robert Mot, and a new clapper was made at Whitechapel for the great bell at a cost of twenty-five shillings and ninepence.

In 1584 four bells were recast, by whom it is not stated. The actual casting cost £18, and there were several other, incidental, expenses—an oaken pole to winch up the bells, a new staple to hoist up the bells, a link to give light while the work was being done, mending and trimming all the bell clappers, 'and for our dinner, churchwardens, bellfounder, and other honest men of the parish at the payment of the money and receiving of his bond.' There was also a new wheel made for the third bell at a cost of six shillings and eightpence.

In 1598 the tenor was broken. It weighed 14 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs. It was recast at a cost of £14 11s. 8d., and then weighed 15 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lbs. Robert Mot was the founder, and whether the bell was not a good one, or whether it was cracked by bad usage, in less than five years' time he had to cast it again, and ten years later it was once more remade — this time by William Carter, Mot's successor. Carter also recast the third.

In 1638 the saunce bell was recast by John Clifton. He does not seem to be otherwise known as a bellfounder.

One entry, which is repeated more than once, is of interest. It is for a 'matt for the safeguard of the bell ropes.' These are the earliest and, I believe, the only early instances of mats being provided for the ropes to fall on.

There was the usual amount of paid ringing, and in later years the vestry, like the vestries of other parishes, resolved to restrict it.

In 1518 the 'yeoman amyner' fined the parish two shillings and fourpence for not ringing at the king's coming. In 1572 all the bells of London were rung when the news came of the battle of Lepanto. There were no English ships or men at that fight, but Christendom was still a very real thing, and England had a great interest in the overthrow of the Turk.

In 1723 Richard Phelps recast the bells and made them into a ring of eight. 'The cost near 230 pounds was defrayed by the gifts of the many gentlemen and other inhabitants' of the parish. Three years later the College Youths rang the first recorded peal in the tower. It was 6,832 changes of Bob Major, conducted by Benjamin Annable, who rang the tenor. Francis Geary was at the third, Peter Merrygarts at the sixth, and William Laughton at the seventh. At the time it was the longest length in any method, but in the following April the Norwich Scholars beat it by ringing 10,080 Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Michael's Coslany.

The Union Scholars rang Bob Major at St. Mary's in 1739, and the College Youths Oxford Treble Bob in 1757 and Double Bob in 1759. In 1777 the ancient Society of College Youths rang Grandsire Triples. In the same year and in 1778 the London Youths rang Oxford Treble Bob; and in 1782 the College Youths rang Bob Major.

In 1806 the men who called themselves the Westminster Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Triples conducted by John Hints. Some of these men were members of either the College Youths or the Cumberlands. Westminster Youths was little more than a name under which peals could be rung, and the same people shortly afterwards started the St. James' Society. Hints, in the following month, called another peal of Grandsire at Lambeth for the College Youths. The peal board claims that it was composed by him 'with 103 bobs and 2 singles,' but it is pretty obvious that it was half of Holt's Ten-Part, and half of Reeves' Variation.

In 1828 a 'Friendly Society' rang Grandsire Triples, and in 1848 another in the same method was rung by the St. James' Society with George Stockham as conductor.

A board in the belfry recorded that in 1860 the Southwark Youths Society rang a muffled peal for Richard Mills, 'a late member of the Cumberlands Society,' who died at the age of 84. Mills, who was a tobacconist by trade, had been largely instrumental in saving the Society of College Youths at the period of its greatest decline.

In recent years Lambeth bells have been recast by Messrs. Taylors, of Loughborough.

A KINDLY WISH.

To ringers who in deafening bands

No pity have for age or sex,

Would that the ropes pulled by your hands

Were fastened round your cursed necks!

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.**MR. CARTMEL'S RECOLLECTIONS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Like my friend, Mr. W. H. Lawrence, I was also interested in your article, 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' having known the Squire and his band for over 54 years. I was present at the meeting at Baldock on Saturday, June 21st, 1890, and, being assistant secretary to the Hertford County Association at that time, I entered up the minutes and can confirm what the 'Squire' said about the ringing, 'touches of Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire-Triples being successfully accomplished,' according to my minute.

It was the general custom of the Benington band to ring as a band at our quarterly meetings, and then retire for a smoke or a refresher. But this did not stop the ringing at the Baldock meeting, for there were plenty of other capable men to keep the bells going. Many statements have been made that the Benington men were unable to read or write, and that they learnt their methods with the aid of chalk and stones. I have recently been in conversation with a younger and former member of the band, who is 78 years of age, and he emphatically disproves the statement. He informs me that Squire Proctor was a Cambridge University man, and learnt change ringing whilst at the university. On his becoming Squire of Benington he gathered the employes on his estate and taught them change ringing from the books then in use. He was an enthusiastic ringer, and as Mr. Lawrence states in his letter, he took his men on ringing excursions regularly every year.

