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COMPETITIVE RINGING.

We do not imagine for a moment that there will be general approval of the opinion expressed by a correspondent on another page, that it would be a good thing for ringers, especially in some districts, if competitive ringing were introduced. On the contrary, we know from the experience of many years that an influential section of the Exercise would reject the idea with disgust, and the majority are not sufficiently interested in the matter to make it a practical proposition. Yet any suggestion which may help to raise the standards and increase the interest in our art is worth a little consideration, and when we approach a question like this we ought to do so with open minds and as free from prejudice as possible.

That, in this case, is extraordinarily difficult to do. The bare mention of a ringing competition raises visions of the old prize ringing meetings with all their abuses, of which lurid accounts have come down to us — the drunkenness, the betting, the foul play, the bad feeling, and the rest. When all allowances have been made for exaggeration (and there is some exaggeration in these accounts) we are shown a picture that none of us would care to see even in the barest outlines. To many persons the very thought of holding a competition (however fairly and cleanly conducted) in a church is a repulsive one. Competitive ringing is too deeply tainted by its past history to become (at any rate in this generation and perhaps for many still to come) acceptable to those who value the best interests of ringers and ringing.

But that does not settle the question nor even touch the root of the matter. If we drop the words 'prize ringing' and even 'competitive ringing,' and talk about how best we can foster a spirit among bands by which each shall strive to excel the others in the things which pertain to their art—then we put a different aspect on the matter. It would be a most excellent thing if in any district there could be a keen competition, not for a money prize, nor for a cup or shield, but just for the honour of being able to claim that the bells at a particular church were better rung than at the rest; if on any Sunday morning, each man realised that the credit of his band depended on his punctual attendance and the way he rang and struck his bell.

But no competition can be held unless there is some definite test and some competent and independent judge. Here is where any formal scheme under present circum-

(Continued on page 134.)

stances would be sure to break down. A band's own estimate of the quality of their ringing is generally worthless, for what many of them consider 'perfect' striking is to others no more than average, commonplace stuff. Yet, when they do succeed on any occasion in rising above their usual standard, they are entitled to feel proud of it, so long as they do not forget that, however well they ring, they are still a long way from being 'perfect,' and, if they set their minds to it, can still do better.

We should rather like to see the experiment made at a meeting, by which the local bands should, one after another, be invited to ring a course or short touch of some standard method. There need be no formal awards, and no judges other than the listening ringers. If everybody, competitors and judges alike, entered into the affair in the right spirit, both the performers and the listeners might learn a vast deal more about what good ringing can and should be than they can ever gather from the ringing which is usual at an association meeting.

We should like to see the experiment made, but we are not so blind that we cannot see the difficulties in the way.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HARRY G. WAYNE Treble | ERNEST MORRIS 7 |
| JILL POOLE 2 | HAROLD G. JENNEY 8 |
| MRS. H. J. POOLE 3 | SIDNEY O. CHENEY 9 |
| G. STEDMAN MORRIS 4 | FREDERICK H. DEXTER 10 |
| SHIRLEY BURTON 5 | WILLIAM J. ROOT 11 |
| REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 6 | HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor |

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

First peal of New Cambridge Surprise Maximus by all and for the association.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEEDS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 31, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 8007 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. in F.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| DORIS G. DOBBIE ... Treble | CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 6 |
| *E. S. JOHN HATCHER ... 2 | WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 7 |
| PHILIP A. CORBY ... 3 | STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 8 |
| BETTY SPICE ... 4 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 9 |
| +VERNON J. BENNING ... 5 | GEORGE KENWARD ... Tenor |

Composed by H. W. HALEY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Stedman Caters.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| *WILLIAM T. PETTY ... Treble | ALBERT J. PITMAN ... 5 |
| *FREDERICK HANINGTON ... 2 | ERNEST STITCH ... 6 |
| *ALFRED HANINGTON ... 3 | ALFRED W. HEATH ... 7 |
| CHARLES H. PERRY ... 4 | GWYN I. LEWIS ... Tenor |

Composed by JOHN E. BURTON.

Conducted by CHARLES H. PERRY.

* First peal of Major.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.*

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| J. EDWARD CAWSE ... Treble | JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 5 |
| *HERBERT O. CHADDOCK ... 2 | F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 6 |
| ERNEST A. THORPE ... 3 | ARNOLD HILL ... 7 |
| G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 4 | †JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor |

Composed by WILLIAM BARTON. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method inside. First peal in the method on the bells.

THORNBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| GEORGE OLIVER ... Treble | †EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... 5 |
| *DONALD G. CLIFT ... 2 | ARTHUR H. REED ... 6 |
| FREDERICK A. TARGETT ... 3 | RONALD G. BECK ... 7 |
| CLEMENT GLENN ... 4 | WILFRED WILLIAMS ... Tenor |

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS

* First peal in the method 'inside.' † First peal of Surprise. First peal of Surprise on the bells.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF NORFOLK SURPRISE MAJOR, 6152 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| *WILLIAM FERNLEY ... Treble | *TOM WILDE ... 5 |
| *MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2 | *DAVID VINCENT ... 6 |
| *WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 3 | JOHN WORTH ... 7 |
| *ALAN J. BROWN ... 4 | *PETER LAFLIN ... Tenor |

Composed by GEO. R. NEWTON.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF KIDLINGTON COLLEGE COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt. in G. sharp.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| MICHAEL J. FOSTER ... Treble | GEORGE SAYER ... 5 |
| NOLAN GOLDEN ... 2 | ARTHUR G. BASON ... 6 |
| REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 3 | RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 7 |
| JOHN R. SMITH ... 4 | HENRY TOOKE ... Tenor |

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in the method by all, on the bells and for the association.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Mar. 27, 1945, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| STANLEY E. BENNETT ... Treble | †GEORGE WILLIAMSON ... 5 |
| ARTHUR J. FARR ... 2 | GEORGE W. MILLS ... 6 |
| PTE. ERNEST THORLEY ... 3 | WILLIAM HOLLINGWORTH 7 |
| *AUBREY D. MILLS ... 4 | JOHN G. AMES ... Tenor |

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal. † First peal of Major inside. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect for the Rev. Canon B. G. Nicholas, for 25 years Vicar of Spalding.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, March 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. W. Conduct 1, Miss M. Lyon 2, L. J. Williams 3, T. Pyle 4, F. S. Sanders 5, W. J. Meers (conductor) 6, G. F. Garrison 7, J. Gilson 8. Also on Palm Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: L. T. Williams 1, J. W. Conduct 2, F. S. Sanders 3, W. J. Meers (conductor) 4, G. F. Garrison 5, F. Morgan 6.

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 31, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FREDERICK A. BURNETT <i>Treble</i> | HAROLD A. NOBES ... 5 |
| *WILLIAM A. THEOBOLD 2 | JOHN H. HUNT ... 6 |
| LEONARD HARRIS ... 3 | FREDERICK W. BURNETT 7 |
| *STANLEY E. COOK ... 4 | *WILLIAM SCAIFE ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by FREDERICK W. BURNETT.

