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FRIDAY, JUNE 30th, 1944.

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Price 3d.

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

METHODS.

One of the chiefest attractions of method ringing is that it sets before the ringer a difficult task which taxes his utmost skill and full attention, and gives him the satisfaction of feeling he has done something which will raise him in the estimation of his fellows; and so the custom is to value methods according to their real or reputed difficulty, or (to use the word the old ringers favoured) their intricacy. This is quite natural and, up to a point, quite right. It is the intellectual task of finding and following the intricate path through the other bells which in very large measure forms the fascination of change ringing, and so long as our art is living and progressive men will always esteem a method which is really difficult, even if it is markedly deficient in other good qualities.

But in all these matters there is always a tendency to run to one extreme, and in the pursuit of one good thing to lose sight of others just as god.

Difficulty is an attraction in a method, but it is not the only one, and with practice it necessarily tends to become less difficult. Variety and novelty are to some an even greater attraction, and there are few peals more enjoyable than when the band is really first class and the method one they have never practised before.

There was a time not so long ago when it would have been thought rather wonderful for a man, let alone a whole band, to ring a peal in a method he had not practised, but of late years many examples have shown that it is quite easy, provided that ringing and methods are approached in the right way.

It is, we believe, true to say that very many ringers and very many bands are deceived by false values. It is the custom to consider a Surprise method as a higher class method, just because it is a Surprise method. Men do not stop to consider what a Surprise method is, or why, and wherein, it should be superior. They simply follow the crowd and by contrast get into the way of rather despising what they look on as the inferior methods. That is a mistake. There is scarcely any method which will not give the fullest amount of interest provided the ringer expects it and looks for it. If he starts for a peal of Grandsire or Treble Bob with the idea that there is nothing in it and it is hardly worth doing, he will certainly find it dull and uninteresting, and probably his ringing will not be too good. But if he brings to the job the same keenness and attention

(Continued on page 270.)

that he would to an attempt for London or Bristol he will find just as much interest though, perhaps, of a different kind.

It is the custom for a man or a band to try to push on as fast as they can and to take their place among the so-called Surprise ringers, but there are other plans they could adopt just as good. No keen and progressive band would be content with Grandsire alone however much they might appreciate its merits; but there are several other methods almost as simple which they could master without much trouble, and they would have the advantage of attempting something which would afford the interest and pleasure which come from novelty, while, at the same time, not taxing their powers so much that they neglect the finer points of striking.

One such method is Oxford Bob Triples which is worth practising by any band however skilful they may be. It is not in any way difficult, but it has many excellent qualities and should receive far more attention than it has done.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., June 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Arranged by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., June 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFREY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, HEADINGLEY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | PERCY J. JOHNSON 5-6 |
| *BETTY SPICE 3-4 | JOHN E. SPICE 7-8 |

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First handbell peal in the method. First handbell peal in the method as conductor.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| *HERBERT G. LAKE ...Treble | REV. J. E. TREDENNICK 4 |
| FREDK. W. MIDDLETON 2 | FREDERICK C. GOODMAN 5 |
| ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 3 | HENRY TOOKETenor |

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

* First peal and first attempt.

BACKWELL, SOMERSET.—On Friday, June 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Olliver 1, G. C. Clift (conductor) 2, Miss M. J. F. Richardson (first quarter-peal on tower bells) 3, Major J. H. B. Hesse 4, H. W. Knight 5, Lieut. C. Glenn 6, E. Hancock 7, J. Lott 8.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Friday, June 23rd, two 720's Kent Treble Bob Minor and one 720 Bob Minor: Geoffrey Gayton (11) 1, John Fitzhugh (15) 2, Philip Jones 3, William Hammonds (16) 4, Ronald Noon 5, George Care (17) (conductor) 6. First 720 by all the band.

CREWE.—On June 24th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Barnard 1, H. F. Holding 2, W. Holding 3, H. Overton 4, G. Packer 5, W. Edge 6, R. D. Langford (conductor) 7, F. Stenson 8. Rung half-muffled for Mr. J. H. Riding.

