



No. 344. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 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.

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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1915.
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.

TO CELEBRATE VICTORY.

Throughout the war our bells have been for the most part silent. On a few occasions we have fittingly honoured the heroic dead by muffled ringing, but never have we heard the bells generally pealing joyously for the victories of our armies. A few isolated instances have been recorded of bells being rung to celebrate some success, such as the Battle of Jutland or the victory at Messines, but there has been nothing like a universal ringing of the bells of our churches to acclaim the triumphs of our forces. In contrast to the Germans, who in the early stages of the war found an excuse, in a real or imagined victory, to clang their bells nearly every other day, but who found the occasions for such jubilant exhibitions grow less and less until they vanished entirely, our justification for jubilation has been growing as time has passed, and several of the successes in recent months have been triumphs which certainly warranted more public recognition at home than they received.

It has long been said of us as a nation that we take our pleasures sadly, and now in the days of our successes on the battlefield, we are taking our victories gloomily. Unquestionably, when we get such news as that of the recent achievements of our arms, the bells of the land should play their part in interpreting the joy which the successes should inspire. Public feeling is ripe for it, the Press are opening their columns to ask for it. A popular writer in the London "Evening News" devoted nearly a column to the subject. One extract here will suffice: "We are of the blood of people who, when they were in a jolly mood, when good news was in, loved to hear all the bells ring with a jolly noise. They should have rung for Broodseinde."

The ringing of the bells at York Minster was the text for his article, and so, too, was it for a letter which appeared in the "Morning Post," in which the writer said: "Let the great London churches follow the example of York Minster, and the Te Deums in the sky will have an excellent effect on the masses of the population. It will do more to convince the poorer people that the Boche is really being smashed than any amount of public oratory or newspaper articles. It will make for cheerfulness throughout the vast community, and help London to realise that Gotha raids are merely a device for terrorising civilians invented by a desperate enemy." We may well take it that these articles are expressive of the feelings of the people, and that the public would welcome the cheering sound of the bells when there is victory. When next a triumph like that at Broodseinde comes along, we hope towers throughout the land will follow the example of York Minster, and, let us add, Gillingham, where several service men took part in a peal to celebrate the great victory.

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.

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD
(NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 13, 1917, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 18 cwt.

ARTHUR CRANE Treble	THOMAS BEST 5
* WILLIAM MEAD 2	RICHARD NICHOLS 6
FRANCIS HEDGES 3	HARRY SEAR 7
WALTER SEAR 4	VALENTINE SEAR Tenor

Conducted by H. SEAR.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to Sapper L. Meager, one of the local band, who died of wounds in France, Sept. 28th, 1917. * First peal with a bob bell. The ringer of the tenor is 67 years of age.

LLANBRADACH, GLAM.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 13, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;

42 Six-Scores. 4-6-8 behind. Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN JONES Treble	ALBERT ADDICOTT 5
FRANK BOUCHER 2	STANLEY VOYZEY 6
FRED EVANS 3	* GEORGE COOKE 7
FRANK STEPHENS 4	WILLIAM WILLIAMS Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE COOKE.

* First peal as conductor. First peal by all except the conductor. Rung on the eve of the Harvest Festival. The ringer of the 6th was proposed a member before starting. The ringers of the 4th and 6th belong to the local band, the rest belong to Caerphilly.

A VISIT TO WARFIELD.

On Saturday, afternoon, Sept. 22nd—the usual week-day for ringers' jaunts in search of a "change"—the East Berks and South Bucks branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild visited the interesting parish of Warfield for a pull on the beautiful little octave at St. Michael's Church, where the tower has lately been restored by the kindness of a Field-Marshal. The whole party arrived by cycle, and a good muster of enthusiastic men made the evening a huge success. Five methods—Triples and Major—were rung between 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. The Vicar came to the church to receive the visitors, who also inspected the careful decorations of the interior in readiness for the morrow's harvest festival. The day was exceedingly fine, the roads, some of Berkshire's best tarmac, in excellent repair, making the journey home by moonlight one of the happiest of trips. The towers represented are given below. Warfield's few men will be excused, as they have sent over 15 bell-ringers from the parish into the field of war: Easthampstead, J. Rance; Warfield, L. Bristow and J. Hammond; Stoke Poges, W. Bateman and Gladys Bateman; Fulmer, G. Gutteridge, Miss F. Gudgin and Miss W. Cooper; Slough, E. Hooper, G. Leader, T. S. Smith and P. E. Jones (R.N.A.S.); W. Henley and W. H. Fussell; Winkfield, Mr. J. Brant and Mr. G. W. Clarke. Mr. Jones was home on leave, while Mr. Clarke, late of Beckenham, had not touched the ropes for four years.

