



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,723. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MARCH 31st, 1944.

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

Price 3d.

**GILLETT
&
JOHNSTON L^{td}.
CROYDON**

Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
Cast in England
and Carillons of the
BRITISH EMPIRE

in

**CANADA
S. AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND**



Telephone

Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

'SEEING.'

This week a correspondent asks us if we can give some advice on 'seeing' in change ringing, that is on ropesight. It is a difficult question to answer, for the art of change ringing consists very largely in the ability to find a way among the ropes, and sight is the faculty most used in so doing. We should have to attempt to give an explanation of change ringing itself, and that is not a task to be undertaken lightly. There may be, however, one or two points connected with the subject which are worth mentioning.

Complete ropesight, like most other similar things, is very largely a matter of practice. Most ringers have gained the efficiency they possess by experience, and no advice can take the place of experience. The style and quality of the experience count for much. The man who has the opportunity of practising with a skilled and efficient band has advantages which are denied to the man who has to gain his experience among ringers little better than himself. And very much depends on the man's own aptitude.

But when we have made the fullest allowance for these things it still remains true that many men do not become so proficient in change ringing as they might because, in the first place, they were not taught in the right way and did not approach the matter from the right angle. To many ringers ropesight consists entirely in being able to pick out the correct rope to follow, and hearing with them is concerned only so far as their own bell strikes clear of the one before it. This view of ropesight finds an expression in the familiar rules that in hunting up you follow the bell which first followed you and in hunting down you follow your course bell with the interval of one other bell. These rules are well enough in their way, but they are not good enough for a competent ringer. The man who really has ropesight is the man who can see not only the rope he is actually following, but all the ropes; just as the man who correctly uses his ears can hear all the bells and not merely his own.

By seeing all the ropes is not meant that the man pays equal attention to all of them. He picks and chooses among them accordingly as he has need. It may be the bell he is striking over, or the bell he is about to strike over, or the bell which closes the particular change. If he is the conductor it may be bells with which he is at the moment not working with at all.

(Continued on page 130.)

How, then, can a man acquire this faculty of seeing the ropes as a whole? We firmly believe that by far the best way is to begin on the smallest possible number of bells, and to attempt nothing, not even rounds, on a larger number until reasonable proficiency is attained on the smaller. We would not despise three bell ringing for this purpose if it is practicable (which usually it is not). Five are enough for anyone to learn on. The beginner has then a chance both to see and to hear the bells as a whole. That obviously must be so, because both eyes and ears have the least to engage their attention. They can so much more quickly obtain the mastery, and the finer points of striking, ropesight, and bell handling are so much more obvious.

With a good instructor and a good band to help him, a beginner can comparatively quickly become reasonably proficient on five bells, and once he has reached that stage he need not fear the higher numbers.

Instructors and ringers generally should realise that the question of making good ringers is not a matter of teaching them to ring a particular method such as Grand-sire Triples, so much as training them to use their faculties, eyes and ears, in the right way; and to do that the simplest and easiest means should be used. To try to teach beginners even rounds on so many as eight bells is needlessly to put obstacles in their way and to hamper their development and ultimate success. *Ex-perto crede.*

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A gentleman now residing in this neighbourhood is a native of Wolferton, Norfolk, and, although not a ringer, is fond of listening to bells.

He says that at Wolferton on a very still evening it is quite a common occurrence to hear the bells of Boston Stump, which is directly across the Wash, a distance of approximately 30 miles. I should think this a record. Can any of our ringing friends of that quarter vouch for this? T. HOYLE.

The Angles, Ashtead, Surrey.

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In some instances I believe it is the practice of certain bands to have a short period of prayer together before commencing to ring. If this is so, there seems to me to be every reason to commend it as a most fitting thing to do.

So often, on the one hand, the ringers complain that they 'never see the parson,' and on the other the parson bemoans the fact that he never sees the ringers, who retire at one door while he comes in at another. Would not an invitation from the Ringing Master to their parson asking him to come to the belfry, whenever he had the time before the ringing commenced, to lead them in a short prayer, be a means to closer fellowship?

Such a gesture from the ringers themselves would go a long way to bridge such a gap, wherever it exists, and at the same time bring the ringing bands into line with other parochial organisations, which normally both begin and end their activities with prayer.

A. C. F. DAVIES.

Minor Canon and Warden of the Cathedral Guild,
15, College Green, Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HASTINGS.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex Guild was held at Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, at which 17 members attended.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. J. Morgan, who afterwards presided at the tea (provided by Mrs. Morgan and members of the Mothers' Union) and the business. Nine members were elected, including the Rev. F. Bolsover, of Bexhill, and Mr. F. Philpot, of St. Leonard's. A letter was read from Mr. C. A. Levett, who said that as he had been away from the district for three years and saw no prospect of returning, he wished to resign the office of hon. secretary. Mr. J. Downing was appointed in his stead. Mr. W. Booth was re-elected to the committee, and Mr. W. H. Joiner, of Hastings, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. A. R. Miles. Reference was made to the death of Mr. S. H. Smith, of St. Leonard's. The next meeting will be at Battle in May.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF ERIN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| *J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE <i>Treble</i> | *EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6 |
| *†CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 2 | *ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7 |
| *FRANCIS KIRK ... 3 | *†FREDERICK E. COLLINS 8 |
| *J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 4 | *HAROLD G. CASHMORE 9 |
| CHARLES T. COLES ... 5 | *CHARLES POTHECARY ... <i>Tenor</i> |

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

* First peal in the method. † 100th peal together. First peal in the method on the bells and by the association.

KINGS NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ARTHUR S. DOWNES ... <i>Treble</i> | JAMES F. HARVEY ... 6 |
| ERNEST T. ALLAWAY ... 2 | WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 7 |
| DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3 | HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 8 |
| JOHN PINFOLD ... 4 | FRANK E. HAYNES ... 9 |
| WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 5 | WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by WM. B. CARTWRIGHT.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BRIDPORT.

A meeting of the West Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Bridport on March 18th was attended by 24 members from Beaminster, Bridport, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock, Lyme Regis and Abbotsbury. They included many young recruits, who had their first experience of ringing away from their own tower and acquitted themselves creditably. The methods rung were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

The Rev. Canon L. Bartlett conducted the Guild Office and spoke a few words of welcome and encouragement. Mr. B. Elsworth acted as organist.

Tea was arranged at the British Restaurant by Mr. W. S. B. Northover.

