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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1944.

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Price 3d.

PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

JOHN TAYLOR
& Co.
LOUGHBOROUGH

GILLETT AND
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CROYDON

Tel. THORNTON HEATH 3221-2-3 and 3120

MEARS AND
STAINBANK
34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON, E.1

Tel. BISHOPSGATE 2599

These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

BELL HANDLING.

During the last few weeks we have published a number of articles on Handling a Bell; we have now said pretty well everything we set out to say; and next week one more article will probably complete the series. Our primary aim in these articles was not to give text book rules for the benefit of instructors and their pupils (though we hope they will prove useful in that respect) so much as to interest general readers in a branch of the ringer's art which has been far too much neglected.

The average ringer looks on bell handling as an elementary thing which he learnt long ago, and which, now he is occupied in more advanced things, may be taken for granted. That is quite natural and right up to a point, but usually it has happened that the man was wrongly or imperfectly taught in the first place, and though time and practice have cured him of many of his faults and imperfections, he not only retains traces of his bad training, but has missed the finer points of the art. So that when in his turn he comes to teach, he hands on to his pupils the same imperfections he himself received. The general result is that the standard of good striking is not so high as it might be and ought to be.

It is probably true that all this is a part of the price the Exercise has to pay for many and great advantages in other things. During the last eighty years or so there has been a vast improvement and development in almost everything connected with bells and ringing. There are far more rings of bells and of a much better average quality. They are incomparably better hung. Belfries are more comfortable. Ringers are of a better class and there is more fellowship between them. Method ringing has vastly developed. But the art of bell handling and the standard of striking among the more skilful bands have not advanced in anything like the same degree.

In former years the condition of the bells was such that a man had to know how to handle a bell properly or he could not ring at all. Novices had to serve a far longer apprenticeship than they do now, and when they were permitted to take part with their elders their ringing and their striking were sternly and often harshly criticised. Belfries had not many attractions for beginners eighty years ago, but for those who could stay the test, the harsh training did good in some respects. Generally speaking the old style was bad, and it passed

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away because it was bad. If it had not it would have killed the Exercise. Now we have gone rather to the other extreme. Bells go so well that there seems no need to trouble about the finer points of bell handling, and beginners are sought after, encouraged, and pushed on too fast to gain a proper grounding in the essential elements of the art.

We do not blame the instructors. Nothing pleases a teacher more than to see the rapid advance of his pupil, but the wise man will not assess advancement by the more showy achievements. The mere fact that a man can go through a course of Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, or Cambridge, is nothing compared with how he goes through it. What is needed to-day to raise the general standard of execution to something like the height the standard of method ringing has already reached. It can only be done by education and the stirring up of interest. First of all a general improvement should be sought in bell handling, for on that in no small degree hangs improvement in striking.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

*THOMAS LEE Treble	ERIC J. GILBERT 5
*GEORGE H. HESKETH ... 2	*THOMAS W. HESKETH... 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 3	*WILLIAM ROBINSON ... 7
ARTHUR LINTOTT 4	FEANK VARTY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal of Treble Bob.

WORCESTER.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Western Branch.)

On Sat., Feb. 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 15½ cwt.

ALLEN MORGAN Treble	DENIS R. MORRIS 5
CHARLES J. CLARKE ... 2	H. REGINALD ROWE ... 6
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 7
PERCY L. BLISSETT ... 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by G. E. LARGE.

The band are all members of the Home Guard and represent the towers of the Cathedral, Claines, Hallow, Malvern Link and St. John's, Worcester.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

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

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in G.

JOHN G. W. HARWOOD Treble	CHARLIE GOODMAN ... 4
GEORGE MAYERS 2	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 5
GEORGE SAYER 3	HENRY TOOKE Tenor

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

Rung for the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Curson, of Hethersett.

SLOUGH.—On Sunday, January 30th, after evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Rivers (first quarter-peal) 1, F. V. Sinkins 2, J. M. Gayford 3, W. H. Fussell 4, N. V. Harding (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, G. Barkus 6, E. Hudson 7, E. H. Preston 8. Mr. F. V. Sinkins, whose 79th birthday it was, has completed 65 years as a ringer at Slough.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
*ERIC A. DENCH 9-10	

Composed by W. H. BARBER. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Royal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Jan. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

Witness: W. D. Smith.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

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

Composed by W. KENT. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

After the first 12 courses the bells turned over every six courses.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
On Thurs., Feb. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

JOHN THOMAS 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICAR'S SIX-PART. Tenor size 11 in G.

