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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1917.

Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Lenor (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 gives 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 CENTRAL COUNCIL.

In an article printed in another column, Mr. J. Armiger Trollope reopens the question of the work of the Central Council, and we are glad of the opportunity of further explaining our own views. Mr. Trollope is right in his assumption that what we intended to convey was that the Council should not be a debating society for the theorists to the exclusion of practical questions. No one who has watched closely the work of the Council would suggest that other matters have been entirely excluded by the debates on theoretical subjects, but there has sometimes been a tendency for the latter to oust the former. What, we believe, the Exercise feels in the matter, is that a great deal of time is taken up by the discussion of questions—admittedly of importance to the furtherance of the Art—by experts, who often cannot agree among themselves, and whose arguments are sometimes beyond the comprehension of many of their listeners, not, let us say at once, because the listeners lack intelligence, but because such complex subjects as method, construction, and kindred matters are things which require long study if they are to be fully understood.

And here, we may say, we are in full agreement with Mr. Trollope when he complains of the time occupied by those who attempt to talk on subjects they don't understand or have but superficial knowledge of. Unless a man has thoroughly grasped the technicalities of a subject or explored thoroughly the depths of a problem, he only wastes time and confuses the issue by attempting to criticise the views of those who have spent, perhaps, years in pursuing an objective. To ask a gathering, such as the Central Council is, to say more or less off-hand, whether the report of a committee or the views of some individual member on a question involving long proof by figures, is really just as absurd as to ask the average ringer to say at a glance whether the figures of some new composition are true. Such matters are best left to the experts to thresh out in private, and their findings ought to be accepted.

Mr. Trollope recalls the instance of the last Council meeting in London to show how one member, in the hope of getting his personal views adopted against the considered and long-accepted opinions of a Committee, managed to engage the best part of an afternoon to the exclusion of other speakers and other subjects, and he gives the Exercise for the first time some facts which add to the force of the argument that the time of the Council is not unfrequently wasted unnecessarily. It is the Council's methods as much as its actions which in late years have brought many people—mistaken as the idea may be—to look upon it as an organisation of little practical use.

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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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST

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STEEL OR IRON.

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TEN BELL PEAL.

SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD
(ST. CHAD'S SOCIETY).

On Saturday, October 6, 1917, in Three Hours and Twenty-seven Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 39 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lb. in B.

GEORGE SCARRATT Treble	RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 6
LEONARD HEWITT 2	WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... 7
JOHN W. JONES 3	GEORGE JONES 8
ERNEST WEATHERBY 4	ALFRED E. FULLICK ... 9
WILLIAM R. STOCKDALE ... 5-	CHARLES R. LILLEY ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

First peal of Royal by all excepting the ringers of the 3rd, 6th and 10th. Rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. Alfred T. Marston, who was one of the churchwardens at the time the bells were recast and rehung. First peal of Royal by the Guild and first of Royal on the bells since being recast. The last peal of Bob Royal rung in this tower was on Aug. 17th, 1799, by the Union Society that originally flourished here. The ringers of 2nd and 7th hail from Coalbrookdale, the 3rd from Newport, Mon., 4th Market Drayton, 6th Crewe, the rest belong to St. Chad's.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD

On Saturday, September 29, 1917, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE, BLAKENHALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

ISAAC PURSER Treble	REUBEN HALL 5
WILLIAM BAYLISS 2	JESSE SCREEN 6
THOMAS HARTON 3	JOHN BRADNEY 7
ANDREW JONES 4	DANIEL JONES Tenor

Composed by S. BIDDLESTONE, and
Conducted by JESSE SCREEN.

The above peal was rung on the occasion of the Harvest Festival.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 6, 1917, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 9 cwt. 0 qr. 26 lbs.

GEORGE WILLIAMS Treble	HENRY W. WILKES ... 5
WILLIAM G. EDWARDS ... 2	CHARLES J. FRAY ... 6
PT. A. A. JONES, A.S.C. ... 3	WILLIAM H. GEORGE ... 7
REV. E. BANKES JAMES ... 4	SPR. W. G. ROWE, R.E. ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late Mr. John W. Whiting, of Fareham.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, October 6, 1917, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 11½ cwt. in F.