The Rev. C. Carew Cox, Master of the Guild and branch chairman, presided at the business meeting at the Friends' Meeting House. He referred to the loss the Guild, particularly the Dorchester Branch, had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Henry Jennings, and paid a tribute to Mr. Jennings' keenness, enthusiasm and inspiring leadership. Ringing had been the joy of his life from the age of 15 when he learnt to handle a bell in Bridport tower. He had ever a warm corner in his heart for West Dorset and was a frequent and welcome visitor to the meetings of that branch. His latter efforts when ill-health prevented active ringing had been to further the scheme for the restoration of Wyke Regis bells.

Mr. Hayne, of Abbotsbury, also spoke in appreciation of Mr. Jennings' work and mentioned that of the £200 required for the rehanging of Wyke Regis bells, £169 was already in hand. He thought the restoration would be a fitting memorial to Mr. Jennings' life interest in ringing.

The Chairman also reported the death of James Norris, who had been associated with the branch for many years and was the leader of the Symondsbury band. He was a good fellow and ever popular in his place in the belfry for Sunday service ringing.

In the place of Canon Hutchings, a welcome was accorded to the Rev. A. W. Wheeler, Vicar of Beaminster, who had expressed the wish to become an honorary member of the Guild.

Ten new members were elected, one each from Netherbury, Evershot, Broad Windsor and Portishead, and six from Lyme Regis.

The officers of the branch were re-elected, and the balance sheet, showing a credit of £9 12s., was received.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Canon Bartlett, to the members who had made the arrangements for the tea and business meeting, and to Mr. C. H. Lathey, the hon. secretary.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE E. PLATT.

The death is announced of Mr. George Edward Platt, of Leek, who passed away on February 23rd. at the age of 65. He had been a member of the local band for 33 years.

After the interment handbells were rung over the open grave and the tower bells were rung half-muffled.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RONALD BIRCH Treble | JOSEPH SAXTON 5 |
| G. GORDON GRAHAM 2 | FREDERICK CARDWELL 6 |
| WALTER ALLWOOD 3 | A. BENJAMIN COOPER 7 |
| MRS. J. E. TURLEY 4 | JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor |

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.
Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Heneage Ferraby.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, CAMBRIDGE, SUPERLATIVE AND BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| JOHN E. ROOTES Treble | FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 5 |
| MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 2 | FRANCIS KIRK 6 |
| GEORGE M. KILBY 3 | EDWIN JENNINGS 7 |
| *JOHN E. SPICE 4 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor |

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.
* First peal of Spliced Surprise. The peal consisted of 2,880 London, 800 Bristol, 736 Superlative and 704 Cambridge, with 120 changes of method.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WOOLTON,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| THOMAS LEE Treble | GEORGE R. NEWTON 5 |
| ARTHUR LINTOTT 2 | WILLIAM ROBINSON 6 |
| HARRY GRACE 3 | THOMAS W. HESKETH 7 |
| *FREDERICK S. ALMOND 4 | WILLIAM EDGE Tenor |

Conducted by THOMAS W. HESKETH.
* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung half-muffled to the memory of the late Rev. F. B. Hadow, who was for 19 years Rector of this parish.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E flat.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| W. E. MAULDEN Treble | WILLIAM J. GROOM 5 |
| *LESLIE G. BRETT 2 | SERGT. J. O. WELLER 6 |
| GEORGE A. FLEMING 3 | THOMAS W. LAST 7 |
| LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 4 | CECIL W. PIPE Tenor |

Composed by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by WM. J. GROOM.
* 250th peal.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| JOHN G. CARTLEDGE Treble | ARTHUR W. HALL 5 |
| REV. HUGH BENSON 2 | R.S.M. ALB. FORD, I.C. 6 |
| WM. P. DEAVE 3 | ANDREW THOMPSON 7 |
| EDWARD STEELE 4 | ROBT. S. ANDERSON Tenor |

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ROBT. S. ANDERSON.
First peal as conductor.

THORRINGTON, ESSEX.—On March 11th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Kenneth Mitchell 1, Alan R. Andrews 2, Charles A. Andrews 3, Miss Barbara Hill (first 720) 4, George A. Andrews 5, Leslie Wright (conductor) 6.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAYES, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT BOURNE CHASE, THE KNOLL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

Tenor size 11 in G.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| *HILDA OAKSHETT 1-2 | *VERNON J. BENNING 5-6 |
| GEORGE R. H. SMITH 3-4 | *PERCY J. SPICE 7-8 |

Composed by E. MAURICE ATKINS. Conducted by G. R. H. SMITH.
* First eight-bell peal in hand.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 19, 1944, in Two Hours,
AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2 | HEROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6 |
| *JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7-8 |

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.
* First peal of Surprise on handbells. First peal of Surprise on handbells as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Mar. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

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

JOHN THOMAS 9-10
Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Mar. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,
IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ALFRED BALLARD 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6 |
| HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS 7-8 |

JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10
Composed by FRED H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

LONDON.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Mar. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT ST. CLEMENT DANE'S PARISH HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| IVOR C. N. BELL 1-2 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 5-6 |
| DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3-4 | VERNON J. BENNING 7-8 |

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.
* 75th peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

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

*DENNIS H. LANGDON 9-10
Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by J. THOMAS.
* First peal of Stedman.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in One Hour and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 15 in G.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MISS JESSIE C. CHICK 1-2 | MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4 |
| FRANCIS S. WILSON 5-6 | |

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

CHURCH BELLS & THE REFORMATION

It has often been said that at the time of the Reformation there was great destruction of bells, some writers going so far as to say that in whole districts—Oxfordshire, for instance, and Devon and Cornwall—the churches were stripped, only one bell, and that the smallest, being left to call the people to prayers.

When we examine the available evidence however, we shall come to the conclusion that such destruction as there was, has, at any rate so far as the parish church bells are concerned, been greatly exaggerated. There are numerous references in old books to the pulling down and sale of bells, but the writers, as a rule, repeat general rumours and do not give specific instances or relate what they themselves personally know to be true. There is a passage in Sir Henry Spelman's 'History and Fate of Sacrilege,' written in 1632, which is typical—'When I was a child I heard much talk of the pulling down of bells in every part of my county [Norfolk]. I I dare not venture upon particulars, for that, I then, hearing them as a child, regarded them as a child.'

What, however, is certain, is that the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth and the suppression of chantries, colleges and hospitals in the reign of Edward the Sixth did cause the destruction of many bells, which, though not hung in the steeples of parish churches, were yet devoted to the service of the Church and of religion.

