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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1944.

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

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THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

We have published lately a few letters from correspondents who tell us which they think is the best ring of bells in some particular locality, and we shall be glad to publish more of the same sort. This is one of the questions which have always interested ringers and about which they are generally ready to talk, the more so, perhaps, because there is no definite answer.

Which is the best ring of bells? Who shall say, and by what standards shall he judge? Is it to be the most pleasant to listen to while peal ringing? Or the one that best passes the tests of the tuning fork? Or the one that most people like to hear? None of these things would be generally accepted as the standard. There is something else which most people recognise. They call it tone or quality, but when one tries to put into words or definite thought what the tone or quality of a bell is one is completely baffled.

When a man says that such and such bells are the best what he really means is, we suppose, that they are the ones which most impressed and appealed to him. It is quite a fair and legitimate test, but it never can be a final one. The effect bells have on a man, whether he is a ringer or not, depends in a large measure on himself and the peculiar circumstances of the time. Most of us have heard at one time a ring which greatly pleased us and at the next visit we wondered what there was in it that before so much impressed us. Perhaps our friends will tell us that the bells they have praised are those they have heard many times and have judged under all sorts of circumstances. That, no doubt, is so, and it is a fair test of the good quality of these particular bells, but it is of little use for comparison unless all the other bells which are compared have been judged in similar circumstances.

Ringers, as a rule, have few opportunities of hearing bells properly. They listen to them when they are peal ringing or on a visit to the local band when it is inconvenient and perhaps impossible to go outside to hear them as they should be heard.

Let us suppose that gramophone records were made of ten or a dozen rings, each under the best possible conditions, and let us suppose that these records were played one after another in some hall before a critical audience. Would that make possible a fair and sound judgment between the bells? It would not. Church bells are not things which will reveal their charm in such

(Continued on page 46.)

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circumstances. The hearer must approach them in a different spirit. He may use his critical faculties later on, but when he falls under their attraction he must be in another mood.

No definite sound judgment can ever be given on the comparative merits of different rings of bells, but does it mean that the opinions expressed by our correspondents and others like them are useless and the discussion futile? Most certainly it does not. It is really of little importance whether this peal is actually better than that. It is of great importance that ringers should hold opinions about the matter and freely discuss and maintain them. For the more they do so the more interest they will take in the bells, the more beauties they will find in them, and the more enjoyment and satisfaction they will get out of their art. It is a good thing to have loyalties and preferences and loves. It is a good thing to have an affection for some peal of bells and to hold to it against all argument, all adverse opinion and, if needs be, against all reason. Provided only that the affection is a real one.

Merit need not be the only reason for this preference. Sentiment may properly enter into it; associations and memories of childhood and old friendships, and happy days long past.

'God gave all men all earth to love,
But, since man's heart is small,
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.
Each to his choice.'

And so it is with bells. There are many rings throughout the land worthy of a ringer's love, and he is a fortunate man who has one which has earned and kept his preference and affection.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

PERCY L. HARRISON ... Treble	FREDERICK MILNER ... 6
ERNEST MORRIS 2	*ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... 7
GEORGE S. MORRIS 3	HAROLD G. JENNEY ... 8
HARRY WAYNE 4	HARRY BROUGHTON ... 9
SIDNEY O. CHENEY 5	HAROLD J. POOLE ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cambridge Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Elloe Deaneries Branch.)

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON Treble	*JACK PEPPER 5
GEORGE SEWELL 2	FRANK TAYLOR 6
JOHN W. CARTER 3	†HORACE HARRISON ... 7
CHARLES C. RAWDING ... 4	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect and of esteem for Mr. J. T. Brown, a member of the Spalding company, and official of the Guild, who was laid to rest in Spalding Cemetery on that date.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Elloe Deaneries Branch.)

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt.

*GEORGE WILLIAMSON ... Treble	GEORGE W. MILLS 5
WILLIAM HOLLINGWORTH 2	SYDNEY E. ANDREW 6
*STANLEY E. BENNETT ... 3	ARTHUR J. FARR 7
CYRIL R. BURRELL ... 4	JOHN G. AMES Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal of Major. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to John T. Brown, a ringer at this church.

OSWALDTWISTLE, LANCOS.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Blackburn Branch.)

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF IMMANUEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

CHARLES BLAKEY ... Treble	† ROGER LEIGH 5
* RICHARD BLAKEY 2	CHARLES SHARPLES 6
FRED READ 3	LEONARD SCHOLES 7
JOSEPH WOODS 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS... Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

* First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

EGHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.	Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.
WILKINS MASSEY ... Treble	* ROBERT ANDREWS 5
ERNEST W. MOREY ... 2	JOHN B. HESSEY 6
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 3	WALTER A. PECK 7
WILLIAM SHEPHERD ... 4	JOHN GREENOUGH Tenor

Conducted by E. W. MOREY.

* First peal inside. First peal as conductor. A birthday-peal for the tenor ringer.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.
THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr.

* LEONARD W. BULLOCK... Treble	ERNEST W. PYE 5
JAMES A. BULLOCK ... 2	RICHARD F. DEAL 6
HERBERT LANGDON ... 3	FREDERICK FREESTONE ... 7
* THOMAS H. BULLOCK ... 4	JAMES BULLOCK Tenor

Composed by JOHN E. BURTON. Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

* First tower-bell peal. First peal of Bob Major on the bells. Rung for the 14th birthday of L. W. Bullock.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HASKETON, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Kent, two of Oxford and three of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A flat.

* GEORGE A. FLEMING ... Treble	CHARLES CLARKE 4
MRS. C. W. PIPE 2	WILLIAM A. WOODS 5
FREDERICK J. CRAPNELL 3	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Conducted by CECIL W. PIPE.

