



No. 247. Vol. IX.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1915.

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Price 1d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

## CROYDON, Surrey.

### BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.  
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## EXETER BELLS AND DEVON GUILD.

Ringers generally will be gratified to learn that the famous peal at Exeter Cathedral—famous not only for their historic associations, but for the pre-eminent place they take among the world's bells—are once more complete, and that the treble, cracked by coming in contact with the chiming hammer, has been recast. It was, perhaps, not generally known that since the early part of May this grand ring of ten has been partly silent, but the people of the western city have now again heard the majestic notes of these noble bells—the heaviest peal in the kingdom hung for ringing—sounding from their exalted station “mid-way 'twixt the earth and sky.” The recasting of the treble was carried out by the generosity of the Dean of Exeter (Lord Bishop of Marlborough), and this is not the first occasion on which he has shown his love of the bells, for, when the peal was restored about fourteen years ago, he bore the expense of recasting the fifth. He has composed the inscription for the new treble, and for all time it will remain as a reminder of the stirring period when it was placed in the tower. The hope expressed in the couplet will be re-echoed in every heart, with the further prayer that the triumphs of our arms may make its realisation possible at an early date.

In conjunction with the restoration of the bell another gratifying step has been taken by the Cathedral authorities. They have established a competent band of change ringers, who will be responsible to the Dean and Chapter for the regular and efficient ringing of the bells. The company is to be a paid one, and, although for our own part, we prefer, generally speaking, to see the ringing carried out in our churches by those who voluntarily render their services, there is no doubt in this case, as in some other notable instances we could quote, advancement from the point of view of change ringing will not be neglected. Indeed, we look forward to the time when the Exeter Cathedral Society may be the centre about which the work of the Devon Guild may revolve. The step which is now taken should prove a distinct help to the Guild, for hitherto, we believe, the mother church of the diocese has had no official connection with the county ringing organisation. That it should now come into recognised affiliation is a capital step forward which ought to have its effect on the influence of the Guild among the many towers of Devon which still remain outside the society. Devon has its special difficulties with regard to organisation, but, without in any way casting a reflection upon the Guild's past work, which has been carried on with perseverance, in face of many obstacles, we believe that by more enterprising and spirited methods of administration its sphere might be largely extended and its objects grasped by a far larger number of towers.

## MODERN WORK.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,  
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract, — we may be able to assist you.

SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM

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## TEN BELL PEAL.

SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE.  
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. ALPHAGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt., in D.

*BENJAMIN GOUGH ... .. Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS ... .. 6
WILLIAM SHORT ... .. 2	JAMES L. WELLS ... .. 7
*THOMAS J. BRATTON ... .. 3	ARTHUR CHAMBERS ... .. 8
THOMAS H. REEVES ... .. 4	JAMES E. GROVES ... .. 9
*WILLIAM FISHER ... .. 5	JAMES GEORGE ... .. Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN, of London, and

Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

\* First peal of Treble Ten. First peal of Royal by the Guild. This peal was arranged to be rung on the 62nd birthday of Mr. James George, namely November 27th, but unfortunately had to be postponed on account of the death of Mr. John Sanders, an old Birmingham ringer.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 4, 1915, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF STEEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

CHARLES DICKENS ... .. Treble	WILLIAM J. MEERS ... .. 5
GEORGE GARRISON ... .. 2	ALFRED HACKETT ... .. 6
GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 3	GEORGE PARSONS ... .. 7
*EDWARD BRETTLE ... .. 4	JONATHAN PRESTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

\* First peal. The ringers of the 4th and 6th hail from Halesowen, and were elected members of the above society previous to starting for the peal. Rung with the bells half muffled as a mark of respect to the late John Henry Sanders, tower keeper of the above church.

CAVERSHAM, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ST. PETER'S SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 4, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

WILLIAM HIBBERT ... .. Treble	WALTER WEBB ... .. 5
HARRY TUCKER ... .. 2	ALBERT D. CULLUM ... .. 6
FREDERICK POUNDS ... .. 3	RICHARD T. HIBBERT ... .. 7
JOSEPH HANDS ... .. 4	HENRY SIMMONDS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by R. T. HIBBERT.

This peal was rung as a farewell to the Rev. C. W. E. Cleaver, who has been Vicar for 17 years; also as a "golden wedding" compliment to Mr. and Mrs. T. Hibbert of East Ilsley, Berks., the parents of R. T. Hibbert, and grandparents to the treble man, whose age is 15 years.

MARSHFIELD, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1915, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

H. MOORE'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 11 cwt.

*PTE. ALBERT DEVONALD ... Treble	JOHN W. JONES ... .. 5
CHARLES GREEDY ... .. 2	SIDNEY DAWE .. ... 6
FRANK J. BAILEY ... .. 3	FRED CHAMBERLAIN ... 7
WILLIAM B. BISS ... .. 4	*THOMAS MIDDLETON ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES GREEDY.

\* First peal. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to both J. W. Jones and W. B. Biss, this being the eve of the 50th birthday of each of them, the ringers wishing them many happy returns. It was also the anniversary of the dedication and reopening of the church and bells after complete restoration. The ringer of the treble, who was elected a member before starting, belongs to the Welch Regiment, and is now recuperating at Cardiff after receiving wounds at the front. He hails from Cadoxton, Neath.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

SCARBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE CLEVELAND &amp; NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 29, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

At the Residence of T. COLE, 53, St. Thomas's Street.

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;**

Being 42 six-scores called in ten different ways.

*THOMAS COLE ... .. 1	JOHN R. BARTON ... .. 3-4
†HARRY PRIEST ... .. 2	JOHN R. FRYIRS ... .. 5
J. W. NESS ... .. 6	

Conducted by J. R. BARTON.

Witness: MISS COLE.

\* First peal on handbell. † First peal on an inside bell.

WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 1, 1915, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANCES;**

ARTHUR PAYNE ... .. 1-2	JOSEPH A. GOFTON ... .. 5-6
THOMAS T. GOFTON ... .. 3-4	R. ALDER GOFTON ... .. 7-8
COLIN GREYSTY ... .. 9-10	

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and

Conducted by JOSEPH A. GOFTON.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, December 4, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty-four Minutes.

IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOM AT KING EDWARD VI'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;**

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Size 18 in G.

CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 1-2	MAURICE SMITHER ... .. 5-6
ALFRED H. POLLING ... 3-4	SGT. B. S. THOMPSON, R.B. 7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. POLLING.

Witness: MRS. POLLING.

**NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.**

The following further subscription to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund has been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged ... ..	120	0	8
York Minster Society, November collection			
(per Mr. G. Horner) ... ..	0	3	6
Total ... ..	£120	4	2

**ROLL OF HONOUR.**

The following further ringers are serving with H.M. Forces:—

- Sapper E. B. Mallinson, of St. Bartholomew's Church, Colne, Lancs, Royal Engineers, now at Chatham.
- Sapper W. B. Reeve, and
- Sapper L. L. Gray, of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Pettistree, Royal Engineers, now at Chatham.

**CHAPLAIN'S PROMOTION.**

The Rev. C. E. Matthews, Master of the Winchester Guild, has been appointed Senior Chaplain (Church of England) to the 7th Division, B.E.F., and is at present attached to the 7th Division Ammunition Column. His promotion dates from October 30th, 1915.

**ANOTHER LADIES' BAND.**

Another village, so it is reported, has lost all its male ringers. This is Sherington, Beds, where all the obliging men have enlisted, and ladies have now taken the places of the bell ringers.