The lesser monasteries were dissolved in 1536, the greater in 1539, and all the lands, buildings, plate and fittings, were confiscated to the Crown. The lands and buildings were, in most cases, granted to laymen in return for the payment of money, but the plate and jewels went to the royal treasury. The lands were the most valuable part of the monastic property, but the material of the buildings, stone, wood and metal was also of immense value, though necessarily it took a long time to realise. The lead and bell metal were in most cases reserved to the Crown, and there seems to have been some idea of using the latter to make cannon, as, for instance, when, in 1542, £832 worth of metal from broken bells of Lincolnshire was given to Sir Charles Morris under royal warrant to make guns and engines of war. But the material was widely dispersed, and though some attempts were made to collect it at a number of central places, much of it was sold on the spot as opportunity arose; and meanwhile in not a few cases, especially in remote country districts, the local landowners went to the derelict churches and helped themselves.

How many bells there were in the monasteries we have no means of knowing. We can guess, but we have no assurance that our guesses would be even approximately correct. The number of the lesser monasteries was 376, of the greater 645. Norwich Cathedral is the only one of the greater churches in which the bells remain practically the same as they were at the time of the dissolution, and we may perhaps take them as an average ring; for though, no doubt, many of the abbeys had fewer and smaller bells, we know that others had more and much heavier ones. At Peterborough, for instance, there was a ring of ten which weighed more than twelve tons, besides four other bells; and even at Norwich there was an extra bell tower

which contained five bells probably heavier than those in the central steeple.

The ring of five at Norwich weighs about 2½ tons, so that, if the other large monastic churches were as well supplied, they would together possess sixteen hundred tons of bell metal; and when we add that at the lesser monasteries we get a total of about two thousand tons of bell metal, and there are indications that the actual amount was still greater.

The monetary value of any commodity depends on the supply and demand. England, in normal times, produced sufficient new copper and tin to supply her own wants and, in addition, to export a certain amount to the Continent; but now, not only was the market glutted by all this old metal, but one of the largest class of consumers, the abbeys, had ceased to exist. The men who came into possession of these bells would therefore find great difficulty in selling them in England. But abroad there was a great and steady demand for this metal, especially in those countries which did not themselves produce copper and tin. They did not want it to cast into church bells, for all over Europe men were more concerned about fighting and disputing about theological questions than about building and equipping churches. They wanted it very largely for casting into cannon, for warfare was being revolutionised by the introduction of artillery.

In those days governments did not believe in unrestricted free trade and the English government did not intend to sit still and see English metal go to France or Spain to be cast into guns that might be used against her own ships and men. As far back as 1529, before there was any question of confiscating abbey bells, an Act of Parliament (21 Hen. 8, cap. 10) was passed 'against carrying out of Brass Lattin and Copper' which enacted that 'whosoever shall convey any Brass & to any Port to be conveyed beyond the Sea shall forfeit the same or the value thereof.'

This was re-enacted in 1536 (28 Hen. 8, cap. 8), the year in which the lesser monasteries were dissolved. A certain amount of export was allowed by licence from the Crown. For instance, in 1545 an order of the Council declared that 'Whereas one Mathew Moore of the Stilliardde hadde made suite to the Kinges Highnes for the convayaunce out of fortye thowsande of bellmetall offering to bring in the Vallew thereof in wheat or rye his Majestie in consideration of the skarcite of his grayne within the Realme grawnted unto him this his sayde request which was this day declared by letters unto the Custumers &c of London. At Wyndesour the vj daye of Octobre, 1545.'

Notwithstanding the Acts of 1529 and 1536 the amount of bell metal exported was so large that the government became alarmed lest, while other nations were fully armed with cannon, England should find herself without the material necessary to make guns, and in 1541 a more stringent Act was passed (33 Hen. 8, cap. 8). 'Wheras,' so runs the preamble, 'Wheras in the Parliament holden at Westminster the third Day of November in the twenty-first year in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is among other Things it was enacted That no Person or Persons should henceforth carry or convey any Brass Copper Lattin Bellmetal Gunmetal ne Shroff metal into any part or parts beyond the

Sea upon Pain of Forfeiture of the same Metal as by the said Act more plainly appeareth. (2) Sith the making of which Estatute divers Persons as well Englishmen as Strangers have deceitfully obtained licenses of the Kings Highness to carry over Bell-metal and other broken Metal Surmising the same Metals not to be meet for making of Guns and other Engines of War nor for Implements necessary to Household which Surmise is proven untrue as the common Experience thereof daily declareth so that all Realmes and Countries be full of Artillery and Munitions and this Realm is like to lack if 'more hasty Remedy to stop the Conveyance of the same be not further provided than is in the same Act,' it was therefore ordained 'that no person or persons shall from henceforth carry or convey by water or otherwise any Brass Copper Lattin Bellmetal Gun-metal ne Shroff-metal whether it be clean or mixed (Tin and Lead only excepted) into any part beyond the Seas or into any outward Realme or Dominion whatever it be' under pain to forfeit the double value of the same metal.

(To be continued.)

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT RANMOOR.

Over 40 members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Sheffield and District Society, held at St. John's, Ranmoor, Sheffield, on March 11th.

Rounds and Bob Royal were rung on the ten and methods up to Cambridge and Superlative on the back eight.

Canon Foster presided at the business meeting, at which three new vice-presidents were elected, Messrs. M. E. Wilson, F. B. Ditcher and B. Cooper. Mr. Ditcher was elected a trustee, and all the other officers were re-elected. Four new members were elected from Ranmoor, Rotherham and Handsworth.

The secretary was asked to keep in mind joint meetings with adjoining associations when possible. North Wingfield was decided upon as the next meeting place, a joint meeting with the Midland Counties Association being agreed to for April 1st.

