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FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd, 1916.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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.

MODERN WORK.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

A very large number of ringers are now serving with the colours and the rapid calling up of the Derby groups is bringing into the ranks a great many more men associated with our belfries. The Exercise is delighted to honour those who are thus responding to the call of King and country, and practically all the associations are taking steps to place on record the names of those of their members who have undertaken the patriotic and stern task of upholding their country's honour. For the present these records are only to be found in the various annual reports, and in many cases they are far from complete. It is, of course, a difficult matter, when, one after the other, the men join up, to get these records together, for those who are entitled to be placed upon the lists are being added to every day. Secretaries, generally, are anxious to keep their roll up to date, and those ringers who are left behind ought to do their best to make the task as simple as possible.

Lately there have been suggestions put forward in one or two quarters for extending the scope of this roll beyond merely local limits. At one meeting, if we have understood the suggestion aright, the idea thrown out was that a complete list of all the ringers who have joined the services should be published in book form, and at Halstead it was suggested to a meeting of Essex ringers that a permanent memorial to the patriotism of the county ringers might some day be set up. There will be, of course, plenty of time when the war is over to consider suggestions like the latter, and it is unlikely that any decision on a point of this kind will be dealt with till we are through with the immediate business on hand. It would, of course, be very nice to have some permanent memorial, but there are likely to be difficulties in the way of carrying out such a proposal.

As to the suggestion of the publication of a comprehensive list of ringers who have served with the colours, would this serve any useful purpose beyond satisfying a passing curiosity when the list was published? Printed matter of this kind is seldom valued, particularly when, in the case of lists of names, there can be little to interest the individual. We should imagine that a better and more practicable scheme would be for each association when it prints its final roll of honour in its annual report, either to have some reprints of the list made in separate book form for issue to each belfry and circulation among its members, or else have the lists printed on cards for framing and hanging in each affiliated tower. There are, of course, many ways in which the roll of honour may be handed down, but there is no doubt the financial aspect, even of this, will have to be taken into consideration.

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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**FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

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Satisfaction Guaranteed

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OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.**

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute,
Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough,
Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester
and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

PUDSEY, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 26, 1916, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

PRATT CORDINGLEY Treble	JAMES WM. BAXENDALE ... 5
* WILLIAM BARTON 2	J. WILLIAM CORDINGLEY 6
J. CECIL BOOTH 3	J. ERNEST PROCTER ... 7
SAMUEL WARD 4	HARRY WARD Tenor

Composed by W. H. INGLESANT.

Conducted by HARRY WARD.

* First peal. First peal in the method on the bells and by all the ringers. This composition has the 6th nine courses at home, and the 2nd never in 6th's place at a course end.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 18, 1916, in One Hour and Fifty-eight Minutes,

IN THE TOWER OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's each called differently.

STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... 1-2	CHARLES POULSON ... 4
LAWRENCE POULSON ... 3	ARTHUR SYMONDS ... 5-6

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

Rung to celebrate the birthday of Pte. Thomas Pryke, 8th Suffolk Regt., now in France; also to oblige Pte. L. Poulson, 6th Suffolk Regt. (Cyclists), who was home on leave. This was his first peal.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, February 20, 1916, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

IN THE TOWER OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently; three of Oxford Treble Bob and four of Plain Bob.

MISS BELL SYMONDS ... 1	MAURICE SYMONDS ... 4
ARTHUR SYMONDS ... 2-3	STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... 5-6

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

Rung to celebrate the 13th birthday of M. Symonds, and is supposed to be a record, the peal having been rung by daughter, father, grandson and son respectively.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 26, 1916, in Two Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT 130, CLONMORE STREET, SOUTHFIELDS, S.W.,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FRANK SMITH 1-2	EDGAR WIGHTMAN ... 5-6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3-4	MISS ELSIE MATTHEWS 7-8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT, and

Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

Witness: EDGAR G. MATTHEWS.

The ringers of the treble and second, in the peal at Berkhamsted published last week, are members of the Tring band, and not of the local company as stated.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following have joined H.M. Forces from Litton, Somerset:—

G. Tyte, R.N.V.R.
C. Bartlett, R.N., Anti-Air Craft Section.
E. Sage, 4th K.O. Somerset Light Infantry.
F. W. Lambert, 4th K.O. Somerset Light Infantry.

Pte F. W. Elliott, of the King's Royal Rifles, a member of the Little Munden Society, has been wounded in action.

DOUBLE NORWICH COMPOSITIONS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Mr. Morris will see by the under-mentioned facts that he is several years late. The peal published in your last issue was rung by eight members of the Kent County Association (as a 5040), in 3 hrs. and 6 mins., on Thursday, March 13th, 1903, at St. John the Baptist, Erith, Kent, conducted by its composer. The figures may be found in the Kent County Annual Report for that year.—Yours truly,

EDGAR WIGHTMAN.

Sir,—Regarding the claims of Messrs. Wightman and Morris to be the composer of the first peal of Double Norwich, with the second alternate courses in 2-3, both gentlemen have overlooked previously published peals. In the "Bell News" of December 29th, 1906, there appeared two peals, a two-part and a six-part. Both contain the 48 course-ends with the 2nd in 2-3 only, and that bell alternately in those places. They have but six short courses each, and I believe the minimum number of singles on the plan.—Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

Gunner G. F. Williams, 146th Heavy Battery, R.G.A., also writes to say that two peals containing the 2nd alternately in 2-3 were composed by him prior to 1912, one of them being rung at Hughenden on April 17th of that year.

We think it would be only fair to other composers if, when a claim to first composition is made, and the claim dates back a number of years, that this fact should be stated when the peal is sent for publication, and should not be left until someone disputes the point.—Ed. 'R.W.'

A NEW SURPRISE METHOD.

By T. LAW, Weston Favell, Northants.

12345678

21436587

12435678

21345768

23147586

32415768

23145678

32416587

23461857

24368175

42631857

46238175

64328715

46237851

42638715

24367851

42637581

24365718

23467581

32645718

23465178

24361587

42635178

46231587

64213857

46128375

64218735

46127853

41628735

14268375

41263857

14628375

Plain 14263857

Bob 16423857

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX. — On Sunday, Feb. 5th, at All Saints' Church, 720 Bob Minor: F. Ward 1, D. Dawson 2, W. Hawkes 3, W. Sharphington 4, P. Timson 5, H. Sharphington (conductor) 6. Rung on the birthday of the ringer of the 4th.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Northampton District was held at Kingsthorpe on Saturday last, when 17 members were present from St. Peter's, St. Edmund's, All Saints' and St. Giles', Northampton; Easton Mandit, Weston Favell, Easton Neston, Harpole, and the local band. The party sat down to tea in the school, and the usual business meeting was afterwards held, at which the vice-president (Mr. J. Clarke) presided.

Brixworth was chosen for the next quarterly meeting; it was also decided to hold special meetings at those towers which do not belong to the Association, Wootton being chosen for the first of these meetings.—Five new members were elected, and in reply to a question from one of the members, the District Secretary stated he had only four names on his books of members who had not paid their contributions for 1915, and two of these were serving their King and country.

The General Secretary (Mr. F. Wilford) referred to a resolution, which was carried at the Wellingborough district meeting, affecting the whole Association, but it was decided to pass on to the next business, as it was considered that the resolution was entirely out of order.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and the Vicar, in reply, said how pleased he was to welcome the Association, and hoped they should soon meet under happier circumstances.

