



THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,714. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1944.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

We would direct the special attention of association secretaries and officials, as well as readers generally, to the revised scale of charges which it has been decided shall be made for the insertion of notices in our notices columns.

For some time the charge has been at the rate of fourpence a line with a minimum of two shillings for each insertion. In future any one insertion of a notice will cost two shillings, but it may be repeated as often as desired at the cost of one shilling each time. In any insertion if the lines exceed six there will be an extra charge of fourpence a line.

At first sight there may seem to be little difference between the new scale and the old, and probably for many secretaries there will be none at all. Yet when the matter is examined it will be found, we believe, that the new charges will act much more fairly between association and association, besides simplifying the work of those who have to keep the accounts of this journal.

In the old times the richer associations published their notices of meetings during three and even four weeks, and in cases where they had made an advantageous contract with the late editor, did it at a comparatively low cost. Smaller associations could not afford so much and had to be content with one insertion for which they paid at the full rate. In the future every society will have the chance of a couple of insertions at very little more cost than some of them were in the habit of paying for one.

It will be noticed that the charge of two shillings will cover anything up to six lines, but we hope that secretaries will not treat that as an inducement to publish notices up to the full limit. It must never be forgotten that space in these days is very valuable and that every effort is being made to utilise it to the best advantage. Notices are one of the most important features of the paper, and nothing will be done which will in any way curtail their usefulness. But the actual things which any society needs to advertise are generally definite and not many—the name of the association, the place of meeting and usually the name of the church, the time of service and the place and time of tea and meeting. It is well to say to whom the names for tea should be sent, but the threats made by some secretaries, that those who do not send their names will get no tea, have actually very little effect and are hardly worth making. What

(Continued on page 34.)

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would be effective would be for the secretary to refuse tea to those who had not advised him and, if he thinks it worth while, to risk the unpleasantness which might arise, to stand his ground. At present so many threats are made which prove to be no more than words, that many ringers simply ignore the lot of them.

When a notice appears but once, the best time is not in the issue of the paper immediately before the meeting, but the one before that. For instance, to-morrow's meetings should not be advertised in to-day's issue, but in last Friday's. In order that notices may appear in the right issue we particularly ask secretaries to send them to us in good time. We do not wish them to come a week too soon, for that might lead to the mistake of a too early publication, but they ought to reach us not later than the first post on the Monday before they are to appear, otherwise we cannot guarantee that they will be published.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Tues., Jan. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	†ERIC A. DENCH 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal with an inside pair. † First peal of Treble Bob.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Wed., Jan. 19, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT 116, ALMA ROAD.*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 12 in G.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
†JOHN DRYDEN 5-6	

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal.

MIDSOMER NORTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Thurs., Jan. 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT PHYLIS HILL,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*E. JOHN TARGETT 1-2	RONALD G. BECK 3-4
†DAVID TARGETT 5-6	

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

Umpire: Frederick A. Targett.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

*ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8

Arranged by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Major on 1-2.

EDMONTON.—On Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, the last quarter of Holt's Original: P. Coward 1, E. Dench 2, V. Woodards 3, Mrs. J. Thomas 4, D. Langdon 5, A. J. Wallman 6, J. Thomas (conductor) 7, D. Smith 8. First quarter-peal on tower bells by all except 4 and 7.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALIFAX, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

-Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

*CYRIL S. JARRETT ... Treble	ALBERT PICKLES ... 5
CLIFFORD ELLISON ... 2	CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.F. 6
†RONALD SQUIRES ... 3	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 7
SAM LONGBOTTOM ... 4	VICTOR A. JARRETT ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by V. A. JARRETT.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung on the middle eight. Rung for the marriage of the Rev. L. D. Blathwayt (curate) to Sister Lowden.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

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

Tenor 23 cwt.

*ANDREW THOMPSON ... Treble	*ARTHUR W. HALL ... 5
PTE. J. FERNLEY, R.C.C. 2	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 6
*JOHN G. CARTLIDGE ... 3	JOHN WORTH ... 7
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 4	CHARLES H. PAGE ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method. Treble ringer's 50th peal.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

ALBERT HANCOX ... Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 5
JACK JUDGE ... 2	GORDON CAUDWELL ... 6
WILLIAM H. THORNE ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7
WALTER F. JUDGE ... 4	*CHRISTOPHER LAMBOURN Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled to the memory of James Franklin, a member of the tower for over 50 years, who was buried on January 13th.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5
*MRS. F. E. COLLINS ... 2	GEORGE W. STEERE ... 6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
ALBERT E. CHEESMAN ... 4	CHARLES POTHECARY ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

HEADCORN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

L/Bdr. J. THORLEY, R.A. Treble	*THOMAS E. SONE ... 5
TOM SAUNDERS ... 2	PERCY PAGE ... 6
FREDERICK S. MACEY ... 3	H. RICHARD FRENCH ... 7
*HARRY BAKER ... 4	LUTHER J. HONESS ... Tenor

Composed by the late A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by T. E. SONE.

* 175th peal together. Rung to the memory of the late Mr. Philip Hodgkin, for many years a ringer at this church.

GRUNDISBURGH, SUFFOLK.

During the year 1943, thirty-six quarter-peals and 720's were rung by the local band. The bells were rung regularly for both services on every Sunday since the lifting of the ban, ringers were supplied for the services at Hasketon and Burgh, and help was given to the band being formed at Woodbridge.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*A. DEREK OWENS ... Treble	ALBERT F. JONES ... 4
LESLIE EVANS ... 2	DAVID H. BENNETT ... 5
†E. PETER ROCK ... 3	WILLIAM BEAVER ... Tenor

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

* First peal. † First peal inside. Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. P. Hyett, J.P., on his 72nd birthday, and on his retirement from ringing at Clifford after 35 years' service.

HEXHILL-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*PTE. M. W. LOOSMORE Treble	PTE. H. C. R. VINE ... 4
CPL. H. D. W. BISHOP 2	CPL. F. C. ISAACS ... 5
PTE. L. A. WOODWARD 3	*PTE. G. R. HAWKINS ... Tenor

Conducted by CORPL. H. D. W. BISHOP.

