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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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.

RHYTHM.

One of the most important things relating to change ringing—perhaps at this present time the most important thing of all—is to make ringers realise the part rhythm plays in their art. Rhythm is one of those broad principles, like symmetry and balance, which lie at the base of many human activities and form in some subtle and inexplicable way the test by which they are judged. They are none the less vital because they are usually ignored or taken for granted.

It is probably no more than the bare historical fact to say that, while ringing began as an athletic sport, it was kept alive and developed by a science which is strictly mathematical, and an art which is based on rhythm. That being so, rhythm must have been one of the main things which have dominated ringers throughout the ages, though the great majority of them never so much as heard of the word. They were like the man in Moliere's play who learned with astonishment that had been talking prose all his life. The best of the old ringers did recognise rhythm when it came prominently before their attention. They talked about the bells 'settling down to a beat,' which meant something quite different from that other expression often used—'clockwork striking.' Clock-work striking, even if it is attained, is not ideal striking, and it is notorious that changes rung by a machine are lifeless, monotonous, and not worth listening to.

It is fortunate that a sense of rhythm is natural to most men. Some have it in a much more marked degree than others, but very few are wholly deficient. The problem is how best to develop and utilise this general gift. It is easiest when a man is associated with a band which has an old tradition and a high standard of good striking, but all ringers are not so fortunate. The majority never have an opportunity of hearing the very best striking, for it occurs comparatively rarely and during peal ringing. The man who has to obtain his standards of striking from experience is naturally at a loss, for he can never rise higher than his environment. What is necessary is for the man to have an ideal and a standard higher than anything he can normally hope to reach.

To do this the man should deliberately and consciously develop the sense of rhythm he possesses. He should train his ears to follow the beat of the bells in the same way a musician appreciates correct time in the perform-

(Continued on page 90.)

ance of music. And not only to follow it, but to expect it and to take notice of deficiencies. This is not a very easy thing to do. Bad striking, of course, anyone can recognise; but to appreciate the difference between fair striking and good striking, between good striking and better, and especially in what the difference lies, calls for a 1. ained ear.

The reason why we said that this matter is specially important at the present time is this. The Exercise is now receiving a new generation of ringers and, after the war, though there will be quite enough older men to preserv, general continuity, the whole body will in some respects be profoundly changed as it was after the last war. Now is a time when new ideas and new aspects of old ideas can be introduced. If it were possible to start the new-comers with a sense of the importance of rhythm the general gain would be enormous. It is not merely that the standard of striking would be raised. sense of rhythm helps the ringer in almost every branch of his art. The tenor man whose mind is dominated by the rhythm of the changes will find his actual physical exertions very much lessened. The handling of any bell is made easier and better. A sense of rhythm removes much of the difficulties of method ringing, it enormously increases the enjoyment and interest of the art, and it adds to the outside effect which should not be the least of the tims of the ringers.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

SOME WEST COUNTRY RINGS.

To the Editor.

To the Editor.

Dear Str.—I also have heard Mr. J. T. Dyke say that if Ditcheat bells were in Chewton tower they would sound the better peal. In August, 926, we were on a ringing tour in the West. One evening an argument arose, which were the better peal, Chewton or Ditcheat, and I said I thought Ditcheat wus. I was in the minority. The late Mr. Price Taylor was one of the party and said Ditcheat was the better peal in his opinion. His firm cast, tuned and hung both peals. Both are a credit to their founders in my opinion.

Re Mr. Coles' question about the eleventh at Exeter. I do not think she is the best bell for her weight ever cast. I have heard bells of sheut the same weight and note cast in recent years from

think she is the best bell for her weight ever cast. I have heard bells of sheut the same weight and note cast in recent years from Loughborough, Whitechapel and Croydon that I liked better. In rep. to Mr. Richard G. Bell's letter, I did not mention Congresbury's fine peal of eight because they do not compare with Ditcheat or Chew-on in weight. I should very much like the opinion of other ringers that know both Congresbury and Wedmore. Their weights differ. Congresbury tenor is, in my opinion, 34 to 35 cwt. Wedmore tenor is '0 cwt. 3 lb. Their note is very nearly the same, C, but the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th at Wedmore are heavier than the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th at Wedmore are heavier than the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th at Congresbury. The trebles in both cases are about the same weight. Before I could express my own opinion I should want to hear both peals again outside the tower. Both, in my opinion, are very good. What about Chew Magna? They are about the same weight as Wedmore.

Wringson.

Wrington.

A HAMPSHIRE OCTAVE.

