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CATERS WITHOUT A COVERING BELL

The peal of Caters rung at Basingstoke three weeks ago suggests several thoughts, any one of which might give rise to discussion, and if the matter is properly handled and in the right spirit, there may be an interesting and profitable debate when the Central Council meets at Norwich next Whitsuntide. Primarily there is the question whether the performance should be recognised as a peal, for (as a correspondent pointed out last week) the plain wording of the Council's rule seems to disallow it. About that we express no opinion, and at present we are concerned neither to condemn, nor excuse, nor approve. We are dealing with the general matters involved.

In one respect the circumstances were unique. There is in the tower a ring of nine bells tuned to the ordinary diatonic major scale, and nowhere else is there such a thing. The Council's rule for a peal of Caters, and the standards which have grown up in the Exercise through the centuries, assume that there would be in a tower at least ten bells if there were more than eight. There might be one or more semitones, but they, for obvious musical reasons, must not count. For ringers there was no excuse and no temptation to ring nine bells in a ten-bell tower, and the Council's rule was adopted mainly as the recognition of universal custom and largely as a formality.

If, however, the point had actually been raised there can be no doubt that the rule would have been the same as it now is, and the reason men would have given then would have been the same as they would give to-day—it is necessary for the sake of the music to have a covering bell to Caters. That is a perfectly sound and valid reason, so much so that rings of nine bells are not likely ever to be more common than they are; nor, even if they were fully allowed, are peals of Caters without covers likely to be rung.

Anything which tends to raise and maintain the musical quality of ringing should be valued as of the greatest importance to the wellbeing of the Exercise, and not least the standards which have been set up by the experience of the past. But it is a question whether formal rules are of any use in this matter, especially as any attempt to set up general musical standards by means of rules is certain to be a failure. What is needed is not so much to say to bands: You must not do this or that, as to

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spread musical knowledge and taste so that they by their own wish and liking will not do them.

One point might be raised though it has hardly any practical significance. Must nine-bell ringing needs be unmusical? There is nothing to be said in favour of ringing an ordinary peal of Grandsire or Stedman Caters on nine bells; whatever is done would certainly suffer in ringers' ears by being unfamiliar; and it may be that, apart from use and habit, nine bells would not adapt themselves to rhythm as eight and ten can. The point, however, is, as we said, of no real practical significance.

It should be recognised that the ideals and standards which have come to us from the past and are common to the Exercise, are usually of more value than the actual expressions of opinion men give, for they are the results of the experience of the whole body of ringers through many years, even, it may be, centuries. Tradition and custom insist on covering bells to seven, nine, and eleven bells, and exclude them from six, eight, and ten. That fact should perhaps be conclusive and should have more real weight than a formal rule of the Central Council. No doubt in the long run it will be the deciding factor.

We are not prepared to say how far the band which rang at Basingstoke was bound to obey the Council's rule. The association concerned is in a different case, and for the moment that is outside our subject. The Council's rules are not intended to restrict the liberty of ringers, but to be guides to show them how to get the best out of their art. Some restriction of liberty there must be, but it is only the restriction of what is lower and unworthy. Rules are advisable in the Exercise, but since change ringing is a living and progressive art, there is no rule which a band or a ringer may not break if there is sufficient cause. If there is sufficient cause. That is the test and it is a severe one. Men were justified when they first used spliced ringing, though the formal rule forbade it. Is there any real justification for Caters without a covering bell even at Basingstoke?

TEN BELL PEALS.

WEST HAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

ALFRED W. BRIGHTON	Treble	RICHARD W. STANNARD	6
HORACE BELCHER	2	GEORGE DAWSON	7
WILLIAM H. HEWETT	3	JOHN PHILLIPS	8
*JOHN E. CHILCOTE	4	RICHARD F. DEAL	9
FREDERICK W. HOUSDEN	5	EDWARD J. SMITH	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by R. F. DEAL.

* First peal on ten.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANFSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

ROBERT ALFRED	... Treble	ALBERT FORD	... 6
*MARY WALSHAW	... 2	FRED GRUNDY	... 7
EDWARD A. JACKSON	... 3	HERBERT LUDKIN	... 8
*MARY ELKINS	... 4	PERCY H. DERRYSHIRE	... 9
BURLEY WALSHAW	... 5	RICHARD BENSON	... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by H. LUDKIN.

* First peal in the method.

MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 28, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

HARRY G. WAYNE	... Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON	... 6
JOSEPH A. FENTON	... 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY	... 7
*ERNEST BARTRAM	... 3	ERNEST MORRIS	... 8
ERNEST W. RAWSON	... 4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS	... 9
HERBERT W. PERKINS	... 5	HAROLD J. POOLE	... Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Surprise Royal.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

H. RUMENS	... Treble	JOHN PHILLIPS	... 6
WILLIAM H. HEWETT	... 2	HERBERT SMITH	... 7
HORACE BELCHER	... 3	†FRANK C. W. KNIGHT	8
*JOHN CHILCOTT	... 4	RICHARD F. DEAL	... 9
WILLIAM J. NUDDS	... 5	REUBEN SANDERS	... Tenor

Composed by Wm. WILSON. Conducted by Wm. H. HEWETT.

* First peal in the method. † First of Stedman Caters on an 'inside' bell. Rung in memory of the late Mr. C. T. Coles.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HAZEL GROVE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*BASIL JONES	... Treble	JAMES A. MILNER	... 5
JAMES FERNLEY	... 2	KENNETH LEWIS	... 6
WILLIAM FERNLEY	... 3	PETER LAFIN	... 7
ALAN R. BROWN	... 4	JOHN WORTH	... Tenor

Composed by ERNEST BENNETT. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method. Rung for the wedding of Mr. William Hartley and Miss Margaret Kettle.

FORDINGBRIDGE, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

MARY E. DAVIS	... Treble	ANDREW I. PEARMAIN	... 5
*PERCY BRAYSHAW	... 2	ERNEST J. TRIMMER	... 6
MRS. F. MARSHALLSAY	3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER	... 7
BRUCE B. ROGERS	... 4	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... Tenor

Composed by G. HOPGOOD. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Major on tower bells.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Feb. 25, 1946, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

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

Tenor 23½ cwt.

GEORGE L. GROVER	... Treble	FRANK E. HAWTHORNE	... 5
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON	... 2	HAROLD A. MAY	... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING	... 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON	... 7
NORMAN V. HARDING	... 4	C. ERNEST SMITH	... Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

UFFORD, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

W. E. MAULDEN	... Treble	GEORGE A. FLEMING	... 5
*GEO. W. PIPE	... 2	LESLIE G. BRETT	... 6
MRS. CECIL W. PIPE	... 3	FRANK L. FISHER	... 7
CHARLES CLARKE	... 4	CECIL W. PIPE	... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by CECIL W. PIPE.