Amongst the older ringers who first rang the Surprise methods were Messrs. Charles Hollingworth, John Aylott, Luke Carter and Ben Lott. I append the names of the famous band as I knew them, with their occupation and age at death: Squire Proctor, Lord of the Manor, 86 years; Charles Hollingworth, groom, 86 years; Thomas Page, gardener, 70 years; Samuel Page (son of above), gardener, 79 years; John Kitchener, builder, 75 years; Leonard Chapman, gamekeeper, 92 years; Joseph Kitchener, carpenter, 86 years; Charles Shambrook, groom, 92 years; Nathan Warner, haybinder, 71 years. Among the 'younger' men were Messrs. Herbert Warner, Jabez Warner, Walter Hobbs and Walter Smith, some of whom, I believe, have 'passed on,' but Herbert Warner is still with us, residing at St. Albans. The total number of years for the nine men totals 737 years, a good advertisement for the healthy exercise of ringing.

Duffield, St. Albans.

G. W. CARTMEL.

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.**QUICK PEALS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Mr. W. Shepherd's letter is partly answered by that of Mr. Groombridge, but while the two peals at Crayford in 2 hours 14 minutes and 2 hours 17 minutes were, of course, extreme examples, there have been innumerable others, both Triples and Major, in well under the time of 2 hours 48 minutes, which he quotes as an average time for Triples on bells of their weight. Some which I can remember are these: November or December, 1932, Stedman Triples, 2 hours 33 minutes; December 20th, 1929, Grandsire Triples, 2-36; March, 1930, Erith Little Bob, 2-38; January 5th, 1934, Cambridge Surprise, 2-38; May, 1930, Grandsire Triples, 2-39.

There is nothing really remarkable in this. The bells are in ball bearings, go excellently, can be heard plainly and there is a short draught of rope, so that conditions for quick ringing are ideal. Nevertheless, in more recent years the tendency has been towards slower ringing, large, I think, because peal bands have generally contained a greater percentage of less experienced ringers than was the case between 1928 and mid-1934, during which period all the above mentioned peals were rung.

E. A. BARNETT.

DEATH OF MR. H. N. IMESON.

The death is announced of Mr. H. N. Imeson, who passed away on October 30th, after an operation in hospital, at the age of 58. For 35 years he had been a member of the York Minster band and was a safe and enthusiastic ringer. He started his ringing career on the six bells at Bishophill, and at one time served on the committee of the Yorkshire Association.

The funeral was at Fuford Cemetery on November 4th. Members of the Minster band acted as bearers and afterwards rang a course of Grandsire Triples over the grave. The band was S. Steel 1-2, E. Rickett 3-4, L. F. Earnshaw 5-6, H. Walker 7-8. Other Minster ringers present were H. Forden and W. Ayre, J. Douglas from New Earswick, and T. W. Robbins and J. Reader from Escrick.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT THORNE.**

At a meeting of the Doncaster and District Association held at Thorne on October 30th, members were present from Arksey, Doncaster, Barnby Don and Sutton-in-Ashfield, as well as Pte. Clark, of Chelsea. A letter from the Central Council was referred to the committee.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Many happy returns to Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, whose birthday is to-day.

Congratulations to Mr. George Cross, whose birthday was last Tuesday, and to Mr. Harry Chapman, who is 80 years old to-day.

Congratulations to Flight-Sergt. Leslie G. Holland, of St. Mary's, Nottingham, who has been awarded the D.F.M.

All the band who rang in the peal of Minor at Sunningwell on Saturday are resident junior members of Oxford University. It was the first university tower-bell peal in which ladies have taken part. Three of the band, the Misses Tutt, Hou'dsworth and Lloyd, had not rung open tower bells before the lifting of the ban.

Mr. C. E. Borrett points out that Mr. C. T. Coles was in error when he said that the Oxford Diocesan Association was the first ringing association which definitely connected itself by name with the Church. It was founded in 1880. The Norwich Diocesan Association was born in 1877.

On Sunday, October 24th, the Mayor of Liskeard, Mr. W. H. H. Huddy, visited the belfry of the Parish Church and rang for morning service. Mr. Huddy was at one time a very active member of the local band and rang regularly every Sunday, but previous to his visit of the 24th had not rung for several years.

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.

RINGER REPATRIATED.

Mr. Harry D. Shackleton, who is a member of the band at St. Bartholomew's, Westhoughton, was recently repatriated from Germany, and a peal arranged to welcome him home. It was followed by a tea provided by the Vicar and his wife.

Unfortunately, Mr. Shackleton was not well enough to leave the hospital. Mr. Peter Crook expressed the feeling of the party, who sent Mr. Shackleton best wishes for a speedy recovery and a return to the belfry.

RUSSIAN BELLS IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Evening News' of September 17th, Russian bells in England were mentioned in the 'Talk of the Day' column. Mr. Dore, whose father owned Pinner Hill House about 25 years ago, told Mr. David Preston (for some years British Vice-Consul at Sebastopol) that there were bells there which he believed were Russian. A letter of inquiry to Sir Ernest Jelf, of Pinner, was passed on to me.