* 500th peal. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to George W. Ablitt, who died on January 20th.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.—On Saturday, January 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: J. Flanders 1, T. W. Bond 2, R. Churchill 3, J. Lee 4, A. Cornish 5, C. Calcutt (conductor) 6.

CLEWER, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in F.

JAMES A. GLASS ... Treble	LEONARD STILWELL ... 4
GEORGE GILBERT 2	NORMAN V. HARDING ... 5
WILLIAM WELLING 3	TONY PRICE Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Jan. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

* ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	† ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
* DENNIS H. L. LANGDON 9-10	

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Caters. † First peal on 7-8.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Jan. 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGED;

Containing 1,600 London, 1,280 Wembley, 800 Bristol, 736 Superlative and 704 Cambridge, with 129 changes of method. Tenor size 15.

* EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
† ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed by E. C. S. TURNER. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in five Surprise Major methods. † First peal in five Surprise Major methods on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 3-4	MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method on an inside pair.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
IN THE CHOIR VESTRY, ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.	Tenor size 15 in C.
MISS JESSIE G. CHICK ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 7-8
FRANK E. PERRIN 3-4	GEORGE SWANN 9-10
FRANK E. HAYNES 5-6	ALBERT WALKER 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

TITCHFIELD.—On January 22nd, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Leonard Luck, of Bushey, to Miss Audrey Harrison, of Southampton, 720 Bob Minor: J. H. Hunt 1, R. W. Kyle 2, G. Arrowsmith 3, F. C. Love 4, A. G. Leahy 5, G. Barton (conductor) 6.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 37.)

It has often been said, and by men who know what they are talking about, that it takes more skill to ring a small bell properly than it does to ring a large bell properly. 'If a man can ring a little bell properly, he can ring a big one; but it does not follow that a heavy bell man can ring a light one.'

So far as this opinion is a protest against the widespread idea that all the best men should be at the back end and the trebles left to the novices, it is sound and fully justified, but, as it stands, it is not correct. It does take a lot of skill to ring the trebles well, and no good ringing can be had without it. Practice with small bells is almost essential before any good ringing can be done on heavy bells and the more of it the better. But heavy bell ringing and tenor ringing call for special skill, because the technique differs considerably from the technique of ringing light bells. This is due mainly to the difference in the 'dead' period in the swing of the bells. Medium weight bells are the easiest to ring and generally require the least amount of physical exertion.

Heavy bell ringing is not merely a matter of strength and it by no means follows that the men who are strong and heavy are the most capable of ringing big bells, though many of them think so. There is a common saying in boxing that a 'good big 'un will always beat a good little 'un,' and it is equally true (for very similar reasons) in heavy bell ringing. But a good little 'un will usually put up a better show than a big 'un who is not so good. There are indeed some feats which do belong exclusively to the big heavy men. To ring a heavy tenor to a long peal, or a heavy bell when it is a badly going one to an ordinary peal, or a badly going bell of any weight, requires strength, weight, endurance, courage, will power, and technical skill. A full combination of all these qualities is not often found in any one man, and that is why really great feats of heavy bell ringing will always be rare. Probably they are rarer now than ever they were, because improved bell ringing has vastly reduced the amount of energy needed to ring even the heaviest bells. Once men, if they wished to ring peals, had often to ring them on bells which most modern bands would consider unringable. This applied not only to heavy bells, but to bells of all weights. It is on record that once in the eighteenth century a visiting band of College Youths rang a peal in a country belfry, when they had to put two men to the second because one of the gudgeons was broken. We can hardly imagine a present day band going for a peal, or even for a touch, on bells which had a broken gudgeon. No one would wish to go back to the old conditions, but it is certainly true that the easy way in which bells can now be rung has led to a lot of careless, slovenly handling, and provided he is of the right sort, it is quite a good thing for a beginner to learn in a belfry where the conditions are bad, where the bells are odd-struck and really call for correct handling.

The strong heavy man has, of course, the advantage in ringing badly going bells, but the lighter and weaker man who has skill can often counteract his disadvantages, for he uses the energy he does possess without waste and to the best advantage. Very often he can by correct pulling and correct timing ring to a peal a bell which would be beyond the limits of many far

stronger men. But the bell must be one which needs a definite amount of pulling. Where the light weak man is hopelessly handicapped is when the bell plays tricks due, for instance, to the weakness of the tower. In such a case he can by very careful 'feeling' guard somewhat against the bell suddenly 'running up' beyond control, but he is helpless when the bell drops, and the amount of pulling necessary to get it back to its right position will soon exhaust his reserves of strength.

These, however, are exceptional cases. The real art of tenor ringing does not consist wholly or mainly in overcoming physical obstacles, and can be shown just as much in ringing a 14 cwt. tenor as in ringing a 30 cwt. tenor. It is true to say that really fine tenor ringing is only possible when the bell is well within the ringers' physical capacity. The task of the tenor man is so to ring his bell that the changes have a definite character and musical quality. Many people think (carelessly, if they can properly be said to think at all about the matter) that ringing a tenor behind is a humble, humdrum job, that anybody who is able to pull a bell can do without any trouble. Many more think it merely a matter of regular and steady pulling. Certainly if a man maintains a regular and steady pull there is no fault to be found with him; but first-class covering is something more than that. The man, if he has got the rhythm of the bells in his mind, will so place his own bell that it takes its proper place in the rhythm, and he will vary his pull according to the subtle modifications of the rhythm. He will do it so that no one notices there is any variation, and in the vast majority of cases he will not himself be conscious that he is doing it. What he does know is that his ear tells him that his bell must be struck exactly so and not otherwise, and his bell instantly responds to what is passing through his brain.