**OXFORD GUILD.**

We are asked to state that the Berks and Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild will hold united practices for neighbouring towers at Hughenden on Saturday, December 11th, and at High Wycombe on Monday, the 13th, at 7 p.m.

**HER LADYSHIP.**

A RINGING EXCURSION TO EGHAM AND STAINES.

Why should a maiden without a lover

Resemble a bell without a clapper?

The recent gift of a "war baby" to Mr. and Mrs. G. Beeby, of Slough—kindly note this, ye Faversham boys—led to eight cycling ringers visiting the Parish Church of St. John, Egham, Surrey, on Sunday week, when a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was scored, without trip or word—in 46 minutes—the band being members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild: W. Henley 1, W. H. Fussell 2, E. Butler 3, T. S. Smith 4, G. Beeby 5, E. T. Hooper (conductor) 6, W. Welling 7, H. Cropley 8. The happy parents were married at this church, hence their desire to have "Doris Mary" baptised there, which important ceremony was carried out the same afternoon and celebrated by the bells.

"With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,

She shall have music wherever she goes."

Permission was kindly given by the Vicar (the Rev. Wm. Trevor Nicholson, M.A.), who is still in active health, though nearing his 86th birthday, and it is over 30 years since the writer first applied to him for leave to use his bells.

Mr. G. Gigg, whose two army sons were home on leave; was in attendance as steeplekeeper, and made the party welcome. With the local men he took part in a touch, afterwards rung for evening service, the bells being then lowered in peal.

Mr. Marshall courteously stored the cycles which were dusted—as on a June day's riding—after the spell of dry, frosty weather.

Tea—the ever-welcome cup—was provided in another county, a feat easily accomplished in this part of England, viz., at "The Bells," Church Street, Staines, Middlesex, an old, quiet inn just near the churchyard gates, and so convenient for the bell ringers. Here the hostess, Mrs. Gavin, with a cheerful fire, made us comfortable, and it was recalled that the house had been in the same hands for 32 years. The sad side of a glorious war was brought home to us on hearing of the death of one son of three serving their King and country in France. Mrs. Gavin is a youthful looking mother of twelve children.

**RECOLLECTIONS OF BYGONE DAYS.**

The tenor (diameter 3ft. 10in.) and treble of St. Mary's Church were cast in 1829 at Whitechapel, and increased an older ring of six, dated 1734. One year later, Tom Tolladay visited the tower with a St. James' Society team, and scored the first peal, Grandsire, in 2hrs. 58 mins. There are reasons for concluding that Tolladay took a hearty draught at "The Bells" afterwards in accordance with that ancient custom—"One ring, one drink."

Our landlady's first recollection of visiting ringers commences with February, 1884, when George Newson and his "Highgate Harriers" rang the first Major at Staines for the Cumberland Society. All the men in this band have gone to their "long dodge last," excepting the Fussell brothers, of Slough. The bells were then in a deplorable state, owing to the weakness of a brick tower, and no performance had been recorded on them since Tolladay's. This party had tea at "The Bells," and forty eggs was all that could be found for them by the landlady, who was then in her teens, and highly astonished.

The identical spot in the tea-room where "a burly old clergyman"—meaning the late Rev. F. E. Robinson—stood and made a short speech—was pointed out, and the figure of a tall gentleman, who came with the Middlesex ringers, was also described and evidently referred to Mr. A. T. King. Thus in both tower and inn the ringing chapters of a century can be followed, the late Alfred Wicks forming a valuable connecting link of local interest.

But, to resume, Mr. S. W. Greenwood met the party with the keys of the church and the Vicar's kind consent for a quarter-peal on St. Mary's bells. We were asked to "go" Grandsire by our conductor just as the clock in the ringing room began buzzing 8 p.m., and again met with success: the bells going moderately well, thanks to Lawes' attention, although they need rehanging—and are very seldom used. The time was 45 minutes, and the band: Messrs. Smith 1, Henley 2, Fussell 3, Hooper 4, Butler 5, Beeby 6, Welling (conductor) 7, and Cropley 8.

After lowering in peal the visitors again left the bells for "The Bells," from whence a message of thanks was sent to the Vicar (the Rev. S. T. Wood) from one of his old choir boys, forming one of the team. Thanks to Mr. Beeby and the Baby for the refreshing tea was proposed, and thanks to the ringers for their peals, which at both towns appear, from remarks overheard, to have met with the approval of the inhabitants. The Bucks boys, in their journeys to three neighbouring county boundaries, met with exceedingly favourable weather for the month of November, and now Oxfordshire is hinted at for the fourth trip; perhaps I may have something to tell you then if everything is still well, and Bell is willing.

W. H. F.

**MR. A. B. PECK RECOVERING.**

His many friends in ringing circles will be extremely glad to hear that Mr. A. B. Peck, of the College Youths, is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery from his long and serious illness. He has been a patient in the Western Hospital, Fulham, for 23 weeks, but hopes to be out now in a few days.

He desires to express, through our columns, his sincere thanks to all those who have either visited him or written him kindly letters during his illness.

## EXETER CATHEDRAL'S TREBLE.

NEW BELL DEDICATED AND NEW BAND OF RINGERS FORMED.

Some months ago an accident occurred at Exeter Cathedral which so damaged the old treble, a bell recast in 1729 by William Evans, that it had to go into the melting pot. A new treble was provided, and on Saturday week this bell was dedicated and restored to its former magnificence in the superb peal of ten for which Exeter is famed. It was on May 6th that the accident happened to the old treble. The bells had been rung in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the accession of King George, and were left up.

By inadvertence, however, the chiming apparatus, connected with the south transept was put on, and when next the bells were pulled off the treble, striking the chiming hammer, was cracked almost from the tip to the crown and across the waste, while the fittings were also damaged. The Dean (Dr. Earle, Lord Bishop of Marlborough), in order that the full peal of ten bells might be available for ringing as soon as possible, kindly undertook personally to bear the expense of recasting and rehanging the treble in the same way as he did the cost of refounding the fifth bell when the complete restoration of the peal was carried out 13 years ago. The work, as on that occasion, was entrusted to Messrs. John Taylor and Co., and needless to say, was carried out with entire satisfaction, the new bell being a perfect "splice."

The inscription on the new bell is unique. It was composed by the donor, and runs:—

"Recast in war, I hope to herald peace,  
When all shall love and 'Hymns of Hatred' cease."

### THE NEW CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

While the renovation was in hand, circumstances arose which determined the Dean and Chapter to proceed with a re-organisation, which had been contemplated for a considerable time, of the band of ringers. Conferences of invited representatives of Exeter ringing units and of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers were held, and, as a result, the Chapter resolved that there should be a St. Peter's Society of Ringers in connection with the Devonshire Guild, that it should consist of a President (the Dean), Vice-President (one of the Canons Residentiary, who, for the present, will be Canon McLaren), a steeplekeeper (Mr. W. Rowden, nominated by the Chapter), and 13 paid ringers, all qualified change ringers, and drawn from existing Societies in the city, and comprising now the following: Messrs. F. J. Davey and A. W. Searle (ringing masters), T. Laver (hon. secretary), T. G. Bartlett (hon. treasurer), H. V. Richards (prospective representative of the Society on the Devonshire Guild, with which it is proposed to affiliate the Cathedral band), G. Betts, C. Carter, J. Ferris, F. Gardner, C. Glass, W. Lethbridge, J. Moss and F. Murphy. They were drawn from St. David's, Heavitree, and St. Sidwell's, the desire of the Dean and Chapter being to spread the membership as evenly as possible over the three chief Societies in the city, and to make it a mark of honourable distinction. The Dean and Chapter have also sanctioned practices for Devonshire Guild members, in conjunction with the Cathedral band on the second Wednesday evening in each month, and for the Cathedral band alone on the fourth Saturday monthly, subject to suspension during Lent; they have also appointed Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, St. Peter's Day, anniversaries of the Sovereign's accession and birthday as paid ringing occasions, and endorsed a code of rules for the conduct of ringing and ensuring close touch between the ringers and the Chapter, whose approval of any new members will be always necessary.