Dear Nir,—Opinions will always differ on this subject, but it is interesting to hear what other ringers term their best peal of bells. For a reedium peal of eight I should regard Privett (Hants) as an ideal, and Sunbury-on-Thames as a good second. For peals of ten I would vote for Plymouth (St. Andrew's) and Wrington. On twelve my choice would be Exeter Cathedral.

Speaking of Privett, some years ago the Rev. F. F. Pobinson was

Speaking of Privett, some years ago the Rev. F. E. Robinson was asked which was the best peal of eight he had heard, and his reply was Privett. True this was only the opinion of one ringer, but over 30 years 1go, after having listened to many loud praises of this ring, I paid several visits to Privett in order that I could hear them both in and cut of the tower. My only regret was that such a very fine peal of bells could only be appreciated by a few people.

W. SHEPHERD.

22. Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

NORTHFIELD BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday, February 5th. 1,344 London Surprise Major: Major J. Pinfold 1, H. H. Fearn 2, D. T. Matkin 3, W. B. Cartwright (conductor) 4, W. C. Dowding 5, N. J. Goodman 6, G. E. Fearn 7, F. E. Haynes 8.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES:

Tenor 21 cwt.

*JILL POOLE	Treble	+HERBERT PERKINS	6
†JOHN R. SMITH			7
Mrs. H. J. POOLE		HAROLD J. POOLE	8
HARRY WAYNE	4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS	9
SHIRLEY BURTON	5	ARTHUR DEBENHAM	Tenor
Composed by WILLIAM	WHICON	Conducted by Hanorn	POOLE

* First peal of Stedman Caters on tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Caters. ‡ 50th peal for the association.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WHIMPLE, DEVONSHIRE THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Sal., Feb. 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES!

Tenor 12 cwt, 2 qr. 15 lb. in G.

Mrs. A. Holway ... Treble | *George Retter 4

*Miss Queenie Pring ... 2 | A. J. Brian Wayman ... 5

John Salway 3 Conducted by A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal of Grandsire and first peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY. On Fri., Feb. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Five Minutes, AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*Shella M. McKay 1-2 | John E. Spice 5-6. Betty Spice 3-4 | Alan White 7-8 Composed by H. J. HOWLETT. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE, * First attempt for a peal.

ROURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD. On Sun., Feb. 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT St. Peter's Hall,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 15 in C. MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6 MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8 Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Francis S. Wilson.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT LEYTONSTONE.

The annual meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at St. John's, Leytonstone, on February 12th, when about 40 members and friends were present from Romford. Barking, Leyton, Woodford, Wanstead, Hornchurch, West Ham and the local band.

Methods were rung ranging from Grandsire to Surprise. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. A. Stanley, who took the chair at the tea and business meeting which followed. All the officers were re-elected and were thanked for their past services. The secretary reported that four meetings had been held, 14 members had been elected and two members had died. Collections for the Bell Restoration Fund had amounted to £2 4s. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Horneburgh in April

meeting at Hornchurch in April.

The Master, Mr. J. Chalk, reported the sudden death of Mrs. Petty, of Wanstead, always a welcome visitor at district meetings, and the death of a ringing member, Mr. Peter Ockenden, of Fobbing, who met with a fatal accident returning from work.

Thanks were given to the Rev. J. A. Stanley, to the organist, Mr. Wilshire, to the ladies who served the tea, and to Mr. Dawson.

PAUL REVERE.

By Dr. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS. (Continued from page 81.)

It is a curious fact that inferior bells, when placed in a favourable environment, may emit a pleasing sound; hence some of Revere's bells, hung in a lofty belfry, upon a hill top, or on a plain surrounded by hills, have attained a fair reputation, though in reality their nominals, or tonics, may vary very widely from a true chord. As a practical ringer Revere excelled in his hangings and fittings, and his bells being therefore evenly adjusted and swinging with velocity were easily managed and their sounds fully brought out. To Revere is to be accorded the honour of introducing a new handicraft into Massachusetts, while his meritorious endeavour to excel in all branches of campanology should endear his name to the devotees of that art. After his death the business was carried on by his son, Joseph, until, in 1828, it passed to the Revere Copper Company which never undertook bell-casting.

In connection with the loss of many historic bells we must deplore the frequent manner of their destruction at the hands of a bungling sexton by clappering, or striking a heavy blow when the instrument is at rest in a fixed position, a malpractice not permitted by English

ringing guilds.