**SERVICE TOUCHES.
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
| | 504 | | 504 |
| 23456 | | 23456 | |
| 35426 | Before and Wrong | 35426 | Before and Wrong |
| 54326 | Home | 54326 | Home |
| 43256 | Home | 42356 | Before and Wrong |
| 32546 | Before and Wrong | 25346 | Before and Wrong |
| 25346 | Home | 53246 | Home |
| 53246 | Home | 34256 | Before and Wrong |
| 34256 | Before and Wrong | 45236 | Before and Wrong |
| 42356 | Home | 52436 | Home |
| 23456 | Home | 23456 | Before and Wrong |
| | 504 | | 504 |
| 23456 | | 23456 | |
| 42356 | In and Out | 35426 | Before and Wrong |
| 35246 | Before and S Wrong | 43526 | In and Out |
| 54236 | Before and Wrong | 52346 | Before and S Wrong |
| 43256 | Before and Wrong | 24356 | Before and Wrong |
| 25346 | Before and S Wrong | 45326 | Before and Wrong |
| 32546 | In and Out | 32546 | Before and S Wrong |
| 53246 | In and Out | 24536 | Before and Wrong |
| 34256 | Before and Wrong | 52436 | In and Out |
| 23456 | In and Out | 23456 | Before and Wrong |
| | 504 | | 504 |
| 23456 | | 23456 | |
| 42356 | In and Out | 42356 | In and Out |
| 35246 | Before and S Wrong | 25346 | Before and Wrong |
| 54236 | Before and Wrong | 54326 | Before and Wrong |
| 43256 | Before and Wrong | 35426 | In and Out |
| 25346 | Before and S Wrong | 52436 | Before and Wrong |
| 32546 | In and Out | 45236 | In and Out |
| 24536 | Before and Wrong | 53246 | Before and Wrong |
| 52436 | In and Out | 34256 | Before and Wrong |
| 23456 | Before and Wrong | 23456 | In and Out |

The calling is from the seventh.

WILLESDEN.—On March 19th, 1,024 Cambridge Surprise Major: Mrs. E. Lankester 1, R. C. Kersey 2, E. Lankester 3, Mrs. J. Botham 4, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 5, A. Jones 6, A. Cutler 7, H. Kilby 8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON

E.1

Telephone B1Shopsgate 2599

Founders of the new ring
of twelve for
Liverpool Cathedral
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc,

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

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

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

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

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from
the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

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

Notices for next week's issue must reach us not later
than the first post on Monday morning, April 3rd.

During a recent air raid a church where the brothers Pye rang
many peals 45 years ago, including their first peals of London and
Bristol, and the 15,072 of Double Norwich, was severely damaged by
blast. The tower and bells have apparently escaped injury.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards has been appointed to assist the Salisbury
Diocesan Advisory Committee in dealing with cases referring to bells.

THE MONTH'S PEALS,

FEBRUARY.

During the month of February 34 peals were rung, 20 of them on
tower bells and 14 on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 5, Triples 2;
Oxford Bob Triples 1; Stedman Triples 3, Caters 1; Bob Minor 2,
Major 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal 1; Two
Minor methods 1; Seven Minor methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of: Grandsire Triples 5, Caters 3;
Stedman Triples 1, Caters 2; Bob Minor 1, Major 1; Oxford Treble
Bob Major 1.

The number in January was 50.

LONDON BELLS DESTROYED.

During the early air raids the City of London suffered a greater loss
of church bells than any other part of the country, and now it seems
certain that one of the three octaves then left has been destroyed.

The church was a well-known one with a lofty stone tower sur-
mounted with a lantern top, built in the early years of the last
century. The bells, which were cast at Whitechapel in 1832, have
not been rung for many years. In the old steeple Benjamin Annable
called the first peal of Double Bob Major in 1726.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—No doubt all of us agree that the Central Council ought to
give their official backing to the Standing Committee's action. The
only thing we differ over is the advisability of holding the meeting
during Whitsun week-end. It may be the worst time from our point
of view of the whole war years. Considering the appeals on the wire-
less and in the papers and the difficulties there may be, I think the
Standing Committee should reconsider their decision and wait until
things are more settled and have a meeting later on in the year.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

A LONDON BELL FOUNDER.

In our account of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, we said that none of
Robert Burford's bells seems to be now in existence. Mr. C. E.
Borrett writes that he cast the sixth at All Saints', Sudbury, and
the sixth at Dedham in Essex. The tenor at Ardeleigh is also by him.

M. A. A. Hughes informs us that William Burford, father of
Robert, cast the fifth at Cranford, Middlesex, and it was he, and not
the son, who left the legacy.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1942

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council

| ASSOCIATION | Number of Conductors | PEALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL, Handbells | TOTAL, Tower Bells | GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---|---|----|-----|----|-----|
| | | MAXIMUS CINQUES | ROYAL | CATERS | MAJOR | | | | | TRIPLES | MINOR | | DOUBLES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Plain Bob | Stedman | Kent Treble Bob | Plain Bob | Stedman | Grand sire | Superlative | New Cambridge | Sup. & Cam, Spliced | Kent Treble Bob | Oxford Treble Bob | Kent & Ox. T. B. Spl. | Double Norwich C. R. | Spl. Well L. Ch. Rev. | Dbl. Gains. Little and Plain Bob | Spl. Gains. L. & Pl. B. | Plain Bob | Little Bob | Double Bob | Stedman | Grand sire | 13 Methods | 7 ditto | 5 ditto | 3 ditto | 2 ditto | 1 ditto | 3 Methods | 1 ditto | | | | | | | |
| An. Soc. College Yths. | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bath and Wells Dio. | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chester Diocesan... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cambridge Univ. Guild | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Essex County | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gloucester & Bristol Guildford Dio. Guild | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hertford County | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Irish Association | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kent County | 8 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | 4 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 27 | |
| Ladies Guild | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lancashire Assoc. | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lincoln Diocesan | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Middlesex County | 6 | | 4 | | | 1 | 4 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Midland Counties | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Oxford Dio. Guild | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxford Univ. Society... | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Martin's G'ld, Bir. | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salisbury Dio. Guild | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Suffolk Guild | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Surrey Association | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sussex County | 4 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warwickshire Guild | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Win. and Portsmouth | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Worcester & Districts | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yorkshire Assoc | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unattached | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 6 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 219 | 2 | 221 |

a & b—Rung on Tower Bells, both Doubles.

THE PEALS ANALYSIS.

It will be seen from the Analysis that during the year 219 handbell and two tower bell peals were recorded, making a total of 221 made up as follows:—

| | | |
|--------------|-----|------------|
| Maximus | ... | 6 |
| Cinques | ... | 9 |
| Royal | ... | 19 |
| Caters | ... | 18 |
| Major | ... | 84 |
| Triples | ... | 37 |
| Minor | ... | 31 |
| Doubles | ... | 17 |
| Total | ... | 221 |

The footnotes to the peals reveal that 26 ringers rang their first peal, while 31 took part in their first peal on handbells. Those who rang their first peal in a different method or on a different number of bells numbered 81, and 31 conductors called their first peal or a peal in a different method or on a new number of bells.