* First peal of Cambridge Major.

**CALVERLEY, YORKSHIRE
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*KEITH BRAYSHAW ... Treble	ALEXANDER E. MARSH ... 5
PAUL BIRKETT ... 2	PHILIP WHITTAKER ... 6
PATRICIA E. M. BARTON ... 3	DENNIS ROE ... 7
WILLIAM WARD ... 4	GORDON BENFIELD ... Tenor

Composed by YORKE GREEN. Conducted by GORDON BENFIELD.
* First peal. First peal as conductor.

**DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**

*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*THOMAS COOKE ... Treble	SAMUEL BRYANT ... 5
JAMES T. TITT ... 2	†WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 6
JOHN ANDERSON ... 3	W. NORMAN PARK ... 7
†GEORGE F. NEWTON ... 4	ROLAND PARK ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ROLAND PARK.
* First peal. † First peal in the method. ‡ 200th peal.

**STRATHFIELD MORTIMER, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 11½ cwt.

WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM ... Treble	REGINALD W. REX ... 5
GEORGE C. GOODMAN ... 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 6
*CHARLES OSLER ... 3	*PETER G. GOLDSWORTHY ... 7
MISS J. M. BROOMFIELD ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

* First peal.

**CRAYFORD, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT ... Treble	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 5
HERRBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 2	HARRY HOVERD ... 6
*WALTER J. LEMON ... 3	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 7
FREDERICK A. COLEY ... 4	WILLIAM E. BOND ... Tenor

Conducted by H. HOVERD.

* First peal 'inside.'

**SHALFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,*

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 13½ cwt.

GEORGE L. GROVER ... Treble	HAROLD A. MAY ... 5
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3	LESLIE C. W. HUNTER ... 7
GEORGE W. STEERE ... 4	ARTHUR E. HUNTER ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

First peal of Stedman on the bells.

**EWELL, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ELIZABETH LAYTON ... Treble	ALBERT E. CHEESEMAN ... 5
*PATRICIA SMEED ... 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH ... 6
L. F. HAPGOOD ... 3	ALBERT HARMAN ... 7
PHILIP GRAY ... 4	GEORGE MARRINER ... Tenor

Composed by I. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. HARMAN.
* First peal of Major.

SIX BELL PEALS.

**HAMPTON, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**
*On Sun., Feb. 17, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5'40 CHANGES;

SIDNEY DAVIS ... Treble	EWART ANDREWS ... 4
JIM RICHINGS ... 2	WILFRED NEWMAN ... 5
BERT JORDAN ... 3	JOSEPH TAYLOR ... Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED NEWMAN.
Half-muffled for the Hampton men killed in the war.

**PRIORS MARSTON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.**
*On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,*

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of London Surprise and two each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

GEORGE GARDNER ... Treble	HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 4
THOMAS W. SLEPPARD ... 2	LEONARD TREVOR ... 5
JOHN W. T. TAYLOR ... 3	WILLIAM A. STOTE ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. STOTE.
First peal on the bells.

**MARKET DEEPING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**
*On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GUTHLAC,*

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Rev. E. Barnes James' Arrangement.

*ARTHUR WADE ... Treble	*CECIL WADE ... 4
CHARLES WOODS ... 2	WILLIAM OLDMAN ... 5
HORACE M. DAY ... 3	ALBERT E. SCOTT ... Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.
* First peal of Minor.

**HALSALL, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**
*On Wed., Feb. 27, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, one of Oxford Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

R. CRITCHLEY ... Treble	A. MAWDSLEY ... 4
H. SERJEANT, SEN. ... 2	C. ACKERS ... 5
H. SERJEANT, JUN. ... 3	W. CORE ... Tenor

Conducted by W. CORE.

**WORCESTER.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**
*On Wed., Feb. 27, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SWITHUN,*

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE AMBLER ... Treble	ALLEN MORGAN ... 4
*WM. H. A. COMPTON ... 2	DENIS R. MORRIS ... 5
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS ... Tenor

Conducted by GEO. E. LARGE.
* First peal of Minor away from treble.

**SPROTBOROUGH, NEAR DONCASTER, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**
*On Sat., Mar. 2, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob, each called differentlv. Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

ERNEST PADGET ... Treble	HAROLD DENMAN ... 4
ERNEST SHORT ... 2	JAMES MCCUSKEY ... 5
FRANK REED ... 3	DANIEL SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.
First peal on the bells.



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HANDBELL PEALS.

CASTLE HEDDINGHAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 18, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

E. W. PYE 1-2 | ALBERT CATTERWELL 5-6
T. BIRD 3-4 | R. RIPPINGALE 7-8
Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by E. W. PYE.

Umpire: Olave Broyd

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Feb. 22, 1946, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

*PHYLLIS M. MAYNE ... 1-2 | CECIL C. MAYNE 3-4
†JOHN R. MAYNE 5-6
Conducted by J. R. MAYNE.

* First peal on handbells and 100th peal. † First peal on handbells and first peal as conductor.

BLACKSTONE, SUSSEX
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

*STELLA M. WICKENS ... 1-2 | EDGAR R. RAPLEY 3-4
CECIL R. LONGHURST 5-6
Conducted by E. R. RAPLEY.

Witness: C. Wickens.

* First peal in hand and in the method.

SIBLE HEDDINGHAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION

On Sun., Feb. 24, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

RONALD SUCKLING 1-2 | ALBERT CATTERWELL 5-6
THOMAS BIRD 3-4 | REGINALD RIPPINGALE 7-8
Composed by C. H. MARTIN. Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 24, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5094 CHANGES;

*BRUCE B. ROGERS 1-2 | MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 5-6
PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 3-4 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7-8
FRANCIS S. WILSON 9-10

Composed by J. W. MOORHOUSE. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS
* First peal on ten bells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 26, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5067 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2 | MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3-4 | JOHN THOMAS 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by J. D. JOHNSON.

BOCKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 27, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT 83, CHURCH STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

RALPH BIRD 1-2 | THOMAS BIRD 5-6
EDWIN JENNINGS 3-4 | RONALD SUCKLING 7-8
Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Mar. 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT 170, HEADSTONE LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

*JOHN R. MAYNE 1-2 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4 | CECIL C. MAYNE 7-8
Arranged and conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

WINSTANLEY RICHARDSON.

Winstanley Richardson, about whom an enquiry was made last week by Capt. Overy, was one of the most prominent members of the London Exercise in the latter part of the 18th century, but, like most of his fellows, little can be said of him apart from his ringing career.

