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RINGING MASTERS.

A fortnight ago a correspondent in our columns asked what are the real duties of a Ringing Master, and last week Mr. Harold Poole, of Leicester, gave us a fairly long list of the necessary qualifications of that official and of the things he ought to do. Mr. Poole speaks with authority as the Ringing Master in one of the more important belfries of the country, and what he says will be treated with respect. But perhaps in the minds of most ringers the official he is referring to is the captain or leader of a particular band, whereas by a Ringing Master is understood that officer of a guild or association who is in charge of the belfry at an open meeting. Obviously the functions of the two are not quite the same.

The captain of a band in his own belfry and among his fellows enjoys the authority and influence which close personal contact alone can give. The Ringing Master at an open meeting has to deal with ringers who ordinarily owe him no allegiance, and has usually to act in a belfry where he himself is a visitor. He cannot assume that his authority will be recognised and his orders obeyed to the same extent and in the same manner the other can.

Yet the one official is as necessary as the other. The extent to which an open association ringing meeting is a success and the amount of good it does depend very largely on the Ringing Master. Compared with the captain of a band, his duties are few, but they call for the highest qualities. He has to see that everyone gets his fair share of practice and that opportunities are given to all to improve their ringing. But he has also to see that a good standard of striking is maintained and that the eagerness of some people to do something better than they have done before does not result in spoiling the ringing of those who are proficient. For it should be recognised that the primary object of an open meeting is not teaching. It is to give an opportunity to the members of different bands of meeting together and of gaining that strength and encouragement which comes from co-operation and from the feeling that the Exercise is one body with a community of interests. Much of the ringing at an open meeting—most of it perhaps—should be done by men who are already thoroughly versed in the method attempted and so able to devote their attention to ringing it as it should be done.

This does not mean selfishness on the part of the more skilful or a loss to the beginners. The higher the standard laid down for the ringing at a meeting, the more will be the good which will accrue to the novice if he has the right spirit in him. It should be impressed on be-

(Continued on page 534.)

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ginner's that they can learn very much if they will pay attention to ringing and take notice when a really proficient band is performing. It is no kindness to a man to encourage him to try to muddle through a course of Double Norwich or Superlative before he has learnt to ring and strike Grandsire and Plain Bob properly. It will only hinder him from becoming the good ringer he might otherwise be. And a man who can ring Grandsire well should get as much, or even more, enjoyment out of that method than from blundering attempts to ring something which is called a higher method.

How best to arrange the bands at a meeting and to select the methods they attempt? How to ensure that the highest possible standard is reached, whether it be in Surprise, or Grandsire, or rounds? How to make sure that everybody has his fair share of ringing and every reasonable opportunity of improving himself? These are the problems which confront the Ringing Master. They call for knowledge, tact, patience, good nature and firmness. Fortunately good Ringing Masters are not rare.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAYES, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 29, 1943, in Two Hours,

AT 16, THE KNOLL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 22 extents of Grandsire and 20 of Plain Bob. Tenor size 11 in G.

MISS HILDA OAKSBREIT ... 1-2 | GEORGE R. H. SMITH... ... 3-4

*FREDERICK E. PITMAN ... 5-6

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal on handbells at first attempt.

CHESHUNT, HERTS.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor size 11 in G.

*PETER N. BOND... ... 1-2 | GEORGE R. H. SMITH... ... 3-4

VERNON J. BENNING 5-6

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal.

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23456	352	F H O	23456	416	I F H
26435	— —	— —	35426	—	—
25463	— —	— —	52436	—	—
42356	— —	— —	63254	— —	— —
23456	— —	— —	23456	—	—
23456	416	I F H O	23456	416	I F H O
65324	— —	— —	42635	—	—
25463	— —	— —	53246	— —	— —
42356	— —	— —	42356	—	—
23456	— —	— —	23456	—	—
23456	416	I F H	23456	448	I F O
63254	—	—	35426	—	—
45362	— —	— —	52436	—	—
25463	—	—	32654	— —	— —
23456	— —	— —	23456	— —	— —

GAINSBOROUGH LINGS.—On Sunday, November 14th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Batters (first 720) 1, F. S. W. Butler 2, H. Torr 3, J. Dixon 4, C. H. Baker 5, George L. A. Lunn (conductor) 6.

ST. MARY MATFELON, WHITECHAPEL

A FAMOUS EAST-LONDON BELFRY.

The wayfarer who, leaving the City of London by the broad highway which leads to Essex and the Eastern Counties, passes through Aldgate, cannot fail to notice before him a lofty stone spire on a red brick tower, and to-day, when he gets nearer he will find a burnt-out steeple standing above a ruined and roofless church, a pitiful relic of the great air raids of three years ago. Architecturally the building was no great loss, for it was built during the last century and could not be compared to some of the city churches, such as St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Andrew's, Holborn, which met a like fate at much the same time. But it was a building that counted for a lot in Church matters. It stood on a site which for centuries had been hallowed to the cause of religion, and we may reasonably hope it will once again be rebuilt and restored.

In the steeple there were eight bells, which, with their predecessors, had played no mean part in the story of the London Exercise. When the steeple was burnt they crashed to the ground and were broken, and after a short while, by one of those incredibly mean actions of which some people are capable, they were looted and, though some trace of them was discovered, they were melted down before the act could be brought home to the guilty persons.

Whitechapel Church, wrote Stow in Queen Elizabeth's reign, "is, as it were, a chapel of ease to the parish of Stebenhith, and the parson of Stebenhith hath the gift thereof, which, being first dedicated in the name of God and the Blessed Virgin, is now called St. Mary Matfelon," and he goes on to give an explanation of that rather curious name which is now, I believe, disallowed by antiquarian authorities.

The parish was separated from Stepney in the seventeenth century. The church was rebuilt several times. A building erected in 1675 stood until 1875, when it was replaced by a much larger church. This was burnt down in 1880, and the lately destroyed church was built and consecrated two years later.