* First peal. All the band are serving with the same unit.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

MEETING AT DORCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Dorchester on January 8th and was attended by members from Wyke Regis, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Charminster, Upwey, Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell and Bere Regis and the local belfry.

Service was at St. Peter's, with an address by Canon A. Wilkinson Markby, the branch chairman. Mrs. Pope was at the organ.

At the business meeting, sympathetic references were made to the illness of the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings, for whom Mr. J. W. Smith deputised. In his report, Mr. Jennings expressed the gratification of the members at the lifting of the ban on ringing in May, 1943. 'Most people were delighted to hear the bells again,' the secretary added. 'They will do much to stimulate and uplift morale and to increase the sense of the value of what the Church stands for in the present life and future of the country.'

Despite war-time difficulties, the activities of the branch had been well maintained and he hoped that when peace returned the bells which were out of order would be restored, and, if possible, augmented, as a memorial to those who had fallen in the service of their country.

Mr. Jennings referred to the passing of Mr. William Hewlett, of Puddletown, a ringer for over 60 years, and the death of the late captain of the Bere Regis ringers, with 46 years' service.

The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £21 11s. 9d., and this and the annual report were adopted.

It was decided that the practice of holding summer meetings should be continued, and Stratton, Wool, Maiden Newton and Abbotsbury were among the places suggested.

The officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Canon A. Wilkinson Markby; vice-chairman, Canon D. F. Slemeck; Ringing Master, Sergt. Toccock (Wool); Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. J. Squire (St. Peter's, Dorchester); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings.

On the suggestion of Sergt. Toccock, it was agreed that Saturday practices should be arranged for young members.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held on Tuesday, Jan. 18th, in New College, the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, being in the chair.

The Master reported on the many and various activities of the society during the past term. Despite a shortage of instructors, beginners had made steady progress on tower bells and handbells, and the society might expect to reap the benefit of it in the near future. Several expeditions had been made to towers around Oxford, notably Garsington, Horspath and Kidlington, and three peals had been rung.

In view of the large numbers of the society and the smallness of its financial resources, it was decided to revive an old rule whereby any member breaking more than one stay should have to pay for it himself.

The meeting expressed its regret at the departure of Mr. William Leese, now a fully qualified doctor, and recorded its appreciation of his services.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 30.)

The action of handling a bell in change ringing at either handstroke or backstroke, which at first sight looks so simple, is really a very complex operation. Several things are involved in it, and they require the most minute attention to time and the amount of energy exerted by the ringer.

The operation takes place at the end of the bell's upward swing and at the beginning of its downward swing. This is the time when gravity has the smallest amount of influence in the bell's movement, and consequently where the energy exerted by the ringer has the greatest effect. This 'dead' period varies considerably both in length and character. With small bells it is comparatively long, though it is complicated by the gravity which comes into action when the bell swings through more than the full circle. With medium weight bells it is most marked, and consequently they can be rung with the least amount of fatigue. With heavy bells, which do not reach the balance, it is comparatively short.

The general tendency of ball bearings is to shorten this dead period, and that is really the reason why, when they were first introduced, men who had become used to the old style plain bearings very much disliked them. They gave them less time in which to obtain control of the bell.

In the first part of the dead period the ringer must gain control of the bell's upward swing. In the second period he must send it on its downward swing, and here two things are vital. The first is the time at which he applies his energy, or, in other words, at which he pulls. On this depends immediately the whole of the ringing.

The main faculty by which a ringer judges the time of his pull is sight. He knows what he is doing and he finds his way among the other bells by observing, not only the other sallies, but the arms and actions of his fellow ringers. It is this finding of one's way among the other bells (be it a simple way or a complex one) which is the essence of method ringing, and the faculty of doing so is quite naturally termed 'rope-sight.' But sight by itself and unaided is not enough. It is indeed possible when bells are 'even-struck' and when there is no great disparity between the weights of tenor and treble for a man to be a reasonably good striker by carefully putting a visual interval between his sally and that of the man he is following, and especially it is so when he is ringing one of a modern tuned peal, where the greater amount of vibration covers up to some extent irregularities which would be noticeable in the case of older style bells with their more staccato notes.

Some men have no other aid to striking than this visual one, and the natural result is that they are greatly at a loss when either their own bell or the bell they are following is 'odd-struck.' The usual thing is to tell such people that they must 'keep off' or pull level with certain bells. What is meant is quite correct and the advice is sound, but actually the fact that a man is following a bell which is too quick or too slow does not cause him to alter his pull in the slightest. It is the other man who has had to counteract the irregularity.

Accurate striking is only possible when a ringer has gained a full sense of the rhythm of the bells and is allowing it to dominate what he is doing. He must be able to feel when he pulls his rope exactly how his bell

will strike. And this brings us to the important part that rhythm plays in the actual handling of a bell. Anything which aids rhythm—smoothness of pull, regularity of action, or any similar thing—has a definite effect on the way the man strikes his bell, and these qualities should be fostered to the utmost.

The time at which the man pulls decides how the bell will speak in the following change. Nothing else has any effect. Whether he pulls little or much does not alter the following blow. What it does affect is the blow following the next one, but it does so indirectly. For on the amount of energy exerted by the ringer depends the length of the bell's upward swing. If the pull is too slight the bell will not rise high enough for the ringer to control it long enough to make his next blow correctly. If the pull is too heavy, in the case of small bells the bell will swing far beyond the balance and need the expenditure of much energy to bring it back again and into control. Over pulling is not only a waste of energy in itself, but a cause of further waste.

But it is perhaps in the case of heavy bell ringing that the need of knowing the correct amount of pulling to be done is most evident. When a tenor is rung behind such knowledge is obtained without much difficulty, but when it is rung in changes a great deal of skill is shown by properly adjusting the strength of pulling to the needs of the method. Strong heavy men naturally have less need of such skill than lighter and weaker men, and that is why so large a proportion of good tenor men have been of the latter class. Unless they had skill they could not have rung the bells at all.