A cordial vote was also accorded the local ringers and their wives for the excellent tea they had provided.

The following methods were rung during the afternoon: Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, and Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles.

No ringing took place after tea owing to military restrictions.

THRAPSTON DISTRICT.

A successful quarterly meeting of the Thrapston District of the Central Northants Association was held at Twywell on Saturday week, when about 20 members were present from Raunds, Thrapston, Ringstead, Islip, Woodford, Cranford, Isham, Barton Seagrave, and Geddington, together with the local ringers. Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles were rung on the light ring of five during the afternoon.

A short service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. Lang). Tea was served in the Parish Room, and at the business meeting, which followed, the Rector presided, and was supported by Mr. F. Wilford (general secretary of the Association), Mr. F. Stubbs (district secretary), etc.—It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Great Addington, and also to hold special meetings between the quarterly meetings for practice and social intercourse.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for the use of the bells, to the ladies who had provided tea, and to everyone concerned who had helped to make the meeting such a success.—The Rev. J. Lang suitably replied.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge district was held at Staplehurst, and was attended by members from Headcorn, Hawkhurst, Horsmonden, Penshurst, Seal Chart, Westerham, Marden, Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst, and Kilndown. Mr. C. Tribe (hon. secretary Ashford district), Mr. S. Hazzelden (hon. secretary Maidstone district), Mr. T. Mannering (Maidstone), etc., were also present.

At the committee meeting five new members were elected, and it was decided that (subject to the approval of the members at the general meeting) two meetings only should be held during the year, at Marden in the summer, and the annual district meeting at Penshurst.—A special service was held, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. C. W. Bourne), assisted by the Rev. E. W. P. Jackson (curate).

After service the members adjourned to the Parish Room for tea, which was followed by the general meeting, at which the Rector presided, supported by the curate and churchwardens.

The District Secretary explained that the reason the meeting was held at Staplehurst instead of at Marden, as intended, was owing to the very serious illness of the Vicar's wife. The Vicar had, therefore, been unable to make any arrangements, but he hoped the members would visit Marden shortly.

The District Secretary then read his annual report, in which he reported the loss, by death, of Mr. W. S. J. Crosbie Hill (Sevenoaks), who had been an hon. member for many years, and also Mr. J. Tapp, of Lamberhurst. He also reported a falling off in the number of hon. members, which he attributed to the many calls upon the public owing to the war, and hoped the time was not far distant when they would be ringing their bells for the declaration of peace, and that they would then find new friends to support them. At the time that the Association report was issued (Whitsun), 27 members of the district had joined the colours, and he knew that number had largely increased since.

The District Secretary and District Representative were unanimously re-elected to their respective offices.

It was decided that the committees' recommendation to have only two meetings for the year be adopted, power being given to the district secretary to arrange other meetings should occasion arise.

The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Whatever Mr. Baker's method may be it is not Stedman for the sufficient reasons that the hunting cycle is broken, and it has not as many divisions to the course as there are bells. In my studies I carefully read Mr. Baker's writings, and came to the conclusion that there is nothing in them helpful to me in the slightest degree. I hope Mr. Baker will not put stronger words in my mouth than I have used. I neither speak nor think ill of his work, which may be, and to some men should be, most useful. I cannot agree with Mr. Baker that it is an abomination for a bell to strike three consecutive blows in one place, else, where shall a stronger word be found for four consecutive blows? For my part I would rather use a milder expression and say that it is an undesirable feature, as is also the making of three adjoining places which the ordinary single entails. In Lates' peal there are no adjoining places at all. Furthermore, it is obvious that the calling of no round block can be made to run four times by a single which merely reverses the bells in 5-6, whereas by the Lates' single the calling of every twin-bob, five-part quarter peal can be made to run four times. Which, then, may I ask, is the best single for peals on Hudson's twin-bob principle, the soundness of which I believe it is impossible to shake, and which, may I also ask, is, after Hudson, the greater man of the two, the much-boomed Thurstans or the inquisitive Lates?

While writing, I should like to mention that it has been pointed out to me that Thurstans obtained a genuine four-part peal having the same qualities on precisely the same plan. This is true, but the singles are made by the bell in fourth's place lying still at the second row of a slow six, and as this single violates the dodging principle it is objectionable in the highest degree. I refrained from referring to this peal, which is given in full detail at page 149 of Snowden's "Stedman," because it seemed to be viewed by the authors of that book without any very pronounced disfavour, and I thought it ungracious to find fault with a book which is full of sound and original learning, and is withal most charmingly written. I have read thousands of books, good, bad, and indifferent—mostly bad and indifferent—and Snowden's "Stedman" is one of the best.

In regard to Stedman on six bells, Mr. Fright is quite correct, for the method he gives is Shipway's Principle, which is undoubtedly Stedman. But Shipway's Principle is Stedman spoiled, and if Mr. Fright will kindly refer to "The Ringing World" for February 12th, 1915, he will find arguments in support of this statement, the force of which I think no one can resist. Moreover, the plain course is not an aliquot part of 720, and Shipway himself was glad to let the thing drop in Minor. To make Stedman go on even numbers, the hunting bells must be inside, which, with six bells, is impossible. I see Mr. Fright is still of opinion that Stedman is an illegitimate method. Well, so am I, but I am also of opinion that it ought to be legitimate.

I am afraid that our esteemed friend "Bob Major," who I am glad to see has joined the ranks of ringer-poets (I once tried my hand at composing poems, and was told that my poetry and 2d. would get me a half of bitter in any public-house from Limehouse Church to the Marble Arch) has not understood me aright. Although I never so much as had a rope in my hand, and knew no more about ringing than a pig does about Sunday until about five years ago, when a fine ringer, whom I afterwards knew as Dick Deal, gave me my first pull at St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, being fond of bells and delighting to hear ringers talk from my earliest youth. I came into the Exercise with the beliefs that Stedman is a wonderful method, and that no one can be said to be a conductor until he has called Holt's Original. In regard to Stedman, I can say with the Queen of Sheba that the half of it was not told me, but in regard to the other belief, I quickly found that a man may be an excellent conductor without having, to use a figure of speech, kissed the blarney stone. I have no fault to find with Holt's Original excepting that peals divided into parts are better than peals not so divided. There are now so many peals free from this fault that it is a waste of energy and a misuse of ability for any conductor to learn, either Holt's Original or the better peal by Mr. Penning. However, to go on with my story, I expect Dick, whom I have not seen since his return from Australia to joint H.M. forces, has long since forgotten the incident, but I remember it well. Being in Hackney one night and hearing the bells going, I went up into the ringing room, as I had done so many times in towers all over the country, and when I had answered the usual question "Are you a ringer?" in the negative, I ventured to say I should like to be. "Oh," said Dick, "we will soon make a ringer of you; catch hold of this rope." But Dick for once in his life did not know whom he was talking about, for my greatest achievement is ringing a 720 of Bob Minor on an inside bell. I am getting afraid that I have missed my vocation, and am thinking about going in for poetry again.

GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

HAWKSHEAD. — Lincs. Association.—On Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, 1916, in 1 hr. 5 mins., at St. Michael's Church, a date touch of Bob Minor (1916 changes): Charles E. Webb (conductor) 1, William D. Heales 2, Frederick W. Coward 3, Thomas Bradley 4, Thomas Townsend 5, Joseph Ellwood 6.

OXFORD GUILD.