SHELL'S CURIOUS ACTION IN CHURCH SPIRE

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just been sent over from France, in consequence of a wound in the back, obtained in the recent "Push" on Sept. 20th. I should like to tell you of a curious sight I saw on a village church in the battle area. Most of the churches are mere ruins, often represented by a heap of stones. This particular church was badly knocked about, but the tower was standing. It was a square tower, and was surmounted by a short spire. The tower had received such a shock as to lift this spire bodily and shift it so that it overhung the tower on one side, leaving, of course, a space of about one foot flat on the other side. Neither the tower nor spire were badly damaged. The effect was very curious. No one is allowed near the church, which stands in its churchyard surrounded by barbed wire.

I may say that while I have been in France I have had the "Ringing World" sent to me regularly, and its contents have done much to cheer me and help me to bear the trials and hardships.—Yours sincerely,

LANCE-CORPL. E. C. SHEPHERD.

Ward C 2, Queen Mary's Hospital,
Whalley, Lancs.

RINGER DIES OF WOUNDS.**BLETCHLEY COMPANY'S LOSS.**

The sad news of the death of Sapper L. Meager, 1/4th Cheshires Field Company, Royal Engineers, in France, has been received by his wife, through the captain of the company to which he belonged. The officer writes as follows: "It is my painful duty to have to inform you that your husband, Sapper L. Meager, died of wounds on the 28th of September on his way to hospital. He was wounded on the morning of the 28th while out at work, by a piece of shell. During the two months your husband was with his company he always did his duty, and was very well liked, both by his officers and by his comrades, and they wish to join with me in offering our sympathy in your bereavement."

Sapper L. Meager, who was 38 years of age, had been a member of the Blechley St. Mary's company for nearly 20 years, and was a good ringer on eight bells in all methods up to Double Norwich. Although he was not keen on peal ringing, he had rung four peals, viz., three of Grandsire Triples, and one Grandsire Doubles. He was always content with a touch or quarter-peal, but was quite willing to stand in for a peal to make the number up.

He had been a member of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild since its formation.

He joined up on August 4th, 1916, and the Blechley ringers have lost in him a valued member.

On Saturday, October 13th, a muffled peal was rung to his memory, and will be found recorded elsewhere. The bells were also rung, muffled, for Sunday services, the "whole pull and stand" being rung in the morning. Touching reference to his death was made by the Rev. F. W. Bennett in his sermon, and appropriate hymns were chosen for the service, for as a boy, deceased was a member of the choir, and he was ready to assist with any church work. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss, and heartfelt sympathy goes out to them.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of this Association was held at Corston on September 29th, when 90 members were present from the following towers: Bathaston, Bathford, Bridgwater, Burnham, Camerton, Corston, Henbury, High Littleton, The Abbey, Bath; St. Saviour's, Bath; St. Andrew's, Bath; Timsbury, Twerton, Swainswick; St. Matthew's Bath; Long Ashton, Fortishead, Midsomer Norton, Weston-super-Mare, Keynsham, Newton St. Loe, Warmley, Stockport; St. Phillips' St. George, St. Stephen, St. James' and St. Nicholas', Bristol; and St. James', Taunton.

The bells, which are a new peal of eight, with tenor about 10 cwt., were presented to the parish by Mr. Bartlett in memory of his son, who died serving his country in India.

Ringing was commenced at 2.30, and touches in various methods were rung until 5 p.m., when tea was partaken of in the church room, after which the business meeting was held, the Master, the Rev. C. C. Parker (who is Rector of the parish) presiding.—Thirty-four new members were elected.

The next meeting will be held at Curry Rivel, in December.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. C. C. Parker for the use of the bells and arranging the service was carried unanimously.

This concluded the business, and a short service was held in the Parish Church, the Rector officiating, and the singing being led by a full choir.