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

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* 70th peal.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. Hartley's most interesting letter, I hope to make references to most of the towers he mentions in due course as these articles proceed. As yet I have not dealt with any of the central towers in which the bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, but these will also follow. As far as possible I am simply reviewing these towers as a ringer to interest ringers, and not giving too much architectural detail which would be out of place in this journal. Later I hope to give a series on curiously situated towers and unusual belfries.

Re Biddenham, Beds, I have not had the pleasure of personally visiting this tower and quoted from information kindly sent by a ringing friend. I note, however, that Kelly's Directory states (quite wrongly) that this church has a central embattled tower, hence the error. I am very pleased to have Mr. Tysoe's correction.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

PAUL REVERE.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—What do we know of the bells cast by Paul Revere?

The recently published book, a highly interesting and vivid picture of pioneer life in the American colonies, from the pen of Esther Forbes, prompts me to ask this question. The many references to bells in 'Paul Revere and the World He Lived In' whets the appetite of the bell-lover and makes him hungry for more information.

For instance, Paul, in his middle teens, signs with six other boys a contract with the authorities of Christ's Church, Boston: 'We the Subscribers Do agree To attend there once a week on Evenings to ring the Bells for two hours Each time from the date hereof to one year.'

Further we read: 'Revere made his reputation as a foundryman in the extremely tricky art of bell casting. The largest and most famous of all his bells still hangs in the stone tower of King's Chapel. It is considered a "brilliant bell" with a "unique and charming sequence of harmonic effects." Again, ". . . when the bells of the Christian world were ringing and among them hundreds of his own casting. Not only in New England did his bells sound, but even farther away in Georgia, Kentucky, the West Indies.'

Most of us are familiar with Longfellow's poem, but I believe few of us associate the midnight rider with bell-founding. So I repeat, 'What do we know of the bells cast by Paul Revere?'

NOLAN GOLDEN.

[A long account of the bells cast by Paul Revere appeared in 'The Bell News' some 40 years ago. It was written, if we remember aright, by Dr. A. H. Nicholls. We will take an opportunity of looking it up.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

ACOUSTICS IN THE BELFRY.**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S ACTION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Roper apparently doubts the accuracy of Mr. Corby's statement that the Central Council were responsible for the ideal conditions outside the tower he mentioned, and would like to ascribe the credit to the bell firm. I can assure Mr. Roper he is wrong. The tower had been built nearly ten years before the bells were installed and the alterations were made during the building. The facts are these.

In Mr. Corby's words, 'A local ringer with commendable foresight' inspected the plans and saw the defects. He felt that his influence with the church authorities was not powerful enough to get them altered by himself, so he wrote to the then president of the Central Council and enlisted his help. The Council acted and the alterations were made.

K. C. A.

THE QUESTION OF COST.

Dear Sir,—The two letters appearing to-day give ample proof of the efforts which bell hangers make to guard against complaints about bells from those who live near a tower. It is true that members of Church Councils view with a little suspicion any 'extras' which might be suggested. Usually the church authorities have had a struggle to raise the last few pounds to pay for a restoration which, in many cases, turns out to be a much bigger job than was anticipated. Some members of every belfry should aim at being on their Church Council to keep an interest in the bells alive, and to explain the necessity for any 'extra' which might help both the ringers and those outside who have to listen. I feel that such a matter as the modulation of sound is entirely one for the ringers to put forward and carry through. If the ringers will do their share the church authorities will usually back them up. As everyone knows, in most towers the cost is not great, but it is the larger cathedrals and churches which present problems. At Truro, some 16 years ago, when ringing was on the increase and peals being rung, the ringers put forward a scheme for the blocking of the louvres with one inch boarding and cabot's quilt, but when the Chapter of the Cathedral obtained an estimate the cost was over £40. The ringers at once offered to provide half the cost, and the Chapter agreed that the work should be done. The result more than exceeded expectations, and even the editor of a local paper noted the difference and offered his appreciations in his notes.

Some years ago I told a certain incumbent that I was glad to see that a peal of Cambridge had been rung on his bells. He told me about the complaints he had to suffer for days afterwards, and I explained how the louvres could be blocked, but it appeared there was no money to do it. He said at once, 'They can have the money.'