It was by such an abuse that the first Liberty bell was cracked, shortly after it had been raised to the steeple; and its successor was likewise broken by being tolled on July 8th, 1835, as a mark of respect to the memory of Chief Justice John Marshall, of Virginia, then lying dead in Philadelphia. By some American founders an especial instrument for the speedy destruction of their bells is supplied in the shape of a supplementary tolling hammer, which is quite superfluous, inasmuch as tolling is in reality easily performed by swinging the bell.

On occasions of mourning, a still more impressive effect is secured by the half-muffled peal of six, eight or ten bells, in which the clappers, reinforced on one side by a disk of leather, emit alternately a series of full and then suppressed tones. The twelve heavy bells of St. Paul's, London, were thus pealed by the 'College Youths' upon the decease of the late President

McKinley, in 1902.

Dr. Nichols concluded his article with a list of 46 bells, which he said 'is believed to include every bell inscribed with the name of Paul Revere as founder.' In 1911 he published a book of 40 pages dealing with the 'Bells of Paul and Joseph W. Revere,' from which the following is extracted.

In the 'Boston Gazette' of March 12th, 1770, ap-

peared the following advertisement-A Bell Foundry lately erected by Aaron Hobart, of Abington (by an air furnace), where bells are cast of any size suitable for Churches. Enquire of Joseph Webb, of Boston, or the said Hobart.

Additional information relative to the establishment of this foundry, probably the first of its kind in America, is contained in Hobart's 'History of Abington, Mass., wherein it is stated that in 1761 a deserter from the British army, Gillmore, at one time a workman in an English foundry, was employed by Col. Aaron Hobart and retained in service for many years. Besides casting two bells for the First Religious Society, in use till about 1850, he sold others to adjoining and remote towns and some to go out of the State.

It was this enterprise of Col. Hobart which later led Paul Revere to add bell casting to his versatile work; for when the former gave up business he sent onc of his sons with a blacksmith to Boston and taught Revere to mould and cast the first bell which he ever made. Prior to 1770 a few bells had been cast in the Colonies, notably the first Liberty bell made in Philadelphia in 1753 by Pass and Snow; and that of the First Baptist Church, Providence, recast in 1787 at the Hope Furnace by Jesse As a rule, however, all bells had been Goodyear. ordered up to this time from the Whitechapel Foundry, London, or from Rudhall in Gloucester.

This first bell was cast at the foundry in Boston, where, for four years, Revere had been making brass cannon, bolts, spikes, and other composition work. It proved to be a rough unhomogeneous casting, and its sound was correspondingly harsh, panny, and unmusical. Hung in the belfry of the New Brick Church, its shrill tone and convenient location rendered it, however, us ful in sounding fire alarms, but its carrying power was ar less than that of the Old South and King's Chapel; hence its more powerful neighbour of the New North was rung at morning, noon, and night as long as that custom was kept up. The steeple, rebuilt in 1844, was blown over in the gale of 1869, and the bell was then placed in storage till 1901, when it was sold to St. James' Church, Cambridge, where it is still doing active

Revere learned, as the result of his first experience in this new craft, that the art of bell founding is intricate, subtle, and of infinite difficulty. Every minute detail in the construction of a bell is important; and it is only by long experience that mastery of these details is acquired; while certain processes essential for the production of a harmonious instrument, discovered either accidentally or by empirical methods, have been preserved by certain founders as secrets. Thus it will be seen that the qualifications for this art are manifold, involving the knowledge of the construction of a core and cope to form the mould, which must be accurate in its contour and varying thicknesses, while large and small bells require different shapes.

Another element is the selection of the copper and tin to form the amalgam; for the metals of different mines differ as to their sonorous properties as well as in brittleness. Then there is the matter of fusing the amalgam, the selection of fuel (wood, charcoal, coke or coal) used to heat the furnace; the length of time in which the amalgam is kept within the furnace and the rapidity of running the metal; for failure in any one of these things may result in miscarriage. Finally, the delicate adjustment of the bell upon bearings in the cage or frame demands a skilled hand and practical knowledge of ringing, for very little friction may render the bell virtually unringable.

(To be continued.)

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT CROFTON.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Crofton on February 12th, at which the following towers were represented: Arksey, Batley, Bushey, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Liversedge, Sandal, Shelley, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sprotborough, Sutton, near Mansfield, Oesett and the local belfry.

The vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, took the chair at the business meeting, at which Darfield was selected as the place of the March meeting. The methods rung during the afternoon ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

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.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It seems most unfortunate that the Standing Committee of the Central Council should have fixed on Whit Monday for a meeting of the Council. For very many years several of the largest associations have held their annual general meetings on this day. As a consequence of the action taken by the Standing Committee rival loyalties will pull representatives in opposing directions.