TILEHURST, READING.—On Sunday, June 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Goodger 1, J. Marsh 2, S. Miles 3, H. Hunt 4, E. Langley 5, J. Lewendon 6, R. N. Runham (conductor) 7, D. Sellar 8.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

UPTON-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *EDWARD MAUNDTreble | WILLIAM RANFORD 5 |
| GEORGE E. LARGE 2 | GEORGE AMBLER 6 |
| REGINALD WOODYATT 3 | †ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY 7 |
| DENIS R. MORRIS 4 | CHARLES J. CAMMTenor |

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Treble Bob.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., June 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| WALTER F. JUDGETreble | WILLIAM AMBLER 5 |
| JOHN E. JUDGE 2 | CECIL G. CALCUTT 6 |
| WILLIAM C. PORTER 3 | WILLIAM JUDGE 7 |
| ARTHUR JONES 4 | JOHN E. SPICETenor |

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| HENRY H. FEARNTreble | JAMES F. HARVEY 5 |
| DANIEL T. MATKIN 2 | WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 6 |
| *RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 3 | GEORGE E. FEARN 7 |
| JOHN PINFOLD 4 | EDWARD HOLTTenor |

Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung for the marriage of the Rev. David R. Atkins, assistant priest at the church.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| GEORGE H. GUTERIDGE Treble | FRANK H. HICKS 5 |
| H. WILLIAM BARRETT 2 | JAMES A. GLASS 6 |
| THOS. G. BANNISTER 3 | GEORGE GILBERT 7 |
| *G. WILLIAM MORRIS 4 | WILLIAM WELLINGTenor |

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by WILLIAM WELLING.

* First peal in the method.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, HEADINGLEY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| LEONARD DRAKETreble | WILLIAM BARTON 5 |
| G. WILFRED SLACK 2 | JOHN E. SPICE 6 |
| BETTY SPICE 3 | RONALD H. DOVE 7 |
| EDWARD BRADLEY 4 | PERCY J. JOHNSONTenor |

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by WM. BARTON.

Rung for the baptism of Charles Barrie, son of the ringer of the seventh.

HORRINGER, SUFFOLK.—On Friday, June 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: Barbara Hill 1, L.A.C. Peter Carter 2, A. W. Rolfe 3, F. Cooper (first 720 inside) 4, A. Gillings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On June 18th, 720 London Surprise Minor and 120 of Violet: J. Lawrence 1, S. Bellings 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

HALEWOOD.—On Sunday, June 18th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor: *I. Fraser 1, G. H. Hesketh 2, T. Lee 3, *F. S. Almond 4, W. Robinson 5, T. W. Hesketh (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Treble Bob.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT BRETT.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was sorry to read of the death of Mr. Robert Brett, of Mickleham and late of Newdigate, Surrey. He will be remembered by few ringers in North Kent, but about the year 1903 when he came from Suffolk, as farm bailiff, with his brother Ernest, who afterwards became prominent in London ringing circles, as assistant bailiff, at the Homes for Little Boys at Farningham, he did much for ringers and ringing in those parts until he left about five years later.

He made Eynsford, then a peal of six with a stoney band, his first tower and in a short time transformed them into a good Minor band which rang the first peal on the bells and the first by all except himself.

He interested the late Mr. E. D. Till (whose efforts to break the tied house system in public-houses may be recalled) and persuaded him to add two trebles, and he called the first peal on the eight with most of the local band in it.

Later he transferred his efforts to Dartford, where ringing was at a very low ebb and the bells went badly, but he again revived interest. A few repairs were effected and a number of peals were rung until the bells became unringable. About this time he moved to Newdigate where he retained his interest in ringing, but his peal ringing activities ceased. I remember him ringing only one afterwards, when he called Holt's Original at Ruspur. With this composition he was a safe conductor.

We corresponded occasionally and he never seemed to recover from the loss of one of his sons, a pilot officer, who was killed early in the present war.

He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and with this society took part in at least one peal, Grandshire Triples at Dartford.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

A LETTER FROM ITALY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Corpl. Ted Coward and I met quite by chance in the streets of the local town, and following the initial surprise and greetings, the subject of campanology soon arose. Together we proceeded to a survey of the towers and ringing in this town and very interesting it proved to be.

The photograph I send shows Corpl. Coward and myself standing before the 'tenor' bell of the Cathedral, and the typical long-waisted shape of Italian bells is quite evident. From its note and size I should say this bell weighs about a ton. Unfortunately, the photograph does not bring out the full beauty of the bell, for it is actually very elaborately inscribed with flowers, wreaths, etc. It bears the date 1843.

The ringing we found was mainly chiming, although some bells are swung waist high by means of a rope and a stay bolted at right angles to the stock. A lot of the ringing is performed by small boys, who can often be seen standing high up on the parapets, furiously clapping the bells.