The property is now owned by the Pinner Hill Golf Club, and the secretary gave me permission to examine them.

There was a clock and five bells which had not been in use for years, and an inscription plate which stated, 'These five bells of the respective weights of 28½, 159, 66½, 37 and 17 lb. were made by Demetrius Samgin, bell founder, Moscow, and purchased at the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park by A. W. Tooke, who placed them here A.D. MDCCCLXIX.'

After several visits I have succeeded in getting the clock (nearly 100 years old) to go and have put the chiming and striking apparatus in order. It chimes the quarters on four bells and strikes on the big bell. They are very melodious and Mr. Preston hopes to have a record made of them which may be broadcast to Moscow.

Do you know of any other Russian bells in England or how they came to be sent so far?

E. M. WARE.

16, The Close, Pinner Green.

[There is a Russian bell hung in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle, which was brought from Sebastopol as a war trophy after the Crimean War, and presented to Queen Victoria. It was tolled at her funeral and those of King Edward and King George.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

AN UNUSUAL CHIME.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ware tells me the old bells on Pinner Hill are a most unusual chime, but very melodious. He has put in quite a lot of work during the last few weeks, as all the works were rusted up, and he had to use hammer and chisel to get them apart, but with a lot of patience and a good drop of oil he has got it to go quite well.

TOM COLLINS.

Bayhurst, 165, Linden Avenue, Ruislip.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY MR. E. H. LEWIS.

Last Saturday, at the College Youths' luncheon, Mr. E. H. Lewis, the President of the Central Council, replying to the toast of the Press, made a statement which will be read by all ringers with relief and thankfulness. He said:—

I never expected, as a newspaper proprietor, to respond to the toast of the Press. How I came to be one I will tell you later.

First, I want, as a ringer, to express to the proprietors and editors of the larger and more widely read newspapers our appreciation of the way they dealt with the ban and the revival of ringing after El Alamein. The officers (or, perhaps, to satisfy certain purists, I should say the acting officers) of the Central Council had a very busy day or two answering telephone calls from Fleet Street, and we tried to emphasise the benefit to ringers if the demand for the total removal of the ban came from the general public rather than from the ringers themselves. In that, I think, we succeeded, and we appreciate the way the newspapers responded to our suggestions.

You, no doubt, are thinking mainly of our own paper, and about 'The Ringing World' I want to speak to you. You all know that Mr. Goldsmith's deep interest in life was the production of his paper, largely as a labour of love and for the good of the Exercise. What great good he did do has been told on many other occasions. For some years many of us had been very anxious as to what would happen if anything occurred to prevent him carrying on. Immediately after his funeral, twelve members of the Central Council who were present met the executors and the printer, and by exercise of good will on all sides, came to an arrangement for continuing publication while negotiations for some permanent transfer went on.

These negotiations were unfortunately rather protracted. The Council, with their slender resources, could not afford to buy a pig in a poke, and the examination of the contents of the poke were necessarily, as it turned out, lengthy and complicated. Ultimately, however, agreement has been reached, and within the last two days Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Hughes and myself have become proprietors of the paper, as trustees for the Central Council.

War time conditions make this temporary arrangement necessary, for it would be impossible to float a company,

as may be done later. That will be a matter for the Council to decide when the war is over. The main thing is that the paper has not missed a single issue, and I do not believe for a moment that result could have been achieved if it had not been for the prompt action of the Standing Committee in the first place.

Before I go on I must say how much we owe to Mr. Fletcher and his hon. secretary for the enormous amount of work they did in arriving at a valuation as a basis for negotiation. And we owe something to the forbearance of the executors, who were anxious for a settlement, and, perhaps, did not quite realise the complexity of the problem of arriving at the necessary figures.

Now as to the future. The new proprietors were extraordinarily fortunate in the transition period in obtaining the services of the present Editor. His knowledge of ringing is widespread, and on the historical side I think we can say he knows more about ringing than anyone else has ever known. Having appointed him we intend to back him up to our utmost, and I trust that the Exercise will support him and the paper in the most practical way by increasing the circulation. There is evidence that they are already doing so, which shows that the paper in its present form suits the majority of the readers. We have a hope of an increased supply of paper for increase of circulation only (not to enlarge the paper) and we shall need it.

The readers are the people for whom the paper is compiled; for their pleasure and edification, not for the pleasure of the contributors. No doubt the Editor is, and will be pleased to receive contributions, but don't forget that he must use his discretion as to what is published in accordance with the general policy and rules he lays down for himself. Please don't forget either that the war has imposed restrictions on paper, restrictions on the percentage of the paper which may be taken up with notices and advertisements and so on. If some notices were not cut down by the Editor others would never appear at all. Think of the Editor's difficulties and help him as much as you can, and I am sure the health of the paper will be assured.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that in order to obtain the necessary amount of working capital for the present transitional period, the associations had been asked to lend money. The response had been gratifying, especially from the smaller associations.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EDMONTON.

The joint meeting held at Edmonton on Saturday, October 16th, between the North and East District of the Middlesex Association and the London District of the Ladies' Guild was attended by well over fifty ringers.

