



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,708. Vol. XXXVIII

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OPEN LEADS.

A week or two ago we mentioned the desirability of general discussion in the Exercise on matters which concern ringers and their art, even though they include some about which people may think that everything which can be said has already been said. It is well for the generation now coming to the belfries to understand why things are done, and not to do them simply because older men have done them. We were pleased therefore to receive letters on such things as muffled ringing and the duties of Ringing Masters.

Among the subjects' mentioned, however, as debatable was one which we, on first thoughts, had put down as definitely settled beyond all questioning, and that was whether or not open leads ought to be made in ringing. For the Exercise as a whole, we can say that it is definitely settled; and it would seem impossible that any band should ever ring without open leads were it not that a tradition to the contrary lingered long among the six-bell belfries of a part of Yorkshire, and, we presume, still survives to some extent. Like that other (to most ringers unaccountable) custom of the same district, of having a little sally at the tail end of the rope as well as the regular one in the usual position.

Why these things should have been adopted there and nowhere else, and why they should have survived in spite of the general usage of the rest of the country, might make an interesting speculation for anyone who has a taste for such things. Whatever else they show they are evidence of the strong hold tradition has on the Exercise and of the extent to which we are influenced by what was done centuries ago.

When we started to consider the question of the open leads it struck us rather as a surprise that we (like the great majority of ringers) have always condemned closed leads without ever once hearing any ringing performed in that style. It does not seem a very fair thing to condemn what we have had no practical experience of, yet we have no doubt that the Exercise as a whole is right. The musical charm of change ringing consists, so far as the ringer is concerned, not in the regularity of the striking, but in the regularity of the rhythm, which is not quite the same thing. To get a rhythm it is necessary to have accentuation of some sort, or, as ringers would say, to have a good 'beat.' This is obtained in various ways and not least by the open lead.

(Continued on page 546.)

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Without it we know that the effect must be monotonous and perhaps the more monotonous the better the striking.

For all but a tiny fraction of the Exercise the question is not whether there should be open leads or not, but what sort they should be. Some have attempted to lay down a rule on the matter and say that the pause at the handstroke should equal the time taken by one bell to sound. But custom differs; in some places a much wider lead is made than in others, and the rule mentioned should be taken as no more than an approximate guide. The one thing necessary is that there should be a marked pause and that every member of the band should make exactly the same length of pause. When, as often occurs, a man puts in an extra slow lead, because he happens to remember that good open leads are essential, he only breaks the regular rhythm and makes hard work for the tenor man.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, December 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT 45 WA SINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDISE CATERS, 5030 CHANGES;

*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2 M.S.G. W FLEICHER ... 5-6
MRS. JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4 | CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal on ten bells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, December 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*ALAN WHITE (Lincoln) ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. Margaret D. Telford
John's) ... 3-4 | (Somerville) ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATRINS. Conducted by MARGARET D. TELFORD

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

448				448					
23456	W	M	R	23456	W	M	R		
64235	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—		
52436	—	—	—	62534	—	—	—		
35426	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—		
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—		
464				464					
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
23564	—	1	—	—	25463	—	1	—	—
52364	—	—	—	—	45362	—	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
480				480					
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
52364	—	1	—	—	23564	—	1	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
63254	—	1	—	—	45362	—	1	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
496				496					
23456	W	B	R	23456	W	B	M	R	
52364	—	1	—	—	45362	—	1	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	—	23645	—	1	—	—
23456	—	2	—	—	23456	—	1	—	—

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WRAYSBURY, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... Treble	WILLIAM WELLING 5
TONY PRICE 2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 6
GEORGE M. KILBY 3	WILLIAM H. COLES 7
NORMAN V. HARDING... .. 4	THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by THOMAS G. BANNISTER

SWANAGE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 22 cwt.

EDWARD T. GRIFFIN 1 reble	ARTHUR G. ROSE 5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2	SGT. P. H. TOCOK, R.A.C. 6
CYRIL F. TURNER 3	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7
CHARLES R. FORFIT... .. 4	*JOHN E. COLNS Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* Proposed member of the Guild prior to the peal. First peal on the bells since restoration by Messrs. John Taylor, of Loughborough.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;Comprising one 720 of Kent Treble Bob and six of Plain Bob.
Tenor 10½ cwt.

REGINALD J. HOUGHTON ... 1 reble	ANDREW C. SINFIELD... .. 4
HENRY LAWRENCE 2	C. HENRY HARDING 5
*RONALD J. SHARP 3	CPL. JACK STUBBS, R.A.F. Tenor

Conducted by JACK STUBBS.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

*AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently. Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

*OSCAR N. THOMAS 1 reble	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 4
HERBERT C. SPENCER 2	HENRY H. FEARN 5
S. GEORGE CHAPLIN 3	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First attempt for a peal. Bung to commemorate the centenary of the parish of Shirley.

BENFIELDSDIE, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob called differently. Tenor 14 cwt.

JACK LINHMAN 1 reble	† WILLIAM TYSON 4
*JOHN M. BROADBENT 2	JOHN A. BROWN... .. 5
CHRISTOPHER T. LAMB 3	DENIS A. BAYLES Tenor

Conducted by D A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal in three methods.

STEDMAN'S PRINCIPLE.—This system has been practised to a great extent in the metropolis on seven, nine and eleven bells, being much admired for the amusement it affords the ringer and the music it produces. But as it is too intricate for common practice, it is confined to a few select performers.—William Shipway.

BELLRINGING AT SEVILLE.

Mr. O. E. Borrett sends us the following account of the ringing at the Giralda Tower at Seville in Spain, which he has come across and which he says is the best description he has seen of that remarkable performance:—

In the belfry of the Giralda Tower in Seville, says the writer, I saw the leap to the bells, now forbidden.