Ringng a tenor in is, of course, a much more complex matter. Here the ringer's task is deliberately and consciously to set a firm beat and to control the rate and style of the ringing. He can do it if he is a skilful man who knows his job, but only if the band in front of him is a reasonably good one. When all is said and done, change ringing, though each individual man has his own bell to ring, and though one man may differ greatly from another in skill, is a team job. It is the average quality of the band which decides the quality of the ringing, and though one or two good men can do much to inspire their fellows and raise the average, they are helpless unless the others respond. Similarly a good tenor ringer can only properly exercise his skill when he is ringing with a worthy band.

When he has a good band in front of him the tenor man can, within limits, set what pace he likes, but he must do it so that nobody notices he is doing it. When a man is covering it is not his job to set the pace; he has to adapt himself to the pace set by others, and to rhythm of the changing bells. The seventh in Triples and the ninth in Caters are the bells which can best control the rate of ringing.

It has often been said that in changes, on heavy bells the small bells should 'ring to the tenor.' This is one of those popular sayings which, founded on some truth, are largely fallacies. If it is meant that the little bells should be so rung that the task of the heavy bell men is not unduly increased, it is, of course, perfectly correct.

But if it is meant (as very often it is meant) that the little bells should, by extra holding up or cutting down, give a big bell more room than the regular beat of the bells would allow—should, for instance, when dodging, allow the big bell to maintain a fairly steady pull and make up for it by an alternate extra quick and extra slow blow, dodging round the big bell in fact instead of with it—if that is what is meant then it is quite wrong. Lazy tenor ringers may like that sort of thing, but the first class tenor man does not want it. What he wants is that the other bells should fall in with the time he sets and should keep the proper beat and rhythm of the changes so that he can place his own bell exactly where he wants it with the minimum of wasted energy. What he detests is broken time, leads too quick or too slow, and anything which makes him alter his rhythmic pulling. To a tenor man with a sensitive ear few things are more irritating than for the man who is dodging with him when he is in 7-8 up to strike too close after him. He feels rather like a man who is jostled rudely in the street and is expected to apologise.

It is sometimes said that when ringing a bell behind a man has only one rate of pulling; and when ringing changes he has only three rates of pulling, which are represented by hunting up, hunting down, and place making. This statement is barely approximately correct. The good tenor man will find that his rate of pulling varies enormously, especially when the striking is first class, for he will adapt himself to the continually changing rhythm; but the variations will be very minute. There are also positions which call for a much greater output of energy, though there seems no particular reason for it. Why, for instance, should it be so much

harder to dodge a heavy bell in 3-4 up than anywhere else? That it is so will, we think, be generally agreed.

Men often argue about which is the more difficult to ring—a tenor slow struck at handstroke and quick at back or a tenor slow struck at backstroke and quick at hand? Some give one answer and some another. Our own opinion is this—if a man really handles his bell correctly, and (this is the important point) if he can properly adjust his hands on the tail end, a bell slow at backstroke presents few difficulties, while to drive a bell at handstroke is not easy for a man of light weight. But if the man (as some men do) always holds his tail end in the same place, he will find it extremely difficult to cut the slow speaking bell quick enough at backstroke, while he would have no particular difficulty in grasping the sally so as to make the quicker pull necessary for a bell slow at hand.

(To be continued.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

BY ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

London, Wembley, Bristol, Superlative and Cambridge.

	M	W	R	Methods
23456				
65432	—	—	—	LOW
25346	—	2	—	W C B L
25463	2	2	—	W B C B W
26354	2	—	—	L B C W
43652	—	—	—	W C L
25634	—	—	—	LOW
46532	—	—	—	W C L
23564	—	—	—	L C L
34562	—	2	—	L C L B

Four times repeated.

C=Cambridge or Superlative.

This composition must not be used for a peal in the four Standard Surprise Methods.

Rung at Bushey on handbells, January 26th.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH



THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

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of twelve for
Liverpool Cathedral
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

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.

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from
the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

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

In answer to enquiries respecting the health of Mr. George R. Pye,
we learn that he has been out of hospital and back home again after
his recent operation, which was successful. He is as well as can be
expected in the circumstances.

The Bramley (Surrey) Parochial Church Council has opened a fund
to restore and recast the six bells at the Parish Church and to
augment them to eight. It is hoped that the work will be put in
hand immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Before the Old Year was rung out and the New Year in at Hursley
Parish Church, the captain, Mr. Hunt, congratulated Mr. William
Jones on his 50 years as a ringer at Hursley. Mr. Jones has also
been people's warden for a good number of years.

To-morrow is the 40th anniversary of the first peal of London
Surprise Major on handbells.

The bells of St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, Birmingham, will be broad-
cast on Sunday morning, February 6th, at 10.15, on the Overseas
Service (short wave) on the 19, 25 and 31 metre band.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the
Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which was
held at St. Peter's, Northampton, on January 22nd. Among those
present was the Rev. E. S. Powell, Ringing Master of the Guild.

The Rev. M. L. Couchman presided over the business meeting, at
which the secretary's report was presented and the branch officers
elected. It was agreed to hold a meeting on the last Saturday of
each month except February, the place to be advertised in 'The
Ringing World.' Two new members were elected.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

The observation is from the seventh.