* First peal in the method.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Apr. 1, 1945, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

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

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *GEORGE M. EASTMAN ... <i>Treble</i> | BETTY SPICE ... 5 |
| DORIS G. DOBBIE ... 2 | CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 6 |
| *GEORGE H. SPICE ... 3 | STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 7 |
| GEORGE KENWARD ... 4 | JOHN E. SPICE ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Easter Monday, Apr. 2, 1945, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5000 CHANGES;

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| HOLT'S ORIGINAL. | Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D. |
| HAROLD A. MAY ... <i>Treble</i> | GEORGE L. GROVER ... 5 |
| ALBERT LAMBKIN ... 2 | FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... 6 |
| WILLIAM M. STONE ... 3 | ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7 |
| GEORGE W. STEERE ... 4 | WILLIAM T. BEESON ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

ABERGELE, DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 10, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. | Tenor 8½ cwt. |
| *MISS MARJORIE JONES... <i>Treble</i> | †A. H. STEDMAN ... 4 |
| LESLIE BARRY ... 2 | *GEORGE JEANES ... 5 |
| *HENRY RUMENS ... 3 | †CHARLES SMITH ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by L. BARRY.

* First peal of Doubles. † First peal.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Mar. 23, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 12 six-scores of April Day, 10 of Plain Bob and 20 of Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| GEORGE CARE ... <i>Treble</i> | GEOFFREY GAYTON ... 3 |
| MISS HILARY ARNOLD ... 2 | L.A.C. ERIC NOBLES ... 4 |
| JOSEPH W. L. LINNITT ... <i>Tenor</i> | |

Conducted by J. W. L. LINNITT.

First peal of conductor.

HOWARTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 31, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,160 of Oxford Treble Bob (C.C.C. 152), 2,160 of Kent Treble Bob (C.C.C. 153) and 720 of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| WILLIAM AMBLER ... <i>Treble</i> | HERBERT HELLIWELL ... 4 |
| ALAN RUSHWORTH ... 2 | VERNEY BAIRSTOW ... 5 |
| SAM LONGBOTTOM ... 3 | ARTHUR BAIRSTOW ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Apr. 2, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, SOUTHBROOM,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ALEXANDER T. WEEKS ... <i>Treble</i> | *WILLIAM G. MORTIMER... 4 |
| *SIDNEY G. GRANT ... 2 | *FREDERICK W. HALE ... 5 |
| *PETER J. F. HUNT ... 3 | *JOSEPH S. WEEKS ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by J. S. WEEKS.

* First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

TRENTHAM, STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 17, 1945, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
AT 22, STUART AVENUE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. W. LLOYD... 1-2 | R. S. ANDERSON... 5-6 |
| ANDREW THOMPSON ... 3-4 | *JOHN WORTH ... 7-8 |

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by J. WORTH.

* 300th peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 23, 1945, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| *ROSEMARY HOOD ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6 |
| *JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 3-4 | *MARGARET L. TUTT ... 7-8 |

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, March 24, 1945, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 1-2 | FRANK E. PERVIN ... 7-8 |
| FRANK W. PERRINS ... 3-4 | GEORGE F. SWANN ... 9-10 |
| FRANK E. HAYNES ... 5-6 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 11-12 |

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

Referee: ALBERT WALKER.

OXFORD.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 25, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ROSEMARY HOOD ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6 |
| *GERALD BROMLEY ... 3-4 | †PAUL K. WILLIAMSON ... 7-8 |

Composed by J. HOWES (C.C.C. No. 122). Cond. by J. E. SPICE.

* First peal on an inside pair. † First peal.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Mar. 26, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT 25, HALLAM STREET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| *DAVID VINCENT ... 1-2 | PETER LAFLIN ... 5-6 |
| MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 3-4 | *JOHN WORTH ... 7-8 |

Composed by W. HUDSON. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

NEWCASTLE, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Mar. 29, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE BELFRY OF ST. GILES' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. W. LLOYD ... 1-2 | R. S. ANDERSON ... 5-6 |
| ANDREW THOMPSON ... 3-4 | *G. W. BIDDULPH ... 7-8 |

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by R. S. ANDERSON.

* First peal on handbells.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 117.)

In the methods produced by Slow Work shunts, and especially when they are combined with Court shunts, there is a tendency to a rather excessive amount of dodging in 1-2 and 3-4. The two methods given in our last article show this. Dodging in a method is a good thing, but you can sometimes have too much of a good thing. Double dodging is generally recognised as the ideal, and undoubtedly the double dodging in Double Norwich and Stedman has a lot to do with the popularity of those methods. Three-pull dodging on the back bells is very effective musically, and, as the 'Clavis' remarked a century and a half ago, is 'much admired by all professors of the exercise.' Until comparatively recent years, ringers have had little or no experience of four-pull dodging, and it is not quite easy to decide whether it is too long or not. But five-pull dodging decidedly is excessive. It is the great defect in Superlative Surprise Major, which, but for it, would be vastly superior to Cambridge.

| Leamington Bob. | Romsey Court. |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 12345678 | 12345678 |
| 21436587 | 21436587 |
| 24135678 | 24135678 |
| 42316587 | 42316587 |
| 24361578 | 24361857 |
| 23465187 | 23468175 |
| 32645817 | 32648715 |
| 36248571 | 36247851 |
| <hr/> | |
| 63425871 | 63427581 |
| 64328517 | 64325718 |
| 46238157 | 46235178 |
| 42631875 | 42631587 |
| 24613857 | 24613857 |
| 42168375 | 42168375 |
| 41263857 | 41263857 |
| 14628375 | 14628375 |
| <hr/> | |
| 16482735 | 16482735 |

And if five-pull dodging is objectionable in a Surprise or Treble Bob Method where it is relieved by alternate double dodging, it is much more so in a Plain method, where from the time the treble leaves the front or the back until it returns, there is nothing to relieve it. The reason is that it is monotonous to both eye and ear. When it is accompanied by three-pull dodging in 3-4 and 5-6 (below and above the treble) there is stagnation in the movement of the bells which is one of those things which will always prevent a method from being first class. There is, however, one advantage, such as it is. It is always easier to score a peal in a method which has stagnation and excessive dodging, than in one where the bells move freely and rapidly.

Double Oxford is an excellent example of all this. It has almost every quality necessary for a method of the highest class, but all is spoilt by stagnation and excessive dodging; and though it has been familiar to the Exercise for more than a century, and occasional peals of it are always likely to be rung, it will never really be popular.

We have had in these articles some instances where

five-pull dodging prevents a method from being a really good one, though the defect is not so noticeable when it is confined to the bells below the treble. Crayford is such a method, and St. Clement's; and to a still greater extent Kidlington and Painswick. We now come to a simple form of variation by which this defect can be largely counteracted and a group of methods produced with new and interesting features.