The tower, on which a 13ft. figure of Faith gyrates as a wind-vane, was once the Tower of the Great Mosque, and was designed by Geber, the Moor who invented algebra. In 1568 the belfry was added. The way up the tower is a series of inclined planes, and the platform of the belfry is surrounded by a low parapet between the great arches, in which the bells are suspended 30ft. above.

In each arch a bell is fixed to the centre of an iron axle, the ends of which are inserted in sockets in the masonry. The upper part of the bell-rope is wound round the axle on one side of the bell. Above each bell is a superstructure of alternate planks of wood and slats of iron, bound together, and to the bell and its axle by iron bands. This superstructure resembles a target 4ft. wide and from 6 to 8 ft. high, and its purpose is, almost to balance the weight of each bell—the largest bell weighing 18 tons.

When the rope is pulled, the bell begins to swing and then revolves outwards or inwards, according to the winding of the rope on the axle. When the rope is unwound the bell continues to revolve by its momentum, and the rope is rewound on the axle.

At two minutes to eleven the rope of each bell is held by a boy. He begins to pull and the great bell moves gently to and fro. With each pull on the rope the bell swings more and more. The boy stands on the parapet and throws his weight on the rope. Again he does this, and the bell and superstructure begin to revolve, and with each revolution the tongue strikes with a deafening clang. The boy continues, dragging on the rope, and the bell revolves faster and faster, until the rope is unwound. Then the boy ceases to pull and the rope is wound up again on the axle.

The bell I watched was revolving outwards, that is to say, the upward sweep of the bell and superstructure were outside the tower. When enough rope had been wound up on the axle the boy stopped the centre of the arch. There it was caught by the edge of the superstructure, moving outwards and upwards, and the boy was swung clear out of the belfry. This fight through the air at the end of the rope towards the revolving mass 30ft. above resembled part of a parabola, and he landed with his feet on the upper surface of the superstructure in its next revolution. His weight and the leverage act as a check, and the bell swings horizontally in the arch. Inside the tower is the bell; outside is the platform of wood and iron on which the boy is standing; and the whole is moving gently as a see-saw 300ft. above the city.

Two coils of rope are now round the superstructure. The boy moves to its farthest edge and leans back; his end of the see-saw goes down; the bell swings upwards; the rope unwinds; and the boy at the end of the rope is swung back into the belfry.

The other bells are ringing, and amid noise that shakes the tower the other boys are leaping like demons, some inside and some outside the belfry, to and from these clanging monsters.

When the ringing ceased, the boy spoke: 'The seniors saw the bells? Many people run away when they see the leap. No, I am not afraid. I had great fear at first; that was two years ago. I was 14 then. It does not make me giddy, even at night, but the lights seem a long way below. Once a man was killed. No one saw, but they found him on the stones down there. Some said he was drunk. There is now an old man in charge of the bells. He is sixty and blind, but he can do the leap to the bells.'

DEATH OF MR F. E. PITMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick Edmund Pitman, which occurred suddenly at Bromley, Kent, on December 5th. He had not enjoyed the best of health for several months, suffering on and off with an internal complaint, but was regular in his attendance at Sunday service ringing.

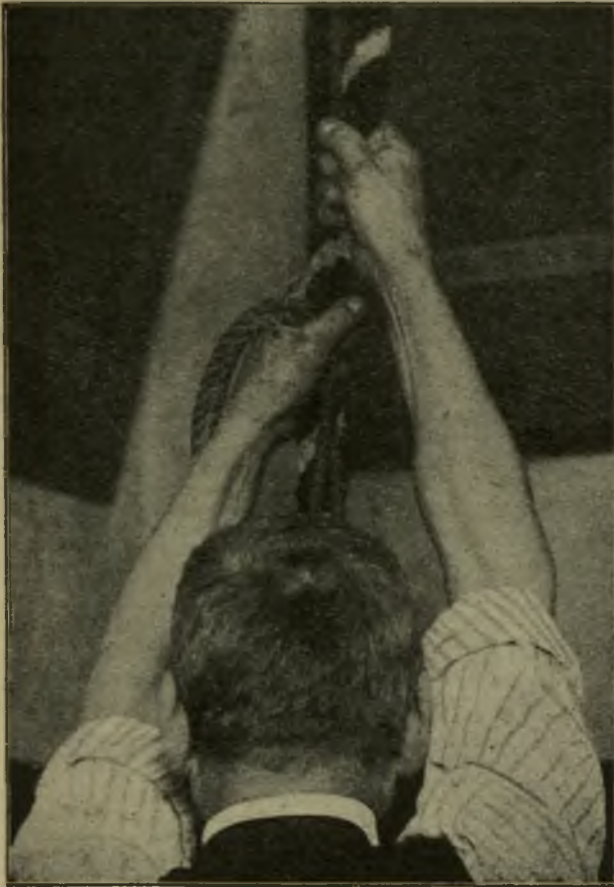
The funeral was at Plaistow Cemetery on December 9th. In addition to the family mourners, the following ringers were present: Messrs. E. A. Young, I. Emery, J. E. Lyddiard, G. Kite, E. Mounter, G. F. James, R. J. Williams, G. H. R. Smith, V. Benning and P. Spice. A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave.

Mr. Pitman learned to ring at Salisbury in 1928, and on moving to Southampton in 1929 became a change ringer. In 1936 he and his wife went to Bromley, where he joined the band at the Parish Church. He rang several peals in the district, and his first peal on handbells was reported only in last week's 'Ringing World.' His tower bell peals numbered 24, and included Grandsire Cinques at Christchurch Priory and Bob Royal at Wimborne Minster. Letters from him on various subjects have fairly frequently appeared in our columns. Up to the last he was regular in his attendance at St. Luke's, Bromley, the parish church and its bells having been destroyed in one of the air raids.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 536.)