Bells take a prominent part in the church services of Italy, for they ring almost hourly from 6.30 in the morning to 8.30 in the evening. Although none of the ringers has heard of Snowdon's 'Diagrams,' 'method ringing' is practised, for they use several variations, with two special ones for weddings and funerals.

At present, ringing reminiscences afford us exiles a lot of pleasure, but we live in hopes of contacting another ringer and ringing a hand-bell peal on some horse bells from the local brass foundry—the first in Italy!

I hope, sir, you will accept our best wishes for continued success to 'The Ringing World,' and to the College Youths and all our ringing friends we send hearty greetings with a hope that we may be partakers in next year's 'victory' peals at home.

KENNETH ARTHUR, Sgt.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN CATERS.

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 231456789 | 324 |
| 135426978 | 1, 4 |
| 532416 | 4 |
| 231456789 | 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18 |

Call a bob at the go-off and one when the 9th is dodging in 6-7 down. These will produce the first course-end after the 9th has gone down, first Slow and then Quick.

In the second course call another similar bob when the 9th is in 6-7 down three sixes after the course-end.

In the third (boming) course, call another bob when the 9th is in 6-7 going down, one when it is making the First Whole Turn and another (at the following six) when it is about to make the First Half Turn. 1-6 dodge behind at these bobs. Call the 9th to make the bob after Slow, and another bob (at the following six) when it is in 6-7 down. 7-3 will dodge behind at these bobs. Finally, call the 9th to dodge in 8-9 up after it has gone in Quick. The bells will run round at the second change of the following Six in the ordinary way.

DEATH OF MR. J. T. WHITE.

The death is announced of Mr. John Thomas White, which occurred on Sunday, June 7th, at his home, Manor View, Shafton, after an illness of about eight months. He was 63 years of age.

Mr. White had been a member of the band at Felkirk for about 45 years, and was captain for a large part of that time. In 1929 the band rang 253 720's in as many methods, and 247 of them were conducted by Mr. White. He rang 32 peals, all of them Minor, ranging from Plain Bob to seven Surprise methods. Many of them he called. He was a member of the Yorkshire Association, the Barnsley and District Society, and the Doncaster and District Society.

The funeral was at Felkirk on June 8th. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. E. Barlow, and members of the band acted as bearers. A touch of Bob Minor was rung on handbells at the graveside by Messrs. D. Smith, P. Woodward and R. Ford, and the tower bells were rung fully muffled after the service. Among the many floral tributes was one from the ringers.

RINGING AND AIR RAIDS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The following might be of interest and valuable to some towers: On Sunday, June 27th, 1943, the bells in our tower were left up after ringing for morning service, and before we were able to ring for evensong the shell warning was given to the town, and in consequence evensong was abandoned. We lowered the bells as quickly as we could, but I had to give an explanation why the bells were ringing during the warning and instructions were then given that no bells must be rung while a shell warning is in operation, no matter how long it lasts.

Under the present circumstances I think it would be wise of ringers in the South if they lowered their bells after each service because if the military authorities or police give instructions for the public to take cover immediately no bells must be ringing.

Disregard of these instructions might be the curtailment of all ringing in a tower for the period while these weapons are being used. The bells have been treated quite reasonably and all ringers should take the utmost care.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT MARNHULL.**

A meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Marnhull on June 10th, and was attended by 25 members from Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Childe Okeford, Okeford Fitzpaine, Shroton, Zeals, Silton, Buckhorn Weston, Stoke Trister, Hazelbury Bryan, Henstridge, Kington Magna and Marnhull. There was ringing at Sturminster, Stalbridge and Fifehead as well as at Marnhull.

Service was conducted by the secretary, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins gave an address, and the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards was at the organ. Tea, at the invitation of the Rector, was served on the Rectory lawn. Apologies for absence were received from the Revs. W. Delahay and T. Sefton.

The following new members were elected: A. E. Cox, George Cox, G. Crew, J. M. Watts, C. Brixey, John Coward, from Buckhorn Weston. Mrs. R. G. Heward, Shaftesbury, was also elected.

A vote of thanks to the Rector of Marnhull was passed with acclamation.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT COGENHOE.**

There was a good attendance at a meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Cogenhoe on June 24th. Service was conducted by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, and refreshments followed, provided and served by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sharman.

Mr. Couchman presided at the business meeting, and mentioned the death of Mrs. W. H. Ashby. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. Rogers and carried. Mr. H. England referred to the golden wedding of Mr. W. Rogers and the silver wedding of Mr. B. O. Soden; the chairman offered the congratulations and good wishes of the members to those gentlemen, who replied.