PT. GEORGE LOFF Treble	PT. HERBERT TOMPSETT 5
WILLIAM HAIGH 2	MUS. VICTOR A. JARRETT 6
† RICKS PAINE 3	SERGT. FRED A. HOLDEN 7
CPL. EDWIN G. BUESDEN 4	* WALTER H. ROWLES ... Tenor

Conducted by FRED A. HOLDEN.

Rung to commemorate our great victory in Flanders. * First peal. † First in the method. Corpl. Buesden's 150th peal. Ptes. Luff and Tomsett were elected members of the Association in the belfry, and hail from Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Lindfield, Sussex, respectively.

BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, October 6, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES:

GROVES' VARIATION OF J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

JESSE GILLET 1	MISS EDITH K. PARKER	... 5
FRANK A. WAITE 2	THOMAS NEWMAN	... 6
JOHN AUSTIN 3	ALFRED A. WAITE	... 7
HENRY MITCHELL 4	ARTHUR J. WAITE	... Tenor

Conducted by MISS EDITH K. PARKER.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. H. Mitchell on his 82nd birthday. Miss Parker cycled from Pershore, over 20 miles, to take part in the peal.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN DIVISION.)

On Saturday, October 6, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES:

Consisting of 720 each of Roystone Delight, Arnold's Victory, College Pleasure, London Scholars' Pleasure, Duke of York, Violet and Oxford.

Tenor 14 cwt.

EGERTON G. NICHOLLS	...Treble	WILLIAM WOODCOCK	... 4
GEORGE HILL 2	ARTHUR GILL 5
ARTHUR PANTHER 3	CHARLES WALSH	... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR PANTHER.

* First peal as conductor.

DEATH OF GALLANT SOLDIER-RINGER.

MAJOR G. B. WARD, R.F.C., M.C.

Mr. D. Ward, of the Lower Hall, Foxearth, has received information that his eldest son, Major George Bernard Ward, of the Royal Flying Corps, has been killed at the front. He was shot down within the British lines. The late Major Ward joined up at the outbreak of hostilities, and soon gained promotion by his daring and skill. He had not been long in France before he was decorated with the Military Cross, and he recently had a bar added to it for further achievements. At the time of his death he had attained the rank of Squadron Commander and Major. He was 26 years of age, and, like his father, had an early liking for bells. When a schoolboy he used to visit the tower and watch the ringers at their work. After he had finished his education, he returned home to settle down, and when Mr. S. Evans raised a local band he joined them. This band were all born and lived in Foxearth (a small parish), and they continued to ring together until dismembered by the war. During the years 1911-12-13, they rang several peals of Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, and one peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. Mr. Ward took part in these performances. He was an apt pupil, and was a good ringer and striker. By his early death his native village loses one of its brightest stars. His place will be hard to fill in more than one capacity. By his manners he had won the esteem and respect of all with whom he came in contact.

Major Ward was killed on September 21st, and on Sunday, Sept. 30th, 1917, a memorial service was held at Foxearth Church. The building was packed to overflowing, a large number of people failing to gain admission. The service consisted of a part of the Burial Service, the Nunc Dimittis, and the hymns, "On the resurrection morning" and "For all the Saints who from their labours rest," were sung. About 50 members of the V.T.C. attended. At the conclusion of the service the "Last Post" was sounded on the bugles, and the National Anthem was sung.

Before the service two short touches were rung on the bells of the Parish Church, with deeply muffled clappers, by: J. Taylor 1, T. E. Slater 2, W. P. Gridley 3, F. Inch 4, A. Maxim 5, G. W. Moore 6, A. Taylor 7, S. Evans 8. After the service a 720 of Bob Major was rung, half-muffled, by: T. E. Slater 1, W. P. Gridley 2, F. Inch 3, W. Head 4, A. Maxim 5, Geo. Moore 6, A. Taylor 7, S. Evans (conductor) 8. T. E. Slater hails from Glensford, G. Moore from Clare, W. Head from Little Waldingfield, the rest are local men. Six of those who rang before the service, with the deceased and Geo. Maxim of Cheshunt took part in deceased's last peal on December 11th, 1913. R.I.P.