With heavy bells the dead period is short. The bell, in its upward swing, slows down and then, without stopping, turns back in its downward swing. If the ringer is to exert his energy to the best advantage he must do so as near to the turning point as possible. But the turning point is the point at which the bell begins its downward swing, and therefore the point which decides how the bell will speak in the next change. The skill of the ringer therefore consists in being able so to pull at handstroke that the bell will rise at back just so far that when it swings back again the next handstroke blow will be in its correct place. And so to pull at backstroke that the bell will rise at hand just so far that the next blow at backstroke will be in the correct place. The ringer must be able to adjust his pulling a whole pull in advance of the changes, and unless he can do so he is not a competent tenor man.

That, however, is not all. It often happens (when dodging for instance) that the rate of the bell's striking must be quicker than the normal swing of the bell. The gravity which swings the bell down from handstroke may naturally, without any pulling by the ringer, carry it too high at backstroke for the next handstroke blow unless the upward swing is checked. This is one of the positions in which skill in heavy bell ringing is most needed, for it takes more energy and puts a greater strain on the ringer to check a large bell properly than to add to its normal swing. Here it is most important that the ringer, when he puts his weight on to the bell, should have his arms and whole body in full tension. If his arms are bent he cannot exert his energy to the best advantage, nor at all without great muscular strain.

That means he must at the point when the bell begins to turn to have his two hands on the tail end at such a

position that the rope, his arms, and his whole body, are completely taut. To do that his hands must be very much higher up the rope than they would be if the bell were swinging in its full normal arc.

To be able thus to adjust the hands on the tail end is one of the principal signs of a competent tenor or heavy bell ringer. It is done almost automatically directly the handstroke pull has been made and as soon as the hands leave the sally. The ringer must know not only the exact amount of pulling and checking the bell needs, but also the differences in the rate of striking required in the coming changes of the method. If the man has his hand properly on the tail end he is not only in the best position for checking, but also for the extra amount of pulling which will be necessary to make the bell rise sufficiently for the next handstroke blow.

It is not only when ringing heavy bells that this ability to adjust the hands on the tail end is useful. It is important (though hardly so essential) in the case of medium weight bells, and is most effective as a saver of energy and a help to good striking. This is one reason why learners should be taught from the beginning to hold the tail end lightly when they are not actually pulling.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

'Shiffnal—On Tuesday last the Albion Society of Shiffnal ascended the ancient tower of the parish church, and correctly rung in excellent style, a true peal of 5040 Oxford and Kent treble bob tripples, in three hours and eight minutes, conducted with much ability by Mr. Thomas Clarke.

'This clever peal is the production of Mr. Thomas Day, of Birmingham, and by the union of the two original methods all additional place-making is avoided. This is the first peal on this plan ever performed. It was presented to the above Society by Mr. Lates.'—'The Era,' January 28th, 1844.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Francis Xavier Church, Liverpool, on January 15th, at which ringers were present from Huyton, Liverpool (St. Luke's and St. Nicholas), Halsall, Southport, Childwall, Woolton, Halewood, Sefton and the local belfry.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Guy, of Newport, Isle of Wight, and Mr. H. T. Chandler, of Kington, Hereford, were elected non-resident life members of the association. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Prescott on February 12th. Mr. Percy W. Cave proposed a vote of thanks to Father Dukes for providing tea, for allowing the use of the bells and for presiding at the meeting.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT WARWICK.

A quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Warwick on January 15th, when members were present from Allesley, Arley, Bedworth, Birmingham, Obilvers Coton, Hinckley, Keresley, Leamington, Nuneaton, Shirley, Stratford, Warwick and Wolvey. The ten bells of St. Mary's Church were kept going in rounds and various methods during the afternoon, and a short service was held in the church, conducted by the curate.

The business meeting was held in the belfry. Mr. F. W. Perrens being in the chair. Apologies were read from the president (the Rev. F. W. Moyle), the vice-president (the Rev. M. Knight), the Master (Mr. J. H. White), Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann (Rugby) and Mr. J. W. Taylor (Allesley).

Nuneaton was announced as the place of the annual meeting. Mr. J. H. Beale proposed the arrangement of meetings from April to October inclusive during the war period. Nine new members were elected and three former members re-elected. The new members were A. Roberts, T. Shepherd, H. Williams (Stoke), A. Roberts, H. Warnes (Allesley), D. Stanley (Stratford), T. Price (Warwick), Miss G. Buss (Nuneaton), G. Freeman (unattached). The re-elected members were C. Aylett (Allesley), C. Wildsmith (Warwick) and F. East (Snitterfield). Mr. F. E. Pervin gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting that members under 18 years of age be admitted free. Mr. E. Stone gave notice that he would propose the reduction of the annual subscription from 2s. to 1s. 6d.

Votes of thanks were passed to the local clergy and the ringers who made the meeting possible. Mr. E. H. Adams replied.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Cambridge Royal, London and Bristol Major.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

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Etc.**

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

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

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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to:—

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the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

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

Members of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association
should note that the meeting on Saturday is at St. Mary's, Brownedge,
Bamber Bridge, not at Adlington.

THE BEST RING OF BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have not heard any of the peals that 'Lancastrian'
mentions in his letter in 'The Ringing World' this week, but I think
it would be very interesting if ringers would express their opinions.
At the same time, I have very often heard opinions expressed by
ringers of certain peals of bells when they have only heard them in
the tower. In my humble opinion, no one should pass an opinion
without hearing bells outside the tower, also from different positions,
north, south, east and west, if possible.

The late Mr. Walter Farley once said to me that the two finest
peals in Somerset were Wells Cathedral and Chewton Mendip. No
doubt those two peals appealed to him most, Wells Cathedral from a
sentimental point of view. Mr. Farley was in the first peal rung
on Chewton bells, and I admit I have never heard a peal of eight
with a 24 cwt. tenor sound better in the tower. They are glorious,
but to me the peal of eight at Ditchat (both peals by the same
founder and the same weight within a few pounds) are the better
peal. I have listened to both peals outside the towers from many
different positions. Both of these peals are tuned on the Simpson
principle.