The bells were rung before the service and after the business meeting.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Mrs. Chandler, of Beechgrove, Kington, whose husband, Stoker Petty Officer Harry T. Chandler, was reported missing, presumed killed, has been officially informed that he was killed on June 15th during operations.

Petty Officer Chandler was 38 years of age. He had rung about 30 peals, mostly for the Hereford Diocesan Guild. He had served over 18 years in the Royal Navy.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday, June 21st, at St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Pinfold 1, W. B. Cartwright (conductor) 2, R. J. B. Hadden 3, G. E. Fearn 4, H. H. Fearn 5, J. F. Harvey 6, E. T. Sibley 7, W. T. Froggatt 8.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

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

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

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

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

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

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

Members of the Society of Cumberland Youths should note that the meeting arranged for to-morrow at Kingston-on-Thames has been cancelled.

It has been possible to arrange a tea at the joint meeting at Aldershot on July 8th, and visitors need not bring their own food as requested in last week's notice.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES H. RIDING.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James H. Riding, which occurred at Crewe on June 19th after a short illness. He was 55 years of age.

The funeral was at Wistaston on June 23rd and was attended by Messrs. S. Sutton, of Acton, J. Brough, of Nantwich, A. Crawley, of Wistaston, and W. Chadwick and R. D. Langford, of Crewe. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled on June 24th at Christ Church, Crewe.

Mr. Riding was a ringer of exceptional ability and his merits were known and recognised in many parts of the country. He had taken part in 471 peals, of which he conducted 77. They included three record lengths. On July 21st, 1923, he rang the tenor at Over, Cheshire, to Mr. J. W. Parker's 17,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, Mr. Robert Sperring conducting. On August 5th, 1929, Mr. Riding rang the tenth in the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus, which William Pye conducted, the longest length on twelve bells. On January 29th, 1927, Mr. Riding rang the seventh to T. B. Worsley's 11,232 Superlative Surprise Major. Mr. Edward Jenkins conducted from the third and Gabriel Lindoff rang the tenor.

For some time before the war Mr. Riding, who was in the service of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, was stationed in the London area. He was in close touch with the Metropolitan ringers, with whom he rang several peals and who were impressed by his ability and personal qualities.

The following is his list of peals: Grandsire Triples 39, Caters 8, Cinques 3; Plain Bob Minor 1, Major 19, Royal 5, Maximus 1; Kent Treble Bob Minor 3, Major 66, Royal 20, Maximus 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major 12, Royal 1, Maximus 2; Stedman Triples 40, Caters 22, Cinques 12; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 78; Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 43, Royal 14, Maximus 8; New Cambridge Surprise Royal 2; Yorkshire Surprise Major 2, Royal 3; Superlative Surprise Major 21, Belgrave 1, Wembley 1, Rutland 1, Rochester 1, London 20, Bristol 8; Edmonton Bob Major 1; Erin Caters 1; Four Spliced Surprise Major 3; Three Minor Methods 2.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HARROW WEALD.

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association, held at Harrow Weald on June 24th, was attended by upwards of 35 members, among whom were a large number of young ringers. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. S. Durham, who gave an address.

An open-air business meeting was held, at which the chair was taken by Mr. G. R. Goodship, of Great Missenden, life member and past secretary. Two members were elected.

Tower bell ringing during the afternoon and evening included many methods from rounds to a touch of Spliced Surprise Major in four methods. Triples and Caters were rung on handbells.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

1. OXFORD BOB TRIPLES.

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 1234567 | continued. |
| 2135476 | 7526134 |
| 2314567 | 5762314 |
| 3241576 | 5673241 |
| 3425167 | 6537421 |
| 4352617 | 6354712 |
| 4536271 | 3645172 |
| 5463721 | 3461527 |
| 5647312 | 4316257 |
| 6574132 | 4132675 |
| 6751423 | 1423657 |
| 7615243 | 1246375 |
| 7162534 | 2143657 |
| 1726543 | 2416375 |
| 1275634 | 4261357 |
| 2176543 | 4623175 |
| 2715634 | 6432715 |
| 7251643 | 6347251 |
| | etc. |

On six bells there are several hundred good methods to be rung; on eight bells there are many thousand; but on seven bells the number is small. Why it should be so is quite an interesting question, but it does not for the moment concern us. What we should notice is that though there is as much Triples ringing as Major, and probably more, it is entirely confined to two methods, Grandsire and Stedman. Both are first class methods and it is quite safe to say that, so long as change ringing lasts, they will continue to hold a foremost place in the ringers' repertoire. But surely, we might think, there are others which, if not quite so good, are still well worth ringing.