A number of methods were rung on the tower bells and opportunity was given to everyone present to share in the ringing. At the service, which was fully choral, the Rector gave an address of welcome, in which he expressed pleasure at seeing so many people devoting their energies to this particular branch of church work.

Tea was in an adjoining hall and all costs were defrayed by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, the former a past vice-president of the association.

There was no business meeting, but some current news of interest to ringers in general was given. Thanks were expressed by Mrs. R. F. Deal to the Rector and other local people who shared in the arrangements and the successful outcome of the occasion.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the comments on Real Double Norwich and would like to point out that a peal of Real was rung at Moorside, Oldham, on Saturday, April 7th, 1934, the first and, I believe, the only one for the Lancashire Association. The composition was by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by Christopher Gudgeon. The calls were double throughout the peal.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

THE SOUND OF THE BELLS.

To those who have an ear for music the sound of bells has a cheerfully soothing effect, sometimes diverting thoughts from needless cares and anxieties to calm and tender moods and pleasant remembrances: memories and scenes of the past are brought back fresh and new almost as in days gone by.—Dr. George Gregory, 1876.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON.

The 306th anniversary luncheon of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held at Slater's Restaurant on November 6th and was attended by 110 members. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided, the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. Albert A. Hughes, and among those present were Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. Edwin H. Lewis (president of the Central Council), Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Council), Messrs. C. T. Coles, E. P. Duffield, E. A. Young, G. Steere, G. Strickland, Capt. A. R. Poyntz, Messrs. F. Haynes, A. Walker, C. W. Roberts, E. C. S. Turner, J. A. Trollope, F. Rogers, J. W. Jones, T. B. Worsley, F. Sharp, R. Newton, W. H. Passmore, G. Fearn, T. Hibbert, W. Hibbert, G. N. Price, T. Groombridge, sen., H. Hodgetts, E. Jennings, C. H. Kippin, F. Collins, D. Cooper, R. W. Stannard, H. Hoskins, J. E. Davis, W. Williams, H. Miles, A. B. Wiffen, R. Deal, J. E. L. Cocker, E. Hartley, J. Thomas, J. Chalk, the Rev. Kenneth C. Davis and others.

During lunch the Master took wine with the oldest member present, Canon Coleridge, with the members of over fifty years' standing, the past members, members of H.M. Forces and all present.

The Master gave the toast of the King.

THE TOAST OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood proposed the toast of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' He said he remembered the very able manner in which this toast had been proposed in past years by Canon G. F. Coleridge, whom they were delighted to see present that day. He supposed that the two most important happenings during the past twelve months were the lifting of the ban on ringing and the tremendous wave of favourable public reaction towards bells and ringing. He wanted to see this reaction exploited to the full by ringers and their organisations, and suggested that the public should be made more welcome in the belfry and shown how ringing was done. He felt that ringers should become much more active on local church councils and also take their proper place in diocesan and advisory committees.

With regard to the Society of College Youths, they had during the past four years, gone through the most difficult period in their history. Throughout all the recent trials the society had stood like a rock, standing for all that is best in ringing tradition. He thought there was no accident about this, but that it was due to the very careful and discriminating way the officers were chosen. They were thankful to have such an efficient Master, who conducted the business of the society in a dignified, yet courteous, way.

Mr. Smallwood said that he would like, on behalf of all who attended the meetings of the society, to pay a special tribute to Mr. A. A. Hughes, the treasurer, who, when the society was homeless, put a roof over their heads, and worked a fortnightly miracle in feeding those present. It was to Mr. Alfred B. Peck, their secretary, that the most difficult task of all had fallen, namely, to follow such a great secretary as the late W. T. Cockerill. He felt that Mr. Peck was following worthily in his footsteps, and that as long as they were served by officers such as they now possessed, the future of the Ancient Society of College Youths was safe.

Mr. A. B. Peck said it was most gratifying to the officers of the society that their efforts met with approval. They had done their best and tried to carry on. They were satisfied if members approved. The society could not do much ringing because they had lost most of their bells, but members and friends were always welcome at the meetings. During the last year 93 in all had attended. The officers, the Master, the treasurer and the secretary had each put in the maximum number of attendances.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Mr. Charles W. Roberts proposed the toast of 'The Kindred Ringing Societies.' He said that during the very difficult period through which the art of ringing had been passing the kindred societies had done a great work in 'keeping the flag flying' up and down the country. One had only to read the reports of meetings in 'The Ringing World' to realise the great work which they have done, much of it quiet and unobtrusive, but none the less useful. Their own College Youth meetings during past years had been attended by many members of kindred societies, and they were always pleased to welcome them. This war had done much to bring together men of various views and ideas, and it was equally true of ringers as of those engaged in other pursuits. They had carried on in a true spirit of brotherhood and kinship. When peace returns there will be much for all to do to get the art of ringing firmly re-established and if they approach the tasks in the spirit of brotherhood which has manifested itself during the hard times through which they had passed, had no fears for the future of the Exercise. When he looked round and saw many officials and members of kindred societies he would have liked to say something nice of every one of them, but time did not permit.