Opinions as to the relative importance of these engagements will differ, but in my view at any rate, while we should all recognise gratefully the inestimable services rendered to the Exercise by the Central Council, the annual general meeting of the home association should have first call on its members.

Up to the present the Council itself has accepted this attitude by

Up to the present the Council itself has accepted this attitude by scrupulously abstaining from holding its meeting on a day earmarked for meetings of any of its constituent bodies. Granted that these are difficult days in which to get together bodies of representative men and women, is it too much to ask the Standing Committee to think again? E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I noted with interest the query as to the greatest distances at which any of our bells have been heard.

A great deal depends on the local atmospheric conditions at the time. In hot weather the temperature is greater near the ground than higher up, and as the velocity of sound increases with temperature, the sound waves 'curl' away from the ground. In cold weather, especially when snow is on the ground, the temperature of the atmosphere is greater higher up, and so the waves tend to curl down and travel over greater distances on the earth's surface.

Wind has a similar effect. The velocity of the wind increases with height, so with a following wind the waves travel along the surface while in a head wind they rise from the ground.

Thus the ideal conditions for bells to be heard over great distances are to be found when listening in cold weather when the wind is blowing from the direction of the tower.

I once heard quite distinctly the bells of Arlecdon, Cumberland (tenor 14½ cwt.), from a distance of four miles on a warm summer evening. I was, however, on a hill top some 1,200ft. higher than the church.

(tenor 145 cwt.), from a distance of root and the church.

I have also been told that, under suitable conditions, the bells of Bridekirk. eleven miles away, can be heard from the top of Arlecdon tower. While I have not had this experience myself, I have often heard distinctly a pit winding engine seven miles away, and air raid sirens from a town ten miles away.

Hulme Hall, Victoria Park, Manchester.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I would be glad if you could find space in your valuable paper for me to say how very much I have enjoyed reading every one of the series of articles entitled 'The handling of a bell,' I don't know who is the author, and now that they have come to a conclusion I would gratefully like to say, 'Thank you.'

Milton, Staffs.

JOHN E. WHEELDON.

HANDLING A BELL.

THE MECHANICS OF RAISING. To the Editor.

Dear Sir,-Is your contributor right in your issue of February 11th in his advice on raising a heavy bell? In particular as to the length of pull? It is true we are told that within limits a long pull is good, but we are given to understand that a heavy pull at some particular point is better.

point is better.

Consideration of the mechanics of the subject would seem to indicate that the length of pull is, in fact, the determining factor.

It can hardly be correct to say that gravity comes strongly into action at some particular point of the swing. So far as the ringer is concerned all that gravity does is to set him the simple task of lifting the weight of the bell through a height corresponding to the vertical distance between the centre of gravity when down and up. The momentum resulting from gravity and acceleration on the downward swing being expended on the upward swing. Whatever may be the effect of these heavy forces on the frame and tower, they only affect the ringer indirectly by their influence on bearing friction.

He performs his lask by a number of pulls just as the hellbanger.

He performs his task by a number of pulls just as the bellhanger did if he lifted the bell into the frame with a pulley-block, and the length of pull in relation to the height gained gives him the same mechanical advantage as the pulley-block, and is the velocity ratio. No one will dispute that the farther the hand chain of the pulley-block travels the higher the load will go. The same applies to the bell and ringer if he takes full advantage of the length of swing. Accuracy of timing is essential to obtain the longest possible length of pull within the swing of the bell by starting at the earliest presof pull within the swing of the bell by starting at the earliest practicable moment, and although it might be argued that acceleration due to gravity will prevent him maintaining the initial weight of pull throughout its length, in practice the speed reached is moderate within the span of a man's reach.

The explanation of the heavy work half-way up is that while in the case of the pulley-block the velocity ratio is constant, it is not in the case of the bell, which rises on a radius struck from the gudgeon instead of up a straight line. In consequence, it varies from a maximum at the bottom and top dead centres to a minimum at the horizontal dead centres, and one of two things must result. If the rate of rise is constant, the ringer's effort must rise to a maximum half-way up: if the effort is constant the rate of rise must slow to a minimum half-way up.

A. W. DAVIS.

Hereford.

[We thank Mr. Davis for his criticism, but we would point out that our articles were written on the basis of over fifty years' close observation and practical experience of hells of all weights and conditions of hanging. We deliberately ignored any considerations of theoretic mechanics. Our point is that it is more important for the ringer to pay attention to correct timing than to length of pull, or even to strength of pull, although, of course, they are important too. We are quite sure that it is a sound one.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

ONE OR TWO POINTS.