When we examine Pershore, Double Oxford, Kidlington, and Painswick, we find that from the time the treble passes from Fourths to Fifths on its way up, until it passes from Fifths to Fourths on its way down, there are four bells which dodge together in pairs in 1-2 and 3-4. What they do is to take one step forward, followed by one step backwards three times, and then one step forward—in all seven changes which result in one step forward.

New eight steps by four bells backwards will bring them back to where they started from, and consequently seven steps backwards will have the same result as one step forward. This is the same as is produced by the dodging pairs.

| Instead of | we get |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2345 | 2345 |
| 3254 forward | 2435 backwards |
| 2345 backwards | 4253 do. |
| 3254 forward | 4523 do. |
| 2345 backwards | 5432 do. |
| 3254 forward | 5342 do. |
| 2345 backwards | 3524 do. |
| 3245 forward. | 3254 do. |

Make this alteration in Pershore and we get Leamington Bob. Make it in Double Oxford and we get Cheltenham Bob. Make it in Kidlington and we get Romsey Court. Make it in Painswick and we get Colville Bob.

| Colville Bob. | Dorchester Bob. |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 12345678 | 12345678 |
| 21436587 | 21354768 |
| 24135678 | 23157486 |
| 42316587 | 32514768 |
| 24361857 | 23541678 |
| 23468175 | 25346187 |
| 32648715 | 52436817 |
| 36247851 | 54238671 |
| <hr/> | |
| 63427581 | 45328761 |
| 64325718 | 43527816 |
| 46235178 | 34257186 |
| 42631587 | 32451768 |
| 24613857 | 23415678 |
| 42168375 | 32146587 |
| 41263857 | 31245678 |
| 14628375 | 13254768 |
| <hr/> | |
| 14263857 | 13527486 |

Cheltenham Bob is not a particularly good method, for the stagnation and excessive dodging above the treble of Double Oxford remain. The other three are excellent. They will afford plenty of interest and tax the skill of the best bands. Even more so will Dorchester Bob (which is the method we gave on January 8th and called X, when it is treated as we have just described).

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---|
| 216 | | 216 | |
| 2314567 | | 2314567 | |
| 4732651 | 3 | 7143526 | 5 |
| 6243517 | 7 | 1274365 | 2 |
| 2314675 | 2 | 1243765 | 1 |
| | | 3521674 | 3 |
| | | P 3517246 | 1 |
| 216 | | 216 | |
| 2314567 | | 2314567 | |
| 4732651 | 3 | 3425167 | 1 |
| 7512463 | 3 | 4675312 | 3 |
| 5261734 | 2 | 5231674 | 4 |
| 2157634 | 1 | 2173546 | 2 |
| 1325746 | 2 | 1325746 | 1 |
| 1357246 | 1 | 1357246 | 1 |
| 216 | | 216 | |
| 2314567 | | 2314567 | |
| 3425167 | 1 | 3425167 | 1 |
| 6143725 | 4 | 6143725 | 4 |
| 1253674 | 3 | 1264357 | 2 |
| 2375146 | 2 | 1243657 | 1 |
| 3521746 | 1 | 2316457 | 1 |
| 3517246 | 1 | 3521674 | 2 |
| | | 3516274 | 1 |

All twice repeated.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MARLBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the Marlborough Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Marlborough on March 24th, was attended by 40 ringers from Aldbourne, Chisledon, Chilton Foliat, Collingbourne Kingston, Colingbourne Ducis, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Hungerford, Inkpen, Ogbourne St. Andrew, Ogbourne St. George, Swindon, Overton, Wishford and Axford.

All the officers were re-elected except that the Rev. F. C. Whitter was appointed vice-chairman in the place of the Rev. J. S. Elliott. The ringing was at St. Mary's, Marlborough, and St. George's, Preshute; and the methods included Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Grandsire and Stedman, and rounds.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT MEETING AT SOUTH WIGSTON.

A meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held at South Wigston on March 17th and was attended by members from Anstey, Aylestone, Billesdon, Birstall, Countesthorpe, Groby, Kibworth, Leicester (St. John's, Cathedral), Market Harborough and St. Margaret's, Rathy, Rothley, Sileby, South Wigston, Whetstone and Wigston. The bells were kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich and Cambridge Major. A service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Proctor, who was assisted by the curate, the Rev. K. A. Piskett.

Eighty-eight sat down to tea in the Church Schools, provided by the local ringers' wives. At the meeting which followed there were 96 present, which is a record for Leicester District. The local chairman, Mr. G. T. H. Walker, presided, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rothley on April 21st. The following were nominated as new members, five from St. John's, three from Aylestone, one from Kibworth and one from South Wigston. The evening concluded with a social gathering, at which handbells were rung to various changes and tunes.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KEMPSTON.

There was a meeting of the Bedfordshire Association on March 24th at Kempston, at which 48 members and friends were present from Bromham, Cardington, Silsoe, Maulden, Tempsford, Sandy, Stagsden, Turvey, Biddenham, Bedford, Roxton, Great Barford, Elstow, Milton Ernest and the local tower.

The company were the guests at tea of Mr. and Mrs. Inskip, and at the business meeting which followed it was decided to hold the next meeting at Turvey on April 28th.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at Dudley on March 24th, and over 70 members and friends were present. Service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon J. Waring, who also presided at the business meeting which followed the tea. The officers were appointed as follows: President, the Rev. Canon Waring; Ringing Master, Mr. N. Leech; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Shuck; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Colclough. The Rev. J. C. Ayling was added to the list of vice-presidents.

Eleven new ringing members were elected. The next meeting will be at Hagley on June 30th, and it is hoped to arrange a summer meeting at Bridgenorth.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed
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The increasing circulation of 'The Ringing World'
has now exhausted the extra supply of paper recently
allowed us, and new orders for delivery by post can
only be accepted subject to vacancies occurring in the
present list of subscribers, either from death or some
other cause. Orders sent to Mr. George W. Fletcher
will be dealt with in strict rotation as quickly as oppor-
tunity offers.

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

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A meeting of the Central Council will be held on Whit
Tuesday, May 22nd, at Birmingham. Fuller details later.
Association Secretaries are reminded that the Affiliation
Fee for 1944/45 became due on January 1st, and must
be paid before the Council meeting.

G. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Sec.

Ringling can now be resumed at Leytonstone Church, as the architect
has pronounced the tower safe and the damage has been repaired.

Among the churches in the Metropolitan area damaged by flying
bombs was the one which holds the William Pye memorial. The bells
are apparently untouched, but whether the tower is safe enough to
ring them has not yet been decided.

