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SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT METHODS.

The number and variety of the methods suitable for ringing are very large, so large that we may look on them as unlimited, but there is a very small group which has proved itself to be by far the best for practical purposes. These standard methods, as we call them, differ among themselves very much. Some are very simple, and some are very difficult. Some will produce the best music that change ringing is capable of, and some are distinctly defective in that respect. Some will readily produce the extent of the changes required, and some are very liable to falseness. But, however much they may differ, they have this in common, that they have been tried by the experience of more than two centuries and have stood the test.

Grandsire is one of these methods, and it is unnecessary and almost absurd to stress the merits of Grandsire. It is very simple, of course, as a method; but it is always interesting to ring, and always interesting to call, whether on seven or nine bells. It is always worth listening to, and the music of Grandsire Caters is hardly equalled by anything else. We are assuming that the striking is what it should be.

Stedman is another method whose popularity is never likely to fade. Plain Bob, considered as an end in itself, is not so good as either of these two, though it has many merits, but as a stage in progress and a stepping-stone to other things, whether actual ringing, or conducting, or composing, it is unrivalled. Kent Treble Bob, better than almost anything else, lends itself to the production of that musical rhythm which is one of the greatest charms of ringing.

For very many years the Exercise was content with these few methods which were able to give ringers all the majority of them asked for. The time came, however, when the fascination of the more difficult methods was discovered. First one or two more skilful companies began to practise the Surprise methods, then an increasing number, until at present Cambridge is as extensively rung as Stedman was sixty years ago.

This is all to the good provided that ringers do not deceive themselves by false values, and do not go astray after false ideals. The value of ringing, either to those who take part in it, or to those who listen to it, is not to be measured solely by the difficulty of the method. Difficulty is one of the main attractions in ringing, but it is by no means the only one. Many ringers think it

(Continued on page 174.)

more meritorious to ring Cambridge than Treble Bob. It may be so in some cases, but Cambridge is not really very difficult, and a first class band would probably find that it would tax their abilities just as much to ring a first class peal of Treble Bob as it would to ring a first class peal of Cambridge. Whether one would be as interesting to ring as the other would depend not on the method, but on the spirit in which the ringers faced it.

It is a matter for discussion whether the present popularity of Cambridge is altogether an advantage. The method has many good qualities, but it has also many serious defects. It cannot be denied that it has made good its claim to be a standard method, but whether it deserves its present reputation is another matter.

Now there is a method which is really worth ringing by any company, and that is Double Norwich. However it is judged it will stand the test. Its merits, of course, no one would venture openly to deny; but it is pretty certain that the majority of ringers rank it below Cambridge, and few bands who had met for a peal would ring Double Norwich if they were able to attempt Cambridge. There they would be wrong. There is scarcely one thing in which Double Norwich is not much superior to Cambridge. Unfortunately, too many people have got into the habit of looking on the latter as one of the select Surprise class, and the former as only a half-way stage between the elementary methods and what they suppose are the highest group.

OPEN LEADS AND OTHERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—And so, according to his letter in your issue of April 7th, my old friend, David Vincent, is advocating the closed lead—what he calls 'cartwheeling.' Well, everybody to his taste, of course. Personally, I prefer the rhythm brought by the open lead, as practised so well (we proudly think) in the six-bell days of St. John's, Leytonstone, where, incidentally, Mr. Vincent spent much time and rang so many 720's; and they were not too fat—those open leads, either. A band cannot put up a 720 of (say) Spliced Surprise, with a 15 cwt. tenor, in 23 or 25 minutes—bells half-down, and well struck, and use 'fat' open leads. But the slightest of pauses were always there, and with them came the rhythm so dear to most of us.

I do not take issue on the question for or against, however. What has got my goat is the reason offered in support—the sympathy for six-bell towers being short of the octave. Let me say, now, that in our heyday of six-bell ringing we thought ourselves the salt of the earth—alas, we now possess eight, and, curiously enough, we no longer ring six by desire—only if we are short. Perhaps, in time, we, too, shall look down on 'those poor six-bell fellers,' but our memories of our six-bell ringing are too recent for that. All power to their elbows and to their fat open leads.

And do not let Mr. Vincent's letter convince anyone that the emphasis on the Minor matters a hoot. The ringer, outside, would not require the open lead to inform him that it was Minor; the layman, outside, would neither know—nor care! Listen to one of our pet crooners on the radio, wearily drooling through some song or another, without the slightest shade or expression, and you have the analogy. 'Music' in ringing—bah! Rhythm—yes. Talk of music, as such, is so much hokey, so much 'banging of the drum' by the highbrows of the ringing world. What, then, is left? Only the rhythm of the open lead—may it live for ever.

G. DAWSON, Hon. Sec., St. John's, Leytonstone.

Sir,—As a six-bell cartwheeler, I feel that I must take up my pen in defence of Mr. Vincent, and help to defend him in the criticism from Mr. Reynolds.

Without wishing to detract from anything Mr. Reynolds may have seen, heard or done, it may probably be that Mr. Reynolds has never heard any genuine cartwheeling, rung practically faultless, and maybe is denouncing something he knows not of.

However, although I know what is meant by open leads, I am afraid I am unaware of any ruling as to how much pause there shall be between the last bell of a back stroke change, and the first bell of a hand stroke change, on any number of bells, and even if Mr. Reynolds can enlighten me as to such a ruling, I am afraid that the ringers of two such nearby counties as Lancashire and Yorkshire put different interpretations on this ruling.

F. HODGSON.

566, Halifax Road, Liversedge, Yorks.

DEATH OF FLIGHT-SERGT. BRIAN WAYMAN.

The war claimed another victim from the younger members of the Exercise when Flight-Sergt. Ashley Joseph Brian Wayman recently met his death in the course of his duty.

Sergt. Wayman, it will be remembered, was married last September at Surfleet to Enid, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, a wedding which attracted much interest among ringers and for which two peals of Stedman Cinques and two others were rung. The best man at the wedding was killed a few weeks later while returning from operations.

Before joining the R.A.F., Sergt. Wayman had been in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regt. He served in France and Belgium in the early stages of the war, and was among the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk. He was in his twenty-sixth year.

Before the war he was a member of the band at Kingston-on-Thames. He rang a few peals for the London County Association and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Middlesex County Association. His last peal was one of Grandair Doublets at Whimple in Devonshire on February 26th in this year. He conducted the peal.

At their meeting last Saturday a vote of condolence was passed by the Society of College Youths, and the deepest sympathy will be widely felt in the Exercise with Mr. Rupert Richardson and his family.

STONEY AND CHANGE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to a recent leading article and correspondence, I venture to send you some ideas on the teaching of change ringing to 'stoney' bands. My ringing days are over I suspect; but during a lifetime experience mainly with 'stoney' bands I have tried to flog out some of the difficulties, and these notes may prove useful to others.

