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FIVE BELL RINGING.

In these days, when so many ringers are absent on national service and other duties are urgent, it not unfrequently happens that a band meets short and no more than four or five turn up for the service ringing in an eight bell tower. What is the best to be done? Many will consider that there is nothing else but to accept the circumstances with resignation and to go home; five bell ringing, they think, is not worth the trouble of raising the bells, and four bell ringing is out of the question.

We suggest that this opinion is a mistaken one. Five bell ringing has not a lot to offer the average ringer, and Grandsire Doubles (especially when it is rung with a covering tenor) can soon become pretty tame stuff; but the interest that change ringing has to give depends entirely on what the ringer is looking for and expecting. If he wants just that particular sort of interest a method like Double Norwich supplies, he will find five bell ringing a disappointment; but five bell ringing has its own attractions. It supplies, for instance, the very best opportunities for a man with a first class ear to study the finer points of good striking, and it gives a man a much better chance to show whether he can control and handle a bell properly, than Major or Triples can ever do. The same applies equally to four bell ringing. It takes a really good ringer to turn in a fairly heavy tenor to Doubles or Singles accurately and without undue effort, and there is plenty of satisfaction to be got out of doing it. We are speaking, of course, of the rare occasions on which five bell ringing is all that is possible in an eight bell tower.

You will generally find that the average eight bell band, for all that they are inclined to look on Doubles as something rather beneath their notice, will not ring it very well. They are nearly always too fast, and this is particularly the case, when (as so many men do) they judge their striking by a visual interval between their pull and that of the man in front of them. Five bell ringing should never be hurried.

When we turn to the purpose for which, after all, the bells are really rung, especially on Sundays, and consider the outside effect, we must recognise the undoubted fact that five bells properly rung make just as great an appeal to the general public as a full light octave. It was the threes and fives, and sixes, of the village steeples far more than the heavy eights, and tens, and twelves of the big churches, which captured the hearts and voiced

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the sentiments of the people of this country. The music of a heavy ring of eight or ten is grand and impressive, but there is a charm about the music of a five, and especially of a minor five, which seems to belong to the very soul of England and in some indefinite and mysterious way links the present to all the good that has come down from the past.

When an eight bell band is reduced to ringing five bells, and especially when the tenor is a heavy one, the best thing is to ring the minor five with the seventh as tenor. Some ringers may not care for the music at first, but it has a haunting and plaintive melody which grows on a sensitive ear.

Grandsire Doubles is no doubt apt to be tame to an experienced band, even if they are reduced to practising it only occasionally, and even Stedman Doubles suggests an unfavourable comparison with Stedman Triples. Ringers desire something which affords more variety and novelty than these two can give, but they can hardly be expected to learn out of the way Doubles methods on the bare chance that they may one day meet short. Yet there are some methods they could attempt without any more knowledge than they already possess, and which would supply quite enough novelty to make the attempt thoroughly interesting.

The most obvious and simplest is to ring Stedman and Grandsire spliced. The plain course of Stedman is rung and just as the treble is going in quick the method is altered to Grandsire (the actual changes are for the moment the same in both methods); a single is called, and the second half of the six-score rung as Grandsire.

A much more difficult task is to ring a six-score of Reverse Stedman, using exactly the same rules as in ordinary Stedman, but working from the back instead of from the front. The double dodging will be in 1-2 at backstroke and the slow work behind. There are not many bands who could ring a 120 of this straight away without making a mistake.

Another variation is Orpheus, Fabian Stedman's first draft of his Principle, in which there is five-pull dodging in 4-5 and the quick and slow works are rung in whole pulls.

There is a lot more to be said about five bell ringing, but we have hinted at enough to show that an eight bell band which is temporarily or occasionally reduced to Doubles need not lose interest, but can find enough to engage their full attention until happier and more settled times make the occurrence of meeting short a thing of the past.

LUTON, BEDS.—On Wednesday, August 16th, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. Davis 1, A. King (conductor) 2, J. Herbert 3, D. Newman 4, A. Rushton 5, R. Kendall 6, A. Smith 7, C. Rushton 8.

WEEKLEY, NORTHANTS.—On August 14th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. F. Turner 1, *Miss B. Hill 2, R. W. Lawrence 3, C. W. Bird 4, H. Baxter 5, R. G. Black (conductor) 6. *First 720 in the method.

SEDBERGH.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Oughton (first in the method) 1, Mrs. Blamire 2, T. Sisson 3, J. W. Pennington 4, E. Pennington 5, G. F. Woodhouse (conductor) 6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BROWNEIDGE.—On Sunday, July 30th, at St. Mary's R.C., 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: B. A. Knights 1, C. Hardacre 2, T. Harrison 3, H. Hardacre 4, J. Jackson 5, F. McCarthy (conductor) 6, W. Sharples 7, J. Gartside 8.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday, August 2nd, 960 Grandsire Doubles: John W. Conduct 1, William J. Meers (conductor) 2, George F. Garrison 3, Frederick S. Sanders 4, Leonard W. Conduct 5, William T. Shelton and John Gilson tenor. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Harry E. Platt, for 30 years organist and choirmaster at the church.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, August 6th, for evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. J. Chalwin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, L. Haddon 3, W. Holmes 4, W. Edwards 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

HILLINGDON.—On Sunday, August 6th, at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. Bannister 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. E. Jones 3, E. Hancox 4, F. Bondell 5, F. W. Goodfellow 6, F. Corke (conductor) 7, S. Humphreys 8.

SUTTON-IN-THE-ISLE, CAMBS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Knight 1, Miss V. Hill 2, W. F. Judge 3, C. J. Gardner 4, W. C. Porter 5, P. A. Corby (conductor) 6.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, L.A.C. M. Ginn 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, G. L. Perkins 5, J. Perkins 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 600 Bob Doubles: J. Stocker 1, M. Ginn 2, H. W. Pratt 3, L. W. Fisher 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5; 1,264 Bob Major: H. W. Pratt 1, G. L. Perkins 2, L. W. Fisher (first quarter-peak of Major) 3, A. W. T. Ginn 4, A. J. Ginn 5, L.A.C. M. Ginn 6, J. Perkins 7, F. Warrington (conductor) 8.