THE LATE MR. ARTHUR R. ALDHAM.

A CELEBRATED MIDLAND RINGER.

Cold is the hand so honest and so true.
Stilled is the heart which now had beat so warm.
Done! all the good that one good man can do
Come shine or storm.

Within a few days of his 50th year Arthur Aldham has been gathered to his rest. A month ago he rang his last peal—Stedman Triples—on Barwell bells, a ring augmented from six to eight through his enthusiasm. A fortnight ago pneumonia seized him in its fatal grip, and on September 28th carried out of the ranks of ringers one who has done much to uphold their banner.

Born at Hadleigh, Suffolk, on October 5th, 1867, he went to reside in Ipswich in 1872, and his early ringing days were spent at St. Mary-le-Tower, among such men as Messrs. Catchpole and Molts. At the age of 17 he rang the 9th in a peal of Maximus, the first of Oxford Tittum Twelve on record. In 1888 he migrated to Leicestershire and rang at Loughborough several peals of Stedman Caters and Treble Bob Royal. His ambition was to be a "long peal" ringer, and as a native of Suffolk he rang in an attempt at Debenham for the 16868 of Oxford Treble Bob in 1891, which failed after ringing 12000. On June 6th, 1892, the band met again, and successfully accomplished the feat in 10 hours 32 minutes. A postcard sent to the writer from Debenham read: "We rang the 16868 in 10.32 yesterday in fine style."

Once settled as a Benedict at Barwell, the deceased threw himself heart and soul into ringing, and the records of the Midland Counties Association bear witness to his perseverance as a teacher and conductor. The Nunston Society owes its origin mainly to him, and several ringers of six bells never knew what change ringing meant till Arthur Aldham fired them with his zeal. In 1891 he called the first peal on Prestwold bells. In 1892 he rang the tenor at Quorn, and called 7008 Treble Bob, the writer's first inside peal in the method. At St. George's, Leicester, he took part in the first seven-method peal rung by the M.C.A., the bells of this church being afterwards destroyed by fire (and the tablet recording the peal).

He rang 7-8 in the first handbell peal of Stedman Triples rung by the Leicester band in 1894, and could always be relied upon to ring a pair for a course or peal in Treble Bob, in which method he had rung a peal of Major and Royal in hand.

As mentioned above, Barwell bells were augmented chiefly through his instrumentality in 1902, and on March 1st the subject of this memoir called the first peal on the octave—Holt's ten-part. He revelled in ringing, and especially at the heavy end, where he could turn a tenor in with clockwork precision. In 1901 he rang the tenor for the writer in the first peal at Hugglescote, Leicestershire, and again at Loughborough in a peal of Royal, with tenors parted.

When the long peals of Double Norwich were on the tapis, Arthur Aldham cheerfully agreed to ring. He was on the 7th, at South Wigston in the 11008, and also in the 17104. However bad a bell might go, he would just "stick it," and his pluck has saved many a peal. A complete list of his peals is not obtainable, but it runs to over one hundred, 70 of which can be claimed by the M.C.A. He was also a member of the Norwich Diocesan Association and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, October 2nd, amid many manifestations of sympathy. One son was absent—serving his country in France—but a large number of delegates from the various organisations in the locality followed the cortege to the Parish Church, where the first portion of the service was conducted by the Rev. R. Titley, M.A., Rector, while the organist rendered Handel's Dead March from "Saul" and Mendelssohn's "Marche Funebre," as a passing tribute. Although national service kept ringers away, who undoubtedly would otherwise have been present, a band of four were got together and after the committal to the earth, a course of Grandsire Triples on heavy handbells was rung over the open grave by: W. K. Humphreys (Hinckley) 1-2, W. Willson (Leicester) 3-4, H. Briggs (Stanton) 5-6, J. Garrett (Sapcote) 7-8; while in the evening the local ringers met at the tower and rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, as a farewell tribute to one who was the moving spirit of ringing in that part of the county, and whose place will not easily be filled. In the days to come, when ringers meet around the board, when peals of the past are revived, when the names of those who were great in the art are discussed, that of Arthur Aldham will rise like a phoenix from the Great Beyond, and remind us of the faces we shall see no more.