The good 'stoney' bands are experts. They aim at perfection in rounds, rising and falling and often in call changes. A bell the slightest trifle out of place is looked upon with horror.

It follows that they have to be made interested in change ringing and that this can only be done by letting them hear a perfect band, which can perfectly rise, ring the bells in rounds and at the end of their touch or peal lower the bells perfectly. Only in this way can they realise that there is something to be learnt beyond what they can do perfectly. An indifferent change ringing band, especially if the tenor is turned in, cuts no ice at all, as they are incapable of appreciating the difficulties and only hear the resultant noise.

When sufficiently interested to learn, go very slow, aiming all the time at learning something new whilst retaining the striking.

Stage A. Get rid of the belfry cards of changes and encourage call changes by rope-sight. Gradually quicken the calling until changes can be made every other handstroke. All this is perfectly understandable and they can appreciate it.

Stage B. Start dodging 2 and 3, 4 and 5 with treble leading and tenor behind; six bells is quite enough. Then vary by 1 and 2, 4 and 5, and let them ring this for Sunday services when they are proficient.

Stage C. Lead them on to plain hunting, one bell at a time, treble up behind and back to lead; come into rounds, give them time to think and then start with 2 and so on.

Stage D. Plain hunt with all bells except tenor. Call it 'original' and you will show them that you have now got on to a method.

Stage E. Take one of the simplest methods.

In no practice night should the old ringing ever be neglected, and always end up with some good rounds and fall. I am certain that most of the difficulties and most of the bad ringing is due to trying to force unwilling ringers and pushing the willing on too fast. C.F.J.

TEACHING A BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should just like to say how much I appreciated your leaders on 'Seeing' and 'Stoney,' and the following short account of the progress of the Wadhurst band will show you why.

Although the bells have always been rung regularly for both services, there has not been a method band here for nearly 40 years. Of that band only one survives, and he can only come on Sundays. With the help of the other ringers I proceeded as follows: Four ladies and two men learnt singly 'dumb,' singly 'open,' rounds on four 'dumb,' rounds on six 'open.' Black-out then prevented tower practice. Practising at home with handbells single handed. I explained hunting, call changes were used, stopping in each change till each one could see how the bell had moved one position. Calls became quicker, then whole pulls, then to half-pulls.

Tower practice again, half-pull changes on 2, 3 and 4, then 2, 3, 4, 5. After learning to lead we now have plain hunting on five bells. Quite successful while tenor covers, but on the back five not so successful, and I do not intend going any further until they can hunt without a cover bell, then I hope to start on Plain Bob Minimus on the front four, then Doubles, and some day to Minor. I have been told that it is practically impossible for one man to teach a band, but with the foregoing idea it has been quite simple.

C. A. BASSETT.

Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

KINGSTON, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes;
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 28½ cwt. in D.

*WILLIAM J. G. HISCOCK ... Treble	HERBERT A. MITCHELL ... 5
*LIONEL H. PINK ... 2	SERG. P. H. TOCOCK ... 6
*DR. A. M. CUNNINGHAM ... 3	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 7
FRANK HAYSON ... 4	†CECIL H. LUFF ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal and first attempt.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Consisting of 1,472 Bristol, 1,408 Cambridge, 1,408 Superlative and 768 London, with 126 changes of method. Tenor 15 cwt.

FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 2	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
FRANCIS KIRK ... 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT... Tenor

Composed by A. J. BITMAN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* 100th peal for the Hertford Association.

KINGHAM, OXON.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 12 cwt.

*ALAN WHITE... ... Treble	§BETTY SPICE ... 5
†MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2	HARRY MILES ... 6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG ... 7
‡JOAN HOLDSWORTH ... 4	ARTHUR R. BURGESS... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a tower-bell peal, first peal in the method and first of Triples. † First peal of Grandsire Triples. ‡ First peal on eight tower bells. § First peal of Grandsire Triples on tower bells. || First attempt for a peal. The conductor's 150th peal and his first tower-bell peal of Triples as conductor. Also the first peal in the method on tower bells for the society.

BURFORD, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E flat.

*ALBAN R. POYNIZ ... Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 5
BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... 2	WILLIAM J. DIXON ... 6
VALHALLA V. H. HILL ... 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4	GEORGE HOLYON ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal in the method.

WHLSTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S,

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

*JACK BROTHWELL ... Treble	*ERNEST A. THORPE ... 5
F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 2	*G. GORDON GRABAM... 6
J. EDWARD CAWSEY ... 3	†ARNOLD HILL ... 7
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 4	*JOHN E. TURLEY... Tenor

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSEY.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major. First peal in the method on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt. in B.

GEORGE GILBERT ... Treble	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 4
*RICHARD E. PRICE ... 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 5
WILLIAM WELLING ... 3	TONY PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal in seven methods, age 12½ years.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

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

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

*GEORGE E. PORTER ... Treble	GEORGE LEDSHAM ... 4
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 2	JOHN E. BROUGH... 5
LT. F. CRAWLEY, R.N.V.R. 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten different callings). Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK E. MANN... Treble	LEONARD HARRIS... 4
JAMES E. FIGGUES ... 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 5
*WILLIAM A. THEOBALD ... 3	AUSTIN F. YULE ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. Rung for the birthday of Princess Elizabeth.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. JOHN THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LERSE ... 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.

* First peal in the method on an inside pair.

TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Easter Sunday, for morning service: 840 Stedman Triples: L. B. Hodgetts 1, G. Peers, jun. 2, E. Elton 3, W. H. Curson 4, G. Peers, sen. 5, H. Dakin 6, C. Pratt (conductor) 7, S. Durlkley 8.

LITTLE SHELFORD, CAMBS.—On Easter Sunday, 360 Stedman and 900 Grandsire Doubles: C. W. Cook (conductor) 1, E. H. Finch 2, B. Dean 3, G. Fasy 4, A. Hurst 5.

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BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 165.)

Bad government, the changes in religion, and agrarian grievances caused bitter discontent throughout the country, and in the east and the west and the Midland Counties it flamed up into revolt. Everywhere the rebellion was extinguished in blood and after hard fighting. Round Oxford the leaders were hung and, says James Anthony Froude, the historian, 'the bells which had been used to rouse the peasants were taken down and sold for the benefit of the government, leaving only one of the smallest size to tinkle feebly for the English prayers.' He admits in a note that he had found no especial directions for the Oxfordshire bells, but says that 'there was a general order of council applying to all the disturbed districts, and I see no reason why Oxfordshire should be spared.' Froude was wrong.