STAVERTON.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss P. Jackson 1, D. C. B. Birkinshaw 2, Miss M. Clarke 3, *H. Haynes 4, Rev. E. S. Powell (conductor) 5, Mrs. Powell 6. *First 720.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, August 6th, 840 Stedman Triples: C. Whiting 1, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 2, J. M. Bailey 3, L. P. Bailey 4, E. S. Bailey 5, J. G. Rumsey 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, A. Tomlin 8; 576 Bob Major: F. Youngman 1, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 2, J. G. Rumsey 3, J. Whiting 4, J. M. Bailey (conductor) 5, G. Greenacre 6, E. S. Bailey 7, J. E. Bailey 8.

BROMHAM, BEDS.—On Monday, August 7th, 720 College Exercise Minor: R. Chapman 1, F. W. Budgen 2, R. J. Houghton 3, C. H. Harding 4, R. Brockett 5, L. Bowler (conductor) 6; 720 Plain Bob Minor: C. H. Harding 1, R. Brockett 2, F. W. Budgen 3, L. Bowler 4, R. Chapman 5, B. F. Sims (conductor) 6.

PETWORTH, SUSSEX.—On Monday, August 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. S. Greenfield 1, P. Blackman (first quarter-peak) 2, Mrs. F. Bowden 3, F. Bowden 4, A. E. Holden 5, L. Stilwell (conductor) 6, A. C. Greenfield 7, H. J. Doick 8.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Gillatt 1, F. Jeffery, R.A.F. 2, Mrs. J. Bray 3, A. Tomlinson 4, J. Bray (conductor) 5, W. B. Bray 6, G. W. Moody 7, Peter Barnes 8.

HUGGLESCOTE.—On Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Hadfield 1, J. H. Dean 2, G. Walker 3, H. O. Over 4, H. Moulton (conductor) 5, E. J. Tovell 6, H. Powdermill 7, T. Aldread 8.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.—On Friday, August 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Simister 1, S. Fielding 2, A. Hodgson 3, Rev. F. F. Rigby (conductor) 4, W. Hawke 5, G. Gill 6, A. Roberts 7, V. Turner 8.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Thursday, August 10th, at the R.C. Church of Our Lady, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. V. Lathbury 1, R. Raynor 2, G. Dodds 3, H. Martin 4, R. Lathbury 5, J. W. Ward (conductor) 6.

SALISBURY.—At St. Martin's on Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. E. J. Maidment 1, E. J. Maidment 2, J. W. Faithful 3, L. Harris 4, F. W. Romaine 5, Cpl. R. Faithful, R.A.F. 6, R. W. Rex (conductor) 7, H. A. Roles 8.

DOVER, KENT.—On Wednesday, August 9th, 504 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. H. George 1, T. Robinson 2, H. J. Saunders 3, C. George 4, W. Rawson, R.N. 5, C. Turner 6, Bernard Smith 7, R. Iredale 8.

STAVERTON.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss J. Turner (first 720) 1, Miss M. Clarke 2, D. C. B. Birkinshaw 3, Rev. E. S. Powell 4, R. G. Bell (conductor) 5, Mrs. Powell 6.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Saturday, August 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Beaumont 1, J. E. Bailey 2, R. Wake 3, A. Hall 4, H. Summerhaves 5, A. Ball 6, N. Chaddock (conductor) 7, F. Mitchell 8. Rung for the wedding of Mr. Kenneth Medhurst, one of the local band.

KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: D. Wright (first 720) 1, John Fitzhugh 2, John Dunkley 3, William Hammons 4, George Parker 5, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 6. First 720 as conductor.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT THE ABBEY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

JOHN E. SPICE Treble	† WALTER C. ROSE 7
GEOFFREY J. LEWIS 2	CHARLES W. MARTIN 8
BETTY SPICE 3	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 9
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	REV. C. ELIOT WIGG 10
MARIE R. CROSS 5	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 11
REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 6	REV. A. G. THURLOW ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. † First peal on twelve bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

* WILLIAM F. SHERATON ... Treble	FRANK AINSLEY 5
WILLIAM ARMOUR 2	ROBERT L PATTERSON 6
* ROBERT BELL 3	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON 7
* JOHN A. BROWN 4	* DENIS A. BAYLES ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by D. A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Double Norwich. Rung for the wedding of Miss E. Bertie, one of the local ringers, to Mr. J. Wintrip.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON .. Treble	CHAS. F. ANDREWS R.A.M.C. 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

B. A. KNIGHTS Treble	WILLIAM SHARPLES 5
* C. HARDACRE 2	WILLIAM LANCASTER 6
JOHN JACKSON 3	FRANCIS MCCARTHY 7
† H. HARDACRE 4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRANCIS MCCARTHY

* First peal in method. † First in method inside. First as conductor.

SIX BELL PEAL.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two Kent Treble Bob and three Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

* ROBERT E. SMITH ... Treble	CPL. WM. PROCTOR, R.A.F. 4
† STEPHEN LAWRENSON ... 2	† RALPH TAYLOR 5
ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 3	SGT. R. J. WILSON, R.A.F. Tenor

Conducted by SERGT. R. J. WILSON.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods. First peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	* MRS. C. W. POWELL 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Umpire: John R. Smith.

* First peal of Major.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

* ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 7-8

* ERIC A. DENCH 9-10

Composed by J. PIGGOIT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Kent Royal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ERIC A. DENCH 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	PHILIP J. COWARD 7-8

Conducted by A. J. WALLMAN.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MARDEN.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Marden on August 5th, was attended by over 30 members from Sundridge, Ashford, Erith, Croydon, Leigh, Shipbourne, Linton, Hawkhurst, East Peckham, Maidstone, Tunstall, Benenden, Aylesford, Tunbridge Wells and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Finch, and cups of tea were provided by the local secretary, Mr. F. Mitchell.

