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A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

A couple of months ago we referred to the restoration and repairs which will have to be made to many of our towers and belfries when the war is over, and we stressed the importance of doing everything to ensure that, during those repairs, such alterations and improvements shall be made as are needed for the convenience and comfort of the ringers, and to produce the best outside effect of the sound of the bells. We pointed out that these things have been very much neglected by architects in the past, and are likely to continue to be neglected, mainly because the architects are unaware of them and are more concerned with outside appearance and ordinary structural stability. The difficulty is to bring them to their notice with sufficient authority thoroughly to engage their attention.

We are now happy to say that an important step has been taken in the right direction. In the current issue of the 'Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects' appears an article by Major J. H. R. Freeborn on 'The sound control and hanging of church bells.' Major Freeborn is himself an architect, and as he had some collaboration with Mr. E. H. Lewis and Mr. A. A. Hughes, his article is backed by the highest authority of every sort needed—engineering, ringing, bell founding and the general public. To those qualifications must be added the great advantage that the article appears in exactly the right place to attract the attention of those for whom it is specially written.

In his article Major Freeborn sums up on practical lines the results of the investigations and observations made during the last fifty or sixty years by several competent men, beginning with Sir Arthur Heywood. We do not intend to refer to any details, but it is remarkable how much opinion has altered on this subject. For close on a thousand years we have had in this country steeples built to hold ringing bells with bells hung in them, and because they were designed, first of all, to house bells, and then to be ornaments, the old towers answered their purpose very well indeed. It was only when architects put appearance before utility that their towers became less satisfactory to hold bells.

Originally the problem was quite a simple and straightforward one. Strength and size there must be in the tower sufficient to hold the bells. Windows there must be to let out the sound and give light to the ringers. A floor there must be for the ringers to stand on. Com-

(Continued on page 410.)

mon sense and inherited experience showed how best these requirements could be met. The rubble, of which the steeples were built, happened to be one of the best of all materials for the purpose, and buttresses are so essential a part of Gothic construction that they become one of its main artistic features. When brick began to replace rubble, and a style of architecture came into fashion which called for straight perpendicular lines reaching down to the ground, the quality of bell towers, as bell towers, fell away enormously.

When a steeple stands in the country in a large churchyard and without any houses in the immediate vicinity, the obvious plan was, and is, to hang the bells as open as possible, and the bigger the windows the better they are for sound. Even in the old style towns, with their incessant noise, where the streets were stone paved and the carts iron tyred, the loud clanging of the bells was an exhilaration rather than a nuisance. But it was different when purely residential districts were built. You will find many and heavy rings of bells in the East End of London. You will find none among the squares of Bloomsbury, and Mayfair, and Belgravia. In the nineteenth century vast suburban areas were built over, and the architects who designed the churches thought (if they thought at all) that the problem of the sound control of bells was no different there from what it had been in the early villages and the mediæval towns. Nor were they helped by the loudly expressed opinions of Lord Grimthorpe, who was generally supposed to be the great authority on the matter.

One of the greatest services Sir Arthur Heywood rendered the Exercise and the Church was when he called attention to this question of bell sound control. Since his time a committee of the Central Council has been steadily at work, and good results are increasingly in evidence.

Any ringer who is on an advisory committee or has anything to do with tower restorations should make a note of this article of Major Freeborn's and call the attention of the architect to it. If he already knows of it so much the better. If he does not, he will be likely to treat it with respect as an authoritative pronouncement.

LEADING IN EVEN-BELL METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Our band of ringers the other evening rang a 720 of Bob Minor for the benefit of a learner on the treble, and afterwards discussed it with him, pointing out his various faults, etc. One of my fellow ringers asked him if when leading he could see the last rope fall to lead off it.

I contended that this was unnecessary, as it would only add to the learner's worries, and that instead he should be taught to use only his ears for leading. Whereupon my friend retorted that he had been taught that way and that it was the correct way to make a lead in an even-bell method. He was as much surprised by my statement that I led only by ear as I was by his.

He has several peals of Major to his credit and has put up an excellent performance in each, but he still maintains that in ringing Royal and Maximus it is correct to lead from the last rope down, which I contend is impossible.

In the tower where I practised my early ringing 21 years ago our only method of ringing was Grandsire Doubles with tenor covering, and I was taught to look at the tenor rope every time I led. I asked the foreman which bell would I lead from if the method were rung on the back five, and was told that I could only lead by ear. This I have practised ever since when the tenor has been turned in.

Is my friend's way of leading the generally accepted way, and have I made my leads wrongly in Minor, Major and Royal for the past 20 years? I can only leave it to your readers to judge. I should be interested to know if my friend's method of leading prevails in other bands or other parts of the country.

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

Coundon, Coventry.

TERMS AND TITLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are two very urgent matters which have come up for discussion and must be faced. The first urgency concerns names. On odd numbers the Norman-French numerals have given us two good names, Caters and Cinques. In this process the spelling or the pronunciation or both may be altered, so that we have only just missed Stedman Sanks instead of Cinques by the skin of our teeth.

As the six in six was often called the size, here is a perfect ready-made name for changes on 13 bells—SIZES—a world-beater and absolutely basic. So it is Stedman SIZES all right. Here one has to venture into the blue somewhat, as a great deal of information that I have not yet come across may be available as to pronunciation in the old days. On 15 bells a word would have to be developed from Sets or Seps, probably Setters, which seems better than Septers. It would be advisable not to be mixed up with Set Changes, which, I believe, is a term used in stoney.

On 17 bells the word might quite easily be Hoots—Stedman Hoots—sounds good to me. On 19 it could be Nuffs, and on 21 bells there comes another world beater, Dizes, with a basic appearance about it. The next two are quite good, Horns—St. Clement's Horns—and Dozes—Grandsire Dozes.