The Edwardian inventory has not survived, and the first account we have of any bells in the tower was in January, 1734, when there was a ring of six and William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple and rang two 720's—Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. The bells, said Laughton, 'were flatter than G in pitch.' The front five were good bells, but he was very uncomplimentary in his remarks about the tenor. She was an 'iron-sided Bitch.'

The tower seems to have been in early days a meeting place of the London Youths, and on April 16th, 1737, three members of that society, with two Eastern Scholars and one College Youth, rang 'seven compleat Surprise Six-bell Peals.' It was one of the earliest peals of Minor on record, but all the methods would not now rank as Surprise.

In 1754 the bells were recast and augmented to eight at the Whitechapel Foundry. The first peal on the new ring was 5,040 changes of Bob Triples by the Eastern Scholars on March 15th, 1755. Three days later the London Youths scored 5,152 changes of Bob Major. It was, say the peal book, 'the first time the Society rang

the eight new bells, and the first peal completed there.' This rather looks like an assertion that the Eastern Scholars' peal was not a true one, but the statements in old peal books are often very ambiguous, and it may only mean that it was the first peal the London Youths rang on the bells. William Barrett composed and called it, and the composition probably was false.

During the next thirty years St. Mary's was one of the most popular belfries in London for peal ringing, especially with the London Youths and the Cumberland Youths. The latter in 1755 rang two peals in a method they called Cumberland Pleasure. Probably it was a variation of one of the standard methods, but the figures are lost and there is no means of knowing what was rung.

Two peals of London Court Bob were accomplished on the bells, one by the London Youths in 1764, the other by the Cumberlands in 1767, and altogether fifty-three peals are recorded as having been rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century. One of them, in 1775, was 5,151 Grandsire Major, and is the earliest recorded with that name, but two years earlier, at St. George's, Southwark, the Cumberlands had rung 5,071 changes of 'Cumberland eight-in,' which can hardly have been anything else than Grandsire. It is one example (there are several others) of the Cumberlands habit of giving their name to variations of old methods, and in no case did the Exercise accept the name.

Another instance was in 1769, when the Cumberlands rang 5,040 changes of Real Double Bob Major at St. Mary's and called it 'Cumberland real Double eight in.' The longest peal on the bells was 8,448 Treble Bob Major by the Junior Cumberlands in 1787, the first in the Kent variation in London.

In the first fortnight of the new century the Cumberlands scored another peal of London Court Bob Major. The method was having at the time a certain amount of popularity, but not long after it was dropped from the ringers' repertoire. Its disappearance was no great loss.

A few weeks later John Reeves, who had been out of the leading societies for several years, got together a band of London Youths and conducted the first performance of his variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. The variation, although slight, was a distinct acquisition to the composition of the method.

There were in the belfry when the tower was burnt out five peal boards dating from the early nineteenth century. One recorded Reeves' Grandsire Triples, two were for peals by the Junior Cumberlands—Grandsire Triples in 1822 and Grandsire Major in 1824—and two for peals by the College Youths—Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1812 and Stedman Triples in 1824. The Junior Cumberlands claimed their Grandsire Major as the first on the bells, which of course it was not. This is one of the many instances of unsound claims of first performances being made in good faith. The Stedman Triples was one of the earliest in the method rung in London.

The present lofty brick tower, with its stone spire, proved much less suitable for housing bells than its humble predecessor, and owing to the movement in the structure (rendered worse, it is said, by the trains which pass close by on the Underground railway), Whitechapel bells were difficult to ring, and the belfry had no very good name among London ringers.

HANDLING A BELL.

The main force which drives a ringing bell is gravity. A bell is a pendulum and, like other pendulums, swings downwards on one side by its own weight, and would swing upwards on the other side to the same extent but for the loss of energy caused by air resistance and the friction on the bearings.

The ringer has to make good that loss; he has to counteract the gravity exerted when the bell swings beyond the balance; and in change ringing he has to increase or diminish the arc in which the bell moves so as to vary the rate at which it strikes.

Of the total amount of force necessary to move a ringing bell the man can supply only a small proportion—in the case of large bells only a very small proportion—and the problem of handling a bell is to discover how to apply the force he can supply in the proper manner and at the proper time so as to obtain the best results from his labour.

Gravity is the main force which swings the bell, and gravity is a force which is constant, but it varies in the way it applies to the bell. It is very small indeed at the beginning of the bell's swing. It rapidly increases and reaches its full intensity halfway through the movement, when it amounts to somewhere about three times the weight of the bell. Then it diminishes and fades away as the bell swings upwards.

When the bell is in its full stride the force is so great that the ringer can do nothing to control it, either by increasing or diminishing it. But when the bell is at either end of its swing the force is small and can be more easily controlled. The closer to the two ends of the swing the force exerted by the ringer is applied, the greater will be the effect produced; therefore, the first important point we have to make is this: The closer the force exerted by the ringer's pull is applied to the beginning of the bell's swing the greater will be the effect, and in checking the bell's upward swing the greatest result will be produced when the bell is nearing the end of its upward journey.

The rate at which the bell swings is decided by gravity conditioned by the way in which the bell is hung. It would seem that the ringer cannot alter or control that rate. He may perhaps be able to do so to some extent in the case of very light bells; he certainly cannot in the case of heavy bells, or even of bells of medium size. The point at which the bell strikes depends on the relationship of the swinging of the bell and of the clapper, and this relationship is constant. The bell always speaks when it is in a particular position in its journey. The length of its upward swing has no effect on the point at which the bell sounds, and the note cannot be hastened by checking, as can be done in the case of chiming. The only thing which decides when the bell sounds is the time at which it starts on its downward journey. The ringer can and must control that start, but once the journey has begun he has no further control. All these considerations point to the necessity of the ringer being able to apply his energy to the very beginning of the bell's swing.