For many years Plain Bob Triples enjoyed a considerable and not entirely undeserved measure of popularity. But it has one serious defect. At every lead end a bell lies still for four blows and this, though it is tolerated in the common Grandsire Single and the Kent bob, was enough to condemn the method in the opinion of the authorities fifty years or so ago, and after a formal condemnation by the Central Council, it dropped into disuse. It is only right to say that the Council's condemnation would not have had that effect unless it had had the approval and assent of the Exercise at large.

There are some Triples methods which are fully worthy of attention and should come into general use. It would be for the good of the Exercise, and we propose to call attention to one or two of them especially for the benefit of the younger generation to whom probably they are quite unknown. The mistake must not be made of thinking they are suitable only for immature bands who are not capable of attempting what are called higher methods. They are worth ringing by any band. One of them, the first we shall deal with, and the simplest of all, is Oxford Bob.

Oxford Bob Triples is an old method, and was given by William Shipway in his 'Campanalogia' published in 1816. The Exercise, at the time, had no need of new methods and Oxford Bob passed unnoticed until the end of the last century, when the late Joseph J. Parker did a good deal to popularise it in his own district, and a fair number of peals were rung. It was not, however, taken

up by the more skilled and ambitious bands who hankered after Surprise, and it dropped out of use.

Before studying the method the best thing to do is to prick a full plain course. It will not take long, for there are only five leads. Then draw a line in red ink along the path of the third and another in black ink along the paths of the treble and second. If you have not coloured inks handy draw a thick line along the path of the third and a thin line along the path of the treble. You can make things more distinctive by using a pencil for the path of the second. Keep this course in front of you when you study anything connected with the method. We cannot, of course, print such a course in 'The Ringing World,' but we have given two full leads which will show the working of the method.

Oxford Bob, like Grandsire, has a plain hunting treble and a bell-in-the-hunt which courses immediately after the treble and takes it off the lead and turns it from behind. Oxford Bob also reproduces the Grandsire place—Thirds, made by the bell which is taken off the lead by the treble and turns the bell-in-the-hunt. In addition, there are two other places—Fifths when the treble is hunting up from thirds into fourths, and another Fifths when the treble is hunting down from seconds to the lead. All these places are made at handstroke and consequently all the dodging in the method is at handstroke.

We shall expect from these things that the method will be very similar to Grandsire, and indeed it reproduces all the place-making of Grandsire with the addition of extra work.

The rules to ring the method are simple and easy to learn. After making Thirds place you take the bell-in-the-hunt off the lead, hunt up behind, turn the same bell, lie a whole pull, and make a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 down.

Hunt straight down to lead, dodge in 4-5 up, make Fifths place, and return to lead.

Hunt up, make Fifths place, dodge in 4-5 down, and return to lead.

Hunt through to behind, make a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 up, and lie a whole pull behind. The treble will turn you from behind. Go straight down to lead. The treble will turn you from the lead and you will be in the position to make Thirds place again.

Put so, the work is quite simple to remember, and there are many other things which will help you to know what to do. Since the Grandsire Thirds place and its attendant dodging are reproduced, the ringer who knows Grandsire can use his knowledge in making this place and dodging. He can also make the other work largely by using Grandsire rules. For it will be seen that substantially the work consists of Grandsire Doubles on the front five bells with two bells dodging in 6-7 from the time the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt leave behind until they return there. So long as you are below the treble you plain hunt. Above the treble you ring Grandsire Doubles and you never go into 6-7 unless the treble is above you when you reach fifths.

The bob is made in the same way as in Grandsire

7615243

7162534

1765243

1672534

6175243

6712534

There is this distinction however—only the three bells in thirds, fourths and fifths are affected, for though those in 6-7 dodge, they would have done so in any case by the ordinary rule of the method.

Singles are practically useless in the method, for though with care and skill true touches can be produced with common Grandsire singles, peals are impossible. Two special calls must be used and they are not suitable for ordinary touches.

Oxford Bob Triples is a simple and easy method, but it is musical, it is an interesting change from the more familiar methods, and it is a stepping stone to other and more complex methods.

(To be continued.)

RINGERS AND AIR RAIDS.