READING BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Guild was held at Reading on Saturday week. Previous to the service, which was held at St. Giles' Church, some capital touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent and Double Norwich Major was rung. The Rev. G. F. Naylor conducted the service, and gave a very interesting address.

The tea and business meeting were held at the Rising Sun Coffee Rooms, and members attended from Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames, Caversham, and the three towers of Reading. Mr. H. Bungay, of Binfield, and Miss M. Chillingworth, of Bradfield, were the only visitors.—Mr. G. J. Wright, in the absence, through illness, of the President (Mr. W. P. Routh) kindly consented to occupy the chair.—Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, Rev. R. H. Hart Davis, Rev. R. P. Newhouse, Mr. W. P. Routh, and last, but not least, from the worthy Master, the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, now in France serving as chaplain to His Majesty's Forces.

The balance sheet was adopted, and was considered very satisfactory.—Mr. A. E. Reeves proposed, and Mr. W. Newell seconded the re-election of Mr. W. P. Routh as President for the ensuing year, and this was carried with acclamation.—On the motion of Mr. A. Watmore, seconded by Mr. C. P. Oliver, Mr. A. W. Osborne was re-elected as hon. secretary and treasurer.—Mr. Osborne, in thanking the members once again for the confidence they placed in him, thought a change would be beneficial, and give him a rest. This the members would not hear of, so that there was no alternative but for him to again accept office.

Mr. G. J. Wright proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. G. F. Naylor, the organist and choir-boys for their attendance at the service, which was much appreciated by all.—The Rev. G. F. Naylor responding, said he was quite a stranger to most of them, but was only too pleased to be of any service to the bell ringers. He would have much pleasure in conveying to the choir boys and organist their thanks.

Mr. A. E. Reeves, the Guild secretary, gave some details of the work and finance of the Guild, stating there was a balance of £34 odd in hand, which was very satisfactory when they considered the hard times they are now passing through.

It was proposed by Mr. A. Cullum that the secretary convey the fraternal greetings of the meeting to the Master, wishing him the best of health and a speedy return to his labours among them once again.—This was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. W. Hopgood made a few remarks on the doings of the Central Council, on which he is one of the four representatives of the Oxford Guild. After some discussion, Mr. A. Cullum moved that the question of representatives to the Central Council be considered at the next general meeting of the Guild.

Mr. Wright proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the officers of the Reading branch, which was carried.

Mr. W. Newell, the "Father of Change Ringers" in Reading, came in for some very flattering remarks on his work among his pupils.—Mr. Newell, responding, stated he was never happier than when he was teaching young men or their sisters, if needs be, the art of change ringing, some 500 having passed through his hands in Reading and district during the 34 years he had been a bell ringer.

The musical part of the evening was much enlivened by the Shiplake band with their musical handbells, under their worthy conductor, Mr. O. Porter. The tunes being up-to-date, were very much appreciated. Concertina solos were played by Mr. W. Newell, and songs sung by Miss Dora Hopgood, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, Mr. W. Newell and Mr. C. Higgs. An exhibition of lapping the handbells was given by Mr. F. W. Hopgood and his two daughters, and a course of Grandsire Caters and Bob Major were rung by Messrs. C. Giles, R. T. Hibbert, A. W. Webb, F. W. Hopgood and A. W. Osborne. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought to a close another and most successful meeting of the branch.

SHREWSBURY.—Salop Guild.—On Jan. 29th, at St. Chad's Church, 264 Bob Maximus: G. Scarratt 1, A. Darnell 2, G. Byolin 3, W. Brooks 4, W. Weatherby 5, G. Jones 6, E. R. T. Corbett 7, T. W. Belton 8, W. Stockdale 9, W. Saunders (1st on 12) 10, A. Fullick 11, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 12; and 528 Grandsire Cinques: W. Hughes 1, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 2, A. Darnell 3, G. Byolin 4, W. Weatherby 5, G. Jones 6, E. R. T. Corbett 7, T. W. Belton 8, W. Stockdale 9, W. Saunders 10, A. Fullick 11, H. Jones 12; also 180 Bob Royal, and a course of Kent Treble Bob Major.—On Jan. 30th, for morning service, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, T. W. Belton 4, W. Stockdale 5, A. Darnell 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8; for evensong, 288 Kent, 70 Bob Major, 84 Stedman, 42 Grandsire.—On Feb. 6th, 168 Stedman Triples.—On Jan. 29th, at St. Alkmund's, 168 Stedman Triples and 112 Bob Major: W. Hughes 1, G. Byolin 2, T. W. Belton 3, E. R. T. Corbett 4, G. Jones 5, W. Weatherby 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.

HAMMERSMITH.—At St. Paul's Church, on Sunday, Feb. 27th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 44 mins.: Pte S. Meadows (A.S.C.) 1, H. Barrett 2, P. H. Smith 3, M. Jacobs 4, R. Mackrill 5, C. Hunt 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, H. Cook 8.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT HALSTEAD.

The North Eastern Division of the Essex Association held a meeting at Halstead on Saturday week, when members were present from Braintree, Bocking, Earl's Colne, Great Totham, Sible Hedingham, Gestingthorpe, Great Yeldham, Greenstead Green and Halstead. Touches in various methods were rung on the bells of St. Andrew's Church, and the ringers attended a special service at which the singing was led by the choir and organ. The Vicar, the Rev. T. H. Curling, preached from the text, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." In the course of his address he said: In the earlier history of the Church there were Guilds or Brotherhoods of men who carried out most of the work connected with it. This was not only the case in regard to its more spiritual work—the care and the shepherding of human souls—but also in regard to the designing and building of churches and the making of various things needed for furnishing them, such as stained glass windows, mural decorations, iron and brasswork, wood carving and so on. Now whenever you come across the work of these Guilds you find something in it, which is almost entirely wanting in our modern work of the same character. As you look at it you feel that it was executed by consecrated men—men who did their work not for the sake of what they could get out of it, but of what they could put into it, of the very best of what they were capable for the glory of God. And so there is about it all a freedom, a spontaneousness, a vigour, which is sadly missing in the things provided by ecclesiastical workshops to-day. The man is able thus to express his spirit through the work of his hands, and show us how necessary it is that we should aim at trying to find holy men for holy things. It is that thought that I want to leave with you this afternoon as members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. Up in the belfries of your churches you are engaged Sunday after Sunday in delivering the sweet-tongued message of the bells. As the bells peal out the summons to morning or evening prayer they are a call to men and women from the Master Himself. Now just as the music and singing comes with far deeper meaning from the fingers and lips of men and boys who play and sing for the glory of God, so too the message of the bells will have a fuller significance if we know that the men at the ropes have heard and are trying in their lives to obey it.

Subsequently the visitors sat down to tea at the White Horse.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

The Rev. T. H. Curling presided over the gathering, being supported by Mr. O. H. Howard, of Braintree, Master of the Association; the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, of Great Totham, the general secretary; Mr. G. H. Pannell, the District Master, who is a sapper in the Royal Engineers, and appeared in khaki; and Mr. B. Ridgewell, the district secretary. The Castle Hedingham ringers were elected members of the Association, and a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on the handbells by: S. Hald (Sible Hedingham) 1—2, C. H. Howard (Braintree) 3—4, H. Cooper (Great Yeldham) 5—6, L. Wiseman (Sible Hedingham) 7—8, A. Saunders (Greenstead Green) 9—10.