### THE DEDICATION.

The dedication service was conducted in the south transept by Canon McLaren, and, in addition to all others above-mentioned, was attended by Treasurer Pryke, the Rev. E. T. Poweraker, the Rev. G. E. F. Molineux (Hon. Treasurer Devonshire Guild, who kindly assisted in the details of the re-organisation of the band), and Mr. J. Richards (a well-known ringer).

The Dean, addressing the ringers as his colleagues and fellow-workers in the Cathedral, emphasised the need of community of life, and went on to say their special work was apt to degenerate if it was not undertaken on the highest possible grounds. It was with the greatest confidence that he had asked Canon McLaren to act as the direct representative of the Chapter among them, and as an intermediary between the sacred life of the Cathedral and the ringers' work. It was no slight honour to be chosen members of the band of ringers of the finest peal of bells in England, and he believed in the world—certainly the finest hung peal of bells in the world. There were none quite like them. He knew something of foreign bells—he had visited many belfries, including the great one at Mafra (Portugal)—but none of the peals he had heard abroad could approach for excellence the bells of Exeter Cathedral. They were wonderful from many standpoints—their power and tone, their melody, and their capacity for adjusting themselves to the varieties of sound and harmony. It was a privilege, moreover, that they should be handling bells, recast it might be, but the same metal, that had for many centuries rung out from the Cathedral tower, Grandisson, the tenor, was composed of some of the metal that had come down from those dark and difficult, yet magnificent, days in which Bishop Grandisson worked. Possibly, some of the metal was contained in bells that rang out the victory of Agincourt, almost for certain some of it was used to ring out the great victories of Elizabethan days. The bells were mixed up with every possible phase of human life, and their great purpose was to ring forth the presence of God in the midst of the people.

At the close of the service, the ringers proceeded to the belfry, and rang Grandsire Doubles and Caters, with the Rev. G. F. Molineux, Messrs. F. J. Davey and A. W. Searle acting as conductors. General satisfaction was expressed at the way in which the work had been carried out by the founders.

## WITH THE SUFFOLK RINGERS.

By G. F. MARGETSON.

Perhaps, during these dark and dolorous days, when the sounds of the bells are hushed into silence and the lights of the belfry no longer gleam above the merry circles of change ringers, whose forms and faces we are beginning to forget, a few notes relating to my recent trip to Suffolk may not prove uninteresting from the pen of a steeple-keeper, whose "office it is to be higher than the pulpit, if not the preacher, for he sends forth a message which reaches the ears of those who hear not the charm of the parson's eloquence—charm he never so wisely."

The steeplekeeper is half-brother to the sexton, who both invariably find their services so valuable that to get a holiday, even for a fortnight, is difficult indeed. This I found to be true in my own case, for after canvassing the parish for a deputy, I found every man, woman and child fully employed, at a remuneration too high to be tempted to the dignity of my position. I, therefore, placed my trust in Providence that during my absence nobody would be so inconsistent as to die or get married. Fortunately for me all went well during my sojourn, for otherwise, on my return, I might have been handed my passports to another parish.

Seven miles from Ipswich there are two villages adjoining, called Holbrook and Stutton, each possessing a peal of six bells, by Bowell and Son. In the last-named parish the church stands far from the main street, and the usual weekly practice is continued. But at Holbrook I learned the ringers had been confined to their homes owing to the Zeppelin raids, and most of the inhabitants reside near the church.

My appearance in their midst made them anxious to have a friendly pull, and their desires overcoming their discretion, we ventured on a weekly practice. What a storm of abuse we created and endured at Holbrook must be inserted in the book of chronicles. Facing the church lived the venerable wheelwright who became furious, while a small gang of yokels awaited us at the conclusion of our campanological efforts. Confusion of tongues reigned, and the language was beyond my comprehension. One of the ringers, acting as interpreter, informed me of the nature of the wheelwright's pique which I put into verse in order to modify the vehemence of his discourtesy:—

Such a row will not happen I wager

Next week if I'm about still;

I'll stop their infernal Bob Major,

If the policeman won't do it, I will!

Just fancy those varnits a-ringing

'With "bacca and Perkin" so dear;

In the belfry I'd have them a-swinging,

With a rope round their necks for a year.

The second Sunday of my visit proved enjoyable and interesting, as at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, I met the clever Brothers Motts, W. Catchpole, R. Brundle, E. Pemberton, etc. We rang a touch of Stedman and Grandsire Caters for the morning service, there being one man short for the twelve bells. During the afternoon J. Motts, R. Brundle and E. Pemberton honoured us with a return visit to Stutton, where we rang a 720 of Oxford for evening service. Fifty years ago Brundle and I, as youths, had visited this tower. The ideality of change ringing must be accountable for our long lives and resistance to Father Time, although the grey locks and deepening furrows tell too plainly of long departed years. All wished to convey by me their kind remembrances to those members of the Exercise whom they have so long not seen or forgotten, trusting that we may again reunite in that brotherly and fraternal spirit so kindred to change ringers.

Thus came to an end, as all things must, my brief holiday in Suffolk. The pleasures enjoyed and the happy reflections (excepting Holbrook) will last for many a day, and what is more may have lengthened life. Yet do I constantly remember that time is ever hastening to that long sojourn, from whence no traveller or steeplekeeper returns; and:—

Then shall another toll in silent loft

For him who rang in merry hour and sad;

Changes he loved so well and rang so oft,

Which, like his verse, too often turned out bad.

## MR. F. WOODHEAD'S FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £11 6s.; Bolton, Bradford, 10s.; Mr. J. Heggibottom, 1s.; grand total, £11 17s.

H. TOMLINSON and P. L. COOPER, Hon. Secs.

The fund is now closed.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I desire to sincerely thank all those kind friends who have so generously assisted me, especially those who, without my knowledge, started the scheme. It is often said there is a great bond of sympathy amongst ringers, and I, although an old ringer, never knew until recently how true the saying is. Again thanking you all for your kind action.—Yours fraternally,

FRANCIS WOODHEAD.



## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

By 'BOB MAJOR.'

They have a way with them down about Birmingham that makes all the ringers there a very happy family. They are always celebrating something or other, and now we read of yet another little party—this time to commemorate the birthday of the Tipton veteran, William Rock Small. They live to a good age, do ringers in that neighbourhood. Mr. Small is as enthusiastic and as keen on a peal as any man, although he has reached his 76th birthday. Anno Domini has treated him kindly, but even he is not the oldest of the active belfry brigade in that district, for Sam Spittle can give him three years, and I doubt if he would admit himself any the less keen on the art, which both of them have followed for so many years. Friend Small puts his good health down to ringing and, when you come to think of it, it is surprising what a number of ringers live to a ripe old age. There must be something of the elixir of life in bell ringing; it provides a healthy exercise for the muscles, a stimulant for the brain, and soothing music for the soul—rather poetic that, isn't it? If it could only be advertised a little more widely as a life-extender, no doubt many people would take it up, just for the physical benefits they would receive. Four hours on the tenor box at Bow, say, would work more wonders in keeping them fit than four weeks at a German Spa.