These examples do show that ringers should press the need all they can, and at the same time let the incumbent and Church Council know that they are ready to help.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

DEATH OF MR GEORGE W. ABLITT.

The death is announced of Mr. George W. Ablitt, of Fornham All Saints, near Bury St. Edmunds, which occurred on January 20th. He spent the greater part of his life at Hasketon, near Woodbridge, where he was steenkeeper and in which district he rang nearly all his peals, about 200 on six and eight bells. As a tribute to his memory a half-muffled peal was rung at Hasketon on January 29th.

AN APPRECIATION OF BELLRINGING.

The following 'Letter to the Editor' appeared recently in an Essex newspaper:—

Dear Sir,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to give a few words of appreciation? On January 8th I was returning home by bus after a day in Ipswich. Through the country lanes we came in moonlight, and suddenly over the air came the faint sound of bells. Wonderingly, each looked at the other, waiting and hoping. The bus came to rest under the shadow of a small country church, where the bells were pealing a wonderfully joyous peal. No one spoke; we were too thrilled at the sound.

The bells told of things to come, when bells will ring again and the country be free and at peace. To one lonely mother at least it brought hope, comfort and a promise for the future.

Thank you, bellringers at Mistley Parish Church.—A. Cox.
No. 11, Priory Road, Clacton.

The ringing was on the occasion of the annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association.

RINGING AND FUNERALS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your account of the bells of St. Nicholas', Deptford, you ask whether the custom still survives of not ringing the bells if a body lies unburied in the parish.

Less than ten years ago a Masonic band met at Linton, near Maidstone, to ring a peal in honour of the golden wedding of the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, the late Lord Cornwallis, but were not allowed to start as a death had taken place the previous day.

E. B.

Dear Sir,—The custom of not ringing while a body lies unburied still survives in this village and the adjoining village of Zeals, but chiming would be done as usual.

E. J. ROWE.

Stourton, Wilts.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the article on St. Nicholas', Deptford, and the story of the Devon ringers who refused to ring because a woman in the parish had died a couple of days before.

In the village where I learnt to ring, Broad Hinton, near Swindon, Wilts, this tradition still lingers to-day. I well remember the first two years after learning to ring we were prevented from ringing the old year out and the new year in through the strict adherence to this ancient custom. The rule there is if any person normally resident within the parish boundary has died and is still unburied, the bells must not be rung.

W. HACKER.

Hedington, Calne, Wilts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**LUTON DISTRICT.**

A meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Luton on January 22nd, when about 30 ringers were present from Bosham, Bromham, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Maulden, Silsoe, Swindon, Wembley Park, Wendover and the local tower.

The methods rung were Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. Owing to illness, the hon. secretary was unable to be present.

DEATH OF MR. AMOS FAWDREY.

The death is announced of Mr. Amos Fawdrey, which occurred on January 18th at the age of 80 years.

He began to ring when 14 years old, and during his life was connected with many towers, including Bloxham, Stanway, Abingdon, Buckingham, Llanishen (Wales) and Henley-on-Thames. For the last 17 years he was a member of the band at Maidenhead and continued ringing until a few weeks before his death. In his younger days he had taken part in several peals.

Several members of All Saints' band attended the funeral, and over the grave a short touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Walker, Eldridge, Martin and Judd.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED J. TURNER.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred J. Turner, of Southover, Lewes, which occurred on January 30th in tragic circumstances, at the age of 72.

Mr. Turner was born at Halland on October 12th, 1872. He lived for a short while at Mayfield and went to Lewes in 1880, where as a boy of ten he learned to chime on the bells of Southover Church. St. John's, Southover, was the church at which Mrs. Goldsmith, mother of the late John S. Goldsmith, was parish clerk. Turner and Goldsmith were closely associated in their early ringing days, and together were largely instrumental in the formation, on September 9th, 1896, of the Southover Bellringers Guild. Mr. Turner was captain for 21 years, and was an old member of the Sussex County Association. His 100th peal was one of Bob Royal on February 10th, 1910. His ringing career came practically to an end in 1939, but he rang one course of Grandsire Triples about three weeks before his death.

'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,
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c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

AFFILIATION FEES DUE.

Association secretaries are reminded that the affiliation fee due to the Central Council for the year 1944 is now due.

GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Mr. Harold J. Poole, the Ringing Master at Leicester Cathedral, has been appointed by the Bishop a Lay Canon of the Cathedral in recognition of his services as a ringer. Mr. Poole, who is an Inspector of the Leicester City Police, is not only a prominent member of the Midland Counties Association, but also hon. secretary and treasurer of the National Police Guild. He has many fine ringing performances to his credit, including the conducting of the record length of Cambridge Surprise Major.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS. STANDARDS OF COMPARISON.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I have read with considerable interest the recent correspondence respecting 'The best peal of bells,' and your admirable editorial on this subject. I am of the opinion that this matter is closely allied to 'acoustics of belfries.'

But to deal with 'the best peal' first. Every ringer is entitled to his or her own opinion as to which peal he or she likes best, but there can be no general standard by which all peals can be judged. All peals would have to be placed under one of the many headings, viz., 6, 8, 10 or 12. Key, machine tuned, hand tuned (to have a separate heading for 'maiden peals' untuned is not necessary, they are too few). Mr. William Lancaster votes for the Whittle-le-Woods 10, and gives some details of them, but unfortunately he does not give their key. Presumably at their weight they are E natural. If so, they must be almost identical in every respect with the modern Taylor 10 at St. John's, Leicester. I know this latter peal well, and for their note and weight (and 'go' and sound in and out of the tower) they want a lot of beating. I have not been to Whittle-le-Woods. Would any reader who has tried and heard these two peals care to express an opinion on these two identical peals?

NORMAN S. BAGWORTH.

44, Clivedon Road, Wimbledon.

SOME DEVON RINGS.

Dear Sir,—One reads with great interest what has already been written on the above subject, but it will probably take a far abler pen than mine to give any details of some of the best peals in Devon. I believe it is generally considered that Totnes has one of the best peals in this district, and one must not overlook peals in other districts such as Crediton, Plympton St. Mary, and the back eight at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, not forgetting, too, the bells of Exeter Cathedral. Other fine examples of modern engineering may include Heavitree, Tiverton and Buckfast Abbey, and I for one look forward to further information from the more experienced ringers in the county of 'cream and cider.'

A. L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 49.)

Raising a bell is the action which calls for the greatest exertion of energy in the ringers' art, and consequently it is one which shows the general points of correct bell handling in their most obvious forms. It is also the one which most clearly reveals the effects of bad handling and the results of faulty or imperfect training. It should therefore engage the attention of ringers much more than it actually does.

The main points of correct handling are, as we have seen, a proper grasp of the rope, a perfectly taut rope before pulling (the 'rope' consisting, be it remembered, of that portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the ringer's hands as well as of the man's arms and body), correct stance, the correct application of the energy represented by the man's weight to the rope, and correct timing. All these are important equally in ringing and in raising, but in raising their importance is much more obvious.

Before raising a bell and at the beginning of each pull the ringer should grasp the rope firmly, naturally, and equally, with both hands which should always be kept close together. This is where so many men go wrong. The usual thing is for the man, before he begins, to gather up the tail end in three or four rings and to hold them in one hand. It seems the proper thing to do. It looks neat. But it is quite wrong. The one essential thing is that both hands should grasp the rope equally and naturally, and that cannot be done, and is not done, when one of them is fully occupied with three or four coils, some of them double rope. What happens is that the work is divided unequally between the two hands and two arms, and even when (as is the case with the more skilled ringers) the hands are kept well together, the man's weight is not applied equally to the rope.

The habit also tends to prevent the correct adjustment of the hands on the rope, for the hand which holds the tail end is hampered and every time a coil has to be released there is a tendency to separate the hands. Skilful ringers do counteract these things to some extent, but with the less skilled the occupied hand does little else than hold the tail end, and the pulling is lopsided and largely ineffectual.

Long ago we were acquainted with a company which had inherited a reputation for good striking unsurpassed and barely equalled elsewhere in the country. Their custom was, when pulling up bells, especially when pulling up in peal, to start with the tail ends hanging loose on the floor, leaving the two hands free to grasp the rope properly. Whether the custom was peculiar to this band or whether it was more general then, where they got it from, and how long they had practised it, we do not know. But since the company enjoyed a longer unbroken tradition of the best ringing of the past than almost any other, we are inclined to the opinion that it was a survival from the early days when raising and ceasing in peal was one of the most important parts of the ringer's art, and when the ideal was not merely to pull the bells up in perfect order, but 'as fast as may be'; in fact, when ringing was really a strenuous athletic sport which, like rowing, called for the utmost exercise of skilled and perfectly timed energy.