Mr. C. H. Howard proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and choir (including Mr. F. A. Vaizey, J.P., Vicar's warden) and the organist and those who had taken part in the arrangements for their reception. He proceeded to refer to those ringers who had responded to the country's call to duty, and suggested that a complete Roll of Honour of Church Bell Ringers should be prepared.

Mr. W. Root remarked that nine ringers had gone from the Halstead locality.

A voice: There is not a ringer left in Colne Engaine.

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, in seconding the vote of thanks, eulogised the work of the Rev. T. H. Curling on behalf of the church, which, he said, he had watched ever since the latter came into Essex. That work had already been recognised in high places, and Halstead was always regarded as a stepping-stone to the important positions in the church (applause). Personally he would like to thank Mr. Curling for the beautiful service at the church and the helpful address.

KEEP THE CHURCH BELLS RINGING.

In putting the vote of thanks to the meeting Mr. Howard said that whenever the ringers came to Halstead they always had a warm welcome from Mr. Curling. The clergy generally had always taken great interest in the Association, and when they attended their gatherings in the same way as Mr. Curling had that evening they were rendering a great service, which was much appreciated. Their presence gave the ringers much pleasure and encouragement. In making a humorous allusion to the ringers' jug of olden times, the speaker said they had lost their jug at Braintree, as a former vicar thought Colchester Museum the best place for it. He was very sorry to see that because he was very much interested in these ancient relics of the past. He did not wish to see the jug used for the purpose some people thought it was used in former days, but these links with the past ought to be preserved in the belfry towers. Bellringers were moving in the right direction; their associations were now recognised as a part of the Church's work. When he first joined the Association bell ringing was regarded as a hobby, but now it was recognised as a branch of

parochial Church work. He urged them to continue with energy and enthusiasm in that direction. They had lost a lot of their members through the war, and unfortunately some of them had fallen, and it behoved those who were left to keep the church bells ringing so that when their fellow-members returned from the war they might have the gratification of knowing that the good work which they had helped to maintain when they were at home had not been allowed to lapse. Nothing would give their heroes greater pleasure than to find that the bells had been kept ringing. All their own boys at the front now were anxious to know how the work was going on, and to see the Association maintained at its old standard. If they could not get men for the ringing of the bells they must introduce ladies. He had had the pleasure of ringing with ladies and found that they rang very gracefully. There was no reason why they should not introduce ladies to fill the gaps in villages where they could not get men. They must make every effort to keep the church bells going because if ever there was a day when they would give pleasure to everyone throughout the land it would be when peace was proclaimed, and their brave boys came home to take part in the rejoicings. If they did not keep bell ringing up so that they could be rung on the expected day it would be a poor compliment to the ringers of the past. At Colne Engaine, for instance, they had heard that there were no ringers left, and he would respectfully suggest that the Halstead ringers might lend a helping hand in such a place.

The vote of thanks having been carried with acclamation,

The Rev. T. H. Curling, in response, suggested that the roll of honour alluded to by Mr. Howard should find a place in their own cathedral at Chelmsford.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch was held at Slimbridge on Saturday week, when 22 members, representing twelve towers, attended, including the Rev. T. A. Garnett (President of the Branch), Mr. J. Austin (secretary of the Gloucester Branch) and Mr. J. W. Jones (secretary of the Llandaff Association). The bells were placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening by the Rector (the Rev. J. O. H. Carter), who, unfortunately, was unable to attend until the evening, but sent an apology and gave the members a hearty welcome to Slimbridge, by providing an excellent tea in the Old Schoolroom.

The Master (Mr. F. K. Howell) occupied the chair at the business meeting, at which one new member was elected, and Tytherington was selected as the next place for meeting, on March 18th.

The Chairman stated that one of the local ringers (Mr. Harold Hobbs) had been married that morning, and had sent some wedding cake for the members.—While this was being handed round, Mr. J. W. Jones moved a vote of congratulation to the bride and bridegroom, which was carried with enthusiasm.

Mr. H. W. Fussell proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be sent to the Rector for allowing the use of the bells, and for the kind way he had entertained them that afternoon.

A touch on the handbells concluded the meeting, after which the ringers adjourned to the tower and brought round touches of Grandsire Doubles, Stedman, Bob Minor, and Kent Treble Bob.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL.

On Sunday week, at Bradpole Parish Church, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 44 mins., by: R. Langford 1, Rev. C. F. Langford 2, J. Lathey 3, T. Hervey Beams (conductor) 4, H. Haines 5, H. Way 6, P. H. Beams 7, A. Hile 8. It was rung to welcome the ringer of the Treble, who has lately returned home, his ship, the "Helmsmuir," while on Government service, having been torpedoed and shelled by an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean. The crew were picked up and landed on the coast of Tripoli, from whence they were transferred to Port Said. The touch was also rung as a farewell to the ringer of the 7th, who is leaving for Egypt, and to the ringer of the 5th, who is about to join the forces under the group system. In the evening a 336 of Grandsire Triples was rung by: B. Elsworth 1, C. Lathey 2, J. Lathey 3, Rev. C. F. Langford 4, H. Haines 5, H. Way 6, T. Hervey Beams 7, A. Hile 8.

At Allesley, Coventry, on Sunday, Feb. 20th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: F. Brassington 1, Alfred Wilson 2, H. Kettle 3, J. Taylor 4, W. Cox 5, F. Andrew (conductor) 6. This was rung as a farewell to Mr. F. Andrew, a respected member of the Stoke, Coventry, band, who together with several other brother strings from Stoke, have been untiring in their efforts to instruct the local members in the art of change-ringing. It was originally arranged to include Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, but as practice in those methods has not for some time been available they had to be dropped.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.—On Tuesday, Jan. 4th, at the residence of Mr. F. J. Pitstow, on handbells, 952 Grandsire Triples, and 560 Bob Major: F. J. Pitstow 1—2, A. E. Pitstow 3—4, F. Pitstow (conductor) 5—6, F. Dench 7—8.—On Jan. 6th, 378 and 252 Grandsire Caters: H. N. Pitstow 1—2, A. E. Pitstow 3—4, F. Pitstow (conductor) 5—6, F. J. Pitstow 7—8, F. Dench 9—10.

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LIEUT. J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

his first peal of Stedman Triples with the late Rev. F. E. Robinson. Afterwards he shared in the melancholy task of ringing the muffled funeral peal of Stedman Triples at Wokingham, when the late Master of the Oxford Guild was buried.

At Cambridge, Mr. Freeborn took an active part in the operations of the University Guild, and he has in all rung about 50 peals, all on tower bells, including Cambridge, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob, seven minor methods, Stedman Caters and Triples and Grandsire Caters and Triples. He has rung in over 200 towers in England, and, in addition to belonging to the Cambridge University Guild, is a member of the Oxford Guild, in which most of his ringing has been done, the Oxford Society, St. Peter's Society, Caversham, the College Youths, the Worcestershire Association, the Warwickshire Guild, the Gloucester and Bristol Association, the Bath and Wells Association, the Devonshire Guild, the Winchester Guild, the Kent Association, the Surrey Association and the Ely Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Freeborn joined the 4th York and Lancaster Regt. in July last, the fact that he has lost the sight of one eye having prevented him from doing so earlier. But while making efforts to get into the Army he did some splendid work in the Sutton V.T.C., the members of which presented him with a sword on his receiving his commission.

WAS HOLT A "PIRATE" ?

DID HE MAKE FAME ON ANNABLE'S INVESTIGATIONS ?