The force which the ringer can exert is derived entirely from his own weight. No man, however muscularly strong he may be, can apply to a bell rope more force than is represented by his weight. Therefore, if other things were equal (but they never are) the heavier

the man the greater would be his ability to ring a big bell.

In this connection it must be remembered that weight does not mean the dead weight shown by a weighing machine, for a moving body exercises more weight than a stationary body according to a recognised physical law. It sometimes happens that a man by 'jumping' on the rope of a deeply set bell can pull it off, though he can hang his dead weight on the rope without moving the bell. But however he does pull it off, the force he uses depends on nothing else than his weight.

There is no doubt a general impression among ringers that in ringing a big bell muscular strength can compensate for absence of weight, and that a comparatively light man, who is very strong in the arms, can pull as much as a heavier man who is not so muscularly strong. It is undoubtedly true that some of the most efficient of heavy bell ringers have been men of medium weight, but their efficiency has been derived not from the possession of any great amount of energy but from the ability to use correctly what they have.

Suppose we could construct a mechanical ringer and suppose we were to equip it with an engine of several hundred horse power. Do you suppose it could exert all that force on a hanging rope? What would happen would be that as soon as the amount of force exerted exceeded the weight of the machine, the machine itself would be lifted off the ground.

Ringers have recognised these facts, and in former times it was customary to provide foot straps. A foot-strap is a leather strap nailed at each end to the floor, into which the ringer thrust his foot. The result was, of course, to tie him down to the ground and therefore add infinitely to his weight. When bells went pretty badly it seems that footstraps were used even for light bells. They were common enough in connection with heavy bells down to recent times, and may still be seen in some belfries, though their use is practically obsolete. Improved hanging and more easily going bells have rendered them unnecessary. Perhaps the quicker rate at which heavy bells are usually rung is not altogether unconnected with their disuse. They served the purpose for which they were intended well enough, but we imagine that there was a great risk of injury to the man who used one of them unskilfully.

Our second important point is that the problem of correct bell handling is how to apply to the swinging bell in the best manner and at the proper time the energy a man possesses in his own weight.

(To be continued.)

SURREY ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT CARSHALTON.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Carshalton on Saturday, November 27th. The bells were available from 3 p.m. and after tea, and a good variety of methods was practised, ranging from rounds to London and Bristol Surprise Major, by about 30 ringers.

The tea and business meeting were held at the Greyhound Hotel, and nominations were received for the district officers for 1944 as follows: Master, D. Cooper; secretary, G. Massey; treasurers, H. Simmons and H. N. Pitstow; auditor, H. N. Pitstow; representatives on committee, Mrs. Kippin, Messrs. C. Pothecary, H. V. Young and F. E. Collins. Further nominations can be received up to 14 days before the annual district meeting, which will be held if possible at Streatham on Saturday, January 29th.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar and to Mr. L. Reece for making all arrangements. Mr. Reece had met with an accident which prevented him from being present, and good wishes for a speedy recovery were conveyed to him by the secretary.

**'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'
THE OPEN LEAD.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Debatable points, and the need for their discussion, seem to me to be a matter that depends on what is practised in different districts, and what the leading ringer considers to be the best, so that it has always made me careful, when visiting other towers, to watch, or hear, the way it is done there, and endeavour to do my best to ring either way, but my having been coached to the open lead way gives me the impression it is the best.

I have had opportunities to come in contact with several who were considered capable of giving good advice on such matters, and when possible I have generally tried to follow it. When I read in 'The Ringing World' that there is nothing new to be learnt in the matter of rhythm and good striking since the days of the 'Clavis,' it brought to my mind what I had read years ago. When Troyte was making up 'Change Ringing' and Snowden 'Ropesight,' neither knew at the time that both were working on similar lines, for some improvement in ringing matters, and both give examples of the open lead, which again led me to think it was the best.

They made several visits to London (but not at the same time) and attended the practice meetings of the several societies, and heard for themselves what they had been seeking.

Troyte mentions several names in his 'Change Ringing' who helped him with useful matter. I also had opportunities to ring with some of them, and one (Mr. Haley) rang the 2nd in my first 500 of Grand-sire Triples (February, 1881) and I have never forgotten his reminder as to the open lead.

With regard to six-bell ringing, I have rung and conducted several peals, in 14 methods, and the hand stroke lead was rung open in every method.

Henfield, Sussex.

C. TYLER.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I agree that H. J. P.'s letter covers the ground, but do not agree with title. Should read thus:—

Duties in rhyme:—

- Lead the Nags,
- Spur the Lags,
- Do the Fags,
- Accept the Kicks,
- Inflict the Pricks,
- Placate the Dicks.

'A FLAT.'

**ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH.
SALE OF BELLS.**

From 'The Edinburgh Evening News' of November 22nd, 1890.

The bells with which the citizens of Edinburgh were for long afflicted by the daily chimes which they gave forth from the belfry of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, having been replaced by a more musical set, were disposed of by auction in Dowell's Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh, this afternoon.

Nineteen bells were sold, ranging from six to nineteen inches in diameter. Other four bells, larger than any of those on sale, and which bear the names of the Lord Provost of the day, and three of the magistrates (presumably having been presented by them), have been retained by the Town Council, and will be placed in the Museum which is being formed in the City Chambers.

The Corporation were the sellers. It was explained in the sale catalogue that the bells were cast in 1698, ten years after the Revolution, by Meikle, in the Castlehill, Edinburgh, and intending purchasers were informed that as they were to be sold singly, they were adapted to the purpose of a house bell or gong, and would thus form a most interesting memento of old Edinburgh, while the larger would be suitable for a small church.