The muffled quarter-peal was rung in 47 mins., by: W. Powers 1, W. White 2, W. A. Needham 3, R. C. Belton 4, C. Briggs 5, C. Belton 6, H. Briggs (conductor) 7, J. Needham 8. W. WILLSON.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Sept. 9th, for morning service, 480 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Stuart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, J. Huddleston 5, T. Townson 6, T. Stuart 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. First attempt at Major by T. Townson, who hails from Hawkshead. For evening service, 672 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Stuart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. Stuart 5, T. Townson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

RINGING AFTER SUNSET.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was rather unfortunate that your recommendation to ringers to apply for an extension under the Defence of Realm Act should have run concurrently with the Hun's evening air raids, and I think it would be both unwise and unpatriotic for ringers to seek an extension for selfish ends. Enemy aircraft seem to be able to locate their goal by moonlight every time, and it is obvious to the veriest tyro of acoustics that if bell ringing was taking place on moonless nights it would be merely assisting the enemy to find us.

The military authorities are evidently taking that view, and although we may think that stringency can be carried too far, I am afraid that if any body of ringers press for any relaxation other than for church services, they will have public opinion to fight both now and in the future. The following correspondence shows that even for Divine service the recent air raids are responsible for a refusal.

[Copy]

To the Officer Commanding
(Defence of Realm Area), Midlands.

Dear Sir,—In the matter of sounds after sunset, bells, horns, etc., I beg to approach you: On Sunday next, the Defence of Realm Act will prevent evening bells being rung for worship at 6.30 p.m. In the darkened streets church bells are guides for those who wish to find their way. It is within your province to grant an extension as has at times been done in other areas, and I respectfully beg to ask if you will permit church bells to be rung for Sunday evening services up to 6.30? Thanking you in anticipation for a reply, I am, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM WILLSON.

P.S.—It is, of course, understood that any concession is subject to an air raid warning.

The reply was as follows:—

Dear Sir,—I regret that under existing circumstances, the permission requested in your letter of the 3rd inst. for the ringing of church bells till 6.30 p.m. cannot be granted. The reasons in favour of ringing church bells are, of course appreciated, but such reasons are outweighed by the objections at present.—I remain, yours faithfully,

T. M. DREW, Lieut.-Colonel.

Competent Military Authority, Glen Parva Barracks.

October 4th, 1917.

To Mr. W. Willson, Local Secretary, Midland Counties Association
of Change Ringers.

Hopefield Road, Leicester.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE REQUEST REFUSED.

Dear Sir,—Concurring with your suggestion to send you replies from military authorities in respect to the restriction of ringing after sundown, I may say I wrote to the General Officer Commanding, Tyne Garrison, on behalf of the ringers of this district, asking the privilege to ring up till 6.30 p.m. for evensong on Sundays, and on Saturdays for practice till the same hour, pointing out several arguments in favour of this very modest request. However, I got the following reply, which has quite settled the question, as far as the area covered by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association is concerned:—

The Minorities,

Jesmond Road,

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

27—9—17.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the General Officer Commanding the Tyne Garrison to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. He has given the matter his careful consideration, and has consulted with the civic authorities on the matter. The general consensus of opinion is adverse to the ringing of bells during the time when lights have to be obscured.

This is in accordance with his own opinion, and he regrets, therefore, that he cannot give the permission you ask for.

You can, of course, have your practices any time except during the hours when lights have to be obscured, and he feels sure you will understand that his refusal of your request is solely dictated by the interests of this district from a defence point of view.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. STROTHER STEWART,

Captain, Intelligence Officer, Tyne Garrison.

We cannot help regretting the cutting down of ringing here, but certainly the Intelligence Officer seems to have the gift of "gilding the philosophic pill" in this instance.—Yours faithfully,

C. L. ROUTLEDGE,

President, Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

CONSENT IN SOUTHERN COMMAND.

In the Southern Command application has been more successful, as the following letters show:—

[Copy]

Headquarters, Southern Command,
Radnor House, Salisbury,

26th September, 1917.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 24th inst., I am directed to inform you that the ringing of church bells is now permitted until

9 p.m. I enclose for your information a copy of letter circulated on the 13th February, 1917.—Yours faithfully,
C. M. De GRUYTHIER, Major,
General Staff, Southern Command.