Further west in Cornwall and Devon the revolt was much more serious and was not put down without great difficulty. The leader on the Government side was John, Lord Russell, one of the new landowners who had been enriched by abbey lands and was afterwards Earl of Bedford and the founder of the present ducal house. To him, after the suppression of the rebellion, the Council sent the following letter:—

'After our hearty Commendations to your Lordship. Whereas the rebels of the counties of Devonshire and Cornwall have used the bells in every parish as an instrument to stir the multitude and call them together; thinking good to have this occasion of tempting the like hereafter to be taken away from them, and remembering withal by the taking down of them the King's Majesty may have some commodity towards his great charges that way, we have thought good to pray your good lordship to give orders for the taking down of the said bells in all the churches within these two counties leaving in every church one bell the least of the ring that now is in the same which may serve to call the parishioners together for the sermon and divine service. In the doing thereof we require your lordship to use such moderation as the same may be done with as much quietness and as little offence of the common people as may be and thus we bid your lordship most hearty farewell. From Westminster September 12 1549.'

This is signed not only by the Duke of Somerset and such old and experienced civil servants as Sir William Paget and Sir William Petre, but also (be it noted) by Archbishop Cranmer.

This order is explicit enough, and that the Council not only intended the bells should be pulled down, but thought that they actually had been pulled down, is shown by the following entry in the Patent Roll of Edward the Sixth: 'Whereas of late the bells of churches or chapels in Devon, Cornwall and the City of Exeter were by command of the Earl of Bedford, Privy Seal, late the king's lieutenant in those parts, taken down all save one bell in each church to call the people to divine service: Grant to the king's servant, Sir Arthur Champerton, knight, and John Chechester esquire all the Clappers of the said bells so taken down with all the iron and other furnyshire of them. Westminster, 2nd December, 1550.'

Nevertheless, it is quite certain that the bells were not taken down. This is evident not only from the fact

that many of them still remain, representatives of the much greater number which from one cause or another have been recast during four centuries; but also from the inventories taken a few years after the rebellion, and when the churches were despoiled of nearly all their goods and ornaments the commissioners were empowered 'to sell or cause to be sold to our use all parcels or pieces of metal except the metal of great bells and saunce bells.'

Russell may have attempted to remove some of the bells and found the public feeling was so strong on the point that he did not think it worth while to risk a further outbreak. He was on the spot, he was a singularly level-headed person, he knew how hardly the recent revolt had been put down, and there was the saving clause in his letter of instructions to fall back upon.

It was to these incidents that Strype was referring when he wrote of the Duke of Somerset: 'He is generally charged for the great spoil of churches and chapels; defacing ancient tombs and monuments, and pulling down the bells in parish churches and ordering only one bell a steeple as sufficient to call the people together, which set the commonality almost in a rebellion.'

A modern person might think it ridiculous to suppose that the Englishmen who three or four years later saw their churches stripped bare of ornaments without any overt protest (whatever they may have thought or said among themselves) would have risen in rebellion to defend the bells in the steeples, but it is undoubtedly the fact that those bells had a place in men's affections which is difficult for us nowadays wholly to realise. They were something much more than instruments which ministered to the service of religion. They were part of the very life and soul of the people, secular as well as religious. Nothing connected with the parish church was so much valued as the bells in the steeple, on nothing else were the people prepared to spend so much money, and nothing else did the laity so much keep in their own hands and control. In addition, ringing had already become a popular pastime, and by confiscating the bells the government would have outraged the feelings of every class of man.

The Duke of Somerset, headstrong and reckless in doing what he believed to be right, not too disinterested to enrich himself out of church property, and influenced by men far more rapacious than himself, was prepared to flout public opinion and loot the church bells; but his hour of power was a short one, and after his fall the Council, though they still hankered after the bells and formally took possession of them, seem to have come to the conclusion that the game was not worth the candle.

With the government setting so bad an example it was inevitable that other people should try to follow it and attempt to seize church bells for their own purposes. The rebellion in Norfolk began in some dispute between the people and a local gentleman who had taken down the lead and bells of the abbey church at Wymondham, though that matter was quickly lost sight of in the larger question of enclosures and other agrarian grievances. The parishioners of Orleston in Yorkshire complained that two bells in the chapel of Tokington in the same parish had been removed by Sir M. Petrie. 'Bishop Bulkley of Bangor, anno 1541, not content to

alienate the lands and weaken the estate, resolved to rob it also of its bells (for fear perhaps of having any knells rung out at church funerals) and not content to sell the bells which were five in number he would needs satisfie himself with seeing them conveyed on board ship, and had scarce given himself that satisfaction but was immediately struck blind and so continued from that day to the day of his death.'

At Steyning in Sussex there appears to have been some unauthorised sale of bells, for the Council sent 'a letter of thanks to the Lorde Laware for his paynes taken in sending up James Norton and bowlting out of the hole circumstance of his and others doinges touching the sale of belles and other thinges. Requiring his lordship to call before hym and summe other Justices of the Peace of that Countie the parishioners of Steyning causing suche of them as by theyr examinacions shall appear faultie in the matter to be committed to warde there to remayne untill they shall put in sufficient bond for the restitution of all those things that they have solde or the juste value thereof to the Kinges use and to stand such furder ordre for theyr contempt as shalbe awarded against them.'

Very often old documents suggest some drama but give no clue to its action. When John Ely and Thomas Chapman broke into St. Giles' Church at Norwich and stole three bell clappers and some organ pipes it seems merely a commonplace theft like scores of others that take place every year. But why did it come before the Council, and why did the Council grant a pardon? No doubt there was something behind it all, and Ely and Chapman were agents for some more influential persons. 'Whereas John Ely smythe and Thomas Chapman

laborer both of Norwich are indicted of having on 9 Dec. 6 Edward VI broken into the parish church of St. Giles in the Ward of Mancrofte between 9 and 12 p.m. and stolen three bell clappers weighing 104 pounds and worth 16s., 200 lez organ pipes worth 16s. and two lez rochettes worth 11½d. the property of the parishioners in the custody of the churchwardens. Pardon to the said John Ely and Thomas Chapman for the said felony.'

(To be continued.)

SERVICE TOUCHES.
BOB MAJOR.

1,264					1,264				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
35264	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	24536	—	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	—	24365	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32465	—	—	—	—
53246	—	—	—	—	43265	—	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
1,264					1,280				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
52436	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
43526	—	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—	—
24365	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
43265	—	—	—	—	42563	—	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	—	54326	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32546	—	—	—	—
54326	—	—	—	—	24365	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	53246	—	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—

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

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

The Editor,
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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Will all Secretaries of Associations who have not
already sent the names and addresses of their repre-
sentatives, please do so without further delay, and also
remit any affiliation fees outstanding.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Sec.

A handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung at Edmonton last week
was reported without the name of the ringer of the tenors. It should
have been 'John Thomas 9-10.'

One peal of Painswick College Bob should be added to the list of
peals rung by the late Derek Sharp.

