

THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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RIVALRY.

In a recent leading article we said that the exclusive spirit and the rivalry which once were general in the Exercise promoted the interests of change ringing, though at a price. The whole point of the article was to stress the importance and value of co-operation and friendliness; nevertheless, our statement has apparently been disliked by some readers, and we are challenged to justify it. These people seem to think that rivalry is an unmixed evil, and, unconsciously no doubt, they class it with the 'hatred, variance, emulation, wrath and strife' of which St. Paul speaks.

That, surely, is wrong and mistaken. Rivalry and competition are among the most potent incentives to human action, and of themselves can just as easily produce good results as evil. Certainly without competition and rivalry change ringing would not have grown and developed in the past, and probably they are just as useful and necessary to-day as they ever were.

Ringling began as a sport, and however much some men may dislike the idea and seek to dissemble it, it still remains a sport—a sport dedicated largely, though not wholly, to the service of the Church and of religion, but still essentially a sport. Now there are few sports into which competition does not enter, and if competition, then rivalry. Two close friends who sit down to a quiet game of chess are in competition and are strict rivals so long as the game lasts. Would it improve the game if one were to offer friendly help and advice to the other, or point out the disastrous results which might follow some contemplated move? Competition does not enter into change ringing in so direct a form as that, but it does enter, and in the past (of which, be it remembered, we were speaking) it entered more obviously than it does now.

It is quite possible, fortunately, for a man to be a good ringer and to take his part in peal ringing, for no other reason than that he likes peal ringing; but when men set themselves to do something of exceptional difficulty, it is almost invariably because they want to beat some other people's performance. A long peal attempt, for instance, would not offer any attraction unless it promised the satisfaction of having beaten a record.

In the conditions which have grown up in the Exercise, direct rivalry between two bands is very rare, yet there might be cases where it would do good. If, for instance, there were in a town two companies equally

(Continued on page 510.)

skilful, who for their service ringing and peals kept mainly to themselves, and who were striving with all their might each to be better than the other—better in method ringing, better in striking, better in all things—if, in fact, they were keen rivals, the result would almost certainly be better than it would if they mixed indiscriminately. Rivalry of this sort did good in the past, and there is no reason why it should not do good in the future.

Unfortunately, rivalry was not the only feeling with which bands regarded each other. Too often it was de-based and mixed with lower and worse-feelings. It was easier with some men to try to belittle what others had done than to try themselves to do better. It was easy to pass harsh and unfair judgments, and to think and say bitter things. Those were the features which too often befouled and degraded the relations between bands and individual ringers.

Much the same thing happened in the old prize ringing. When we look at the matter fairly, it is difficult to see anything wrong or objectionable in prize ringing itself. The keen rivalry and competition certainly did produce an excellency of round ringing, raising and ceasing in the West, and of change ringing and striking in the North, which the best of our modern bands too rarely reach, but the conditions under which the contests were carried on were altogether deplorable, and the good was far outweighed by the evil. The price had to be paid for any good done, and it was far too heavy.

There is no reason to discourage in the Exercise the spirit of rivalry or even (beyond a point) of exclusiveness. Both have their uses. Both can exist side by side with that spirit of friendliness and co-operation which to-day is essential to the life and well-being of ringing. The 'unattached' member who feels himself at liberty to drop into any belfry as fancy or convenience serves, and who would just as soon ring a peal with one band as with another, is of little use. The best men are those who, when they are otherwise free, can meet and ring with all sorts of ringers on friendly terms, but have their own particular band and their own exclusive circle of friends, which take precedence of all others.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—With reference to recent correspondence on the above subject in 'The Ringing World,' your readers may be interested to learn of a method which I have adopted during the past 20 years with much success for calculating the average weights of bells.

It must first be appreciated that bells from one foundry and of one period cannot with any reasonable degree of accuracy be compared with those of another foundry and date. Therefore, I collated my statistics under the heading of the strike-note, and compared the diameters and weights with reference to founder's name and date.

- For example, bells sounding the strike note D natural:—
- Great Tew, Oxon, 52in. diameter, Rudhall, 1709, 22 cwt. 10 lb.
- Reading, St. Laurence's, 51½in., Taylor, 1882, 23 cwt. 20 lb.
- Reading, St. Mary's, 54in., Knight, 1640, 25 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.
- St. David's Cathedral, 52in., Mears, 1928, 24 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.
- Adderbury, Oxon, 55in., Briant, 1789, 25 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.
- High Wycombe, Bucks, 50½in., Mears, 1802, 22 cwt. 1 lb.
- Newbury, Berks, 50½in., Wells, 1803, 21 cwt. 2 qr. 1 lb.
- Bray, Berks, 53½in., Knight, 1656, 26 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.
- Coalbrookdale, Salop, 49½in., Mears, 1852, 18 cwt. 3 qr. 27 lb.
- Warwick, St. Mary's, 54½in., Mears, 1814, 24 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.
- St. Paul's Cathedral, 55½in., Taylor, 1881, 30 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb.
- Exeter Cathedral, 57½in., Evans, 1729, 33 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

All the above examples are not necessarily tenors, and I could quote many others. **FREDERICK SHARPE.**
Derwen, Launton.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grocock 1, Frank Trotman (conductor) 2, George Thompson 3, William Aldridge 4, Cyril Ison 5, Bert Ridgway 6, George Charlton 7, William Briggs 8.

TEN BELL PEALS.