The Rev. C. C. Parker preached from the text, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (St. Matthew vi. 10). The Rector dwelt upon the value of co-operation. They had an example in the present war, in which all petty selfishness and sectional opinion must be put aside and all must work for the great purpose the nation had in view. Russia presented a sad picture of the result of disagreement and disunion. Our strength lay in the unity of the nation; that more than anything else would lead to victory. In a lesser degree it was true of every society that the loyalty and co-operation of its members meant success or failure. Their own association was spread over a large diocese, with bands of ringers scattered here and there. They had an increasing number of members. Though scattered, they were bound together by a common purpose: the glory of the Church and the glory of God, and so long as they were faithful to that purpose and to one another they had nothing to fear. He believed that their prosperity as an association was due to that. He thought the exercise itself was a picture of co-operation. Regarding the ringers, they must have a band of ringers to ring a method. One man was entirely useless by himself. The band must be complete, a single absence preventing a ring or peal being attempted. Again, in the actual ringing, the ringers were dependent on one another. A single mistake by one man spoiled the whole. The same lesson was taught by the bells. Each bell had its place and each bell was essential. Even if two bells were rung too close to one another and clashed, the effect was marred. All the bells together made a peal, and each bell bore its quota to the perfection and completion of it.

Subsequently the bells were again utilised. During the afternoon, the grounds of Mr Bartlett's house and the Rectory were thrown open to the visitors.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEMORIAL TO A "RINGERS' PARSON."**

In these abnormal times big meetings of ringers are a rarity, and when one does occur it is because there is a special reason for it. This was the case on Saturday week, when upwards of 50 foregathered at Bradpole. The attractive feature was the unveiling and dedication of a marble mural tablet to the late chairman of the West Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, who was Vicar of the parish. From 2.30 till 4 p.m., the time of service, the bells were kept merrily going in the way the man whom they had met to honour had so dearly loved. Service was then held, and to show how deeply the late Vicar was respected there was not a vacant seat in the church, even the aisles and porch accommodating their quota.

The service was conducted by the Rev. S. Forster-Brown, the now incumbent, while the dedication was performed by the Rural Dean (Rev. J. W. Coulter, Rector of Bridport), who also preached. Taking as his text, "He being dead, yet speaketh," he showed how the character of the late Vicar was to all much better than any spoken sermon. He urged his hearers to take the character of such a man as a pattern, and by imitation show that his life and ministry in the parish had not been in vain.

The tablet consists of a rouge marble back, surmounted by a massive white marble scroll, on which is superimposed a marble cross and wreath. On the scroll are the words: "In memory of Charles Frederick Langford, for eight years Vicar of this parish, who died 20th February, 1917, aged 56 years. During his vicariate, and through his exertions, the bells were augmented and rehung, and the organ enlarged and rebuilt. This tablet is erected by Parishioners, Ringers, and Friends, to mark their appreciation of his nobleness of character."

Thus have the ringers helped to perpetuate the memory of one who was a real "ringers' parson."

Following the service, tea was served in the Forster Institute, and under the superintendence of a ringer's wife, was so managed that more than the regulation two ounces was available.

A business meeting followed, at which was discussed the question how all parishes having bells should have them rung when peace should be declared; and what is hoped to be a practical scheme evolved. The question of "Lady Ringers" in a belfry was also debated, as one local clergyman seems to have had qualms as to the propriety of such a course. The branch secretary was instructed to ask the general secretary to take up the matter, as it was a slur on the characters of all ringers.

THE LATE MR. A. R. ALDHAM.

Mr. William Motts, of Ipswich, writing upon the loss which the Exercise has sustained by the death of Mr. Arthur R. Aldham, of Barwell, says that the deceased ringer was born at the village of Hadleigh, and turned his attention to ringing in 1883, when he joined the band at the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower with two more probationers, in Mr. Hart, and that celebrated tenor bell ringer of long peal renown, Mr. Frederick J. Tillett. At St. Mary-le-Tower they learnt the art of change ringing, and the late Mr. Aldham rang his first peal—the treble in a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major—upon the back eight at the Tower Church in the year 1884. He afterwards took part in some splendid performances, and ably rang the 4th in the peal of 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Debenham, in 10 hours and 32 mins., on Whit-Monday, June 6th, 1892. He could handle a bell, whether large or small, to perfection, and on his last visit to the county town rang the tenor to and conducted a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower, on August 1st, 1914.