## BELLS THAT WORRY.

A writer in "The Eagle" says: "Malta, now a base for our wounded soldiers, is a sultry spot in the summer; you cannot sleep at night without a mosquito net over you and a supply of soda water by the bedside. To a wounded man lying in bed all day, the heat is almost insufferable, and its torments were for a time added to by the ceaseless clangour of the cracked and tuneless bells of the churches. There are five or six bells to each church, and one church to about every hundred people, so there was noise enough to make a Maltese Cross. The Archbishop was appealed to for mercy on the sick, with the satisfactory result that all the bells in all the towns have been stopped, except for a few solitary strokes before some special services. This is good news, and if it has moved the Governor of the island to almost grovelling gratitude we can hardly be surprised. We only sigh for similar relief in our English towns where the bells still worry both the wounded and the well. In the country it is different. There they blend with the surroundings."

## THE ROPE BROKE.

Isn't it funny how some writers let their imaginations go; in fact, they imagine things until they believe they are true, although I fancy this is not exclusively applicable to writers, for there are others, such as fishermen. But the bells in English towns are more silent now than ever they were, and ringers well know the reasons why. Perhaps, however, the writer in "The Eagle" refers to the "cracked and tuneless" bells which are to be found hanging in "rings of one" in dove-cotes fitted to the roofs of tin buildings. They are annoying when rung with persistence at an hour on Sunday morning when one desires to turn over and have another snooze. Even those who are fond of ringing bells themselves dislike the clang of these bucket-like instruments, but what a different effect does a well-struck touch on a tuneful octave create? It is enough to fetch the true ringer out of the most comfortable bed at any hour of the day or night. The call of bells is irresistible to the enthusiast. Why, I have even known men dream about ringing. I once shared a bed with a fellow campanologist who was so actively engaged in pulling the bells—in his sleep—that he not only pulled the bed clothes off, but went out of bed with a bang. This brought the "touch" to an abrupt termination—happily for me—and as he was coming to his waking senses he murmured, "I was just going to make the bob and the bloom's rope broke."

## A NEW TREBLE.

They've got their ten bells at Exeter again now, and, from what I hear, they've got a band to ring them, for the authorities have appointed a change ringing company, selected from the three principal local towers, and who are to be directly affiliated to the Devon Guild. This is excellent news, and should do the art some good in that corner of the country. The new treble became necessary for the Cathedral peal, because the old one got broken through the chiming hammers being put on while the bells were up, and when the treble was pulled off it rather made a mess of things from all accounts. But now that the Loughborough foundry has put matters right the peal is none the worse for the change. There's one thing about it, while the bell was away from the tower, the authorities did know what had become of it, which is more than the Worcester Cathedral folk did when their treble was removed some years ago. They had eight bells there at that time, and one day a visitor was shown up into the tower. He saw the bells, and on the way down was taken into the ringing chamber, where he saw the ropes. "How many bells did you tell me you had?" said he to the guide. "Eight" was the reply. "Well, I only counted seven, when we were up among them," said the visitor. "But here are the ropes, eight of them," said the cicerone. "There may be eight ropes, but I only saw seven bells," was the answer.

## GONE!

To convince the visitor the guide took him back up the steps. And then they counted the bells, and sure enough there were only seven. The treble was gone; spirited away, as clean as it might have been in

a conjuring trick by David Devant. There was consternation, not only among the ringers, but also among the authorities. How the bell went or what became of it, no one knew, nor, I believe, do they to this day. Suffice it to say, however, that out of the disappearance of the treble arose the scheme which provided Worcester Cathedral with its present peal of twelve. But there was another sequel, so I have been told, although I cannot vouch for it. Some time later, at some church in the district, a firm of founders were engaged in putting in a new bell, which was sent to Worcester railway station. The founders' men fetched it on a hand cart and, passing through the streets, met a lynx-eyed man in blue—a veritable Sherlock Holmes—who, recalling the vanishing of the Cathedral bell, thought he was on a good thing, and promptly took the workmen and the bell to the police station. Enquiries, of course, soon put the matter right, and the hanging of the bell was not much delayed. But Worcester Cathedral treble was never found.

## A WONDERFUL REPERTOIRE.

There was a time, not so many years ago, when a band, which could ring enough six-bell methods to put seven different ones into a peal, imagined they were almost "the limit" in their particular line. Those companies who could go to the extent of fourteen 360's in different methods were considered extraordinarily accomplished, while the band that reeled off 5040 in 21 methods were the wonder and admiration of the Exercise. But things have progressed since those days, and the repertoire of some of the six-bell bands is now almost past belief. I don't know what the record number of different methods rung by any one company is, but I can't help admiring the capacity of such bands as that at Walton-on-the-Hill, near Liverpool, who, we were last week informed, had rung the extent of each of the 41 Surprise Minor Methods published in the Central Council's "Legitimate Methods." Such companies as these are a lot more enterprising than any eight-bell band, for where is the Major company that could ring touches in more than ten or a dozen Surprise Methods? They might take a leaf out of the book of some of these smaller bands. There are plenty of methods to begin on, pending the appearance of the Council's book of Legitimate Major Methods, which has been promised us—some day. I am not quite sure whether the wonderful volume—which is to contain every method, known and unknown, that is legitimate or regular, or whatever the gentlemen, who argue over the definitions of words, like to call them—is to be issued in time to benefit this generation or the next. I'm afraid it won't be in our day, if we have to wait till some of the writers have finished their expositions on legitimate methods and kindred subjects.

## BELL POETRY.

I was glad to read last week that at least one member of our fraternity has made a serious attempt to get together a more or less exhaustive collection of bell poetry. I daresay many ringers have collected odd bits from time to time, but Mr. Ernest Morris seems to have done the thing pretty systematically and thoroughly. Our old friend, Bill Fussell, of Slough, has done likewise. His breezy writings are always well interspersed with verse, and the Editor has handed over to me a note from him in which he says: "Dear old 'Bob Major's' correction omits to put right a similar error in my second Dereham couplet, due to my writing from memory at the time, but since his notes appeared, I have refreshed myself on Moore's poem, and find the second verse very appropriate to my musings on the past:

"Those joyous hours are passed away;  
And many a heart that then was gay,  
Within the tomb now darkly dwells,  
And hears no more those evening bells."

"I have collected as much as possible for some years, all poetry and prose, as well as sheet music, relating to bells, and I have not so far discovered any poet who has altogether omitted bells from some portion of his writings. Even Chaucer, one of our Early English poets, sang of bells, and there is also the strong possibility of his having been one of the ringers of Whitby Abbey." This is getting pretty near to the beginning of ringing history if you like, but I guess Chaucer didn't know much about London Surprise, and wasn't worried a great deal about legitimate methods or the proof of Treble Bob.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE TRENCHES.