I think sentiment has a lot to say. I have also heard it discussed
which is the finest peal of ten in Somerset. At Wells Cathedral the
bells there are a grand peal, with a tenor of 56½ cwt. Can they be
compared with Yeovil or Wrington? They are not so well in tune as
Yeovil or Wrington. To me and others Wrington are the better peal
of ten.

This is where sentiment comes in with me also. Wrington bells were
the first bells I ever remember hearing when they were a peal of six.
The old back five form the back five of the present ten with a tenor
of 37 cwt. in C sharp. The four trebles were added in 1911 and the
5th recast in 1933. These bells are not Simpson tuned, but all of
them give the flat 7th hum note.

If the ten at Wells were retuned and all the hum notes brought
into line there would then be no comparison. They would, of course,
be the finest ten in Somerset.

The finest peal of ten that I have ever rung on are at Inverary, all
tuned to the octave hum note, with a tenor of 41 cwt. in C., but I
am told by some ringers that Beverley Minster are better. I have
not heard Beverley.

Towers and their acoustics have a lot to say how bells sound outside,
and much depends on how the sound gets out. There are so many
instances where improvements could be made by boarding up portions
of openings below the bells.

Another point ringers, I think, should remember is that atmospheric
conditions affect the tone of bells. I have known really good bells
sound panny, thin and weak on certain days, and on other days the
same bells sound very good. I think all these points should be taken
into consideration. There are several other points I should like to
raise, but I feel that I have already taken up too much of your
valuable space. But may I also add that one's own feelings have a
lot of influence on our judgment of bells and peals of bells.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington, Somerset.

MESSRS. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON. THE FIRM'S CENTENARY.

When we referred last week to the centenary of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, we mentioned some of the public clocks which the firm has installed in many different parts of the world; but we said nothing then about the bells which have come from the Croydon foundry, though they, of course, are what most interests ringers. Perhaps it was hardly necessary, as all ringers know something about the Johnston bells, and there is hardly a county where there is not a fine ring of them. But something must be said.

In London at St. James', Clerkenwell, is an excellent example of a modern tuned ring. They were cast in 1929. It is a pity that the sound windows are not more blocked up, for the bells are rather noisy in the adjacent street and it is necessary to go a little distance to appreciate their quality. Middlesex has a ten at Hillingdon and a musical little six at Norwood Green.

South of the Thames are the eights at Clapham Park (1919) and Banstead (1921); and at Croydon the splendid twelve at the Parish Church (1936) and the ten at St. Peter's (1912). Many ringers are familiar with the Parish Church bells through the broadcasts.

In the Birmingham district the recast ten at St. Philip's Cathedral came from Croydon, and so did the twelve at Wolverhampton (1911). Manchester Cathedral ten are Gillett and Johnston's, as well as the light eight at Salford Parish Church of the Sacred Trinity. The ten at St. Mary's, Nottingham, were cast in 1935.

Yorkshire has several octaves and a ten at Ranmoor which are well known and well liked among Sheffield ringers. Further north is St. Cuthbert's, Darlington (1937), Bishop Auckland (1912), and St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Devonshire is a county where the people think a lot of their bells, and Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have done much work there, some of it new rings, and some repairs and restoration. In the next county of Dorset, at Wimborne Minster, is a ring of ten cast in 1911.

In Kent there is a fine ten from Croydon at Rochester Cathedral, and the lightest ringing ten in any parish church at Cudham. Brighton has a ten at St. Nicholas'.

These are widely scattered examples of Croydon bells, but they are only examples. There are many more which could be mentioned.

CHIMES AND CARILLONS.

A list of ringing peals would not exhaust the tale of Croydon bells. A leading firm of clock makers, Gillett and Johnston naturally have cast many clock bells. An early example of their work, which has always struck us as being excellent is the chimes and hour bell at the Law Courts in the Strand.

Croydon has turned out many carillon and chime bells and machinery. Ringers naturally think them no substitute for ringing peals, but where the latter for one reason or another cannot be installed a chime has its value. London has a very musical one at the Royal Exchange, there is the well-known one at Coventry Cathedral, and many more all over the world.

Once was the time when the only bells suitable for carillons were cast in the Low Countries, the natural home of the carillon as England is of the ringing peal. To-day the English bell founders are unequalled in the world for their carillon bells and machinery. Of the many which were made at Croydon we may mention the one at the Riverside Church, New York, which contains 72 bells, the largest weighing 18 tons; the one at Chicago University, also of 72 bells, the largest 17 tons; the one at Ottawa Parliament Buildings with 53 bells; and the one at Wellington, New Zealand, containing 49 bells. England has no particular love for carillons, but there is one with 48 bells at Bournville.

BALL BEARINGS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is one point which I think you would do well to bring before the attention of those who have charge of bells.

I have come across lately of more than one case where steeplekeepers, who have to look after bells hung in ball bearings, are oiling them with ordinary oil. They say that nothing has been done to the bells for some years and that it is difficult to get anything done in present circumstances, so they do what they think is the best thing, supposing that unless something is done the bells will go badly.

It ought to be made quite clear that oiling ball bearings with ordinary oil does not improve the go of the bells. Bells hung in ball bearings would go better without any lubricant at all. When the bells are hung the bearings are packed with grease, not to make the bells go better, but to prevent deterioration from rust and other causes. This grease being completely enclosed will last for years, but if ordinary oil is put in it will be quickly washed away and the bearings will suffer.

All modern frames ought to have an overhaul every ten years or so by a competent bell hanger and the bearings among other fittings, but until that can be done steeplekeepers had better leave the bearings alone, or they will be asking for trouble.

These things are always pointed out by the bellhangers, who supply printed instructions, but some steeplekeepers do not know them, or, if they do, do not regard them.