Christ Church, Ealing, was very badly damaged and the roof and
most of the interior were wrecked. The top of the spire was twisted
and a good deal of damage done inside the steeple. After a long
delay, the Vicar, the Rev. A. A. de Vere, has succeeded in getting
the church fit for holding services, and he has been most anxious that
the bells should be rung again. Through his kindness the annual
meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association
will be held there. He has offered to do what he can to provide light
refreshment, but the association will expect its members to make
some small contribution and to add something for the restoration fund.

THE DOUBLE NORWICH COLLECTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Worth and his band deserve a great deal of sympathy.
It is evident that they have been misled by an interim list of errata,
which consisted mainly of a number of insignificant misprints. This
list of preliminary corrections ought never to have been issued to the
public.

The final list of corrigenda appeared in 'The Ringing World' on
March 27th and April 3rd, 1925. From this list it will be seen that
there are a considerable number of false compositions in the Double
Norwich Section, which are not shown to be such in the errata men-
tioned above.

The Double Norwich section was originally compiled by Henry
Dains, and was a very inferior piece of work.

I do not know whether the corrections now being sent out with this
collection are the complete list, or the misleading interim list to which
I have referred. If by any chance it is the last, it is the manifest
duty of the Central Council either to withdraw immediately the
Double Norwich Section, or supply broadcast a copy of the corrections
given in 'The Ringing World' in 1925.

Both peals 158 and 160 are false as published. Either becomes true
if the courses in which the singles appear are called S1, Bob 6. 158
then becomes the same as 162.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

OBITUARY.

MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

We regret to announce that Mr. George R. Pye died on Saturday last, March 31st. The funeral is to-morrow, Saturday, April 7th, at Aldborough Hatch Cemetery at 10.30. Train to Newbury Park (L.N.E.) 9.27 from Liverpool Street, or Bus 66 from Green Man, Leytonstone, close Parish Church, to Aldborough Road.

MR. W. E. WATHEN.

The death is announced of Mr. William E. Wathen, who passed away at Stowmarket on March 15th at the age of 66. Mr. Wathen went to Stowmarket from Willenhall in 1923 and had rung 30 peals for the Suffolk Guild. Members of the local band were present at the funeral, and in the evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by P. Whittell 1, J. Steed 2, T. Sparrow 3, S. Sparrow 4, F. Sterry 5, A. R. Woodard 6, O. G. Barnard (conductor) 7, H. Copeland 8.

LIEUT.-COL. GODFREY MOSLEY.

We regret to announce the death of Lieut.-Col. Godfrey Mosley, honorary member of the Midland Counties Association, who passed away on Saturday, March 24th, in his 82nd year. The funeral service and interment took place at Calke Church on Thursday, March 29th. In the afternoon a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, half-muffled, was rung at the Church of St. George, Ticknall, as a tribute to his memory.

SOME CONTINENTAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the last few months I have been hoping to come across some bells of interest. Unfortunately, most towers have been stripped and the bells taken to Germany. I did find three very old ones in Normandy and even managed to pull one up, much to the surprise of all present, who had never before had the opportunity of seeing bells swinging. These were the only ones I found hung for ringing during my journey through France, Belgium, Holland and part of Germany.

I was, however, fortunate to stay in Helmond (Holland) for a few weeks. Here I met Mr. R. A. Smit, who introduced me to Mr. W. A. Van Dykhuizen, the local carillonneur, and during our conversation he told me about his carillon. He also told me there was a carillon by Gillett and Johnson at South Hertingenbotch. Unfortunately, I passed through during the hours of darkness, so was unable to try a visit. There had been one at Eindhoven. This, however, had been taken away by the Germans.

Pleased to say I get my 'Ringing World' each week and always look for old friends amongst the peal columns. A. BALLARD.
B.L.A.

COMPETITIVE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice that the West Dorset Branch unanimously voted against a competition for the Dorset ringers, on the grounds that it would not engender good fellowship, or serve to advance the art of change ringing, etc.

If the above had appeared in print about 50 years ago there might have been some truth in it, but I doubt if there is any in it to-day.

If we take our three great outdoor games, cricket, football and bowls, and see what strides these games have made during the last 50 years, and the hold they have on the public, we find that it is the competitive spirit introduced into these games that have made them what they are. I have played all three games on both sides of the Atlantic, and I must say I know nothing that will create good fellowship more than a good hard game and a better understanding amongst men whatever their nationality.

Now I will come back to bells and ringing. Taking a twenty-mile radius of Bridgwater, I find that in this area there is only one bell in all the towers of six and over which is unringable, which is, in my opinion, proof that the people are very fond of their bells, or they would not spend money on them to keep them in order.

If we take the six-bell towers in this area, there is about one in every ten that has a band that can ring more than one method, and about one in five that can ring one method; the remainder ring call changes or have not a band of ringers.

This is not the fault of the association or the ringers who belong to it. I know several who have worked hard for years to advance the art. My own opinion is that the six-bell ringers are not so interested in peal ringing as their eight-bell or more brothers, and that something could be done to create more interest in six-bell ringing. I think if competitive ringing was introduced for them under the supervision of the association it would create interest and we should see a revival in six-bell ringing. B. T. JEANES.

Bridgwater.

P.S.—Peal No. 158 C.C.C. mentioned by J. Worth is marked false in C.C. Peal Collection Corrigenda.

A SCHOOL OF RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I still consider, and from Mr. Frank Knight's letter it is obvious that I am not alone, that the idea of a School of Ringing is workable, provided that the organisers are not too ambitious at the beginning. I am fully aware of the vast amount of organisation that would be necessary, but my original letter was written with that in view so that discussions and plans could start now in order that we may be ready to take the practical steps when peace returns and conditions permit.

I think that some kind of preliminary trials could be made even now and I would suggest that where some competent lecturer is available, perhaps an hour or so could be set aside at a ringing meeting for a lecture and discussion.

In peace time there were the ringing tours which found support. Therefore, why not the same sort of thing, but with instruction and not peal ringing as the primary object?

If a week is considered too long, and it might be in the first instance, then what about a trial at one of the long week-ends, e.g., Whitsun or August Bank Holiday? The London area with its well-developed transport facilities and large numbers of ringers would probably be the most promising for a start, and experience gained there might enable other areas to be considered.

Such a scheme, I feel, really needs the backing of the Central Council if it is to succeed, and I hope that they will discuss the matter when they meet and possibly appoint a committee to make investigations. DENNIS A. BAYLES.

Fatfield, Washington, Co. Durham.

IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in St. George's Parochial Hall, Dublin, on St. Patrick's Day and was attended by 36 members from Bray, Drogheda, Dublin (Christ Church, St. Patrick's and St. George's) and Kilkenny. The president, Canon E. H. F. Campbell, was in the chair.