As a last mark of respect to their departed brother ringer, the members of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, rang half-muffled touches upon the bells, followed by the "whole pull and stand." Owing to the lighting restrictions time would not permit of a peal being attempted.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A most successful meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at St. Mary's, Liscard, on Saturday, Sept. 22nd. Ringing commenced shortly after three o'clock, and there was some very good striking in the following methods: Stedman, Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major.—The Rev. A. T. Beeston, the hon. secretary of the Guild, was present, and took part in the ringing. The Rev. A. E. Simpson (Vicar) conducted the service, and gave an address. Afterwards tea was served in the School Room, 45 members and friends sitting down.

The Branch President subsequently provided smokes, and the Rev. A. T. Beeston gave an address on the word "Progress." He said ringers should not be satisfied with one or two methods, but should carry on until they had made themselves proficient in many methods.

Mr. Milner (Branch President), who is a resident of Liscard, gave the visitors a cordial welcome, and said how pleased he was to see among them several soldiers who were stationed at camps in the neighbourhood, and who came from Yorkshire, Kent, Bristol and Preston.—The members warmly thanked the Vicar and chairman, the local ringers, and lady helpers, for a most enjoyable afternoon.

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For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

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.

NO RINGING AFTER DARK AT NORTHAMPTON

Mr. F. Wilford, hon. secretary of the Northants Association, has received the following letter from the Chief Constable of Northampton:—

Dear Sir,—With reference to your call at this office on the 10th instant, I have now received a letter from the Military Authorities, stating it is not considered advisable that any extension of the time fixed by Regulation 12b of the Defence of the Realm Regulations for the ringing of Church Bells should be allowed.—Yours faithfully,
F. M. MARDLIN, Chief Constable.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Trollope is, I think, right in his contention that the time of the Council has too often been wasted by experts and enthusiasts. I will remember the "long and tedious speech" to which he alludes—a speech to which I listened patiently in a fog of bewildered ignorance. But I thought then, and still think, that the blame rested not so much with the enthusiast who, having got his chance, used it rather mercilessly (perhaps quite unaware of the flight of time), as with the chairman, who failed in one of a chairman's first duties, to see that everyone has fair play, and that no one monopolises an undue share of the time available. De mortuis nil nisi bonum: I say no more on that head. But if our new chairman, whoever he may be, will take a firm line at the start, and pull up every speaker, no matter how eminent, who exceeds (say) 15 or 20 minutes, I am sure that he would be supported by the Council, and would do much to remove the grievance of which Mr. Trollope and others justly complain.—Yours faithfully,

St. Albans, Oct. 13.

T. L. PAPILLON.

A RINGER'S SERVICE BOOK.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent's suggestion of a "Belfry Office" and your leader on that subject open up a matter in which all ringers are concerned. What that office should be, I, as a layman, am not going to say, but that such an office would be acceptable in many towers is a fact without much doubt. In addition to the sentences from the 150th Psalm, or some other suitable sentences, I would suggest a short collect—one of those used at ringers' services, or one of a similar nature.

But this only opens up a wider question, and that is a "Ringer's Service Book." Now it is well known that nearly every large association or guild of ringers has during the past twenty years, drafted and obtained permission to use a special form of service. These are mostly printed on leaflets, and distributed and collected before and after a service. All these services, though drafted on similar lines, differ in matters of detail. Now ringers having gone so far as to adopt a form of service might, I think, go a step further forward, and instead of being satisfied with a "local" form take up the larger question of a "national" form of ringers' service.

Here, then, is an opportunity for the Central Council to engage upon a bit of practical work, which would be of great benefit to all ringers. The Central Council, at their next meeting, should adopt the principle I have suggested, and then place it in the hands of the clergy who serve on the Council, and get them to compile a service book, together with a goodly number of all the best "ringers' hymns." This could be put in hand at once, and sanction obtained from the Archbishops for its use, so that when the cost of paper, etc., gets nearer to normal prices, it could be published—say, in stiff boards—at about 6d. Ringers habitually attending meetings would not be slow to obtain one, especially if all associations supported the scheme by withdrawing from use their own forms of service, and advocating the use of the Ringers' Service Book.—Yours truly,
Bradpole.