The medium by which the energy exerted by the ringer is applied to the swinging bell is the rope. By the rope we must understand, not exactly the hempen cord which normally hangs down to the belfry, but only that part of it which extends from the wheel to the ringers' hands, to which must be added the man's arms and the rest of his body in varying degree.

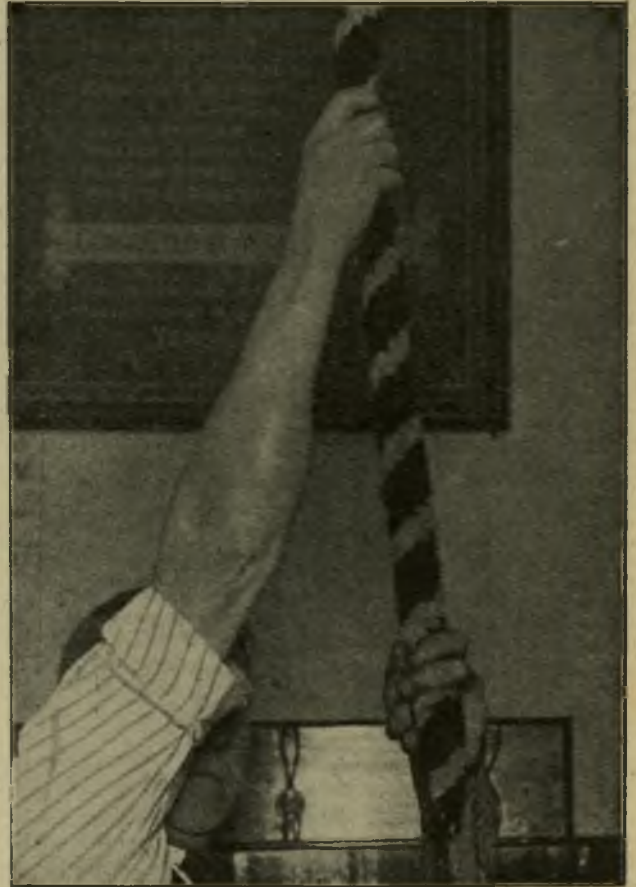


No. 1.—THE RIGHT WAY.

Now for a rope to be a proper means of transmitting energy, the first essential is that it must be taut; unless it is so, there is loss of energy. This, no doubt, is obvious to everybody and hardly needs to be laboured, but there is one illustration very apposite to our present discussion. Some years ago, before electric bells became common, it was usual to instal in houses miniature bells operated from a distance by bell-pulls and wire. The bells, about three inches in diameter, were shaped like church bells and made of the same metal. They were hung on springs and were connected with the front door or the sitting-room bell-pulls by a system of wire and cranks. Bell hanging in common speech in those days meant the fitting up of these bells, and it was a skilled craft. When the work was well done and the wires completely taut, the energy applied to the bell-pull was at once transferred, and with little loss to the bell, which might be several rooms and some floors away. But when

the work was badly done and the wires left slack or bent, it took a lot of pulling and much waste of energy to move the bell even slightly.

A similar thing happens with a church bell. When the rope is springy, and especially when there is a long draught, there is not only a loss of energy (caused by the necessity of rendering the rope taut before it can be effective), but there is also a loss of time before the energy



No. 2.—THE WRONG WAY.

can be applied to the bell. The ringer cannot help the rope being springy; all he can do is to counteract its effect. But he can prevent loss of energy caused by absence of tautness in that part of the rope which is represented by his own arms and body.

At the exact moment when the man applies his energy to the bell, the rope, his arms, and his whole body should be in tension. That is to say, the amount of weight which he is going to use should hang easily and naturally on the rope. If the arms are bent, or if the body is bent, they cannot suspend the man's weight, as they can when the arms and body are straight. If a man hangs on a horizontal bar and allows his arms and body to extend to the fullest, he can support his weight without much difficulty, but if he bends his arms or his body he will quickly find the muscular strain intolerable.

Almost the first thing in teaching a beginner how to handle a bell is to see that, before he begins to pull, he

grasps the sally in the right way, and that he reaches up to the full extent of both his arms. Just compare the illustrations, No. 1 and No. 2. In the first the man's hands are close together, as close as they can be without interfering with each other's grip on the rope, and his arms are so arranged that he can at once transfer his weight (or as much of it as he needs) on to the rope without any muscular strain on his arms or any part of his body. Now look at illustration No. 2, which shows a rather (but not very) extreme instance of a common fault. To transfer his weight to the rope the man must use his right arm almost exclusively; the left arm could only be used by muscular contraction, and ordinarily in such a case does no work at all. The first man's weight will be applied easily, naturally, and equally to the rope; the second man's will be lopsided and will be used with difficulty and will not be available until the time has passed when it is most needed.

Even when the hands are placed correctly on the sally there is a very great tendency with many ringers to begin their pull with bent instead of straight arms. This means that the "rope" is slack instead of taut at the beginning of the pull, and before the energy can be applied the rope must be straightened. It can be done so in either or both of two ways. Either the arms are stiffened by muscular contraction or the weight of the upper part of the body is lowered by bending at the hips or knees.

Both mean a waste of energy and a waste of precious time. When the man is ringing a heavy or a badly-going bell, this waste is serious and may mean all the difference between success and failure. But it may be argued that nowadays bells of medium and light weight

go so well, and so little energy is required to ring them, that this loss is of no great importance. It may be so, but good ringing and good striking depend on the ringer being able to start the bell on its downward swing at exactly the right moment, and to do that he must have complete control of the bell, which he cannot have until the rope is taut. Therefore any time wasted in making it taut, even if it is but infinitesimal, detracts from the ability to ring and strike a bell correctly.

Fully extended arms and a proper grip of the sally at the beginning of the pull are essential features of correct bell handling.