POOLE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 8094 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| *JOHN V. DAVIS 1 Treble | *ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 6 |
| †MR. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2 | *REGINALD TRUE 7 |
| *PERCY BRAYSHAW 3 | WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... 8 |
| *FREDERICK PRECEY... .. 4 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 9 |
| *†SGT. P. TOCOCK (R.T.R.) 5 | HARRY GILLARD Tenor |

Composed by J. W. MOORHOOS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.
* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Caters on the bells. First peal of Caters as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and twenty-three minutes

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HAROLD J. POOLE 1 Treble | PHILIP A. COREY 6 |
| JILL POOLE... .. 2 | *THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7 |
| MRS. H. J. POOLE 3 | HAROLD G. JENNEY 8 |
| JOHN R. SMITH 4 | G. STEDMAN MORRIS... .. 9 |
| *EDWIN A. BARNETT 5 | ERNEST MORRIS Tenor |

Composed by W. PYE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* 100th peal together.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 3, 1944, in the hours and One Minute,

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

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mrs. H. J. POOLE 1 Treble | SIBIRLEY BURTON... .. 5 |
| *JOHN R. SMITH... .. 2 | SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6 |
| JILL POOLE... .. 3 | EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 7 |
| HAROLD J. POOLE 4 | G. STEDMAN MORRIS... .. Tenor |

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal in the method. Rung on the 21st anniversary of the induction of the Rev. H. V. Hibbert.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 8040 CHANGES;

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 18½ cwt. | |
| *FREDERICK G. ROBBINS ...Treble | THOMAS COLLINS 5 |
| FRANK BLONDELL 2 | †NORMAN GEMMA... .. 6 |
| GEORGE M. KILBY 3 | FRANK CORKE 7 |
| WILLIAM BUACE 4 | *HARRY STRATFORD Tenor |

Conducted by FRANK CORKE.
* First peal. † First peal in the method.

WEDMORE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and thirty-two minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

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

Tenor 30 cwt. 5 lb.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| JOHN H. B. HESSE 1 Treble | ARTHUR H. REED 5 |
| DONALD G. CLIFT 2 | *†DAVID MACKAY 6 |
| FREDERICK A. TARGETT ... 3 | †RONALD G. BECK 7 |
| THOMAS W. KIMBER 4 | WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor |

Composed by W. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.
* 50th peal. † 50th peal together. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal in the method on the bells.

CALNE, WILTS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Haines 1, F. Hacker 2, E. Dixon 3, H. Parsons 4, F. Hale 5, J. Romain 6, S. G. Grant (conductor) 7, A. Saxe 8.

GRAYSHOTT, HAMPSHIRE.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Decembo. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S No. 8.		Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.	
GEORGE UPHALL... ..Treble	WILLIAM T. BEESON 5	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY 6	ALFRED H. PULLING 7
VALHALLA V. H. HILL 2	FRANK C. W. KNIGHTTenor		
GEORGE L. GROVER 3			
WILLIAM T. ROBINSON 4			

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.	
*PTE. ERNEST THORLEY ...Treble	HAROLD BARSLEY 5
RUPERT RICHARDSON 2	ARTHUR J. FARR... .. 6
W. ALLEN RICHARDSON 3	WILLIAM E. CLARKE 7
*STANLEY E. BENNETT 4	JOHN G. AMESTenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

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

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.	
HERBERT O. CHADDOCK...Treble	*GEORGE L. CHAMBERS 5
WALTER ALLWOOD 2	G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. 6
STANLEY SLANEY 3	A. BENJAMIN COOPER 7
*LESLIE W. BACON 4	JOHN E. TURLEYTenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method.

WOOLWICH, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 13 cwt.	
BERTIE W. ALDRIDGE... ..Treble	JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 5
HARRY HOVERD 2	ALAN G. HALL 6
DENNIS L. HALL... .. 3	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 7
NORMAN SUMMERHAYES 4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ...Tenor

Conducted by H. E. AUDSLEY.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, SUTTON,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 Oxford Bob and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.	
JOHN W. L. SLACKTreble	JOHN WORTH 4
*ALAN A. POTTS 2	MRS. C. LAWTON... .. 5
THOMAS TAYLOR 3	JAMES A. MILNER... ..Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Minor.

ASTON-ON-TRENT, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent. Tenor 15 cwt.	
ALFRED MOULDTreble	WILLIAM LANCASTER... .. 4
*BLANCHE WINFIELD... .. 2	WILFRED BUXTON 5
VICTOR TAYLOR... .. 3	JACK BAILEY... ..Tenor

Conducted by J. BAILEY.

* First peal inside. First peal of Minor on the bells.

POLESWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDITH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 18 cwt.	
*LESLIE B. HODGETTS ...Treble	*JACK TAYLOR, JUN. 4
*JAMES DRAICOTT 2	JOSEPH H. BEALE 5
†LEONARD TREVOR 3	*FRANK TROTMANTenor

Conducted by F. TROTMAN.

* First peal of Minor in four methods. † First peal of Minor.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 12 cwt.	
*MARTIN GILLHAMTreble	SGT. A. LANCEFIELD, R.A.F. 4
†THOMAS R. MOGG 2	MARK LANCEFIELD 5
WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD... 3	EDWARD S. RUCK... ..Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD S. RUCK.

* First peal.

NORTH PERBOTT, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 14 cwt. (approx.).	
*AYLMER A. GOULDTreble	*WILLIAM E. TURNER 4
HERBERT W. PEARCE 2	*WILLIAM J. LEW 5
WALTER H. POOLE 3	FREDERICK J. MARSH... ..Tenor

Conducted by W. H. POOLE.

* First peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.	
*JEAN A. SOUTHERST 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE... .. 3-4	MARGARET L. TUTT 7-8
†WILFRID F. MORETON ... 9-10	

Composed by J. SHAW. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Treble Ten.

GODMANCHESTER.—On Saturday, December 2nd, 720 Bob Minor : *Lucile Hubbert 1, *P. K. Williamson 2, *B. D. Price 3, H. Fields 4, J. Perkins 5, Frank Warrington (conductor) 6. * First 720. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor : *P. K. Williamson 1, *B. D. Price 2, L. W. Fisher 3, F. W. Lack 4, J. Perkins 5, Frank Warrington (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Treble Bob.

CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS - NEW INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS MAINTENANCE

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THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 493.)

We have so far got six methods; first a group of three consisting of Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, and Double Bob; and then another group of three, consisting of Shipway's Court, Lavenham Court, and Double Norwich. The next thing is to combine the methods from the two groups. The result will be a number of methods which for music, interest in ringing, and general usefulness stand among the very best that can be had.