'WAYFARER.'

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

ADVICE IGNORED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Corby, like a good many other ringers, seems to think that it is only for the bellhangers to advise as to what should be done and it is automatically carried out. Unfortunately this is far from correct. For very many years it has been our invariable practice to inform and even press church authorities as to the requirements for modifying the sound outside and inside the tower, but in more instances than others this advice is not carried out, the excuse nearly always being on the grounds of additional expense.

We think we know the instance which Mr. Corby had in mind when writing his letter. We most strongly represented the requirements in this particular tower only to have them ignored.

JOHN TAYLOR AND CO.

THE BELLHANGERS' DIFFICULTY.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article in the issue of 'The Ringing World' dated January 7th and Mr. P. A. Corby's letter in the issue for January 21st interested me greatly. Some time ago you published, along with others, several letters of mine relative to the treatment of towers on the subject of obviating the cause of complaints by the general public where bells are too noisy in the vicinity of the church.

We were not then concerned with the internal acoustics of bell towers, but this aspect is obviously no less important—more so, in fact, from the ringers' standpoint. As I emphasised previously, the problem has to be approached intelligently as again every tower must be dealt with on its own merits, but I have no hesitation in saying that the vast majority of towers which are now unsatisfactory in this respect could be rectified quite easily if only the authorities would spend the extra money required.

That, in most cases, is the difficulty. Mr. Corby quite rightly urges that the bell hangers should advise the church authorities in these matters. The bell founding firm with which I am connected has always made a regular practice of doing this in every case where they have been entrusted with the restoration of peals. But time and time again we are discouraged by the authorities who, inwardly if not openly, seem to think our only desire is to 'make a big thing' out of the job by trying to persuade them to spend more money than is really necessary!

And here, I venture to submit, is where the ringers could help considerably. If they themselves would urge the Church Councils to take the required steps it would often have more effect than anything which the bell hanger may say, because it will not be thought that they have any financial axe to grind. The proper treatment of towers is of very great importance, and it is such a pity that, time after time, an otherwise first class job is spoilt through the reluctance or indifference of those concerned to spend that little extra to make the job perfect.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

ST. MARY'S, WOOLWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A correction is needed to the article published in your issue of January 7th.

To say the record enumerated in the fourth paragraph 'surpassed that of every other company in the 19th century before 1880' is all moonshine. The Norwich men rang peals in all these methods—and several others—between 1820 and 1840. CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I understand from the Messrs. Barnett's letters that this was calculated from the annual reports. So far, so good.

But I believe there are two peal books written up to about 1904, and if the first one is compared with the reports it will be found that they do not agree.

I do not know who wrote up these peal books, whether an official or any other responsible person, or by whose authority.

The question, therefore, is, which are correct? If the peal books are at fault, I suggest that someone in authority pass a resolution to this effect, and have same written up in the minutes of the association.

I may add that Mr. E. Barnett is quite correct in stating that Sandwich is the only eight-bell tower in which the association has not rung a peal.

F. W. RICHARDSON.

16, Harefield Road, Brockley.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—News has been received that Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, has now been transferred from a prisoner of war camp in Italy to Germany. Just before he left Italy he met Norman H. Manning, of Chiswick, and both wish to be remembered to all their ringing friends.

R. DARVILL.

23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 27.)

The fine old church of Edington, Wilts, dedicated to SS. Mary & Katherine and All Saints, is considered to be the only perfect monastic church remaining in the county, and was erected by William of Edyngdon, 1352-1361. It is a cruciform edifice of stone, with a fine central tower, containing a ring of six and a Sanctus bell—the latter, originally cast by John Lott in 1671, was recast by J. Taylor and Co., 1915. The treble, 2nd and 5th are by John Lott, dated respectively 1640, 1654 and 1647, but the 2nd was recast 1899. The 3rd is by W. Bilbie, 1781; the 4th by James Wells, 1802; and the tenor, weighing approximately 26 cwt., is by A. Rudhall, 1723.

The approach to the ringing chamber is by ascent to the transept roof, thence across the leads to the tower. The bells seem to be the middle six of eight, and the noise while ringing is terrific in the ringers' room. The wooden bell frame is now in a bad state of preservation.

The low central tower of All Saints' Church, Faringdon, Berks, contains a ring of eight by J. Taylor and Co., tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb., and dated 1926. There were six bells here prior to 1874, the first four by the Corrs, of Aldbourne, fifth by J. Wells, and tenor by R. Wells. To these two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank.

Up to this time Faringdon bells were rung from the ground floor in the centre of the church; but, when the bells were recast and rehung in a new iron frame in 1926, a low, rather cramped ringing chamber was constructed immediately below the bells. The entrance is by means of a ladder about 15ft. high, standing in the south transept, to the springing of the arches, thence by spiral stair in the tower wall to the ringing chamber. In this chamber is a clock by Messrs. Smith and Sons, of Derby, and a modern chime machine which plays a tune on the bells every three hours.

During the removal of the old bell frame in 1926, a broken cannon ball was found in the tower wall. This is now preserved in a glass case in the church, and the following inscription inserted: 'This broken cannon ball was found in one of the walls of the belfry when the tower was being cleared for the rehanging of the recast ring of bells in the year 1926. It was no doubt one of the cannon balls fired by Cromwell's troops in 1646, when the south aisle of the church was demolished in the bombardment, and the spire said to have been shot off. The oak of the glass case was part of the timber of the old bell frame.'

A disused Sanctus bell by James Wells (c. 1800) now stands on the ground floor near the pulpit. It is fitted with headstock and a curious three-quarter wheel.

The spacious cruciform church of SS. Peter and Paul, Heytesbury, Wiltshire, is a building chiefly in the Early English style with a low central tower containing a clock and six bells. Here the approach to the ringing chamber is very similar to that at Almondsbury already quoted, where, after ascending to the roof, one crosses the leads to the tower, then goes down a step ladder into the ringing room.