This is a custom we do not recommend, but there is much to be said for it. If it is objected that it would mean a belfry full of wildly flying ropes, the answer is that it did not. The ropes fell and rose again just as orderly as they do when a present day band is raising. It did mean that the ringers had to pay attention to the way in which they pulled their ropes. What causes tail ends to fly about is partly the flick which the fast moving bell gives to the rope directly the garter hole of the wheel (through which the rope goes) has passed closest to the pulley; and partly the erratic movements of the ringer's hands after he has made his pull. Both these things can be counteracted by moving the hands down and up when pulling and afterwards, smoothly and regularly, and always in a straight perpendicular path.

The tail end, and all the rope below the ringer's hands when he is pulling is, it must be remembered, a superfluity. It should not be allowed to interfere in any way with what is the real job the hands have to do, and if it can be left to take care of itself, obviously the ringer is in a better position to devote himself to the task of putting his full weight on to the rope. But it is hardly likely that this old custom will find favour, and fortunately it is not really needed. The best way is to hold the tail end, not in coils, but similarly to the way it is held in actual ringing in the fork between thumb and forefinger, but some ten or twelve inches from the end. A good handler, however, should be able not only to raise a bell, but also to ring it after it is raised, without any hold on the tail end except when he is actually pulling at backstroke.

And here, as somewhat of a digression, we may mention what may be taken as an indication that it is better to teach beginners to hold the tail end in the right hand instead of in the left, as is customary. The point is that both hands ought to do an equal share of work, but with most men it is natural that the right hand should do the most. If the left hand is already occupied with the tail end, and especially if it has more than one coil of rope to hold, it is certain to try to shirk its part; but the right hand, even when it has other things to do, will assert its priority and so equalise matters. The point, however, is of no importance so long as the ringer definitely tries to use both hands equally.

Usually a beginner at an early stage is allowed to try to raise a bell unaided and with one hand full of coils of rope. Naturally he is at a complete loss. He does not know what to do with the tail end which takes up more than half his attention; inevitably all his pulling, besides being badly timed, is done with one hand and lopsidedly, and he acquires faulty and imperfect habits which he hardly ever gets wholly free from.

Raising should be part of the beginner's instruction. It should always be done with lashed clapper so that the lesson can be repeated again and again on the same bell and in the same conditions until it is properly learnt. It is a mistake to let a beginner try by himself, and always he should have his hands entirely free from the tail end until he is able to raise and set the bell smoothly and quickly. The instructor should hold the tail end throughout the lesson.

After the proper grasp of the hands the next important thing in raising is that at the beginning of every pull the rope and the ringer's arms and body should be

in tension. What we said on this point in an earlier article applies equally here. The man must be able so to adjust his hands on the rope that immediately the bell reaches the furthest point in its upward swing, he is reaching up to his full extent without straining. This adjustment of the hands is only possible when the man has acquired the sense of feeling what the bell is doing as it moves upwards without actually checking it.

Immediately the bell reaches the dead period in its swing and is about to turn on its downward path the man must be able to apply the full force of the energy at his disposal, and to do that he must so stand and so pull that his whole weight is at once brought to bear on the rope. Correct timing is of the greatest importance in raising, for, as we saw earlier, the effect of the energy any man can exert is greatest when the bell is at either end of its swing, and rapidly decreases as the bell gathers momentum. Some men think that a long pull is what is most needed. The longer the pull the better (within limits) it is. But length of pull has little effect compared with correct timing.

It is quite a usual thing for a man raising a heavy medium bell (say 15 to 20 cwt.) to find it will rise easily enough until it double clappers. Then it will remain almost stationary in the length of its swing, and only a long and strenuous output of labour will gradually raise it up to the point where the remainder of the pulling up is without difficulty. The reason for this is that when the bell starts on its downward swing from the position where it is roughly horizontal, gravity immediately comes strongly into action, and compared with the force exerted by gravity, the energy the man can supply is very small. Unless he can take immediate advantage of the very brief dead period at the end of the swing his greatest outlay of labour has little avail. When a man finds this difficulty in raising a bell it is an almost sure sign that his timing is faulty and he is using his weight too late.

For a similar reason mere length of pull has not the effect which might seem likely, for though the tendency of the ringer is to increase the amount of force he exerts, the practical effect of what he does rapidly decreases. What is needed is the maximum amount of energy applied at the earliest possible moment.