T. HERVEY BEAMS.

RINGERS FROM CANADA AND U.S. MEET.

INTERESTING FEATURE OF SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATION.

The celebration of the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Gower, of Hythe, Kent, Mr. Gower being the captain of the local band, was marked by an interesting gathering of ringers, for among those who joined in ringing for the auspicious event were Sergt. R. Carrier, Canadian Artillery, of Vancouver, B.C., who rang the 7th in the peal of Grandsire Triples, the first in Canada, that was scored in the city of the far west in 1911, and Corpl. Gordon Mackman, Canadian Highlanders, of Boston, U.S.A. Touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, conducted by A. D. Cullum, R.F.C., of Reading, and Corpl. Mackman, were rung by the following: R. N. Runham, R.F.C.; Sergt. R. Carrier, A. D. Cullum, R.F.C.; Corpl. G. Mackman, P. W. Crunden, A. White, W. J. Prebble, A. R. Manning, W. Clements, and H. Gower. On Sunday, Sept. 23rd, at the same church, 504 Grandsire Triples, by: W. J. Prebble 1, P. W. Crunden 2, A. White 3, A. R. Manning (conductor) 4, A. D. Cullum 5, G. Mackman 6, S. A. Gower 7, W. Clements 8.

For various reasons there will be no further Sunday ringing at Hythe until the spring.

THE BELLS AND VICTORY.

PUBLIC WANT THEM RUNG.

Where were the bells when the news of Broodseinde came? That is the question which writers in the Press have asked. Speaking of the great victory, "The Londoner," writing in the "Evening News," said:—

"We rejoiced in our sombre fashion. We read our paper eagerly. We spoke shyly to one another in the railway carriage, saying that this was, no doubt, a Big Thing. The map on which the black line had moved forward was a joy to us as we stumbled over those strange Flemish names on it. Yet something was wanting in London.

"We should have shouted for the victory. That, I grieve to say, is all but impossible. The jolly habit of shouting with the crowd is lost to us. I myself know very well that I am too shy to shout aloud in a public place. I would rather be alone at the corner of Chancery Lane, when the warning to take cover has gone down Fleet Street, than stand in the same place in the busy hour and cry Hooray for Haig. Our forefathers could do such things: a hundred years ago you might have heard news of victory go hoorraying from St. Paul's to Charing Cross. But we are too shy for it.

"Yet there are still bells in the steeple. And we were once the ringing island. In our grumbling humours we complain against the bells, and I will not say that a certain clanking call to prayer has not made me fretful, although I never wrote to the Editor about it. But we are of the blood of people who when they were in a jolly mood, when good news was in, loved to hear all the bells ring with a jolly noise. They should have rung wildly for Broodseinde.

"I am told that the bells were rung in the Minster of York. I should like to have been in York that day. It is a fair city. There was an old poet who said that 'of all the cities that ever I see, York York for my money.' He added 'except the City of London.' But on that day it would have been better to be in York. I can imagine myself walking the stone path along the ancient wall, looking over houses and quiet gardens to the Minster, and hearing the bells clash for victory. One would be the better for hearing that joyful noise.

"Now there are bells under the dome of Paul's which are as good bells as any in the towers of York Minster. What were the bell-ringers doing on that day? There is the Dean who has power and authority in the cathedral. In days before the war, it was pleasant to tease our neighbour the Dean until he would snap out something about the halfpenny Press. We called him, affectionately, the Gloomy Dean. Yet I do not suppose that he is gloomier than other Deans: it was not for gloom that he forebore to jangle his bells.

"It may have been because of the Defence of the Realm Act, that Act which we call Dora for short. Dora is a short-tempered authority and capable of anything. She may have said that she would fine any Dean a hundred pound if he so much as pulled at a bell-rope: that would be pretty Dora's way. Yet it is more likely that the bells of Paul's are not rung because nobody thought of ringing them. So, when Haig strikes again—and I promise the Boche that his hand is rising for a mighty slap—let us ring our bells like mad, all the bells, St. Clement's bells that ring Oranges and Lemons, St. Martin's bells clamouring for Five Fardens, and the great bell of Paul's booming above them all."