The position with the even numbers is less clear. On even numbers Minimus has been used for four bells. This is unfortunate, as there are changes on three and two bells below them. Minimissimus might do for two bells. Maximus for twelve bells almost gives one a feeling of the hidden hand. It has always been wrong theoretically. It indicates finality. It has been completely out of date now ever since the first changes of Stedman SIZES were attempted. Maxissimus for 14 bells would not help.

To continue the idea of Royal on ten we may have to go on to Brights, Rapture, Racers, Winners, Crackers, etc., if we don't look out. But please, please, don't let us have place names.

Urgency No. 2 is a matter of tenors behind. Of all the odd numbers of bells below twelve, seven appears to cry out most insistently for a tenor behind, owing to the treble's being a semitone below the keynote. The treble of 13 bells is the octave of that on six and is quite musical. The treble of 14 bells is the octave of that on seven and is unpleasant. We are forced to the conclusion that 13 bells do not want a covering tenor, but 14 bells do. A covering tenor with 14 bells gives 15, that glorious pillar of sound, the double octave. It seems a pity that this was not achieved recently. The double octave is also complete in itself and does not want a covering bell.

Some of these remarks are in modification of those in my memorandum to 'The Ringing World' of last year. 'BELLITIS.'

'A FOOTNOTE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to join in congratulating Mr. John Thomas and his band on their recent handbell performances, culminating in the peal on 14 bells. It is typical of Mr. Thomas that his quiet personality, coupled with unbounded enthusiasm, should have encouraged his band to have reached a stage where they are the admiration of the Exercise. In Somerset, my home county, in towns and villages, he is known and liked, not only as an outstanding ringer and conductor, but as someone who was always a great pleasure to meet.

With regard to the footnote under the peal and most of your remarks in your leader, they are obviously not in keeping with facts. One thing is certain, the Birmingham men rang 14 bells in their peal, so this must have been a peal on 14 bells, whatever we say or write about it.

Of course, a peal of Stedman Caters is a ten-bell peal. Whoever has wanted to ring or listen to a peal of Stedman Caters on nine bells? It would not be countenanced by the Central Council anyway. Let us be practical; if we ring a peal of Doubles with 4-6-8 covering it is not a five-bell peal, it is eight bells being rung and this in any language is an eight-bell peal.

You finish your leader by saying that you will be following the general custom of the Exercise if you say that the first peal on 13 bells was rung by the Birmingham men. I do not believe that they have ever rung a peal on that number.

Hayes End, Middlesex.

W. H. COLES.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest your leading article and Mr. Haynes' letter with reference to the peals on 14 handbells in 'The Ringing World.'

Your remarks about tenor ringing on tower bells cannot be applied to handbell peals, as I am sure you will admit that the man who rang 13-14 to the peal of Stedman had to know the method being rung just as much as the man who rang 13-14 to the peal of Plain Bob.

In my opinion, the peal of Stedman should, therefore, take precedence as the first peal on 14 bells.

Withycombe, Exmouth.

J. L. GLANVILL.

'DEATH OF MR. RICHARD WALTER'

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Walter, of Chichester, who passed away on September 22nd at the age of 83 years. He called a peal of Grandsire Triples on the Cathedral bells on November 9th, 1894, the first by a Chichester band. The bells were rung muffled on the day of the funeral.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

FRED HAYES Treble	PERCY NEWTON 6
J. HOWARD FREEBORN ... 2	*WALTER LEE 7
GILBERT R. GOODSHIP ... 3	FRANK WEST 8
ARTHUR JONES 4	EDWARD R. COLES 9
RALPH COLES 5	ALECK D. STRATHDEE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRED HAYES.

* First peal on ten bells. Rung for the completion of 50 years' service as parish clerk by Mr. Ralph Coles.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Thur., Sept. 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

FRANK E. PERVIN ... Treble	JOSEPH H. BEALE 5
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 2	FRANK TROTMAN 6
GEORGE LARGE 3	LEONARD TREVOR 7
HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 4	*JOSEPH GIBSON Tenor

Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.

* First peal.

GRAYSHOTT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' VARIATION.

Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.

GEORGE UPSHALL ... Treble	ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... 5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... 2	EDWARD R. COLES ... 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

First peal of Triples on the bells.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, EDMONTON,

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

*PHILIP J. COWARD ... Treble	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5
*VICTOR R. WOODWARDS ... 2	*DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3	JOHN THOMAS 7
*ERIC A. DENCH 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal in the method.

LONGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt.

ALAN D. STEEL ... Treble	EDWIN SHARRATT 5
WILLIAM P. DEANE ... 2	ANDREW THOMPSON ... 6
GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 3	JOHN WORTH 7
CHARLES H. PAGE 4	EDWARD STEELE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

STAPLEGROVE, SOMERSET.—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: John Matthews 1, Edwin Elson 2, Arthur H. Reed (conductor) 3, Samuel Pine 4, Douglas Fear 5, Frederick Copham 6.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, September 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: D. King (first away from tenor) 1, Mrs. G. Wareham 2, Miss V. Maberly (first on an inside bell) 3, L. H. Pink 4, H. E. White (conductor) 5, J. Dennett (first quarter-peal) 6.

SIX BELL PEALS.

NORTHAW, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A'BECKET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*DONALD C. PRICE ... Treble	*CHARLES R. GODFREY ... 4
†RALPH BIRD 2	*JOHN NORTH 5
†VERNON J. BENNING ... 3	*GEORGE H. GRIGGS ... Tenor

Conducted by R. BIRD.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Doubles.

CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Sept. 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Single Court and two 720's each of Kent, Cambridge and Plain Bob. Tenor 20 cwt.

H. DAVID MACKAY ... Treble	FREDERICK A. TARGETT 4
DAVID TARGETT 2	E. JOHN TARGETT 5
*JOHN DOWNING 3	RONALD G. BECK Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

* First peal in four methods.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Sept. 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

A. J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Sept. 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	ERIC A. DENCH 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Oct. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (2nd the observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 1-2	MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 5-6
ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Triples.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TADCASTER.