By M. BANKES JAMES.

The name of John Holt, as brought before us in "Bob Major's" excellent notes last week, is one which I never hear uttered but it brings up in my mind the name of one greater than he, and makes me wonder whether perchance the laurel wreath of Grandsire Triples is not, even now, resting upon the wrong brow—whether the compositions of the "poor unlettered youth," so fulsomely belauded in the "Clavis," ought not with more propriety to be ascribed to the great master mind of Benjamin Annable?

The history of the period, and the events that then took place in the metropolis, are so involved, even after the evidence has been so carefully sifted by our great ringing historian in his "Grandsire," that it is very difficult to form an estimate of their true value, and the opinion to which I have been approaching for many years is one which has been built up on much hearsay evidence and tradition, gathered from I know not where, and for which I should find it impossible to give an authority.

But there may be others among the Exercise who will be able either to refute or verify my facts, and it is in the hope that more light may, if possible, be thrown upon the matter that I am penning this short article.

Let me put down the facts as best I can recall them.

Benjamin Annable was the leader of the College Youths; a man of very great ability, to whom we owe the very first attempts to bring our peals up to a high musical standard. He it was who invented "Tittum Grandsire Caters," the finest ringing music that has ever been framed; he it was who first taught the Exercise the value of keeping the tenors together, and his three-part peal of Bob Major is still a model of what symmetry in composition can be. This man had one great ambition. No reason had then been given to the Exercise why a peal of Grandsire Triples should not be produced without a single, and it was his desire to produce such a composition.

John Holt and he at first were friends, nay, Holt would seem to have been almost a pupil of the other. He must have known of Annable's work, and probably was conversant with all the long lengths that Annable had produced in his attempts.

Then comes a change. Holt produces the "Original" and his other peals, and, I think, I have heard that the quarrel was so great between them that they never spoke again. At all events the feeling was so strong that the College Youths, to a man, refused to have any hand in the publication of Holt's broad sheet of peals.

I used to think that Annable was a very narrow-minded man to show so much rancour against his former friend for merely calling a peal of Grandsire Triples with two singles in it. Then came the thought, what if there were some stronger reason behind it all?

Annable must have produced some long lengths in his investigations. Where are they? What if John Holt's peals were produced by taking Annable's touches and splicing them together with singles? What if it were Benjamin Annable who produced those two half-peals—the finest work in Grandsire composition of that or any other age—and John Holt spliced them together in the worst possible way that it could be done and issued them to the world as his own peal? Should we not then see reason for "That ingenious ringer, Mr. Annable's not encour-

aging of it," and for the feelings of ill-will that he bore to Holt.

Just one more consideration which gives strength to my suspicions. After publishing his three peals, why did Holt stop? The mind that produced the ten-part and the six-part held the key to the situation, and could easily have put together the whole gamut of peals that have since appeared in this method. But if it were Annable who supplied the bobs, while Holt only added the singles, it is easy to see why the supply of compositions ran short so soon after the great secret had first been tapped.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Owing to the curtailment of postal facilities, correspondents are requested to forward their communications as promptly as possible. We cannot guarantee to insert anything which does not reach us by first post on Tuesdays.

FAMOUS PEALS OF THE PAST.

In the progress of record making, Monday next, March 6th, marks the anniversary of the longest length of Treble Bob Maximus rung up to the time the Painswick men scored their 10,224 in 6 hrs. 50 mins., on December 29th, 1833, for on March 6th, 1832, the Oldham men rang 7,392 in the method in 5 hrs. 14 mins. 32 secs. The band comprised: Jos. Newton (conductor) 1, Jno. Jackson 2, Jno. Newton 3, Jas. Mills 4, Jas. Jackson 5, Thos. Nicholson 6, Wm. Rigby 7, Jno. Brierley 8, Ed. Taylor 9, Jno. Whitehead 10, Thos. Chadderton 11, Abram. Jackson 12. The tenor at Oldham was 34 cwt.

The number of changes in this peal was not so very much in advance of the length rung nearly 50 years before at Southwark, where on March 10th, 1784, the College Youths scored a 7008 in the Oxford variation, in 5 hrs. 48 mins., the ringers being: W. Richardson 1, W. Hatt, senr., 2, W. Hatt, junr., 3, J. Povey 4, J. Darquitt 5, G. Scarbrook 6, J. Worster 7, Wm. Lyford 8, J. Monk 9, H. Holdsworth 10, E. Sylvester 11, S. Muggeridge 12. The peal was conducted by J. Povey.

The anniversary of a very noteworthy performance will be reached on Wednesday next, for it was on March 8th, 1737—nearly 180 years ago—that a peal of 12,603 Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. In the year before that two trebles had been added to the old eight at St. Peter's, and the Norwich men, then among the foremost exponents of the art in the country, went in for ten-bell ringing with great enthusiasm. Their wonderful performance is thus chronicled upon a tablet in the belfry:—

On March the 8th, 1737, was rung a peal of Grandsire Caters, which for excellency of its ringing, Harmonious changes and ye number of them, was certainly superior to anything of its kind ever done in the World; and to Remove all doubt of the truth of the performance several ingenious Ringers were abroad the whole time with proper rules to prove the certainty of ye same. Thus was this great peal perfectly completed to the entire satisfaction, surprise and amazement, of thousand of hearers in the space of 8 hrs. 15 mins. The number of changes were 12,603 rung by nine men of the company then belonging to the company. The tenor singly, by a young ringer 8,000, then a second ringer rung her to the end of the peal. The persons names and the bells they rung as follows:—

Tho. Melchior .. 1	Tho. Barrett .. 4	Tho. Blofield .. 7
Wm. Pettingall .. 2	Robert Crane .. 5	Edwd. Crane .. 8
John Gardiner .. 3	Wm. Porter .. 6	Christr. Booty .. 9
James Jerom, Robt. Liddamon .. Tenor		

The same day, March 8th, is the anniversary of a peal of 10,047 Stedman Caters which was rung at Aston by the St. Martin's Society, in the year 1859. The time occupied was 6 hrs. 16 mins., and the ringers were: John Perks 1, Amos Cresser 2, Wm. Haywood 3, John Bannister 4, Chas. Shaw 5, Thos. Macdonald 6, Wm. Chattell 7, Robt. Wright 8, Joseph Spencer 9, Jesse Cutler 10. "The above peal," says the record, "was rung single-handed, and what eminently combines to enrich this performance is, it was rung at the first attempt, and is the greatest number of changes ever completed in this intricate system. Composed for this occasion by Henry Johnson, and ably conducted by John Perks."

DEPTFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, Feb. 20th, for evening service, at St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 42 mins.: G. R. Simmonds 1, A. G. Bennington 2, E. J. Pannett 3, J. Law 4, E. B. Crowder 5, A. G. Mason 6, W. J. Jeffries (con.) 7, J. Crowder 8.

NORTH MYMMS.—Hertfordshire Association.—On Jan. 2nd, for morning service, with the bells half-muffled, 720 Plain Bob Minor: F. Bennett 1, J. Day 2, G. Spencer 3, C. Nash 4, W. Nash 5, A. Lawrence (conductor) 6.—On Jan. 22nd, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Rev. C. G. Ward 1, F. Bennett 2, W. Nash 3, C. Nash 4, H. Reeves (conductor) 5, E. Whitbread 6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BRADFIELD, BERKS.—On Jan. 6th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Perry (1st 720) 1, C. Wooldridge (1st inside) 2, T. Hillier 3, M. Bowley 4, M. E. Chillingworth 5, A. E. Reeves (conductor) 6.