Members of the Essex Association should note that the meeting
which had been arranged for Hornchurch to-morrow has been can-
celled, as the tower is within the prohibited area. Instead a meeting
will be held at Woodford on May 13th.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas B. Worsley, of
Bolton, who passed away last Sunday at the age of 57 years.

Mr. Worsley, who was a past vice-president of the Lancashire
Association and a member of the Central Council, had not only an
outstanding career as a practical ringer, but was a composer of
exceptional merit. The funeral was yesterday at St. Mary's, Deane,
Bolton.

MR. NORMAN H. MANNING.

It has been learnt that Mr. Manning, of whom no news had been
received since the invasion of Italy, has escaped and is possibly on
his way to England. Mr. Manning was taken prisoner at Tobruk.
Readers may remember a reference in a letter from Mr. R. Darvill,
recently published in these columns, to the effect that Mr. Dennis
Brock, of Sunbury, had met Mr. Manning at a P.O.W. camp in Italy.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

'Norwich. The Norwich Diocesan Association and the St. Peter
Mancroft Society. On Thursday, April 26th, 1894, in Five Hours, at
the parish rooms, St. Peter Mancroft, on handbells retained in hand,
a peal of Bob Major, 11,200 changes. J. Armiger Trollope 1-2, George
P. Burton 3-4, John E. Burton 5-6, Charles E. Borrett 7-8. Composed
by J. Armiger Trollope and Conducted by Charles E. Borrett.
Umpires—A. W. Brighton and G. Howchin. This is the longest peal
ever rung on handbells in any method, and the longest in Norwich
for 157 years.'—'The Bell News.'

MAIDENHEAD.—On April 10th, at All Saints', 1,260 Stedman
Triples: J. Bales 1, T. Goodchild 2, W. Welling 3, H. Wingrove 4, W.
Walker 5, J. Fowler 6, J. Eldridge (conductor) 7, H. Baldwin 8.

LONDON.—At St. Giles-in-the-Fields, on Sunday, April 16th, 1,280
Superlative Surprise Major: W. Nudds 1, J. A. Trollope 2, C. T. Coles
(conductor) 3, E. C. S. Turner 4, W. Hewitt 5, T. J. Lock 6, L. E.
Last 7, J. Bennett 8.

RINGING AND LIFE.

By F. E. HAYNES.

It frequently happens in the life of men, and indeed in the life of a nation, that a point is reached where serious thought has to be given to the future, and important decisions have to be taken. We stand, as it were, at the cross-roads, and upon our choice of road depends our future success or failure, survival or extermination. At such a point, I feel, ringing finds itself to-day. Are we setting our feet upon the right path? Are we proceeding in the right direction? This essay is, in the main, an attempt partly to answer, but mainly to stimulate inquiry into these questions.

Consider first the purely physical question of muscular exertion, something that we rarely think of, but which undeniably contributes to the value of ringing. This exertion, if continued for some considerable period of time, will in itself produce a pleasurable feeling of 'delicious fatigue,' akin to that experienced after an afternoon's digging, or a really vigorous walk. The resultant thirst, incidentally, is no wise inferior, to that acquired by these alternative methods! But the present generation may claim that in these days of ball-bearings and super-scientific bell-hanging, when a bell of fifteen hundredweight can be rung 'by a girl of ten with a piece of cotton,' the value of bell ringing as physical exercise is rapidly disappearing. Although, be it noted, this need not be the case. For, is it not possible to put as much exertion into ringing a perfectly-hung and easy-going little bell as any of our ancestors did into the manipulation of a thirty-hundredweight odd-struck, non-lubricated, lopsided tenor of a century or more ago?

Are there not among our number some who, by pulling hard and checking hard both at handstroke and backstroke, succeed in exerting the maximum of effort in the minimum of time! These might be called the 'spendthrift of energy'; yet are they not more worthy than those who go to the other extreme and fear to exert a hundredth of a foot pound of energy more than is just sufficient to allow the other fellow to get his bell clear of theirs? And who can resist a smile when one of these, who does not trouble to bring his bell properly to the balance and is unable to hold it there, allows his bell to 'slip wheel' in the middle of a course of London specially arranged at his request? For is it not true that this form of exertion, this dislike of work, is often accompanied by a slack rope?

But we digress. These physical considerations are comparatively unimportant: as in life, so in bell ringing, there are aesthetic, mental and even moral aspects that bring far greater satisfaction. Inherent in every man there is a desire to do something, to achieve something worth while, to produce something different, or to go 'one better than the next man.' What fertile soil is provided by bell ringing for the cultivation and satisfaction of these desires? We can ring longer than any one has ever done before; we can join together more

methods than was even thought possible; we can attempt to ring a tenor of $x+2$ tons, where x =the heaviest yet; we can call a composition of Stedman Triples with a call at every six-end; we can ring a peal half-an-hour quicker than has ever been done before! Our ambition can, indeed, to abandon irony, be satisfied in many different ways.

When we first start to ring we are at once presented with an obstacle to overcome, a difficulty to conquer—we are asked to manage the patently unmanageable and to control the obviously uncontrollable, we have to 'handle' our bell. How easy it seems to us when first we poke our timorous noses round the belfry corner, and watch the sallies rise and fall in regular succession! How easy, of course, to the uninitiated, does anything appear when performed by experts: how difficult when first we ourselves try to do likewise!

It is this initial difficulty, overcome by some in a few weeks, by more in months or years, by many not at all, that really makes bell-ringing worth while, and which, rightly regarded, gives encouragement to the learner to proceed. At the same time, too, it is this initial difficulty that tests the character, the will power, the stamina of the would-be campanologist, and ensures that those who go on to further fields are of the right kind. At least it should do so. Do we always make sure that this initial difficulty has been overcome before we proceed to the next step, the ringing of rounds? Then from rounds to changes, from Minor to Major, from plain courses to touches, from touches to peals, from Caters to Cinques—do we always make certain that the pupil is ready for the next step? Alas, how many there are in our belfries who have never placed their foot firmly upon the bottom rung of the ladder, but have, nevertheless, been pushed, some half-way up, some almost to the top, to the detriment of the Exercise at large? A man who could not learn to handle an oar would never be given a place in his college 'eight'; after a week or two his captain would suggest that he find some other outlet for his energies. Why, then, are recruits who obviously are going to find it a task of the utmost difficulty ever to handle a bell properly persisted with, often with the result that others endowed with greater aptitude are discouraged at their own slow rate of progress, become irregular in their attendance at practice, and finally disappear? Why are such recruits not politely thanked for their interest and efforts and then kindly but firmly advised to find some other hobby more adapted to their particular capabilities?