By trade he was an optician and lived in the parish of St. Katherine, Cree, in the City of London. Evidently he was a man of some standing as a tradesman and citizen. As a ringer he first appears as a member of the Union Scholars, and when that body broke up he joined the ancient Society of College Youths, with whom he rang his first peals. On November 29th, 1761, he rang the sixth at St. Bride's to 6,050 changes of Grand sire Cinques, and in the following December, the second at St. Magnus' to 5,180 Bob Royal. Both peals were called by Francis Roberts, the man who first discovered the standard way of bringing Grand sire Caters round at hand-stroke. Next year at Fulham the company, which still included Richardson, rang 10,098 Grand sire Caters, the first ten-thousand of Caters with ten men only. This was called by William Underwood. At the time the ancient Society of College Youths was experiencing a short period of activity, but it did not last long. Underwood soon went over to the younger and more prosperous branch which called itself (and was called by others) the College Youths without qualification (as may be seen from their dinner ticket now used as the society's membership certificate). It was not long before Winstanley Richardson followed Underwood.

Richardson's first peal with his new friends was on December 8th, 1765, at Shoreditch, where he rang the treble to Double Grand sire Caters. He was now accepted as one of the regular peal band, and for many years there are very few performances by the society in which his name does not appear. To give an account of his peal ringing would in effect be to tell the story of the College Youths' activities in the last part of the 18th century. Very soon he was recognised as the society's regular treble man, and in those days treble ringing was not left to men who could not ring inside, but was reserved for the most skilful and experienced members of the company. Richardson was in the band that rang at Cirencester the first twelve bell peal out of London; he was among those who visited Birmingham in 1786 and made the unsuccessful attempt for Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, which was one of the principal causes of the final break-up of the ancient Society of College Youths; and he rang the treble to all the College Youths' peals in their famous long peal contest with the Cumberland Youths. In the opening week of the 19th century he took part in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. His last two peals were Grand sire Caters at Hertford in 1807 and Treble Twelve at Spitalfields in 1808, the latter the first of Maximus on the bells.

Winstanley Richardson and his contemporaries had now finished their peal ringing careers, though they still met regularly in tower and tavern. When the last of them died some years later, a definite period in the history of the College Youths was ended. Richardson was 76 years old at the time of his death. Whether, as Capt. Overy suggests, he was a connection of John Richardson, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, also a spectacle maker, there seems no means of knowing, but as members of families largely followed the same trade, it is by no means unlikely. J. A. T.

DEVONSHIRE RINGING SOCIETIES.

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION.

At a meeting of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers held at Newton St. Cyres on February 23rd, the president, Prebendary E. V. Cox, referred to the negotiations which are taking place with the Devon Association of Ringers. The former body consists of change ringers and the other of call change ringers, and the suggestion is that they should be united on a diocesan basis.

Representatives of the two have had one conference and the next move is with the association. The main objective is fuller friendship between the bodies so that the interests of ringers generally can be developed. The association holds competitive ringing festivals for shields and certificates, but there are no monetary awards. The Guild for many years has barred its members from participation in any competitive ringing, but a more tolerant spirit is now being manifested and some concessions have been envisaged to meet the known feelings of the association in regard to continuance of competitive festivals which usually arouse keen rivalry. Some Guild supporters are sympathetic towards festivals, and it was noted on Saturday that a shield in the church at St. Cyres recorded the fact that the local band, which is in union with the Guild, provided the winning team in 1939.

At the meeting there were about 40 members and visitors present. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. Griffin, who gave an address, and at the business meeting the chairman (Mr. A. W. Searle) suggested and the members approved a revival of branch committee meetings so that all bands could have opportunities of sharing in management, stimulating policy and increasing membership. It was not desirable that branch affairs should be left to the officers.

Several honorary and ringing members were elected, and Brampford Speke was chosen as the place of the next meeting. There was ringing on the eight bells at Crediton during the afternoon.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Ringers occasionally get interesting information from 'secular' sources. For instance, the 'Sunday Express' of February 2nd last told us, 'For the first time in 900 years there are insouciant ringers for Trowbridge's famous peal of bells.' Nine hundred years! It takes us back to 1066 and all that, and many years earlier than our oldest bell. I hope our own historians will look into this and publish the result of their investigations.

More information may be had from a 'thriller' by R. A. J. Walling—'The Stroke of One.' This concerns a murder in the ringing chamber of a Devonshire church. There is a fine peal of eight bells, and 'as you stand in the ringing chamber you look up and see them like monstrous iron flowers hanging from the branches of some gargantuan tree, and their ropes like racemes depending.' When the man from Scotland Yard arrives he produced 'a powerful lamp with a wide radius of reflection.' He goes up to the ringing chamber, and after carefully examining floor and walls he 'threw his light upwards and could see the immense bells in their framework, and the daylight percolating faintly through the louvered windows.'

We are told the Devon Guild of Ringers 'come once or twice a year, and after a sermon from the Rector and an organ solo by the organist, they would get to work and go right through a full peal of grand sire triples before retiring to the Royal George for supper and toasts.' Let us hope they had a plentiful supply of cotton wool for their ears during the peal, wore overcoats if it was cold, and had umbrellas if raining!

The exact time of the murder was important. The church clock struck the hours, and a passer-by heard it strike one at 12.45, and another heard it strike one at the correct time. The gentleman from the Yard spent two nights in the belfry and solved the problem. Three shots were fired in the ringing chamber. One killed the man, another wounded the murderer and the third hit the shoulder of a bell and was deflected into the beam above. This third shot hit the bell at 12.45 and accounted for the evidence of the first passer-by!

The detective, of course, noticed the mark on the shoulder of the bell and extracted the bullet from the beam. All three bullets were exactly alike. So everyone got their deserts, and I hope the detective got promotion. The moral for us seems to be—if we are thinking of shooting somebody in the ringing chamber (and who has not done so when the ringing is rough!), be sure there is a floor below the bells! I am wondering if a bullet, striking the shoulder of a bell, would really sound like a clock striking 'one' on an 'immense bell'? 'B.'

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MINOR.

	720		720
	23456		23456
S	32564 1		23564 1
S	23645 1		23645 1
S	32456 1	S	43562 2
S	23564 1	S	34625 1
S	63452 2	S	43256 1
S	36524 1	S	34562 1
P.L.	62345 1	P.L.	46325 1
Four times repeated S at		Four times repeated S at	
end of last part gives		end of last part gives	
	24356		24356
S	42563 1		45632 2
S	24635 1		45326 1
P.L.	35462 2	P.L.	52463 1
These four leads four times		These four leads four times	
repeated S at end.		repeated S at end	

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

	1,280		1,280
	23456 B M W R		23456 B M W R
35264	—	23564	—
56342	—	52364	—
64523	—	35264	—
35426	—	56342	—
42356	—	64523	—
34256	—	35426	—
23456	—	23456	—

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

	1,280		1,280
	23456 B W R		23456 B W R
23564	—	52436	—
62534	—	52364	—
36524	—	36524	—
36245	—	62345	—
23645	—	34625	—
42635	—	34256	—
23456	—	23456	—

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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,
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CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING, NORWICH.