REIGATE.—On Saturday, Jan. 8th, with the bells muffled, 1623 Grandsire Triples, from Holt's Original: W. Pooley 1, E. Dewey 2, H. Jordan 3, H. Ewins 4, G. Hoad (conductor) 5, W. Claydon 6, Pte Cook (Ashtead) 7, H. Hoad 8.—On January 30th, for evening service, 467 Grandsire Caters: W. Pooley 1, H. Ewins 2, E. Dewey 3, W. Claydon 4, H. Jordan 5, F. Rice 6, G. Hoad (conductor) 7, T. Sparks 8, H. Card 9, H. Hoad 10.—On Feb. 17th, as a farewell to W. Smith, a member of the above society, who was leaving the district for the army, the following touches were rung; also 449 Grandsire Caters: E. Dewey 1, H. Card 2, W. Claydon 3, H. Ewins 4, F. Rice 5, H. Jordan 6, G. Hoad (conductor) 7, T. Sparks 8, H. Hoad 9, W. Pooley 10; and 288 Kent Treble Bob Major and 138 Stedman Triples.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Durham and Newcastle Association. — At St. Cuthbert's Church, for morning service, on January 23rd, 1080 Newcastle Surprise (first in the method by ringer of the treble); for evening service, 960 Canterbury Surprise; on Jan. 30th, 1080 Canterbury; Feb. 13th, for morning service, 840 Newcastle; for evening service, 720 Canterbury; Feb. 20th, 360 London Surprise: J. K. Fisher 1, J. W. Forster 2, J. Marshall 3, T. H. Surtees 4, A. Charlton 5, F. Barrow (conductor) 6.

GUILDFORD.—At St. Nicolas' Church, on Sunday, Jan. 23rd, for evening service, 518 Grandsire Triples: S. Radford (conductor) 1, E. Etheridge 2, Pte F. E. Smith 3, Pte H. Tomsett 4, W. Loader 5, T. W. Radford 6, S. G. Steer 7, E. Heather 8.—On Sunday, Jan. 30th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: G. Petter 1, E. Etheridge 2, T. W. Radford 3, W. Loader 4, Pte F. E. Smith 5, S. G. Steer 6, S. Radford (conductor) 7, E. Heather 8. Arranged for Pte Frederick E. Smith, A.S.C., now stationed at Aldershot, and a member of St. Mary's, All Saints', Chesterfield.

ABERAVON, SOUTH WALES.—On Saturday, Jan. 29th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Stitch 1, A. Pitman 2, W. Nulton 3, D. Frankcom 4, H. Perry 5, A. Perry 6, J. Cox (conductor) 7, J. Withersby 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the memory of the late Mr. E. Clarke, who for several years was a devoted and faithful ringer in St. Mary's Church.—On Saturday, Feb. 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Stitch 1, J. Cox 2, W. Nulton 3, D. Frankcom 4, H. Perry 5, A. Perry 6, A. Pitman (conductor) 7, J. Withersby 8.

MISSENDEN, BUCKS.—On Saturday, Jan. 29th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 31 mins.: Wm. Horne 1, W. H. Fassell 2, John Evans 3, W. Henley 4, J. Blackmore 5, R. Buckland (first in the method as conductor) 6. First 720 in method on the bells. Touches of Bob Minor, with W. Evans, F. Starr and E. Elburn; and Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, with Mr. Barnes and others.

KING'S CLIFFE.—On January 29th, 120 Grandsire Doubles: H. Bailey 1, Miss Orlebar 2, J. T. Blake (conductor) 3, E. Adams 4, P. Roberts 5. This is the first time for many years the King's Cliffe ringers have completed 120, the ten only having been rung.

HAMMERSMITH.—On January 30th, at St. Paul's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, M. H. Stevens 2, H. Barrett 3, P. H. Smith 4, R. Mackrill 5, H. Cook 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, P. C. Brooks 8.

WEST EALING.—On Sunday, Jan. 30th, for evening service, at St. Stephen's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 42 mins.: C. Edwards 1, A. W. Davis 2, H. Holifield (Abingdon) 3, G. Harboure 4, H. H. Chandler 5, A. Harding 6, J. A. Trollope (conductor) 7, Corpl. P. Clark 8. For evening service, on Feb. 13th, 588 Grandsire Triples: C. Edwards 1, R. Holloway 2, Miss E. Jones 3, J. Hunnisett 4, J. H. Payne 5, J. A. Trollope 6, A. Harding 7, W. Lawrence 8.

MANSFIELD, WOODHOUSE.—On Sunday, Jan. 30th, for divine service, at St. Edmund's Church, 1080 London Surprise (including 720), in 42 mins.: Arthur Munks 1, Robert Sheppard 2, Charles Rogers 3, Signaller G. Bennett 4, John Radford 5, Alfred Munks (conductor) 6. First Surprise extent by all the band, and first on the bells.

BROMLEY, KENT.—On Jan. 30th, for morning service, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, 462 Grandsire Triples: C. Austin 1, H. J. Blackwell 2, G. Durling 3, P. J. Spice 4, G. Huxley 5, Gnr. G. Dowling, of Hull, 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, S. Miles 8; and 504 of Stedman Triples: G. Huxley 1, H. J. Blackwell 2, G. Durling 3, P. J. Spice 4, Gnr. G. Dowling (R.G.A.) 5, E. F. Pike 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, C. Austin 8.

MIDSOMER NORTON.—At St. John the Baptist's Church, on Septuagesima Sunday, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: *W. Cornelius 1, I. B. Holmyard 2, S. Freke 3, F. Speed (conductor) 4, F. Chivers 5, J. Hambleton 6, W. Keevill 7, *T. Griffin 8. *First quarter-peal. W. Cornelius is a member of the Chewton Mendip band, and T. Griffin of the Radstock band. All the rest are members of the local company.

HATFIELD.—Hertfordshire Association.—On Sunday, Jan. 30th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), in 50 mins., by the Hatfield College Youths: F. Cull 1, J. J. Powers 2, W. J. Rumney 3, J. Shepherd 4, H. S. Reeves 5, J. T. Kentish (conductor) 6, W. Nash 7, A. Lawrence 8.

LINDLEY.—At St. Stephen's Church, on Sunday evening, Jan. 30th, a date touch (1916 changes), of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 12 mins.: J. Craven 1, H. Armitage 2, J. Rollinson 3, J. H. Steele 4, G. T. Turner 5, A. Crossland 6, C. H. Craven 7, C. Craven 8. Arranged and conducted by C. H. Craven.

CRANLEIGH, SURREY.—On February 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: Gilbert, Charman 1, Mrs. R. Whittington (first quarter of Triples on an inside bell) 2, Harry Tidy 3, Alwyn Charman 4, Robert Whittington 5, John Knight 6, William Charman (conductor) 7, Thomas Worsfold 8. First quarter-peal by the ringer of treble, to whom credit is due, as he has been ringing only a few months.