The annual report stated that the chief event of the year was the unveiling by the Dean of St. Patrick's of the memorial tablet in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, to the late hon. secretary, Gabriel Lindoff, on November 19th, the 76th anniversary of his birth. Among the members who had passed away were John B. Tough, a member of the Bray Society for nearly fifty years and a past president of the association, William Chamney, J. B. Cherry, W. H. Fussell, J. H. Riding and J. E. Davis. The only peal during the year was Bob Minor at St. George's, Dublin. The Attendance Shield had been won by St. Mary's, Limerick, and St. George's, Dublin.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President and Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy; hon. secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, Jenkinstown, Dundalk; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson, Bray; representatives on Central Council, Messrs. F. E. Dukes and R. S. F. Murphy.

The St. Peter's, Drogheda, Society were welcomed back into the association after a lapse of seven years.

The hon. secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, formerly conductor of St. George's Society, was the recipient of a leather brief case at the meeting from the St. George's Society. The Rev. R. J. Kerr, making the presentation, paid a high tribute to his work in St. George's parish.

Twenty-two new practising members, including two clergymen, and one honorary member were elected.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

At Bramley on March 24th, members of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society were present from Armley, Batley, Bramley, Calverley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Harrogate, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Pudsey, Rothwell and Hawkhurst.

Mr. M. H. Senior presided at the business meeting, at which one new member was elected and nominations received for the offices. The next meeting will be at Leeds Parish Church on April 28th.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

| 1,260 | | | | | 1,260 | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|--|
| 231456 | S | H | L | Q | 231456 | H | L | Q | |
| 345261 | | x | | x | 641235 | x | | x | |
| 435216 | | x | | | 345261 | | x | x | |
| 125346 | x | | | x | 125346 | x | | x | |
| Each four times repeated. | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,008 | | | | | 1,008 | | | | |
| 231456 | S | H | Q | | 231456 | S | H | Q | |
| 342516 | x | x | x | | 541326 | x | | x | |
| 152436 | x | | x | | 435216 | x | x | x | |
| 541326 | x | x | x | | 324156 | x | | x | |
| 435216 | x | x | x | | 213546 | x | x | x | |
| 324156 | x | x | x | | 123564 | | x | | |
| 234165 | | x | | | 251634 | x | x | x | |
| Each repeated. | | | | | | | | | |

OLD BIRMINGHAM RINGERS.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Continued from page 130.)

JOHN WALKER.

Sergeant Walker, or 'Old Rosin,' was, I believe, a native of Wolverhampton, and a corkscrew maker by trade. He was a man much respected by all who knew him, and his career was rather remarkable.

He was apprenticed to a small manufacturer at Wolverhampton, who generally idled away the first part of the week, and then made his people work like slaves at the latter end. This went on until Walker was getting towards manhood, when, after working all one night, his master sent him to Birmingham with the week's work, which he had to carry on his back, walking the whole 14 miles. On the way he by some means got into conversation with a recruiting sergeant, which ended in the lad's enlisting, notwithstanding his apprenticeship. I am not quite sure, but I think he joined the Royal Marines, and he made himself so popular in the Corps by his general good conduct, and his hearty and cheerful manner, that in a very short time he was sent out on the recruiting staff, with which he remained until he left the service, having been sergeant some years. He used to say that leaving the Army as he did was the greatest blunder he ever made.

Some time in the thirties there was a reduction in the Army, and men who had served a certain time could have their discharge by asking for it. Someone had given Walker a glowing account of the state of his trade, so he claimed his discharge after some fifteen or sixteen years of a gentleman's life, and repented ever after. Had he remained and finished his full term of 21 years, he would have had a very good pension. As it was, he had nothing.

I suppose he began his ringing career at Wolverhampton during his apprenticeship, since he rang several peals at different places while in the Service. He used to be very fond of telling us his experiences, especially that of making the acquaintance of Squire Powell, of Quex Park, Isle of Thanet, and of a meeting of the Squire's ringers being arranged to oblige him with a touch of Grandsire Caters, and ringing the twelve bells round. About the time I made his acquaintance he met with an accident in getting down the steps from Aston belfry, injuring one of his hips and permanently laming himself.

He was a good Treble Bob and Grandsire ringer, generally at the heavy end, and there are several peals recorded in the societies' books in which he took part. He used to fluctuate with his trade between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, being found wherever that was best. My uncle was always very fond of his company, as he had such a fund of anecdote, and with a little encouragement would sing the now forgotten song of the wars of Napoleon, Dibdin's song, 'The Jolly Ringers,' and a number of others, which he trotted out in a fair baritone voice and in the heartiest manner.

About 1854 or 1855 he became so lame that he could not work at his trade and had to go into the Wolverhampton poorhouse. Having always been a welcome guest at the St. Philip's Society's annual dinner, when the time came round we sent him an invitation and his railway fare. He came, of course, but we were surprised to learn that he had walked the whole distance in order that he might call and see his old friend, Samuel Aston, who was lying ill at Wednesbury. This would be about August, 1856, since both veterans died in the early part of the year 1857. Both were held in such esteem by Birmingham ringers that a muffled peal of Stedman Caters was rung to their joint memories at Aston. Jarvis and Walker were great cronies, and the company was never sad where they met. Walker was indebted to the former for the title of Old Rosin.

Lates also thought a lot of Walker, and for some years Walker, when dressed up, donned a green coat with gilt basket buttons which Lates had given him. By and by this coat began to show signs of wear and a button was missing. One night at a full meeting of the society, Joseph Deer, who was a tailor and rather fond of having a joke with Walker, when he generally had the worst of it, came into the room and suggested that Walker should let him have the coat to repair. Looking the tailor up and down for a few moments, Walker rejoined, 'No, Joe. I've got too much respect for the coat. When I have it repaired I mean to have it done by a workman.' Deer let the Sergeant alone ever after.

ELIJAH ROBERTS.

The following is copied from a contemporary newspaper, the name and date of which are missing. A portrait of Roberts is given. It shows him as a rather stout man of late middle age with a fleshy face, clean shaven except for a fringe of whiskers which, in the fashion of the last century, extended from ear to ear.

'In the manly and scientific art of change ringing Elijah Roberts, we are told by one who ought to know, and with whose account we confess ourselves unqualified to meddle, is the most accomplished and unparalleled change ringer upon the handbells the world has hitherto produced. Mr. Roberts has repeatedly challenged, and is still open to ring changes with any man in the world. He is now residing at the Derby Arms, Whitechapel, Liverpool.

'He commenced the study and composition of changes when about twelve years of age. In the year 1824 (then in his seventeenth year) he rung his first peal, which consisted of courses in various methods commencing with changes on seven bells—namely Grandsire triples, plain bob triples, Steadman's triples, triple bob triples. Changes on

eight bells—Grandsire major, plain bob major, treble bob major. Changes on nine bells—Grandsire caters, plain bob caters, Steadman's caters, treble bob caters. Changes on ten bells or grandsire royal—Plain bob royal, treble bob royal. Changes on eleven bells or grandsire cinquies—Plain bob cinquies, Steadman's cinquies, treble bob cinquies. Changes on twelve bells—Grandsire maximus, plain bob maximus, treble bob maximus; and finishing with a course of double treble bob major on sixteen bells, the whole containing 5,180 changes in three hours and twenty-seven minutes: rung in Birmingham.