As accommodation will be very limited at Norwich during Whitsun, members are advised to book early. The following are hotels which have rooms available:—

Annesley Private Hotel, Norwich. Bed and breakfast 12s.

*Bell Hotel, Norwich. Bed and breakfast 10s.
Double room and breakfast 20s.

Central Hotel, Tombland, Norwich. Bed and breakfast 10s. Double 20s.

Royal Hotel, Norwich. Single room 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Breakfast 3s. to 3s. 6d.

*Plus 10 per cent. staff gratuities.

In the report of the meeting of the Leeds and District Society it was stated that the next meeting will be at Armley on April 30th. Actually it will be on March 30th.

The first entirely new ring of eight bells since the war was cast last Saturday at Loughborough. They are for Bredbury in Cheshire. The tenor is 11½ cwt.

Last week we published the reports as received of two peals of Caters and two of Cinques rung on handbells at Enfield. As the particulars differed we took them to refer to four performances, but actually only one peal of Caters and one of Cinques were rung. The Caters was on February 13th in 2 hours and 36 minutes, and the Cinques on February 21st in 3 hours and 8 minutes.

RINGING FOR VICTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I suggest through your columns that the Standing Committee of the Central Council invite all ringers to take part in a corporate act of worship, thankfulness and unity on June 8th next as being the official contribution of the Exercise to the victory celebrations, such act to be symbolised by the ringing in every tower possible of one and the same method, as selected by that committee?

Due to a great extent to the time, consideration and advice given by members of that committee, the Exercise was ready, had the necessity arisen during hostilities, to warn the whole nation of enemy invasion. These same gentlemen should, I feel, have the privilege of giving not only to this nation, but to the whole world, a victory message as vital to humanity as such warning would have been to Britain.

All ringers will be anxious to play their part in the best way possible on that day. Can we do better than to 'broadcast' with one mind, this one (and yet dual) message, in one and the same way.

R. G. BLACKMAN.

27, Turnbull Road, Chichester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

In the days before the war the two most important events in the social life of the Exercise were the College Youths' dinner in London and the Henry Johnson Commemoration in Birmingham. Neither was wholly dropped during the lean years, but the mid-day luncheons were but inadequate substitutes for the full evening gatherings, and with the coming of peace men's minds turned to the hope of a resumption of the old style functions. In London, however, it proved quite impossible. Lack of accommodation, high prices and food shortage made a dinner quite out of the question. But Birmingham has been much more fortunate, and in most of the essential features the gathering at the Imperial Hotel last Saturday could compare favourably with the old style dinners. More than 160 persons were present from widely separated districts, and the number would have been substantially increased had the seating accommodation been larger. The splendid show of daffodils sent by Mr. Rupert Richardson, which decorated every table, can hardly have been equalled on any dinner table that evening throughout the country.

Canon Guy Rogers, the Rector of Birmingham, occupied the chair and mentioned that it was the twenty-first anniversary of his coming to the city.

The other persons present included Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Reeves, Canon Blofeld and Mrs. Blofeld, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Fearn, the Rev. J. R. Hassett, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Mr. A. Paddon Smith, Mr. B. Ashford, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Yates, Mr. W. A. Clark, the Rev. E. W. Hunt, the Rev. A. E. Frazer, Mr. J. P. Harvey, Mr. J. P. Fidler, the Rev. P. Keightley, Mr. E. T. Allaway, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish, Messrs. T. R. Boreham, W. E. Box, C. Bragg, H. Bragg, J. Bragg and S. Bragg, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Cartwright, Mr. J. E. Causer, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Chaplin, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Cooper, Mr. F. H. Crawley, Mr. G. W. Critchley, Miss M. R. Cross, Messrs. C. Dale, W. Davies, A. V. Davis, C. Dean, A. Diserens, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dowling, Mr. W. Dyer, Mr. J. T. Dyke, Mrs. J. C. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Farr, Messrs. H. H. Fearn, T. H. Francis, J. Freeman, S. W. Fremantle, W. T. Froggatt, G. H. Harding, G. J. Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Hemming, Messrs. H. Hofton, G. Holifield, R. C. Ingram, W. F. Judge, J. Jukes, H. Knight, K. W. Knowles, E. Large, G. E. Large, W. Leeson, G. F. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Lloyd, Mr. E. Mansell, Miss B. Marshall, Mrs. Marshall, Messrs. C. W. Martin, J. S. Mason, D. T. Matkin, G. T. Mitchison, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morris, Mr. M. J. Morris, Mr. T. G. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Palmer, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. O. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pemberton, Mr. F. W. Perrens, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pinfold, Messrs. W. Pocock, W. C. Porter, R. A. Post, Mr. F. Price and Mrs. and Miss Price, Mr. Print, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson, Mr. V. W. Rigg, Mr. F. W. Rishworth, Miss O. M. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Shepherd, Messrs. H. Shepherd, J. H. Shepherd, R. I. Shepherd, A. Short, Mr. and Mrs. F. Skidmore, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Spencer, Messrs. W. A. Stote, G. F. Swann, C. Taberner, J. Thorpe, Mr. and Mrs. L. Trevor, Mr. L. Tuffrey, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Viggers, Mr. and Mrs. F. Walker, Messrs. F. Ward, T. J. Warner, F. C. Weaver, C. Williams, G. H. Williams, W. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Wilson, Messrs. L. Yates and W. Yeend.

The speeches were all good and interesting. Mr. J. F. Harvey proposed the toast of 'Church and State' in a thoughtful and challenging speech, and the chairman replied.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith gave the toast of 'The Memory of Henry Johnson,' which was drunk in silence. It is usual to ask those who had known Johnson personally to stand up, and two members, Mr. G. T. Mitchison and Mr. C. Williams, responded to the invitation.

Mr. Albert Walker, the Master, gave the toast of 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' He referred to three members, Messrs. W. Saunders, A. E. Peg'ar and C. T. Coles, who had passed away during the previous year, and gave an account of the Guild's past ringing activities. Mr. Thomas H. Reeves replied.

Mr. J. W. Pemberton proposed the toast of 'Kindred Ringing Societies,' and Messrs. J. F. Smallwood and S. F. Palmer responded. The health of the chairman was given by Mr. F. E. Haynes.

We shall publish a fuller report of the speeches in a later issue. During the evening an excellent bobbed course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Messrs. Frank Pervin, Frank Perrens, Albert Walker, J. Frank Smallwood, Frank E. Haynes and George E. Fearn.

Songs were sung by Mr. W. C. Dowling and Miss B. Marshall, who also rendered some duets, and Messrs. Mansell, Pocock and Print gave some tunes on the handbells.