Mr. Roberts coupled with the toast the name of Mr. F. E. Haynes, of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild. Among the famous men that the society has produced was the late Henry Johnson, who in

the realm of composition, especially of Treble Bob, Stedman Caters and Cinques, was one of the greatest exponents of his generation, perhaps of all time.

Mr. Roberts also included in the toast the name of Mr. G. W. Steere, hon. secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths. Between the College Youths and the Cumberlands there had been much rivalry in the past, but the only rivalry which now existed was friendly rivalry. Nowadays College Youths are always welcome at meetings of the Cumberland Society, and they always welcomed members of the Cumberland Society to their meetings, and were pleased to see them.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, in returning thanks, said for some years past there had been growing the feeling that the ties between the College Youths and the provincial societies were getting closer. Throughout the war the admiration they always felt for the Ancient Society had greatly increased because of the efforts that had been made in London to keep things going. They had done the same in Birmingham. As a result of their efforts things were in some respects more favourable than before the war. There was a great opportunity for ringers. The attitude of many of the public had changed. Those who used to grumble found they missed something when the bells were stopped, and now do not grumble. It was an opportunity which should be taken advantage of. The results of the ban were serious and the losses were severe, but there was the opportunity, and if all did their best, as the College Youths were doing, and as they in Birmingham were doing, and others as well, the Exercise would survive, and they would be able to look back on these days not with regret but with thankfulness.

Mr. G. W. Steere also spoke. He said that thanks were due to Mr. Hughes for the hospitality always shown at the College Youths' meetings at the foundry. The Cumberlands, too, were always pleased to see visitors at their meetings. If it were not for the College Youths ringing would be in a far poorer state than it is to-day.

THE PRESS.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed the toast of 'The Press' and 'The Ringing World.' He said everyone must be gratified with the good news coming from all war fronts, a most auspicious sign of sure and final victory, and congratulated the Press on the marvellous way the daily papers had regularly appeared, especially during the raids on London and other parts of the country. Ringers also had the hearty support of the Press during and especially since the removal of the ban on bellringing. Great prominence was given to last November Victory Day ringing, and when the ban was lifted last April special articles appeared in all the leading papers welcoming back the sound of bells and saying how much they had been missed by all sections of the community.

Referring to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Walker said that for more than 60 years ringers had had a weekly paper of their own, and for the past 32 years 'The Ringing World' had appeared regularly each week, this in spite of the late Editor's illness and lamented death. Here Mr. Walker paid tribute to Mr. J. A. Trollope for his work during that period and subsequently since he had been appointed Editor to succeed Mr. Goldsmith, and he felt sure Mr. Trollope would receive the wholehearted support of all the associations and their members. Mr. Walker congratulated Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. G. W. Fletcher and Mr. A. A. Hughes on their work in taking over on behalf of the Central Council 'The Ringing World' in a satisfactory manner, which would be a lasting benefit to all.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council, replied to the toast. A full report of his speech will be found on page 495.

Mr. E. A. Young proposed the toast of 'The Fragrant Memory of the Masters of 300, 200 and 100 years ago.'

At the end of the luncheon a short business meeting was held, at which all the officers were re-elected for another year's term of service as follows: Master, Mr. Ernest G. Fenn; hon. secretary, Mr. Alfred B. Peck; hon. treasurer, Mr. Albert A. Hughes; senior steward, Mr. Jack A. Waugh; junior steward, Mr. George W. Cecil; trustees, Messrs. H. R. Newton and H. G. Miles.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORWICH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Norwich on October 23rd, was attended by between 40 and 50 ringers from Beccles, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Diss, Gillingham, Mulbarton, Norwich, Garboldisham, Leicester, Ranworth, Long Stratton, Scottow, Stradbroke, Wroxham and Wymondham.

Ringling took place on the eight at St. Miles', which have been silent since the ban, and where the new Rector is anxious to get the local band increased in numbers. Later the 12 at Mancroft were rung.

Ringling included usual methods up to Stedman Caters and Cambridge Major. The bells at both towers were half-muffled in memory of Bishop Pollock, for long patron of the association, and Bishop of Norwich from 1910 to 1942, who died during the week. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, general secretary, and the Rev. A. R. Freeman. Mrs. Rose's tea in the Parish Hall almost rivalled Mrs. Ford's tea at the Ranworth meeting.

It was arranged to have the next meetings at New Buckenham on November 20th and St. Giles', Norwich, on December 4th if possible.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.
THE BELLS AND RINGERS.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 473.)

To ensure the bells being rung on Sundays, a list of members responsible for this task was prepared at the beginning of each year. This band apparently shared between them such payment as was made by the churchwardens for the ringing of the bells. It was known as the 'Scrufe,' which term appears to have originated with the College Youths in London, it being used to this day at such places as St. Paul's Cathedral, where there is a definitely chosen company of ringers receiving some monetary reward. Nowadays at St. Mary's there is no need of a 'Scrufe,' and the comparatively small sum of money received for ringing is devoted to covering the cost of the annual outing.