Mrs. Richardson, of Sundridge, presided at the business meeting, at which eight new members were elected, and it was decided to hold a combined meeting at Tonbridge in September with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The annual meeting of the district will be held at Tonbridge in October.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Walgrave on July 29th, was attended by less than the average number of members. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. T. Seggar, who afterwards provided light refreshments and presided at the business meeting. Thanks to him for his welcome and hospitality were expressed by Mr. W. Rogers. Ringing took place before and after the service and business.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT ALVERSTOKE.

A meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Alverstoke on August 12th, was attended by members from Bishop's Waltham, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield, Fareham and Southampton, North Stoneham, Beddington and the local belfry. The Rector conducted service and presided at the tea and meeting. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hambledon on September 16th, and a special silver jubilee meeting at Alverstoke on November 11th. The ringing included rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and Double Norwich Court Bob, and Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

DUSTON, NORTHANTS.—720 Bob Minor: Edie Robinson (first 720) 1, William Hammons 2, Joseph Linnitt 3, John Fitzhugh 4, Geoffrey Gayton (first 720 inside) 5, George Care (conductor) 6; also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Edie Robinson (first 720 Treble Bob) 1, George Care 2, Joseph Linnitt 3, William Hammons 4, Geoffrey Gayton (first 720) 5, John Fitzhugh (first 720 as conductor) 6.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 345.)

Ellacombe's interest in the archæology of bells was by no means confined to his own county of Devon. He carried on a very extensive correspondence with parsons and other people all over the country, asking for particulars and inscriptions, and gathering together a mass of information and rubbings, much of which was of great value to later investigators. The British Museum has two large volumes containing the letters he received, and two more large boxes filled with the rubbings of bells from different parts of the country. I have not inspected these latter, for though the museum authorities placed them freely at my disposal, it is no light job to undertake the inspection of hundreds of rolls of thin strips of paper; and, in the absence of anything like a catalogue, I cannot say how far they would throw light on the history and style of bells, which, through recasting or otherwise, have disappeared during these last fifty years.

As the result of his correspondence, Ellacombe was able in 1875 to publish an account of the "Church Bells of Somerset." He says that he addressed more than a thousand letters and circulars to parsons and churchwardens before he gathered together the necessary information. To aid his correspondents he wrote and published a short pamphlet giving instructions for taking rubbings of the inscriptions on bells, which, of course, would serve equally well for copying memorial brasses and any other ancient inscriptions. He warned his readers that he could not be held personally responsible for the accuracy of all the information since he had not personally examined the bells, as was the case in Devonshire, where 'I have with my own hands and my own eyes examined and copied every bell excepting Sheepstor and Heanton Punchardon.' As a result 'The Church Bells of Somerset' is not, I believe, considered by later authorities as a very reliable or accurate work.

In the same way that he collected the information about the Somerset bells, Ellacombe dealt with those of Gloucestershire, and he published the result in 1881. As a survey it is rather incomplete and scanty in some respects. Henry B. Walters published some account of the bells and bellfounders of the county in 1912, 1921 and 1926, and there is still room for a complete work on the Gloucestershire bells when the right man is ready to undertake it.

But it would not be fair or correct to judge Ellacombe's work by his two books on Somerset and Gloucestershire. They served a most useful purpose by reminding a small but influential section of the general public that in the bells the Church and the country had a most valuable and interesting possession which, year by year, through neglect and misuse, was becoming steadily less. What did the more good was the personal letters to parsons and churchwardens, repeated many times in some instances until they were almost forced to visit their belfries and see for themselves in what state their bells were. Without this importunity there were many, perhaps the majority, of the parsons who would not have gone through the steeple doors of their churches once during the whole of their incumbencies.

The general state of the belfries throughout the country we may judge from what Ellacombe said of the Devon bells and steeples in 1866. 'Appurtenances are in a great state of decay; sixty bells cracked or broken; wheels and other gear of many all gone to rack and dan-

gerous to handle; stairs and bell chambers so filled up by the industry of jackdaws that it was with difficulty an ascent or descent could be made.' William C. Lukis, fourteen years earlier, had said a similar thing about the towers of Wiltshire—'I have been frequently much pained by observing the shameful state of filth and neglect of many bell-lofts. Generally speaking, the dark winding stone staircases (when they have any) leading to them are dirty, worn, and difficult to tread, and you have to cork-screw your way up with very careful step; and when you have secured your footing, and are beginning to congratulate yourself on having passed every obstacle, you suddenly come upon a huge heap of sticks, straw, feathers, bits of cloth, and other rubbish, the patient and laborious work of the indefatigable jackdaws. When the towers have no stone staircases the bells have to be reached by a succession of crazy ladders, planted on equally crazy floors. How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected! Why should towers be so desecrated? Are they not as much a portion of the church as any other part? Why should they be left to the sole occupation of unclean birds and profane and irreverent ringers? Why, the very jackdaws, starlings, and owls used to stare at me and linger among the bells before they took flight, wondering perhaps what kind of evil bird I was, and with what possible object I had intruded unbidden into the territory to which generations of parishioners had given them a prescriptive right.'

When I first knew country bell towers, a quarter of a century after Ellacombe spoke, things had begun to amend, but there was more than enough of the old conditions still remaining to show amply that these pictures were not in any way overdrawn.

We may wonder why such a state was ever tolerated in any one parish, and still more why it was general throughout the country. The truth is it had been going on for many years, probably for centuries. The sound of the bells was a familiar and intimate part of the life of the people, but the bells themselves were remote and inaccessible. The clergy, as a body, did not consider that either the bells or the ringers were their immediate concern, and the churchwardens, who had the responsibility, were content if they left things at the end of their year of office no worse than they found them at the beginning. The few visitors who, greatly daring, climbed now and then to the top of the steeple, treated it as a romantic adventure and looked on the filth and decay as a pleasing accompaniment of a picturesque antiquity. Some of the bell lovers and antiquarians were not free from this feeling. H. R. Haweis could be quite poetical about the bats and the birds and the rats in the belfries of Belgium, but was repelled by the efficient iron frames at Westminster and Cologne, and even so late a writer as Henry B. Walters confessed that 'the transformed and up-to-date appearance of the modern belfry with its mechanical improvements does not tempt the antiquary whatever the ringers' view of it may be.'