There was a large gathering of purchasers before the bells, which were at the end of the catalogue, were reached. The first, a six inch, was put up at one guinea, and was knocked down to Bailie Dunlop for £2 15s. The second was purchased by ex-Bailie Younger for £4. The third by Lord Provost Boyd for £4; the fourth, for £5 5s.; the fifth, eight inches in diameter, for £4 15s.; the sixth, for £5; the seventh, for £5; the eighth, 9½ inches in diameter, for £5 10s.; the ninth, for £5 5s.; the tenth, 10½ inches in diameter, for £5 10s.; the eleventh, for £4 10s. 1d.; the twelfth, 11½ inches diameter, for £7 10s.; the thirteenth, 12 inches diameter, for £5 10s.; the fourteenth, 12½ inches diameter, for £6; the fifteenth, 13 inches diameter, for £9 by ex-Councillor Gibson; the sixteenth, 14 inches diameter, for £26; the seventeenth, 16 inches diameter, for £30; the eighteenth, 18 inches in diameter, for £31, by Mr. Gourlay Steell, R.S.A.; and the nineteenth, 19 inches in diameter, for £36 by Mr. Steell. The whole chime realised £202 10s.

SUNDAY RINGING.—I once received a letter from the son of one of the ringers, in which he implored me to use my influence to put a stop to Sunday ringing; recounting in his letter the evils and misery he had witnessed in his father's family, which had resulted from this practice.—Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, A.D. 1850.

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President of the Council: MR. EDWIN H. LEWIS.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: MR. GEORGE W FLETCHER
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

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to:—

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to
'The Ringing World.'

We would remind secretaries and readers generally that the postal
delay, usual at Christmas time, is likely this year to be much worse.
Last week several notices and other communications reached us too
late for inclusion in the current issue. We ask our correspondents to
post early.

The few delays in the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post are
also due to the heavy Christmas mails.

Intending purchasers of 'Bells of the Isle,' advertised on our back
page, should note that it can be obtained from the publishers, Messrs.
John Crowther, Ltd., Arcade Chambers, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin on the birth of a
son and heir, Robert Christopher, who arrived on December 2nd.

Mr. Charles Tyler, a letter from whom appears on another page,
took part in a peal of Grandire Triples at St. Nicholas', Brighton,
sixty years ago last Saturday.

To-day is the 62nd anniversary of the first peal on the bells of St.
Paul's Cathedral.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

NINETIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Mr. James George, who reached his ninetieth birthday on November
27th, celebrated it by travelling to Birmingham, where a tea had been
arranged, to which many of his ringing friends were invited.

The proceedings began with an attempt for a peal of Stedman
Triples at Bishop Ryder's Church, but before half-way was reached
it had to be abandoned owing to the indisposition of one of the band.

Mr. George entered the ringing chamber and rang the second fault-
lessly to two touches (three courses each) of Stedman Triples equally
as well as he could before the unfortunate loss of his leg. The ringing
concluded with a course of London Surprise Major.

About forty ringers and friends sat down to tea in the schoolroom.
They included the Rev. Canon Badger, who was Vicar of Bishop
Ryder's for 33 years, and the Rev. J. R. Hassett, the present Vicar.

The Rev. J. R. Hassett read out many congratulatory letters and
telegrams, one of which was from the Estates Department of the
London, Midland and Scottish Railway, conveying greetings for
'their oldest pensioner.' Canon Badger spoke of the good work Mr.
George had done at Bishop Ryder's, not only in the belfry, but also
as churchwarden.

Messrs. A. Walker, T. H. Reeves and F. J. Smallwood also spoke of
the various feats of heavy-bell ringing Mr. George had accomplished,
and wished him, on behalf of all the members of the St. Martin's
Guild, many more years of health to be amongst them.

It is worth noting that Mr. Frank Smallwood began his ringing
career at Bishop Ryder's and still maintains his affection for the
church and day school he attended.

The applause which greeted these speeches were a tribute to Mr.
George's popularity, and proved beyond doubt that everyone in the
room heartily endorsed everything that had been said. Mr. George
thanked them and said he was pleased to meet his old friends again,
and he would like everyone to know that he was feeling as young as
ever.

A course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells, Mr. George
ringing 11-12. Also a touch of 90 changes of Stedman Triples especially
composed by Harry Withers.

On Sunday morning, Mr. George was in the tower of Bishop Ryder's
again and rang the fourth (sixth in eight) to two six-scores of Grand-
sire Doubles, and struck it perfectly.

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.***DIFFERENCE IN MUFFLERS.**

Dear Sir,—Whilst I cannot claim to have had a great deal of experience of muffled ringing, I should like to raise a point which so far seems to have been overlooked—namely, the type of muffle used.

It seems to me there can be degrees of muffling depending on the thickness of muffle used. The fact has to be borne in mind that in a good many cases muffling is done by home-made muffles, made from such things as sections of car tyres or something similar, and very often an industrious steeplekeeper has to do a bit of packing to produce evenness of the muffled strokes of each of the bells.

It would be interesting to hear opinions on the degree of muffling to produce the best effect and also the possibility of varying the degree of muffling to suit the circumstances for which muffled ringing is necessary.

In the case of fully muffled ringing there seems to be possibilities in the idea of muffling the hand and back-strokes with different degrees of muffling.

From a ringer's point of view, fully muffled ringing is nothing short of a bad headache if the ringing is very lengthy, and a variation in the degree of muffle between the hand-strokes and back-strokes might make an improvement on the outside effect as well as making things a little easier for the ringers.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

RINGING IN WHOLE PULLS.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. J. B. M. Ridout's letter in your issue of November 26th on muffled ringing, I would state, for his information and perhaps for a great number of ringers generally, that what he suggests was actually in practice at my own home tower—'The Norman Tower at Bury St. Edmunds'—45 years ago. Even then it was no new thing.

We used to muffle the back-stroke of the clappers and ring whole pull changes to a course of Grandire Triples or a touch of 168 with Queens and Tittums. Sometimes call changes were rung, which included Whittingtons as well as Queens and Tittums. We called this 'Echo Ringing.'

The bells were rung slowly and open leads maintained so as to give the open hand-stroke sound more time to escape and so enhance the echo effect of the muffled back-stroke sound.