The "chestnuts" which I gave in this column a fortnight ago have brought a good story straight from the trenches. Three Tommies were dividing some souvenirs they had "found" somewhere in France—a watch, a compass and a German knife, besides other "valuables." After a long argument it was decided that the watch should go to the man who could guess the tune another Tommy played on his mouth-organ. After several guesses, one said the tune was "Beer! Beer! glorious beer!" "Yer wrong," exclaimed the organist, but yer aint far off it. The tune as I was playin' yer was "As pants the heart for coolin' streams!"

Another good story of the religious classification of new soldiers comes from the same source:

Sergeant (addressing one of a squad of recruits): "What's yer religion?"

Recruit: "Plymouth Brother, sir."

Sergeant: "Nonsense! There haint no such religion in the British Army! Fall in with the Roman Catholics!"

Collapse of recruit.

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## OSWALDTWISTLE'S LADY RINGERS.



Gentlemen: J. RAWCLIFFE, J. HOULDSWORTH (Captain), J. TOMLINSON, J. BARNES.

Ladies (standing): MISS BARNES, MISS SULLIVAN, MISS SHAW, MISS TOWNLEY.

Ladies (sitting): MISS SHUTTLEWORTH, MISS HOLDING, MRS. HARRIS (the Vicar's wife), MISS HOULDSWORTH, MISS FIELDING.

In many places where the war has taken the ringers away from the belfry for the sterner duty of serving King and country the gaps caused by their departure are being filled by ladies. At Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, the absence of ringers on service, led to the enlisting of the service of a number of ladies, who, led by the Vicar's wife, have entered with zest into their new task. A start was made in July, and in a very short time the ladies were ringing regularly for Sunday services, and within three

months were able to ring the plain course of Bob Minor, while one of their number, Miss Sullivan, has rung the treble through a 720. Their instruction has been undertaken by Messrs. J. Houldsworth (captain), J. Rawcliffe, J. Tomlinson and J. Barnes (who appear in the photograph above), and there is no doubt the ladies have made apt pupils. The belfry at Oswaldtwistle is open to the Church and it is for that reason the ladies appear in uniform.

## DEATH OF AN ERDINGTON RINGER.

## FIRST GAP IN VETERANS' BAND.

Erdington Parish Church Society has lost one of its oldest and most respected members by the death, which took place on November 22nd, of Mr. John Henry Sanders, who passed away at his residence, 03, Wood End Lane, Erdington, at the age of 83 years. He was taken ill at his work, was brought home by his employer, and expired almost immediately. The deceased had been tower-keeper for a number of years. He was also connected with the ringers of Handsworth Parish Church, many years ago, for some 30 to 40 years, and was a member of the Erdington P.S.A. The deceased did not keep any record of his ringing performances, but he had rung a considerable number of peals, including the long peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham (on the occasion of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, when she laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Law Courts, in June, 1887). He also rang a peal in four methods at Perry Barr—the only one rung—and he stood in the Veterans' Peal, at Aston, to celebrate the 60th birthday of the composer, Mr. John Carter, of Birmingham—a peal of Grandsire Caters, on May 2nd, 1914, all the ringers, it will be remembered, being 60 years of age and over. Since being connected with Erdington Mr. Sanders had rung about 16 peals. He was a member of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, and also of the Midland Counties Association of Bell Ringers.

## THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Saturday week, at Erdington Parish Church, and was attended by a number of ringers and friends. The Rev. F. S. Swindell, M.A., Vicar and Rural Dean, assisted by the Rev. S. E. P. Needham, curate, officiated. As the procession entered the church Mr. H. E. Platt, organist, played "O Rest in the Lord" ("Elijah"), and at the conclusion of the first portion of the service rendered the Dead March in "Saul." The coffin was carried by the Erdington Ringers (Messrs. J. Preston, J. Pywell, T. Bicknell, G. Garrison, W. J. Meers, and G. F. Swann) into the church, and from

the church to the grave, by six members of St. Martin's Guild of Bell Ringers, viz., Messrs. T. Russam, J. E. Groves, J. George, J. Wells, C. Dickens, and W. G. Anker. Before the close of the committal service, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave, on handbells, by G. Garrison 1-2, G. Swann 3-4, T. Russam 5-6, and J. Preston 7-8. This parting tribute seemed to touch the hearts of the people present, as the bells pealed forth over the remains of their old comrade. The Vicar pronounced the Benediction, and brought the service to a close. The mourners were Mrs. H. Sanders (widow), Mr. Fred Sanders (son), Miss Nellie Sanders (daughter), Mrs. F. Sanders (daughter-in-law), Mr. A. Hughes and Miss Stanley. The following were also present: Mr. G. N. Potter (deceased's employer), Mr. H. Bett, Mr. Guy (road foreman of the old Erdington Council), Mr. G. Parsons, Mr. J. Pemberton, Mrs. J. Preston, Mrs. C. Cottrell, Mrs. W. Meers, etc. The ringers started for a peal of Stedman Triples, with the bells half-muffled, but, after ringing about an hour and quarter, stopped, owing to the bells being out of course. The peal was, however, accomplished on Saturday last, and will be found recorded in another column.

The following sent wreaths: The Erdington Parish Church Ringers (in the shape of a bell), the workpeople of Mr. G. N. Potter, Schoolfield Street, Mr. and Mrs. Le Bon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Wilks, and nieces.

## GRANDSIRE COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Matthews's letter last week, I beg to state that I have now come to the conclusion that the 12-part peal of Grandsire, published for me on September 17th, is a variation of his peal. I beg to apologise to Mr. Matthews for the trouble he has been caused through this matter, but I may say I made my claim in all good faith. I am afraid I had formed a wrong impression of a variation, and thank him for his explanation of same. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully,

A. J. PITMAN.

December 5th, 1915.



## SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

## A JOURNEY IN THE RAIN.

If November ice will bear a duck,  
There's nothing after but sludge and muck.

"T'last day 't'owd year in '67 ah went dahn to Wath lad, wi a through train 'at stopped at ivery station, an' when we'd raised t' bells we rung one method after t'other until they call for one and ah didn't know t'middle work and ah called for another and somebody didn't know t'front work so we 'stood' lad and when we carnted up we'd rung 19 sixscores lad."

Such is the tale about an old Sheffield ringer of a bygone day, and the writer travelled in one of G—I nearly said whose—"through trains 'at stopped at ivery station," on Saturday, en route to Conisbrough, where a Sheffield District meeting was to be held. Every time the train stopped a few got out and a few got in wet and dripping, but we were sorry to lose an old wag at Mexbro', as we could see nothing but mist through the windows down which the water flowed in streamlets, and anything is better than silence in a railway train on a dismal day. After being shunted about a bit we arrived at Conisbrough. It did rain. Ultimately we reached the road (it might have been a river). What! Bells! Why, somebody has been silly enough to come cut into this blackness to ring. Sure enough it was the bells so forward we went right manfully. The belfry is well lighted and furnished, quite a cheerful place after the wet. The bells are a new ring by Taylor, with a 14 cwt. tenor; as a very, very large majority of our "Surprise" ringers were absent, the local aspirants got a good practice, which was probably of more value to the Exercise than if we had rung through all the usual methods.

Much has been written about Conisbrough, its church, and castle, the latter having been "immortalised" by Sir Walter Scott in his "Ivanhoe."