NEWTON LONGVILLE, BUCKS.—On Feb. 5th, on the occasion of the opening of a mission to this parish by the Bishop of Buckingham, for the opening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: R. Nichols 1, W. Sear 2, L. Meager 3, W. Pether 4, H. Sear (conductor) 5, W. Smith 6, H. Taylor (Royal Engineers) 7, T. Best 8. 504 Stedman Triples: R. Nichols 1, H. Sear (conductor) 2, L. Meager 3, W. Pether 4, T. Best 5, E. Marks 6, W. Sear 7, V. Sear 8. 336 Stedman Triples: R. Nichols 1, W. Smith 2, L. Meager 3, W. Pether 4, T. Best 5, H. Sear 6, W. Sear (conductor) 7, H. Taylor 8. The ringing was half-muffled, in memory of the Bishop's two sons who have lost their lives in the war, and was much appreciated by the Bishop, who entered the belfry and thanked the ringers for their excellent ringing.

WALTHAMSTOW.—Middlesex Association and the St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Society.—On Sunday, Feb. 6th, for evensong, at St. Mary's Church, 1277 Stedman Caters, in 49 mins.: H. T. Scarlett 1, F. Rumens 2, H. J. Maynard 3, C. T. Coles (conductor) 4, R. Maynard, junr., 5, J. C. Adams 6, R. Maynard, senr., 7, H. J. Wilkins 8, C. Maynard 9, A. Chapman 10.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On Feb. 6th, at the Parish Church, for morning service, 360 Plain Bob Minor, conducted by W. Watts; and on Feb. 7th, 360 Plain Bob Minor: W. W. Watts 1, W. Watts 2, R. Law 3, G. Gray 4, A. Jordan 5, T. J. Watts (conductor) 6, H. W. Watts 8.

BARNES.—At St. Mary's Church, for divine service, on Feb. 6th, and as a compliment to Mr. H. Barrett's mother, on her 71st birthday, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 43 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, C. Hunt 2, H. Barrett 3, R. Mackrill 4, H. Cook 5, P. H. Smith 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, J. Wilmott 8.

MALVERN LINK.—Worcestershire Association.—On Feb. 6th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, 1008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 39 mins.: H. Chance 1, W. Niblett 2, E. E. Barber 3, F. Stanton 4, F. Bryan 5, A. W. Brighton (of London), conductor, 6, C. Camm 7, R. G. Knowles 8.—On Feb. 9th, the same band rang the following touches as a birthday compliment to the conductor, 448 Double Norwich, 288 Kent Treble Bob Major, 224 Bob Major, 252 Stedman Triples, and 210 Grandsire Triples, conducted by A. W. Brighton.

SOUTHGATE.—Middlesex Association.—On Sunday, Feb. 6th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bristol Surprise Major (1280 changes), in 48 mins.: A. R. Glasscock 1, E. G. Tomlinson 2, G. W. Fletcher 3, S. Wade 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, H. Miller (first quarter of Bristol) 6, J. Armstrong (conductor) 7, F. G. Tegg 8. Arranged so that a quarter of Bristol might be attempted previous to the ringers of 2, 5, and tenor joining the army in their groups. The ringers of 2 and 8 are in Group 9 and the other in Group 12.

CHESHUNT.—Hertfordshire Association.—On Sunday, Feb. 6th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (from Thurstan's four-part), 1260 changes: *G. Andrews 1, *G. Maxim 2, S. Proctor 3, F. Jelf 4, *H. Simmons 5, W. Saban 6, G. Radley (conductor) 7, C. Diley 8. * First quarter-peal in the method.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday evening, Feb. 6th, at St. Leonard's Church, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), in 45 mins.: E. Horrex 1, E. Gibbs 2, A. J. Perkins (composer and conductor) 3, L. Attwater 4, C. Dean 5, J. Lee 6, C. F. Winney 7, H. Langdon 8. Has calls at every position of the tenor, in four courses, with 6-4 and 6-5 in 5-6, full bobs at "home," the 6th at "home" two courses. This was rung on the occasion of the conductor's 64th birthday.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS.—Oxford Guild.—On Feb. 6th, for evening service, at All Saints' Church, in honour of the birthday of the Rector (the Rev. B. Long), a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 47 mins.: E. Wittingham 1, F. Lush 2, W. Jeynes 3, A. Loader (first quarter-peal) 4, S. Paice 5, W. Brooks 6, A. Price (conductor) 7, G. Green 8.

CARDIFF.—Llandaff Association.—At St. John's Church, on Feb. 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Hammet (wife of the churchwarden of St. John's), whose funeral took place during the day: E. Coles 1, H. Day 2, D. Thomas 3, T. Rodman 4, W. Bolton 5, F. Edwards 6, S. Dawe (conductor) 7, S. Barker 8.

CLUN, SHROPSHIRE.—Hereford Diocesan Guild.—On Sunday, Feb. 13th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes), in 50 mins.: F. A. Watkins 1, R. Morris 3, C. Minton (conductor) 4, W. Roberts 5, W. Mead 6, G. Griffiths 7, J. Davies 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mrs. Townsend, wife of Mr. G. Townsend, C.C., churchwarden of Clun, and Lieut. D. Neil G. Buchanan; also other fallen heroes from the parish.

TRING, HERTS.—On Sunday, Feb. 13th, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: F. Pitkin 1, F. Reeves 2, H. Lovell 3, A. Tomkins 4, Pte H. F. Cooper (5th Essex Regt.), conductor, 5, O. Bayes 6, H. Ealey 7, W. Redman 8.

BURNLEY, LANCs.—On Sunday, Feb. 13th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins.: T. Lord (conductor) 1, H. Tomlinson 2, D. Campbell 3, N. Townend 4, W. Hunter 5, W. Marshall 6, R. Haworth 7, J. W. Heys 8. Rung in honour of W. Hunter, who is expected to be called to the colours shortly.

SOUTHAM.—Warwickshire Guild.—On Sunday, Feb. 13th, for morning service, 600 Grandsire Doubles: A. Atkins 1, W. King 2, E. Berry 3, J. H. White 4, J. King (conductor) 5, W. Pratt 6. For evening service, 480 Grandsire Doubles: A. Atkins 1, J. H. White (conductor) 2, F. King 3, J. King 4, E. Berry 5, W. Pratt 6, W. King 7. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to Miss L. Hart Davies, the elder daughter of the Rev. J. Hart Davies, Rector of Southam, who died February 8th, and was interred in the churchyard on Feb. 11th.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Feb. 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 47 mins.: A. Crane (first-quarter of Stedman) 1, W. Mead 2, J. Mead 3, H. Morris 4, H. Sear 5, W. Sear 6, F. Stenton (first-quarter as conductor) 7, T. Best 8. Rung as a compliment to Mr. Valentine Sear, whose birthday falls on the 14th.

LONDON.—London County Association.—On Sunday, Feb. 14th, for evening service, at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: F. Davis 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, F. A. Smith 3, C. H. Hughes 4, C. S. Burden 5, W. Ayres 6, T. Walker 7, W. T. Walden 8.