During the afternoon there was ringing at the Cathedral, at St. Martin's, and at St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

ROBERTON KENT.—On February 23rd. 1.440 Cambridge Surprise Minor. H. S. Wickens 1, F. G. Huckstern 2, Mrs. T. Cullinworth 3, W. A. P. Page 4, P. Page 5, T. Cullinworth (conductor) 6.

PICKINGTON, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, February 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Drayton 1, R. Welch 2, F. Welch 3, R. Beale (conductor) 4, K. Welch 5, B. Hooper 6.

BROADCAST BELLS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—In pre-war days the B.B.C. allocated five minutes ostensibly for the bells before the service, but in actual fact superfluous announcements such as the name of the preacher, organist, etc., took up part of the time.

In recent times the practice has been to treat the bells merely as sound effects and to cut down the time to a matter of seconds. The B.B.C. is apparently not aware that the bells do not ring themselves and give no consideration to the band which may have given time and trouble in rehearsing, etc.

No other radio artiste receives less consideration and more ill-mannered treatment than ringers. It may be that their services are free and are valued accordingly. If so, the remedy is in the ringers' own hands.

By comparison I was compelled a few evenings ago to undergo half an hour of 'music in the jazz manner'—stuff I never tolerate on my own radio—and not only were the performers named individually as though the production of 'monkey house' effects were something to be commended, but they were allocated their full time, and may, for all I know, have even been paid for their efforts as well.

Hour upon hour is devoted to this stuff every week, yet when one of the finest rings of bells in the country is broadcast, it is allowed fifty seconds!

As one who took part in the Bradford broadcast, I was relieved that only the concluding rounds and not the preceding Stedman Caters were heard, otherwise the band would have received brickbats instead of bouquets, but that does not excuse either the incompetence of the B.B.C. in allowing the previous speaker to overrun his time, nor their discourtesy to the band, which had been rehearsing for an hour beforehand.

The behaviour of the B.B.C. is like the taste of those for whom they so freely cater—beyond all comprehension, and can only indicate colossal ignorance or thoughtlessness. Maybe it is a case of 'where there is no sense there is no feeling.'

R. H. DOVE.

Leeds.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent letters of Mr. Birchett and Mr. Groombridge, jun., we recently had a similar incident which may be of interest to readers.

In the Light programme of Saturday week it was announced that in the series of 'What it's like to be there?' Carmarthen was the town selected. As it was of local interest, naturally we were more than interested, and after the scenes at the Mart, there was a slight pause, and a noise was heard which no one can describe.

The announcer said, 'These are not Bow Bells, but the bells which are ringing from the Norman tower of St. Peter's Church.' It would be interesting to know when this so-called 'noise' was recorded. The ringers of St. Peter's did a broadcast eight years ago, and as St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, is 800 years old, and the tower is not so old, and there is no Norman work in the church, it would seem that the announcer's local knowledge was very limited.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen. ED. J. THOMAS.

Dear Sir,—When the bells of St. John's Church, Cardiff, were broadcast on VE-Day, the whole time they were 'on the air' the announcer was describing the festivities. Behind that a choir singing and the babble of the crowds, and behind it all, barely audible, the bells.

When the bells were asked for for a Christmas broadcast the B.B.C. officials at the Cardiff studio were told that we, the ringers, were very dissatisfied with the conditions of the previous broadcast and they promised to give us a better show. On that occasion we had the air to ourselves.

F. J. HANNINGTON.

32, Surrey Street, Canton, Cardiff.

TUNING OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The recent discussion on the merits and demerits of ball bearings prompts me to ask for enlightenment on another point which vexes me. Is it generally accepted that the system of tuning known as the Simpson principle is superior to any other method? I always thought so until I came to Wrington, where there are ten famous bells, harmonically tuned, but not, I find, to the Simpson system.

Although not very experienced in the art of change ringing, I have some tonal knowledge and training, and my ears tell me that the Wrington bells are equal, if not superior, tonally, to any I have heard tuned by the five-tone method.

E. G. CAPLE.

Bank House, Wrington.

THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARIES.

- March 3rd, 1778. 10,260 Grandsire Caters at Nottingham.
- March 5th, 1888. 12,041 Grandsire Caters at Appleton.
- 1927. At Bridgend, the first peal of London Bob Triples.
- March 6th, 1832. 7,392 Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Oldham.
- March 8th, 1737. 12,600 Grandsire Caters at Norwich.
- 1808. The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow.
- 1859. 10,047 Stedman Caters at Aston.
- March 9th, 1795. The Cumberlands rang at Southwark what was probably the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

INSCRIPTIONS WITH A SMILE.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.
(Continued from page 87.)

Our next inscription, when one looks at it for the first time, does give rise to some speculation:—

'J4S2PH 71664WS F2C3T 1752.'

This appeared at Beetley, Norfolk, and is partly in cypher. It will be seen that the five vowels and the four liquids, AEIOU, LMNR, are represented by the numerals 123456789. The tenor of ring gives the clue to the missing letters, the inscription being:—

'Jo. MALLOWES F2C3T 1752

H2897 W93GHT TH471S B92172 CW,'

which makes it unnecessary for me to transcribe it. Now, why should a founder put on an inscription like this; was he short of letters through his own fault or had some practical joker tried to put him in an awkward spot by taking away the important letters?; whichever way it was, the moulder got out of the mess in a very ingenious manner.

There is no need to ask why the following appeared on the fourth bell at Alvechurch, Worcestershire:—

'If yov wovld know when we ware rvnn

It was March the 22 1711.'

Similar inscriptions frequently turn up, some more crude than others — they are like the 'Odd Odes' a radio comedian frequently uses. One can imagine him putting it over: 'If you would know when we were run, it was March the 22nd Seventeen Elevun'—a bit rough, but there it is. Another odd ode which gives us some information and is not merely an ornament, appeared on the old treble at Feckenham, Worcs:—

'Joseph Hemming and Edwd Getly did

Contrive to have 6 where was but 5.'

Again this and its variations appear frequently.

What first appears to be an inscription in cypher was on the third at Lugwardine, Herefordshire. It is:—

'1651 AM ADEM RATSOW FO G NOHI C DNA
E D T V O H B H T O D T A H T H E.'

This is one of those cases where the moulder overlooked the fact that letters set in a readable manner on the mould came out the wrong way round on the casting, so if we read from right to left we got:—

'He that doth bhovlde and c Ihon G
of Wostar meda ma 1651.'

By now readers will have noticed that the old founders do not appear to have been unduly perturbed about spelling, and if a word came along which they could not spell, they did the next best thing and put it down phonetically. Even to-day the average Englishman's strong point is not spelling, but he has the advantage of being able to buy a cheap dictionary; therefore we really should not smile at:—

'God sava ovr Qveene a Lesabet.'

which landed on the fourth bell at St. Peter's, Droitwich. Anyway, we understand it, and that's everything.