Of the members belonging to the society in these early days, two still remain as members; one of them is the present hon. secretary of the society, John Hugh Wilkins, son of the John Wilkins who was the first secretary. Mr. Wilkins attends ringing twice every Sunday, except when away from home, and is still fit, at the age of 74, to ring in a peal if occasion arises.

Robert J. Maynard, who is 78 years of age, is also still a member. Every Sunday, without regard to weather conditions, finds Mr. Maynard in the belfry, and he seldom misses a practice. He is always ready to ring in a peal, and is equally at home, whether ringing the tenor as a covering bell, 'banging the drum,' or one of the smaller bells. Some of the best struck peals of Triples and Caters rung at St. Mary's have been rung with Mr. Maynard on the tenor, and as recently as February last year he rang this bell through a peal. He holds the record of having rung at St. Mary's on Christmas morning each year for 62 years, with the exception of two or three war-time years, when ringing was impossible. During the 62 years, he has rung on 47 occasions at St. Mary's, and on 15 at St. Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road, to welcome in the New Year. He is a brother of the late Thomas Maynard, and has three sons who have been members of the company, two of them still remaining in the society. His home from 1865 to 1913 was in the Vestry House, Walthamstow, now the Walthamstow Museum.

It would be impossible to mention all the members of these early days who have gone, but one of them must not be forgotten. I refer to William B. Manning, who died in June, 1934. He became ringing Master on the death of Thomas Maynard, and continued so until moving to Royston, Herts, just before the last war. He returned to Walthamstow in 1926, and rejoined the society. It would be impossible to convey any idea of his beautiful nature and fine character by words that I could write, and I will content myself by referring to him as a true British gentleman.

In later years other men joined the society, amongst them being Frederick Rumens and Robert K. Knights, who became hon. members in 1892. Mr. Rumens held a post in a Government office, and as a man of good education soon became prominent in the society. He was assistant hon. secretary for many years until his death in

1916. Mr. Knights was employed in H.M. Customs. He did not do a great deal of ringing, but at Gloucester, where he originally came from, and at Walthamstow, he joined the ringers mainly from love of hearing bells. He has done no ringing at all for about 20 years, having been confined to his bed for the greater part of this time with an incurable leg trouble. At the age of 90 he is still able to follow all the doings of the ringing world, and nothing gives him greater pleasure than to receive a visit from an old ringing colleague.

William H. Freeman and Abraham G. Freeman, members for several years, were uncle and father respectively to the famous Tich Freeman, the Kent and England cricketer, and of another cricketer who has played for Essex. William died about five years ago, and I believe that his brother, too, is dead.

Throughout its existence there have been members of the society who have had some influence on ringing matters elsewhere. William D. Smith, who was a member of the society between 1910 and 1920, at one time held the office of Master of the College Youths, considered by many to be the highest ringing office in the country. Mr. Albert A. Hughes, a member during the same period, was also Master of the College Youths, his term of office coming during his membership of the Walthamstow Society. A minute passed by the members congratulates him on attaining such high office and bringing honour to the society. These two gentlemen are still alive. Mr. Smith, on retirement from service in the Post Office, went to Eastbourne to live, whilst Mr. Hughes, who is a son-in-law of Mr. Smith, is now the head of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Mr. Hughes' father, the late Arthur Hughes, who died in 1916, was a member of the St. Mary's Society for a year or two before his death, and he also was for one term Master of the College Youths, and for many years treasurer of that society. (Mr. W. D. Smith has since died.)

Another member of 20 years' standing, Henry Rumens, was at one time hon. secretary of the S.W. Division of the Essex Association, from September, 1911, to April, 1916, when he resigned to join H.M. Forces. Mr. Rumens is at present Deputy Master of the St. Mary's Society.

Another member, the reader of this paper, has for 24 years been hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, and has represented that Guild on the Central Council for the last 14 years. He has been a member of St. Mary's Society since 1909.

The present society is composed of some 15 members, all of whom reside in Walthamstow or nearby. There are some useful ringers amongst them, and in ringing ability the society compares favourably with any band for some miles round. The present Ringing Master is Fred Maynard, son of Robert J. Maynard, the Deputy Master is Henry Rumens, and the hon. secretary is John H. Wilkins, both of whom have already been referred to. The steeplekeeper, whose duty it is to look after the bells, to keep them oiled and in order, is James C. Adams. It has been said that if all steeplekeepers were as painstaking and efficient as Mr. Adams, bell hangers would soon become bankrupt.

(Since Mr. Coles' lecture, Mr. Maynard has died. He passed away last August. R. K. Knights died soon after Mr. Coles spoke, and W. D. Smith somewhat later.)

(To be continued.)

DIARY OF AN EMBRYO RINGER.

(Dates approximate only.)