But Ellacombe had no sentimental liking for picturesque decay. He was an antiquarian, but he was much more than that; he was a man of action and a priest of a living Church. Though he published many books he was not essentially a literary man. His influence was spread mainly by correspondence, by personal contact, and by word of mouth. His reputation did not depend on his books, but his books were read and treated

as authorities because of his reputation. It is significant that almost every one of his books, even those on the bells of Devon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, was, in the first instance, an address to some learned society.

We have here the reason for what would otherwise be difficult to explain. In his lifetime, and afterwards, he was generally acknowledged as the greatest of all bell antiquaries, and all the other workers in the same field treated him with the utmost respect and deference. A modern reader who studied the early books on bells would not be likely to agree in the slightest with that opinion. John L'Éstrange's book on the Norfolk bells, Dr. J. J. Raven's book on the Suffolk bells, and Dr. A. D. Tyssen's book on the Sussex bells are all vastly superior, not merely to Ellacombe's books on Somerset and Gloucestershire, but also to his *magnum opus*, 'The Bells of Devon.' But these men's interest in bells and that of their successors, Thomas North, J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, A. H. Cocks, H. B. Walters and the others, was confined to archæology; Ellacombe took an interest in everything connected with bells.

An excellent example of the practical and common-sense attitude Ellacombe took up with regard to bells is shown by the crusade he started against the custom of 'clocking,' which he called 'a lazy trick of the sexton's to facilitate his work of tolling; the rope is hitched round the flight of the clapper, and so it is pulled athwart against the side of the bell, whereas the bell should be pulled till it meets the clapper.' He published a list of bells, mostly tenors, so cracked in London within a space of about thirty years, and a 'fearful list' it certainly is. It includes the tenors at Cornhill, Spitalfields, St. Magnus', St. Sépulchre's, Shoreditch (twice), St. George's-in-the-East, Islington, Lambeth, Greenwich,

and West Ham; and the 10th and 11th at Southwark. There could be no stronger evidence of the danger of clocking, and Ellacombe was performing a public service when he published it, yet it is pretty certain that he did not understand the real factors of the problem. Clocking, in itself, is not dangerous, and its use in early times was necessary and inevitable. It was customary in those days, and until comparatively recent times, to toll for deaths and funerals. With a light or medium weight bell a knell can be swung chimed, but it is usually very difficult when the bell weighs more than about 13 or 14 cwt., and quite impossible in the case of all the heavy tenors given in Ellacombe's list. If they were to be used for knells they must be clocked, for there was no other way, and actually all over the country the tenors were so used, week by week, not only by 'lazy' sextons, but by everyone whose duty called him to do it.

There was little or no ringing for Sunday services, and the chiming, which was usual, would not have been possible if the heavier bells had not been clocked.

If the clapper is pulled on to the bell and is allowed to fall back again immediately the blow is struck, no harm can be done, and this is what happens when the bells are chimed in rounds, for the clapper must be allowed to swing back for the next blow. It was in knells that the danger lay, for the rate of a knell was usually one blow every minute, and so there was a tendency to pull the clapper on to the bell and to hold it there for a little space which, by stopping the vibration, wrought the mischief. This might easily happen when, as was often the case, a boy was employed to toll the knell. Cracked bells are rare in these days and the chief reason is that the tolling of knells on heavy bells is almost an obsolete custom. (To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER:
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'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Guildford on August 19th
was the two-hundredth in the method by Mr. A. H. Pulling on
tower bells as conductor.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR.	
720	720
23456	23456
35642 4	64235 2
63542 1	35264 3
25634 2	23564 1
34625 3	64523 3
63425 1	35642 2
25463 3	63542 1
34256 2	63425 5
34562 5	46325 1
53462 1	53462 2
36245 4	36245 4
52364 2	23645 1
35264 1	23456 5
P.L. 23456 1	

JOINT MEETING AT EAST TYTHERLEY.

A combined meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and the Win-
chester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at East Tytherley on
August Bank Holiday, was attended by some 60 ringers from towers
as far apart as Bournemouth, Wimborne, Salisbury and Basingstoke,
and visitors from Beddington, Newbury and Erith.

East Tytherley is very isolated in West Hampshire in beautiful
woodland country, and the ban on motor transport made the meeting
an entirely cyclist one.

Ringings on the fine ring of eight by Taylors commenced at 11 a.m.
and ranged from rounds and call changes to London Surprise Major.
The rings of six at Broughton and Lockerley were also visited.

A short service was held, at which the Vicar of Tytherley officiated
and the Rev. F. S. H. Marle was at the organ. A collection, taken for
the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, amounted to £2 1s.

After tea Mr. G. Williams spoke for the Winchester and Portsmouth
Guild, and Mr. Martin Stewart replied for the Salisbury Guild.

HANDBELL RINGING AT LICHFIELD.

Handbell ringing at St. Chad's School, Lichfield (Lichfield Cathedral
Choir School), has progressed steadily during the past year, and al-
though results have not been startling, several boys can ring Grandsire
Triples and Bob Major. During the service on August Bank Holiday
Monday afternoon at the Cathedral, rounds and changes on ten bells
were rung by five robed choristers standing in the choir. Those who
took part were Frederick A. Farrow, Richard H. Lloyd, Colin Smith,
John G. Knaggs and Robert G. Matthews.

'THE BRIDES OF ENDERBY.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On more than one occasion of late years a reference to the above has appeared in your columns, and a desire expressed for further knowledge upon what it was that Miss Jean Ingelow had in mind when writing her famous poem, 'The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire.'