We take Shipway's Court and to it we add Plain Bob, or in other words, we make Seconds place at the lead end instead of Eighths. This gives us Winchester Bob, a first class method worthy of the attention of any band. The work is not particularly difficult, but there is plenty of variety in it. The music is good, for the bells come to the front and the back in their natural coursing order, and as the natural coursing order throughout the lead is well maintained, a steady rhythm is produced which is the essential of good music in ringing. There is parallel 3-pull dodging in 5-6 and 7-8, the feature which makes the bob making in Treble Bob so attractive.

After a bell has made Seconds place at the lead end, it leads full, dodges in 1-2 up, and hunts to the back where it makes a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 down. It goes straight to the front, dodges in 1-2 down and 3-4 up, and then makes the Court Places (Fourths and Thirds) round the treble. It follows that bell up to the back and down again to 5-6 where it makes a 3-pull dodge, and leads full while the treble is lying its whole pull behind. From this point the work is reversed.

In actual practice the treble will be found of the greatest help in finding out what to do, and the method could easily be rung by relying on it as a guide in the way most ringers do in Double Norwich.

At the bob Fourths place is made instead of Seconds. It is the familiar Bob Major bob, but there are one or two novel features about the composition and conducting of the method. The first lead end of the plain course is 7856342, the Middle comes at the second lead end, the Wrong at the fifth, and the Home, of course, at the course-end. The Before (in which the seventh runs down and the tenor up) is called at the sixth lead end and that produces the position of the tenors at the first lead end. We can say if we like that the Before adds five leads to the course and reproduces the Middle and Wrong positions; or that it cuts out two leads, including the course-end.

Winchester Bob is a method which can be thoroughly recommended to any band. To show its good qualities properly, it needs a really fine peal of bells and a band who are not only good method ringers, but who understand and appreciate first class striking. The first peal of the method was rung at Willesden in 1924, and one or two have been rung since.

If we add Reverse Bob to Shipway's Court we get Highbury Bob. This, too, is a good method, though not so good as Winchester. The dodging is all single dodging. A good rule for ringing the method is to dodge in every position unless the treble tells you you must not. As Eighths place is made at the lead end, Sixths place will be made at the bob, the two bells in 7-8 dodging, as in Treble Bob. If preferred, a Fourths place bob can be used, but that would make both com-

posing and conducting considerably more difficult.

In all these Plain Major methods, when a Sixths place bob is used the two bells in 7-8 will be still at a single; and when a Fourths place bob is made (whether in a Seconds place or an Eighths place method) the two bells in 2-3 will lie still at a single.

Winchester Bob.	Highbury Bob.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24135678
42316587	42316587
24361857	24361857
42638175	42638175
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351
<hr/>	
68472531	46283751
86745213	64827315
87654123	68472135
78561432	86741253
87516342	68714523
78153624	86175432
71856342	81674523
17583624	18765432
<hr/>	
17856342	17856342
71583624	71583624
75186342	75186342
57813624	57813624
75831264	75831264
57382146	57382146
etc.	etc.

The addition of Double Bob to Shipway's Court gives us Marlborough Bob, one of the very best methods that can be had on eight bells, taking everything into consideration. Seconds place is made when the treble leads, and Sevenths place when it lies behind. There is 3-pull dodging in 5-6 and 7-8 above the treble, and single dodging on the front below the treble. The work is not difficult but is full of interest and variety, and the music is first-class.

After making Seconds place, a bell dodges in 1-2 and 3-4 up, passes the treble in 5-6 and does a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 up. It lies behind, passes the treble in 6-7, dodges in 5-6 down, makes Thirds and Fourths, dodges in 3-4 down, and does Treble Bob work on the front (dodge, lead, dodge). It then does a 3-pull dodge in 5-6 up, is turned from behind by the treble, and makes Sevenths place, from which point the work is reversed.

In Marlborough Bob there are four shunts, at each of which the treble changes position in Coursing Order with the bell which previously had coursed in front of it. These shunts are, first, the places in 3-4 up, then Sevenths place, then the places in 3-4 down, and then Seconds place. The lead-end is 8674523, and throughout the lead the natural Coursing Order of the working bells is maintained.

The bob calling positions, Wrong, Middle and Right, come in the same order as in Bob Major, but at the second, fifth and seventh lead-ends. The Before comes at the first lead and brings up the sixth lead-end of another course, thus cutting out five leads. A great variety of good peals and touches is possible.

Edmonton Bob is produced by adding Seconds place to Lavenham Court when the treble leads. It is the

nearest approach possible to a Major method in which the treble plain hunts and the working bells have a Treble Bob path. The rhythm of Treble Bob is largely reproduced, but with more variety; and there is no Slow Work to part the tenors widely. A good method. Both Marlborough and Edmonton have been rung to peals.

Marlborough Bob. Edmonton Bob.

12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857
42316587	42618375
24361857	46281357
42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351

46283751	68472531
64827315	86745213
68472135	68475123
86741253	86741532
68714523	87614523
86175432	78165432
81674523	71856342
18765432	17583624

18674523	17856342
81765432	71583624
87164523	75138264
78615432	57312846
87651342	53721864
78563124	35278146
75836214	53728416
etc.	etc.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A NOTE ON HUDSON'S COURSES.

BY B. D. PRICE.

In the course of a proof that 60 true courses of Stedman Triples are unattainable, I accidentally discovered a set of ten courses which may be of interest.

The proof assumes the existence of 60 true courses, and proceeds to show that this leads to a contradiction. If the plain course is examined, we see that 1 follows 7 into the Slow work. Thus the order in which the bells come into the Slow is 4716523. When I say that '1 follows 7' I mean that 1 is doing the work that 7 did 12 changes back.

Thus if 60 true courses exist, a little thought shows that there must be 10 courses with each bell following 7. On considering, say, the courses with 1 following 7, we see that each has two sixes with their characteristics of the form 7001 and two each of 0170. Thus the ten courses have 20 sixes 7001 and 20 of 0170. As these sets of 20 must be the extent of such sixes, the form of the ten courses, if true, is determined. Starting with the plain course, with following order 7165234 and regarding it as having 1 following 7, we construct the remaining 9 courses by keeping 7 and 1 fixed and constructing a plain hunt with the other 5 figures (note that this has nothing to do with actual hunting). This gives the following order of ten courses, which may be said to be a 'true ten with 1 following 7.' That the 'true ten' is a family is demonstrated by the fact that we get the same true ten by starting at any member.