It often happens with bells above a certain weight that they must be checked in raising so as to make them clapper on the right side. What really happens is this—the swinging bell does not impart enough energy to the clapper to make it travel fast enough to overtake the bell in its upward movement and presently the swing of the bell and the swing of the clapper will get at cross purposes and the bell will overtake the clapper instead of the clapper overtaking the bell as it should do. To obviate this it is necessary to slow down the speed of the bell enough to give the clapper a chance to overtake it, and once that is done and the clapper has made a full contact with the bell, the bell will swing the clapper by the energy exerted through the ball and not, as at first, through the crown staple.

Now, to slow down the swing of the bell sufficiently for the purpose can best be done just as it is nearing the end of its upward movement. Then what the ringer does has the most effect. It must not be left too late, and if it is attempted too soon (and that is the temptation) the effect is small.

(To be continued.)

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT FARNHAM.**

The annual meeting of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Farnham on January 29th, when nearly 60 members and friends were present from Farnham, Seale, Aldershot, Farnborough, Yorktown, Bagshot, Guildford, Petersfield, Hitchin, Worplesdon, Pirbright, Leatherhead and West Clendon. Ringing began at 3 p.m. in various standard methods with rounds for beginners.

The Rector of Farnham, Canon E. M. Girling, conducted the Guild service, Mr. F. C. W. Wright being at the organ.

Tea in the Schoolroom was followed by the business meeting, at which Canon Girling presided. Mr. W. Viggers (acting for the district secretary, L.-Bdr. C. W. Denyer, who is serving in the Forces), presented the balance sheet, which showed a credit balance of £11 19s. 5d.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Ghey and Miss E. C. Southby, and a letter was read from Mr. Denyer containing best wishes for a successful meeting.

The Rector drew the attention of those present to the fact that since the last annual meeting (held in January, 1940) several members had passed away. A complete list was not available, but he recalled the names of Mr. Clapshaw, of Farnham, Mr. Dimes, of Crondall, Mr. Jonas, of Aldershot, and Mr. S. Butler, of Aldershot, who was killed on active service. Also since 1940 the Guild had lost two very revered vice-presidents, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. Walter Harrison.

The following officers were elected: Ringing Master, Mr. R. Hasted; secretary, Mr. C. W. Denyer, assisted by Miss E. C. Southby and Mr. W. H. Viggers; hon. auditor, Mr. F. C. W. Knight; representatives on the Executive Committee, Messrs. F. C. Nye, T. Upshall and W. A. Dollimore.

The Diocesan Guild officers were renominated for a further term of office.

Nine new ringing members were elected, eight from Farnham and one from Aldershot.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Farnham, the date to be decided later. Mr. Viggers stated that other meetings would be arranged if possible during the summer.

Mr. J. Corbett, the Guild treasurer, who was present, expressed a desire to celebrate his birthday by paying for the tea, a statement that was warmly applauded. Mr. F. Nye suggested that in view of Mr. Corbett's generous offer a collection should be made for the Guild Benevolent Fund. This was done and realised the sum of £2 13s. 8d.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Rector, to Mr. Hasted and the local ringers, and to the ladies who prepared the tea.

THE DEVON GUILD.**MEETING AT TIVERTON.**

After a long lapse, the Tiverton Branch of the Devonshire Guild held a meeting at Tiverton. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Chapman, Rector of Tiverton, the preacher was the Rev. J. M. Turner, Rector of Washfield, and the Rev. W. Gillett was organist.

At the business meeting the Rev. J. M. Turner was appointed chairman of the branch, Mr. C. Dymond secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. G. Selley Ringing Master. Mr. Selley, Mr. Dymond and Mrs. Balment were elected to the committee. The balance sheet was presented and passed.

Ringers were present from Tiverton, Bampton, Huntsham, Silvertown, Calverleigh and Washfield.

The ringing consisted of Grandsire Triples and Doubles with two trebles and tenor. A selection of tune ringing was given on handbells by the Rev. J. M. Turner and Master C. Pinkey.

The next meeting will be at the eight-bell tower of Silvertown.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BOCKING.**

The annual meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Bocking on January 29th and was attended by 20 ringers from eight parishes. Service was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean E. Rogers, and Miss H. G. Snowden was at the organ. Tea was in Messrs. Courtauld's Canteen, and at the meeting which followed, a report was read by the secretary, which showed that four meetings had been held, with an average attendance of 15. Two peals had been rung and six new ringing members elected.