During the year one ringer scored his 25th peal, two their 50th, one his 100th, two their 200th and two their 300th and 350th respectively; one completed his 50th and three their 100th handbell peals. One conductor called his 25th and another his 50th peal, while a third conducted his 25th handbell peal.

Thirty-five peals were recorded as being rung for birthdays, weddings, commemorations or tributes.

EDITH K. FLETCHER.
CHARLES DEAN.
GEORGE R. PYE.
WALTER AYRE.
G. L. GROVER.

ALDFORD, CHESHIRE.—On March 6th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor and 720 Plain Bob: J. Thomas 1, W. Broster 2, H. Woodfine 3, A. Bebbington 4, W. Sambles 5, A. F. Richards (conductor) 6. First in both methods by ringers of 2, 3 and 4.

HEARING AND SEEING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The advice given in your columns on handling a bell recalls your excellent leading article on 'Hearing' in your issue of September 17th, 1943. I liked especially the analogy between the ringer and the craftsman using a tool.

Attempting to learn change ringing somewhat late in life, and finding perhaps more than usual difficulty in reading the ropes, it has occurred to me that you may be able to give some advice on 'seeing,' i.e., 'ropesight.' It seems strange why some men, apparently quite ordinary chaps, appear to have little difficulty in this. Have they some simple way of 'looking'? And can one be given a tip? I remember a railway ganger once telling me his way of looking at the track, which enabled him easily to spot anything amiss during his daily examination. His way made it extremely simple. I do not think for a moment that 'ropesight' can be made as simple as that, but perhaps some advice can be given which would assist some of us and 'show us the ropes.'

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BARBER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Barber, of West Bromwich, which occurred on March 10th, after an illness of eight days caused by exposure through a breakdown and loss of memory on his way to the funeral of his brother-in-law. The funeral was on March 16th.

Mr. Barber, who was in his eightieth year, was born at Clent in 1864, and learned to ring there with his father and brother, Mr. William H. Barber. He joined the Worcestershire Association in 1888. In 1890 he went to London, and while there rang over 50 peals for the Society of Cumberland Youths and the Middlesex Association. He rang the tenor at St. Martin's, Birmingham, to the long peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes. The full number of his peals was 250, and among them he rang the tenor at Shrewsbury to Stedman Cinques, the tenor at Pershore to Double Norwich Major, and the tenor at St. Patrick's, Dublin, to Stedman Caters and Bob Royal.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 117.)

The Church of St. Michael, Othery, Somerset, is cruciform and chiefly in the Early English style, with details of 14th and 15th century work. The central embattled tower is 75ft. high and rather unusual. It is on a church much older than itself, and is supported by buttresses which extend diagonally from the re-entrant angles of the building below. In the south-east buttress, in front of a low side opening, is the perforation which has given rise to much controversy. At the north-east angle, the stair turret takes the place of a buttress. The top windows are large, but are mostly blank, for only a small portion in the middle is perforated. Whether the whole window was perforated at first may be a matter of speculation, but many of the large towers of Somerset have windows partly blank. The niches with statues in the middle stage are conspicuous and effective. The tower contains a ring of five bells, tenor approximately 17 cwt. The treble is by T. Purdue, 1692, second 1620, third by T. Wroth, 1729, and fourth and tenor by Wm. Bilbie, 1811.

The Church of St. Mary, Stafford, has a good central tower consisting of an octagonal upper stage on a square base. Formerly a royal free chapel from Anglo-Saxon days, and collegiate with a dean and 12 canons in a foundation attributed to King John, it is a large and fine cruciform church in Transitional Early English and later styles. The lower portion of the tower is of very early variety of Perpendicular style, dating a little before the 13th century. The upper story is of the latest variety of Decorated style, and very beautiful in detail. The tower is square to a short distance above the nave roof level, when it becomes octagonal by angular weatherings, decorated with rich pinnacles, and finished by a panelled parapet with crocketed pinnacles at the angles. It was formerly surmounted by a lofty spire which was blown down in a violent storm March 21st, 1593-4, partly destroying the church in its fall.

There are now 11 bells in the tower—a ring of ten and a Sanctus, by Thomas Hancox, dated 1622. Of the old octave, the 1st, 2nd and 5th were by A. Rudhall, 1709; the 3rd, 4th, and 6th by Henry Bagley, 1692; the 7th by Rudhall, 1751; and tenor by Bagley, 1742. The old treble is inscribed, 'When you mee ring, Ile sweetly sing.' In 1887, two trebles were added by Gillett and Johnston, while in 1921 Mears and Stainbank retuned and rehung the peal.

A most interesting leather jack is here preserved, which belonged to the ringers and which I described in my articles on 'Ringers' Jugs and Pitchers,' on October 9th, 1942. It holds 27 pints and is inscribed with names of ringers, 1750 and 1798.

St. Chad's Church, Gateshead-on-Tyne, has a central square tower base with an octagonal upper stage of a much later and severer style than Stafford. I have no information regarding any bells there, however. Another similar square central tower with octagonal upper stage adorns the church of St. Mary, Pakenham, Suffolk. Standing on an eminence, this is a handsome cruciform building of flint in mixed styles. The lower square portion of the tower is probably Norman, and the upper octagon 14th century. Outside the south wall of the

nave is a stone coffin built into the wall, and on the south wall of the chancel are four 13th century coped coffin lids. The tower has a ring of five bells: tenor 14 cwt., treble by Mears and Stainbank, 1872, 2nd John Draper, 1626, 3rd Lester and Pack, 1760, 4th and tenor G. Mears and Co., 1862.

Ozleworth, Glos, anciently called Wozelworth, is a village six miles from Charfield station. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is an ancient building in Early Norman style, and here is something we can see nowhere else in England. Its tower is the only six-sided one that stands in the middle of a church. There is only one other six-sided tower of any sort elsewhere, and, strange to say, that also is in Gloucestershire—at Swindon, near Cheltenham. The latter is, however, a western tower, containing five bells, and the writer has taken part in chiming them when short for Sunday service ringing on one occasion in 1919. Of the six sides of Ozleworth tower, no two are equal, and in each side is a small window. The base is Saxon, the top story Norman. The base is now used as the choir of the church and may have once been a nave. The archway into the nave rests on two short pillars, and its beautiful zig-zag is so bold that it is thought to represent the crown of thorns. The tower contains only one bell, by John Rudhall, 1809. Its churchyard is the only round one in Gloucestershire.