Frequently we hear stories of stolen bells, then wonder how they came about. Some yarns I fear are myths, while others have some foundation. For example, on the fourth bell of the ring of five at Grafton Flyford, Worcs, we get the following:—

'Wee wish in heven their sovlis
May sing that gavst vs six here
For to sing amell doxly 1676.'

I wonder if anyone can say what really happened to the sixth bell. Did someone steal it or was it sold to pay a church debt?

The Church of St. Helen, Worcester, presents us with interesting inscriptions of 1706. As will be seen, they commemorate the great doings of the great Marlborough, and if we substitute the names common during the recent war for those on the bells we might be reading modern history. Although the inscriptions are lengthy, they are worth repeating:—

Treble.

Blenheim.

First is my note and Blenheim is my name
For Blenheim's story will be first in fame.

2nd.

Barcelona.

Let me relate how Louis did bemoan
His grandson Philip's flight from Barcelone.

3rd.

Ramelies.

Delug'd in blood I Ramelies advance
Britannia's glory in the fall of France.

4th.

Menin.

Let Menin on my sides engraven be
And Flanders freed from Gallic slavery.

5th.

Turin.

When in harmonious peal I roundly go
Think on Turin and triumphs of the Po.

6th.

Eugene.

With joy I hear th' illustrious Eugene's name
Fav'rite of fortune, and the boast of fame.

7th.

Marlborough.

But I with pride the great er Mlh beer
Terror of tyrants and the soul of war.

Tenor.

Queen Ann.

Th' immortal praises of Queen Ann I sound
With union blest and all these glories crowned.
I do not think any further comments are necessary on this lot, as they explain themselves.

An example of a different type or rhyme running through the peal appeared at Bretforton, Worcs. I cannot say there is any outstanding merit in them, but as they have not, as far as I am aware, appeared on any other bells, they seem to be worth repeating:—

2nd.

Here am I as second bell
Observe alpha and ring me well.

3rd.

As music hath a secret charm
We may the atheist soul alarm.

4th.

As fourth our loudest power claim
To honor George the Fourth's name.

5th.

On Hymen's day like virgins five
May we all make the soul alive.

Tenor.

And while the solemn knell I ring
To mortal men God save the King.

To me the tenor inscription seems to be a bit mixed up; but perhaps someone will read it in a different light.

Away down in Dorset, at Frampton, we meet inscriptions that do not waste words, yet give a reasonable amount of information. There is nothing outstanding about them, and yet the bells are not a set of maidens, as, for some unknown reason, one of them was a brother—perhaps they were a 'masculine' peal. I don't know, and I never have heard of such a peal. On the second bell is:—

'This year brother broke
I then first awoke
And rang a good peal
For old Frampton's weal,'

whilst the fourth bell presents us with this austere one:—

'Cast in November
Let all remember
The year I fix
Eighteen sixty six.'

Apart from the fact that 'remember' rhymes with 'November,' it is possible the Gunpowder Plot Anniversary gave the author a lead.

Another bell which seems to have had a bad time of it is the second bell of Piddletown, and its story is told briefly:—

'John Goodings care twice cavse me heare Anno Domini 1674.'

It is not often we hear of a person trying for the casting of a bell twice. It is by Thomas Pennington, but there is no indication as to who was the original founder. Had Bilbie recast it he might possibly have taken the opportunity of having a crack at the previous founder, but Pennington did not do that kind of thing.

Our next Dorset inscription which has a smack at some now unknown person, not a bell founder chiding a rival, but something quite different and, although it appeared at Preston in 1629 and Abbotsbury in 1636, we can say it still is topical. The inscription is:—

'To see in what estate they live
And nothing to the poore they give.'

I wonder who put that on and to whom it referred. Quite possibly the people up at the 'big house' were a mean lot and the Vicar, having the courage of his conviction, took the opportunity of airing them. If anyone had put that on a few years ago we can well imagine what he would have been called, and yet they are many who 'nothing to the poore they give'; but, if given the chance, would take from the poor.

Another one of a similar nature appeared at Punc-knowle in 1629. It is:—

'He that will purchase honors gayne
Must ancient lathers stil ma.'

It is not easy to guess the meaning of this, but I should imagine it was having a dig at someone who had purchased honours at the expense of the parish. In other words, had ceased to maintain old customs, thus depriving the parishioners of some benefit they were used to having; but what it was I do not suppose we ever shall find out.

When Bilbie cast the fifth bell for Stalbridge in 1793 it bore the following:—

'God save the King and prosper the town
To keep democrates down
To effect it ye Britons be firm in the cause
Supporting our King, constitution and lawes.'

That was in the good old days of George the Third, so I will say no more about it.

(To be continued.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOODFORD.

Seventy-six members and friends attended the annual meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at Woodford on February 16th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. T. G. Wansey, who gave the ringers a warm welcome. The collection for the bell restoration fund amounted to £2 2s. 3d., and the tea, provided by the local company, was served in the Church Hall.

The Master, Mr. J. Chalk, referred to the loss of two old members in Mr. C. T. Coles, of Walthamstow, and Mr. J. Hunt, of Leyton. The secretary reported that the balance sheet showed an income of £11 11s. 6d. with a balance of £7 16s. 6d. The collections for the bell restoration fund totalled £4 16s. 9d., which was a record. Meetings had been held at Brentwood, Leyton, Prittlewell, Loughton, Chigwell Row and Barking with an average attendance of 35. Nine new ringing members had been enrolled, but one honorary and five ringing members had died.

Mr. J. Chalk was re-elected Ringing Master, Mr. J. H. Crampion was appointed secretary in place of Mrs. Crampion, and Messrs. G. Dawson and F. Lufkin were re-elected to the committee. In proposing Mr. Crampion, Mr. Butler asked that a note of appreciation should be recorded in the minutes of the very able way Mrs. Crampion had carried on during the past five difficult years.

The Rev. T. G. Wansey was elected an honorary member and 22 ringing members were elected. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Epping on May 4th. The methods rung ranged from Bob Major to London Surprise.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

MEETING AT SUTCOMBE.

More than 50 friends and members from Ashwater, Bradworthy, Bude, Bridgerule, Ho'sworthy, Okehampton, Parkham, Petrockstow, Plymouth, Pyworthy and Sutcombe attended the annual meeting of the N.W. Branch of the Devon Guild, held at Sutcombe on Feb. 16th.

The Rector, the Rev. W. H. Ravenhill, conducted the service, and Prebendary E. V. Cox read the lesson. During the course of his address, the Rector paid tribute to the memory of Mr. A. J. Metters, who had been a member for many years. Mrs. Ravenhill was the organist.

At the business meeting the secretary reported good progress with many young ringers being trained in the Exercise. The Rev. W. H. Ravenhill (chairman), Mr. J. W. Sangwin (secretary), Mr. W. Shears (treasurer) and Mr. F. Sangwin (Ringing Master) were re-elected, and the Rev. W. H. Smale, Mr. J. Sangwin and Mr. W. Shears were appointed as branch representatives. The next meeting was fixed for Hatherley in July. The ringing consisted of rounds, Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Minor.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ROSS-ON-WYE.