I would suggest that it is due to a quite unwarranted fear that our art is dying out. This fear is, of course, accentuated and in many places apparently justified by the special circumstances prevailing to-day, which have doubtless led to a temporary dearth of ringers in many belfries. But surely that is no reason why we should be unduly anxious to admit ever-increasing numbers of recruits, with a consequent decrease in the standard of

(Continued on next page.)

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RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from previous page.)

striking? One tendency of life to-day is to make everything easy of access to all and sundry—education, entry into the professions, entertainment of every kind, to give just three examples. This tendency is, I suppose, one would say democratic, but who can claim with certainty that it is going to be of any great ultimate benefit to our race? Similarly the tendency in ringing to-day is to open wider our belfry doors to all who may care to enter, to make each step up the ladder more easy. Here again I must confess to doubts of any ultimate benefit.

To my mind we should do well to make our towers not more easy, but more difficult of access, not only to beginners, but also even to visitors. This is dangerous ground that I now tread, and I can hear many of my readers pouring ridicule upon my head. Before they throw the paper down in disgust, however, would they ask themselves this question, 'When do we get the best ringing?' Is not the answer: We get the best ringing when there are just enough of us present to man the ropes, when the Vicar does not bring up a crowd of visitors to 'see the bells rung,' when there is nothing to distract our attention from the matter in hand?

Particularly since the raising of the ban, the interest shown in ringers and ringing by people who can be of no possible use to the Exercise has been almost embarrassing. At the time it was felt, not least by myself, that this interest would be of great help to us, but now I am not so certain.

The nature of bell-ringing is, I think, such that if we are to maintain a high standard, then we must be exclusive, and we must be chary of admitting newcomers to our circle too readily. But, then, some will say, many of our bells are doomed to a long silence! So then I would say, 'Why not? Better that some bells should be silent now, at any rate on Sundays, if it means an eventual return of really good striking in service ringing, which surely should be our main concern. Quantity rather than quality is an inevitable result of the mass production of the age; let us beware lest that become the prevailing fashion in ringing also.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

LINCOLN.—On Easter Sunday at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Howes 1, T. W. Taffender (conductor) 2, H. Lowman 3, L. Snell 4, J. A. Freeman 5, L. Pask 6, J. Walden 7, A. Marcon 8.

TERRINGTON ST. JOHN, NORFOLK.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Double Court Minor: J. W. Rodwell 1, T. Bunting 2, G. Hockley 3, E. Bunting 4, W. Cousins (conductor) 5, C. Cousins 6.

PUTNEY.—On Easter Sunday, 630 Grandsire Triples: J. Bilby 1, P. A. Corby 2, C. E. Cassell 3, J. Kent 4, G. R. H. Smith 5, A. Williams 6, W. T. Elson (composer and conductor) 7, J. Winter 8.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS.—On April 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Miss V. Maberly 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, *G. Wareham 4, H. E. White (conductor) 5, *D. King 6. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal inside.

GLASGOW.—At St. Mary's Cathedral on Easter Day, 1,239 Stedman Caters: R. O. Street 1, H. F. Sargent 2, P. O. F. J. Cheal, R.N. (first quarter-peal of Caters) 3, F. Wilson 4, R. G. Townsend 5, E. W. Yates 6, E. Bounphrey 7, E. A. Stafford 8, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 9, A. E. Haines 10.

DORCHESTER, DORSET.—On April 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples half-muffled for the late C. H. Jennings. Miss P. Marsh (first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples) 1, L. H. Pink 2, A. F. Martin Stewart 3, F. B. Stedman 4, Sgt. P. Toccock 5, J. Squire 6, W. C. Shute (conductor) 7, D. W. C. Chant 8.

SELWORTHY, NEAR MINEHEAD, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, April 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: D. Farmer 1, M. Arscott 2, R. Arscott 3, L. Arscott 4, H. L. Arscott (conductor) 5, W. Pugsley 6. First quarter-peal by all except conductor.

WOOL.—On April 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Sgt. P. Toccock (conductor) 1, *L. Williams 2, W. Sturmer 3, *A. Dorey 4, J. Sturmer 5, *H. Stevens 6. *First quarter-peal.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRENTFORD.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Brentford on April 15th, and was attended by about 30 members and friends from Brentford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Leytonstone, Ruislip, Swindon, Twickenham, Uxbridge and Weybridge. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paton. Before the lesson, a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells in the chancel by J. A. Trollope, J. Herbert, E. C. S. Turner, F. W. Goodfellow and T. G. Bannister.

Cups of tea were provided in the Church Hall by the Vicar and Mrs. Paton, and the annual business meeting followed.

The vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, proposed the Vicar as an honorary member of the association and referred to his many acts of kindness to the society. Reference was made to the recent tragic death by enemy action of Mr. W. R. Madgwick. The hon. secretary's report was read and adopted, and the accounts were presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, and showed an amount of £8 handed over to the treasurer out of a total received of £9.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Hon. district secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant hon. district secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson. It was desired to keep Mr. Wilson in this position, although he is still on service in North Africa, and Mr. T. G. Bannister agreed to carry out any necessary duties. The secretary was requested to write Mr. Wilson, conveying good wishes from everyone present. Mr. E. C. S. Turner was re-elected Ringing Master, with Mr. T. G. Bannister as deputy. Messrs. F. G. Baldwin, F. W. Goodfellow and G. M. Kilby were elected to the Central Committee, and Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and J. C. Churchill as auditors. One new member was elected, Mr. W. Archton, of St. Mary's, Ealing.

Two summer meetings were arranged—St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, for June 10th, with Cranford to follow later. A discussion as to the possibility of appointing an official instructor for the district was initiated by Mr. A. Harding, but it was not felt that the time was opportune; and the question of the preservation of a valuable old peal board at St. John's, Hillingdon, was raised by Mr. J. J. Platt, of Hillingdon.

Ringing took place later in the evening at St. Mary's, Ealing, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Major being brought round.

BELLS IN INDIA.

A LETTER FROM MR. A. P. CANNON.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who tells of some of the bells in India he has had an opportunity of visiting. On February 11th he met Mr. Edward Rapley, of West Grinstead, at Poona, and the two visited the Church of the Holy Name in that city. 'The church is R.C.,' says Mr. Cannon. 'It has a very tall and slenderly built detached tower of brick, and did not at all look the best place to hang a heavy peal. We climbed up five floors and eventually found a most pleasant sight—a modern ring of eight hung by John Taylors in 1834, complete with wheels, Hastings stays and sliders, and hung in a massive iron frame on the "H" pattern. There were no ropes and the bearings were clogged with 50 years of accumulation of grit and dust.

'Enquiries from a few of the older inhabitants revealed that owing to the tower being cracked the bells had not been rung since the day they were opened, and even then it is very doubtful if they had been swung, probably only chimed. It did seem such a waste of money and good bell metal for a splendid peal like these to be hanging silent and unattended for so many years. But I suppose this will continue for a long time yet, as even if they were put in order again and the tower strengthened it is very doubtful if any ringers could be trained to man them—certainly none of the "locals."