The District Master and Secretary were re-elected, and Mr. R. Martin and Mr. F. Claydon were elected to the committee. Dunmow was chosen as the place of meeting in April. The methods rung included Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise.

THE DEVON GUILD.**MEETING AT KINGSTEIGNTON.**

On February 5th the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild held at Kingsteignton its first meeting since the removal of the ban. Members and friends were present from Exeter, Kenn, Dawlish, Newton Abbot, Kingskerswell, Collaton, Paignton, Dartmouth, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth, as well as members of H.M. Forces.

The handy peal of bells was well utilised during the afternoon, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Major being rung as well as call changes.

The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. R. D. Mills (branch chairman). Apologies for absence were received from the president, the general treasurer, and Mr. L. S. Howard, of Cockington, who is serving in the Forces.

The secretary's report showed that there had been no activity during the past four years owing to the war. The treasurer's report showed that the total amount in hand in the general and instruction accounts stood at £7 1s.

It was resolved to continue the branch as before, and the following officers were elected: Chairman, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills; secretary, treasurer and Ringing Master, Mr. A. L. Bennett; auditor, Mr. C. R. Walker; three members to serve on the General Committee, Messrs. C. R. Walker, H. C. Collyer and W. C. Wakley.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Newton Abbot on June 10th, ringing to be at Wolborough and Highweek if the necessary permission is obtained.

It was also decided that full subscriptions should again be paid, and to support a recommendation from the Exeter Branch to the general committee that the annual general meeting of the Guild be held in Exeter on Whit Monday of this year.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar of Kingsteignton, to the local steeple-keeper, to Mr. C. R. Walker and to Mr. A. L. Bennett concluded the meeting.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**MEETING AT FAREHAM.**

At the annual meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Fareham on January 15th, 25 members and visitors attended from Fareham, Titchfield, Bishop's Waltham, Portsmouth Cathedral and St. Mary's, Soberton, Petersfield, Chichester, Donington, Lincs, and Beaminster.

The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise. After service in church the meeting was held in the vestry, the Vicar being in the chair. The secretary's report stated that the district membership since the raising of the ban was one honorary member, 43 ringing members and two unattached members. Eight new members were elected. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Havant on April 15th.

The officers elected for the coming year were Mr. Linter, chairman; Mrs. Stone, secretary; Mr. F. W. Burnett, jun., auditor; Mr. Cook and Mr. Linter, representatives on Central Committee. Thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the bells and vestry, and the general secretary welcomed the Service visitors.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT IRCHESTER.**

At the annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which was held at Irchester on Saturday, January 29th, fifteen belfries were represented by an attendance of 54 ringers.

The secretary's report and balance sheet for the past year were presented and accepted with general satisfaction.

The officers were all re-elected, except that Mr. F. Barber (Great Doddington) was elected to the Central Committee in place of Mr. G. Basford (Finedon), who was unable to attend.

Nine new members were elected, five of whom were from Bozeat.

Mears Ashby was chosen for the next quarterly meeting, at the invitation of the local ringers.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

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

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.

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

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.

BARNSELY 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.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at St. John's, Oldham Road, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

PRACTICE MEETING at Tuxford, Notts, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. until 6.30. Cafe close to church.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Annual meeting at Weybridge, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Names by Wednesday, 16th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Duston, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3.30. Service 4.15. Bring food.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Clapton-in-Gordano, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Olde Times Cafe 5.30 p.m. Ringing in evening. Send names for tea.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District.—Annual meeting at Steep, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 2.30. Service and dedication of treble 4. Tea and business in Memorial Village Hall 5. Number by Feb. 15th.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., Sunnybrook, Brook Lane, Warsash, Hants.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Consett, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Secretary, 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Spondon, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea, nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Annual meeting at Brampton, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Cradley, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Annual meeting in the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 2. Service 3.45. Tea and business 4.30. Names by Feb. 22nd.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Annual meeting at Banstead, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3.30. Service 5.15, followed by tea and meeting. Names to Mr. H. N. Pitstow, Saffron, High Street, Banstead, by Monday, Feb. 21st.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Mrs. S. H. Compton, The Vicarage, Hawkhurst, by Feb. 23rd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. No other arrangements.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully paid up ringing members 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested as the number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

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