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of the recent articles on 'Handling a Bell'? Used rightly they were invaluable. I think ringing instructors realised that there are sometimes two or three reasonably different ways of teaching the smaller points and that these articles did not lay down hard and fast rules.

Every recruit requires individual attention, and if the instructor can remember his own learning days he has a great advantage and can often visualise just what is going on in his pupil's mind. I must

can often visualise just what is going on in his pupil's mind. I must say I did not agree with the statement that a broken stay was as much a disgrace to the instructor as to the learner. The learner has to be left on his own some time and the first time in 'open' rounds finds him in a state of nervous tension. After all, the best of us sometimes miss the sally. Within the past few months I have taught some fifteen or sixteen young people to handle a bell and have found

some fifteen or sixteen young people to handle a bell and have found it advantageous to impress one or two points upon them.

First of all, let each recruit see a bell and thoroughly understand what he is trying to do, teach him that the stay is a sort of safety valve, to break it is undesirable and, once mastery of the bell is obtained, something of a disgrace, but do not frighten him with stories of the dreadful consequences. School him into obeying your commands at once and you will be able to protect him from accident. Secondly, he should be taught to be grateful not only to his personal instructor, but to all the ringers who accommodate him during his first rounds and touches.

first rounds and touches.

Thirdly, I find it a great help to have handbell instruction going as well, both double handed and single handed. It gives the learner a sense of rhythm, teaches the method, and, what is more important,

gives him a chance of hearing first-class striking.

Finally, he should be given to understand that he is learning church Finally, he should be given to understand that he is learning church bellringing and that service ringing comes first. After all, the existence of our guilds and associations, of our weekly paper, the holding of our ringing meetings and practices, the ringing of peels, etc., are only justified if the aim of them all is to improve and maintain the ringing of the church bells for service.

ARTHUR V DAVIS.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS. (Continued from page 85.)

The great church of Holy Trinity, Hull, Yorks, is a cruciform building dating from the 13th century with a central tower 150 feet high. This tower is of two stages above the church roof, the lower of these being very plain with windows whose arches are peculiarly flat. The windows of the top stage are paired, tall and transomed, and have good tracery. Their ogee weather mouldings extend through the parapet and terminate in finials just above it. The buttresses are rectangular below, and in the top stage become solid corners or clasping buttresses: they are continued as rectangular The north-west buttress is replaced by a pinnacles. newel staircase, topped with a pinnacle. A broad pilaster bisects each face and ends in a small median pinnacle. The parapet is an arcade with crockets and finials, and is rather light and slender for such a tower.

Here is a ring of ten bells by J. Taylor and Co., dated 1899, with a tenor 25 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. It was here (and around the district) that the late Charles Jackson called a large number of peals of Grandsire Triples,

about 1884,

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, consists of a long aisleless apsidal choir, transepts, nave with aisles, south porch and central tower of two stages, panelled on three sides. The tower is rich in detail, but formal in outline, its corners being rigid, straight lines, hardly interrupted by a few grotesque animals at the string courses. The buttresses are of little projection, and of the same size from base to summit, where they join the large but simple pinnacles. The surface of the tower, except the north side, is covered with carving in the form of arcades. The top windows are paired; beneath them on the west side is a niche containing a statue of the foundress, the Lady Wulfrun.

The tower is a worthy adjunct of a very fine church, and it is to be regretted that the ravages of weather and factory smoke have seriously affected its details. It is 117 feet high to the parapet. It contains a ring of twelve bells. Originally eight by Rudhall, 1698, they were increased to ten by Mears in 1827. Messrs. Barwell, of Birmingham, rehung these in 1889, and there was also a clock bell of 36 cwt. by Bagley, 1740, and a Sanctus dated 1637. In 1911 Gillett and Johnston recast the old ten and added two trebles, the weight of the whole ring being 132 cwt. 2 qr. 8 lb., the tenor 33 cwt. 21 lb. They hang in a massive H frame, and are tuned on the Simpson principle.

Many peals in various methods have been rung here by local and visiting ringers, especially from the nearby St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham. The earliest record is of 5,088 Bob Major by the Albion Society of Shifnal, August 19th, 1786, composed and conducted by Samuel Lawrence. On April 21st, 1794, the Aston ringers rang

6,080 'Grandsire'8 in' in 4 hours 2 minutes.