We were many times congratulated on the effect by really musical listeners, especially in the call changes. Whole pull changes are not difficult to ring, but certainly call for good striking, bell control and concentration.

SYDNEY E. ROPER.

52, Mount Park Avenue, South Croydon.

MINOR IN WHOLE PULLS.

Dear Sir,—I believe your correspondent who says he has never heard of whole pull changes being rung with the bells muffled at back-stroke is quite right in thinking this is the most effective way from the listeners' point of view.

I can distinctly remember ringing at least two 720's in this way on the back six at Long Stanton, about 20 years ago. We rang 720's of Plain Bob and Single Court, each taking about an hour even on those light bells, but I cannot remember anything very difficult about it; perhaps if more complicated methods had been rung it might not have been quite so simple.

I hardly like to remark upon the possibilities of a peal rung in this way, for I don't suppose it could be called a peal even if the whole 5,040 changes were rung, and again, I can hardly imagine many bands wanting to try it.

Perhaps someone will let us know of any eight bell ringing of this kind, but I should think that on six is the most effective.

C. W. COOK.

Newton, Cambridge.

A MEMORY OF JOSEPH SYKES.

Dear Sir,—When I was a boy, 'Uncle Joe' Sykes and his band, for about two years, often rang the bells of the village where I lived. I have never forgotten how impressed I was with the muffled ringing which I heard on several occasions. The bells were rung very slowly to whole-pull changes with open hand-strokes, the back-strokes coming as muffled repetitions of each change. As far as I can remember, both Doubles and Minor were rung in this way with equal effect.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

12, The Close, Lichfield.

COMBINED PRACTICE AT CHATTERIS.

A combined practice was held at Chatteris on December 4th, at which ringers were present from Wilburton, Ely, Haddenham, Somersham, St. Ives and members of the local band. The methods rung were Grandire and Stedman Doubles, and Plain Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Cambridge and Norwich Surprise Minor.

The next meeting will be at Somersham on December 11th.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'Orpheus,' I consider that a Ringing Master's duties are to act as liaison officer at ringing meetings and at any gatherings of ringers of the whole association or of the branches of the same. At tower meetings, say for service ringing or for practice ringing, naturally the local captain or leader is in charge, but where an association or branch hold a meeting, then the Ringing Master should take the lead and scheme out the arrangements to suit everyone's ability and desires.

In my branch I have had as many as 40 ringers at some of our meetings, all stuffed into the tower, which is perhaps not a big one. Some want Cambridge and others Plain Bob, some can only ring rounds and others want a chance to call a little. Well, I go round them all and find out what is wanted and then announce the touch in a loud voice above the din, and I don't usually have any trouble in getting fellows 'to get hold.' Then, of course, I always remember the beginners, and backward and shy as they are, I always root them out and see they have a pull.

'Leave yourself out' is the motto, look out for the others. Before the meeting is over there is generally someone who will say, 'What about yourself?' If there is a service you must keep your eye on the clock, also hints can be put in about striking, etc., where necessary. Ringers take notice of the Ringing Master. He is supposed to know.

It is a good thing to be able to quote a touch to a budding conductor and to tell him how to make use of the observation bell in calling, etc.

There is another duty that the Ringing Master is sometimes called on to perform, and that is to preside at the business meeting when one is held. The Vicar of the tower is usually asked, by courtesy, to do this, but if he is not at hand then the Ringing Master should be ready to take the chair. He has the assistance of the secretary and officers present. He should take care to bring out discussion on the matters in hand and to see that the true feeling of the members is placed on record in the framing of the resolutions.

The Ringing Master can do much to encourage and sustain the interest in ringing in his district.

JAMES E. BURLES.

2, Rand Villas, North Seale, Barrow-in-Furness.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have just received that number of 'The Ringing World' in which the leading article deals with the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association's unanimous disapproval of peal ringing in war time.

To me, as no doubt to other keen ringers serving abroad, it makes sad reading. We want to know that ringing is being done whenever possible, and every keen ringer at home and abroad is glad to see reports of Sunday service ringing and peal ringing. It hurts somewhat to read that certain people oppose peal ringing.

No one can possibly oppose peal ringing through reasonable motives. But in my opinion there is a certain amount of jealousy amongst quite a few ringers, whose opportunity for practising ringing now is not so great as it was before the war (due no doubt to depleted bands). This jealousy is occasioned by the successes recorded by those bands who do manage to keep alive the peal columns now.

Having travelled up and down the country before and during the war in pursuit of ringing, I am convinced that in a few places the atmosphere has changed, and we have quite a few 'fifth columnists' amongst us, who are really just jealous of the peal ringers.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

Sierra Leone.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WRITTLE.**

A meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex Association was held on November 13th at Writtle, which is always a popular tower, and about 25 ringers attended from Great Baddow, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Danbury, Fryerning, Maldon, Springfield, Writtle and Brentwood. Some good practice was put in with Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich.

The Vicar welcomed the ringers, and in his address appealed to them to keep the bells going for the church services on every possible occasion they could and to endeavour to obtain recruits. He quite appreciated the difficulties in these days, but asked all to make a resolution to have the bells rung at least once on a Sunday.

At the business meeting, which followed tea at the Rose and Crown, it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Great Baddow on January 8th if it could be arranged. Thanks were expressed by the District Master, Mr. H. Mansfield, to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to be held and for taking the service, to the organist and to Mr. T. Lincoln for making the arrangements for the meeting and tea.

Ye ringers all who prize
Your health and happiness
Be sober, merry, wise,
And you'll the same possess.

—An old bell inscription.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 528.)

The next peal recorded in the belfry was rung on June 17th, 1876, again 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. This peal was rung for the St. Mary's Society and the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was conducted by Harvey Reeves, the printer, who afterwards founded 'Bells News.' The time occupied was 2 hours and 56 minutes, and it is interesting to note that one ringer whose name appears on this board is still a member of the society. I refer to John H. Wilkins, the hon. secretary.