'Urbanus,' the accomplished writer who contributes a notable column each week to 'The Church Times,' has some kind and even flattering things to say about ringers. Here is an extract:—

My Saturday afternoon tea-party was in the invigorating company of bellringers. Though, according to the German newspapers, the earth beneath us 'was shaking as if in the grip of an earthquake,' and the sky above us 'transformed into a sea of fire,' and everything, 'enveloped in thick unbroken clouds of smoke,' we none the less enjoyed ourselves very much.

About seventy ringers had converged on the tower, some travelling thirty or forty miles for a meeting of the county change-ringers' association. Except that from time to time the sirens proclaimed an alert, there was complete forgetfulness of the war in the ringing chamber. At the alert the ringers paused so that the glorious music of the bells should not drown the evil throb of a pilotless aeroplane should it pass that way.

As it turned out, none came near us, and the moment the All Clear was sounded the noble clangour began again. As I stood in the belfry and took note of the ringers, I could see that here were picked men: not chosen by any rule, but by the motions of the spirit that made them ringers; upright, clear-complexioned men; honest men, and standing well to life as they stood to the bell ropes.

There is that about bellringing which extrudes mean and crooked men. And they are men of independent mind; individualists, for all that they perfectly united in a band engaged, let us say, in the complicated method of Cambridge Surprise or Double Norwich.

Change-ringing is an art unknown outside these islands. It is a cherished mystery demanding great devotion and years of striving. And because it stands midway between the music of art and the music of nature, there is ever an incalculable waywardness about it. Bella, said Thomas Hood, are 'music's laughter.'

Seated at his keyboard, the carillonneur can make foreign bells do his will utterly; but not so the change-ringer in an English tower. For him perfection is for ever out of reach, and therein is a large measure of the enchantment which suffers no true ringer to lay aside the bell-ropes while breath and muscle remain. I heard, indeed, of a ringer who this year in the tower of his parish church greeted Easter morning for the seventy-third time.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I say that Tutbury could be included in the best examples of Norman churches. The late Rector had extensive alterations carried out before the war, and the floor of the church has been lowered to its original level.

WILLIAM P. DEANE.

Norton-in-the-Moors.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

On Monday, June 19th, at Leicester Cathedral Church House, an illustrated lecture on 'The Church Bells of Leicestershire' was given to members of the Leicester Architectural and Archaeological Society by Mr. Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S. The meeting was presided over by Lt.-Col. Sir Robert Martin, supported by Mr. A. Herbert (secretary), the Ven. Archdeacon W. P. Hurrell, Mr. L. H. Irvine and a distinguished company. Mr. Morris pointed out that since the publication of Thomas North's book on the county, many restorations and augmentations have taken place. In North's time (1876) there were 998 bells, but at the present day there are 1,286. All these bells are now tabulated, and Mr. Morris has carefully copied inscriptions and gathered together all the history possible up to date. Further names of ancient Leicester bellfounders have come to light, such as Rog. le Bellevedere, 1307-11; Stephen le Bellveter, 1323-1346; John Hose, 1352-1366; Thomas Hose, 1406; William Noble, 1417-1427; Thomas Innocent, 1458-1495; W. Millers, 1497-1506; Matthew Norris, 1575-1605.

The 1,286 bells in the Leicester Diocese are thus divided according to dates: Pre-1500, 25; 1500-1600, 88; 1600-1700, 304; 1700-1800, 228; 1800-1900, 348; 1900-1940, 293.

The lecture was well received, and after numerous questions had been answered, votes of thanks and appreciation were passed.

THE SCIENCE OF CHANGE RINGING

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be grateful if you would allow me to comment on your excellent leading article concerning composition. It most certainly would be a great help to the Exercise if a thorough mathematical investigation could be made. But I feel that before this can be done the ground should be thoroughly cleared and prepared.

I am a newcomer to the theoretical side of the art, and so feel that I can speak plainly without 'any prejudice or preconceived ideas' (as your article says). I expect I shall raise a hornet's nest, but my purpose in writing is only a genuine desire for information. So here goes.

My first act in studying the way in which methods were built up was to find the rules that had to be obeyed. And straight way it seemed to me that many were quite artificial and unnecessary. I hope I may be enlightened as to why these were laid down. Before I mention some of them, however, let me state the two which have a good reason for them:—

(a) There is an obvious practical reason why bells may not move more than one position each change (but I'm not so sure that I am clear as to why only two blows may be struck in any position when place making—cp. the Grandsire Single).

(b) From a musical point of view, it is good that ordinary length peals of Major should keep the tenors together, and a similar reason for the Tittums position, etc., for peals on higher numbers of bells.