A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Tadcaster on September 16th. Service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. J. Hall, was followed by tea, provided by the local band. At the business meeting the chair was taken by Canon C. O. Marshall, the president, who was supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, and Mr. P. J. Johnson.

The committee recommended that owing to unfavourable circumstances, no January general meeting should be held and that the next meeting should be the annual one in May, 1945, and this recommendation was confirmed. Five new members were elected, Messrs. A. McNaught, B. Sutton, G. Crompton, F. Welburn and P. A. Corby. Votes of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens, organist, choir and local band were passed.

THE BELLS OF EALING.

There was a parish church at Ealing from very early times, but all details of what it was like are lost. In 1552 an inventory was 'made on the tenth day of March in the thyrde yeare of the reyne our moaste dreade Sovereyn Kyng Edward the Sixth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland the Kinge Defendor of the Faith and of England and Irelande the supreme hede emedyately under God, of all such goods as ar in the parysshe church of Yelynge in the comptye of Myddlesex,' which included:—

'Item, five great bels and a small bell in Steple.'

'Item, two hande bells and two sakaryne bells.'

Soon afterwards the latter were sold with some other goods, 'all of latten and copper.'

During the seventeenth century the church got into a very ruinous condition, and on September 10th, 1718, the vestry 'agreed to lett to Mr Thos. Fells and Mr. Wm. Jones ye present churchwardens to repair ye steeple of the Parysshe Churche as they shall think most fitting.' The tenor bell also was broken and a contract was made with James Bagley, the founder, who undertook to recast it for twenty pounds and to make good any damage he might do to the other bells and fittings in taking it down. He was to supply a new clapper at 9d. per lb. with an allowance of 2d. per lb. for the old one.

Twelve years earlier the wardens were instructed to have the porch repaired, and (presumably to meet the expense) they were to dispose of the bell which was formerly the Saints' bell to the best advantage. Fells and Jones evidently carried out extensive repairs, for in the following March it was 'ordered and agreed that the present churchwardens be empowered to sell and dispose of all the lead and all the ironwork which belonged to the steeple and tower of our Parysshe Church lately taken down to the best and most benefit and advantage which can be got for the same and to accompt from all moneys arising from the same.'

The state of the fabric continued to cause anxiety to the parish and the wardens were 'empowered to take down the bells now standing and being in ye steeple or tower adjoining our Parysshe Churche and also they are empowered to employ two or more able workmen to survey and view the defects in or about the steeple or tower of the Parysshe.' A year later they were ordered to employ Mr. Reeve and Mr. John Price, of Twickenham, 'and other persons they think fit to inspect and view the present state and condition of the church and steeple and certify their opinion on the same.'

The vestry received the report in 1722 and agreed that the building was in a very dangerous condition, so much so that the churchwardens were ordered to look out for some temporary place in which to hold services, and a wooden structure was erected for use while the parish considered what could be done. In 1729, while they were considering, the old church collapsed and a new one became necessary.

During the seventeenth century there were several instances of mediæval churches falling down. This can hardly have been from neglect or decay due to age, though they may have been contributory causes. Probably it was due to the custom of digging graves in or

near the church and so undermining the foundations, which would only be a few feet deep.

The work of rebuilding had now to be taken in hand, and trustees were appointed who erected the church, which stood for a hundred and fifty years. It was a brick building with a square embattled tower in the style of the times and had very few architectural merits. The bells were among the first things provided for, and £200 was agreed upon as the sum for recasting and rehangng. On June 23rd, 1739, this was increased by £80, so that the parish might have a full octave, and an agreement was entered into with Knight and Catlin by which they were to 'provide and set up a new frame for eight bells, with new stocks, wheels, pulleys and iron-work, new clappers and brasses, ropes, etc.' They were to take away the old five bells and bring down the new ones all for the sum of £76. The old five were to be recast at a charge of eighteen shillings per cwt., and sufficient new metal added to make a ring of eight bells of as deep a tone as those of Fulham. The whole weight was not to exceed 85 cwt. nor to be less than 75 cwt., and the charge for the new metal was to be at £5 12s. per cwt. The work was to be guaranteed for one year.

Samuel Knight died before the work was completed, and Robert Catlin carried out the contract. On May 10th, 1740, the new bells were delivered and weighed in the presence of the trustees. The tenor was 19 cwt. and 9 pounds.

The vestry minutes record that during the time the church was being rebuilt and while the old five bells were standing on the ground some persons in the village carried off the treble and used it as a punch bowl during the festivities in connection with the wedding of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Frederick was the father of George the Third and the brother of that Duke of Cumberland from whom the society of London ringers took its name. He was married on April 26th, 1736.

Whether the churchwardens had actually sold the old saunce bell as directed is not clear, for the parish was using a similar bell in the temporary church, and when in 1754 a cupola was added to the new tower it was hung there and used for the clock to strike on. It now hangs in the present tower above the other bells.

The opening peal on the new bells was rung on June 1st, 1740, by the Eastern Scholars. It was one of Bob Major and was conducted by John Sharpe from the fourth. The next, on May 22nd, 1757, was by the band formed by members of the two societies of Eastern Scholars and College Youths after the death of Benjamin Annable, the band from whom the present Ancient Society of College Youths is directly descended. It was their second peal, Thomas Bennett conducted, and among the others were several of the most skilful ringers of the day. Joseph Monk rang the tenor. The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major.

Thirty years elapsed before the College Youths rang the next known peal in the steeple. It was one of Grand-sire Triples, and was by a band drawn from West Middlesex towers, where at the time change ringing was in a flourishing condition. John Cole, of Isleworth, was the conductor, and as he rang the second we may conclude that he called Holt's Ten-part.