If we take any one of Hudson's Courses and regarding it as having 7 following a bell, or a bell following 7, we construct the resultant true ten, these other 9 courses will be found to be Hudson's Courses also. This gives us an insight into the constitution of Hudson's Courses. Starting with the plain course as having 1 following 7 or 7 following 4, we start a chain of true tens with 7 always in the determining pair, which gives us Hudson's sixty courses. Thus, each course belongs to two true tens, one having 7 following a certain bell, and the other with a bell following 7. This is an effective demonstration of the remarkable set of courses that Hudson evolved.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Busby 1, J. T. Titt 2, Lieut. Moreton 3, G. W. Park 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6.

LUTON.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: *A. Davis 1, H. Burton 2, A. King 3, A. Smith 4, A. Rushton 5, *W. Bottrill (conductor) 6, C. Rushton 7. * First 720.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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The Editor,
'The Ringing World,'
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Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to
accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World'
by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher,
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accom-
panied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies
through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the
country will be able to obtain copies through their whole-
sale firms.

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

Owing to the Christmas Holidays all Notices and
communications for our issues dated December
22nd and 29th should reach our offices NOT
LATER than Monday, December 18th, and Satur-
day, December 23rd (first post), respectively.

The peal of Cambridge Royal at St. John's, Leicester, on December
9th was the eighteenth rung by Mr. J. R. Smith in eighteen attempts.
The list contains Bristol, London and Superlative Surprise Major;
Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques; and Cambridge Surprise Major,
Royal and Maximus. Mr. Smith is leaving Leicester to join the Royal
Navy.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

The great increase of peal ringing which marked the end of October
and the beginning of November was not maintained throughout the
latter month. In all 67 peals were rung, 18 of them on handbells and
49 on tower bells. The total number for October was 74.

The tower bell peals in November consisted of: Grandsire Doubles
4, Triples 5; Bob Minor 3, Major 1, Royal 1; Oxford Bob Triples 1;
Stedman Triples 6, Caters 2; Kent Treble Bob Major 3; Spliced Plain
and Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Gainsborough Little Bob Major 1;
Double Norwich Court Bob Major 5; Cambridge Surprise Minor 3;
Major 1, Maximus 1; Superlative Surprise Major 1; Seven Minor
Methods 6, Five Methods 1, Two Methods 1.

The handbell peals were: Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 4, Cinques
1; Bob Minor 1, Major 1, Royal 3, Maximus 1; Kent and Oxford
Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Caters 2; Seven Spliced Plain Major
Methods 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March
37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, in July 47, in August 57, in
September 60, and in October 74, making a total for the year (so far)
of 549.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BILSTON.

A meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at St.
Leonard's, Bilston, on December 2nd, at which members were present
from 14 towers.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. C.
Ayling, and tea followed at the Odeon Cafe, when 42 members
were present. The Vicar presided at the meeting, at which nine new
members were elected. The annual meeting was arranged for Dudley,
the secretary to fix the date.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued on page 496.)

Ellacombe believed strongly in payment for ringing. In a letter to 'Church Bells' he justified it by saying that other officers of the Church—the minister, the clerk and the sexton—were paid, then why not the ringers? But it is clear from his writings that he valued it as a means by which the parson could obtain a firm control of the belfry and so maintain discipline. 'Experience has long convinced me,' he wrote, 'that no proper system for regulating the use of the bells and the conduct of the ringers will ever be effected without an endowment fund. This fund should be vested in the incumbent.' He did not mean that a capital sum should be provided to produce an income sufficient to pay the ringers, but that a fund should be formally created by a legal deed, into which all moneys received on account of ringing, whether for weddings, or Christmas boxes, or by voluntary gifts, or for any other purpose, should be paid. The parson would be the trustee, and the ringers would not handle any money until each received his due share at the settlement at the end of each year. An important part of the scheme was a system of fines and forfeits by which any lapses were penalised. Absence from any ringing for a wedding or other special occasion was punished by a fine of one shilling, in addition to the loss of the ringer's share in the money earned on that day. For being late, the ringer was fined sixpence, and if he did not stay until the end he would get no money at all 'unless the majority present give him leave to go off.'

If at the weekly Saturday evening practice 'any ringer comes fifteen minutes after the time or is absent (unless through sickness), or leaves the belfry before the bells are down (unless the other ringers consent to his going off) he shall forfeit threepence.' The same was to hold good if the band met by mutual agreement on any other evening for practice.

If any ringer refused to ring on account of the small amount of the money given at a wedding or any other special occasion (provided it was not less than ten shillings) he was fined one shilling, and if his absence prevented all the six bells being rung he forfeited all that would have been given to the company.

Whenever there was ringing on a Sunday, whether it was the early ringing at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, or any wedding between nine and ten o'clock, the six, seven or eight oldest members of the band who lived in the parish and not more than a mile from the church had to attend the morning service, and whoever was absent or came in late forfeited half a crown. Any ringer drunk on a ringing day or in the belfry was fined half a crown. The fine for fighting, quarrelling, swearing, drinking or smoking in the belfry was one shilling. If the ringing on any evening began after eight o'clock and did not stop before nine o'clock, all the band were fined sixpence each.

A system of fines for various faults and failings was a commonplace in the old ringing societies, as it was with the mediæval guilds and the later social clubs, and was not unknown among village bands. But in all those cases the money received from fines was paid to and disposed of by the ringers themselves. The essence of Ellacombe's system was that the control of the money should be entirely in the hands of the parson. He or the foreman, who was his representative, alone received the

money, and after it was divided the fines due from any ringer were deducted from his share before it was handed to him. In the old ringing societies and companies the fines levied on the members went into the general fund, so that, though a man suffered loss when he was fined, he benefited when another was fined, and in normal cases loss and gain would roughly balance each other. That, of course, would defeat Ellacombe's intention, and he provided that fines should not be shared by the other ringers, but should be given to some other parochial purpose. To soften what might seem to be an altogether too high-handed decree, he induced one of his parishioners to promise yearly the sum of thirty shillings, to which he added himself ten shillings, so that the fines might take the form of the loss of good conduct money and not the arbitrary withholding of money fairly earned.