But what are the reasons for the following, please? Aren't they artificial?

(a) Plain Bob lead heads (especially when the Snowdon series on Surprise Methods states (p. 35), 'An investigation was made with a view to see if there were any other methods producible with similar qualities (as Superlative). Though there are several, many of these being doubtless excellent methods, they have, with one exception, lead heads other than those of Plain Bob'). Isn't it artificial, therefore, to allow only Plain Bob lead heads when there are excellent methods not having them? Surely the method and its music should come first.

(b) Why is it bad if the bells don't turn up at the back in their 'natural coursing order' (and why this term—shouldn't it be Plain Bob Coursing Order?)

(c) Why is it bad to have bells lying in 7-8 in Major?

(d) Why the seemingly artificial dividing of methods by place making into Surprise, Delight, Exercise and Treble Bob, giving the idea the former are most complex when they're not necessarily. And why the keen study of the first at the expense of the latter?

(e) Why is it bad to have 'back-handed' places?

I could find others—but these should suffice at present! To me the fact that there is not a single Surprise method (I believe) which does not break one at least of the above rules (even Superlative) seems to suggest artificiality of rules.

Wouldn't it be more reasonable to base rules on Proof, e.g., to regard a method with a clean proof scale as 'good,' and others with more or less false courses as bad to moderate? Of course, I know I am speaking as a novice from the theoretical side (in any case it doesn't follow that the 'good' methods would be popularised any more than the accepted good methods on the old rules ever were really popular). But until more 'natural' rules are made, I'm not sure whether mathematics will have much more to say than it has done already in, for instance, the Thompson papers. K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Weston Vicarage, Southampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The summer meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association at Netherseale on June 24th was attended by members from Derby Cathedral, Ashby, Measham, Ticknall, Overseal and the local company.

Tea was in the Rectory Hall, and the Rector, the Rev. Dr. W. J. Beale, presided at the business meeting. Four new members were elected from Ticknall and Netherseale, and the proposal of the Loughborough District to hold a joint meeting at Ashby on August 12th was agreed to.

Further discussion took place on the proposed decentralisation of the association and not one member present was in favour of the scheme.

Thanks were given to the Rector and to Mrs. Beale for cups of tea. The methods rung included Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Double Oxford Minor and rounds.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Bunwell on June 3rd, at which 24 ringers were present from Norwich, Ranworth, New Buckenham, Redenhall, Winfarthing, Diss, Garboldisham, Mulbarton, Fornsett St. Mary, Fornsett St. Peter, and Bunwell. Ringing took place in various methods, the service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. I. Graham Jones, and tea and meeting were held in the school. New members elected included Mr. Cecil A. Thompson (Redenhall), a rejoining member; Dr. and Mrs. Frewin Moor (Norwich), and the Rev. J. E. F. Tredennick (Norwich). Mr. Nolan Golden having intimated his desire not to represent the association on the Central Council, the general secretary, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, was elected in his stead.

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Tonbridge every Friday evening from 7.30 to 9 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Uckfield, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at King's Norton Parish Church, Saturday, July 1st. Business meeting at 3.30. Tea 4.15. Bells 5.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, July 1st. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 p.m. Summer meeting at Bushey July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. Names for tea to A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Grimsby District).—Annual meeting at Barton-on-Humber (8 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Assembly Rooms 4.45.—H. I. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., Grimsby.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, July 1st. Central Committee 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. The towers of St. Michael's and All Saints' available.—G. Williams, Master, for F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The meeting arranged for Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, July 1st, is cancelled.