As early as 1553 'Hettesburye' had four bells, and even to-day one of these, the grand tenor bell, about 20 cwt., cast by Kebyll, of London, about 1460, is still doing duty. It bears an invocation to St. Michael, and on its shoulder bears the coat of arms of Knollys.

William Cockey cast the treble in 1739; the second is by John Lott, 1668; third by Jas. Burroughs, of Devizes, 1755; the fourth by R. Purdue, 1619; the fifth was recast by T. Mears, 1843. Mears and Stainbank rehung these in a new oak frame in 1930.

Worcester Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary has a grand central tower rising to a height of 196 feet. Standing exactly in the centre of the church, the tower, completed in 1374, is a noble object despite the flaying process it has undergone at various times within the last two centuries. Of the statues with which it was originally enriched, but six remain, the rest being works of the period comprised between 1860 and 1870, as are the parapet and pinnacles which replace those dating from the early 18th century.

Until the raising of the tower in the middle of the 14th century, the bells were lodged in the clochium, an octagonal mass of stonework 10 feet thick, 60 feet high, and 60 feet in diameter at base. It dated in all probability from the time of the rebuilding of the cathedral at the close of the 11th century. It was surmounted by a lead spire rising fifty yards above the stone structure, and was placed so close to the north-east transept that there was only space between for processions.

This clochium which, from the account left to us of it in his 'Observations on Worcestershire' by one Nathaniel Tomkins, appears to have been a structure of no ordinary importance, survived the loss of its bells 273 years, being pulled down in 1647, and the materials disposed of for £617 4s. 2d., the principal part of which was given to repair several churches in the county damaged in the Civil War.

The earliest bells in the clochium were dedicated by Bishop de Blois and were three, cast respectively in honour of our Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and SS. John and James, the last-named being known as Hautclere. In 1374 the new central tower of the cathedral was built and three bells placed therein. It is not quite clear from inscriptions recorded which bells hung in the tower and which hung in the clochium.

At the time of the Reformation, when, according to Bishop Blandford's MSS., the four bells in the steeple were removed, the Prior's book gives 'the scripture on the iiij bells in the leddon stepull,' which clearly denotes the clochium. In Bishop Hooper's time (1552), according to Noake, 'Worcs. Relics,' the bells were 'violated and overthrown'—though not removed or destroyed, and the Dean and Chapter afterwards petitioned Queen Mary for their restoration.

No further news is given of the bells for 200 years until in 1736 we learn there were eight bells existing. Subsequently some of these were recast, and about 1860 the second was stolen. (For a legendary account of the stealing of bells from Worcester Cathedral see my 'Legends o' the Bells.') The seven bells left were purchased by Mr. Tyssen Amherst (the late Lord Amherst of Hackney) and four of them were placed in his park at Didlington, Norfolk, but later transferred to the Parish Church, where they now hang, being used for chiming. Of the other three, one went to Holy Trinity, Worcester, the other two (cast by Rudhall) are said to have gone to Dewsbury and Wolverhampton respectively.

At the present time Worcester Cathedral possesses a magnificent ring of twelve bells with a tenor 49½ cwt. in

the key of B, erected in 1928 by J. Taylor and Co. Each bell bears the name of a saint, thus: (1) St. Matthias, (2) S. Ivdas Iacobi, (3) S. Simon Zelotes, (4) S. Iacobvs Alphaei, (5) S. Matthaeus, (6) S. Bartholomaeus, (7) S. Thomas, (8) S. Philippvs, (9) S. Andreas, (10) S. Iohannes, (11) S. Jacobys, (12) St. Petrus.

There are, in addition, four other bells for the chimes: S. Pavlv, S. Marcvs, S. Lvcas, Christvs. These bells replaced an equally fine ring which had shown signs of deterioration, and which, with the clock and chimes, constituted the scheme started by Canon Cattley in 1863, at the time of the restoration of the cathedral. These bells replaced the old eight referred to above.

The chimes, presented by Mr. J. W. Lea, and made by Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, played many tunes on a series of seven barrels. To approach the ringing chamber one enters the first stairway through a door in the south wall, climbing to roof level, thence by a gangway across the south transept to the central tower stairway proper.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. T. W. RADFORD

The death occurred on January 6th at the age of 77 of Mr. T. W. Radford of Guildford. In his early days he was connected with ringing at Taunton and later at Bristol. About 45 years ago he went to Guildford and for some time was an active member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild. He then dropped out of ringing and did not join the Guildford Diocesan Guild until last year, when he returned to the belfry after the ban on ringing had been removed.

Mr. Radford was one of the first Guildford band to ring a course in a Surprise Major method. It was Superlative on August 22nd, 1901. The other ringers were E. Raddon, J. J. Jones, C. Hazelden, O. Willshire, S. Radford, T. Blondell and J. Hunt. At least five of them have now passed away.

The funeral was at Stoughton Cemetery on January 10th.

THE LATE MR. E. F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was able to introduce Mr. E. F. Behan to English ringing at St. John's, Vassall Road, and I called his first peal (Grandsire Caters) at Fulham, on September 5th, 1903. He was very proud of it. I believe he rang several other peals during his stay in England.

We have been in more or less constant communication since he returned to Australia. Ringing seemed to be his only interest and he always bemoaned his lack of progress owing to distances and opportunity. He was always referring to 'his little book' mentioned by Mr. Hazelden, and we exchanged ideas on composition often on original lines. I shall miss his lengthy 'screeds.' W. T. ELSON.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT COLEMAN'S HATCH.

Twenty members of the East Grinstead and District Guild attended a meeting at Coleman's Hatch on January 15th, the towers represented being East Grinstead, Hartfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Uckfield and the local belfry. A vice-president's daughter was married at the church that afternoon and the proceedings started with a touch of Grandsire Triples as the happy couple came out. Methods up to Cambridge and Double Norwich were also rung.

Tea was partaken of in the Church Hall, during which the Vicar, the Rev. J. R. Missen, welcomed the ringers. Other meetings were arranged at Wadhurst, February 12th; Edenbridge, March 11th; and the annual at East Grinstead in April.