The Church of St. Mary, Chesham, Bucks, stands on high ground in Chesham Park. Of the 12th century church on this site, the only certain evidence is part of a window in the north transept, and a few detached stones. The plan was apparently cruciform, the nave being of the same length as at present, with north and south aisles added in the 13th century, and probably some reconstruction of transepts and tower at the same time. The tower is 14ft. square, and of two stages above the roof of the nave, with high embattled parapet and an octagonal leaded spire. It is carried on four pointed arches, the east one of the 13th century date, and others of the 14th century. The first stage of the tower above the nave roof has a late 13th century trefoiled lancet window in each wall and a 15th century doorway in the west wall opening on to the roof of the nave.

The bell chamber has four 15th century windows, each of two lights with tracery. The ringing room is reached over the church roof, then through the doorway mentioned, which is only about 4ft. high. A large beam across the centre of the room at eye level divides the circle in two. There are six bells tenor 17 cwt., all by Thomas Mears, 1812. They were rehung about 1885 by Mears and Stainbank. Much interesting data on the ancient history of bells here is given in the 'Church Bells of Bucks.' There is a Sanctus bell by John Sturdy, who died in 1456.

(To be continued.)

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9
6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

A FORGOTTEN CITY CHURCH. ST. CHRISTOPHER-LE-STOCKS.

Within the walls of the Bank of England there was until recently (and still may be) a small garden which marks the site of the burial ground of the destroyed Church of St. Christopher-le-Stocks. Scattered about the city are several other similar gardens, for a rule was made that, though the site of a destroyed church might be built upon, the burial ground must be kept open for ever.

St. Christopher's got its name from the Stocks Market, which was where the Mansion House now stands, and no doubt was where there were prominent stocks into which vagabonds and criminals were put in accordance with the old custom. The church was rebuilt in the early days of the sixteenth century, and Richard Shore, one of the sheriffs in 1506, gave money towards the rebuilding of the steeple. In Edward VI.'s reign there were 'in the steeple, item, fyve grette and a saunce bell.' Another inventory made in 1601 records that there were 'in the Steple v bells and one saynts bell.'

In 1589 Robert Mot recast the third, and in 1612 the tenor was recast, but either the work was not well done, or the bell was again broken, for in 1622 £13 11s. was paid to the bell founder for casting the great bell with 1 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb. of extra metal. There are many items in the churchwardens' accounts of repairs to the clappers, wheels, and other fittings; and in 1636 Robert Turner's name appears as the bell hanger. He was one of the earliest of a family who worked in conjunction with the Whitechapel Foundry during several generations and hung many famous rings.

St. Christopher's bells were rung 'when Babington with thother traytors weare aphended & wear takinn and alsoe when queene of Scotts proclaimed conspirator to ye queene & realme'; and later on, 'on the daye of the xecution of ye skotts queene.'

In 1632 the parish was fined 17s. 4d. for not ringing 'when the Bpp went by'; which shows that it was not only the pre-Reformation bishops who stood upon their dignity in the matter of bellringing.

The church was badly damaged in the Great Fire of 1666, and all its fittings and woodwork were destroyed; but the walls and tower were left standing. The continuation of Stow's 'Survey of London' speaks of six bells, which suggests that a treble may have been added to the original five. But in 1664 apparently there were only five, and there is no mention in the churchwardens' accounts of another having been added, though that is not conclusive. Still it is most likely that the six bells were the ring of five and the saunce bell.

Just before the Fire a new set of ropes was provided, and Gadesdon, the bell hanger, employed to do some repairs. Afterwards the broken bells were taken to a Mr. Aylesworth's and a padlock and staple provided to secure them from being stolen. Some of the melted lead was

stolen, and 2s. 6d. was paid to some porters for carrying the thieves to the bridewell, and two shillings to one Gules for recovering some stolen lead.

The bell metal was sold. It may be that one bell was saved from the fire, or else one was bought; and in 1669 the tower had been repaired sufficiently to hang it. Next year a small bell was bought from a Mr. Birkhead, who does not appear to have been a bell founder, and John Hodson was paid to hang it.

St. Christopher's was the first of the post-Fire churches to be destroyed. At the time of the Gordon riots the company of the Bank of England were alarmed lest the mob should seize the steeple and use it as a place of attack on the bank, and as they owned the whole of the parish they were able to have it pulled down to save any fear in the future.

NEWS FROM OXFORDSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I bin meaning to write 'ee a letter fer a long time, and I see Freddie Sharpe's bin waiting fer me too. Well, 'ere I be at last, writing in me own sort o' Basic English. About the best lot o' bells, I reckon as you and t'others 'ave said all there be to say about wot 'the best' means. The ones I reckon as best be them as I likes best, whether 'em be old or new tuned, narrer-waisted or big-bellied. All I troubles about is what they sounds like and 'ow they goo.

Well, I'll pack 'ee two lots not 'undred mile from Banbury Cross. One be Adderbury (8) and a right noble old lot they be. T'other be a funny little place, wi' as sweet a ring o' 5 as you'd a mind to 'ear, just like a horgan, and I means Croughton, near Aynho. (Aynho's the place where all the houses 'as apricot trees on their walls.) Ah, the 'eavy bells ain't the only good 'uns. I don't know nothing about Croughton, whether they be new or old; old Fred ought to know, they be nearer 'im ner me. I'd like to know if anyone 'as ever heard the whole 8 ring at Bloxham nigh Adderbury; I 'a rung on the front 6, but they ain't rung the back two fer years 'oos of the tower. I 'ave heard, though, as they be a beautiful lot, and the heavy tenor's a beauty be all accounts.

Arter wot you wrote I tried ringing up wi'out a coil, and I never got on nohow. But, bless 'ee, I coils that ole rope in me left 'and and still does plenty o' work wi' that 'and. I believes in as little rope flying about as possible, up and down. But there, every man to 'is own way, coil or no coil, left or right 'and, and if he could ring better standing on his 'ead, let 'im do it, says I.