'We came away with a real feeling of regret that such was the condition of what could be, if hung in the right tower, a magnificent and active peal.

'Peals in India are very rare and I am trying to collect all the information I can about them. At Lahore Cathedral there is a peal of six, tenor 20 cwt., hung in the approved style in 1904 by Taylors, but in a bad state of repair. On Easter Sunday, 1942, I did succeed in raising the tenor until the sally was bobbing up and down, but to raise it any more was a physical impossibility, especially as the temperature was in the neighbourhood of 100 degrees.

'The Afghan Mission Church, Colaba, Bombay, has a chime of eight, tenor 14 cwt., hung by Mears and Steinbank in 1904, which I chimed one Sunday morning, and at Madras the same firm sent a ring of eight, tenor 20 cwt., in 1871, but in what condition these are in I do not yet know.'

'There are also chimes of six at Darjeeling and five at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, which I have visited. But the Church of the Holy Name, Poona, seems to be the nearest approach to home conditions that one can expect in India, and we were both very thrilled at having an opportunity of inspecting them.

'If anyone has any more knowledge of rings of bells, five or more, in India, I should be delighted to hear about them.'

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
ANNUAL MEETING.**

The sixty-fourth annual general meeting of the Kent County Association was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday and attracted a fairly representative gathering, nearly 100 attending.

The committee met in the morning, and service in All Saints' Church was conducted by the Vicar, Canon A. O. Standen, who gave an address. A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £2 0s. 3d.

Tea was in the Corn Exchange, and Mr. F. White was voted to the chair at the general meeting.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) read the annual report. He said that 19 peals had been rung during 1943, 12 on handbells and seven on tower bells as follows: Spiced Royal (2 methods) 1. Major 11, Triples 1, Minor 4, Doubles 2. Sixteen were rung in Kent and one each in London, Heris and Oxford. J. E. Spice headed the list of conductors with eight, G. R. H. Smith 4, P. A. Corby 2 and Miss Richardson, Messrs. E. H. Lewis, G. H. Cross, L. Head and E. Barnett one each. Spiced Royal in two methods, Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob was rung for the first time for the association.

The number of practising members had not increased during the year, although many had paid the arrears, consequently the income of the general account had suffered. During the year the arrears to 'The Ringing World' and Central Council subscriptions had been paid, and there remained a balance in hand of £87 9s.

No grants had been made from the Belfry Repair Fund, and that balance had increased to £182 6s. 5d. It was expected that calls will be made on the fund when the war is won.

One grant was made from the Benevolent Fund to a deserving member. The income exceeded the expenditure by £15 and the balance stood at £351 4s. 8d.

With the invested funds and the balances in the various accounts the total worth of the association is £1,100 13s. 3d.

Since the last annual meeting the association had lost by death a member of the committee, Mr. W. J. Beer (Gravesend), life member; Messrs. G. Webb (Tunstall), J. W. Steady (Edenbridge), M. Exeter (Minster, Sheppey), F. E. Pitman (Bromley), R. Smith (Gravesend), W. Lambert (Benenden), and Messrs. W. R. Madgwick and A. J. Turner, non-resident members.

District meetings had been held at Woolwich, Sevenoaks, Shoreham, Hawkhurst, Rainham, Ospringe, East Peckham, Bexley, Leigh, Sturry, Penshurst, Canterbury, Tonbridge, Chislehurst and Tunbridge Wells.

The report was adopted with thanks.

The hon. auditor (Mr. G. H. Cross) submitted the various balance sheets.

The vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Mr. W. J. Beer (Gravesend) was filled by the election of Mr. R. A. Constant (Gravesend) who was also elected on the Benevolent Committee.

It was decided to carry on the trusteeship as formerly, and for the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. J. Jeffries two nominations were received, Mr. E. Barnett (Crayford) and Mr. F. S. Macey (Sutton Valence). Mr. Macey was elected to act with Messrs. F. White (Cranbrook) and G. H. Spice (Sittingbourne).

All the other officers were re-elected. Eight new members were also elected.

It was decided to hold the next annual general meeting at Maidstone.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar, the organist and the chairman.

During the day methods up to Cambridge Royal were rung at All Saints', and various towers in the district were also placed at the disposal of the association.

DEATH OF MR. J. R. TAYLOR.

The death is announced of Mr. J. R. Taylor, of Penwortham, Lancashire, who passed away on April 19th at the age of 84.

Mr. Taylor had been a member of the band at Penwortham for over sixty years and was largely instrumental in increasing the bells to eight. He served the church as churchwarden, sidesman and member of the Parochial Church Council. He rang for the Sunday services as recently as Easter Day and a few weeks before took part in a quarter-peal.

The funeral service was conducted by the Vicar, who was assisted by the curate. The Vicar spoke of the work Mr. Taylor had done for the church. Four members of the band acted as bearers. The tower bells were rung muffled before and after the service, and handbells were rung over the grave by young ringers.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY
MEETING AT EASTWOOD.**

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Eastwood, Rotherham on April 15th, was attended by members from Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish Church and the local belfry, with Mr. Bradley, of Sutton, Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Pashley, of Grimsby.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Cook, presided at the business meeting and welcomed the ringers. Mention was made of the death of Mr. G. Clark, of Arkey. Mr. Pashley was elected an honorary member and Mr. Field a ringing member.

Thanks were given to the Vicar and to Mr. G. Lee, of the local company.

The ringing included Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not agree with Mr. Baldwin's remarks in your last issue. Surely he realises that these are not normal conditions. Referring particularly to the Middlesex County Association, whilst under normal conditions it was possible to keep to a stated Saturday in each month, generally speaking, it is not so now. Neither do I agree that it is the locality and not the date which is in question. In arranging meetings of late, I have encountered difficulties in both directions, and all meetings are now in effect a compromise of conflicting requirements.

As quite a number of people are engaged on war work on Saturdays, I have several times found that only a particular date is suitable for a tower secretary, and often when I have fixed a date I have been told by one or other of the officers that it is not suitable for them. At each of our meetings, the time and place of the next is fixed after full discussion, and I have been particularly careful to see that this item is included in the report in 'The Ringing World,' some time before the official notice is inserted, in order to give anyone interested plenty of time to consider the matter.

Further, I entirely disagree that it should be part of the duties of the secretary to notify all his neighbours of his meetings, under present conditions anyway. They presumably take 'The Ringing World,' and can read the reports, and I have neither the time nor the inclination to write to perhaps half a dozen other secretaries after each of our meetings. On the other hand, at each meeting suggestions are asked for for forthcoming meetings, and it is open for anyone to propose a meeting, joint or otherwise. I would add, too, that I have no recollection of having heard a single suggestion for another joint meeting since that at Hillingdon, but if one is received I shall be only too pleased to act accordingly.