In this matter tall ringers suffer from a serious handicap. Not because they are tall, for high stature in itself is a great asset, but because tail ends are almost invariably too long and sallies too low for them. It is possible, of course, to adjust tail ends without much trouble, and this is done before a peal or any serious ringing. But sallies cannot be altered without shifting the rope on the wheel. A rope which suits a man of medium or short stature is too low for a tall man, though he can, and usually does, make shift with it; whereas a rope which suits a tall man would make ringing almost impossible for a short man. Actually tail ends are usually too long and sallies too low even for short men. The experience of a ringer about 5ft. 4in. in height and short in the arm is that it is very seldom indeed that he visits a belfry where the ropes are too short for him, and quite a common thing to find them too long. It would be a very good thing if in a belfry the sallies were properly adjusted for the tallest ringers and a number of boxes provided for the shorter men to stand on.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
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45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

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'The Ringing World.'

The Editor wishes all readers of 'The
Ringing World' a Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year.

The main object of 'The Ringing World' is not to
make a profit, but to serve the best interests of ringers
and the art of change ringing. Nevertheless, it cannot
fulfil its object unless it is in a sound financial condi-
tion, and efforts are now being made by the responsible
persons to put into proper order the arrangements by
which the paper derives its revenue.

One improvement which it is hoped to make concerns
the postal subscribers who have their copies direct from
the office. Such subscription may begin at any time,
and hitherto it has been usual to date the quarter from
the first number sent. In future it is hoped that all
subscriptions will be considered due on January 1st, April
1st, July 1st and October 1st. New subscribers are
asked to remit their subscriptions so as to cover the
period up to the next of these dates, and old subscribers
will be asked to make the necessary adjustment to come
into line.

The alteration is to facilitate bookkeeping, and we are
sure subscribers will forgive any slight inconvenience it
may cause them.

By the passing of Arthur J. Neale we lost, if not the last, one of
the last remaining links with Charles Middleton. As a young man
Arthur Neale frequently rang with Middleton at Aylsham.

Mr. Charles Forfitt, who took part in the peal of Grandsire Triples
at Swanage on December 11th, reached his 81st birthday on November
26th. He is a regular service ringer at St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, DARLINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I make a correction in Mr. Morris' account of the
bells of St. Cuthbert's, Darlington? They have been recast and rebung
in a steel frame and ball bearings by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of
Croydon. The dedication was on Easter Monday, 1937. The old tenor,
which was by G. Mears and Co., was dated 1864 and was 18 cwt. 14 lb.,
not 16½ cwt. as stated.

L. VENUS, Tower Secretary.

93, Salisbury Terrace, Darlington.

GREAT PAUL.

HOW THE BELL CAME TO LONDON.

Mr. Edwin Barnett has referred to an account of the bringing of Great Paul to London, and suggested that it might be worth republishing. Nowadays one might think that there could hardly be much worth saying about how a casting weighing 16 tons was conveyed from the Midlands to London, but 60 years ago it was a difficult operation and one not without some hazards and risks.

The trouble was not in the weight, for railways had been in operation for half a century, and were just as capable of conveying heavy goods as they are to-day; but the bell was too wide to permit of its being put on a train, and of necessity it had to be conveyed by road. Roads in those days were not what they are now. There was not a great difference between their condition and that of the roads in the Middle Ages. There had indeed been a great improvement in the palmy days of the stage coaches, but they were ended when the railways came in, and the roads were used for little else than farm wagons and carts. The only way they were repaired was by spreading loose stones on the surface during the autumn, and leaving it to the traffic to work them in. At the edges of the way the soil was soft enough to let the wheels of even a heavily laden farm wagon sink in.

THE MAN WITH THE RED FLAG.

A weight like Great Paul had to be loaded on a strong trolley and towed by two steam traction engines. Hills had to be climbed and descended (the latter as difficult and more risky than the former) and bridges had to be crossed which were not built to carry such a load. The pace was a slow one, not only because the traction engines of those days were not built for speed, but also because the law required that in front of every mechanically propelled vehicle on the highway a man should walk carrying a red flag to warn other users of the road, and especially those in charge of horses and animals. Many of us can remember the man and his flag strolling along in front of traction engine or steam roller. This was an indignity the earliest motor-cars had to submit to. Great Paul's journey, therefore, took several days.

The bell started on its journey from Loughborough on a Thursday and by the next day it had reached Market Harborough. We now follow a contemporary newspaper account:—

Arriving as far as Market Harborough on Friday, a start was again made at an early hour on Saturday. Oxenden Hill proved a difficult one, the ground being soft and the incline very steep. The wheels of the trolley sank in some inches and the bell had to be drawn back and a fresh part of the road selected. The van engine was then sent on to the front and helped by its wire rope to tow the bell to the summit.

From this point until Landport everything went well, but here an incline long and steep acted in the opposite way, and the bell trolley pressed hard upon the engine and in a measure overpowered it—although the steam was reversed on the piston—to the extent that the latter part of the descent was made at a pace very much quicker than was desirable, although control was never absolutely lost.

THROUGH NORTHAMPTON.

Onwards the journey was continued over an undulating district of long steep hills with lovely and widespread scenery around until Brixworth was reached and the five miles of hills leading to Northampton were commenced upon. The excitement caused by the bell was not so great along Saturday's route as it had been the two days before, for although as many people came out to look at it few followed it for the reason that it had become necessary to cover the bell with tarpaulin. This was in consequence of scribbles of names in pencil or in chalk, or rather of what was much worse—for that useless folly might have been tolerated—the numerous attempts to scratch names with knives and chisels, and ultimately one man brought a punch and hammer to indent his initials. It was, therefore, all but hidden from view when the great bell approached the suburbs of the populous shoe-manufacturing town, to the disappointment of many hundreds of inhabitants of Kingsthorpe. But as soon as the borough limits were entered and a detachment of two sergeants of police and six or eight constables appeared to protect the bell, the tarpaulin was removed and Great Paul made a triumphal progress accompanied literally by thousands upon its route. It was a sight to be remembered to gaze upon that surging sea of heads that extended as far as the eye could see and came forward some hundreds of yards in advance of the bell.