The church of the Holy Angels at Hoar Cross, Staffs, is among the most remarkable of modern English country churches. It lies deep in the quiet of the Midlands, twelve miles from Lichfield, surrounded by the undulated woodlands which slope gently from the ridge on which the church stands. Nearby is Hoar Cross Hall, where lived the Hon. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram, foundress of the church, and sister of Lord Halifax. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram lost her husband in early life, and the church of the Holy Angels was founded in his memory.

From the first the foundress resolved that no cost or care should be spared to make the church perfect in every detail. No great population lives around it, and it was to serve only the little village which nestles at the foot of the hill. The design of the church was entrusted to Mr. Bodley, and he had an opportunity such as every artist must desire. No consideration of cost was to be allowed to influence his design, and he chose to work in a type of Late Decorated. The church is cruciform, with a tower at the transept crossing; there are aisles in the nave, and chapels are grouped round the chancel. The exterior of the church is plain almost It is relieved by the strong vertical lines and shadows of the buttresses. With the exception of the fine tracery of the windows and a few canopied niches, there is little external ornament. Rising in almost austere dignity from the wooded well-kept churchvard, it certainly does not prepare one for the extraordinary richness of the interior. It is as one stands beneath the tower at the transept crossing that the wonderful beauty of the church is most apparent. The decoration is not overdone. There is a foil for carving and gold and colour in the wall built of warm standstone of the district; in the quiet dull green of the stained oak seats; in the chequered pavement of black and white marble. Hoar Cross Church is one of the loveliest that the nineteenth century produced in England.

The tower contains the third heaviest ring of six bells in England, the tenor being 29 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. nett, and they bear appropriately the names of the Holy Angels - Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Anael, Orifel, The writer visited this church on May 26th, 1934, and conducted the second peal of 5,040 Minor to be rung here. Owing to a large clock case occupying a good portion of the corner between the 5th and tenor bells, the sight' was not good. The 5th rope came down close to the wall, so as I am blind in my sight eye, I took this and was not unduly embarrassed. Yet I never saw the tenor man all through the peal-Mr. J. T. Dyke-he was behind my back around the corner of the clock case, but I knew where his bell should strike, and it was there every time. At that time the bells went very badly, and owing to their heavy weight it was a difficult task to 'stick it' to the end. Since that time Messrs. I. Taylor and Co. have rehung the bells on ball bearings, the 'go' is much better, and a peal has been rung

in several Minor methods.

(To be continued.)

G. & F. COPE & CO. NOTTINGHAM

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

Sixty members and guests were present at the annual luncheon of the Oxford University Society, held at Oxford on February 19th. The president, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, occupied the chair, and among old members were the Mayor of Oxford, Mr. Ingle, Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. H. Miles (vice-president), the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, and Messrs. Ritchie, Moreton, Gibbons and Leese. Guests included the Rev. R. Routh, the Rev. E. S. Powell and Mrs. Powell, the Rev. M. Meiville, Major J. H. Freeborn, Mr. F. Haynes and Mr. J. A. Trollope. Four of the Oxford clergy were present—the Revs. — Milford (vice-president), R. R. Martin, J. Carpenter and — Boultbee. The Oxford Society was represented by Miss M. Cross and Messrs. Judge, Bennet and Wilkins. Miss D. Richardson and Mr. V. J. Beuning were therefrom the London University, and Miss M. Richardson and five others from Bristol University.

from the London Onversity, and Miss M. Relateds and the from Bristol University.

After the toast of 'The King,' a double course of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major was rung on handbells by Miss M. Telford 1-2, Miss B. Spice 3-4, Mr. J. E. Spice 5-6, and Miss M. Tutt 7-8. The same band, with the addition of Miss J. Houldsworth 9-10, and Miss M. Lloyd, rang a bobbed course of Stedman Cinner.

man Cinques.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, gave the toast of 'The Oxford University Society.' He gave a resume of its history, comparing it with that of the Cambridge University Guild. Considerable progress had been made in handbell ringing during the ban. After it was lifted the society had had to reorganise its activities, and during the summer and Michaelmas term great strides were made in tower bell ringing Help had been given to the City bands for Sunday ringing. In conclusion, Mr. Spice made, on behalf of the society, a presentation to Mr. W. L. B. Leese, who for five years had been a keen member and after qualifying as a doctor, had now left Oxford.

Canon G. F. Coleridge replied to the toast. After urging everyone to take 'The Ringing World' regularly, he spoke about the society as he knew it in its early days. He came to Oxford in 1876, having learnt to ring among the Devon round ringers, who taught him what good striking was. Good striking is the foundation of all good ringing.