63		65	
2314567		2314567	
3425167	1 6-7 up	3425167	1 6-7 up
4675312	3 in quick	4675312	3 in and
S 5231647	4 make S	6543712	1 out quick
2143576	2 6-7 down	S 5123647	3 make S
1325476	1 6-7 down	1342576	2 6-7 down
		3215476	1 6-7 down
77		83	
2314567		2314567	
S 3425176	1 7th place	3461275	2 6-7 down
4732561	2 in slow	S 1543762	3 out quick
6531724	5 out slow	5623174	3 6-7 down
5123647	2 6-7 up	4251376	6 6-7 down after quick
1342576	2 6-7 down	2143576	1 6-7 down
3215476	1 6-7 down	2135476	1 6-7 down

EALING.—On Sunday, January 23rd, at St. Stephen's, 1,260 Grand-
sire Triples: H. M. Page 1, J. E. Churchill 2, A. H. Harding 3, A.
Jones 4, J. E. Lewis Cockey 5, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 6, W. J.
Paice 7, F. Miller 8.

THE GIRALDA BELLS, SEVILLE.

BY THE REV. F. LL. EDWARDS.

A most interesting article on ringing at Seville Cathedral, which appeared in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World,' evoked a letter from an 'Enquirer' asking for further information. The following notes may serve to throw light on the subject.

The Giralda Tower contains 24 bells, besides a clock bell. These are hung round the four sides of the tower in open arches, exactly as described by the writer of the article. The largest bell, bearing the name of Sancta Maria, was cast close to the Cathedral in 1587 and weighs approximately 17 tons. This bell and three or four others of exceptional weight are hung dead and chimed by ropes attached to the clappers. The rest are rung and swing out over the street below as described. The 'superstructure,' to use the author's word, is, in fact, both a massive lever and a counterweight, rising perpendicularly from the stock and directly over the bell.

The rope is fastened to the top of this lever, and with the assistance of its weight no great strength is needed to set the bell in motion. The ringer has a good deal of spare rope and rings the bell gradually up by simply pulling—without any handstroke action—and letting out more rope as required. When the bell has reached the upright position, it turns right over and the rope begins to wind round one side of the stock. By this time the bell has gathered considerable impetus and it continues to revolve with its own momentum, while the rope goes on winding round the stock.

Gradually the movement becomes slower, with longer intervals between the strokes of the clapper; then, when the bell is up on the balance and almost at a standstill, with the great lever pointing straight down, the ringer adroitly hitches the rope round the end of the lever and fastens it to a thick iron staple fixed in the masonry of the arch for that purpose. The bell is now virtually 'set,' and can remain indefinitely in that position. In actual fact some of the bells often are thus left up for several hours.

To resume ringing the rope is untied, the ringer throws his weight on it and the bell begins to revolve the other way, while the rope unwinds. At this point the speed of revolution accelerates considerably, before it begins to slacken off: unless checked by hand, the rope will start winding up again, when the whole process may be repeated: otherwise the movement of the bell is just left to die out.

The bells of the Giralda are rung several times every day except on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, when they are silent and a curious mechanical rattle takes their place. Three, five or seven bells are used for the various Cathedral services. On the great festivals and other special occasions all the bells are brought into use. In such cases the ringing is chiefly done by young boys, though two or three men take part in it and are naturally in charge. The writer of these notes well remembers conversing with the blind ringer mentioned in the article quoted, and it is interesting to learn from Mr. Taylor's letter that he also found him there.

Although the 'leap to the bells' has been very wisely prohibited, the position of ringers facing the open arches gives one the impression of being decidedly dangerous for such young persons. A query on this point addressed to one of the adult ringers elicited the reply that men were not available for the purpose, and as the payment was only 4d. a time, they had to make use of boys. As it is, the boys appear thoroughly to enjoy playing their part, and probably regret not being allowed to swing out on the fittings of the bells. So at least one would judge from the broad grin of satisfaction on the faces of the boy ringers at the Church of San Salvador in another part of Seville, where, unless it has been quite recently suppressed, the old exciting practice still prevails, and the boys may be seen happily perched on the counterweight projecting over the churchyard and balancing the bell in a horizontal position, while spectators below gaze in wonder, and reflect on the value of 'safety first' as a commendable motto for ordinary mortals.

'ANTI-CLOCKWISE'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Adulescens' asks about rings of bells hung anti-clockwise. In Cornwall there were three rings hung in this manner, and they were of particular interest to me as they were in my area when a district secretary. The three churches in the parishes of St. Budock, St. Gluvias and Mabe all have 15th century towers; these three are neighbouring parishes and lie adjoining the town of Fal-mouth, and until 1930 the two rings of six and one of five respectively were all hung anti-clockwise. In 1930 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. rehung the five bells at Mabe in a new frame and added a new treble. The sixes at St. Budock and St. Gluvias are still hung in wooden frames and are rung as before.

There seems to have been no reason why these three rings should have been hung anti-clockwise except that they were all rehung within a few years of each other, and I should think by the same founder. I cannot say for certain, but I believe Messrs. Warner were the founders. Mabe bells were first cast in 1744, but recast and rehung in 1877. St. Budock bells were hung in 1882, and St. Gluvias were cast in 1808 and rehung in 1883. All three rings were rehung within a period of seven years.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

THE BEST RING OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice St. John's, Whittle-le-Woods, referred to as the best peal of bells in Lancashire. Evidently the writer knows his subject. Previous to 1926 I had the honour to be in charge there, and can assure you they are the finest ring I have come across yet. I have, as secretary for Derby district, had a good opportunity of visiting most towers in this, Burton and Nottingham districts, also I visited most towers in the Canterbury district during the last war and on a holiday three years ago, and though I rang on many good peals, none could compare for tone and 'go' with Whittle bells. The only peal, in my humble opinion, which approaches Whittle for tone is St. Luke's, Derby, with its fine tenor of 30 cwt.

Perhaps a few notes about Whittle bells would be appropriate. They were installed, if my memory is correct, in October, 1910, as a memorial to a member of the Crosse family, of Shaw Hill. The tenor weighs 21 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb., total weight of peal 82 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

They are from the Loughborough foundry. Mr. Harry Chapman, of Manchester, had a great opinion of the bells, and the Rev. Law James on one of his tours said they were the best they had rung on during the tour.