In 1798 a band of College Youths, mostly from St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, rang 6,048 changes of Bob Major, which still remains the longest length on the bells.

James Bartlett was the conductor, and William Jones, the principal author of the 'Clavis,' was in the company. No record of the performance appears in the society's peal book.

Ealing never had a good change ringing band of its own, and the only other recorded peals in the old tower were Grandsire Triples in 1800, by the Isleworth Youths, and another of the same method in 1841 by a 'friendly society.' Thomas Tolladay conducted the latter, and the treble was rung by Robert Haworth, who is still well remembered by many living ringers.

In 1866 the church was rebuilt and greatly enlarged. The old walls were mostly left standing, but by recasing and the addition of aisles and chancel the whole building was entirely altered. The result is a qualified success, and the reconstructed tower of brick without buttresses is not sufficiently rigid to carry a ringing peal properly. Some of the bells, including the tenor, have been recast at different times, all at Whitechapel, and some few years ago Messrs. John Taylor and Co. rehung the ring in a new frame and modern fittings. Of the performances in the steeple in more recent years, the most outstanding was the peal in twelve spliced Surprise Major methods rung on July 1st, 1931, by a band of the Middlesex County Association and conducted by William Pye. This still remains the highest point to which eight-bell ringing has ever reached.

Ealing has two other rings of eight, both from Whitechapel, and both with a tenor of 14 cwt. That at Christ Church was cast in 1852, and the one at St. Stephen's at various times just before the last war. Neither is readily available for peal ringing, but a good variety of methods have been rung at both.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR.

720		720	
23456		23456	
42356	5	64235	2
63425	2	35264	4
63254	3	42356	2
35426	1	42563	3
64352	2	42635	3
23645	2	23564	1
34562	1	45236	2
34625	3	62453	2
34256	3	25346	1
62345	2	25463	3
45362	4	34256	2
23456	2	23456	5
720		720	
23456		23456	
64235	2	23564	3
64352	3	23645	3
45236	1	34562	1
62453	2	25346	2
34625	2	63254	2
42563	1	35426	1
42635	3	35264	3
42356	3	42356	2
63425	2	34256	5
25463	4	62345	2
34256	2	45362	4
23456	5	23456	2

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WOODLESFORD.

Over forty members and friends attended a meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Woodlesford on Sept. 30th. They came from Armlley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell and the local hefry. The methods rung were Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Killamarsh and London Scholars' Pleasure Minor.

The next meeting will be at Burley on October 28th.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

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LONDON

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

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.

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

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

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

The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Grayshott on September 30th
was Mr. A. H. Pulling's 1,100th as conductor.

VILLAGE BELLS.

Dear Bells! how sweet the sound of village bells

When on the undulating air they swim,
Now loud as welcome, faint now as farewell,
And trembling all about the breezy dells,
As fluttered by the wings of cherubim. —T. Hood.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Apropos Major J. H. R. Freeborn's letter in 'The Ringing World' of September 29th, in which he states that the tenor bell of the Magdalen College peal must be one of the lightest bells for her note in existence, I beg to quote the two following examples, being bells which have passed through the Loughborough Foundry, viz:—

Ewerby, Lincs.—Tenor, 3ft. 11in. diameter. Note, D natural. Weight, 15 cwt. 23 lb.

Claybrooke, Warwicks.—Tenor, 3ft. 10½in. diameter. Note, E flat. Weight, 13 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

The pitch in both instances is very slightly sharp of international pitch.

J. OLDHAM

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

MR. RALPH COLES.

The peal of Stedman Oaters at High Wycombe on September 24th was rung to celebrate the completion of 50 years' service by Mr. Ralph Coles as bellringer and parish clerk. In the early 90's of the last century a junior band was formed to supplement the old parish ringers, and the two were eventually amalgamated; but the bell fittings were in a very bad state of repair and the ringing consisted of rounds and stoney. In the year 1909 the ring was restored and augmented to twelve and a period of ringing activity began. Mr. Coles was elected deputy foreman, and in 1916 captain. Oaters and Cinques were rung regularly for Sunday services, and in 1933 a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung by a band all residents in the parish.

Mr. Coles was recently presented with a testimonial and a cheque from the congregation of All Saints' as an appreciation of his 50 years' service under six vicars.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT W. COOKE

The death is announced of Mr. Robert W. Cooke, of Fakenham, who passed away on September 13th. Mr. Cooke, the whole of whose ringing career was spent in connection with the Fakenham band, joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1891. He was appointed hon. secretary of the Fakenham District in 1927, and in the same year was elected a member of the general committee of the association. The latter appointment he held until his death. He was not a great peal ringer, his total number being 34, all of Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major, but he was very keen on good striking and maintained a high standard in his belfry. He leaves a daughter and two sons.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 405.)

Ellacombe's devotion to bell archæology was a comparatively late development. As a boy he naturally came into contact with the ringers at his father's church at Alphington, just outside Exeter. No doubt he occasionally strolled into the belfry, and there he saw and heard things which contrasted very sharply with the piety and decorum of his home life. He could not have known that much of what struck him as profanity and wickedness was no more than the result of lower standards, rougher manners, and less culture. The impression he gained never left him, and though his opinions developed with wider views and increasing knowledge, it formed the background of all his dealings with ringing and ringers. Here was a crying scandal that called loudly for reform, and when he became himself a parson, he felt he must not shirk the responsibility of doing everything he could in his own belfry, and then elsewhere, to bring about improvement.

It meant that he approached the question of the ringers from the outside, and (at first at any rate) with some measure of distaste. It is significant that he prefaced nearly every one of his books with this quotation—'Some, perhaps, many wonder why anyone should thus trouble himself about so low and mean a subject as this is generally thought to be; but I think nothing mean or low that has any relation to the service of God and His Church.'