To John Symons, Esq.,
Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers,
Burlton House, Penzance.

Headquarters, Southern Command,
13th February, 1917.

My Lord Bishop,—With reference to Regulation 12 Defence of the Realm Regulations, I am directed to inform you that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, has decided, in response to the numerous applications which he has received, to permit the ringing of church bells up till 9 p.m. at all places situated in this command.

Would you kindly have this information passed on to all whom it may concern in your diocese?

The police have been notified.

I have the honour to be, my lord,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. M. De GRUYTHIER, Major,
General Staff, Southern Command.

RINGING PERMITTED IN KENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir, — With reference to ringing after dark, we asked our churchwarden at Grayford to get in touch with the military authorities on the matter which he did, and he was told that it was a matter for the police. I, therefore, inquired at the police station last Saturday, and was told that up to the present no alteration had been made and we could ring until 9 p.m., and should any alteration take place we should be informed.—Yours faithfully,
Bexley Heath.

E. BARNETT, Junr.

RINGER WINS THE MILITARY MEDAL.

It is with great pleasure we have to record the bestowal of the Military Medal upon Private F. W. Elliott, K.R.R., for bravery and devotion to duty in the battle of Langemarck, against the concrete pill-box forts. Pte. Elliott is a native of Little Munden, and was an esteemed member of the ringing band, a keen cricketer and member of the choir, previous to his emigrating to Canada. Upon the outbreak of war he returned to join up and "do his bit" for the old country, and went to France in July, 1915, where he has been ever since with the exception of being home on leave twice. He has been wounded once. A fortnight ago he was home on leave, and he received a warm welcome and congratulations from his old friends, and enjoyed a pull with them again, although the hand is much depleted in numbers. Five of the ringers are serving with the colours, Corpl. Rodie having been wounded three times.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

CONTEST AT TONG.

The quarterly meeting and six bell contest of the Halifax District Association was held at Tong on Saturday week, when the bells and schools were kindly placed at the disposal of the members by the Vicar (the Rev. C. P. Farrow). Eight companies entered for the contest, each set ringing 504 changes in any method. The judges for the day were Mr. Broadley, of Bradford, and Mr. Oddy, of Tong.

During the afternoon ten and sandwiches were served to the visitors, who numbered about 120, and was all the more acceptable, as it was not known that any refreshment would be provided.

The general meeting was held in the school at the close of the ringing, the President (Mr. Cotterell) being in the chair, supported by the Vicar and the society's officers.

An invitation was given by the Earlsheaton company to hold the next contest at Earlsheaton, and this was unanimously accepted.

A hearty vote of thanks to the local ringers for the way they had entered for the ringers was accorded.

The judges' decision was then announced as follows: Batley, rung out; Lightcliffe, rung out; Pudsey, 269 faults; Shipley, 229 faults; Birstal, 248 faults; Earlsheaton, 123 faults; Bradford, 329 faults; Thornhill, rung out. Earlsheaton were, therefore, declared the winners.

A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Vicar for his presence, and for the use of his bells, and the Rev. C. P. Farrow, in reply, said that if it had given the members any pleasure to visit the old church and ring the bells, it had given the church authorities at Tong a great deal more pleasure to have them, and he hoped they would soon be able to meet again under more favourable conditions. In conclusion, he said he had great pleasure in presenting the cup to the conductor of the Earlsheaton team.

Mr. Hardy suitably replied, and a vote of thanks to the judges and the president for the way they had worked during the day, brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In a recent leading article the statement was made that the Council should not be "a mere debating society for a few ultra-scientific theorists," and I think most people, including the aforesaid "theorists," will fully agree. The Council should be representative of the whole Exercise, and should concern itself with every part of the ringers' life and activity.

But if the statement means that in the past "ultra-scientific" subjects have been debated to the exclusion of more practical and more important matters, then I think it is hardly accurate. By far the greater part of the Council's time has been taken up by routine and by more or less trivial and unimportant matters which are forgotten almost at once. The reason why scientific subjects seem to be so much to the fore is really because these do excite a much greater and keener interest among ringers, even though (which is certainly the case) the interested form numerically a very small minority.