The annual meeting of the Ross District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild held on February 16th, was well attended, and visitors were present from Hereford, Burghill, Gloucester and Ruardean.

Tea was at the Central Cafe, and the business meeting was presided over by Preb. P. C. Barber, Rector of Ross. The district officers were re-elected: Master, Mr. W. Poston (Bridstow); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. T. Poston (Ross). It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Weonards on or about May 4th.

The hon. treasurer reported a credit balance of £9 6s. 3d., which was considered satisfactory, and the Guild secretary (the Rev. E. G. Benson) mentioned that he hoped reports would be printed this year, and announced that a Guild meeting would be held at Bridgnorth on Whit Monday.

The methods rung were Grand sire and Stedman Triples, Oxford Bob, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TILSWORTH.

A meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Tilsworth on February 16th, and was attended by members and friends from Bromham, Dunstable, Sandy, Maulden, Leighton Buzzard, Tempsford, Linslade, Stagsden and the local tower. The methods rung included Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor. Houghton Regis was chosen as the place of the next meeting.

INSURANCE OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—I was asked the question the other day whether it was a recognised thing for the church to insure the bell-ringers against any accident that may occur in the tower. As I have never heard of anything like this before, could you, through the medium of 'The Ringing World,' enlighten me on the matter?

C. H. HAWKINS, Sec., St. David's Diocesan Guild.

[We shall be glad to know what is the custom in different parts of the country.—Editor.]

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.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — Weston-super-Mare, Saturday, Mar. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., Brown's.—N. G. Williams, Weston Road, Bath.

SALISBURY GUILD (North Dorset Branch) and BATH AND WELLS GUILD (Carey Branch).—Stalbridge, Mar. 9th.—Wm. Uphill.

HERTFORD ASSN.—Western District. — Northchurch, Saturday, Mar. 9th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea.—W. Ayre.

DERBY AND DISTRICT ASSN. — Chesterfield Branch.—Bolsover (8), Mar. 9th.—Sam Scattergood.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Mildenhall District.—Mildenhall (8), Saturday, Mar. 9th, 3 p.m. Business 4.30 p.m. to ele. district secretary. Teas at nearby cafe.—A. Gillings, Horringer.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Speldhurst, Mar. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea at George and Dragon 5 p.m.

LONDON COUNTY ASSN.—Saturday, Mar. 9th, St. Stephen's, Weir Road, Clapham Park, 3 p.m. Business 5.45. Further ringing 6.30 p.m.—H. W. Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth. (HOU 3921.)

SUSSEX ASSN. — Southern Division.—Annual divisional meeting, Shoreham, Saturday, Mar. 9th, 2.30. Service 4.15.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Western Division. — Annual, Pulborough (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business at the Rectory. Names for tea to L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

SOUTHWELL GUILD. — Nottingham, St. Mary's, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. (St. Peter's not available). No tea. Numerous cafes nearby. Meeting in the tower at 5.30. Important business. — T. Groombridge, jun.

SHROPSHIRE ASSN. — Broseley (6), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names by Mar. 11th to Mr. A. J. Garbett, 10, Fox Lane, Broseley, Shropshire. Midland 'Red' buses from Wellington, Service No. 903.—E. D. Poole.

NORWICH ASSN.—South Norfolk Branch.—Annual. Diss (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at The Coffee Tavern 5 p.m. Names for tea by Mar. 13th.—A. G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Barnsley District.—Earlsheaton, near Dewsbury, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. For teas notify Mr. H. Dransfield, Ellenroyal, Commercial Street, Earlsheaton, near Dewsbury, by Mar. 13th.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Hornchurch, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5.30. Names to Mr. J. Cornford, 2, Eversleigh Gardens, Upminster, Essex, by Mar. 11th.—G. W. Steere.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSN. — Northern. — Lye, Saturday, Mar. 16th. (Wordsley not available.) Usual arrangements. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Lane, Stourbridge.

KENT ASSN.—Ashford District.—Rolvenden, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. A. Blackman, 1, Church Cottages, Rolvenden, by Mar. 13th.—P. Page.

YORKSHIRE ASSN. — Southern District.—Annual, Handsworth, Sheffield, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., in Schoolroom. Names to Mrs. E. D. Kelly, 164, Richmond Road, Sheffield 9, by Mar. 12th. Election of officers, etc.—Sidney F. Palmer.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Cirencester Branch.—Tetbury (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 6d. each) by Tuesday, Mar. 12th, to W. H. Hayward, 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSN.—Eastern District. — St. Ignatius', Sunderland, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 6d.) to me not later than Mar. 14th.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Manchester Branch.—Stretford, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m.—F. Reynolds.

HERTFORD ASSN.—St. Albans District. — Hatfield (10), Saturday, March 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by Mar. 13th.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Gloucester Branch.—Quedgeley (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Card for tea not later than Mar. 13th to W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos.

ELY ASSN.—Hunts District. — Godmanchester, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Church Hall at 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Annual General Committee, Saturday, Mar. 16th, at Girls' Central Club, Chain Street, Reading, 3 p.m. Advise me if coming. Ringing afterwards at St. Laurence's.—W. Hibbert, 69, York Road, Reading.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Eastern Division. — Practice, Frant, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Cups of tea. Bring food.—John Downing, 128, Elphinstone Road, Hastings.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Preston Branch.—Adlington, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—F. Rigby, 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SUFFOLK GUILD. — Woodbridge District.—Grundisburgh (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Dog Inn 5 p.m. Please notify C. W. Pipe, Grundisburgh.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSN.—Western Branch. — Malvern Priory (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names by Tuesday, Mar. 12th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.—Newhall (6), Saturday, Mar. 16th. Service 3 p.m. Tea, 4.45, for those who notify me by Wednesday, Mar. 13th.—J. W. Cotton, Sec., Overseal.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSN. — Shirland, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Please bring own food. Committee meeting 5.30.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—St. Nicholas', Wallasey, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business afterwards. — Harry S. Brocklebank, 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN. — Chew Deanery. — Meeting, Chew Stoke, Saturday, Mar. 16th, 4 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch. — Church Lawton (8), Saturday, Mar. 16th, 2.30 p.m. — Names by Mar. 12th to Rich. D. Langford, 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Eastern District. — Campsall (8), Saturday, Mar. 23rd. Service 4.15. Tea, 1s. 6d., at 5. Names to Mr. H. Bradley, Station Gatehouse, Norton, near Doncaster, by Mar. 20th.—H. S. Morley, 45, Green Lane, Selby.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Leicester District. — Markfield, Saturday, Mar. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by Mar. 20th to W. J. Root, 8, The Portwey, Leicester.