Major J. H. Freeborn proposed the toast of 'The City Clergy.' He spoke of the gratitude felt by ringers to the many non-ringing clergy, who took a keen interest in the bells of their churches and were always delighted to allow ringers to use them. He pointed out that it was rather shameful that the University Church in Cambridge had a real of two ways. He suggested to Mr. Milford, Vicar of

should have only six bells, whereas the University Church in Cambridge had a peal of twelve. He suggested to Mr. Milford, Vicar of St. Mary's, that the bells might be increased to ten as a useful and fitting war memorial

The Rev. R. R. Martin, Vicar of All Saints', replied. He said he was most interested in ringing, and had learnt a lot more about it by attending the lunch. Before he had thought all ringers were old men. He was delighted always to welcome the society to his church, and hoped they would hold a service there whenever they wanted.

Mr. A. Burgess proposed the ladies, without whom, he said, there would be no change ringing.

Mr. A. Burgess proposed the ladies, without whom, he said, there would be no change ringing.

Miss Telford, replying, said she was very glad to hear so many nice things said about the fair sex. She paid tribute to the Master for his patience, perseverance and zeal, without which the society would be very badly off.

The Chairman proposed the toast of 'The Ringing World,' and

Mr. J. A. Trollope replied.

Before the lunch a service was held in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar and the Rev. C. E. Wigg. The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards

preached the sermon.

Afterwards there was ringing at Magdalen College, where the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Cambridge Roval: and at Christ Church, where Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and Kent Treble Bob Maximus were rung.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT DUSTON

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Duston on February 19th with a good attendance. Service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Butcher, who afterwards entertained the ringers with refreshments at the Vicarage. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, ave new members were elected. A vote of thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. Butcher and the ladies who assisted with the tea was proposed by the Rev W. R. M. Chaplin. Ringing was enjoyed before the service and after the business meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESCOT

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Prescot on February 12th, at which members were present from St. Nicholas', Liverpool, St. Thomas', St. Helens, Huyton, Childwall, West Derby, Halewood, Woolton and the local beliry, as well as the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. J. A. Briggs.

Tea was provided by the Vicar and churchwardens, one of whom was present. A collection for the purchase of Ringers' Service Manuals realised 10s. St. Helen's Parish Church was selected as the place of the next meeting, and the election of Mr. E. J. Gilbert was ratified.

It was decided to send a letter to the Bishop of Liverpool regretting his retirement and expressing a hope he may have many years to enjoy it. A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens was passed.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

NORTHMORE, OXON.—On Saturday, February 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: C. Calcutt (conductor) 1, C. Bousher 2, A. Cornish 3, T. W. Bond 4, H. Farmer 5, P. Trinder 6.

CHORLEY, LANCS.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,260 Boh Minor: T. Loftbhouse 1, H. Southworth 2, T. Lucas 3, J. H. Gartside 4, F. Rigby (conductor) 5, F. G. Bradley 6.

HALFSOWEN.—On Sunday, February 13th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. H. Harris 1, *G. Detheridge, jun. 2, *Q. Timmins 3, E. Homer 4, A. B. N. Saunders 5, *H. Dowell 6, T. Greenhall (conductor) 7, *R. Ingram 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as a compliment to P.C. C. Webb, who was invested with the King's Medal at Buckingham Palace during the week and as a welcome home to Steller I. Ingram after the content of the content o week, and as a welcome home to Stoker J. Ingram after three years on active service.

TEWKESBURY.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,332 Grandsire Caters: L. Jones 1, Sergt. E. Aston 2, W. Townsend 3, J. Auslin 4, W. Yeend 5, W. Dyer (conductor) 6, F. Price 7, A. Read 8, G. Smith 9, A. Handoll 10. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Tom Devereaux, an old

CONISBOROUGH, YORKS.—On February 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: P. Gledstone 1, E. C. Stacey 2, S. Harrison 3, E. Dalingwater 4, H. Wagstaffe 5, J. McCluskey 6, C. Urch (conductor) 7, W. Lewis 8.

4, H. Wagstaffe 5, J. McCluskey 6, C. Urch (conductor) 7, W. Lewis 8. WILLESDEN. — On Sunday, February 13th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Lankester 1, Mrs. E. Lankester 2, H. Collier (first in the method) 3, G. Kilby (conductor) 4, R. Kersey 5, H. Kilby 6.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Frederick Springham 1, Walter Prior 2, Ralph Wood 3, Ernest Garbett 4, Herbert Bull 5, Harry M. White 6, Frederick Bird (conductor) 7, Thomas Ward 8. Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mrs. Prior, wife of Mr. William T. Prior, a member of the local band, OLDHAM.—At Moorside Church, on February 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lawton 1, J. Ogden 2, C. B. Taylor 3, I. Garside 4, J. Brooks 5, C. Haynes 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, J. W. Truelove 8.