The railway bridge having been safely passed under, the engines were detached to get water from the River Nene, over which a hand-

some but rather low stone bridge of three arches had to be passed. The town surveyor was rather nervous about the condition of the bridge and wished the bell trolley to be hauled over by the rope; this was tried, but happily failed, for there is no doubt that the bridge was equal to carry five times the weight of the bell and its carriage (22 tons), whilst to have prevented an accident by the use of the rope on the sharp descent of the bridge after the summit had been passed would have been very difficult indeed. As it was, the engine was ultimately coupled and the bell pulled over in excellent style amid general plaudits. The bell now went on some short distance beyond the town and pulled up for the night. No progress was made on the Sunday.

It was on the following Tuesday that the accident, referred to in our issue of December 3rd, happened. The Press Association's correspondent reported later that the bell still remains in the same position in the road between Fenny Stratford and Brickhill, and did not arrive at Dunstable on Tuesday night as has been stated. The wagon with its load is still half embedded in the roadway, and attempts were made yesterday to extricate it by means of jacks. When it is got out of its present position the truck will be moved along the remainder of its journey on iron plates which have been sent for the purpose.

A later telegram said that a distance of only 100 yards represents the progress made yesterday by the truck bearing the bell, the boiler plates upon which attempts were made to travel proving of little use, the narrow wheels of the truck sinking at once into the clay soil.

By the following Saturday the bell reached Highgate and there it rested during the Sunday. At three o'clock on the Monday morning it began the last stage of its journey, and accompanied by about 300 people who thought it worth their while to get up so early just to walk in the procession, it was carried to the Cathedral, where in due course it was hung in the south-western tower.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the mention of Great Paul, it may be of interest that my two uncles, Charles and Percy Howard, who were at that time in the Howard Works at Bedford and were well-known ringers, went over to Brickhill with tackle and helped to get the truck out of the soft ground. They both went afterwards to Australia, where Charles died only last year in Melbourne. Percy, who was a solicitor near Perth, died nearly 20 years ago.

J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Aith, Little Chalfont, Amersham.

GLoucester AND BRISTOL Diocesan Association.

MEETING AT CHELTENHAM.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Cheltenham on December 4th.

The twelve bells were set going soon after two o'clock, and service in church was conducted by the Rector, Canon J. B. Goodlife. There was a full choir and organ accompaniment. About 60 members and friends were present at the tea in a cafe near the church. They included the Rector, the Rev. T. H. Thorold (curate), the Rev. N. E. Hope (Master of the association), the two churchwardens, Alderman Clara Winterbotham, whose parents gave the two trebles to make the ring of twelve, and members from Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Swindon, etc.

At the business meeting the Rev. K. C. Davis took the chair. The following officers were re-elected: Chairman, Canon J. Baghot De la Bere; representative, W. Dyer; hon. secretary, W. Yeend. Thanks were given for their past services. Mr. John Austin was congratulated on reaching his 80th birthday. The date and place of the next meeting were left in the hands of the hon. secretary. Mr. W. Dyer, the captain of the local band, was thanked for the arrangements he had made.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A FALSE TOUCH.

Mr. R. J. B. Hadden writes to point out that the well-known touch of Stedman Triples, consisting of five courses produced by calling two bobs with one plain six between them, is false.

This has been a recognised touch for many years, though we doubt if it is often rung. It is another example of how precarious the composition of the method is, outside certain well-defined limits.

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

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

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 541.)

There are many records of peals rung since the war, mostly of Stedman Caters, in which method the society has become proficient. On January 8th, 1921, a peal of 7,011 changes in this method occupied over 41 hours, and it is recorded as the longest peal on the bells. On this tablet we find the name of Rev. H. D. Lampen, Vicar. The reader of this paper was the composer and conductor of this peal, which was rung for the Middlesex Association. Later on, to be precise on September 25th, 1926, a peal of 6,003 Stedman Caters was rung in a little under four hours as a 70th birthday compliment to Robert Maynard, sen., who rang the tenor. It was conducted by the tenor ringer's eldest son.

There have been others of which no record exists. Since the formation of county associations, however, all peals have been recorded, and from these we may take some as being of exceptional interest.

On March 18th, 1899, 5,060 Stedman Caters were rung after many attempts. This was conducted by William B. Manning, and it was said to be the first peal in the method on the bells. Some time later, however, the composition was found to be false, and the peal was thus nullified. In the interval a true peal in the same method had been rung on the bells, with another conductor, and Mr. Manning, who really deserved to have had the honour of conducting the first peal of Stedman Caters on the bells, was bitterly disappointed.

On December 26th, 1913, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal in the County of Essex was rung on the St. Mary's bells in 3½ hours by a band most of whom were visitors.

On July 19th, 1919, a combined band of St. Mary's and St. Saviour's ringers rang a peal of Bob Major to celebrate peace. It will be noticed that only eight bells were rung, due probably to a shortage of ringers.

St. George's Day in 1921 was commemorated by a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, again by visitors.

On March 25th, 1922, a peal of Stedman Caters was rung with the clappers half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Bishop of Colchester.

On June 24th, 1922, a peal of 5,104 Kent Treble Bob Royal, Granta Variation, was rung. Five of the ringers, including the conductor, were of St. Mary's, and the peal was the first in the variation ever rung, and only one other such peal has been rung since that date.

On June 2nd, 1923, which was a Saturday, another peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung, to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King George, which took place next day.

On December 26th, 1923, in six hours and 55 minutes, a peal of 10,440 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung. This was credited to the Middlesex Association, and is the longest peal ever rung at St. Mary's Church. It is also the record length in this method. The only member of the local band to take part in this peal was the reader.