Suppose you were to disallow scientific subjects you would find that you had ruled out most of the debates that really have been useful. To take haphazard a few instances. There was the debate on London Surprise Royal, on Bob Triples and Grandfire Major, on bell frames, on the extension of Stedman, and others. All these are highly technical subjects, subjects emphatically for experts, subjects that the ordinary ringer is not competent to pass judgment on. And everyone was important to the Exercise at large.

The fault is not that scientific subjects are debated, but in the way they are debated; not that "experts" monopolise the Council's time, but that the people who talk the most are often not experts. There is too much of the pestiferous doctrine that in these things every man has a right to his own opinion, and the men who really do know are not listened to. Of course there are exceptions. Mr. Lewis had an excellent audience when he spoke about bell frames. For once the Council seemed to realise that a man who has carefully studied a subject and gone the right way about it, probably knows more about the matter than one who speaks off-hand, with nothing but his loose impressions and prejudices to guide him.

Often it is quite otherwise. A right understanding of the correct laws on which methods are founded is at least as important and at least as difficult as a right understanding of the correct laws by which bell frames are constructed, but the general opinion seems to be that anyone who can write one row from another by transposition has a perfect right to dogmatise about the former. And too often, also, it happens that men who know well one part of the science of ringing think they know well all of it, and too often they don't.

Let me give one example. Many years ago the Council decided that the subject of methods was one that should be properly investigated, and it appointed a committee to do so. This committee did an infinite amount of work, it took very much care, and it gathered a great quantity of knowledge not known before. The net result was that when those men presented their considered opinions they were universally looked on as a set of cranks and faddists, ignorant and incompetent. Among other things they were agreed on certain opinions on what are called "Bob Major lead ends."

From their opinion the Rev. C. D. P. Davies disagreed, as he had a perfect right to do. He announced his intention of challenging a vote in the Council on the matter: as he had a perfect right to do. When I understood that he was preparing a statement on the subject I wrote to him offering him any information should he need it, and I prepared, at some trouble, and sent to him a short statement of the committee's views on the matter. This he returned unread, with the curt statement that the Council had my views in the Method Report; it would have his in his statement, and could judge between them. A plain intimation that he was not so much concerned with the truth of the matter as to get his own views accepted. And the event proved it. For his long and tedious speech was devoted to a criticism, not of anything that the committee had said, but of a parody of it which he himself invented so as to have the pleasure of easily demolishing it. When he had finished, the Council decided that he had "made out a case," and referred the matter back to the committee, which was coolly asking us to do over again fifteen years' work, at the bidding of one who would not even take the trouble to find out what our views were.

I pointed out that a vote like that with no opportunity afforded for reply was a slight on the committee which would in my case, at any rate, lead to resignation, and I asked to be allowed to make a short statement. This was refused. As I was speaking for the Council's own committee, which had been attacked, I should not have had to ask to be allowed to speak. To ask and then to be refused was to be deliberately insulted.

If the Council wants the more difficult parts of the science investigated they must appoint experts, and then treat them as experts who have a right to be listened to. To get men to do difficult work at your bidding and then to treat them as if their opinions were rather less than more valuable and trustworthy than the ordinary man's is to treat them unfairly. Yet this has been the attitude of the Council toward the Method Committee since the start.

As a body, the Council is not competent to discuss these difficult and

highly technical subjects. It should get men who really do know to give short and interesting papers on limited subjects which would really impart knowledge.

The business of the ordinary member is to listen and try to learn. And the business of those men who have a slight smattering of the matter in hand and no real knowledge is to keep their mouths shut, and not darken knowledge with many words.

Perhaps you may ask what is the good of discussing these things at all. Well, what is the good of discussing anything? What is the good of ringing bells at all? If you argue like that you can disbelieve in the good of anything. But there are many men who think that change ringing is a great and a noble thing, and though the ordinary ringer may not realise it, its well-being depends on these "ultra-scientific" matters. Such men do not attach much value to the opinions of persons who sneer at what they do not understand.

Widford Camp,
October 2nd, 1917.

NEW CHURCH AND BELLS. MUNIFICENT GIFTS TO BASINGSTOKE.