Ellacombe admitted that the great difficulty in carrying out the arrangements was getting 'a respectable and trustworthy man to be foreman of the company, who would keep an honest account of the fines incurred, and would be one with whom the company would agree to keep on good terms.' Certainly the job was not an easy or enviable one. An average band would naturally and rightly resent the presence among them of one who was primarily the Vicar's watchdog, and the man's own sympathies, if he were a suitable person to be the captain of the band, would be with the company.

Ellacombe said that his rules had been tried for two years and worked most satisfactorily. Perhaps they did from his point of view, but, of course we do not know what the ringers thought, nor what the ultimate effect was. It may have been that the money which each man received at the end of the year was a sufficient inducement to him to put up with restrictions he knew he could not alter, and it is pretty certain that Ellacombe was a man who was able to induce others to accept his views of what was right and necessary. He evidently could be quite firm and conciliatory at the same time. Another man who tried to carry out such a scheme might easily have raised a storm of opposition, not only among the ringers but in the parish generally. It must be remembered, too, that the ringers belonged to the labouring class, and the labouring class had for generations been accustomed to do what they were told by the farmers, who were their employers and immediate superiors, and by the gentry, to which class Ellacombe and the clergy belonged. Whether their obedience was always or generally voluntary or more than was necessary to keep up appearances, is another matter. Ellacombe might make a rule that the ringers were not 'as a body' to spend their money in drinking, and provide a fine of one shilling for anyone who reproached another for refusing to join and spend all together, but, unless his ringers were entirely different from the ringers in other places and at other times, we should be very surprised to hear that the rule was kept.

By laying down stringent rules for the payments for ringing Ellacombe was, in fact, attempting to solve what was almost the most difficult problem which faced the Exercise. Should ringers be paid or not? Was paid ringing a good thing for the Exercise and the art of change ringing or a bad? To-day the problem has been solved by general social and economic changes which are entirely foreign to the belfry. Now the ordinary ringer earns so much money, and lives under such social con-

(Continued on next page.)

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from previous page.)

ditions, that anything extra he might receive from ringing affords no attraction or inducement to him to practise the art. But it used not to be so. A century ago, when wages were low and when ringers as a body (especially in the agricultural districts) belonged to the poorest classes, any extra money, however small, was a consideration. There was always the temptation to value the money ringing brought more than the art itself. The result was that the Exercise was never quite free from a proportion of ringers who rang for what they could get, and when there was nothing to be got did not ring at all; and that class of men was quite numerous in the nineteenth century. A man who signed himself 'A Lincolnshire Ringer' in 'Church Times' of April, 1871, wrote that 'it is now in many places no uncommon thing to find a set of men who ring merely for what they can get or, in plain language, beer. If they could get their beer without working for it they would not ring from one year's end to another.' There is plenty of evidence to support this statement.

It used freely to be said that paid ringing was the curse of the Exercise. It brought in many most undesirable men, it kept away many admirable men, it caused selfishness and exclusiveness and quarrelling. Where there is a lot of paid ringing (so men said) there you will find the worst characters among ringers, the lowest standards of ringing, and the smallest amount of harmony. It certainly is a blessing to the Exercise to-day that paid ringing has no longer the importance it once had. Except in special instances, service ringing is voluntary, and the majority would rather have it so. No band would consent to ring for a wedding without payment and are glad enough to accept and spend the money it brings, but they need other and greater inducements to become and continue ringers. It was different in Ellacombe's time. It was a sound instinct of his to try to alter and improve paid ringing, but it is doubtful whether the changes he made were an improvement. Probably no improvement was at the time possible.

ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.

The church of St. Giles, Camberwell, was originally erected in Saxon times. It was a small building and was repaired and rebuilt several times. The first inventory 'made in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, recorded that it possessed, iij bellies, ij sarcying bellies, and ij sancty belles.' The sacring bells were sold and the inventory of a year later mentions only iij 'belles in the steeple,' but the churchwardens note 'also remaining in there charge to the Kinges use thre grete belles and a saunce bell.'

In 1716 the old bells were recast and a new ring of six supplied by Richard Phelps at a cost of £115 17s. 6d. A few years later they were increased by two trebles and became what was supposed to be the lightest octave in the kingdom. The tenor was 7 cwt. and the total weight 36 cwt.

The first peal on the bells was rung in 1734, by the Rambling Ringers' Club after several unsuccessful attempts. They met the first time on Sunday, March 7th, but found the treble out of her bearings and so went on to Lambeth, where they rang 1,008 changes of Bob Major. On Easter Tuesday they met again, and, having lifted the bell out of the pit into her bearings, they

proceeded to raise the bells, but John Trenell, the tenor man, found something was wrong and, going up aloft again, they found the gudgeons loose. With that they gave up the attempt for the time being and went on to Bermondsey, where they rang the peal. The next attempt was on August 15th. This time they rang three thousand changes, and then the bad going of the tenor put a stop to further ringing. Finally, on October 13th, they succeeded in scoring 5,040 Bob Major in 2 hours and 55 minutes. Laughton attributed their success to the fact that on their way down they picked up an old horseshoe which they nailed up on the belfry door and so averted bad luck.



In 1735 the Eastern Scholars rang Bob Triples on the bells, and in 1744 the College Youths rang Treble Bob Major. Annable conducted the latter. As a rule he liked to be at the heavy end, but on these light bells he rang the treble. The Cumberland Youths rang 5,040 Bob Major in 1760, and the College Youths 6,400 Oxford Treble Bob in 1780, the longest at the time in the steeple, but in 1794 their rivals beat it with 6,720 changes in the same method.

In 1798 the tower had got into a dangerous condition and, as other parts of the church were sadly in need of repair, the usual proposal was made to pull it down and rebuild. Mr. Oswald Strong, a builder, objected 'that the steeple might stand in its present condition for many years,' but it was ordered that the bells should not be rung, and presently the upper part was taken down and rebuilt with brickwork.