Next we come to another peal of Grandsire Triples, rung on July 28th, 1877. The conductor was James Pettitt, of the St. Paul's Cathedral Society, and one of the greatest ringers of that period. Another ringer in this peal was Samuel Reeves, of Birmingham, father of the present hon. secretary of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild.

Another peal in 1878 was conducted by Harvey Reeves, another in 1880 by Thomas Maynard. Both these peals were rung for the St. Mary's Society and the College Youths, and the second of them bears the name of Robert Maynard.

The next peal recorded was one of 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, and it was rung in January, 1885, by the Wanstead Amalgamated Society and the St. James' Society. Three St. Mary's ringers took part in this peal, which was conducted by Hugh Thomas Scarlett, who lived in a wooden cottage at the end of the pathway leading from the churchyard to Shern Hall Street. The name of the Rev. T. Parry appears on this and the boards already mentioned.

Next there is a peal rung on Jubilee Day, June 21st, 1887, by members of the Society of College Youths and the Essex Association, nearly all of whom were St. Mary's men, and the peal is stated to have been 'the only peal rung by these Societies on Jubilee Day.' This peal was commenced at 6 a.m., and was finished about 9 a.m., and consisted of 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples.

In November of the same year a peal of 5,040 Union Triples was rung by the St. Mary's Society and is recorded as the first peal in the method on the bells. It is probably the only one, as this method was never popular with ringers. In February, 1889, the College Youths rang a peal of Stedman Triples, again, of course, of 5,040 changes, and this is recorded as the first true peal of Stedman Triples rung in Walthamstow. This method is very musical, and therefore popular, but it requires a great deal of mental concentration. The footnote implies that a false peal, i.e., one containing a repetition in one or more of the changes, had previously been rung in Walthamstow. This was probably true, as ringers of the time tell of a false peal having been rung at St. Saviour's Church in Markhouse Road, and there being a real ringers' row about it.

In November, 1889, a peal of Grandsire Major, 5056 changes, was rung for the St. Mary's Society and the Essex Association; and a few months later a peal of Bob Major was completed, both peals being rung by all

Walthamstow ringers, and in each case being the first in the method on the bells.

Other peals are recorded, one of which was rung on Christmas Eve, 1891, and another which turned out to be the last peal rung on the eight bells before the restoration. This peal was performed by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths on June 19th, 1895, and all the band bear the same Christian name. They were William Coakham, William B. Manning, William D. Smith, William Dallimore, William Burkin, William Pinsent, William H. Freeman and William Pye. The Vicar, Rev. William H. Langhorne, has his name at the foot of the board.

We now come to the restoration and augmentation of the bells in 1896, the most important time in the history of the society. We are told that for some months the bells had been silent, the dilapidated and insecure state of the bell frame and the decayed state of the timbers in the tower causing ringing to be dangerous. The defective timbers, which had not been renewed since the steeple was built in the 13th or 14th century, were replaced and a complete new cast-iron frame, independent of the walls, was fixed. It was stated that there was no liability to shrinkage, no vibration, and no damage to the tower. This from experience would appear to be correct. New fittings, bearings, and wheels were provided, and what is of the greatest importance two bells were added to the existing eight, making a very fine peal of ten bells. The two new bells were, of course, the lightest of the peal, and they were given in commemoration of the long reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The work was carried out by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate Bell Foundry. The ringers themselves gave considerable time and material to the improvement of the ringing chamber, and Mr. William Shurmer generously provided new steel girders. The ringing chamber was enlarged and match-boarded, seats provided, and the floor covered with linoleum. The whole cost, amounting to about £300, was defrayed mainly by public subscriptions at the instance of Messrs. Beck and Shurmer, churchwardens.

The dedication of the bells took place on Friday, December 11th, 1896, the ceremony being performed by the Archdeacon of St. Albans. The Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, the Rev. G. Padfield (St. Gabriel's), the Rev. H. L. Allpass (St. Saviour's) and the Rev. C. Copland were present, together with the churchwardens and many other prominent members of the congregation, whilst amongst the visitors were the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, Vicar of Great Totham, and assistant hon. secretary, Essex Association, and Mr. Arthur T. King, hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association.

A dinner followed the service of dedication. It was held in the Boys' National School, with the Vicar presiding. All the above-mentioned were present. The company numbered upwards of 100, and amongst the toasts was one, proposed by Mr. W. Shurmer, of 'The Bell-ringers.' He said that he could not say enough in their favour, they were so devoted to their duty. They had not only contributed substantially in cash, but they had provided material and had worked in their leisure time to place the belfry in its present perfect state. To them, and especially to Mr. Thomas Maynard, it was largely due that Walthamstow now had one of the finest peals of

bells in the county. He had, therefore, much pleasure in associating Mr. Maynard's name with the toast.

On May 11th, 1897, the first peal on the ten bells was recorded, one of 5,021 Grandsire Caters, occupying three hours and 19 minutes. The ringers were all local men, and also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A similar peal, rung on June 22nd of the same year, this time for the Essex Association, was started at 6 a.m., and was rung to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. We read elsewhere that this peal was finished soon after 9 a.m., when the ringers were entertained to breakfast by the towerkeeper, Thomas Maynard.

Then in 1898, on June 4th, a peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters was rung by ten 'Bills,' seven of whom were in the previous peal rung by Williams, with three new but quite well-known ringers of that name. One of these, William T. Cockerill, was hon. secretary of the A.S.C.Y. The conductor of this peal was William Pye, the composer William T. Elson, the Vicar Rev. William H. Langhorne, and the churchwardens William Shurmer and William Beck. This tablet is undoubtedly unique. All these Williams appear on it, and it is said, jokingly, that the name of the steeplekeeper, Thomas Maynard, appears on the back, where it cannot be seen.