It will be remembered by readers that, when in 1571 the sea-dyke was broken down and the Fens flooded, the Mayor enjoins the ringers of Boston to 'Play uppe "The Brides of Enderby,"' this, apparently, being the recognised form of alarm for the countryside. The reference being so circumstantial, it had been deemed, until a few years ago, just a borrowed stave from some old folk-song. And, indeed, it would have been an extremely happy footnote to a lovely poem.

We are now indebted to Mr. Rimmington Wells for the restatement of the actual facts. Writing to the 'Sunday Times' of July 23rd, in answer to an enquiry as to the above, he states that, 'There is no tune of this name in existence.' He goes on to describe how in 1865 the Mayor and townsfolk set up a new set of chimes, and that everyone was desirous that 'Enderby' should be amongst the tunes provided: 'Miss Jean Ingelow was asked to supply the score of the tune, but she replied that "there was no foundation in fact for her poetic fancy." Nothing daunted, the promoters of the scheme asked Mrs. C. A. Barnard ("Claribel"), who was living at that time at Louth, in the county, to compose a tune to be entitled "The Brides of Enderby," but she refused.'

Mr. Wells goes on to state that, as a lad in Boston, he was told by a contemporary that when local talent did provide such a tune for the chimes, it had to be removed as thoroughly unsuitable for such an alarm and totally unworthy of Jean Ingelow's wonderful poem.

So there were no 'Brides of Mavis Enderby.' This, I am sure, we all regret; there is, however, an Enderby in Leicester, and a ringing friend, who was sufficiently interested to pay it a visit, tells me that it has three bells. A sad but beautiful set of verses has linked this tower with Boston's famous 'Stump.'

I will only add that, like Dorothy Sayers, Jean Ingelow must have had a flair for bells, as is shown in the following verses from her 'Songs of Seven.'

'SONGS OF SEVEN' (2nd part).

SEVEN TIMES TWO—Romance.

You bells in the steeple, ring, ring out your changes,
How many soever they be,
And let the brown meadow-lark's note as he ranges
Come over, come over to me.

Yet bird's clearest carol by fall or by swelling
No magical sense conveys,
And bells have forgotten their old art of telling
The fortune of future days.

'Turn again, turn again,' once they rang cheerily,
While a boy listened alone;
Made his heart yearn again, musing so wearily
All by himself on a stone.

The above excerpt is lyrical and sweet, and someone has said, 'The saddest songs are sweetest.' Ingelow's 'High Tide' is of similar mettle, and arrestingly tragic. It first appeared in her second book of 'Poems' (1863) and attained instant success.

Miss Jean Ingelow was born at Boston, Lincs, her father being a banker of that town. She spent most of her life at Kensington, where she died in 1897, aged 67 years (also given as 77). In addition to her gifts as a poetess, Miss Jean Ingelow was for many years a well-known writer and novelist, and one of her tales, 'Of the Skellings,' has been deemed a very fine work.

I trust that the foregoing remarks may be of interest to your readers.

Italian Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

E. ALEX YOUNG.

A LETTER FROM JOHANNESBURG.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On July 17th we did a bit of handbell ringing which may be of sufficient interest to publish. We rang 108 Plain Bob Minor (two bobbed leads and one plain, twice repeated), the band being Mrs. C. Chambers 1-2, C. Chambers 3-4, and F/O J. E. Allen (conductor) 5-6.

F/O Allen is stationed at Gwelo, S. Rhodesia. It is a pity he isn't nearer Johannesburg, as I think if we could meet regularly we could make rapid progress on handbells. The above ringing was done on a surprise visit, prior to which we had not seen F/O Allen for nearly 12 months.

I have at present two handbell bands each meeting once a week (all single-handed ringing). The one band practises Bob Minor, the other Grandshire Triples. Later I hope to tell of progress made. At present I can record the enthusiasm and regular attendance of the members of each band, which things are, I think, vital for attaining success.

I very much appreciate the articles on Early English architecture.

CYRIL CHAMBERS.

16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg.

MINOR COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have discovered some facts about Minor methods which may not be known to all of your readers, and therefore may be of interest to some ringers.

In relation to composition of touches, the usual Minor methods, i.e., with bob lead-ends, 4th place bobs, fall into four classes:—

Plain class, including Plain Bob, Westminster, York Surprise, Carlisle Surprise, Chester Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

London class, including London Surprise, Canterbury Pleasure, Kentish Delight, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Old Oxford T.B., College Bob IV., Southwark T.B.

Cambridge class, including Double Bob, Tulip T.B., Cambridge Surprise, Beverley Surprise, College Single Reverse.

Double Court class, including Double Court, College Exercise, Canterbury Surprise.

Touches without singles may be used at random within each class—for instance, the well-known 720 of Kent is merely the 'old chestnut' calling of Bob Minor—Wrong, Right, Wrong three times. In such a case as this, where a plain and Treble Bob or Surprise method belong to the same class, a 720 of the Treble Bob method gives a 360 of the Plain method without singles, and vice versa, although a transposition to eliminate '65 at backstroke will probably be necessary.

I have found a systematic method of discovering all possible 360's of Plain, or 720's of Treble Bob, methods in each group, and depending on the fact that Q-sets must be bobbed in pairs to produce such compositions. Let the reader consider such a composition in any method. It contains 30 lead-ends, all mutually true. Now write out the composition change by change backwards. We have still a true touch, for all the changes are different, and moreover the 30 new lead-ends, which were the old treble handstroke leads, are entirely different. The calling of the new touch is the reverse of the old one. An examination of the Q-sets involved will show that any bob in the original touch belonging, say, to Q-set No. 1, gives rise in the new touch to a bob belonging to Q-set No. 2, and any bob belonging to one of these gives rise to a bob in the other. Thus Q-sets 1 and 2 must both be bobbed, or both left plain, to produce such touches. Incidentally, the total number of 60 lead-ends we now have constitute all the 60 in-course lead-ends that can exist.