So the church stood until the middle of the nineteenth century a mixture of many styles and the work of many centuries. On the night of Sunday, February 7th, 1841, a fire broke out which completely destroyed the building, tower and bells, and everything. The present church was from the designs of George Gilbert Scott, assisted by W. B. Moffatt. The intention was to have a much more magnificent church, but the cost was defrayed by a general rate on the parish and a parishioner objected to the spending of so much money. As his objection was upheld as good in law, the cost was cut down by several thousand pounds. Even so £24,000 was spent. The bells, a ring of ten with a tenor of 25 cwt., were cast at Whitechapel. They have recently been restored and rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. The centenary of the building was celebrated a week or two ago.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 491.)

A very curious tower, surmounted by a large ball, is that at St. Lawrence's Church, West Wycombe, Bucks. Standing on top of a steep hill, this church is an edifice of brick, flint and stone in the classic style, consisting of nave, chancel, north porch and embattled west tower containing eight bells. The lower and more ancient part of the tower is of stone, and at the top of the tower is a large ball, capable of seating ten people, and about 640ft. above sea level. The upper part of the tower is of brick and was added when the body of the church was rebuilt in 1763 at a cost of £6,000 by Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart., who was called to Parliament on the death of his uncle John Earl of Westmorland in 1762, as Baron Le Despencer, and became Lord Chancellor. He was Master of the Wardrobe and joint Postmaster-General, and died December, 1781, aged 73. In the church is an ancient and curiously carved font stand of wood representing a serpent clambering after a bird. On the flat top stand four birds, and placed among these is a silver-gilt cup. Owing to the difficulty of approach, services are now only held here in summer time.

One of the bells is by Joseph Carter, 1581, two by Henry Knight, 1620/1, and others are from the Whitechapel Foundry. On the wainscot of the belfry is cut, 'October ye 25-1761 the first time of ringing in this loft.' The church was being rebuilt at that date.

The Church of All Saints, Newchurch, Isle of Wight, also stands on the top of a hill, and was originally built in 1087 by William Fitz-Osborne. It is an ancient cruciform building, dating from the early part of the 13th century, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, transepts and a tower with small spire containing six bells. Several ancient monuments to the Dillington and Blissett families are here, and above the Jacobean pulpit is a tympanum approximately 200 years old. The entrance most used by worshippers is in the tower, and as the ringers perform from the ground floor, the congregation passes through the circle of ropes. The fifth bell simply bears the date 'Anno 5189' (for 1589), the tenor is by Anthony Bond, 1626, and others by T. Mears and Son, 1810. The tenor is cracked, and the locals say 'five bells and a leather bucket.'

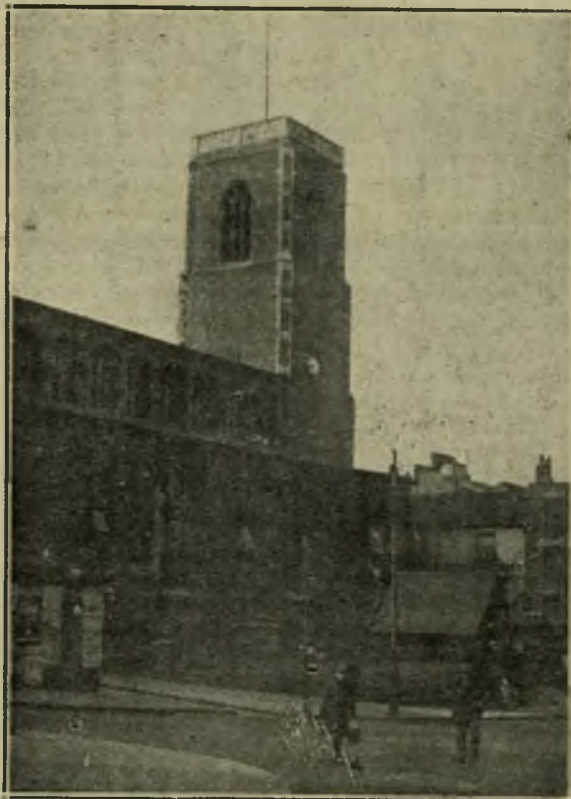
The church at Newton Porthcawl, Glam., has a massive west tower containing a ring of six bells, with a tenor 8½ cwt. Here the bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation. A curtain is used as a screen; seats have to be moved to allow the ringers room to ring, and often ringing has to be stopped early in order to allow people to get seated.

A church famous in the annals of change ringing is that of St. Andrew, Norwich, where there are ten bells, tenor 18 cwt. in E, and the ropes fall in the very unusual order of 1327x54698. Even so, the old Norwich Scholars rang many fine peals, including London Surprise, to the amazement of the late Mr. Jasper Snowden, the ringing historian, when he visited the tower to gather historic data. The church, rebuilt in 1506 in enlarged form on the site of an ancient pre-Conquest church, contains many ancient monuments. Among these is one to Sir John Suckling (ob. 1613) and Robert Suckling, ancestor of Admiral Lord Nelson; and one to Francis Rugg, thrice Mayor of Norwich. The west tower is 96ft. high, with

a clock and chimes erected 1683. The tenor (1621) has this inscription:—

"Let vs tewne and sovdn together
England's swete peace for ever."

This and the 8th (1617) bear three shields—Norwich city, Brasyer and A.B./W.—on the crowns. The latter is also on the 6th (1623). The 7th is by Michael Darbie, 1661; 5th by John Draper, 1634; 3rd by Henry Pleasant, 1705; 4th and 9th by Thos. Newman, 1713. The two trebles were added in 1825 by T. Mears. Some very interesting notes on these bells are given in 'The Church Bells of Norfolk,' pp. 170-2. It was on these bells that



ST. ANDREW'S, NORWICH.

the first peal of London Surprise Major was rung by the same accomplished band which earlier in the same year (1835) had rung a peal of Superlative Surprise at St. Giles' Church. The famous Samuel Thurston was the conductor, and Henry Hubbard, who later produced a book on change ringing, was one of the band. Both peals are recorded on one tablet in St. Giles' Church, which, after giving the Superlative peal, says:—

'Also, at S. Andrew's in this town, on November 17th, 1835, was rung 5,280 of London Surprise, the most difficult system in the art of Campanologia. This insurmountable task was accomplished in three hours and twenty-four minutes. The bold and regular striking of both peals must ever reflect great credit on the company: they were conducted by S. Thurston, and are the first peals ever rung in the above variations. Geo. Watering, treble: Elijah Mason, 2: Fredk. Watering, 3: Henry Hubbard, 4: James Truman, 5: Robert Burrell,

(Continued on next page.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

6: Charles Payne, 7: Samuel Thurston, tenor. Weight of tenor, 18 cwt., key E.'