The new Church of All Saints, Basingstoke, the munificent gift of the Rev. Alexander T. Hall, M.A., a retired clergyman, who has resided at Basingstoke for some few years past, was dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester on Thursday, Sept. 27th. The church has been erected on a site presented to the parish about 15 years ago by the Rev. Dr. Cooper Smith, the then Vicar, and for some time occupied by a temporary iron building. The new church now completed is built in the 14th century Gothic style, and consists of a nave and choir of equal width and height, divided by a lofty chancel arch. The north and south aisles run the whole length of the church, with a tower on the south side the lower part of which, above the choir aisle, forms the organ chamber. The Lady Chapel is a continuation of the north aisle extending beyond the main building, and filling the eastern angle of the site. The walls are faced externally with stone ashlar, narrow courses being inserted at intervals between the wider ones. The main roof is covered with red tiles, and the roofs of the aisles with grey slate. The pyramidal roof of the tower is covered with oak shingles, with oak louvres to the bell chamber. There is a clerestory to both nave and choir. There is a large three-light window at the west end, and the great east window is of five lights with rich tracery. Internally the church is remarkable for its lofty and spacious proportions, and the appointments are rich and handsome.

In the tower has been hung a peal of richly toned bells which have been placed there by the generosity of Lieut.-Col. J. May, who has thus given another proof of his deep love for his native place. Col. May, who reached his 80th year last June, has had the unique distinction of serving as Mayor of the town in the Jubilee year 1887, the Diamond Jubilee year of 1897, and in the Coronation year of King Edward, 1902. The peal of bells is only one of his many gifts to the town. There are nine bells in all, and they are hung in an iron framework on steel girders with iron head stocks. They were cast and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who have carried out the work with great success and worthily upheld the traditions of the Whitechapel Foundry.

The diameters and weights are as follow:—

Tenor	Diameter.		Weight.		
	3 ft.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.	11 cwt.	8 qr.	12 lbs.
8th	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	2	6
7th	2	11	7	2	2
6th	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	25
5th	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	7
4th	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	0	17
3rd	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1	8
2nd	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	9
1st	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	16

The new church was filled to the utmost capacity on the occasion of the dedication, and among the congregation were the Mayor and the members of the Town Council, the ministers of the Nonconformist places of worship in the town and the donors of the church and bells. Among the clergy who took part in the ceremony were the Rev. F. G. Hume, Rector of Oakley and secretary of Basingstoke district of the Winchester Guild.—The Bishop, after the formal dedication, gave a powerful address from the text, "Ye are witnesses unto Me," Acts 1, 8.

Before the dedication service a 504 of Stedman Triples was rung on the bells of St. Michael's, by: W. Hibbert 1, J. Ballard 2, F. Wilson 3, E. J. Menday 4, J. Ward 5, A. Burgess 6, A. A. Hughes (conductor) 7, A. Knight 8. After the service the new peal was set swinging to the delight of the parishioners, who all spoke of their sweet tone. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung during the evening. Messrs. Hibbert and Menday hail from Caversham, and A. A. Hughes from London, the last named attending the dedication ceremony to represent the Whitechapel Foundry.

LINCOLN.—Lincoln Diocesan Guild.—At the Cathedral, in honour of the King's birthday, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 44 mins.: G. Chester 1, G. Plinham 2, J. T. Wells 3, W. Clarke 4, T. Pyle 5, I. Vickors 6, J. A. Freeman (conductor) 7, C. H. Chester 8.