TE DEUMS IN THE SKY.

The following letter appeared in the "Morning Post" from a correspondent, E. B. Osborn:—

"It does seem to me that our present Government is strangely lacking in the imaginative insight which is really the best part of statesmanship. At the present moment, when so many people cannot see that the Boche is being broken and are unnecessarily depressed, it should be the business of every Minister to impress on every audience he meets the glorious fact that the British Army is winning every week the most amazing victories in battles as big as Blenheim and Waterloo, or even bigger. Yet they are silent on this and other vital points which the enemy never neglect, knowing from Clausewitz the vast importance of gaining public opinion in national warfare.

"The bells of York Minster were rung to celebrate the last great victory of our incomparable fighting men. You know how proud Yorkshire men are of their noble Minster, and I am told that triumphant message of the bells sent a wave of optimism through the county of broad acres. All honour to the Dean for having a tune from his aerial choir, even if, as some say, the Archbishop disapproved—I hope there is no truth at all in the rumour, for the Archbishop must rejoice over German defeats, even if he did cherish 'sacred memories' of a conversation with the Kaiser.

"Let the great London churches follow the example of York Minster, and the Te Deums in the sky will have an excellent effect on the masses of the population. It will do more to convince the poorer people that the Boche is really being smashed than any amount of political oratory or newspaper articles. It will make for cheerfulness throughout the vast community and help London to realise that Gotha raids are merely a device for terrorising civilians invented by a desperate enemy.

"The pity is that highly-placed politicians, permanent officials, and ecclesiastical dignitaries are in many cases opposed to giving our soldiers the praise that is due to them. The former want all the limelight for themselves; they would like to see the soldier kept in his old place of inferiority to the civilian. Hence among other acts of

contempt, the odious plan of rigging out discharged veterans in hideous slop suits which no scavenger in search of a job would wear. The other day an invalided officer of the Old Army saw one of his comrades in these infamous products of sweating dens, and confessed he nearly wept at the sight. He offered his old friend money to buy more suitable clothes, but it was refused. Then he took him along to his own house and looked out some of his own things, as they were both of much the same build, and these were accepted as gifts from one comrade to another. Doesn't this illustrate the regimental camaraderie rather touchingly? Well, let us ring our bells while London chinks out other ways of honouring the fighting men to whom she owes, under God, her immunity from all serious harm."

NEW MELODY FOR AIRMEN.

Mr. W. Pett Ridge, writing in "Lloyd's News," also refers to the subject. He says: "One or two churches have made a shy effort to ring joy bells; there would, perhaps, be more, but for the fact that many of the lusty pullers of ropes are on active service in other surroundings. One can hope there are enough at home when the great moment arrives, to fill the skies with a melody new to our wonderful young airmen."

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

Had you entered the tower of St. John's Church on Saturday afternoon last, you might easily have formed an impression that a ladies' meeting was in progress, for out of thirty-one ringers present, no less than eleven were of the fair sex, and, what is more, they could all ring, and ring well. Not every day do you see ten ladies striking "rounds" on such a heavy peal as Hillingdon—with its tenor nearly 23 cwt.—and it will, perhaps, not be "out of order" if the names are given and the positions in which they rang: Miss W. Cooper 1, Miss E. Gorham 2, Miss F. Feltham 3, Miss F. Gudgeon 4, Miss A. Manley 5, Miss C. M. Orlebar 6, Miss J. Honor 7, Miss D. G. Williams 8, Miss Gladys Bateman 9, Miss Edith Jones 10. Afterwards the Misses Feltham and Williams rang in Grandsire Triples; the Misses Cooper and Bateman in Grandsire Caters; and Mrs. Frank Haire and Miss E. Jones in Stedman Caters, the latter was conducted by G. Fardon. At the tea table one's thoughts went back some years to country life, for it was quite homely to see the brass candlesticks and candles again in use. The tables were nicely decorated with flowers, and there was plenty of nice sweet jam and crisp watercress. An explanation may be given regarding the use of the antique lighting arrangements, for the local Gas Company had either forgotten to turn on the tap, or was having its revenge for the disturbance of the usual quietude of the village. Nevertheless a very enjoyable time was spent; in fact, at one table in particular trouble had certainly taken wings for joviality and merriment reigned, largely contributed to by "Nipper" and "Nibs," and some of the "Pilgrims."