STOURBRIDGE.—On Sunday, Feb. 14th, for evening service, at St. Thomas' Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1280 changes), in 55 mins.: C. Wm. Cooper 1, J. Bass 2, W. A. Pugh 3, W. Potter 4, C. E. Perkins 5, G. Popnell 6, R. Matthews (conductor) 7, A. W. Dodd 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mrs. Fiddian, wife of Mr. W. Fiddian, churchwarden at the above church.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Feb. 17th, at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Seage's Dumb Practice Apparatus, 360 Bob Minor: J. Taylor 1, Rev. H. B. Woolley 2, Rev. A. H. F. Boughiey 3, B. F. Sheppard 4, J. B. Williamson (conductor) 5, Lieut. E. V. Rodenhurst 6. Also at Long Stanton, on Feb. 20th, after Matins, 360 Bob Minor: W. Neal 1, Geo. Crisp 2, Rev. H. B. Woolley 3, B. F. Sheppard 4, C. W. Cook (con.) 5, Lieut. E. V. Rodenhurst 6.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Feb. 20th, for morning service, 360 Bob Minor: W. H. Lawrence 1-2, S. Game 3, Trooper B. Carter (9th Lancers, home from the trenches) 4, A. Phillips 5, E. A. Overall (conductor) 6. For afternoon service, 720 Oxford Bob, standing as before.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, Feb. 20th, for services, 336 Grandsire Triples and 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Leonard 1, H. Sear 2, H. Morris 3, A. Crane 4, L. Meager 5, W. Mead 6, W. Sear (conductor) 7, V. Sear 8. First 504 by E. Leonard.

NEWMARKET, CAMBS.—On Sunday, Feb. 20th, at All Saints' Church, 224 Bob Major, 139 Grandsire Triples and a course of Kent Treble Major: S. Forwood 1, A. Macro 2, P. Pindar 3, P. Fordham 4, R. Sharp 5, G. Noble 6, T. Fitzjohn 7, Corpl. J. W. Barker (conductor) 8. Messrs. Fitzjohn and Macro hail from Retford; Fordham from Mildenhall; Corpl. Barker from Bedford. The rest are local men.

SELBY.—On Feb. 20th, at the Abbey Church, for morning service, 673 Grandsire Triples: J. Jackson 1, G. W. P. Fenton 2, E. Storr 3, T. Morgan 4, W. A. Hall 5, W. Hinton 6, H. Fairlam (conductor) 7, G. Rippon 8.

HILLINGDON (WEST).—On Sunday evening, Feb. 27th, for service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: J. Peddle 1, W. Lawrence 2, T. Smith 3, W. Honor 4, H. H. Chandler 5, E. Hancox (conductor) 6, R. Carter 7, E. Hughes 8.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, Feb. 27th, for morning service (after meeting short for Stedman Triples), 720 Bob Minor: J. Fruin 1, R. Holloway 2, W. Lawrence (conductor) 3, G. Iles 4, W. H. Hollier 5, J. A. Trollope 6.

A LEAD WANTED.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Through your valuable medium I should like to make a suggestion, viz., a permanent adoption of half-muffled ringing "for the duration of the war." This, if carried out throughout the universe, would meet with approval by at least nine-tenths of the ringing community, and would be appreciated also by the authorities and public alike.

We are labouring in solemn times, and each one of us will not resist the effort by way of a compliment, and a token of respect to each and all who have given us their lives to enable us to carry on the objects of our existence.

The ringing of half-muffled bells does not give one a despondent feeling—rather the reverse, to an enthusiast, at least. That is my experience, and I don't presume to enjoy an isolated opinion. Half-muffled ringing is not so mournful as deeply muffled bells. Further, the public regard a half-muffled peal with some interest, more so, than when the bells are fully open, which is understood only by those taking part. Anyway, the application of half muffles will serve their purpose in these distressful times whether for Sunday ringing, meetings or practices, and it would synchronise with the sentiment that is more or less within us all.

Reading through our Press one invariably discovers a peal or touch rung half-muffled for some departed hero, whether connected with the Church or not. Practically every church would point to a one-time associate who has lost his life in this foul-begotten war. Ringers should enter more heartily into this matter, and bring pressure upon those in charge. They would then not only help themselves materially, but be doing honour to those in and outside the Church, and to their fallen ringing colleagues. Undoubtedly also laymen will look up to us with some admiration for our tact. Practices would not be so restricted, and could be utilised for a two-fold purpose. Bands are very much depleted in these days, and if the foregoing were brought into operation it would give opportunities for would-be ringers to be "brought on" without a question from those without the Church.

H.

NOTICE TO READERS.

Terms as to advertisement spaces, etc., can be had upon application.

"The Ringing World" will be on sale every Friday morning, and is obtainable through any newsagent. Should any difficulty be found in securing the paper punctually, information should at once be sent to the office.

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NOTICES.

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ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Established 1755. — The Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at Ye Old Royal Hotel, Temple Row, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, at 6 o'clock. Chair will be taken by Canon J. W. Willink, Rector of Birmingham. Tickets free to all fully qualified members, to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) and Bishop Ryder's (8) will be available from 3.30 p.m. — A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Marple on Saturday, March 4th.—A. T. Beeston, Honorary Branch Secretary, New Mills.

WINCHESTER GUILD.—Yorktown District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Church House at 5.30.—G. Miles, Hon. Secretary, Owlsmoor, Camberley.

BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM. — The bells at this church are rung on Sundays for service at the following times: 10.15 a.m. to 11 a.m., from 5.45 to 6.30 p.m. All ringers will be welcomed. — James George, Ringing Master, 125, Victoria Road, Aston.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Canterbury District).—A meeting will be held at Lyminge on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at Rectory (by kind invitation of Rev. A. F. Rutty). Business after tea. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid to me either before or at the meeting.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Shipley on March 4th. Bells available from 2 p.m., tea at 5.30. Subscriptions for 1916 are now due. — A. W. Groves, Honorary Secretary, 9, Sugden Road, Worthing.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The general meeting of the above society will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, March 4th, 1916. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 7.30 p.m., in the White Cross Hotel, at which the election of officers will take place.—Wm. Barton, Secretary, 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual meeting of the Southern District will be held at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, March 11th. Bells (12) available 3 to 7 p.m. Business meeting 7.15 p.m. in Wolstenholme Hall. — Leonard Brightman, District Secretary pro. tem., 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Pendlebury on Saturday, March 11th. Bells ready at 4, till dusk. Meeting to follow. Subscriptions due. Reports can be had on application; to life members 6d. each.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Western District will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, March 11th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., 1s. per head to all giving notice to Mr. W. Knott, Listing Lane, Liversedge, not later than March 7th. Subscriptions received and reports issued at this meeting. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, District Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, March 11th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 5.30.—A. E. Woodhouse, Branch Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, March 18th, 1916. Bells ready at 3 o'clock.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Wedford on Saturday, March 18th. Bells available 3 o'clock till 7. Service 5 o'clock. Tea provided for those who notify me before the 15th. Subscriptions for 1916 are now due.—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Hornsey, on Saturday, March 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Further particulars next week.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.—In consequence of re-arrangements in the management of the Sutton Coldfield Parish Church tower, all communications with reference to ringing matters should, in the first instance, be made to Mr. F. Dickens, Walmley Road, Reddick Heath, Sutton Coldfield.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—P.C. A. E. Edwards, of Barcombe, Sussex, has been transferred to Robertsbridge Police Station.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE WILLIAM SNOWDON.—The Members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers propose to erect a Memorial to the late William Snowdon in the form of a Brass Tablet in Ilkley Parish Church, near to the Ringers' Window already erected to the memory of his brother, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon. Will any person wishing to be associated with this movement kindly communicate with the Treasurer to the Fund, Mr. H. Williams, New Worthy Cemetery, Leeds, Yorks.

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.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On Feb. 14th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, R. Law 3, F. Bird 4, H. W. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6, T. J. Watts 8.—On Feb. 21st, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, T. J. Watts 3, R. Law 4, F. Bird 5, A. Jordan 6, W. Watts (conductor) 7, H. W. Watts 8.

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