I had the pleasure of ringing on them just previous to the ban and the 'go' was excellent. There isn't a 'wrong un' amongst them. I regard them as a grand advertisement to Taylors.

Unfortunately the band at Whittle is much depleted, but I understand Mr. F. G. Bradley has got four boys learning and making good progress.

The opinions of Mr. Ben Knights, who has rung extensively in Lancashire, or Mr. Roger Martin or Arthur Tomlinson, who all know Whittle bells, would be much appreciated.

WILLIAM LANCASTER.

83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT CHRISTCHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Christchurch District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Christchurch on January 15th. Service in the Priory Church was conducted by the Vicar of Lymington, assisted by the Rev. — Fletcher, his curate.

At the tea and meeting in the Warren Cafe 60 were present. Mr. J. M. Turner was elected chairman of the district, and Mr. G. Preston and Mr. E. T. Griffin were re-elected as secretary and representative on the Central Committee.

Thirty-seven new members were elected, viz.: St. Peter's, Bournemouth 5, Brockenhurst 10, Lymington 12, Milford 4, Hordle 1, honorary 3, compounding 1, and unattached 1.

DEATH OF MR. J. T. BROWN.

SPALDING'S OLDEST RINGER.

Through the death of Mr. J. T. Brown, which took place on Saturday, January 22nd, at the age of 83 years, Spalding has lost one of its oldest and regular members.

Although not a great peal ringer, he had taken part in several peals ranging from Plain Bob to Stedman Triples, and was always to be found in his place in the belfry on Sunday. If any special ringing was wanted Mr. Brown was always willing to oblige. Being of a genial disposition, he was liked by all with whom he came in contact. When he began to ring is uncertain, but he had long been a member of the Spalding company and for several years acted as captain.

He took a great interest in Guild matters and for many years was one of the auditors and branch representative on the Diocesan Guild Committee.

He had been connected with the choir for 75 years, having joined the Spalding choir in 1868. For a number of years he lived out of the district, but always sang in the choir wherever he lived. In London at Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 he sang in the choir of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

The funeral took place on Thursday, January 27th. The service, which was fully choral, was at the Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas. Owing to the indisposition of the Vicar, Canon B. G. Nicholas, the service was conducted by the curate, the Rev. D. F. Tallet, assisted by the Rev. A. H. Pilling and the Rev. Lancelot Smith.

The interment took place at Spalding Cemetery, the coffin being borne by four members of the local company. At the close of the committal prayers a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells by J. B. Halifax 1-2, Mrs. R. Richardson 3-4, R. Richardson 5-6, C. R. Burrell 7-8.

During the evening two half-muffled peals of Bob Major were rung, one at Spalding by members of the local company and one at Pinchbeck by a representative band of the Elloe Deaneries Branch.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 23rd, 1.260 Stedman Triples: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, Miss A. M. Look 2, E. Markham 3, G. F. Hinton 4, R. Coles 5, E. R. Coles 6, Insp. C. A. Smith 7, P. C. A. Strathey (first quarter-peal) 8.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 41.)

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL.

Carlisle has had a noted history. It was a town of considerable importance under the Romans, and later was captured by the furious Picts. It has been a city of sieges. Egfrid of Northumbria rebuilt it in the seventh century, but the Danes sacked it. William Rufus again rebuilt and fortified it, but David, King of Scotland, captured the place and died here in 1153. Two more sieges it endured, and was at length taken in 1217. King Edward I. frequently came here on his marches to conquer the Scots and held Parliament here, and nearby he died. After the disaster of Bannockburn, Robert Bruce besieged Carlisle, and had his quarters in the cathedral, but failed to gain the Castle. Some of the Bishops were warlike men, and took the field against the dread invaders from the north. A long siege, lasting eight months, took place during the Civil War, and in that time terrible damage was done to the cathedral. Again in the rebellion of 1745 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' captured the place. The cathedral was again used as military quarters.

The cathedral was of Norman character and cruciform in plan, and had nave with aisles, transepts with a low tower at the crossing. In the early 13th century the Norman choir was taken down and rebuilt in Early English style. Later, in the middle of the 14th century, after two fires had done much damage, rebuilding again commenced on a more imposing plan. The late Decorated east window is one of the most beautiful in the world. Fire again injured the cathedral in 1392, which was restored again by Bishop Strickland (1400-1419), who also rebuilt the tower above the roof, and crowned it with a wooden spire.

The Civil War did terrible damage to the cathedral, and during the siege soldiers quartered within its walls in order to repair fortifications pulled down a great portion of the nave. Since that time there have been many restorations. The central tower, as stated above, completed by Bishop Strickland on the old Norman piers, dated 1092-1130, is somewhat small for the huge choir, and consequently lacks dignity. The old wooden spire which formerly crowned it was removed. There is a turret set at the north-east angle, and in the north side is a niche with the figure of an angel.

The tower is 112ft. high and has a ring of eight bells, tenor 20 cwt. Like many central towers already described, ascent to the belfry is not direct. One enters the cathedral by the main door, passing down the north aisle to the east triforium. Here you retrace your steps, walking back the full length to the doorway in the tower, then up further steps to the ringing room.

The bells remained six until 1924, when two trebles were added out of a legacy left by Mr. Hastings Rashdall, supplemented by Constance, his widow. At the same time the old six were rehung. One peal of Stedman Triples was rung here in 1925. The tenor has the quaint inscription:—

'I warne yov how yovr time doth pass away,
Serve God therefor whil' life doth last and
Glorie in axelsis Deo Anno Domini 1657.
John and William Langshaw workmen.'