'His next peal was rung on October 14, 1827, comprising 5,040 changes of treble bob maximus with the Kent variation in three hours and twenty-two minutes: rung at Birmingham. His third peal was rung on the 9th of April, 1830, consisting of 7,536 changes of Kent treble bob maximus occupying four hours and fifty-one minutes: rung at Birmingham. His next performance was rung on the 30th of June, 1833, being a very intricate peal of that much admired and musical method, Steadman's Cinques, with the bells in the tittums and every musical position, comprising 5,016 changes in three hours and twenty-four minutes: rung at Birmingham. His next peal was rung at Liverpool, on the 23rd of March, 1837, comprising 19,440 changes of Kent treble bob maximus, being the full extent of changes with the large bells at home, occupying him thirteen hours and forty-three minutes.

'Thus Mr. Roberts has, solely and unassisted, surpassed by many thousands of changes the longest peals that have ever been rung on twelve bells by any twelve men in the world. Besides ringing the above peals, Mr. Elijah Roberts has composed, conducted, and rung upwards of 100 peals on eight, ten, and twelve, bells in various Churches of the United Kingdom.'

Another cutting from a contemporary Liverpool newspaper says—'On the body of Elijah Roberts, 55 years of age, a licensed victualler, living at 25 Whitechapel. The deceased had been drinking, and on Thursday afternoon between three and four o'clock he was observed in an excited state to enter the water closet. Immediately afterwards a noise was heard, and upon the servant forcing open the door, he was found sitting upon the floor and having a large wound in his throat. In the closet was a quantity of blood and two razors were found near the place where the deceased had been sitting. Surgical assistance was procured, but it was then found that he was dead—The jury found that the deceased committed suicide whilst labouring under temporary insanity.'

To record two of Elijah Roberts' performances a broadsheet was printed and circulated among ringers. It gives the following account:

'Change Ringing Extraordinary

On the ninth of April 1830,

Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the Company of St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, accurately rung as an opening peal, on a fine-toned new set of Musical Hand Bells, a complete peal of Treble Bob Maximus with the Kent variation, comprising 7536 changes in four hours and fifty-one minutes, conducted by Mr. Joseph Powell, in the presence of Messrs. Henry Cooper, Thomas Cole, Thomas Worrall, James Howell, James Jarvis, and Charles Thurstans, who were auditors of this distinguished performance, and Members of the aforesaid Society.

On the 30th of June, 1833,

Was rung by Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the St. Martin's Company, Birmingham, on a Musical set of Hand Bells, fixed in a frame, and remained so for the whole of the performance, a complete Peal of that admired system, Steadman's Cinques, comprising 5016 changes composed by himself, conducted by Mr. Henry Cooper, and was accurately rung in a most masterly style in three hours and twenty-four minutes, which can be confirmed by the united testimony of Messrs. Thomas Worrall, Joseph Powell, John Hopkins, and James Jarvis of the above named company; James Allen, of the Cumberland Youths of London; I. J. B. Lates, Oxford; and Daniel Woods, of the Norwich Scholars; and by many other Change Ringers who met on that interesting occasion.'

(To be continued.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING AT BARNSELY.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association took place at Barnsley on Saturday, March 17th, when representatives were present from Arksey, Bolsterstone, Doncaster, Felkirk, Eastwood, Sandal, Handsworth, Rotherham, Sprotborough, Wath-on-Dearne and the local company.

After tea the business meeting was presided over by Mr. Dan Smith in the absence of the vice-president, Mr. George Lewis, resigned through indisposition. Nine new members were elected. It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Dearne on June 16th.

Mr. Dan Smith, of Felkirk, was elected vice-president, and Messrs. J. R. Brearley, E. Short and A. Firth were elected to vacancies on the committee. A collection for the Bell Repair Fund realised 13s.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BOLTON.

A meeting of the Bolton Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at St. Peter's, Halliwell, Bolton, on March 24th, was well attended, especially by the younger members. They did not ring many methods, but some showed good progress in one or more of the four standard methods. The local band provided the tea.

THE BELLS OF HILLINGDON.

St. John the Baptist, Hillingdon, the mother church of Uxbridge, is of ancient foundation, though it has been much altered from time to time through the ages. The inventories made in the reign of King Edward the Sixth are missing, but probably there were then four or five bells, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth Lawrence Wright was employed to cast a new tenor. The result was not satisfactory, and the parish refused to pay his bill, so that he entered an action in law against the churchwardens. In reply they petitioned the Court of Requests for an injunction calling on him to show cause why his bond should not be cancelled.

'To the Queens most excellent majestie. In humblewise complaining sheweth unto your excellent majestie your subjects Royland Rayner Thomas Rayner and William Mountsage of Hillingdon in the countie of Middx yeomen that where about twoo yeres since or more one Laurence Wrighte of London Belfownder did faithfullie promise and undertake to and with yor said subjects that he woold within due time next ensuinge the said promise new caste and substantially make a great bell for your said subjectes and the rest of the parishioners there which bell so to be made and hanged up in the bell frame at Hillingdon aforesaide in his convenient place amongst fower other bells then hanging ther should be tunable and agreeable with the rest of the said bells and bound himself to your subjects that he would justlie and trulie performe the same which in troth he never did performe in anie good order but altogether contrarie to his said bargaine and agreement and forasmuch as the said Lawrence hath not in any pointe effectualle nor justlie performed his said bargaine and promise yor said subjects doth forbear to paie him the said somes of monie as in reason and equitie is lawful for them to do. Nevertheless so it is and it may please yor Majestie that the said Lawrence of a gredie and unconscionable minde hath or meaneth to sue yor said subjects upon the said Deedes obligationerie intending there greatlie to vex trouble and charge your said subjects having no juste cause or consideracon so to doe'—therefore the petitioners asked for a writ of Privy Seal directed to Wright and summoning him to appear before the Court of Requests to show catse why the bond should not be cancelled.

In his reply, Wright stated that 'about fower years paste there passed speeche and comonycacon betwixt this defendt and the said Complaynents about the newe castinge and makinge of a bell to be hanged upp in the bell frame at Hyllingdon aforesaide' and that he 'has delivered to the said Compts one great bell wayinge twentye hundred weighte or thereabouts,' and that by his contract he undertook to take the bell down and replace it 'if it was not and did not continue of a true tune good sounde and agreeable to and with the residue of the bells that did then hange in the saide steeple or did not break or crack by or through default of workmanship during the space of one year and one day. And the defendt

saith that he did newe caste and newe make the saide bell and hanged the same in the said bell frame accordinge to the true entent and meaninge of the contracte and agreement aforesaide.'