It was a very noble apologia for his most enduring work, but when a man loudly and often protests that he is not ashamed of doing something, it is a pretty sure sign that either he is not far off being ashamed, or else he feels that his friends and acquaintances will think he ought to have been ashamed. Ellacombe thus approached ringers and their ringing with the definite intention of reforming them from the outside and from above. He was separated from them by the deep and wide gulf caused by differences in culture, education, and social status. He could never fully sympathise with them, for he never understood their ideals and the attraction ringing (and especially change ringing) has for those who follow it closely. He has left us in no doubt about these things. Here is the opening paragraph of the first book he published, and the main thought it contains reappears again and again in what he wrote:

'Reared in a country parsonage, and close to a peal of eight bells, as musical and as well rung as any in the kingdom, it has been my lot from childhood to have seen much of the practices in a country belfry. They had better, I grieve to say, be passed over in silence; for such things as I remember to have seen and heard would hardly be tolerated in a village ale-house; and yet the ringers were considered respectable, honest men in their way, and had the honour—many of them—of being the ringers of the Cathedral bells in the adjoining city, where fifteen men were required; and it was a well-known fact that, as a body, a more drunken set of fellows could not be found. It is painful to me even to allude to such ungodly practices. I mention the fact in the hope that it may perhaps call the attention of those in authority to this crying evil, which exists more or less in every parish and belfry in England; and how dreadful it is to think of such conduct in a church, if perchance (as formerly no doubt was universally the case) the ropes hang down to the pavement of the ground

floor. It is therefore high time—especially in these days when so many efforts are being made to restore a better discipline and a more legitimate and correct system in all Church matters—that some move should be made towards bringing the belfry, and the occupiers thereof, under regulations in accordance with church order and discipline.'

It is most paradoxical that at the time when Charles Lamb spoke of bell ringing as the 'music nearest heaven,' and Robert Southey called it 'England's best music'; when Thomas Moore's 'sentimental poem on 'Those evening bells' charmed thousands of ears, and Alfred Tennyson was singing of Christmas bells and the deep appeal they made; and when (as there is abundant evidence to show) the common people loved their sound, the bells themselves were going to rack and ruin through decay and sordid neglect, the ringers were generally looked upon as the very dregs of society, and their art as 'the lowest and most debased and debasing of all amusements.' Listen to a passage from that lecture by the Rev. Robert Walker to which I have already referred:

'I am well aware that most clergymen, being men of a liberal and refined education, have been accustomed to regard ringing as the lowest and most debased and debasing of all amusements. They associate it with the idea of sottishness and uproarious revelry, and ribald profaneness, and finally turnings-out of the public-house at the closing time to remain in the gutter perhaps half the night. It is now an antiquated and generally received idea that sots, drunkards, rogues, and ringers are mutually convertible expressions.' 'Ringers are generally from the very lowest orders. Generally speaking, they are very unsteady men in every way.'

When this lecture was printed anonymously in 'The Ecclesiologist' these expressions were considerably toned down. I have quoted from the original manuscript from which the lecture was delivered.

Here is a passage from a book published in 1862 which prints the names of more than four hundred clergymen (most of them it is true Nonconformists) who supported and recommended it—'Judging from the general character of bell-ringers, ringing has a most injurious effect both with regard to morals and religion.'

And this from a book published in 1846 by Thomas Blunt, a Church of England parson:

'Our belfries are left in a state of filthy dilapidation, receptacles for dirt and rubbish of all kinds, and very frequently the drinking-place of the most profane and profligate persons in the parish; who ring the bells for their amusement amid oaths and obscenity, and sell their voices for drink money for any worldly purpose—who ring the muffled or the merry peal for the rich man's sorrow or rejoicing, but never send forth a sound of unbought sympathy with the poor.'

Ellacombe himself wrote that 'the style of men who are generally the ringers in any parish makes the task of attempting their reformation very difficult,' and in another passage he summed up the difficulty in these words:

'Generally speaking, there does not exist in connection with the Church a more difficult class of men to keep in order and submission than the bellringers. Moreover, they take it upon themselves to train up whom they choose in their peculiar art, and the young disciples soon learn under the tutelage of their rough preceptors to

claim as a sort of prescriptive right the privilege of succeeding without let or hindrance to the status of an old ringer whenever a vacancy occurs. Such a self-elected and exclusive body of men think nothing of setting at defiance those orders and directions, whether of the minister or of the churchwardens, which may be likely to interfere with their usual habits or overrule their private arrangements. They seem to think that they are at liberty to ring at any hour and on any occasion they please and in the style and manner they prefer; and that they have the right to impose for their performances at marriages and other occasions of ringing whatever charge they may deem it necessary to demand.'

'Perhaps no one thing has been the source of such constant trouble and annoyance to the clergyman as the belfry and the ringers, especially if the same persons happen to belong to the self-appointed and conceited choir of the singers. I have heard of clergymen who have even refused to accept a living where there was a peal of bells, and of those who have said, upon learning the number of bells in the tower, "Then certain it is that there are as many drunkards in the village." "That man is a ringer," is quite enough in some places to intimate that he is an idle, sottish character. I know one clergyman who left his curacy in Worcestershire on account of the conduct of the ringers.'

'In country parishes especially, the churchwardens have hitherto been rarely found to uphold the minister in such matters; in many places being raised but little above the grade of the ringers, and in some places being themselves of the number; thus the minister feeling the whole onus of controlling the bells, and correcting abuses in the belfry, rests solely on his shoulders, he is induced rather to let things go on as he found them, than screw up his moral courage to undertake the task of bringing about a reformation. For though the controlling power, which by law the minister possesses over the bells, is generally now pretty well understood, and his veto upon their use established; yet, unless absolutely and in very glaring cases, it will be found a very impolitic step for him to exercise his right; and by such means to bring about the reformation he wishes. He may silence the bells; but the chances are that by so doing (especially if he has but lately come to reside in the place) he will awaken a most discordant clamour throughout his parish against himself and the Church and all his ministrations, which he may not be able to tranquillise for years.'