The wording of the tablet shows a curious slip, for apparently the ringers surmounted the insurmountable. It was afterwards pointed out that an earlier peal of Superlative had been rung at Huddersfield (1821), but there is no question as to the above being the first of London Surprise. No other peal was rung in this method until 1849. Writing of these bells last year (1943) the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral, says: 'I was working at St. Andrew's, Norwich, this week, helping to put the chiming apparatus in order. The belfry is in a bad state, bells unringable for years, several appeared to be resting on timber baulks stuck across the frame, but I found the baulks could be shifted so that the bells could sound whilst their weight would still be taken by the baulks if (as had evidently been feared) the cannon straps were to give way. Bells arranged in two tiers, wheels partly broken, no ropes on wheels and no trace of proper ropes with sallies anywhere about. I managed to put eight in order with existing very worn and perished rope, for chiming.'

At All Saints', Parramatta, near Sydney, Australia, is a good ring of six bells by the Whitechapel Foundries; tenor, 10 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb., cast in 1856, and others 1860. This place was visited by the English tourists in 1934, when on November 21st they rang 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. S. Goldsmith 1, G. Martin 2, V. Linter 3, A. C. Sharples 4, R. Richardson (conductor) 5, Rev. E. B. James tenor. The 'circle' of ropes falls somewhat unusual, the first three being nearly in a straight line with second a bit in front, 4th in corner opposite 3rd, and 5th almost in the centre with the tenor close behind.

At Penhow, Monmouth, the Church of St. John-the-Baptist has a ring of six, tenor 8 cwt. This church stands near Penhow Castle, and is an ancient building in Early English style. It was restored in 1851. The tower adjoins the south porch entrance to the church, and as the ringers are on the ground floor the congregation have to go round them to get to the main body of the church. On the left of the ringers is the font, and on the right the Manor Chapel. The original church dates from 1139, and it was rebuilt in 1913. Five bells by William Evans, of Chepstow, were placed in the tower in 1744. A treble was added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1927 by the late Rector, Rev. A. H. Thomas, in memory of his wife. The only way up to the bells is by an extending ladder leading to a trap door in first floor. Then about 5½ft. higher is another floor, and 2½ft. above this is the steel and iron framework of the bells. To oil the bearings one has to climb over the frame, and to muffle them kneel down, as there is so very little space between floor and bells. The old five are on plain bearings, but new treble on ball bearings.

Rogate, Sussex, St. Bartholomew's, is built of sandstone, and there is no tower (proper) here, but columns built up inside the nave at the west end, and a wooden turret built over it which contains the bells. These are six, tenor 8 cwt., and the ropes drop in the seats of the church. This is one of the very first peals cast and tuned on the Simpson principle. Cast by J. Taylor and Co. for the late Canon Simpson during his rectorship of the parish, 1904, they are in an iron frame.

HENRY JOHNSON.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in 1895.)

Mr. Johnson was born at Lichfield on February 28th, 1809, but early in his boyhood his parents went to reside in Birmingham. His father, who by trade was a tallow chandler, took his son to work with him at a very early age. In summer months such work had to be done in the night, and the lad, being fond of the country, used to devote part of the day to strolls countryward, especially to the neighbourhood of Aston, then quite rural. Here he became acquainted with Mr. R. Roberts, the parish clerk of Aston, who was a very fair ringer, and he it was who gave him his first instructions in managing a bell. He also found his way to the farm homestead of Mr. Joshua Short, a great celebrity at that time, who was never happier than when he had young ringers around him, and here probably he became acquainted with Mr. T. Day, who was a pet of Mr. Short.

In those days there were only round ringers at Aston, and the first intimation of Mr. Johnson as a change ringer is the fact of his conducting his well-known 720 Grandsire Minor at St. John's, Deritend, in the year 1829. This fact shows that he must have been studying composition at an early period in his career.

In January, 1830, he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples at Aston, conducted by T. Day; and on February 29th, 1832, we find him conducting a muffled peal on the same bells, in memory of his old friend Joshua Short, and again in 1833, at the same place, a peal of 5,021 Grandsire Caters composed by himself.

About this period Mr. Johnson left his original trade, and obtained employment in a timber yard, where by his diligence and probity he worked his way up to the position of manager.

From about 1833 to 1842 there was no real ringing society in Birmingham, a band for a peal being got together with some difficulty, the chief places being Aston and St. Philip's. Still, even at this period, several peals of great merit of Mr. Johnson's composing were rung, including Grandsire Caters and Royal, and Treble Bob Royal.

On October 21st, 1841, he conducted the first peal of Stedman Caters composed by himself, at Aston. The peal had the fifth and sixth the extent wrong and right and the third at home throughout. He had submitted it to no less an authority than Thurstans for his opinion as to its merits, and he had pronounced it a good and true peal; nevertheless, it turned out after all to be false. This event was the turning point in Mr. Johnson's career, and it was this that led him to develop the great talents which were then lying latent within him.

His vow never to trust anyone but himself as to the truth or otherwise of his compositions was perhaps easier to make than to keep, and it was interesting in after years to hear him relate how he worked day and night until he had so far mastered the subject, that in the standard methods he could tell at a glance, as it were, whether a peal was true or not.

In the year 1844 a revival of the St. Martin's Youths took place, and Mr. Johnson became the acknowledged leader. His numerous performances with that society are well known, including, as they do, the first ringing and conducting of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples, the peal of 7,392 Stedman Cinques in 1848, and, to crown all, the 9,238 on his 72nd birthday in 1881.

He rang his last peal on the same bells that he rang his first, a peal of Stedman Caters, on February 23rd, 1884, within five days of his 75th birthday. He was then suffering from rheumatism in the right arm and shoulder, and, though he had the best advice, it became chronic and he was never able to ring again.