What was the result of the dispute I cannot say, and apart from this incident and a somewhat similar one at St. Michael's, Cornhill, there is no means of knowing whether Wright was a competent bell founder or not, for only one small bell of his is still in existence.

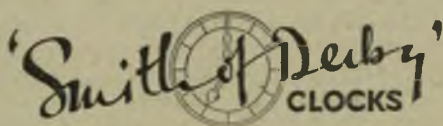
By the end of the seventeenth century the bells of St. John's had been increased to a ring of six, and a few years later change ringing was very popular in the parish. In 1731 Richard Ashley, baker, and William Hannington, yeoman, made themselves responsible for casting the ring into a peal of eight tuneable, musical bells. They entered into a bond and found security for the amount of £500, undertaking to indemnify the parish for any charges in connection with the work, to have as much metal returned in the new bells as was in the old six, to hang the eight in a workmanlike manner and to do no damage to the tower.

Ashley was probably the leader of the ringers, and, although we have no direct evidence, we may assume that Hannington was a local farmer and also a member of the band.

The bells were cast at Whitechapel and, when they were hung, the ringers made good use of them. In 1733 they thrice performed the whole peal of Grandsire Triples, evidently the false composition from the J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia of 1702. Of one of these performances the 'Penny London Post,' of August 19th, 1733, said: 'Last week the young ringers of Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, rang the whole peal of Grandsire Triples, being 5040 changes, in 3 hours and about 8 minutes, to the great satisfaction of all that heard them.' Richard Ashley, and two of his sons, Richard, junior, and Matthew, were in the band. Four years later the local men rang 5120 Oxford Treble Bob Major, four of them being among those who had stood in the Grandsire Triples. These peals were formerly recorded in the belfry, but one board has disappeared, and the other, owing to the removal of the old belfry floor, is now inaccessible.

In 1741 the Eastern Scholars rang 6160 changes of Bob Major in the steeple; and in 1751 the Union Scholars, with John Holt as conductor, achieved a notable performance, ringing 5800 Double Bob, followed immediately by 5040 Bob Major, the whole time being 7 hours and 30 minutes. Later on in the year the same society paid another visit and rang 5040 Double Bob Major.

In 1779 Pack and Chapman recast the second and third; in 1787 William Mears recast the four largest at a cost of £80 9s.; William Mears recast the fourth in 1828; and C. Mears and Co. recast the treble in 1864. There was, therefore, none of the original bells in the steeple in 1926, when the whole ring was recast and increased to ten by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.



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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HASTINGS.—On Sunday, March 11th, at Christ Church, Blacklands, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Carlton 1, Flight-Sergt.-Pilot J. Pennells 2, V. Williams 3, W. H. Joiner 4, S. C. Driver 5, G. Piper 6, J. Downing (conductor) 7, S. G. Smith 8.

SOUTH CHURCH, BISHOP AUCKLAND.—On Sunday, March 18th, 720 Bob Minor: C. Jarrett 1, J. Smith 2, C. Benn (first 720) 3, F. W. Peverell 4, R. B. Robinson 5, W. F. Moreton (conductor) 6, S. Bryant 7, H. Sanderson 8. Rung with 7-8 covering.

NORTON SUBCOURSE, NORFOLK.—On Thursday, March 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: Raymond J. Barber (first 720) 1, H. W. Barrett 2, B. Barber 3, G. Walpole 4, S. Fenn (conductor) 5, D. Fenn 6.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, March 25th, at New College, 1,080 Cambridge Royal: W. H. B. Wilkins 1, C. Coles 2, H. Badder 3, W. F. Judge 4, W. C. Porter 5, Miss M. R. Cross (conductor) 6, N. Allnutt 7, V. Bennett 8, G. Caudwell 9, J. E. Spice 10.

LUTON, BEDS.—On March 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. King 1, A. Rushton 2, J. Herbert 3, H. Burton 4, A. J. Smith 5, H. Wood 6, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, R. Kendall 8.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,264 Bob Major: F. C. Limb 1, Lieut. R. Smith 2, T. Turner 3, S. Usher 4, R. K. Barnes 5, E. Iddon 6, J. Bracewell 7, J. E. Burles (conductor) 8.

BARKING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. G. Fenn 1, C. Fenn 2, G. Faulkner 3, E. W. Pye 4, R. W. Stannard 5, S. J. Holgate 6, R. F. Deal (conductor) 7, E. H. Lucas 8.

GLASTONBURY.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *J. Dennis 1, *H. Lee 2, *L. Scull 3, *H. Scull 4, H. J. Trim (conductor) 5, *C. Neal 6. *First quarter-peal.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, G. F. James 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, P. J. Spice 4, I. Emery 5, G. H. Kite 6, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 7, C. Cullen 8.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,280 Bob Major: J. W. Cornford 1, E. Pavely 2, L. Bullock 3, S. M. Bailey (conductor) 4, J. E. Grove 5, R. Stannard 6, J. Bullock 7, F. Freestone 8.

ILKESTON.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,376 Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major: C. J. Baker 1, F. W. Shaw 2, E. Fletcher 3, G. Rigby 4, W. Thornley 5, E. C. Gobey 6, H. Beardsley 7, E. F. Gobey (conductor) 8.

KELVEDON, ESSEX.—On Sunday, March 25th, 720 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. Papworth 1, J. Newman 2, H. Nichols 3, J. Elliott (conductor) 4, A. Mason 5, C. Button 6.

APPLETON.—On March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Holifield 1, R. White 2, T. Bond 3, A. Cornish 4, H. White 5, G. Holifield 6, C. Calcutt (conductor) 7, E. Drewitt 8.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,280 Bob Major: J. Conquest 1, Miss D. E. Lidbetter 2, H. B. Whitney 3, W. Botsford 4, F. Plummer 5, R. Butcher 6, V. Conquest 7, J. E. Arnold (conductor) 8.

BARROW-ON-SOAR, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Palm Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. Lovett 1, K. E. Lovett 2, J. H. Elphick 3, F. W. Lowe 4, J. W. Lowe (conductor) 5. First quarter-peal by all.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, March 25th, 1,263 Stedman Caters: A. R. Glasscock 1, J. Armstrong (conductor) 2, Mrs. N. A. Tomlinson 3, W. Nash 4, W. J. Bowden 5, N. A. Tomlinson 6, T. J. Lock 7, H. Miller 8, A. W. Coles 9, J. G. Nash 10.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.—On Tuesday, March 27th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: N. Brown 1, Miss M. Elkins 2, G. Dodds 3, D. Vincent (conductor) 4, R. Broom (first 720) 5, A. J. Brown 6.

TICKNALL, DERBYSHIRE.—On Thursday, March 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Marriott 1, L. Warren 2, W. Soar (conductor) 3, T. J. Marriott 4, J. Hulse 5, W. Noble 6.