Since, for each of the above classes, there are only 10 such pairs of Q-sets, the number of distinct ways of bobbing them is small, and must give rise to all possible touches without singles. An interesting result is touches in a particular method, with a certain number of leads stipulated, are not always possible to construct. Another interesting result follows; arbitrary bobbing of Q-set pairs, though not necessarily giving two round blocks of 30 leads each, gives an even number of round blocks, which split off into pairs, each pair having mutually reverse calling, and related as our two touches were above. Thus, taking one from each pair at random, gives us a number of round blocks that are mutually true, and giving the possibility of uniting them with singles. With Treble Bob methods, however, where singles are not usually used, the only thing to do is to seek to get two blocks of 30 each; if this were not possible, the method under consideration should not have appeared on the market.

The Post Office, Ebbw Vale, Mon.

BRIAN D. PRICE.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STAPLEFORD.

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Stapleford on July 29th, was attended by members from Beeston, Bulwell, Daybrook, Greasley, Holmepierpoint, Ilkeston, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's), Sawley, Derby, Leicester and Thrumpton. Thirty-five sat down to tea, and Mr. J. A. Barratt presided over the business meeting which followed. Eight new members were elected, six of them lads from Greasley, pupils of Mr. W. Ratcliffe.

Mr. Thomas Groombridge, the hon. secretary, asked the meeting to give careful consideration to the questions of monthly meetings during the coming winter, as they were not a success from the point of numbers during the last winter. It was decided to hold a quarterly meeting at Sawley in November and to leave the secretary to arrange meetings for practice where convenient and desirable. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ROCHDALE.

The annual meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Chad's, Rochdale, on August 5th.

The business meeting was held in the belfry, the president, Mr. W. Crabtree, being in the chair. The hon. secretary, Mr. Ivan Kay, in his report, said that ten meetings had been held during the previous twelve months with an average attendance of 18 members. The financial position was not quite satisfactory, as only 53 had paid their subscriptions, as against 115 in 1940. Twenty-two members were in H.M. Forces.

Mr. Crabtree was re-elected president for two years, and the next meeting was fixed for St. Thomas', Moorside, on September 16th.

The methods rung included Grandshire and Stedman Triples and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 330.)

St. Andrew's, Great Hampton, Worcs, is a building all of one date, c. 1400. The tower is between nave and chancel, and all are of good solid work with large and simple details. The roofs are covered with stone slates. The tower is narrower than the nave, whose north and south walls enclose it, forming bays on each side, covered internally with pointed barrel vaults and externally with flat pitched roofs of stone slabs. The tower is of three stages with unusually large angle dressings. It has an embattled parapet with pinnacles and gargoyles at the angles. The four belfry windows are of two trefoiled lights. The lowest stage of the tower has a ribbed vault with a bellway in the crown of the vault, and opens to the nave and chancel with massive pointed arches. Originally four bells by William Bagley, 1702, these were recast and increased to six by Carr, of Smethwick, in the coronation year of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, 1902.

Castor, Northants, Parish Church has the unusual name of St. Kyneburga. Here a religious house was founded in the 7th century, and the site of the present church, within the lines of a walled Roman camp, is very possibly that of the early monastery, but no part of the present building is older than the first quarter of the 12th century. Apart from its historical associations, and beauty of its architecture, the church is valuable as a dated example, for there is the double witness of records and the still extant dedication inscription that it was consecrated in 1124.

The central tower stands on four moulded semi-circular arches. The vault inserted in this stage has diagonal and ridge ribs, and a central bell-way, and springs from quarter-round shafts in the internal angles. The second stage of the tower is plain except for round-headed openings which formerly gave access to the space over the ceilings of the church. The third stage has on each face three semi-circular arches, the middle one being larger than the others. The fourth stage is more elaborate, with five round-headed arches on each face, the three middle ones of each side being pierced as belfry windows. Above this stage the stone spire springs from an open trefoiled parapet, with unfinished pinnacles at the angles, and is an irregular octagon in plan, the cardinal faces being wider than the others. There are six bells, all by Henry Bagley in 1700, and these were rehung in 1900.

Orlbury, in the same county, has a cruciform church (St. Mary-the-Virgin), with a lofty central tower with pierced open parapet, and crocketed pinnacles. These latter are exceptionally high and said to be among the highest on any tower in England. The present church is modern, having been built on the site of the old church in 1841. In 1843, Thomas Mears supplied a ring of five bells with tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb. In 1919, as a thank-offering for peace after the last Great War, all were recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, and rehung in an iron frame.

The central tower of St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, has, like many other similar towers, no direct ascent to the ringing chamber and belfry. It is thus described: 'A short flight of stone steps leads to a small square stone platform. From this, entry is made to a spiral staircase, which is situate in the angle formed by

the north and east wings of the church. This stairway is very steep and narrow, consisting of some 35 steps. These steps appear to be of some age, being very much worn. The staircase terminates with a door opening directly on to the chancel roof, which at this point is fairly narrow. A wooden cat-ladder with a hand-rail is laid up the roof, giving access from the spiral stairway to the ringing room, which is entered through a door let into the north-east corner of the tower. The ringing chamber is fairly lofty, and a wooden staircase leads up to a trapdoor, through which one enters the clock room, and a further wooden ladder leads up to the bells. These are a ring of eight. The old six, dated 1826, were re-tuned, two trebles added in 1928 by Gillett and Johnston and all rehung in an H iron frame.

Great Tey, Essex, St. Barnabas' central tower, built early in the 12th century, is a remarkable example of the period. It is 18ft. by 17½ft., and of four stages divided externally by projecting courses of Roman brick, and is entirely of c. 1100, except the north and south arches and embattled parapet. The circular north-west stair turret rises above the parapet, but the lower part is now blocked. The second stage has in the east wall externally two round-headed recesses or panels of Roman brick. The north and south walls have each two groups, each of three similar recesses, forming a wall arcade. The third stage has in each wall round-headed windows built partly of stone and partly of Roman brick. The bell chamber has in each wall three windows. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 15 cwt. The treble and 2nd by John Darbie, 1682, third by same, 1671, 4th, 5th and 6th by J. Briant, 1794, 7th and tenor by Miles Graye, 1626 and 1629. They were rehung in 1896, while in 1928 the treble and tenor were recast, and all rehung on ball bearings by Gillett and Johnston.