DERBY CATHEDRAL.—On Saturday, July 1st, 10 visiting members of the Midland Counties Association will attempt a peal of Stedman Caters at 4 p.m.—James Pagett, Ringing Master.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILD-FORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District).—Combined meeting at Aldershot, July 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Arrangements will be made for tea.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Rowley Regis, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards. Send names.—F. Colclough, Hon. Sec., 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Rothwell, Leeds, on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 3d. will be made. Names to Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, before Thursday, July 6th. Business meeting after tea.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whaplode, July 8th. Service 3.45. Light refreshment 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Lawson, Ainsgarth, Whaplode, by July 4th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Banbury, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 5. Notify H. Impey, 1, George Crescent, Easington, Banbury.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield Contest, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone, July 8th. Draw 2.45 p.m. Ringing 3 p.m. Entrance fee 6s. Entries must reach me by July 7th. Tea provided, 2s. each, only for those who notify me by July 4th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Creswell on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. L. W. Bacon, Newlyn, Skinner Street, Creswell, near Worksop, by July 6th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Salisbury Branch. — Meeting at Shrewton, Saturday, July 8th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by July 3rd. — F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Fairwarp, Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Marigold Tea Room, Maresfield (catch 4.20 bus from church). Names to Miss Rich (the proprietress) by July 6th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Per 5320.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Brinkworth on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. — W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Copt Oak, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Bus passes Flying Horse 2.45. One leaves Whitwick 3.15.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Ringing at Kirkby Mallory on Saturday, July 8th, 3.30 to 5. Cups of tea in School at 5, followed by meeting. Peckleton bells during evening. Bring food.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Ratby and Groby, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., Ratby Schools. Names to Mr. H. Spencer, 101, Station Road, Ratby, by the 6th.—R. Barrow, 40, East Road, Birstall.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District). — Meeting at Aldershot, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea to W. H. Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot, by July 5th.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Daventry (8), Saturday, July 8th. Names to W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Summer meeting, Wingham, Saturday, July 15th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea (1s. 6d.). Meeting. Names for tea to Mrs. Fleetwood, Bridge Stores, Bridge Street, Wingham, near Canterbury, by July 10th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — Quarterly meeting Stratford-on-Avon, Saturday, July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.30, The Rosalind Chef, Church Street. Evensong 5.30. Business to follow in ringing chamber. Names for tea by July 12th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

GROBY, LEICS. — On June 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Nancy Price 1, William Smith 2, Ernest Morris (conductor) 3, Ernest Geary 4, Victor Geary 5, *Miss Margaret Morris 6. *First quarter-peal.

FORDINGBRIDGE, HANTS.—On Saturday, June 10th, 4,300 Grand-sire Triples: Miss J. Chick 1, Percy Brayshaw 2, Mary E. Davis 3, Charles R. Forfitt 4, Andrew Pearmain 5, Mrs. F. John Marshallsay 6, Arthur Davis 7, John Cole 8. An unsuccessful peal attempt.

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Armstrong (first quarter of Stedman) 1, W. Shepherd 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, Capt. A. Poynt 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, C. W. R. Grimwood 6, W. Simmonds (conductor) 7, H. Colcombe 8.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 each of Biddulph and Milton Double Surprise Minor: G. E. Lawrence 1, C. S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

LEYTON.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Newman 1, E. W. Furbank 2, A. W. Brighton 3, J. Phillips 4, F. C. Maynard 5, A. Prior (conductor) 6, E. D. Smith 7, A. W. C. Ball 8.

WIMBLEDON.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Belcher 1, H. Miles (conductor) 2, W. Paice 3, Lieut. W. Gibbons 4, P. Miles 5, C. Hunt 6, F. Skevington 7, H. Page 8.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 2, G. H. Kite 3, C. Cullen 4, P. Spice 5, G. F. James 6, I. Emery 7, E. Mounter 8.

YORK.—On Sunday, June 11th, at the Minster, 720 Bob Minor: John Bensen (first 720) 1, T. F. Earnshaw 2, E. Rickett 3, F. Atkinson 4, S. Steel 5, H. Walker (conductor) 6. Rung on the middle six.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, June 11th, at the University Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. G. Calcutt 1, Miss B. Spice 2, Miss M. E. Cross 3, W. F. Judge 4, N. Allnatt 5, J. E. Spice (conductor) 6.

WORSLEY.—On Wednesday, June 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Barbara Smedley 1, Miss Annie Potter 2, *Brian Royle 3, John Potter (conductor) 4, *Trevor Royle 5, Percy H. Derbyshire 6. *Longest length.

APPLETON, BERKS.—On Saturday, June 17th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: A. Cornish 1, R. White 2, T. Bond 3, H. C. White 4, F. Messenger 5, A. H. White 6, — Calcutt 7, G. Holifield (conductor) 8, C. G. White 9, F. White 10.

HINDERCLAY, SUFFOLK.—On Saturday, June 18th, 720 St. Clement's Bob Minor: F. Shemming 1, L. Wright 2, Barbara Hill (first in the method) 3, W. Goodson 4, A. E. Cook 5, J. Bailey (conductor) 6.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Monday, June 19th, at St. Edmund's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Gammage 1, T. Haynes 2, G. Tanner 3, T. Tebbutt 4, H. England 5, J. Dove 6, B. O. Soden (conductor) 7, W. Atterbury 8.

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