RAINHAM, KENT.—On Easter Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Edwards 1, Mrs. G. A. Naylor 2, P.O. F. G. Southgate, R.N. 3, Mrs. J. Barton 4, G. A. Naylor (conductor) 5, W. L. Rayner 6, W. J. Walker 7, W. Hollands 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On April 1st, at the Cathedral, 1,280 Double Norwich: H. A. Nobes 1, J. D. Harris 2, J. H. Hunt 3, S. E. Cook (first quarter-peal) 4, W. Tate 5, T. R. Taylor 6, F. W. Rogers 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8.

CARISBROOKE, ISLE OF WIGHT.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Frank Attrill 1, Charles Taylor 2, John Hunt 3, William Upton 4, Walter Scott, jun. 5, Frederick Burnett 6, Arthur Drake (conductor) 7, William Scott 8.

HONITON GLYST.—On Easter Day, 1,260 Grandsire and Stedman Doubles: Miss Q. Pring 1, Mrs. A. Holway 2, E. Retter 3, G. Retter (conductor) 4, J. Salway 5, A. Holway 6.

READING, BERKS.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Laurence's, 1,298 Grandsire Cinques: Mrs. Catherall 1, A. D. Cullum 2, G. J. Watts 3, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 4, Miss P. Hart 5, W. Lewington 6, R. Rex 7, E. Humfrey 8, H. Smith 9, C. Pullen 10, P. Dyke 11, W. Rampton 12.

READING.—On Sunday, April 1st, at St. Mary's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *W. Maxted 1, Mrs. A. Diserens 2, B. C. Castle 3, *W. Evans 4, L. G. Reeves 5, A. H. Sweetzer 6, A. Diserens (conductor) 7, J. S. Taylor 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman.

NOTICES.

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LAMBETH PARISH CHURCH.—Practice every Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., commencing April 4th.—C. M. Meyer.

KENT COUNTY ASSN.—Tonbridge District.—Hallow, April 7th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at King's Head, 4.45.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Annual, Derby, Saturday, April 7th. Bells of Cathedral (10), St. Peter's (8) and St. Alkmund's (8) available during afternoon. Committee meet 3 p.m., general meeting 5.30, both in St. Peter's Hall. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

HERTS COUNTY ASSN.—Annual, St. Albans, Saturday, April 7th. Service at Cathedral 4 p.m. Tea at Waterend Barn 5.30, price 2s. Notice of alteration of Rule 6: 'That the first meeting of the year in each district shall be an annual district meeting.' Ringing in various towers from 2.30.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual, Ipswich, April 7th. Committee 3.30. Service 4. General meeting to follow. All at St. Clement's Church and Hall. Cups of tea provided. Usual towers open for ringing.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSN.—South-Eastern District.—Broomfield, Saturday, April 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after. — H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Quarterly, Aston (12), Saturday, April 7th, 3 p.m. Service in church 4.30.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD GUILD.—Bicester Branch.—Souldern, Saturday, April 7th, 3 p.m. Somerton tower open evening. Names to F. Sharpe, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, April 7th. Ringing, Christ Church, Cubitt Town, E.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Southern Division.—Practice, Hurstpierpoint (8), Saturday, April 7th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Div. Sec.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Brecon St. Mary's (8), Saturday, April 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—South and West District.—Annual, Christ Church, Ealing, Saturday, April 7th, 3.30 p.m. Evensong, 5 p.m. Tea and business 5.30. Committee 4.30 p.m. Acton in evening. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual, St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, Saturday, April 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Synod Hall.—E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

CHESTER GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting, Poynton, Saturday, April 7th.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Western Division.—Annual Kidwick, April 14th, 2 p.m. Tea in Parish Room.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Lincoln District (Northern Branch).—Wragby (6), Saturday, April 14th, 2 to 8 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Adam and Eve Hotel, 4.30, 1s. 9d. each. Cards for tea to reach me not later than Wednesday, April 11th.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

SOCIETY FOR ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Wood Green, April 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea; bring food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—St. Peter's and St. John's, Lytham (6), Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Southampton District.—Lockerley, April 14th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names by April 10th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Kilburn, Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Service and tea. Willesden bells 7 p.m. Names to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2. (Tel. Ham 4510), by 12.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Lamberhurst (6), April 14th, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. A. Relfe, Windmill Cottage, Lamberhurst, by April 12th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Welton (5), Saturday, April 14th. Bring food and sugar. Notify early.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Blunsdon (6), April 14th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Chorley (8), Saturday, April 14th, 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. each, to those who notify the Secretary, Mr. F. Rigby, 8, Carrington Road, Chorley, not later than Wednesday, April 11th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice at Dalton-in-Furness (10), Saturday, April 14th, 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—Littledean (6), Saturday, April 14th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15. Ringers who require tea must let me know by Wednesday, April 11th.—Oliver Thomas, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Copt Oak (6), Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea in Vicarage, 5 p.m. Bring own food.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Ibstock.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Quarterly, Deeping St. James (6), April 14th, 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30., followed by tea in Church Room for those who notify Rev. J. R. Paget, The Vicarage, Deeping St. James, Peterborough, by April 11th. Business meeting 6 p.m.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

HERTS COUNTY ASSN.—Northern District.—Ashwell (6), Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by April 11th to A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—St. Leonard's, Middleton, Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Bring own eats, cups of tea provided. Meeting in tower 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Selby (10), Saturday, April 14th. Service in Abbey 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., in Schools. Names to Mr. E. Storr, 65, Green Lane, Selby.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 45, Green Lane, Selby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bathampton (6), April 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea to follow.—S. S. Woodbury.

KENT ASSN.—West Malling, Saturday, April 14th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSN.—Aylsham, Saturday, April 14th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., in the Church Room. Names to Mr. H. Tooke, The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk. Bus leaves Norwich 2.15 (Service No. 10).

NORTH NOTTS ASSN.—North Muskham (6), Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Bring tea.—H. Denman, Sec., 9, Rockley, Retford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Ringwood, Saturday, April 14th, 4-7.30 p.m. Business 4.30. No tea.—J. M. Turner, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY SOCIETY.—South Kirkby, April 14th, 2.30 p.m. Names to D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSN.—St. Paul's, Whitley Bay, Saturday, April 14th, 3 p.m. Tea provided. Bring food.—E. Wallace, Vice-President.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—I.W. District.—Ryde, All Saints', April 14th, 2.30 p.m. Names by April 9th to Mrs. A. M. Guy, Hon. Sec., 3, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, I.W.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Condover (8), Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m. Service. Tea.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly, Christ Church, Erith, Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea not later than Monday, April 16th, to A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Annual, Brighton, Saturday, May 5th. Ringing, St. Peter's, afternoon and evening, St. Nicholas', evening. Service, St. Peter's, 4.15. Allowances, tea 1s. 3d., max. rail fare 2s. 6d. Names for tea by April 28th.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmore Avenue, Brighton 6.

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