SURREY ASSN.—Annual, Beddington, Saturday, Mar. 23rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Mar. 19th, to Mr. F. E. Collins, 17, Hamilton Road, Thornton Heath.—C. de Ste C. Parks.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual, St. Thomas', Dudley, Saturday, Mar. 23rd. Bells 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Numbers for tea by March 20th, please.—F. Colclough, 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Mar. 23rd, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—Brentford, Mar. 23rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.30. Further ringing evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Melton Mowbray District. — Buckminster (6), Mar. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea and business 4.30. Names to T. Simpkins, Buckminster. Special bus leaves Melton Car Park 2.30.—J. H. Cook.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Preliminary Notice. — Easter Monday, Annual Meeting. Ipswich bells available all day from 9.30 a.m. Lunch, 3s. 6d. per head, for those who notify Cecil W. Pipe, Grundisburgh.

BIRTH.

DISNEY.—On Feb. 27th, to Mary and Alban, of 11, Dalby Road, Anstey, Leicester, a son (a brother for Margaret).

WANTED.

A COPY of 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' by Ernest Morris. — Write R. I. Shepherd, 25, Second Avenue, Walthamstow, E.17.

FOR SALE.

SET OF 12 HANDBELLS in box; perfect condition. Offers?—Apply, W. Horsnell, 40, Manor Road, Harlow, Essex.

BRENCHLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, February 17th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. Bromley 1, A. W. Durham 2, F. Bromley 3, T. E. Sone 4, R. E. Lambert 5, A. Bromley 6, R. T. Lambert 7, A. P. Cannon (conductor). 8.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Sunday, February 17th, at St. Peter's, 1,386 Grandsire Triples: Mary Elkins 1, Robert Wimpenny 2, Frank Barraclough 3, Dorothy T. Richardson 4, Ronald Edwards 5, Walter W. Wolstencroft 6, Albert Ford (conductor) 7, Alfred R. Elkins 8.

BALL BEARINGS VERSUS PLAIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I congratulate Mr. Fred Collins on his letter. In all due respect to the bell founders, ball bearings are not an improvement in bell hanging as far as the ringers are concerned, and I feel sure if a vote could be taken all over the country the majority would pump for plain bearings. I agree it is far easier to hang a bell in ball bearings, and easier for the lazy steeplekeeper whose bells are so hung, but what about the ringers? Surely they are entitled to some say in the matter. I, too, like H. B., have questioned hundreds of ringers whether they prefer ball bearings to plain, and the majority vote for plain. I have also questioned the bellfounders and I am delighted to hear they will hang bells in plain bearings when especially desired at a very small extra cost.

The matter, therefore, lies in our hands. If we do not want ball bearings we need not have them, and I say to all ringers, 'Stick out for plain bearings.'

Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

CECIL W. PIPE.

CATERS WITHOUT A COVER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think (knowing the lighthearted Mr. Kippin) that there may be an element of cause for Mr. R. Post's suspicion in the first part of his letter to you. I had the pleasure of listening to part of that peal, which, in my opinion, was almost perfect striking and I thought quite melodious. It was quite plain to any ear that the who'e band consisted of very experienced ringers. I should be quite disappointed if the peal in question is not recognised by the competent authorities.

J. B. WOODLEY.

40, Mortimer Lane, Basingstoke.

Dear Sir,—May I suggest to the Basingstoke Cater band that next time they reverse the scale—using the 9th as the treble? A titium course end on the three little bells sounds fine. 'OLD RINGER.'

QUARTER PEALS.

BRIGHTON.—On Sunday, February 17th, at the Good Shepherd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. J. Cooper 1, T. Humphrey 2, W. J. Webb 3, S. Ridge 4, F. Bennett 5, J. Whitehead 6, S. E. Armstrong (conductor) 7, H. Stalham 8.

NEWTON NOTTAGE, PORTHCAWL.—On Sunday, February 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: William Surman 1, Charles Davies 2, R. Ivor Lewis 3, Trevor M. Roderick 4, Alfred Hannington (conductor) 5, Edward Carpenter 6.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—On Sunday, February 17th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Royal: A. Clayton 1, Miss G. Kippin 2, C. Potheary 3, Mrs. F. E. Collins 4, R. Davies 5, J. G. Saunders 6, F. E. Mitchell 7, G. H. Humphries 8, F. E. Collins (conductor) 9, D. D. Cooper 10.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, February 17th, at the Cathedral, 1,304 Stedman Cinques: L. A. Goodenough 1, C. Sayers 2, T. J. Lock 3, J. G. Blow 4, H. E. C. Goodenough (conductor) 5, A. White 6, W. J. Arnold 7, A. Howkins 8, A. Day 9, W. Nash 10, R. F. Ewer 11, E. Sprague 12.

AYLESFORD, KENT.—On Thursday, February 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. Wells 1, D. Bawver 2, W. F. Linksted 3, J. Home-wood 4, G. E. Avis 5, J. Upton 6, E. S. J. Hatcher (conductor) 7, C. Homewood 8. Half-muffled for Mr. T. H. Joy.

SPETISBURY, DORSET.—On February 23rd, 360 each Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob and 540 Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. G. Wareham 1, Miss P. V. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, D. King 4, E. T. P. Field (conductor) 5.

CHELTENHAM.—On February 23rd, at St. Mark's, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 480 Reverse Canterbury, 300 Grandsire): Peter Baker 1, Roy Agg 2, Charles Rouse 3, Michael Clifford (conductor) 4, Anthony Clifford 5.

HALFSOWEN, WORCS.—On Sunday, February 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. H. Webb 1, L. Clissett 2, Miss M. Tromans 3, G. Williams 4, H. Shillock 5, J. Eaton 6, T. Greenhall (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, February 24th, at St. Leonard's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Howard 1, T. H. Taffender 2, W. H. Hewford 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, F. Hoppood 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, F. Wright 8.

THORNE, YORKS.—On Wednesday, February 27th, 1,260 Minor (720 Kent Treble Bob and 540 Plain Bob): L. Gerrard 1, J. Martin Thorley 2, T. Leask 3, E. Thorley 4, J. Thorley 5, C. Thorley (conductor) 6.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Howard 1, Miss V. Look 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, M. Routh 4, J. Harrison 5, Miss D. Fletcher 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, S. Parkfield 8.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.—On Thursday, February 28th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Judd 1, Miss J. Lacey 2, Mrs. J. Fray 3, F. Lard 4, A. Tomlinson 5, G. W. Moody 6, J. Bray (conductor) 7, W. B. Bray 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, March 3rd, at the Cathedral, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: L. P. Cook 1, J. H. Hunt 2, R. E. Turner 3, W. A. Theobald 4, T. R. Taylor 5, C. S. Major 6, A. T. Greenwood 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8.

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