Pleshey, Holy Trinity, also in Essex, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1868, but the arches of its central tower are of c. 1400. The church is of note for its cruciform plan, its connection with the college of nine priests founded by Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester in 1393, its bells of that date, and the remains of important altar tombs. The central tower is 12ft. by 20ft., and has a modern eastern arch, but others are as stated. c. 1400. There are five bells, the 2nd and 4th being by William Dawe, the treble by Miles Graye, 1662, 3rd is dated 1752, the tenor, 11 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb., by Warner, 1854. In 1546, Henry VIII. granted to John Gate 'the whole College of Placy, alias Plecy . . . with the bells, etc., belonging to the same . . . but the parishioners purchased it, with the Steeple and Bells, that they might not be destitute of a place of Worship.'

Felmersham, Beds, St. Mary-the-Virgin, has a central tower, 16ft. by 17ft. This building is a most beautiful piece of work of quite unusual scale and richness for a country church, begun about 1220 and carried through to completion in some 20 years. The tower rises in three stages above the roofs, the lowest being short, with two lancets in each side except the east. The second stage, which was the top in the 13th century, has on the east and west an arcade of three bays, the middle being round-headed and enclosing a two-light opening. On the north and south there are two arches in place of the middle bay, enclosing two lancets. The top stage was added in the 15th century, over which is an embattled parapet and south-east turret. Before this stage was added it

would seem as if the tower had, or was intended to have, a broach spire. There is a very heavy ring of five, tenor 26½ cwt., treble by Hugh Watts, 1634, 2nd and 4th by Newcombe, 1617, 3rd and tenor by Eayre, of St. Neots, 1766.

Thurleigh, in the same county, Parish Church of St. Peter, is a fine ancient building with central tower of Norman date, containing a ring of six, tenor 16 cwt. Originally five, a treble was added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1897, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The oldest part of this church is the tower, 14¾ft. by 15ft., c. 1130, which seems to have stood then as now, between nave and chancel, but there are no other remains of a church of that date. The lower part of the tower has a round-headed south doorway, with a tympanum sculpture portraying the Fall. In the north wall is a low 14th century arch, now blocked, which must have opened to a now destroyed building. The tower ends in a short leaded spire.

Bletsoe, also in Bedfordshire, St. Mary-the-Virgin has a central tower, 11½ft. by 13ft. 8in. The church has been very largely restored both in the 19th and present centuries. It is of a curiously irregular plan, and, although showing no details older than the 14th century, is probably of considerably earlier origin. The central tower was restored in the middle of the 19th century, when the new and unsightly parapet was put on. In each face there are two trefoiled lights side by side, and there are old gargoyles at each angle. There are six bells, five by R. Taylor, 1766, and treble by J. Taylor and Co., 1900, added by the surviving children and families of Eleanor, widow of Sir Andrew Beauchamp, 14th Baron St. John. The tenor is 13 cwt.

Northampton, St. Giles', appears to have been originally a cruciform building without aisles, erected at the beginning of the 12th century, but has undergone a series of changes which renders it difficult to trace its history. It presents remnants of various styles from Norman downwards, rebuilt, it is supposed, in 1613. It has an embattled central tower with a low stair turret on the north-east and pinnacles with vanes at the angles. It is 17¾ft. by 16½ft. Of the 12th century church little remains but the lower part of the tower. The projecting staircase turret, entrance to which is from the transept, appears to have been added later after the completion of the cross plan, and may have at first been intended to be external. A large part of the north and almost all the west side of the tower fell in 1613, and at the rebuilding the new work was bonded into the old masonry. The bell chamber is lighted by double two-light pointed windows on each side. There is a string course at sill level and another some five feet below where the walls are slightly gathered in. Before 1783 there were six bells. In that year these were recast and made eight by E. Arnold, who placed the somewhat unusual inscription on the 7th (now 9th):—

'The joys of peace our infant voice proclaim
With Holland, France, America and Spain.'

In 1895, two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. and all rehung in an iron frame. Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

Northampton, St. Edmund's, which parish was formed in 1846, and church erected in 1850, and since enlarged, is a cruciform structure of local stone in Early English style with central tower. It contains eight bells pre-

sented by William Thomas, Esq., in 1884. They were cast by J. Taylor and Co., with 18 cwt. tenor.

In this rather long series of articles on central towers, details have been given of a large number of examples of all types and sizes. This, although fairly comprehensive, does not cover a tithe of the scores of such towers scattered throughout the country. One could go on indefinitely with this absorbing study, and possibly at a later date I will continue with further examples. The beauty of such study of the towers of our parish churches lies in their infinite variety, no two being exactly alike, and the differing features in every style of architecture, covering all periods. In this series so far given, I have quoted cases of quaint and curious belfries and unusual approaches to the ringing chambers, and now I propose—with the Editor's kind permission—to continue by giving some further examples of quaint towers and belfries.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 346.)

It is a recognised rule in the Exercise that all methods with a fixed treble must have the same lead-ends in the plain course as Plain Bob, though they need not come in the same order. How this rule came to be adopted, and what are the reasons for it, do not at the moment concern us. The result of it is that the handstroke and backstroke changes at the lead-ends of the plain course of any and every method are definitely those which are produced by a Hunting Course on the working bells. For six, seven and eight bells they are:—

23456	234567	2345678
32546	325476	3254768
35264	352746	3527486
53624	537264	5372846
56342	573624	5738264
65432	756342	7583624
64523	765432	7856342
46253	674523	8765432
42635	647253	8674523
24365	462735	6847253
23456	426375	6482735
	243657	4628375
	234567	4263857
		2436587
		2345678

Now, at first sight, all three appear to be exactly the same, except for the number of the bells, and what we find true of one we should expect to find true of all three and of the similar sets of lead-ends on all other numbers of bells. However, when we examine them just a little closer we find an important difference. With the six-bell group and the eight-bell group no matter which lead-end we take first, all the others will follow cyclically. If our first lead-end is 56342, the others will be 42635, 35264, 64523 and 23456. If it is 64523, the others will be 35264, 42635, 56342 and 23456. So with the rest, and so with all the lead-ends in the eight-bell group.