In January, 1899, the first peal of Royal is recorded, the conductor being Thomas Maynard, and the Essex Association being credited with the peal. On February 2nd, 1901, ten Walthamstow ringers rang a muffled peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters in memory of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and this is suitably recorded on a marble tablet. The peal, which was conducted by Frederick Nunn, was rung for the Middlesex Association, and occupied the time of 3½ hours. The tablet is headed, 'V.R. In Memoriam.'

The next tablet is headed 'God Save the King,' and records a peal of Grandsire Caters, rung in 3 hours and 21 minutes on November 9th, 1901, to commemorate the 60th birthday of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. The conductor of this peal was William B. Manning.

The next tablet is of little interest except that it is about the only one that bears the name of the Rev. F. E. Murphy, Vicar. In 1908 we see signs of a real advance in ringing, as here is a record of a peal of 5,002 Stedman Caters. This is a much more difficult method than any previously rung on the ten bells in a peal, and as nine Walthamstow ringers took part a distinct improvement was evident.

Passing over records dated 1911, 1912 and 1913, we come to August 1st, 1914, when eight Walthamstow ringers and two Clapton ringers rang the first peal of Bob Royal on the bells. This peal was conducted by Robert Maynard, jun. It was the first in the method by all the band, and it was rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rumens. Mr. Rumens was assistant secretary of the St. Mary's Society.

This was the last peal rung at Walthamstow (St. Mary's) for many years, as a few days later war broke out.

(To be continued.)

TRING. — On Sunday, November 28th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: D. Campbell 1, C. Badrick 2, F. J. Reeve (conductor) 3, W. Lee 4, Cpl. E. Stevens (A.M.P.) 5, F. C. Reeve (R.A.F.) 6, Edwin H. Lewis 7, H. Bull 8.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 529.)

The Church of St. Patrick, Patrington, Yorkshire, is justly noted for its beautiful central tower, dominated by an octagonal and multi-spired lantern, terminating in a fine spire. It is pictured in most works on church architecture.

As early as 1552 there were here, 'Item iij belles in the steppill and a litle bell. Item ij handbells.' In 1907 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. added a treble to the old five bells, at the same time recasting the old treble, 2nd and tenor, and rehanging them all in a new iron frame. The tenor now is 10 cwt. 24 lb. in F sharp. The old treble and third were by G. Oldfield in 1674; second by an unknown founder 1768; tenor by J. Taylor and Sons, 1846; while the fourth bears the alphabet backwards and 'in well and wo land ESGE,' and bears no date or founder's name.

Patrington has a queer approach to its ringing room thus: One enters from the churchyard and ascends a spiral stairway in the north transept. At the top is a very low doorway leading to a passage so low that one has to proceed across a plank on hands and knees. This gangway has a rail on either side to keep one from falling into the church, which is very high.

The Church of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire, built circa 1380, is a noble edifice of cruciform shape in Decorated and Perpendicular styles, with embattled octagonal central tower 110ft. high. The tower has windows in each face of the upper stage, which contains eight bells, tenor 14½ cwt. It is one of the very few octagonal central towers in England, its pinnacles, gargoyles and panelled buttresses giving a fine effect. At each angle of the tower there is a lofty and slender crocketed pinnacle, but the beauty of the tower is to some extent lessened by the chimney-like stair turret on the north side.

It is interesting to know that the north, south, east and west sides of the tower are slightly greater in width than the remaining four, probably in order that these latter may be the more conveniently brought down to the great piers of the crossing. Thus the octagon tower is converted to a square by a series of cleverly recessed arches which excite the admiration and enthusiasm of architects who see this point of construction.

In 1600 there were five bells in this tower. In 1608 'the Great Bell' was new cast by George Lee, of Congleton, the weight being 2,300lb. In the following year the fourth was recast, at the same time that 'the timber worke of the roufe of the steeple, weathercock poole and the tow floures in the steeple were new made.'

In 1669 it is recorded, 'Our Great Bell in Nantwich, being above 2,000li in weight, chaunced to be cracked, and was cast anew at Wellington, in Shropshire, by one Clitheroe. Robert Parker, Mercer and Jon. Dean, Barber, Churchwardens, anno 1669, wch. cost the parish near £30.' Forty years later the whole ring of five were recast into six by Abram. Rudhall. This was in 1713/14, and in the registers it is recorded that the event was marred by a tragedy, for 'January 22nd, 1714, Mark, son of Mark Topham, kill'd by the 4th Bell clapper.'

The bells were hung in a massive oak frame, but this was never quite satisfactory, for the Parish Magazine

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

says it 'tended to throw considerable strain on the tower, making good ringing somewhat difficult.' Little attention was given to them until 1878, when the bells were quarter-turned, the frame strengthened, new wheels and new ropes fitted at a cost of £113 8s. Two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1922, and the first peal rung on them May 5th, 1923.

The approach to the ringing room is from an outside door leading to the turret staircase at the north-west corner of the north transept. Ascending, this one emerges on to a ledge with a low parapet running along the bottom side of the transept roof, and so to the octagonal central tower. The ringing chamber is then entered by a door at the top of three or four steps on reaching the end of the said ledge.

Leicester Cathedral of St. Martin stands on the site of a Roman temple, and as such is a very ancient foundation. The present stately yet rather severe and unadorned tower, with broach spire rising to a height of 202ft., is not the original. The old tower stood on Norman arches and had a fine crocketed spire rather like that of St. Mary de Castro Church nearby. This for some regrettable reason was taken down and the present one built 1860/7.

The history of bells in this church dates back to 1351, when in the Mayor's accounts he 'claimed allowance of 3s. 4d. paid to the clerks of St. Martin's Church for ringing Prime daily by assent of the community.' Further entries in succeeding years also give details of such ringing. As long ago as Henry VIII.'s time there was a ring of bells here, and it is presumed they were five in number, for charges and obits never mention more than that number. In 1585 the treble was recast; in 1604 the tenor fell and was rehung. In 1611 the second was recast, and in 1657 the ring was made into six. All were rehung in 1689, while in 1700 the 5th was recast. In 1702 the tenor cracked and was recast in 1704. A new ringing chamber was erected in 1754, and in 1781 all the

bells were recast and increased to eight by Edward Arnold, of Leicester. To these two trebles were added in 1787, and the tenor weighed at this time 21 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. In 1854 the four lightest were recast by J. Taylor and Son, and in 1879 the same firm recast the 9th and 5th.