1940-1941-1942. I spend periodically an enjoyable evening at the Vicarage. Vicar occasionally introduces subject of ringing, with obvious nostalgia. Can well understand. Feel the same about Television. Vicar shows me Ringer's Handbook. Am impressed. Retaliate with book on Television. Vicar very kind about book. Neither make any effort to read each other's books in full, but sound basis for mutual respect undoubtedly established.

One such evening Vicar suggests 'lapping.' Never heard of it, but willing to try anything once. Vicar, Mrs. V., my wife and self take up semi-dignified positions on floor with handbells, owing to absence of usual table. Final instructions. Lapping starts. Ceases in confusion. More instructions. We are apparently doing a 'plain course.' Lapping stops again in confusion. Ribaldry from my wife (as usual). Vicar explains in much detail what we did wrong. This subject appears hideously technical. Start again. Forget which is my right hand and which is my left, also cannot distinguish up from down, but we do a set of 'originals.' Original what? Vicar says, 'Now for some dodging.' (My knees very sore, toes bent double.) What is dodging? Have sneaking desire to glance at Ringer's Handbook. We lap again. We dodge. I try to collect three bells and find I can only ring two at once. Leave Vicarage late, exhausted but interested.

APRIL, 1943. Ban taken off. Vicar wildly excited. Will I take it up? Gives me Ringer's Handbook to take home. Never pictured myself as a church bellringer. Look at book. Yes, there is undoubtedly something there. (Feel that last entry not entirely complimentary to author.) Read book from cover to cover. Feel there is a hell of a lot there. Give Vicar affirmative reply. We begin next Wednesday.

MAY 5th. Proceed to tower. Groome lashes the clappers. Vicar puts No. 4 up. Learn that this means 'turn it upside down.' Consider this a somewhat bold policy, but it appears to be part of the game. Vicar invites me to 'pull off at backstroke.' Feel very apprehensive, but try. Cause Vicar fifty fits by nearly pulling the tower off the church. Have I broken anything? Nearly, but not quite. Return home, thinking deeply.

MAY 19th. Promoted to handstroke. Full of fears, but I manage it. Return home, thinking more deeply.

JUNE 2nd. Try 'hand and back.' This is fine! Oh, but is it? Rope suddenly becomes possessed. Fear instant death. Rope tries to amputate my left hand and then tears round the belfry with me after it. Other learners huddled in corner. Life is lived dangerously these days. But stay, the Vicar approaches. He puts out his hand. Miraculously all is quiet, and the rope perfectly docile. What a man! Look meditatively at the spot on the ceiling where I think my brains (have I any?) would have been spilled. Resume gingerly. Vicar is soothing. It does not happen again. I am not convinced that it won't.

JUNE 9th. Decide that I like heavy bells and dislike light bells.

JUNE 16th. Decide that I like light bells and dislike heavy bells.

JUNE 26th. At last Vicar says we will have bells open. My first rounds! What a thrill! Can't keep time for toffee, but this is the goods.

JULY 2nd. I ring No. 5. I bump badly. Mrs. V. swallows hard. (Useless to hope she wouldn't notice.) Vicar rings No. 5. Vicar in a sinister manner stops ringing No. 5 and ascends to the bell chamber. Awful truth emerges: I have cracked the stay. Feel dreadful. Can't imagine what Groome is thinking. Vicar very kind.

JULY 5th. All is well. Stay mended. Give Vicar 6s. and feel I ought to give £100 to the Belfry Repair Fund.

JULY 12th. Improving my rounds. Furiously studying book. Frequent visits to Vicarage for handbells. Subject bristles with difficulties.

JULY 16th. Promoted to Sunday ringing. Learn that ringers should attend divine service. Goodbye to the dissolute habits of my youth. Vicar adjures me to study Bob Minor. Dutifully B.M. eschewing Grandsire.

JULY 23th. Vicar desires me to ring Grandsire. This shakes my former belief that double-crossing is not done in church circles. Furiously study Grandsire, Stedman and Kent in case of similar emergency.

AUGUST 4th. Blood and tears, toil and sweat.

AUGUST 11th. More of above.

AUGUST 18th. Great excitement. Rang 30 changes of Grandsire on No. 2. Vicar beams. Mrs. V. beams. Plaster them with questions.

AUGUST 25th. Better and better. Sixty of Grandsire on the treble. Join Ringers' Guild on the strength of it.

AUGUST 28th. Branch meeting at our own tower. Ring 120 of Grandsire on treble in presence of Hon. Sec. Hon. Sec. takes it as a matter of course. He little knows! Vicar and Mrs. V. very pleased. I am somewhat dazed. Wish Hon. Sec. was not so hardboiled.

SEPTEMBER 1st. Do 120 of Bob Minor on handbells. Very elated. Buy another ringing book. This tactlessly tells of some supermen who rang 19,738 changes at one sitting. Not so elated, thought better of the book than that.

SEPTEMBER 8th. Blood, etc. Can't manage inside work in the tower.