J. L. LEWIS COCKEY, Hon. Dist. Secretary,
Middlesex County Association.

1. Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have only recently seen in the March 3rd number of 'The Ringing World' the letter from Mr. A. W. Davis on the mechanics of bell-raising, or I would have written to you sooner on the subject.

To my mind, Mr. Davis is hardly justified in comparing the motion of raising a bell with that of raising a load with block and tackle. In the former case, the bell while on the swing must possess a large amount of kinetic energy of rotation which ultimately must have been provided by the ringer. True, this energy is all given back in the end, but the fact that it must be imparted to the bell and that angular speed must be developed probably account for the heavy work necessary half-way up.

G. A. S. DIBLEY.
5, The Green, Aston Rowant, Lewknor, Oxford.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SOUTH WIGSTON.—On Easter Sunday, 1,296 Stedman Triples: J. E. Clark 1, A. Patriok 2, G. Deacon 3, S. Cox 4, R. Perry 5, C. Marshall (conductor) 6, J. L. Willars 7, F. Ford 8.

WILESBOURGH, KENT.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Doubles: R. Booth 1, J. Ireland 2, E. S. Puck 3, M. Lancefield 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, M. Gilliam 6.

ST. ALBANS.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Peter's, 1,264 Bob Major: R. Smith (first quarter-peal) 1, K. A. Roe, R.A.F. (first in method) 2, E. J. Gale 3, G. Blake 4, R. Dobson-5, A. Dale 6, R. Darvill 7, W. Ayre (conductor) 8.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Bob Minor: T. W. Woolston 1, F. J. Cress 2, B. Heasman 3, G. Wiggins 4, W. J. Coppard 5, R. Hide (conductor) 6.

KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Bob Minor: Rev. M. L. Couchman 1, H. Parker 2, H. Clarke 3, J. Dunkley 4, G. Parker 5, G. Allard (conductor) 6.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Grandsire Doubles: P. Thompson 1, L. H. Bywaters 2, Wing-Comdr. T. V. Lister 3, I. Church 4, P. W. Tompkins 5, D. Pearson 6.

BROMHAM, BEDS.—On Monday, April 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. L. Harlow 1, H. Gayton 2, Miss P. L. Gilbert (first quarter-peal) 3, L. H. Bowler 4, C. H. Harding 5, J. Church 6, L. H. Bywaters (conductor) 7, B. F. Sims 8.

OXHEY HERTS.—On Easter Monday, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *L. Tarr 1, S. Hoare 2, *Sgt. R. Cadamy 3, H. Hodgkiss 4, J. Rootes 5, W. Hodgetts 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7, C. Kazer 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, April 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Huckstepp (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss L. Wickens 2, H. C. Castle 3, P. Page 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, Dan Godden 8.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, April 16th at St. Andrew's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. G. Bannister 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, F. W. Goodfellow 3, P. Jones 4, A. A. Fitch 5, W. S. Childs 6, J. J. Pratt (conductor) 7, C. A. Over 8. Rung on the 50th anniversary of a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Andrew's, in which the conductor took part.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Nuneaton on Saturday, April 15th, was attended by over sixty members from Allesley Arley, Bedworth, Birmingham, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Coleshill, Stoke, Rugby, Warwick and Wolvey. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. Knight, and tea in the Parish Hall was followed by the business meeting, the Vicar taking the chair. Apologies were received from the president, the Rev. F. W. Moyle, Mr. J. F. Smallwood and Mr. L. J. Hinde.

Mr. Pervin's proposition that members under 18 years of age should be admitted free was seconded by Mr. Perrens. Mr. Stote moved an amendment that young members be admitted free, but subject to Rule 14, which would debar them from voting at any meeting. The amendment was defeated.

Mr. Stone's proposition that the subscription should be reduced from 2s. to 1s. 6d., as no reports had been issued since 1939, was supported by Mr. White, but opposed by Messrs. Pervin, Perrens, Beamish, Stote and Beale. The motion was lost.

The report for 1943 showed that three business meetings had been held, at Chilvers Coton, Stoke and Bedworth, with three monthly meetings at Nuneaton, Wolvey and Earl Shilton, the latter combined with the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £20 2s. 9d., with £20 in Defence Bonds.

Six peals had been rung during the year, five on handbells in Coventry and one on tower bells at Allesley. Three were Bob Minor, two Bob Major and the tower-bell peal was Cambridge Minor. Four were conducted by Mr. F. E. Pervin and two by Mr. F. W. Perrens.

The Rev. M. Knight was elected president; the Rev. R. T. Murray, Vicar of Chilvers Coton, vice-president; Mr. F. E. Pervin, Master (in place of Mr. J. H. W. White, who held the office for 14 years); Mrs. D. E. Beamish, hon. secretary and treasurer, and Mr. A. H. Beamish, hon. auditor. The Central Council representatives remain as elected in 1939, Mrs. D. E. Beamish and Mr. F. W. Perrens.

Meeting places for the next three months were fixed: Kenilworth, Hampton-in-Arden and Stratford-on-Avon.

New members elected were D. Harwick and H. Wilding, of Allesley; H. Ashley, of Bulkington; H. Folwell, of Keresley; J. Robinson, of Arley; T. Hastings, of Stoke (re-elected); Barbara Moreton (aged 16), Margaret Beamish (aged 8) and Derek Gibbons (aged 9), of Chilvers Coton.

Mr. Pervin suggested that the districts should be revived each with its district secretary. He proposed that a committee be formed to examine the position. Mr. W. Stote seconded and the proposition was carried.

Mr. A. Walker moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, to the ladies who had arranged tea, and to all who had worked for the success of the meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEICESTER.

About 200 ringers and friends were present at the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Leicester on April 15th. Service at St. Margaret's was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. N. Ducker, and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Leicester.

Tea was served in the Cathedral Church House and over 130 were present, representing some 30 towers from all districts of the association. The president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, presided, supported by Mr. Colin Harrison (vice-president), Miss I. B. Thompson (hon. treasurer), Mr. Ernest Morris (hon. secretary), the Bishop of Leicester, the Very Rev. H. A. Jones (Provost of the Cathedral), the Ven. Archdeacon C. L. Matthews, the Rev. Canon Linwood Wright (St. Mark's) and the Rev. E. Pillifant (St. John's).

Thirty-five ringing and two rejoins were elected. The hon. secretary, in his review of 1943, said that the districts were keeping up Sunday service ringing and practices, though in many cases with depleted bands, and membership had been considerably increased by a number of old lapsed members rejoining, and by a large influx of new members. During the year 10 tower and 13 handbell peals had been rung.