## A HISTORIC CHURCH.

The present church consists of nave, with centre and north and south aisles, chancel, and a tower at the west end, and is rich in architectural features from Anglo-Saxon times down to the Perpendicular period. It is certain that an Anglo-Saxon Church stood on the site of the present nave as the huge and oddly shaped "long and short stones" on the north and south side of the innermost tower buttress walls clearly mark the western limit, and one stone bears distinct marks of scratchings and rubbing of tools, i.e., arrow-heads, etc. King Harold had one of his Royal domes here, and Conisbrough Church and parson are mentioned in the Domesday Book. On the south side there is a beautiful late Norman doorway in almost perfect condition. In the interior, on the north side, are three rounded arches on cylindrical pillars with broad bases and beautifully carved capitals; on the south side there are three pointed arches on cylindrical pillars, which must have superseded three Norman arches, probably in the 13th century. Beneath the tower is a lofty and well-proportioned arch in the Perpendicular style of architecture, with a sculptured font beneath, the tower being of this period. Historically, a rather curious feature was that in the years 1094 and 1189, and again in 1253, the Prior and Canons of Lewes had special jurisdiction given over this church and parish. This far-away southern community continued to nominate the Vicars of Conisbrough until the Dissolution in 1535. There is an authentic list of Vicars from the end of the 12th century downwards, the present Vicar (the Rev. W. A. Strawbridge, M.A.), being the 37th in direct succession, and it was by his energy the church has been completely restored, all the old plaster being stripped from the walls, and the floor of the nave lowered some six inches, thus exposing the bases of the pillars and nave.

After this interesting look over the church we turned towards home again, still it rained. The less said about the homeward journey the better. There being no train for more than an hour we decided to go on to Mexbro' by motor-bus. We went. Arrived at the toll bar, whence run the electric cars every "ten" minutes. We waited under a "tin" shelter about half an hour, and then bolted through the "sludge and muck" for the "Miners Arms," and found it much more comfortable than the "tin" shelter, until one of those "ten" minute cars came along and took us to the station, whence we travelled safely back to Sheffield without meeting with a "wag" to liven up the journey. And it rained in Sheffield. S. T.

## WHAT ARE STANDARD METHODS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recently in the report of a ringing meeting it was stated "some good practice was obtained in the Standard methods, and Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise."

What are Standard methods, and are not Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Standard methods? They are given as such in "Standard methods."—Yours truly, A. T.

[We are afraid, "A. T.," that this is another case of confusion in definitions. The late Mr. Jasper Snowden's work, "Standard Methods," includes a number of methods which, when the book was first issued, were not in general practice, and Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative were, by many, looked upon as "crank" methods. They are certainly Standard methods to-day in the sense that they are generally practised, but the writer of the article evidently intended the term in the older sense in which it was used, to mean Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Treble Bob—Ed. "E.W."]

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SHREWSBURY.—Salop Archidiaconal Guild and St. Chad's Society.—On October 13th, at St. Chad's, for the harvest festival, 1097 Grandsire Caters: J. Tudor 1, G. Scarratt 2, W. Brooks 3, W. J. Taylor 4, E. R. T. Corbett 5, G. Jones 6, W. Stockdale 7, E. V. Rodenhurst 8, C. R. Lilley 9, H. Jones 10.—On October 17th, 504 Stedman Triples: G. Byolin 1, G. Scarratt 2, J. Tudor 3, W. Brooks 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, C. R. Lilley 7, R. F. Turner 8.—On November 7th, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, G. Jones 4, W. Stockdale 5, W. Weatherby 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) tenor (39 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs.).—On November 1st, at St. Alkmund's Church, 288 Kent Treble Bob Major and 168 of Stedman Triples, on the occasion of a visit of Mr. W. H. Thomas, of St. Stephen's, Bristol, others taking part being: G. Byolin, G. Scarratt, W. Stockdale, J. Tudor, E. V. Rodenhurst, W. Brooks, G. Jones, C. R. Lilley (conductor).—On November 3rd, at St. Chad's, on handbells, 120 Plain Bob and 120 Grandsire Doubles: Miss D. Smith 1, Miss Barrow 2, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 3—4, W. H. Thomas 5—6.—On November 13th, at St. Chad's, a touch of 560 Bob Major, 96 Kent Treble Bob Major, 84 Stedman Triples: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, Pte E. Mullins (Peadleton) 3, W. Brooks 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.—On November 27th, 518 Grandsire Triples: R. F. Turner 1, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 2, W. Brooks 3, Pte T. M. Belton 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. Fullick 7, H. Jones 8; and 180 Grandsire Caters, Pte T. M. Belton was on a visit, after being wounded in the trenches in France. He was a member of the band, and it is gratifying to announce that he has recovered from his wounds.

WHITTLESFORD, CAMBS.—On November 8th, 720 Plain Bob: J. F. Penning's composition, 28 bobs and 18 singles: E. Pettit 1, A. E. Austin (conductor) 2, C. Peters 3, J. Maynard 4, T. Finch 5, F. Nunn 6.

LEICESTER.—On Friday, Nov. 12th, at S. Margaret's, with the bells half-muffled to the memory of Captain Leslie Corah and Pte W. Quinton Lander, who both fell with the 4th Leicesters, and were prominently connected with S. Margaret's, 447 Grandsire Triples and 720 Caters, by: L. Mason 1, E. Morris 2, A. Ballard 3, Pte T. Vallance 4, W. P. Cooper 5, J. Morris 6, H. Broughton 7, F. H. Dexter 8, T. H. Hardy 9, J. Vernon 10. Also on Sunday, Nov. 14th, 360 Grandsire Doubles for morning service; 549 Grandsire Doubles for afternoon service; and 489 Grandsire Triples for evening service, all the ringing being conducted by Ernest Morris.

SWANSEA.—West Wales Association.—At 55, Rhondda Street, on handbells, on November 12th, in 30 mins., a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1260 changes): S. Perry 1—2, J. Hoare 3—4, Pte J. A. Hoare, 7th Welsh Cyclists (conductor) 5—6.

CADOXTON.—West Wales Association.—At the Parish Church, on November 13th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, in 45 mins.: W. Jones 1, S. Perry 2, Alf. Jones 3, J. E. Bloxham 4, Pte J. A. Hoare (conductor) 5, E. Phillips 6.

BRAINTREE.—Essex Association.—On November 13th, for evensong, at the Parish Church, 657 Grandsire Triples: F. Webb 1, C. H. Howard (conductor) 2, H. E. Hammond 3, H. J. Collins 4, W. H. Dyson 5, Pte F. Smith (24th Oxford and Bucks) 6, G. Lindridge 7, W. H. Hammond 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, November 14th, for service, 504 Stedman Triples: W. Mead 1, J. Mead 2, H. Morris 3, W. Crane 4, L. Meager 5, F. Hedges 6, H. Sear (conductor) 7, V. Sear 8. 224 Double Norwich: W. Sear 1, J. Mead 2, W. Pether 3, H. Morris 4, L. Meager 5, W. Crane 6, F. Hedger 7, A. Sear (conductor) 8.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—For morning service, on Sunday, Nov. 14th, on the occasion of the attendance, in State, of the Lord Mayor (Councillor G. Lunn) and the Sheriff (Councillor W. Bramble), of Newcastle, at the Cathedral, four courses of Stedman Cinques: G. T. Potter 1, A. Dalton 2, E. E. Ferry 3, J. E. Keen 4, W. Sinclair 5, J. McKeag 6, J. Foreman 7, B. C. Dixon 8, A. E. Hillier 9, W. Story 10, R. Richards (conductor) 11, Pte D. Wolstencroft 12. Pte Wolstencroft hails from Ashton-under-Lyne, the rest are members of the Cathedral Guild.