On these bells many peals were rung, the opening one being on November 12th, 1781, when 5,040 Grandsire Triples was accomplished by Leicester Scholars. In 1784 and 1785 other peals in the same method were rung, and in 1782 a peal of Bob Major. John Martin called this, and also 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1786. The following year (1787) at the opening of the ten bells, 5,120 Grandsire Caters 'in ye tittums' was rung in 3 hours 37 minutes, called by Joseph Smith.

In 1860 the old spire was taken down and entirely rebuilt, being completed in 1867. Not until August 9th, 1902, was a complete peal rung in the new tower, and on that day, in honour of the Coronation of King Edward VII., the late George Cleal called 5,021 Grandsire Caters.

Since that time many peals have been rung in all standard and several Surprise Royal methods, the present writer having had the honour to take part in a large number of these. In 1937 all the ten bells were recast and an entire new ring of twelve with a semi-tone was erected in a new iron and steel frame. The tenor is now 25 cwt. 20 lb., and was given by Freemasons of Leicestershire and Rutland. The other bells are the gift of individual donors. Peals of Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Surprise Maximus have been rung on the new bells, as well as Surprise Major on the middle or 'Stelfox eight.'

The approach to the ringing chamber here is not direct but via a spiral stairway—entrance outside—at the north-east corner of the north transept. Emerging from top, one traverses the short portion of roof gutter on duckboards to a short flight of stone steps up the face of the tower to the transept roof apex, thence by double doors into the ringing room.

(To be continued.)

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in your review of 'Bells of the Isle,' particularly where you refer to 'Great Paul's' journey from Loughborough to London. I have read somewhere a full account of this, and it would be interesting if it could be republished. No doubt Messrs. Taylor have this preserved in their records.

Twice in my life I have seen the trolley which carried the bell. The first time as a boy, when it brought a large boiler to a factory here, and the second time was during the last war on the Great North Road. It bore a cast metal plate with raised letters, and, if my memory is correct, it read, 'This trolley in 1881 carried "Great Paul," weighing 17 tons, from John Taylor's bell foundry at Loughborough to St. Paul's Cathedral, London.'

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRAINTREE.

The best attended meeting this year of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Braintree on December 4th, when 21 ringers from twelve towers were present.

Service was conducted by the Rev. Hartley S. Cook and the singing was accompanied by Miss H. G. Snowden. At the business meeting the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, presided, and six new members from Black Notley, the Rev. J. E. Southern, Mrs. E. Huxter, Mr. S. Bones, Mr. M. Brown, Mr. A. Carruthers and Mr. F. Partner, were elected. The annual district meeting was fixed for January 29th at Bocking.

The visitors included Mr. L. J. Clark, Mr. H. J. Mansfield, Mr. E. J. Rurter, Miss Hill and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, who cycled from Great Thurlow in Suffolk. Good use was made of the bells before and after the black-out.

RINGING THE OLD YEAR OUT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to know (as no doubt many more readers will) if we shall be allowed to 'ring out the old, ring in the new' this year. As this is rather a late hour, I wondered whether it might not be allowed. I think if we are permitted to ring we should make it as short as possible.

The Chase, Great Tey.

J. W. DYER.

[There is no official restriction on ringing at night, but the black-out must be strictly observed.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I correct the reference in 'Belfry Gossip' last week to the peal of Double Norwich rung at Crayford on November 27th?

The mistake is perhaps my fault, as the wording of the footnote sent with the peal could easily be misleading. It should have read, 'Believed to be peal No. 5,000 by the Kent County Association.' Has any other association reached this total?

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS. — On November 28th, at St. Thomas', 1,280 Grandsire Triples: *Able Seaman D. Watson 1, †Miss F. L. Wright 2, J. W. Smith 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, P. C. Richards 6, A. Whatmore (conductor) 7, A. Reynolds 8. *First quarter-peal and first attempt. †First attempt on an inside bell.

NEWMARKET.—At St. Mary's Church on December 1st, 1,264 Bob Major, on handbells: R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3-4, B. C. Sharpe 5-6, S. Forwood 7-8.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall (6 bells) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Luke's, Derby, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Church Room 5 p.m.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Holy Trinity, Burnley, on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Kings Langley on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Barnet on Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tower blacked out.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual district meeting at Baldock, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Tea 5 o'clock.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Mansfield Woodhouse on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on Saturday, Dec. 11th, combined with Bristol City practice meeting. Bells 2.30 p.m. until black-out.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Melksham on Dec. 11th. Bells (8) at 3. Service 4.30. Light tea, with meeting to follow at 5 p.m.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15. Service ringing, St. unstan's, St. pn. y. Sunday, Dec. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting (with the Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster Societies) at Doncaster, Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Arrange own tea. Cafes near church. Business in Church Hall 5.45 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 18th, at 3 p.m. No refreshment.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. and during evening service, 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, at 5 p.m. Names for tea by Dec. 16th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Dec. 18th, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Wigston Magna (8 bells) on Dec. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea in the schoolroom at 5 p.m. for those only who notify me by Dec. 15th. Plenty of buses from Northampton Street and The Newarke.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Annual meeting at Churchill, Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

GREETING.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. James George on his 90th birthday. Am glad to hear he is well.—(Mrs.) C. Mitchell, 50, Dunregan Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

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STOURBRIDGE.—On Thursday, November 25th, at 9, Bowling Green Road, 720 Bob Minor in 17 minutes: Miss Flossie Wright (first 720 of Minor) 1-2, J. William Smith 3-4, B. C. Ashford (conductor) 5-6.

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