The hon. treasurer reported that the financial position was satisfactory, and an increase in the balance in hand over the previous year was a good sign of interest and progress. The officers were re-elected.

Mr. H. J. Poole brought forward a scheme for the decentralisation of the association into diocesan guilds, having previously sent full details of this to each of the seven district secretaries for discussion among members. For a long period it has been felt that the area covered by the association is much too large to be worked properly, and the hon. secretary read a letter from a 'Ringing World' of 1928 by the then president, Alderman R. B. Chambers, voicing the same feelings. The late Mr. W. E. White formulated a similar scheme just before his death. It was eventually proposed to call a special meeting to be devoted to the subject, in about four months' time, after each district had had time to discuss and report on the matter.

St. Margaret's bells were rung before the meeting and afterwards. The Cathedral bells (12) and St. John's (10) were available.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT NORWICH.

The annual meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Norwich on Easter Monday, and over 50 ringers were present from New Buckenham, Garboldisham, Acle, Hitchin, Whittle-le-Woods (Lancs), Ely, Diss, Mulbarton, Fornicett, Norwich, Harwich, Wroxham, Norton Subcourse, Palgrave, Ranworth, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Aylsham, Redenhall, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth.

During the day ringing took place at St. Peter Mancroft, St. Miles', St. Giles' and St. John-de-Sepulchre, in methods up to Cambridge Surprise Major, Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters.

At the service at Mancroft, the preacher was the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, president of the association. The tea and business meetings were held at Ber House. The officers were all re-elected. It was decided not to issue an annual report for the past year. New members elected included Mr. W. Simmonds, non-resident life member, Mr. W. Steele, who rejoins the association, and Miss Kathleen Harrison and Mr. George Ford as probationers. It was agreed to continue having general meetings for the president instead of branch meetings, the next meeting to be on May 6th at Redenhall if possible, with Pulham Market as an alternative. A tentative date for the following meeting was fixed as June 3rd.

Mr. G. Walpole was congratulated on having collected £32 1s. 7d. for Norton Subcourse bells. A letter was read from the B.B.C. expressing appreciation of the ringing for the recent 'Home Flash' broadcast from Norwich; £2 2s. from their fee of £3 3s. is to be given to St. Nicholas', Yarmouth, bell restoration fund.

The accounts were presented and adopted, showing a balance in hand of £42 19s. 2d. at the end of 1943. Votes of thanks were passed to the clergy, the Rural Dean, the preacher and organist, and the Sisters of Ber House.

PEAL FAILURES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' interests me very much in one respect, i.e., your remark that quality should come before quantity, but the question in the forefront of my mind is 'How many peals are recorded as such, which, had they been judged by experts on the quality of execution, would have been best written off as analogous to a bad debt?'

I often wonder how many a peal attempt is continued even although, through constant trips, the striking is hardly bearable and the ringing a hopeless jangle, and sooner than bring disappointment to the band the conductor allows this state of affairs to continue until, as you say in your article, 'he manages by his brilliance to get the band, no matter how they ring, through the peal.' All this, I think, is in agreement with your remarks about ringers gloating over their growing lists of peals, and I am confident that this sort of thing is certainly very exceptional, but, nevertheless, I do think it happens.

I, along with others, am, in the very fortunate position of being connected with a well-known Guild in the Durham and Newcastle Association area with a Ringing Master whose principal thought is for good striking, and I remember ringing in one peal attempt for, as far as my memory serves me, about one hour when the conductor, who happened to be the Ringing Master, called 'Stand,' owing, he said, to terrible striking.

Would that this were so in all such instances of a similar nature.

FRANK AINSLEY.

30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Ipswich on April 15th.

At the business meeting the Rev. W. H. Trickett presided. Mr. C. E. Fisher presented the accounts, which showed a credit balance for the year of £21 10s. 4d. and a capital account of £61 10s. 4d.

Mr. C. J. Sedgley, the Ringing Master, reported that since the lifting of the ban there had been a slow and gradual resumption of ringing, and service ringing is being carried out at many churches in spite of difficulties. Meetings had been held at Woodbridge, Ipswich, Hollesley, Helmingham, Framsdon, Sudbury, Ufford and elsewhere, many of them well attended. One peal was rung in 1943 Treble Bob Maximus on handbells at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. Several members had been lost by death, including Mr. G. W. Ablitt, of Bury St. Edmunds, who had rung in just on one hundred peals for the Guild. Mr. Sedgley went on to speak of 'The Ringing World' and urged his hearers to give it their support.

Eighteen new members were elected, and thanks were given to the treasurer and Ringing Master for their reports.

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

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, Saturday, April 29th. Bells, Cathedral (12) 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter at Gowts' (6) by arrangement. Business meeting at 3 p.m. in Chapter House. Evensong 4 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch. — Meeting at 'St. Werburgh's, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—R. C. GIFFORD, Hon. Sec., Diamond Jubilee, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Cary Deanery.—Meeting at Bruton, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Tickhill, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided only.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitschapel, E.1, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting at Leeds' Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. Names to G. Robinson, 32, Heathfield, Adel, Leeds 6, by May 3rd. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Names to Mr. P. L. Parrott, School House, Lawrence Street, Sandiacre, by Tuesday, May 2nd. Vital business affecting all towers.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Monday, May 1st, to A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5s. 2s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting. Names by May 1st. Half rail fare, maximum 2s. 6d. to resident members. If outside defence area, send for agenda (1d. stamp).—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmore Avenue, Brighton 6.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Meeting at Shoreditch, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business. Names by Thursday, May 4th. — G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Alphington, Saturday, May 6th. Service 4 p.m. Arrangements for tea at the meeting. Names by May 1st.—W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting, Hitchin, May 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by May 3rd.—A. C. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Thorpe Malsor (bells 6), Saturday, May 6th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea to H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District. — Meeting at Rickmansworth, Saturday, May 6th, 3.30. Tea at Oasis Cafe 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Redenhall, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Yew Tree Tea Rooms, Redenhall, 5 p.m.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Clowne, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Netley Abbey, near Southampton, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by May 2nd.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Burnley St. Peter's, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Meeting, Tower, 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Leek, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. For tea notify E. Sharratt, 13, Lowther Place, Leek, Staffs, before May 2nd.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Western Branch. — Meeting at Dodderhill, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. — Ernest J. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — Meeting at Dunmow, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Light tea provided. Names to Mr. H. W. Smith, 11, Causeway, Dunmow, by May 11th. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, May 13th. Bells 2-8 p.m. Service 4. Business 4.45. No tea arrangements, but several restaurants nearby. Bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 6-8 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. Meeting at Woodford, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield contest at Hoylandswaine, Nr. Penistone, on Saturday, July 8th. Open to all towers with financial members. Entrance fee 6s. All entries must reach me by first post July 7th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

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