EAST CROMPTON.—On January 16th, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: B. Whitehead 1, W. Oates 2, R. H. Bryon 3, C. Howarth 4, J. R. Buckley 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) 6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WORCESTER.—At St. Swithun's Church, for evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. Humphries 1, J. J. Jefferies 2, G. Hinton 3, G. J. Lewis (conductor) 4, D. Morris 5, G. Ambler 6.

LOWER HEYFORD, OXON.—On Saturday, January 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Adams, sen. 1, H. Adams, jun. 2, F. W. Pritchett (conductor) 3, Cpl. H. Wilks, R.A.F. 4, T. Kirby 5, Cpl. H. Buge, R.A.F. 6.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, January 16th, at All Saints', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss K. Brooks 1, A. F. Thirst 2, G. Dodds 3, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons 4, S. Croft 5, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 6, F. D. Bishop 7, D. Chamberlain 8.

ROCKBEARE, DEVON.—On Sunday, January 16th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Salway 1, Miss A. E. Pring (first quarter-peal) 2, B. Wayman (first quarter-peal as conductor) 3, H. Willington 4, J. Breal 5, E. Retter 6.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, January 16th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. W. T. Daniell 1, T. Cullingworth 2, H. W. Bishop 3, *F. J. Daniell 4, T. Townsend 5, A. G. Wells 6, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 7, J. Sheppard 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evensong, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: J. E. Cawser (conductor) 1, M. C. Fowler 2, S. Harrison 3, E. Dalingwater 4, J. McClusky 5, E. C. Stacey 6, A. Hill 7, P. Gledstone 8. First quarter-peal of Major of the bells since being recast, and believed to be the first quarter-peal in the method in the tower.

KINGSLEY STAFFS.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evening service, a date touch, 1,944, consisting of 144 Plain Bob, 720 Cambridge Surprise, 360 Kent and 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. Crabb 1, W. H. Edwards 2, F. Twigg 3, G. Hulme 4, F. Edwards 5, W. Carnwell (conductor) 6.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On January 16th, at St. Mary's, Oldswinford, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Robert Matthews (conductor) 1, J. W. Smith 2, Miss F. L. Wright 3, J. Southall 4, R. Moors 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, P. R. Pope 7, E. G. Bushell 8.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Saturday, January 22nd, 1,295 Grandsire Caters: G. Preston, Miss Sparshott, *E. Waters, *E. Hinton, Mrs. Williams, *H. Harrison, *E. T. Griffin, F. Sparshott, G. Scragg, H. Gillard. *First quarter-peal of Caters.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Friday, December 31st, 1,280 Double Norwich Major: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Lee 5, J. Harrison 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. Ruag with half-muffled clappers.—On Sunday, January 2nd, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Lee 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, A. Routh 8.—On Sunday, January 9th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, J. Harrison 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, W. Lee 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, January 16th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss D. R. Fletcher 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.—On January 7th, 1,264 Bob Major: *Elizabeth M. Bibby 1, R. Shelborne 2, Norah M. Bibby 3, O. Claybrook 4, T. Lightfoot 5, C. Valentine 6, John E. Bibby (conductor) 7, F. Bibby 8. *First quarter-peal, started ringing last June.

DEVIZES.—On January 8th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Doreen Lucas 1, A. Boyce 2, S. Grant (conductor) 3, F. Hale 4, *J. Romain 5, *K. Abrahams 6. *First quarter-peal.

HOLLOWAY.—At St. Mary Magdalene's, on Sunday, January 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Charge 1, R. W. Green 2, F. Barker 3, H. Franks 4, R. Newman 5, G. Charge 6, A. Turner (conductor) 7, A. Warren 8.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.—On Saturday, January 15th, a quarter-peal of Doubles in four methods (Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and April Day): R. Churchill 1, T. W. Bond 2, J. Lee 3, A. Cornish 4, H. Floyd (conductor) 5. The ringers of 1, 3 and 4 have learnt to ring since the ban was lifted.

HANDBELLS IN HOSPITAL.

On December 23rd and January 8th, Mr. G. Noice and Miss Noice visited the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, and rang handbells for the benefit of the patients, many of whom are Service men.

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SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT SALISBURY.**

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at St. Martin's, Salisbury, on January 15th, when the following towers were represented: St. Thomas', St. Martin's, St. Edmund's and St. Paul's (Salisbury), Amesbury, Wilton, Shrewton, Enford, Berwick St. John, Downton, Britford and Coombe Bissett. Visitors were present from Kington Magna, Dorset, Longbridge Deverill, Melksham, Trowbridge, Southbroom, Devizes, Calne and Cirencester.

The Rector of St. Martin's, the Rev. H. H. Bloomfield, conducted the Guild Office, the lesson was read by the general secretary of the Guild, the Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards, and Mr. H. Roles was at the organ.

Tea in the Parish Room was followed by the business meeting, at which the general secretary presided. The branch secretary (Mr. F. W. Romaine) presented the balance sheet, which showed £11 5s. in hand.

Mr. E. G. Caple (proposed by Mr. C. Haines, seconded by Mr. R. E. Turner) was elected chairman of the branch; Mr. G. K. Norton (proposed by Mr. H. Roles, seconded by Mr. E. G. Caple) was elected vice-chairman; Mr. F. W. Romaine (proposed by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. W. Chalk), secretary and treasurer; and Messrs. L. Harris, W. Roberts and J. E. Figgures, Ringing Masters. The Rev. J. A. Davies, Messrs. J. E. Figgures, H. Roles, F. Wright and B. Jewell were appointed as the Branch Committee.

Sixteen new members were elected from St. Thomas' and St. Edmund's and Shrewton.

Quarterly meetings will be held at Amesbury, Tisbury, Shrewton and Downton.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards pointed out that since the Guild last met, two members had passed away in the persons of the Rev. A. S. Robins, hon. life member, and Mr. Foote, from Berwick, the oldest member. He said he was delighted to preside at such a large gathering, evidence of the flourishing state of the branch.