'In many cases, however, the ringers are open to argument and to reason, and when reproof is kindly administered they will often strive to amend.'

It would be easy to quote more evidence, but it is not necessary. And now what can we make of it all? The picture painted is a pretty black one. Some of it must be true; but we feel it is too bad to be wholly true. There must be another side to the matter which these early reformers and critics had lost sight of, and there must be some explanation of such a state of affairs if only we can find it. It is natural for a present day ringer to say that all these things belong to the past and had better be forgotten, but those who are interested in the history of the Exercise must know the whole of its story, the bad as well as the good; otherwise we shall not understand why we are what we are, nor learn the lessons for the present the past has to teach us.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 392.)

I have already given, in a previous article, some details of the fine church of Cottingham, Yorks, where the architect forgot to put a means of access to the ringing room and belfry, so a chimney-like staircase turret was erected externally. The ringers ascend right to the bell chamber, then, lifting up a trapdoor alongside the bell frame, go down again by a step ladder into a dungeon-like room with only one small window. The sallies of the bell ropes pass over the bell wheels, and the noise while ringing the eight bells is very great.

Another instance where it is said the architect forgot the tower stairs is at St. Michael's, Bath. Here is an elegant tower and spire at the west end, containing a ring of eight bells (tenor 16 cwt.), all 'cast at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall, 1757,' according to the inscription on the 6th bell. In 1912 the 7th was recast and all were retuned and rehung by J. Warner and Sons. To get to the ringing room one ascends the gallery, thence a short stairway leads through the wall on to the roof. A short covered way leads to another short stairway through the tower wall direct into the ringing chamber.

The priory church of St. Mary, Deerhurst, Glos, is very largely Saxon, probably dating from the 10th century, originally consisting of a choir with presbytery and aisles, clerestoried nave of four bays and west tower, the entire length being 105ft. The presbytery, with exception of its foundations and one side wall has disappeared, as well as one-half of each choir aisle, but otherwise the church possesses its ancient features. The tower, 70ft. high, has a clock and six bells. This Saxon tower is divided by a stone wall into two compartments, *i.e.*, below the bell chamber. The five smaller bell ropes fall on one side of the wall, the tenor on the other, and the ringer of the latter has to look at the others through a doorway in the wall. The bells are by Abel Rudhall, 1736, except the 3rd, which was recast in 1872 by M. Blews and Son, of Birmingham.

Merton, Surrey, Parish Church of St. Mary, which recently celebrated the 800th anniversary of its foundation, has over the west end of the north aisle a small broach spire covered with shingle and surmounted by a weather vane, while at the base wooden louvres open into a belfry. There is no tower proper, yet in this curious structure hangs a ring of five bells with a tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. As early as the 1552 inventory there were 'in the steeple iij belles,' and in the 'Church Bells of Surrey' the inscriptions of three are noted, first by T. Mears, 1803; second was a pre-Reformation bell probably by Danyell, of London, and bore an invocatory inscription to St. Margaret; and third by Bryan Eldridge, 1621. Now there are five from the Whitechapel foundry. These are hung in the open church behind pews, and the congregation would have to pass through the circle if the west door was the only way in. But as there is a small north porch, while the bells are being rung the west door is locked, and the congregation enter by the porch. It was at this church that Nelson worshipped when he resided at Merton, and here attended a church service before he left for the war that ended with Trafalgar.

Newport Pagnell, Bucks, Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul has a western tower where the ringers perform from the ground floor. There is nothing curious or

peculiar about that, but the way to get up to the clock room and belfry is very unusual. The church existing on the site in the first half of the 14th century was cruciform. About the third quarter of that century the central tower was destroyed, and the nave was rebuilt and aisles added or rebuilt. The great length of the nave and the thickness of the chancel arch show the existence of the former tower, and the break between the eastern bays of the arcade on each side indicate that the west walls of the transepts were pulled down after the arcades were built. The church is interesting on account of the size and development of the plan. In the south-east corner by the side of the chancel arch is a small doorway opening to the stair turret. The upper doorway opening into the former rood loft has been destroyed, and this stair turret now leads to the roof of the nave. This roof is traversed the whole length westward to a door giving access to the tower and clock room. The west tower is 15½ft. square and of four stages, with clasping buttresses at the four angles, and a restored moulded plinth. There is a ring of eight, tenor 22¼ cwt., originally dating from 1749 to 1819. These were recast and rehung by Gillett and Johnston in 1911. There is also a Sanctus and a semi-tone bell.

The Parish Church of **St. Michael and Felix**, Rumburgh, Suffolk, is an old and curious building in mixed styles. The church stands in what was a Roman camp, and is still surrounded by the Roman fosse. Here was formerly a priory of the Benedictine order, first founded by the monks of Hulme Abbey in 1064, as a cell for that house and afterwards transferred by Stephen or Alan, Earl of Richmond and Bretagne, to the Abbey of St. Mary at York. In its present form the church consists of a tower basement at the west end, and a nave, the eastern part of which is separated from the rest by the original screen (Perpendicular), so forming the chancel. What remains of the tower is a basement with Early English entrance and, above, three lancet windows. On this has been built a timber structure with latticed windows as a bell chamber, and is very picturesque. This is surmounted by a higher pitched tiled roof with flagstaff and vane. The wooden bell chamber, reached by a very narrow staircase, is in a somewhat dilapidated condition. It contains five bells dating from 1624 to 1823. In 1553 there were '3 bells and a Saunce.'