RAMSBOTTOM.—Lancashire Association.—On Sunday evening, Nov. 14th, at St. Paul's Church, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 1 hr. 20 mins.: R. Leach 1, J. H. Haydock 2, J. Leach 3, S. Lord 4, W. Taylor (conductor) 5, J. Houson 6, J. T. Wright 7, J. Booth 8. Rung as a farewell to the Rev. J. J. Lewis, who has been Vicar for the last 22 years, and who has been preferred to the living of St. John the Baptist, Hulme, Manchester.

OLDSWINTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On November 14th, at St. Mary's Church, for morning service, 1008 Bob Triples: Wm. Whitehouse 1, C. Wm. Cooper 2, Thos. Heathcock 3, Jos. Smith 4, Ralph Moors 5, J. Newman 6, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 7, P. Pope 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples (1260 changes): Wm. Toogood (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Wm. Cooper 2, Ralph Moors 3, Thos. Heathcock 4, Jos. Smith 5, J. Newman 6, A. E. Whatmore (composer and conductor) 7, P. Pope 8.

ELSTON, NOTTS.—On a recent Saturday the Bottesford ringers paid a visit to this tower, and among other touches rang 720 Bob Minor: A. Mackears (conductor) 1, D. Gilden 2, Rev. C. J. Sturton 3, M. Bend 4, R. Bend 5, S. Baker 6.



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### **VERTICAL CANT LEVER BELL FRAMES (Patent No. 14148/14) DIAGONAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT.**

The combination of the patent vertical cantilever and diagonal systems is ideal for all towers, and is especially suitable for weak structures.

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### **SELF-ALIGNING AND SELF-LUBRICATING OIL RING BEARINGS (Patent No. 18896/13).**

The patent self-aligning bearing immediately ensures the perfect "go" of bells of any size.

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### **ALUMINIUM HEADSTOCKS FOR BELLS OF HEAVY AND MEDIUM WEIGHTS.**

The fitting of aluminium headstocks to the "back" bells of a heavy or medium ring equalises the time of revolution.

Bells hung on this system quite surpass those hung upon so-called modern principles, and ease of ringing, and more especially good striking, is assured.

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### **STEEL "ANTI-VANDAL" HEADSTOCKS (Patent No. 17367/14).**

These steel headstocks are especially designed to eliminate the prevailing vandalism of cutting off the cannon heads of ancient and historical bells, and thus meet the oft expressed wishes of Clergy, Ringers, Ecclesiastical Architects, Archæological Authorities, and also agree with the sentiments of the general public.

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### **SYSTEM FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BELLS.**

Bells fitted with the "Warner" system of attachment to the headstocks by means of a centre bolt, precludes any possibility of clapper-wear with its attendant expense and danger, and thus ensures for an indefinite period, the lifetime of a bell.

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### **RENEWABLE GUDGEONS, IMPROVED STAYS AND GUN METAL CLAPPER STAPLES.**

The renewable gudgeons enable bells to be rehung at a minimum of expense, and the improved stays are fitted to the headstocks by means of clips, and thus are not weakened by holes being bored through them.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LONDON.—Ancient Society of College Youths.—On Nov. 14th evening service, at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E., a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1260 changes): H. Springall 1, C. H. Hughes 2, E. Gibbs 3, C. H. Pullen (late of Reading) 4, J. Scholes 5, F. Renton (late of Leeds) 6, W. Truss 7, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 8, E. Hall 9, G. Barrett 10.

PENTRE RHONDDA.—Llandaff Diocesan Association.—On Nov 15th, at St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Erin Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: H. Page 1, G. Cross 2, W. Page 3, J. Cross 4, T. Hamlin 5, G. Wines 6, T. Page (conductor) 7, H. Crabbe 8. Rung in honour of the birthday of King Albert of the Belgians; also as a birthday compliment to H. Crabbe.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER. — Recently, for harvest festival, 630 Grandsire Triples: H. E. Gillett 1, W. Stafford 2, H. Packer 3, W. Large (conductor) 4, J. Collett 5, T. Banning 6, H. Gillett 7, J. Buttler 8. Also 1264 Bob Major: H. E. Gillett 1, W. Stratford 2, H. Packer 3, E. Pardon 4, J. Collett 5, T. Banning 6, H. Gillett 7, W. Large (conductor) 8; and for evening service, 1260 Grandsire Triples, conducted by W. Large.—On November 14th, for evening service, 1260 Grandsire Triples: H. E. Gillett 1, E. Pardon 2, H. Packer 3, T. Banning 4, J. Collett 5, W. Large (conductor) 6, H. Gillett 7, J. Buttler 8.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.—On November 16th, 1260 Grandsire Triples: B. Hookham 1, E. Hookham 2, H. Gillett 3, E. Pardon 4, F. E. Davies 5, W. Stratford 6, W. Large (conductor) 7, G. Pugh 8.

STANSTED. — Essex Association. — On Nov. 15th, at the Parish Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, R. Law 3, F. Bird 4, T. J. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6, H. W. Watts 8. Also 240 Stedman Doubles: G. Gray 1, F. Bird 2, T. J. Watts 3, H. W. Watts (first in the method) 4, W. Watts (conductor) 5, R. Law 6.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.—On November 18th, 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Kendall 1, H. Wiseman 2, L. Wiseman (conductor) 3, R. Rayner 4, B. Pettitt 5, Pte. A. Catterwell (5th Essex Regiment) 6, W. Nice 7, W. Cross 8.—On November 20th, a quarter-peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples: E. Kendall 1, L. Wiseman 2, Pte. A. Catterwell 3, H. Hale 4, S. Hale (conductor) 5, H. Cooper 6, W. Nice 7, W. Cross 8.—On Sunday, Nov. 21st, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1264 changes): R. Rayner 1, L. Wiseman (conductor) 2, H. Hale 3, F. Wiseman 4, B. Pettitt 5, S. Hale 6, W. Nice 7, Pte. G. Pannel (Royal Engineers) 8. This was rung as a farewell to R. Rayner, H. Wiseman and C. Smith, who were going off next day to join the King's Royal Rifles.

WHITCHURCH, CARDIFF.—On Saturday, Nov. 20th, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Pte. A. Devonald (3rd Welch) 1, W. Biss (conductor) 2, J. Jones 3, F. J. Bailey 4, S. Dawe 5, W. Bolton 6. Also touches of Oxford and Plain Bob: D. Thomas, L. Wright, T. Middleton, B. Chew taking part.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Nov. 21st, for evening service, 1299 Stedman Caters, in 47 mins.: Jas. George (composer) 1, W. Allwood 2, Dvr. F. E. Smith 3, B. A. Knights (conductor) 4, C. Glenn 5, W. J. Thyng 6, F. Jacobs 7, A. Knights 8, G. A. Thompson 9, G. Davies 10.

LUTON, BEDS.—On Mayor's Sunday, Nov. 21st, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor (42 singles), in 27 mins., with 6, 8 covering: J. Shaw 1, A. King (conductor) 2, B. Wilson 3, J. Rookwood 4, F. Hunt 5, H. Shaw 6, T. Kendall 7, Pte. A. Rookwood 8. Pte. Rookwood, of the 3/5 Beds, is the son of the ringer of the 4th, and was home on leave from Newmarket prior to joining the 1/5 Beds Regiment for service abroad.