The 3rd is by the same 'workmen,' and dated 1659, simply bearing the initials "IwL." The 4th is by E.

Sellor, of York, 1728; 5th by Geo. Lees and Edmund Wright, 1608; 6th a recast by T. Mears, 1845; and 7th one of the original bells prior to 1552.

There is a tradition that these bells were rung on November 17th, 1745, when the Pretender entered Carlisle, and that for this they were condemned not to ring again for 100 years. However this may be, it is stated that they were chimed with ropes on the clappers at the news of the victory at the Battle of Waterloo, and thus the old 4th was cracked. She was then taken down and removed into the cathedral till 1845, when she was recast as stated.

Prebendary Wilson, writing on January 19th, 1745-6, to Dr. Waugh, Chancellor of the diocese, who was then in London, said, 'A demand made by Major Belfour, in the Duke's name, of the bells of our cathedral, as a perquisite to the train of artillery, was a surprise to the members of the chapter here, and very ill-relished by them. Mr. Birket, Mr. Head and myself waited on the Duke to desire his protection. . . . The answer given us was that the Duke would not interfere in it: that if it was a perquisite we could not say nothing against it. The chapter here would be glad to have your sentiments in this affair.' The Chancellor's 'sentiments' were, 'I am fully persuaded that no law of this land, nor any military law, will justify Mr. Belfour's demand. . . . I dined this day with an old lieut.-general of great reputation (and others of great consideration in that way), who was quite out of patience at the mention of it.' Under the influence of these 'sentiments' the demand collapsed. A writer in the 'Bell News' of 1890 says, 'But how is the tradition of the bells never having been rung since 1745 to be reconciled with another tradition of one of them being cracked while ringing during the rejoicing after the Battle of Waterloo? Well, as there have been no wheels on the bells within living memory, and may have been none in 1815—perhaps none since 1745—it may be suggested that the ringing for peace after Waterloo was affected by an exceptional arrangement of cords tied to clappers, very likely to crack one of the bells. The cracked bell, 'removed to the back of the altar,' where it remained for many years, was recast, as shown on the inscription of the present 6th bell, in 1845. Billings (Carlisle Cathedral, 1838) has recorded a remarkable inscription which he copied from the old bell whilst it stood at the back of the altar:—

'This Ringe was made six tuneable Bells at the charge of the Lord Howard and other Gentree of the Countie and Citie and officers of the Garrison by the advise of Mager Jeremiah Tolhurst Governor of the Garrison, 1658.'

The same initials are known to have been on this bell as on the treble. The date on the treble, 1659, in a ring 'made six tuneable bells' in 1658, looks odd, but perhaps may be accounted for by supposing the Langshaws, when casting the old 4th, to have antedated the completion of the ring, the treble yet remaining to be cast, and not cast till the following year. Their description on the tenor as 'workmen' implies that they were not regular bell founders. Permanently resident in Carlisle, as is shown by frequent occurrence in the Chamberlain's accounts of William Langshaw's name in connection with plumber's work for the Corporation, they were able to take their time, the tenor in 1657 and the ring not completed till 1659.

In 1552 the Commissioners reported that there were 'fowre gret belles,' and it is noteworthy that, although the Commission ordered the systematic confiscation of all but 'one gret bell,' this was rarely carried out in Cumberland. To this day several churches in the county still retain the identical bells reported by the Royal Commissioners. One of Carlisle Cathedral's original bells—the present 7th—remains, and has an inscription in stately Gothic floriated capitals, each an inch and a quarter high, with plain initial cross, and three roundlets as intervening stops:—

+IHC+IN VOCE SUM MUNDA MARIA SONANDO
SECUNDA,

which is interpreted: 'I, Mary, pure of accent, sing
Second in the chiming ring.'

From this it would appear to have been the second, *i.e.*, next to the treble, in the original Strickland ring, and that her name was Mary, which name she would receive at her consecration.

(To be continued.)

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in your article, Mr. Corby's letter and the replies. Mr. Corby has voiced the opinion of many ringers, especially in this district, who have suffered from noisy belfries for years.

Within the last 35 years three new towers have been built in this neighbourhood and peals of eight installed. In two of them the bells were put in in the course of their erection, and in both instances expense was no object, but the noise in the belfries was intolerable, and it was left to the ringers to rectify.

To give credit where credit is due, when our bells were restored 20 years ago, the bellhangers evidently considered acoustics as part of their job, for without any prompting they installed an extra floor, two inches thick, to modify the sound in the belfry.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

BELLHANGERS' ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—As one who for many years has been directly connected with belfries and bells, I feel I must comment on Mr. Corby's letter in your issue of January 21st.

It is evident from the tone of his letter that he is not fully aware of the activities of the bell firms over the last 30 years. These have certainly included giving practical advice and help to their clients to adopt means to obtain the best acoustical values of the towers both for inside and out, in fact it can be stated that where improvements have been made it is because their practical advice has been accepted and carried out. Obviously it is to their advantage to do so. Too often they have found, after installing a really first-class peal, the bells have been rated by ringers as second and even third class peals because of bad acoustic conditions not being rectified.

I personally, as a ringer, considered it part of the job when inspecting bells and towers to report on the acoustics of the belfry and advise what, if anything, was necessary to be done. The same can be said of other firms' representatives. I give as follows some of the reasons why this advice has not been taken:—

(1) The ringers were used to the existing conditions and were doubtful about any other arrangement.

(2) The ringers were not concerned about the outside effects of the sound.

(3) The extra money necessary over the sum required for the bells could not at that time be raised.

(4) If found necessary, after the bells were installed, then the acoustic proposals could be gone into.