The Church of the Assumption of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Stowe, Bucks, stands in a churchyard surrounded by the grounds of Stowe House. The walls are covered with roughcast except the third stage of the tower, which is of stone. The roofs are covered with copper. The west tower was built c. 1330, and in the 19th century the third stage was rebuilt and entire church restored. The tower is 10ft. square and contains five bells, 1, 3, and 4 by James Keene, 1654, 2 and 5 by Richard Keen, 1660 and 1665 respectively. There is also a cracked Sanctus bell. The curious feature here is the fall of the bell ropes in the unusual circle of 1, 2, 4, 3, 5.

THE PASSING BELL

Who bends not his ear to any bell which on occasion rings? But who can remove it from that bell which is passing a piece of himself out of this world? No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were; any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.—John Donne. 1573-1631, Dean of St. Paul's.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Manchester on September 30th. During the afternoon there was ringing at the Town Hall, the Cathedral, and Sacred Trinity, Salford. Service was at the Cathedral, at which the president of the association, the Rev. F. F. Rigby, gave an address, and a collection was made for the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

The business meeting was held in the Cathedral, and was presided over by the Rev. F. F. Rigby. The committee reported that during the previous year 75 new members had joined and 30 old ones rejoined, in addition to 21 non-resident members and three honorary life members. A large number of subscriptions in arrears had been paid. There were now 1,067 names on the books. Sixteen members had died, three of them on active service. The statement of accounts showed an increased balance of £42, each section showing an increase.

The Rev. F. F. Rigby was re-elected for two years as president, and Messrs. P. Crook, G. R. Newton, W. H. Shaker and A. Tomlinson were appointed representatives on the Central Council. Blackburn was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting.

The President referred to ringing for peace and victory, and suggested that where bands were short-handed they should combine. It would also be well to appoint men to advise on the repairs to the fittings which would be necessary.

Votes of thanks to the Cathedral authorities and the chief verger were passed.

At the tea in the Gravel Lane Wesleyan Institute 123 sat down, and more ringing followed in the evening.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HANDSWORTH.

The Southern District of the Yorkshire Association held a meeting at Handsworth on September 23rd, when members attended from Dronfield, Ecclesfield, Eckington, Felkirk, Bolsover, Spotborough, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's) and the local belfry. Tea was provided in the Church Room by the local company.

In the absence of the vice-president through illness, the business meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Smith. Mr. George Lewis, the vice-president, wrote that though he was on the way to recovery, he did not feel quite well enough to attend, and the secretary was instructed to convey to him the members' wishes for a speedy restoration to good health. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ramnook on December 16th. Mr. Ernest Padgett, of Barnby Don, was elected a member. A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund realised 9s. 9d.

MEETING AT HEPTONSTALL.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association, held at Heptonstall on September 23rd, was attended by upwards of 30 members and visitors from a wide area. A variety of methods, ranging from Bob Major to Superlative, were rung. Service was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was served in the Co-op. Cafe. The business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson.

On the committee's recommendation, it was decided to postpone the December meeting, since it was thought that travelling arrangements would not make it worth while. The next meeting will be in March at a tower selected by the committee. A collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 10s. 9d.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, held at St. Ignatius', Sunderland on September 23rd, was attended by about 20 ringers from Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Newcastle (Cathedral), South Shields, West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's), Sunderland (St. Michael's and St. Ignatius').

The ringing consisted of rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Marshall, assisted by the Rev. F. O. Taylor.

Tea at Valley House was followed by a business meeting, at which Mr. R. L. Patterson, the vice-president, welcomed Lieut. W. Morton, of Hereford.

Mr. R. L. Patterson was re-elected vice-president and Mr. F. Ainsley secretary for the ensuing year. Miss Sheila M. McKay was elected a member of the association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at South Shields on October 28th.

MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH

Between fifty and sixty ringers attended a combined meeting of the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, held at Bournemouth on September 30th.

The bells of St. John's, Surrey Road, were rung before tea (which was at St. Peter's Hall), and the bells of St. Peter's afterwards. The ringing ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Major.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

STOURBRIDGE.—On September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Sub-Lieut. D. Watson, R.N. 1, Miss F. L. Wright 2, A. Whatmore 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, A. L. Dunn 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, J. W. Smith (conductor) 7, Robert Lees 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, September 17th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. E. Cook 1, J. W. Meade 2, T. E. Thorpe 3, H. Nobes 4, E. Jurd 5, F. W. Burnett 6, W. Tate (conductor) 7, W. Scaife 8.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Harris 1, R. Mackrill 2, C. Hunt 3, W. Gibbons 4, H. Page 5, H. Miles 6, A. Paice (conductor) 7, H. Belcher 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On September 17th, 720 Durham Surprise Minor: J. Ryles 1, W. Corfield 2, S. Ryles 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: O. Williams 1, J. Jolley 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

CHALFONT ST. PETER.—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Bolton 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, G. E. Swift 3, Mrs. M. King 4, A. Swann 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

STAINES.—At St. Peter's, on Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Walmsley 1, W. Goldstone 2, W. C. Parker 3, E. W. Butler 4, R. J. Andrews 5, J. Crocker 6, J. B. Hessey (conductor) 7, E. W. Ryder 8.

HANDBRIDGE.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,344 Bob Major: A. Close 1, Miss H. Close 2, Miss J. Close 3, J. Hayes 4, J. W. Griffiths 5, J. Swindley 6, T. Griffiths 7, P. Swindley (conductor) 8.

EAST BUDLEIGH.—On September 17th, 1,260 Bob Minor: E. A. Concock 1, B. Pidgeon 2, F. Dymond 3, E. Sprague 4, J. Brown (conductor) 5, J. Glanvil 6.

HEREFORD.—On September 18th, at St. Nicholas', 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. Yates (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Gimbert 2, H. Johnson 3, W. Evans 4, A. W. Davies (conductor) 5, D. H. Wright 6.