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., at 8 p.m., for handbell practice, on October 18th, and for general business on the 23rd.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Walton on Saturday, Oct. 13th. Bells ready at 3.30. Tea and meeting, 6. Members intending being present please send word.—W. Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Established 1755.—Next quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, Oct. 13th. Bells available from 3.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Brierley Hill on Saturday, October 13th. Bells available at 3. Short service in church at 5.15, with an address by the Rector (Rev. H. W. Jones). Tea (1s.) in the Schoolroom at 6. Reports will be ready for distribution.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon (10 bells), on Saturday, Oct. 13th. Bells available from 4.30 to 8. Tea at 6. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Heston, Hounslow.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—A meeting will be held at West Malling on Saturday, October 13th. Bells available for ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 5.30. Tea provided by Vicar and Churchwardens at 6. Half railway fares will be paid to those attending this meeting.—Stephen Hayzelden, Dis. Sec., Lower Street, East Farley.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Open ringing afternoon at Frodsham, October 13th. Bells 8; ringing from 2.30 until 6.30. William Bibby, Head Ringer. All ringers welcome.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Solihull, on Saturday, October 20th. Bells (10) available from 3 o'clock.—Joseph H. White, Hon. Secretary, 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Miles Platting, on Saturday, October 20th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at dusk.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Rye, Sussex, on Saturday, Oct. 20th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock until sunset. All ringers welcome.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual district meeting will be held at Felsted on Saturday, Oct. 27th, for election of district officers and other business. Further particulars next week.—B. Redgwell, Dist. Sec., Rayne.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Peter's-in-Thanel, on Saturday, Oct. 27th. Bells available during the afternoon. Service in Church at 5 p.m. Tea afterwards in the Parish Room followed by business meeting; tea 1s. each. Half fares granted to members attending the meeting. Those desiring tea should send their names to me by Monday, October 22nd, at the latest.—The Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford, Kent, Hon. District Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Leigh-on-Mendip, Saturday, Oct. 27th. Divine Service at 3.20 p.m. Tea (followed by the business meeting) in the Church Reading Hall, at 4.30 p.m. Vehicles (kindly arranged for by the Rev. J. E. W. Honnywill) will meet 1.41 train (Mells Road) from Bristol, the 2.23 train (Mells Road) from Frome, and will also be available to catch the return trains. Members wishing to avail themselves of Mr. Honnywill's kind offer are requested to let the hon. sec. know of their intention not later than the 24th inst. It is especially desired that all who hope to be present should so intimate to the hon. sec. on or before the 23rd inst.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lieut. A. E. Reeves having resigned the secretaryship of above, owing to military duties, all correspondence should now be sent to R. T. Hibbert, Hon. Sec., Warren House Lodge, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Oxon.

HANDBELLS WANTED.—Wanted to purchase immediately, an octave of very small Handbells. Key D preferred. Write by return, stating price: Rector, Kingdon Magna, Gillingham, Dorset.

FOR SALE.—In clean and good condition, six bound volumes (20 to 25 inclusive) of "Bell News," also Vols. 26 to 34 unbound. Also "Ringing World" for years 1911, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 1916. No reasonable offer refused.—S. Proctor, 26, Putney Road, Enfield Wash, London, N.

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.

PEAL BOARD UNVEILED AT WOODSTON.

On Saturday week, at St. Augustine's Church, Woodston, the interesting ceremony of unveiling a peal board took place. The board records a peal of Bob Minor, 5040 changes, each 720 differently called, which was rung on June 24th, 1916, on the second anniversary of the opening of the new ring of six. The Rector (the Rev. N. J. Raper) performed the ceremony, and expressed his pleasure in doing so, as the ringers were so closely associated with Divine service.

After the unveiling ceremony, a 720 of Bob Minor was rung by the ringers who took part in the peal, standing in the same order: T. Vaughan 1, H. Hoare 2, S. Wright 3, T. Telbutt 4, F. Dainty 5, F. Cook (conductor) 6. Other ringing friends being present, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent, touches of Bob Minor, Kent Treble Bob and Double Oxford being brought round. Many thanks are due to the Rector for his kindness in allowing the use of the bells.

THE DEATH OF MR. J. W. WHITING.

As recorded in another column, a half-muffled peal was rung at North Stoneham, Hants, on Saturday, to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Whiting, of Fareham, who was always a welcome visitor at the tower at North Stoneham. It was there that he rang his last peal—Double Norwich Major—on Sept. 27th, 1913, and four of those who took part in it rang in the memorial peal, viz., Messrs. Williams, Edwards, Wilkes and George. Spr. W. G. Rowe, R.E., who was home on leave from France, took a rope in the peal at the last minute, in place of Mr. W. T. Tucker, who had been called away suddenly by the illness of his mother. He, however, kindly muffled the bells for the peal.

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