Mr. F. W. Romaine welcomed the visitors, and Mr. W. C. West replied.

The Rev. J. A. Davies expressed his appreciation of the help given by Mr. J. E. Figgures in teaching the young ringers of the band at St. Edmund's. Mr. Figgures said it had meant a lot of uphill work, but it gave him much pleasure.

It was resolved, on a proposition by Mr. C. Haines, seconded by Mr. R. E. Turner, that the quarterly meetings of the branch be advertised in 'The Ringing World.' It had been found that when meetings were announced in 'The Ringing World,' many visitors turned up, generally without notifying the secretary, and arrangements for tea were disorganised. It had been the custom of the branch for half the cost of the tea to come out of the funds, and some doubts were expressed as to the ability of the funds to stand a large drain on its resources. Mr. West (Devizes) pointed out that while his branch held twelve meetings a year, they only advertised the quarterly ones in 'The Ringing World' for the same reason. The arrangements for tea were often thrown out when visitors did not advise him they were coming, but at Devizes they did not contribute anything towards the cost of tea. It is, therefore, proposed to discontinue the practice of paying half the cost of tea for the future.

A vote of thanks to the Rector of St. Martin's was carried. Ringing was resumed at St. Martin's, St. Thomas', St. Edmund's and St. Paul's until 9 p.m.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION**MEETING AT MISTLEY.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Mistley on January 8th and was attended by 21 ringers from nine towers, Thorrington, Tendring, Mistley, Rushmere, Ipswich, Boreham, Harwich, Clacton-on-Sea and Haverhill. Among the visitors were Miss B. Hill of Haverhill, Messrs. J. W. Jennings and Erlinger, from Ipswich, Mr. A. H. Everett and a member of the R.N. from Boreham.

The service in church was conducted by the curate, the Rev. A. A. Bagley. Tea and the business meeting were at the Thorn Hotel, Mr. Bagley being in the chair.

The resignation of the Ringing Master was accepted with regret, and Mr. C. J. Ellis was appointed in his stead. The district secretary was re-elected. Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Miss D. M. Andrews were made representatives on the general committee, and one honorary and four ringing members were elected. As Mistley had proved to be an excellent meeting place, the next meeting also will be held there, either in April or May.

The secretary appealed to all members to take a weekly copy of 'The Ringing World' and help those who had helped ringers. Thanks were given to the Rev. A. A. Bagley for presiding and conducting the service, and to the organist.

The methods rung ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 29th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual district meeting at Bocking, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) from 2 p.m. and during blackout. Service 4 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Annual meeting at Farnham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—W. Viggers, for Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Annual meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Tower blacked out.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Gainsborough, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells afternoon and evening. Service at 4 p.m. No tea arrangements; cafes in the town. Business meeting in the belfry at 6 p.m.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at St. John-the-Baptist, Erith, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fulham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 3.30 to 5. Short meeting in belfry after, then handbell ringing till blackout. No tea arrangements.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Annual meeting at Norbury, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—Annual meeting at Oakham on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Notification for tea to S. H. Towell, Hon. Sec., 27, West Road, Oakham, Rutland.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, February 5th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting. Tea at cafe in town.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting at Bulwell, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 to 8. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting. Election of officers and other important business. Names for tea must reach Mr. F. Smith, 47, Minerva Street, Bulwell, by Monday, Jan. 31st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John-de-Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) from 2. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting at Ber House (1s. each), 4.45 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 1st.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Tea at Ye Olde Bun Shop, Newton Abbot, at 5 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, Feb. 1st.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Standish, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Annual meeting at Earl Shilton on Feb. 5th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Schools at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, near Leicester, by Feb. 3rd, please.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Annual meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 5 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Numbers for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Leesfield, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Ignatius', Sunderland, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Guilborough (6 bells), Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bring own food.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckley, near Rugby.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Longton (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to E. Steele, Lorraine, The Wood Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before Feb. 2nd.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Sharnbrook on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice meeting at Debenham, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30. Tower blacked out. Tea shop in village.—W. C. Rumsey.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Ilminster, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Tea in Minster Cafe, 5 p.m. Business 6 p.m.—Rev. G. G. Hickman, Chairman, The Vicarage, Ilminster.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heanor on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—Annual meeting at Titchmarsh (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 5th. Names for tea by Feb. 1st.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Woodview, Brigstock, near Kettering.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bolsover, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 9th to Mr. J. Saxton, 51, New Station Road, Bolsover, near Chesterfield.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Annual meeting at Leytonstone, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify for tea.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The supply of badges is exhausted, and the secretaries regret that no more are obtainable until after the war.—F. Llewellyn Edwards.

BIRTH.

CRAMPION.—On Wednesday, Dec. 29th, 1943, at Ilford Maternity Hospital, to Alice, wife of Lance-Corpl. John H. Crampion (née Petty), the gift of a son, David John.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTH BRADLEY.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at North Bradley on January 8th, was attended by 24 members from Melksham, Holt, North Bradley, Westbury, Southbroom, Keevil, Warminster, Longbridge Deverell and Erchfont. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. Canon S. M. Davys, conducted the service and Mr. Watts was at the organ. Tea was provided by Mrs. Harding. The secretary announced the death of Mr. Slatford, who was a very keen member of North Bradley tower. The chairman thanked the Vicar, the organist and Mr. Percival Harding, who had made the arrangements. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Market Lavington on February 5th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HATFIELD.

A meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association, held at Hatfield on January 15th, was attended by 24 members from North Myms, Luton, St. Albans Cathedral and St. Peter's, Hitchin, Knebworth and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. Leonard, and Mr. H. J. Hazell was at the organ. Tea at the Salisbury Guest House was generously provided by Mr. D. Ellingham, an old member of the Hatfield band.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Michael's, St. Albans, if possible.

The Methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Stedman Caters, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major, with rounds for the beginners.

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