On February 12th, 1927, a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung to welcome the Rev. G. D. Oakley to Walthamstow, and on June 24th, in the same year, a peal of Stedman Caters was rung for the King's birthday.

Lastly, on September 24th, 1927, a peal of 5,041 changes of Stedman Caters was rung as a compliment to Henry A. Barnett, of All Hallows', Tottenham, and Robert Maynard, of St. Mary's, both of whom attained their 71st birthday within a few days of this date. It will be noticed that 71 x 71 equals the number of changes in the peal, and the composition was specially chosen for the occasion because of the number of changes it contained.

This ends my record. I hope I have been able to convey to my hearers some interesting facts relating to the bells of St. Mary's Church, and their ringers; and, what is of more importance to me, have stimulated interest in the fascinating art of change ringing.

POSTSCRIPT.

As already stated, the foregoing articles were read as a paper to the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society on January 17th, 1935, and so far as it was a historical record it could have been considered as up to date at that time. Since then, however, much has happened, at Walthamstow as well as elsewhere, and it may be of general interest to mention a few of the more important peals rung, and also some details of air-raid damage done to the tower, which damage is still unrepaired.

So far as the society itself is concerned, it can hardly be said to be in quite such a flourishing condition as it was nine years ago, when the paper was prepared. It was hoped that the reading would stimulate such interest in the bells that many enthusiastic recruits would be obtained, but the interest taken was mainly in the historical and personal references, and quite apart from any other considerations it can hardly be said that lectures on bells to Antiquarian Societies is an ideal method of getting recruits for belfries. However that may be, the paper undoubtedly had some effect on the members of the society, who, during the next few years, found the much needed youngsters. These, however, have all been swallowed up by His Majesty's Forces, consequently the society, like so many others, is reduced in numbers, we hope for a very short period.

Several of the ringers mentioned in the articles have since died, and where thought necessary, this has been stated. The last of these to go was Robert J. Maynard, who died on August 2nd last at the age of 86. He was a really lovable man, and had been a member of the society since its inception, and a ringer in the tower for some years previously, in all about 77 years. He rang in the Victory ringing in November, 1942, and on Christmas Day. He also attended a few times after the lifting of the ban, but had to give up a few weeks before he died.

Of the many peals rung since the writing of the articles, the following are of the most importance. A framed illuminated card records a peal of 5,043 Stedman Caters, rung on March 16th, 1935, in 3 hours and 20 minutes, with half-muffled clappers, in memory of the late William Pye. It was rung for the Essex and Middlesex Associations, and it was conducted by C. T. Coles.

On May 6th, 1935, in 3 hours and 8 minutes, members of the Essex Association rang a peal of 5,039 Grandsire Caters, for the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V. It was conducted by R. Maynard, jun. A footnote to a record of the peal, hanging in the belfry, states that 'R. Maynard, sen., has rung in three Jubilee

peals in this tower, Queen Victoria, 1887 and 1897, and the above.'

Two other peals should be mentioned, although neither are recorded in the belfry. On January 25th, 1926, 5,040 Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung half-muffled in memory of His late Majesty King George V., the conductor being G. R. Pye, and on September 26th in the same year 5,151 Stedman Caters was rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Robert J. Maynard, his son conducting.

Some time during the blitz in the autumn of 1940 a bomb fell on some almshouses adjoining the churchyard north of the church. The tower sustained some damage, the battlements on the north side being still down. In connection with this incident, some alarm was caused by a report that an unexploded bomb was buried in a large hole at the foot of the tower. The church and churchyard were closed to the public, and a bomb disposal unit summoned. The officer of the unit, accompanied by the chief assistant to the A.R.P. officer of the district and a police officer, made an investigation in the dead of night. In an exposed vault they found a metal object, which was confirmed as the unexploded bomb. The area was roped off and placed under constant police guard.

Some days later further search was made by another army officer, who reported no trace of a bomb. Once more the officer who carried out the original investigation entered the hole and found that the 'bomb' was a metal coffin. It transpired that the hole was caused by a large piece of masonry which fell from the top of the church tower, and which entered a vault, partly exposing the metal coffin, which, being covered with the dust and debris of years, was easily mistaken for a bomb.

Thus there was a happy ending to a strange episode, which, I trust, will also be a happy ending to my articles.

Note.—Part of the account of the restoration proceedings in 1896, which appeared in our issue of December 3rd, should have appeared at the top of page 541 in the following issue.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT POOLE.

The annual meeting of the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Poole on December 4th and was attended by nearly 50 ringers. Service in church was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Phillips, the branch secretary, and the preacher was the Rev. E. C. Harris, Rector of Poole.

At the business meeting after tea in the Church House, the Rector presided in the absence of the branch chairman, Canon Eddrump. The Rev. C. A. Phillips reported that the minute book and several papers had been lost, at least temporarily, when his house received some unwelcome and damaging attention earlier in the year. He referred to the lifting of the 'ban,' the rededication of Swanage bells and the 'coming of age' of Corfe Mullen bells, the latter event being celebrated by the only tower bell peal of the period. He spoke of the passing of Messrs. Bastable, of Swanage, and Fred Cole, of Poole. Several handbell peals had been scored for the branch by the Bournemouth and district ringers.

The officers of the branch were all re-elected with the addition of Mr. Arthur Rose, who was appointed Assistant Ringing Master.

Thanks were given to the Rector and the ladies who provided the tea.

During the afternoon and evening Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, and Major methods, including Cambridge Surprise, were rung on the tower bells with rounds for the many beginners present. The handbell ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

EALING.—On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Stephen's, '20 Kent Treble Bob Minor; J. A. Trollope (conductor) 1, J. E. Churchill 2, A. Jones 3, J. E. L. Cockey 4, E. C. S. Turner 5, A. Harding 6, F. Miller tenor.