Mr. Johnson had few educational advantages compared with those of the present day, being for the most part a self-taught man. Still, he was well informed on most subjects, and was remarkably straightforward and upright in all he undertook. He was possessed with a wonderful memory and was never at a loss as to anything that had occurred during his long ringing career. Among his other capabilities he was an excellent mimic, and would often keep the audience convulsed by the way in which he could reproduce the peculiarities of many departed celebrities. To an almost endless fund of anecdote he added his cheerful and sterling disposition, so that whether as companion, friend, ringer, conductor or composer, it is doubtful whether the Exercise will ever again meet with his equal.

Mr. Johnson was happy in the respect that he lived to see his abilities fully recognised by the members of the Exercise.

In the year 1886, at a dinner held to commemorate his 77th birthday, which was attended by ringers from all parts of the country, he was presented with a portrait and illuminated address subscribed for by his many friends. Three years later to commemorate his 80th birthday, invitations to a banquet were issued by Mr. A. Percival Heywood to all the officials of the various ringing societies and most prominent ringers throughout the kingdom. This gathering of ringers was the most representative ever held and from it emanated the existing Central Council of Change Ringers.

He died in the following year, January 7th, 1890, passing away quite peacefully and with hardly any illness to speak of. He was buried at Aston just under the shadow of the tower. A substantial granite tombstone, erected by the subscriptions of the ringers of England, marks the spot, and records his worth and their gratitude.

NOTE.—This account was not actually written by John Day, but he supplied the material. The author probably was William Snowdon.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think the answer to the above is contained in your peal columns during the year 1944. The majority of names are of those men who have devoted very many hours to teaching in their own districts and particularly their own towers, and have actually produced fresh and good young blood who are regularly ringing for present-day Sunday services. These men realise that if their pupils take to peal ringing the pupil will at some part of the peal realise the meaning of a beat or rhythm.

I have, through this war, had my eldest son killed. Am I a sinner because I am still teaching ringers to ring peals? The boy's mother does not like bells, but she would be the last to wish for them to be silenced, or for peal ringing to stop, and she lives very close to a tower with a fairly heavy ring of bells. There appears to be a little bit of the 'dog in the manger' in some of the letters.

One thing I have noticed in particular is the absence of the old gang of 'peal grabbers,' whose business was to ring peals only. It was not for them to teach. Let our bells be the voice of the nation and Church and all will be well. **GEORGE GILBERT.**

Burnham, Bucks.

P.S.—As a rank Cumberland, let us keep our rule and stick to the last three lines of your leader of December 8th. Once a Cumberland always a Cumberland.

Dear Sir,—I do not object to peal ringing, as I think it should be encouraged. It makes better striking and good fellowship. What difference is there between peal ringing and the clattering and banging at Saturday meetings?

I have noticed that some ringers of peals do not ring or belong to any band for Sunday service ringing, and when they attend the Saturday meetings they slight the younger learners that wish to have a ring by not taking hold of a bell, but waiting until they have got most of their peal pals at the ropes. If this practice is done away with it would help to overcome the banging and clattering.

In your editorial comments you state that no one has mentioned that the sound of bells worsened their sorrow of the loss of their dear ones. I am sorry to have to state that I received notice that my only son was killed in Italy four days before Remembrance Sunday, 1943, and when my family and myself were going to church on that day the bells I had helped to ring half-muffled every year since the last war were being rung without muffles. That does not say the bells are to blame. To my mind, it is the ringers who have no thought for others, only their own enjoyment and gains.

W. E. LLOYD.

3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WOOD GREEN.**

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Michael's, Wood Green, on November 25th, was attended by over forty members and friends and several local towers were represented. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. B. Ashworth, who welcomed those present.

A tribute of respect was paid to the memory of D. E. Campbell (St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton), a young and promising ringer, who was killed on active service in Normandy. The elections of Messrs. T. G. Myers (Plymouth), R. G. Bird (Hampstead), W. Ayre (Hemel Hempstead) and Miss J. Houldsworth (London) were ratified, and Mr. A. W. Brighton (Forest Gate) was elected a non-residential life member.

The company were the guests of the Vicar to tea, after which Mr. C. T. Coles (vice-president) thanked Mr. Ashworth. The ringing ranged from rounds to Surprise Minor.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT HYDE.**

A meeting of the Bowdon, Stockport and Mottram Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Hyde on November 25th, and was attended by sixty members and friends. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Parker, who welcomed the Guild.

Tea in the parish room was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided. The secretary was asked to express the sympathy of the meeting with the branch chairman, the Rev. F. Bonner, in his illness. Mr. Wilde conveyed the best wishes to the members from Mr. C. K. Lewis, from whom he had received an air-graph from India. The next meeting was fixed to be held at Cheadle on January 27th.

A vote of condolence was passed with the relatives of John H. Brierley, of Hyde, who had recently passed away. The hon. secretary paid tribute to the deceased's service rendered to the local church for 40 years and before that for many years to the churches of St. Anne, Denton, and St. Peter, Ashton-under-Lyne. The methods rung ranged from Cambridge Surprise Major to rounds.

GUISELEY, YORKS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: *A. Wear 1, *G. Dixon 2, *H. M. Heaton 3, J. McGlenn 4, W. Dixon (conductor) 5, A. C. Walsh 6. *First 720.

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.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale and Rosendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Thurmaston, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (6) 4 p.m. Tea and business, Schoolroom, 5 p.m. Ringing, Barkby bells (5) 3 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery. — Annual meeting at Congresbury, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business in Vicarage 5 p.m. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Derby Cathedral, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, 5 p.m., in belfry. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells of Cathedral 3-4 p.m. Service, St. Peter's, 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, 5.15 p.m. Further ringing at St. Peter's.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Tilney, All Saints', Saturday, Dec. 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (provided) at 5.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Practice at Stoke Poges, Tuesday, Dec. 26th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BIRTH.

REED.—To Alice, wife of Reginald A. Reed, B.L.A., on Nov. 25th, at 32, Scotter Road, Bishopstoke, a daughter (Katharine Lindsey).

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