But when we turn to the seven-bell group we find that 426375 is the only one which, in addition to 352746, will give us a six-lead course. If our first lead-end is 573624, the second will be 647253, and the third will be 23456. Our course will have only three leads instead of six, the required number. If the first lead-end is 647253, the second will be 573624, and again we shall have no more than three leads. If 765432 comes as the first lead-end, the case is still worse, for rounds will come up at the second lead-end. Here, obviously, is one reason for the dearth of seven-bell methods.

Why should this difference be? Well, it depends on the 'nature' of the changes, and how the odd and even rows follow each other. The first group is produced by plain hunting on five bells, and all the changes are double changes; consequently all the rows are even. One row there is, 65432, which would give only a single repetition, but that comes as a handstroke row. The third group is produced by plain hunting on seven bells, and all the changes are triple changes; consequently all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even.

But in the second group the rows are produced first by a triple change and then by a double change, and so alternately throughout; consequently we get two odd rows for the handstroke and backstroke changes at the first lead-end; then two even rows for the handstroke and backstroke at the second lead-end; and so on. The lead-ends must be alternately odd and even, and since there are only three odd lead-ends to pick from and one of them, 765432, is clearly inadmissible (for it will give only a single repetition), we are restricted to either of 352746 and 426375 as the first lead-end.

Another thing follows. In a regular succession of triple changes, such as we get in Grandsire, Oxford Bob, Double Court and most of the seven-bell methods we are familiar with, all the backstrokes are even and we can never get an odd backstroke unless we use some special device such as a Single. But in these methods with six working bells we must have an odd backstroke row at the first lead-end. We cannot construct the method by an unbroken succession of triple changes, and somewhere in every lead we must have three places made in the same change (whole pulls before and behind count as places). We can only make this double (as distinct from triple) change in one of two positions—either when the treble is making its whole pull on the front, or when it is lying its whole pull behind. If we made it when the treble was hunting up, we should have to make another similar one when it was hunting down, in order to preserve the symmetry of the lead; and we must preserve the symmetry of the lead, not merely to conform to academic rule, but because unless we do we shall not be able to produce true extents. If we make three places in one change twice within the lead, one will neutralise the other and so do us no good. In our seven-bell method with six working bells we can have either Firsts and Seconds, Firsts and Fourths, Firsts and Sixths, Thirds and

Fourth, Thirds and Sixths, or Fifths and Sixths, when the treble is lying behind; or Seconds and Sevenths when the treble is leading. One of these pairs of places we must have in addition to the treble's whole pull, but if we make places when the treble is lying behind we may make none when it is leading; and if we make places when it is leading, we may make none when it is lying.

Now both Firsts place made when the treble is lying behind, and Sevenths place when the treble is leading, will cause a bell to lie for four blows in one position unless we introduce a place into the preceding change and the following change. That means we must have in the method both handstroke and backstroke places and dodging, which in turn mean that the work must be more or less complex. If we wish for a fairly simple method with all backstroke work, a plain hunting treble and six working bells will give us nothing better than Bob Triples and the St. Simon's Triples we printed last week.

But if we are ready for a method which will make as many demands on our skill as at least the simpler Surprise Major methods, there are several at our disposal, although the choice is not an extensive one. We give two, one of them (notwithstanding its name) a very old method which was rung to peals in the 18th century:—

New Bob.	Waterloo Reverse Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2314567
3241657	3241576
2346175	2345167
3264715	3254617
2367451	2345671
3276541	2436571
2375614	4263517
3257164	2436157
2351746	4231675
3215476	2413657
3124567	2146375
1325476	1243657
<hr/>	
1352746	1426375
3157264	4123657
3512746	4216375
5321476	2461357
3524167	4263175
5342617	2436715
3546271	4263751
5364721	4627351

(To be continued.)

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HANDBELLS.—Urgently wanted, 6, 8 or 10 handbells; any condition; good price offered. — Rector, Ockley, Dorking.

WANTED. — A set of eight handbells for newly formed band. — Write, Rev. J. A. Briggs, Emmanuel Vicarage, Everton Road, Liverpool 6.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Steyning, August 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Business meeting in belfry. — L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ockbrook, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Halesowen, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Farnham Royal, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. D. Baker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Ripple, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—E. F. Cubberley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Broughton Astley, Saturday, Aug. 26th, at 6 p.m. Meeting at Barwell on Sept. 9th at 3.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. R. Belton, Westgate, Barwell, near Hinckley, by Sept. 9th. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Aug. 28th to P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall. Names by Aug. 30th to Mr. G. Braithwaite, 26, Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Yorks.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after. Names to H. R. French, Lamorbey, School Hill, Sturry, Canterbury, by Aug. 29th. Nominations to me by Aug. 29th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wel-lingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30. Names for tea to me at School House, Barnby-in-the-Willows, Newark, Notts, by Aug. 30th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Special meeting at Wollaton, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by important business. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Practice meeting at New Alresford on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. No tea.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at Trowbridge, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Names before Wednesday, Aug. 30th.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Names by Aug. 28th.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Beedon, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. Tom Curtis, Worlds End, Beedon, Berks, by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Church Kirk, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. — Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—West Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Grimston, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Bring food and drink. — W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 6th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Whimble, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names by Sept. 1st to Brian Pidgeon, High Street, East Budleigh.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. — C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Harrison, Lyneside, Stutton Road, Tadcaster, by Sept. 13th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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