THATCHAM.—On December 3rd, for the induction of the new Vicar, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major: Capt. Poyntz, Miss Davis, Miss Matthews, H. Curtis, T. Fisher, A. Smith, D. Cooper, A. Chandler and A. H. Brown.

CATHEDRAL BELLS OF ENGLAND.

O chiming bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
From your ivy-covered belfries
Let a great Te Deum pour
On the day when Peace comes winging
Her way to earth, and bringing
As merrie an Old England
As she was before the war!

The ancient bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
That chime from lofty towers
At the ending of the day,
Reach eager hearts that listen
With lifted eyes that glisten
As yearning thoughts turn fondly
To the lads so far away.

When Victory's voice comes ringing
O'er the hills and valleys singing
Her saga of the battle fields
Where cannons cease to roar,
Then a shout of acclamation
Will go up from every nation
That stood behind Old England
In her tragedy of war.

O chiming bells of England—
Cathedral bells of England—
From your ivy-covered belfries
Let a great Te Deum pour
On the day when Peace comes winging
Her way to earth and bringing
As merrie an Old England
As she was before the war!

—CLARA ENDICOTT SEARS.

Harvard, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

DEATH OF MR C. W. TAYLOR.

The death is announced of Mr. C. W. Taylor, of Grimsby, who passed away on November 28th shortly before his 76th birthday. He had been in hospital for a fortnight, but had been ailing for some time before that.

The funeral was at St. James' Grimsby, on December 2nd. The Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was represented by Mr. H. I. Mingay, hon. district secretary, Mr. M. Walker, of Ulceby, trustee, P. C. A. Pashley, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, of Barton-on-Humber, Mr. J. Kennington, Mr. C. Kennington and Mr. A. B. Shephard. The service was conducted by Canon E. Lisle Marsden, Vicar and president of the district and the Northern Branch. The interment was at Scarthoe Cemetery, where floral tributes were laid from the ringers. The bells of St. Andrew's were rung half-muffled on the same evening.

Mr. Taylor joined the old North Lincolnshire Guild in 1888 and rang his first peal at St. James', Grimsby, in 1903. Soon afterwards he joined the St. James' company and rang with them for many years. Later he joined the St. Andrew's band. He was a member of the Yorkshire and London County Associations. He rang 73 peals for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, one of them on handbells; two for the Yorkshire Association; and one for the London County Association. From 1924 until his death he represented the Grimsby District on the committee of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Guild, and was a trustee for the District Bell Fund. He was a hard worker in the cause of ringing and a good conductor.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BRIERLEY HILL.

The Dudley and District Guild held their quarterly meeting at Brierley Hill on December 4th, when they were joined by the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association. Upwards of forty members and friends were present and some excellent practice on the tower bells and handbells resulted.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rector, who gave, in place of the usual address, details from a leaflet by the Rev. H. Drake on care and preservation of churches and bells in war time.

The Rector joined the members at tea and afterwards presided over the business meeting. When the routine work had been disposed of, the Central Council representative, Mr. F. Colclough, brought to the attention of the members a circular re the taking over of 'The Ringing World' by the Central Council. This was read out and it was resolved that the Guild should support the Council, gratification being expressed that the future of our journal was assured.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting, being the annual, at Dudley on March 18th.

Votes of thanks to the Rector, and the ladies who provided the tea, brought the meeting to a close.

THE BELLS OF RICHMOND.

After the royal commissioners had made their final visit to Rychemond in the year 1532 they reported that there had been 'delyverid to the churchwardens there the xv day of May anno regni regis Edwardi Sexti septimo by Sir Thomas Carwarden, knight, Nicholas Leigh, and William Saunders esquires, comysioners of our souveragne lorde by kynge, among others to that effect, these parselles of churche gooddes hereafter ensuring.

'Imprimis a challis of silver, poiz xv oz di.

'Item ij alter clothes for the comunyon table.

'Also remaining in their charge to the kings use thre bells in the steple and a saunce bell.'

These were all the goods saved to the church in the great spoliation of Edward the Sixth's reign. All the rest of ornaments and vestments were seized, nominally to prevent superstitious services, actually to enrich a gang of men who had gained control of the government of the country.

During the seventeenth century the bells were increased to five, and in 1680 James Bartlet, of White-chapel, was employed to recast them. On the treble (now the fourth) he put one of those bragging inscriptions by which an old founder sometimes proclaimed his superiority over his predecessor—'Lambert made me weake not fit to Ring. But Bartlet amongst the rest hath made me sing.' This inscription necessarily had to be cast on the bell before the founder or anybody else had had an opportunity of judging whether it was a good bell or not.

Bartlet also recast the saunce bell, and it was used for the clock to strike on.

In the early eighteenth century there was a good band of ringers at Richmond, one of the earliest in the country. Indeed, the steeples of the lower Thames valley were a major factor in the development of change ringing. At Richmond lived a man named William Gardiner, a person of wealth and position, who not only took an interest in the bells, but was himself a skilful ringer.

In the year 1713 Thomas Gardiner joined the Society of College Youths. We know nothing about him, but quite likely he was the same as a man who was one of the churchwardens at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1735, when the present ring of twelve was installed and a relative of the James and Elizabeth Gardner, whose names are on the eighth. There is no evidence that William Gardiner belonged to the same family, but it is more than probable. He was in close touch with the London ringers and was a member of the Society of College Youths. In 1729 he rang the fifth to 5,184 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis', Backchurch, the first peal on the bells, which afterwards were hung at All Hallows', Lombard Street, and, when that church was pulled down, were offered to the new Guildford Cathedral. In 1744 he held the office of Master of the College Youths.