Needless to say, in most cases the latter have never been taken up. My own opinion is that the Diocesan Advisory Boards and architects should make it part of their duty to study the acoustics of any belfry where a faculty is asked for for restoration work or new installations. In this regard I suggest, when things are again normal, that the Central Council should edit a treatise on 'Acoustics of the Belfry,' and send a copy to each of the Diocesan Boards and architects.

As the Central Council has always had leading members of bell firms among its members it should not be difficult to obtain any further data necessary above what it has already to compose and write up such an article.

With regard to the tower near London that Mr. Corby mentions, I will not comment except to say I very much doubt whether all the Central Council's advice was taken, but in any case I can't help but think that the bell firm pointed out this defect while carrying out the work.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

South Croydon.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are numerous examples of churches having the tower placed between the nave and chancel, also a few which originally had this arrangement, but, due to alterations, etc., the original layout became more or less obliterated. Herewith brief details of some of these churches which I have visited from time to time.

The church at Stewkley (Bucks) is an ancient Norman building without aisles similar to that at Ifley mentioned by Mr. Morris. The tower contains a ring of eight bells. Brockworth (Glos.) is a later building, also aisleless, but with a small chapel (rather like a transept) projecting southwards from the nave, west of the tower which contains six bells. The church at Caldicot (Mon.) consists of nave, tower and chancel in line, with a north aisle. The south windows of the chancel are rather unique, being twin light in the reticulated style, but externally without the enclosing arch and dripstone. The tower contains a ring of eight bells. The Church of the Holy Cross, Cowbridge (Glam.), has a tower almost like that of a castle, being very sturdy in construction and having an octagonal parapet. At the north-east corner there is a massive staircase turret. St. Luke's Church, Priston (Som.) is a simple aisle-less structure, mainly Gothic, but with Classical details in the tower parapet and pinnacles. Surmounting the tower, which contains six bells, is a very large figure of a turkey, which serves as a weather vane. A straight stone staircase built in the thickness of the northern wall of the tower provides the means of access to the ringing room. The tower of St. Iltyd's Church, Llantwit Major (Mon.), is situated between what were formerly two churches, one parochial and the other conventual. The eastern has an aisle-less chancel, a nave with aisles terminating at the west side of the tower which contains a ring of six bells. The western or parochial church consists of a nave without aisles now used as a museum housing relics of the former splendour of the church. To the west of the parochial church is a ruined 'Galilee' with a piscina high in the wall, suggesting an altar situated in a gallery over the door leading to the church.

Enlargement of the fabric resulted in alterations to the original plan at St. Michael's, Aughton (Lancs) and All Saints', Carshalton (Surrey). The tower at Aughton stands between the north chapel and the north aisle, the present nave and chancel situated to the south are of a later date. There are six bells in the tower, which is square at the base and octagonal at the belfry stage. A graceful stone spire rises from within a low parapet and may be compared to that at Ormskirk and that at Halsall in the same county. When viewed from the north the church at Carshalton presents a curious picture, an eighteenth century 'nave,' a much restored tower and an ancient 'chancel.' This now forms the north aisle and chapel of a modern church built in the Gothic style. St. Andrew's, Shrivenham (Wilts.) was formerly a cruciform church with a central tower. Weather-moulds on the faces of the tower confirm this, and show that the roofs were originally steeper than at present. The church is now rectangular in plan and covered by a single roof of lower pitch which increases the apparent height of the tower.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

ST. PAUL'S, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his very interesting account of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, gives the weight of the old tenor bell as 15 cwt. 3 or 21 lb. It was 25 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb., usually given as 26 cwt.

With reference to the noise that was in the very early years, a second floor was put between the bells and the ringing chamber more than 50 years ago, which made it very comfortable for ringing.

W. C. WAKLEY.

Paignton, Devon.

BIDDENHAM.

Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his articles on 'Central Towers,' says that Biddenham, near Bedford, has a central tower. This is not so, as Biddenham has an ordinary western embattled tower with the approach to the ringing chamber by steps up the outside as stated.

F. C. TYSOE.

Bromham.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BILLINGBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Billingborough on January 22nd, and was attended by about 50 ringers from Bourne, Edenham, Morton, Rippingale, Sleaford, Newark, Bicker, Donnington, Sempringham, Horbling, Folkingham, Gosberton and the local belfry. They included a large number of young ringers—an encouraging sign. The methods rung included Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. Sampey, conducted the service and presided at the business meeting, which followed tea in the Foresters' Hall, at which 32 members were present. Two honorary and four ringing members were elected. It was proposed to hold the April meeting at Grantham.

ST. NICHOLAS', DEPTFORD.

THE STORY OF THE BELLS.

The inventory made in the year 1552 records that there were then in the late fifteenth-century tower of St. Nicholas' Parish Church at Deptford, "v great bells of bell metal suted hanging in the steeple ther," and also 'j little bell called a Saynt bell.' One little bell had recently been sold. That probably was the sacring bell which had hung on the chancel screen or wall, and in the simplified ritual of the Mass was no longer needed.

In the year 1701 the present ring of eight was hung in the steeple. They are remarkable as having no inscriptions and no founders' names, but merely the date of the year, save that the seventh has the initials, S.N. and I.H. The tenor was recast by Thomas Mears in 1842.

William Laughton wrote that on Sunday, June 16th, 1734, he and the Rambling Ringers journeyed to Greenwich to have a pull, but they found that two burials were to take place there that night. So they went on to Deptford and rang 108 and 336 changes of Grandsire Triples, but they found the bells in a bad state of repair.

This reminds us of the ancient custom of burying at night time. The Requiem Mass and the Dirge and Placebo service would, of course, be said or sung in church in daytime, but the actual interment was after dark. The poet speaks of—

. . . the pomp of a funeral at midnight,

When dreader yet the lonely morrow looms;

Few are the words that are spoken, and faces are gaunt
beneath the torchlight

That does but darken more the nodding plumes.