BOURNE, Lincs.—On Wednesday, September 20th, 720 Bob Minor: J. McIntyre (first 720) 1, Marion Gann 2, Rev. D. H. Tindell 3, S. Smith 4, F. W. French 5, A. I. Holmes (conductor) 6.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.—On Friday, September 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: Stephen Lawrenson 1, Robert E. Smith (first inside) 2, Ralph Taylor 3, Sgt. William Procter 4, J. H. Foster (conductor) 5, Cpl. William Perkins 6.

READING.—On Sunday, September 24th, at St. Laurence's, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Hibbert 1, Mrs. Cathrall 2, Miss J. Stacey 3, Miss P. Hart 4, T. Lanaghan 5, R. Rex 6, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 7, E. G. Foster 8, P. Dyke 9, W. Rampton 10.

ALVERSTOKE.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Landon 1, J. Hunt 2, S. Cook 3, H. Nobes 4, E. Jurd 5, F. Barron 6, F. Burnett (conductor) 7, L. Houghton 8.

SLOUGH.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. D. Rivers 1, F. V. Sinks 2, W. E. Judd (conductor) 3, W. Worsfold 4, J. Gayford 5, J. W. Best 6, E. Hudson 7, E. H. Preston 8.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association, held at Mistley on September 16th, was attended by 25 members from Ipswich, Great Holland, Harwich, Thorington, Mistley, Langham, Colchester, Barningham, Shrimpling and Rushmere.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and York and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Several new members were elected.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. G. Madeley. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Kirby-le-Soken. A discussion was started by Mr. Chalk about what will happen when hostilities cease. It was felt that nothing officially can be done, but that neighbouring towers should help each other as they have been doing.

MEETING AT BRIDGNORTH

Ringers from Kidderminster, Wolverhampton, Coleshill, Coalbrookdale, Lichfield, Dudley, Bilston and the local belfry were present at Bridgnorth on September 23rd. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major. Tea was at the Swan Hotel.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne, was held at the Cathedral on July 25th, the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Rev. H. T. Langley, in the chair. Ten members were present.

The captain, in his report, said the society was in a sound position and the balance sheet showed a credit of £15.

Regret was expressed at the death of a late member, Mr. W. R. Madgwick. Mr. Madgwick was a member for two or three years before returning to England. On September 20th, 1925, he rang the third in a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples, conducted by the late A. G. Fitzgerald.

The following officers were elected: Captain, J. Spencer; vice-captain, E. Knott; secretary, W. Wagborn; assistant secretary, B. Zelius; steeplekeeper, H. Ross; auditors, Miss M. Henstridge and E. Knott.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and North Berks Branches. — Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEVON GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Paignton, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) and business in Church Hall 4.45 p.m.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Broxbourne, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Joint meeting, Saturday, Oct. 7th, at St. John's, Hillingdon (10 bells), 3 p.m. Tea in St. John's Hall 5 p.m. Social evening to follow.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Baldock, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Stanford-in-the-Vale, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Hornchurch, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Business meeting and tea to follow.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) and the **SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. G. Mariner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Oct. 12th.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Annual meeting, Aylesford, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after. Names to Mr. G. Avis, 56, Teapot Lane, Aylesford, near Maidstone, as soon as possible.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norton, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. No tea arrangements.—G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, and S. Scattergood, 797, Sheffield Road, Sheepbridge, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Samlesbury (8 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at All Saints', Hamer, on Oct. 14th. Names for tea to Mr. J. Taylor, 96, Greenbank Road, Rochdale, by Wednesday, Oct. 11th.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. For tea notify Mr. W. Riley, 12, Woodland Avenue, Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, by Oct. 11th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Garston, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 5. Names for tea to Mr. J. W. Rawlinson, 29, Mersey Avenue, Liverpool 19.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Branch.—Meeting at Shepton Beauchamp (8 bells) Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by Tuesday, Oct. 10th.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at South Wingfield, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Oct. 11th.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton, Derby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—W. Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Fakenham, on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Tea at 5.30. Names to W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, Kings Lynn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Bourne (6 bells) on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Names for tea to Mr. F. French, 90, West Street, Bourne, by Oct. 11th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Weston, Bath (6 bells), Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—S. S. Woodburn, Hon. Sec., Manor Lodge, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—Meeting at Kirkby-in-Furness (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Lydiard Millicent on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley on Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. (1s. 6d. each).—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Wardington (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea to follow. Cropredy tower during evening.—Notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Aylestone (6 bells) on Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. Names by Oct. 12th to H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, Oct. 21st, 2.30. Service 4.15. Names for tea by Oct. 18th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport, Bowden and Macclesfield Branches.—Meeting at Macclesfield on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Christ Church (8) 3 to 4 p.m. Service in Christ Church 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Day Schools. Parish Church (12) after meeting. Names for tea to J. Worth, 261, Peter Street, Macclesfield (phone 3904) before Oct. 18th.—T. Wilde and T. Taylor, Hon. Secs.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Leamington Spa, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells of Parish Church 3 p.m. Tea at Pattison's Cafeteria 4.15. Service 5.30. Meeting to follow in G.F.S. House.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION (North Bucks Branch).—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Miss D. E. Lidbetter, 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Oct. 18th.—D. E. Lidbetter and R. H. Howson, Hon. Secs.

BIRTH.

FITCH.—To Doris (née Sargeant) and Archie A. Fitch, of 7, Croft Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, on Sept. 3rd, at St. Leonard's Hospital, the gift of a daughter, Sandra Elizabeth.

MARRIAGE.

MASSEY—MILLS.—On Sept. 16th, at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate; Pilot Officer Navigator George Wilkins Massey, T.C., R.A.F.V.R., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, to Hilda Mary Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate.

DEATH.

DOBBIE.—On Sept. 29th, at 117, High Street, Milton Regis, Kent, Ernest James, aged 59 years.

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