I don't want to blow me own trumpet too 'ard or I might bust, but I got a way of teaching kiddies about change ringing on 'andbells as may be new to some on 'ee. If you wants to ring Minor you gets six childer and stands 'em in a straight line wi' a bell apiece (in rounds, like). When you starts, they changes place in the line, the 2nd, 4th and 6th moves down one, and the treble, 3rd and 5th goes up one, and when they strikes you've got 214365. Then off you goes till the lead-end when the 3rd stays in 2nds and t'others dodges in 3.4 and 5.6. You can ring it fast enough to keep walkin' from front to back just tanging your ole bell in each place as you goes. I got 5 kiddies about 9 or 10 year old and us 'a rung Grandsire, Plain Bob and St. Simon's Doubles, Plain Bob and St. Clement's Minor, like that. Course, they 'as to learn the method on paper first. Then double-anded at a table us 'ave 'rolled up' to Grandsire Caters. It soon learris 'em to strike good wi'out having to know too much about the method.

'YOKEL.'

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MIDDLETON.

At a meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Middleton on March 18th, thirty-ringers were present from Moorside, East Crompton, Oldham, Glodwick, Hamer, Milnrow, New-key, Shore Friezland, Manchester and the local belfry.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major, and practice for beginners.

Mr. J. Bastow took the chair at the business meeting, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Todmorden on April 15th.

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

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

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

ST. VEEP'S, CORNWALL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in C. F. J.'s letter and his mention of St. Veep bells. 'The Western Morning News' of December 23rd, 1935, said: 'Throughout the West Country the bells of St. Veep are noted. They have never been tuned. They were cast "on June 16th, in the stillness of the night, 1770, by Pennington, bell-founder, of Bradford, in a meadow opposite the church gate for the sum of £17." Previously in the tower there were four bells, but one was cracked, and the remaining three were out of key. The then Vicar, the Rev. William Penwarne, the churchwardens, and parishioners, decided to recast them with the addition of two hundredweight and a quarter of metal. "When the tenor bell was cast the parishioners collected all the old silver they could and threw it in the mould to enrich its tone. The bells were all put into the furnace and cast in the moulds, and when they were cold they were hung on a girder. Pennington tapped them with his hammer and leaped for joy and pronounced them a perfect virgin peal," declares a record. He said he was more than satisfied with himself, and said those splendid peal of bells could never be excelled. He had cast and recast hundreds of bells in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, but never did he cast such a peal as this, said he.

The bells are in key G. The tenor weighs over 10 cwt., and to its weight cannot be beaten. On it is inscribed, "William Penwarne, Vicar, A.D. 1770," and "I call the quick to church and dead to grave." On the fourth bell is inscribed, "John Burns, churchwarden and yeoman," and on the fifth bell, "Richard Wymond, Churchwarden." Pennington was well known in the diocese and St. Veep bells are among the few of his casting remaining in their original condition. In order to preserve their character the Advisory Committee of the Diocese has stipulated that they are not to be tuned.

There is no doubt that St. Veep bells are held in high regard by the local people and many others, but it would be interesting to know the exactness of such a ring when judged from present-day standards of tuning.

Re Truro Cathedral. 'J. A. T.'s' chat with the late Mr. J. W. Taylor is interesting, but I had always taken the tubes to be round and not four-sided. They are of lead and just big enough for the ropes to pass through with reasonable play.

Mr. Peter N. Bond gives the weight of St. Mary Magdalen, Launceston, tenor as 17½ cwt., but it should be 15 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb. This ring was restored in 1938 by Messrs. Taylor and Co., and before recasting the tenor weighed 12 cwt. 1 qr. Perhaps this is an instance of a good ring sounding heavier than it actually is. As a point of fact there is a ring of eight by the same founders (1923) at St. Stephen-by-Launceston with a tenor weighing 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. The local ringers' own report in the Truro Diocesan Guild report in 1927 and successive years gives the weight as 20 cwt., but in 1939 it had been reduced to 18 cwt. Being proud of a good ring should not give way to such discrepancies in weight.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

CHRIST CHURCH, LYE.

Dear Sir.—The many and varied letters on the subject of 'The best peal of bells' have been of great interest to me. When I read of your correspondents having rung and heard bells, the tenor being 20 or 30 cwt., I often wonder what they would think of the peal at Christ Church, Lye. The peal there is composed of eight bells, tenor 3½ cwt.; the treble, by way of interest, weighs approximately ¾ cwt. This peal is reputed to be the lightest of eight in the country, and I would like to prove this claim.

Please do not include this letter amongst those contesting for the title of the best peal. Your readers who have heard the bells will know the reason why.

D. BROOKS.

Stambermill, Stourbridge.

DEATH OF MR HENRY FERGUSON.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Ferguson, of Scarborough, who passed away on March 20th at the age of 76.

Mr. Ferguson rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on July 27th, 1885, when he was 17 years of age. After going to Scarborough he formed and taught a band there, and continued to be a regular service ringer until a serious illness three years ago.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BIRKENHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's, Birkenhead, on March 18th, was attended by 33 ringers from seven bellfries.

Service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Manning, and tea was provided by the churchwardens. In the absence of the president, Mr. H. Cheers took the chair at the business meeting, at which Mr. J. W. Milner was re-elected president, Mr. H. Brocklebank hon. secretary, Mr. Jack Cooke Ringing Master, and Mr. Frank Varty instructor. Mr. J. Webster was elected representative on the General Committee.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the relatives of members who had passed away—Walter Battle, Edward Breeze, Smith Wood and Henry Martin.

The next meeting will be at St. Nicholas', Wallasey, on April 22nd.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT FELTHAM.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Feltham on March 18th, and was attended by 32 members and friends from Addistone, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Egham, Feltham, Fulham, Hergham, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Leatherhead, Staines, Sudbury (Suffolk), Swindon, Twickenham, Uxbridge and Weybridge.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich, and Cambridge Surprise, with rounds for learners.

At the business meeting, presided over by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, the secretary stated that he had received an aërograph letter from the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson, on service in North Africa, who sent his good wishes to all ringing friends.

Mr. H. G. Miles, of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, was elected a member.

It was announced that the annual district meeting had been arranged for Brentford on Saturday, April 15th, and it was decided to hold a meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, at the end of May or beginning of June.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar, the Rev. P. D. Godfrey, and to Mr. Tony Price for the arrangements made. Mr. Price was congratulated on the improvement in the ringing chamber and on the progress of his young pupils.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TILSWORTH.

The meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Tilsworth on March 18th, was well attended, members being present from Moulden, Silsoe, Meppershall, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and the local tower. Various methods, including Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor, were rung. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rector, the Rev. G. Dale, Husborne Crawley was selected as the place of the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

EDMONTON.—On Sunday, March 12th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Eric A. Dench 1, V. Woodards 2, P. Coward 3, Mrs. J. Thomas 4, D. H. Langdon 5, A. J. Wallman 6, J. Thomas (conductor) 7, W. D. Smith 8. First quarter of Stedman by all except 4 and 7.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On Sunday, March 12th, 1,299 Stedman Caters: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, Miss A. Look 2, G. R. Goodship 3, E. Markham 4, J. W. Wilkins 5, W. H. Plumridge 6, C. A. Smith 7, George Hinton 8, R. Coles 9, A. C. Strathdee 10.

SUNNINGWELL, BERKS.—On Thursday, March 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss B. Wilks 1, D. Wilks 2, James Honey 3, John Honey (conductor) 4, W. Cudd 5, J. Wilks 6. Rung half-muffled after the funeral of the Rector.

THORNE, YORKS.—On Friday, March 17th, 720 each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob: H. Cooper 1, T. Leask 2, Bdr. F. Flint 3, C. Thorley (conductor) 4, L.-Bdr. J. Thorley 5, Gnr. R. C. Clark 6.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On Saturday, March 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Rivers 1, F. H. Hicks 2, C. A. Levett (conductor) 3, W. H. Fussell 4, E. Hudson 5, W. Henley 6, G. Gilbert 7, E. H. Preston 8.

Send for
Booklet**SMITH OF DERBY**Estimates and
Advice Free

for CHURCH and TURRET CLOCKS

Electric or Weight Driven

Makers of many famous Clocks, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and throughout the world.

JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd.

Head Office and Works—
QUEEN STREET, DERBYTel. No. DERBY 45588
Grams—Clocks, Derby

NOTICES.

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

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

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Aston Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st, 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Vicarage Room 5.15.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Berkhamstead, Saturday, April 1st. Bells (7) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheadle Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st. Committee meeting 4 p.m. R.C. bells available.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Elstow, April 1st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, April 8th, 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Maidstone on Easter Monday. Committee meeting 11.30 a.m. Service at 3. Tea at 4.15 to those who notify me before April 3rd. Business meeting to follow. Ringing at All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, Linton, West Malling, Boxley and Bearstead.—F. M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Easter Monday, April 10th. General meeting in College Hall, 2.30 p.m. Evensong Cathedral 4.15 p.m. Bells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6), all 11 a.m.; Cathedral (12), 12 noon to 2.15 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Norwich, Easter Monday, April 10th. St. Miles', 11.30 to 1 (bring own lunch); Mancroft and St. Giles', 2 to 4. Service at Mancroft, 4. Tea at Ber House, 5, followed by business meeting; St. John-de-Sepulchre after meeting. Names for tea by April 4th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—Practice, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. to all who notify W. J. Coppard, 29, Valley Road, Lewes, by Wednesday, April 5th.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Tibshelf on Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m., for those who notify Mr. H. Draycott, 14, Chesterfield Road, Tibshelf, by April 5th. — J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Dorking on Easter Monday, 3.30. Tea at 4.45 at Orange Cafe, High Street, followed by meeting in belfry. Names for tea by Wednesday, April 5th.—D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent, Easter Monday, 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Newport, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 3. Meeting in Mission House, Lyne Road, 3.45. Tea 5 p.m. St. Woolos' bells after meeting. — J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Topsham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.30. Names for tea by Saturday, April 8th, to R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at East Grinstead, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Miss Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual meeting at Ipswich, April 15th. Tea and business meeting at Co-op Restaurant 4.15. Bells: St. Mary-le-Tower, St. Margaret's, St. Clement's and St. Matthew's.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting at St. Lawrence's, Brentford (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in the Vicarage 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided in the Parish Hall 5 p.m. Annual business meeting to follow. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, during evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Lindley, Huddersfield, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 15th, St. Margaret's, Leicester. Bells (12) from 2 to 5 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Bishop of Leicester will preach. Committee meet in Vestry 4 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House only to those notifying H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester, by 12th. Cathedral bells (12) open after tea.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual meeting at Nuneaton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, 5 p.m., in Parish Hall. Bells until 8 p.m. Private room at Bull Hotel (opposite G.P.O.) available until 10 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, April 15th. Ringing at St. Peter's, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's from 2.30 p.m. Service at Cathedral 4 p.m. Tea, Waterend Barn 5.30 p.m. Names for tea before April 13th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St Albans.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Sunday ringing, 10.15 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Weekly practices on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., commencing April 11th.

DEATH.

CLARK.—At Dawood Villas, Bentley, on March 23rd, 1944, George, the beloved husband of the late Annie Clark, aged 61 years.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—The Times.

'Mr. Trollope has achieved more than his immediate purpose of writing a history of the Society of College Youths. So closely has the Guild been identified with English change ringing, that its history is, to a very large extent, an account of how the ancient sport of ringing developed into an elaborate art.'—The Guardian.

'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

Noted for Easy Handling and Non-Stretching

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) Ltd. LOUGHBOROUGH

CLOCK AND CHIMING ROPES, SPLICING
AND REPAIRS. BELL MUFFLERS

Price List on Application

The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPE-SIGHT,' 1s. 10d.; ninth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE,' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages; commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; Letterpress, 2s.; Diagrams, 2s.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss MARGARET E. SNOWDON
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

ESTABLISHED 1760

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.E.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

WM. POTTS & SONS, LTD.

(ESTABLISHED 1831).

CATHEDRAL, CHURCH AND TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Makers of many of the largest and most important Clocks
in the World.

CLOCKS REPAIRED AND DIALS RESTORED.

'THE GUILDFORD CLOCK WORKS,'

Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds.

And at 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare St.,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,

and 96, Carver Street, Moorhead, Sheffield.

THE RINGER'S BADGE,

Supplied as Stud for Buttonhole,
Brooch or Pendant

With name of your Association engraved
as illustration

GILT OR WHITE METAL .. 5/-

Names or Presentation Inscriptions can
be engraved on the reverse side at a
small extra charge.



Exact size

GEO. STACEY, JEWELLER AND
ENCHRAVER,
6, PARK ST., MINEHEAD, SOMERSET

PUBLICATIONS

'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 3rd
thousand, 7d. each, or 7s. dozen post free. By I. Roe
and M. Broome. Orchards, Womersley, Surrey.

BUY AN EXTRA COPY

OF

'THE RINGING WORLD'

and send it to a Serving Member of your Tower