WOOLWICH, KENT.—On Nov. 21st, for evening service, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 42 mins.: C. H. Hughes 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, C. H. Pullen 3, F. Renton 4, W. Watchorn 5, E. E. Richards 6, W. J. Aldridge 7, W. Horsley 8. Rung half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late churchwarden, Mr. W. Rahtz, who was buried the previous day.

ABBOTT LEIGH, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, Nov. 21st, for morning service, 360 Bob Minor: L. H. Moore 1, A. T. Atherton 2, G. Bennett 3, J. Caple, junr., 4, E. Frampton 5, Corpl. G. H. Gale (conductor) 6.

EASTON-IN-GORDANO.—On Nov. 23rd, 360 Bob Minor, by: W. Caple 1, A. T. Atherton 2, G. Bennett 3, L. H. Moore, junr., 4, J. Caple 5, Corpl. G. H. Gale (conductor) 6. These touches were rung for Corpl. G. H. Gale, 4th Somerset L.I., who was home on a short leave.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.—On Nov. 26th, on handbells, at the residence of Mr. A. E. Pitstow, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, also 336 Bob Major: F. J. Pitstow 1—2, A. E. Pitstow 3—4, F. Pitstow (conductor) 5—6, F. Dench 7—8. First quarter-peal on handbells in Saffron Walden, and by all the band.

HEAVITREE, DEVON.—Heavitree Society.—On Sunday, Nov. 27th, for the Bishop's visit, 1260 Stedman Triples: R. Hamilton 1, T. Laver 2, H. V. Richards 3, J. Sandever 4, C. Glass 5, J. Ferris 6, Sergt. Major A. Pye (conductor) 7, H. Seager 8.

MITCHAM.—Surrey Association.—On Sunday, Nov. 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major (1280 changes): J. A. Lambert (composer and conductor) 1, J. Howes 2, W. D. Drewett 3, W. H. Joiner 4, L. Attwater 5, R. W. Grimwood 6, C. Rance 7, W. S. Smith 8. Rung as a wedding compliment to the conductor's daughter, who was married on the previous day.

## NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Thursdays, December 16th and 30th, for handbell practice, and on Tuesday, 21st, for business; all at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horbury, via Wakefield, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) available 3 to 8 p.m. Tea provided, at 5 p.m., in school, near church (at 1s. head). A good attendance is desired.—Leonard Brightman, District Secretary pro. tem., 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, December 11th, at St. George's (6). Bells open at 3, service 4.30. Tea, meeting and social to follow. Friends gd. Subscriptions now due. Visitors welcomed.—G. W. Tomkins, 22, Court Road, Horfield.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Keighley on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea, 1s. per head, at 5 p.m., in the Vestry.—P. L. Cooper, Honorary District Secretary, 12, Willoughby Avenue, Holbeck.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells ready at 4.30; meeting at 7.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Keynsham on Saturday, December 11th. Service at 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. E. Burgess, Honorary Secretary, Taunton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wick St. Lawrence on Saturday, December 11th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15, meeting to follow. Bells available 3 o'clock.—J. Harris, Branch Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, December 18th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 6.30. Annual reports will be ready for this meeting.—T. K. Driver, Secretary, The Gardens, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Garston on Saturday, December 18th. Bells ready at 3.30. Service at 5. Tea at 5.30. Members intending being present please send word to Walter Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

NORTON-LE-MOORS, STAFFS.—On November 28th, for evensong, at St. Bartholomew's Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise: Wm. Wibberley 1, Jno. W. Walker (first in the method and first attempt) 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, Wm. C. Lawrence (conductor) 4, J. F. Ryles 5, F. T. Dawson 6.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The branch meeting, which was to have been held at Padiham on Saturday, December 18th, 1915, will not take place.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity on Saturday, December 18th. Bells available from 6 p.m. Meeting 7.30. Reports now ready. — G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

**PEAL BOOKS.**—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

#### HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

**RINGERS** and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

#### NOTEWORTHY PEALS OF THE PAST.

What, up to that time, was the longest peal of Stedman on record was rung on December 8th, 1883, and the anniversary of it, therefore, occurred last Wednesday. This peal was rung by the College Youths at Fulham, and consisted of 11,111 changes, in 7 hrs. 12 mins. It was called by the late Mr. James Pettit, and was rung by the following band: James Pettit 1, Francis E. Dawe 2, George Mash 3, John W. Rowbotham 4, Challis P. Winney 5, Edwin Gibbs 6, William Greenleaf 7, Edwin Horrex 8, John Murray Hayes 9, Walter Prime 10. A previous attempt for the peal three weeks before was lost after ringing nearly 10,000 changes.

The longest length of Stedman Cinques up to the present, is, curiously enough, the same number of changes as that in the Fulham peal of Caters, but this stands to the credit of the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, who have at different times, in the past, held the palm in this direction. They captured it once by a peal of 7392 changes rung at St. Martin's, on December 12th, 1848, in 4 hrs. 55 mins., the anniversary thus occurring on Sunday. It is also worth recalling that this peal was composed and conducted by Henry Johnson, who also composed the "five ones" rung at Fulham 35 years later.

The anniversary of another 12-bell records falls in this week. The Painswick Youths, on December 9th, 1833, rang a peal of 10,224 Treble Bob Maximus in 6 hrs. 50 mins., the ringers being: Jno. Morris 1, Jas. Savory, junr., 2, Jos. White 3, Saml. Cook 4, Jas. Chandler 5, Chas. Holder 6, Jas. Savory, senr., 7, Thos. Clissold 8, Wm. Holder 9, Thos. Belhell 10, Wm. Estcourt (composer and conductor) 11, Wm. Savory 12. This peal remained unbeaten until Easter Monday, 1911, when the 12,000 was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne.

#### YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

##### A NEW TOWER ADDED.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday week, when about 40 ringers put in an appearance. During the afternoon ringing was indulged in by various bands from Pontefract, Selby, Howden, Goole, Sherburn, and a few ringers from Earsheaton, who were visiting friends at Sherburn.

A substantial tea was served in the school-house, and the usual business meeting was held afterwards, when eight new members of the Association were elected, seven of these being members of the local band, and was the result of arranging the meeting at a tower not hitherto attached to the association.

After tea the bells were again set going, and touches of Stedman, Grandsire, Treble Bob, etc., were successfully brought round.

One feature of the district meeting that is worth mention is the fact that new members have a chance to practice and fraternise with older and more experienced exponents of the Exercise, and it is thought, at any rate in the eastern district, that, despite the war, every effort should be put forward to obtain new towers and new members, both of which are essential in normal times to the success of an Association, but which will be very necessary at a time like the present to replace those who have left the Exercise for the period of the war.

**BELBROUGHTON.**—On Nov. 28th, for evening service, 720 Plain Bob Minor: G. Hubble 1, Wm. Short 2, J. Parton 3, A. Pardoe 4, G. Popnell (conductor) 5, H. Martin, senr., 6.

**LONDON.**—On Sunday morning, Nov 28th, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 1120 Bob Major, in 45 mins.: A. Riley 1, W. A. Alps 2, O. L. Twist 3, T. Walker 4, R. W. Green 5, W. T. Powell 6, G. B. Lucas 7, J. Hunt (conductor) 8.

**HENLEY-ON-THAMES.**—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, on November 28th, 504 Grandsire Triples by local men: G. White 1, W. Appleby 2, R. Bushnell 3, — Little 4, H. Hatlo 5, — Nash 6, J. Stilwell (conductor) 7, G. King (longest length) 8.

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