The custom was that, while a body lay unburied in a parish, the bells of the church must remain silent, and this custom survived in parts of the country until recent times. We remember some years ago being in a village in Devon when the ringers refused to ring for the Sunday services because a woman in the parish had died a couple of days before. It was not right, they said. It would be interesting to hear whether any trace of this tradition still lingers anywhere.

In the early days of the eighteenth century there was a good band of change ringers at Greenwich who called themselves the Kentish Youths. They rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Alphiege's in 1732, and may have rung one at the neighbouring Church of Deptford; but, if so, no trace of it has survived, and the first peal in the tower that we know of is one by the Eastern Scholars which was claimed as 'the first Compleat Peal of Five Thousand and Forty Bob Major ever rung in that steeple.' Thirteen years later the Eastern Scholars rang a peal of Bob Triples on the bells. The Cumberland Youths rang Bob Major in 1780, and Grandsire Triples in 1781.

About the year 1782 a society was formed at Deptford called the Trinity Youths which lasted for more than half a century and rang many peals. Its original members were largely connected with the Royal Dockyard at Dept-

ford, and it got its name from the Trinity Brethren, the Corporation which had the official regulation of British shipping, and which attended St. Nicholas' Church once a year on Trinity Sunday.

The first peal by the Trinity Youths was Grandsire Triples at Deptford on February 18th, 1782, and in 1789 they rang on the same bells 6,400 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

St. Nicholas' stood in a very dangerous position when the great air raids took place three years ago. Constant fears were expressed among ringers for its safety, but it seems the tower and bells have escaped unscathed.

The modern Church of St. John, Deptford, has a ring of eight with a tenor of 14 cwt., cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1874. They were opened by a band of College Youths on December 31st in that year.

MR WILLIAM DYE.

Mr. William Dye, of Grundisburgh, celebrated his 84th birthday last Wednesday. He joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1879 and in the same year called Holt's Ten-part. Later he called the Original, a much rarer feat than now. He rang Stedman Caters with the Cumberlands at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and conducted 10,080 Kent Treble Bob at Coddendam.

He still rings twice every Sunday at Grundisburgh and occasionally walks to neighbouring villages to take part in the ringing.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WELLS.

The annual meeting of the Jurisdiction of Glaston Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Wells on January 22nd and was attended by nearly 50 ringers from Dinder, Croscombe, Wells, Glastonbury, Street, Shepton-Mallet, Binegar, Evercreech, Chilcompton, Radstock, Bath and Bristol.

Service in St. Cuthbert's Church was conducted by the Rev. P. E. B. Cook, who in the absence of the branch chairman, the Rev. L. S. Lewis, who was ill, took the chair at the business meeting.

Mr. W. Marsh, the hon. secretary, presented the statement of accounts, which was satisfactory. All the officers were re-elected.

On behalf of the branch, the chairman presented Mr. F. D. Rickards with a fountain pen and a wallet in recognition of his services as branch secretary during a period of over twelve years.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and rounds.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CORFE MULLEN, DORSET.—On January 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: John Dryden (age 15) 1, Percy Brayshaw (age 14) 2, Mary Davis (age 13) 3, Andrew Pearmain (age 14) 4, John Davis (age 17) 5, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 6.

BARKING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, January 23rd, for morning service, 1,264 Bob Major: C. Fenn (conductor) 1, F. G. Fenn 2, C. E. Faulkner 3, F. G. Newman 4, R. Stannard 5, S. Holgate 6, E. G. Cottis 7, R. Deal 8.

HONITON CLYST, DEVON.—On Sunday, January 23rd, at St. Michael's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *J. Morgan 1, Miss A. E. Pring 2, B. Wayman (conductor) 3, *G. Retter 4, J. Salway 5, E. Retter 6. * First quarter-peal.

DARLEY DALE.—On Sunday, January 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: O.S. D. Scott, R.N. 1, R. Allsop 2, H. Taylor 3, H. Gregory 4, J. Saunders 5, B. Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

LEYTONSTONE.—At St. John the Baptist's on Sunday, January 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. Prior 1, C. A. Hughes 2, A. W. Brighton 3, G. Dawson 4, C. Willmington 5, E. D. Smith (conductor) 6.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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.—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.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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.—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.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Longton (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Groby (6 bells) on Feb. 5th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. in local cafe. Names before Feb. 2nd.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Annual meeting at Leytonstone, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify for tea.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting, Honiton-Clyst, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Card for tea by Feb. 6th.—W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Stratton St. Margaret on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Half-hourly bus service from Swindon Town Hall.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Sandy, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5. Names Feb. 9th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bolsover, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2 p.m.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at St. Giles' Church, Lincoln (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 3.30, followed by ringing until 8.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—K. W. Mayer, Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford Branch.—Annual meeting at Withington, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea. Names for tea to J. W. Downes, 1, Holmer Hall Cottage, Holmer, nr. Hereford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Wadhurst (6 bells), Feb. 12th. Tea, Queen's Head, 5 p.m. Advise early.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Prescot Parish Church, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 5, followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Annual meeting at Dunstable, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Buckland, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Names by Tuesday, Feb. 8th.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Practice at All Saints', Springfield, on Saturday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Crofton, near Wakefield, Feb. 12th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Annual meeting at Weekley (6 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow for those who send names.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing 3 p.m. No other arrangements.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEATH.

PITSTOW.—On January 28th, at Saffron Walden. Hilda Kathleen Pitstow, aged 42, only daughter of Mr. Ernest A. Pitstow, and sister of Messrs. H. N. and L. E. Pitstow, after a painful illness.

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