BISHOP'S CANNINGS, WILTS.—On February 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Thomas Merritt 1, William Mortimer 2, George Winter 3, William Hacker 4, Fred Hale 5, Fred Wilshire 6, Sidney Grand (conductor) 7, George Oram 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mr.

sire Triples: Thomas Merritt 1, William Mortimer' 2, George Winter 3, William Hacker 4, Fred Hale 5, Fred Wilshire 6, Sidney Grant (conductor) 7, George Oram 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mr. Ernest A. Stevens, for over 30 years a ringer at Bishop's Cannings. He was buried at the above church the same day.

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On Friday, February 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: A. Cornish 1, J. Gardner 2, T. W. Bond 3, C. Calcutt (conductor) 4, C. Bennett 5, H. Caves 6.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On February 19th, at St. Illtyd's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Petty 1, G. I. Lewis 2, Cpl. W. Farrimond, R.E.M.E. 3, E. T. Bailey 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. J. Pilman 6, E. Stitch 7, D. Hughes 8.

WALSALL, STAFFS.—On Sunday, February 20th, at St. Matthew's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. T. Higgins 1, G. W. Hughes (first quarter-peal of Triples) 2, E. T. Smith 3, 'A. T. Dutton 4, W. R. Hughes 5, A. Adams 6 J. S. Eastwood (conductor) 7, W. A. Walker 8.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—On Sunday, February 20th, 720 Bob Minor: Roy Garth (first 720) 1, R. Birch 2, F. Cardwell 3, H. Wilson 4, W. Taylor 5, J. Brothwell (conductor) 6.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKS.—On Sunday, February 20th, for evensong, 720 Bob Minor: F. Townsend 1, H. Jones 2, H. Stopps 3, A. E. Nichols 4, H. G, Keeley 5, F. Vickers (conductor) 6.

DARLEY DALE.—On February 4th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: O.S. D. Scott, R.N.V.R. 1, R. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, H. W. Gregory 4, G. H. Paulson 5, V. Bottomley 6, H. E. Taylor (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — Annual meeting, Burgess Hill, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.-Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.— Meeting at Danbury on March 4th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. -H. W. Shadrack, Hon.

Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

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.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.—H. G.

Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. -Meeting at Draycott (8 bells), Saturday, March 4th.

Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS .-Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 11th, 3 p.m. Ringing at 't. Botolph's, Bishopsgate,—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at

Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Number for tea by Tuesday, 7th.—N. G. Williams, Hon.

Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.
SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District. — Meeting at Absley End, Saturday, March 11th. Usual arrangements. Tea arranged for those who notify by March 8th.-W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch.-Meeting at Hardwick, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Meeting to follow.—E. F. Gib-

bard, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Ranmoor, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (10) 2.30. Names for tea to E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Sheffield 11, by March 9th. Will all towers endeavour to be represented at committee meeting before tea?—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. -Meeting at St. Helens Parish Church (10), Saturday, March 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Notify Mr. A. Wallace, 6, Brookside Avenue, Eccleston, St. Helens, for tea before March 8th.-G. H. Newton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 11th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.-J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.-C. J. Ball, 25, Temps-

ford Road, Sandy

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD and KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Tonbridge District). — Meeting at Edenbridge, March 11th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. C. Leigh, Holmesdale, Edenbridge.—T. Saunders and C. A. Bassett, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilsborough Branch.-Meeting at Long Buckby, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Tea provided. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

ASSOCIATION. ELY DIOCESAN Branch.—Meeting at Outwell and Upwell on Saturday, March 11th. Upwell bells 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.-W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. -Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Three Gables, 5 p.m. Send names. - W. C. West, Branch Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.-Meeting at Stanton, near Coleford, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting, 5 p.m. Names by March 8th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION .-- Northern District.—Meeting at Royston, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea arrangements if possible.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. -Swindon Branch. — Meeting at Rodbourne Cheney on Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Frequent buses from Swindon.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Darfield, Saturday, March 11th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Reading Room. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street,

Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Names by March 15th. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.— Names by H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road,

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. - Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. mittee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names by 14th to T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Annual meeting, Pulborough, Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Church Room. Names appreciated.—L. Stilwell, Act-

ing Sec., Pulborough.

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