Gardiner evidently was desirous of forming a good band at his home tower, and in 1740 he gave two trebles to complete the octave there. Robert Catlin cast them and at the same time made a thorough restoration of the ring, which included the renewal of the old treble. Two years later Catlin recast the fifth in the octave.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Bob Major rung on August 25th, 1740, and conducted by John Sharpe. A month later the College Youths rang a five-

thousand in the same method. The band included Robert Catlin, John Hardham, John Trenell and John Cundell, but not Benjamin Annable. It was at the time of one of the recurring quarrels between Annable and Cundell, and these men may be supposed to be leaders of the opposition to Annable. Gardiner himself did not stand in the peal, nor did he in any of the peal performances by the local company.

By March 10th, 1742, they had become skilled enough to ring a 'compleat Peal of Five Thousand and Fourty of Richmond Triples.' Exactly what it was we do not know, for the figures are lost; but we may pretty safely assume it to be a close variation of one of the standard methods—either Plain Bob or Grandsire—and not unlikely it was only a special composition of one of them. William Walker rang the seventh and probably conducted. He was the first of two or three men of the name who, in the following sixty years or so, held prominent positions in the belfries of the district.

Two other notable peals were rung by the local band—Double Grandsire Triples in 1767, and Real Double Bob Major in 1816, 'with two bobs in a lead and as many 2nds as 7ths with bobs behind and before alternately.'

The last was conducted by George Cole, of Isleworth, who in 1824 called at Richmond 'a true and complete peal of Stedman Tripples consisting of 5,040 changes, composed by Mr. John Cooper, of Birmingham, being the first ever rung in that system on these bells. This intricate peal consisted of 480 calls known as parts and singles.'

It was one of the earliest peals of Stedman Triples rung, and obviously was on the multi-bob plan, but the composition has not been identified.

What is meant by the expression 'parts and singles' is obscure. The writing on the board is perfectly clear and cannot be misread. Probably the painter misunderstood his instructions and wrote 'parts' instead of bobs.

The longest peal on the bells was John Reeves' 8,448 Oxford Treble Bob Major rung by the local men in 1810. About that time they were calling themselves the Country College Youths. There is no reason to think they had any particular connection with the London society, although George Cole was for some years the leading peal conductor of the College Youths.

Richmond tower contains about eight or nine peal boards dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. They are all in good condition, and the belfry is kept in excellent order, though change ringing is not practised there. Some years ago Messrs. Mears and Stainbank rehung the bells in ball-bearings. The circle is a left-handed one.

Few peals have been rung on the bells for many years. The church is in the middle of the town, the tower is a low one, and close by are some small houses inhabited by people who express their opinions without much attempt at disguise. About thirty years ago, towards the end of a peal of Stedman Triples conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles, a crowd collected in the pathway just below the belfry window, and for more than half an hour employed themselves in shouting nasty things about the ringers and uttering threats about what they intended to do to them when they came out of the church. When that did happen they were as harmless as a lot of old sheep. Since then only one peal has been rung on the bells—Treble Bob, conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner.

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.

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-pney. 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.

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. Plenty of buses from Northampton Street and The Newarkes.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WHISTON (8), near Rotherham, Yorkshire. — Practice Thursday, Dec. 23rd, 7 p.m. Also new Year's Day, 3-8 p.m. All welcome.—N. Chaddock, 33, Brecklands Broom, Rotherham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual District Meeting at Winchester Jan. 1st. — W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

BIRTH.

WAKE. — On Dec. 7th, at Rashleigh Maternity Home, Maidenhead, Berks, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Wake, the gift of a son.

GREETINGS.

Christmas greetings to all my ringing friends and sincere wishes for a victorious and brighter New Year.—Edgar R. Rapley, India.

To all our ringing friends a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Hearty Christmas greetings and all best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W. 12.

Harry Hoskins offers Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends at home and abroad.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends from C. H. Webb and family, 68, Brownhill, Green Road, Coventry.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Southern District.—Best wishes to all members and ringing friends for Christmas and the New Year.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. E. Barnett's letter in this week's 'Ringing World,' I can inform him of one other association besides the Kent County Association which has scored 5,000 peals. The Norwich Diocesan Association scored its five thousandth peal on Saturday, December 17th, 1938.

I had the good fortune and honour to conduct this 5,000th peal, which was one of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, at Winterton, Norfolk, a tower quite near my home in that county. Although I did not know it beforehand, our association total stood at 4,998 on that Saturday morning and as it happened three peals were rung that day. Mr. Golden, who was then secretary, checked up the times at which the peals were concluded and subsequently wrote to inform me that our peal had been the 5,000th.

On looking through our association report for 1938 I find that it mentions that our achievement was the occasion for a leading article by the late Editor of 'The Ringing World' under the title 'Norwich Association's Achievement,' and published on January 27th, 1939.

I understood at the time that the Kent County, Yorkshire and Midland Counties Associations were our nearest rivals, and it may be that one or both of the two latter may have brought up the 5,000 since December 17th, 1938, but I do not recollect any mention of such an event.

In conclusion, I feel sure that all my fellow members of the Norwich Diocesan Association would wish to join me in congratulating the Kent County Association, and we realise that, had it not been for the war, they would have run us much closer. I am sure that Norwich are looking forward to the 10,000 mark and are eagerly awaiting the day when peace returns to enable them to get started in earnest on the job. We shall welcome the healthy rivalry of other associations, confident of our ability to put up an equally good show and to maintain the high reputation of Norfolk as a centre of ringing from the earliest times. I may add that we have already achieved nearly 80 of the second 5,000.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Co. Durham.

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The Vicar, the Rev. — de Candole, conducted the service, and in his address welcomed the ringers and said that not only he himself but the general public were glad to hear the bells again.

Thirty-seven sat down to tea, which was kindly given by the local captain, Mr. F. Cruttenden. It was decided to hold the annual divisional meeting at Burgess Hill in February.

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