SEPTEMBER 11th. Meeting at Little Ringham. Ring treble. Strange? Must have mistaken it for the tenor. Pull harder. Bell comes down lower. Am hunting up beautifully, but this is supposed to be rounds. Mercifully the conductor calls 'Stand.' Proverb about bad workman who blames his tools appears written in letters of fire on opposite wall, but determine to lodge official complaint about installation. Do so to Mrs. V. She stands to bell. Await decision with great interest. Is it the bell, or was it me? They start rounds. Treble moves smartly to 4th place. Mrs. V. assumes look of determination and endeavours to climb rope. Treble now in 5th's place. I have sudden vision of the tenor at Exeter. Mrs. V. calls up reserves and treble goes to 6th's place. Mrs. V. issues decision that bell is not in order. My idea exactly. Feel immense relief. Look Hon. Sec. squarely in the eye. Later much enjoy pint with Groome.

SEPTEMBER 29th. Do 360 of Bob Minor on handbells. Feel grand, but still depressed about tower. Can't remember a lot of figures. Begin to suspect I must count as on handbells. I ask Maud how she rings. Maud remembers multitudes of figures. Incredible woman! Ask Haynes. He counts. Ah! Buy complete library of ringing books. They have, to my relief, strong sympathy for the counter, especially Trollope. Will Vicar mind if I count? Decide to count and make voluble explanation afterwards.

OCTOBER 13th. Boldly volunteer to ring inside in Grandsire. Do so, counting like billy-ho. Hurray! It works! Great accession of confidence. Bye-bye to the treble. Must do 720 of Bob Minor by Christmas if possible. Make voluble explanation to Mrs. V. Make 2nd ditto to Vicar. Both received with habitual interest. Can hardly wait for next practice.

OCTOBER 20th. At last. Stand to No. 2 for plain course of Bob Minor. Off we go. Lead, smoothly up behind, nicely back towards lead. Neat dodge in 4-3. Hope the Vicar is noticing. Dodge 6-5 'ess perfectly. Oh, dear, am hopelessly lost. Chaos is developing. Will Vicar be able to rescue the course? He is battling gamely. Must back him up. Was that the 5-6 or the 3-4 dodge? Good, we win through to rounds. What is this? Oh, yes, I am at end stroke when everyone else is at hand. Must have struck an extra blow for good measure. Maud inordinately amused. Vicar's expression somewhat critical. Retrieve reputation a little by ringing tenor down in peal more or less blithely.

D. C. B.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHISLEHURST.

The annual meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association was held on October 23rd at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, and about fifty members attended from Bexley, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Eltham, Lewisham, Woolwich and the two local bands.

Tea in 'Mary's Parlour' was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar, the Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves, presided. Mr. T. Groombridge was congratulated on his presence and improvement after his recent illness. Eleven new members were elected.

Mr. J. E. Bailey, district representative, submitted a report of proceedings at the committee meeting held at Maidstone on August Monday. The report was adopted with thanks.

Messrs. J. E. Bailey and E. Barnett were re-elected district representatives, and A. G. Hill and T. Groombridge, sen., were reappointed as district secretary and Ringing Master respectively.

St. John's Erith was chosen as the place for the January meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that premiums for insurance of church fittings, including bells and organs, against war damage had recently been very substantially reduced and suggested that ringers should press for the attention of parochial church councils to the new scale of charges, as it was likely that in a good many cases the expense could now reasonably be met where it was prohibitive before.

A letter from Mr. Pat Murphy, now a prisoner of war in Italy, was read and its addressee was asked to convey to him the meeting's good wishes.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar concluded the meeting.

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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at East Grinstead, November 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. till black-out. Tea and handbells after.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lower Beeding, November 13th, 3 p.m.; blacked out.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Buses from Dunstable, St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, November 13th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Cawthorne, Saturday, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by November 10th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby, St. Peter's, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall, 5 p.m.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Kibworth, Nov. 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Village Hall 5 p.m. Names must be sent by Nov. 10th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

ILLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Caerphilly, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Meeting to follow.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden on Nov. 20th. Bells from 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea. Numbers by Nov. 17th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual general meeting Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m., but those for tea notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Nov. 17th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at West Haddon on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Bring own food. Cup of tea provided.—C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at New Buckenham, 2 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.15. Tea (bring own food) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.15 and 2.20; leave New Buckenham 5.22 and 6.17.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, Close, Norwich.

IPSWICH.—St. Mary-le-Tower.—Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 20th, 2.15-6 p.m., for 8, 10 and 12 bell ringing.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Nailsea, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Marlborough, Saturday, Nov. 20th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names by Nov. 16th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, near Marlborough, Wilts.

ST. NEOTS, HUNTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 2.30 p.m.—A. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Nov. 21st, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Notifications for tea to Mr. L. Reece, 6, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. J. Nichols, 20, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Thursday, Nov. 25th.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m., only for those who notify Mr. Frank Taylor, Deeping St. Nicholas, before Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names to Mr. E. Gardner, Ivy House, The Sands, near Farnham, by Wednesday, 24th.

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