The Rev. R. M. Carrick, M.A., welcomed the company very heartily, and said how he regretted that he could not stay until the close of the meeting. The District Master (Mr. T. Beadle) struck a note of sadness—echoed by everyone present—when he asked that a vote of sympathy should be sent to the relations of two well known members, who, while fighting for their country, had crossed "the bourne from whence no traveller returns," viz., Mr. H. W. Cowley, of Heston, and Mr. Chas. Dell, of Isleworth.

Among those present at the meeting were ringers from Brockley, Camberwell, Erith, Fulmer, Harrow, Heston, Hillingdon, Isleworth, Mitcham, Shepherd's Bush, Stepney, Stoke Poges, Slough, Willesden, Westminster, and West Ealing.—Six new members were elected, they were the ringers of 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, mentioned in the allusion to the round ringing. West Ealing was selected for the next meeting, subject to permission being granted. It was announced that Heston tower would be open for ringing on Saturday afternoon, October 27th, at 3 o'clock, and a general invitation is given.

W.L.

ACCIDENT TO WELL-KNOWN BELL HANGER.

The many friends of Mr. John Thomas, who, before joining the army, was employed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the White-chapel Foundry, as a bell hanger, will regret to hear that he met with a serious accident in France. Mr. Thomas was serving in the Royal Flying Corps. On Sept. 20th, as one of the British aeroplanes was being got ready for a patrol, the propeller started up unexpectedly, and struck Mr. Thomas on both arms, fracturing them. He is now in H Ward, Leith War Hospital, Edinburgh, and everyone will wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Thomas is known in many parts of the country, where his work has taken him, and he will be remembered by many for the skill with which he can ring two church bells at a time.

MISSING.

Pte. George Edser, who is well known in London and Winchester Guild ringing circles, and who was hon. secretary of the Yorktown district of the latter for some years, has been officially reported "missing." Hope for his safety has not yet been given up, for he may be a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, and his many friends in the ringing world will trust that this may be so.

WINCHESTER GUILD.

The Guildford District held a very pleasant meeting on Saturday week at Dunsfold, a little village surrounded by sylvan scenery among the beautiful Surrey hills. Considering the fact that Dunsfold is six miles from a railway station, the attendance was very satisfactory, and the pretty ring of six bells at the Church of St. Mary and All Saints were well utilised during the afternoon, the ringing including Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Treble Bob, and a 720 of Plain Bob, conducted by R. Whittington. The warmest of welcomes was extended to the visitors by the Vicar, the Rev. A. E. Hollins, who entertained the party to a substantial tea. His kindness was much appreciated by the members, whose thanks were fittingly expressed by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

A VISIT TO WORTH.

On Sunday week, four ringers from Crawley, accompanied by Mr. G. Paice, of Edmonton, who was down on a visit, journeyed over to Worth, where they were met by Mr. A. Wood, of Nufield, and Mr. F. Rice, Redhill. Permission to ring at the Parish Church having been readily granted by the Rector (the Rev. H. S. Walter Bridge), the bells were set going to Kent Treble Bob Minor, a 720 being rung in 24 minutes, by: P. Tyler 1, J. Rice 2, A. Mitchell 3, A. Wood 4, G. Paice 5, F. W. Rice (conductor) 6. A 360 of College Exercise was next brought round, by: A. Mitchell 1, J. Rice 2, A. Wood 3, A. D. Mills 4, G. Paice 5, F. W. Rice (conductor) 6. Also a 504 of Oxford Treble Bob. The ringers then adjourned to the Rectory for tea, in response to the kind invitation of the Rector, and the meal was much appreciated. For evening service, a well-struck 360 of Oxford Treble Bob was the concluding touch of a pleasant afternoon's ringing.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HARPENDEN.—On Sunday, Sept. 2nd, for Hospital Demonstration Service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: A. J. Smith 1, W. Hill 2, L. A. Goodenough 3, B. Wilson 4, A. King 5, T. Kendall 6, B. Jarman (conductor) 7, C. Dellar 8. The ringers of treble, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th, kindly cycled from Luton to take part.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, Sept. 9th, for evening service, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1280 changes): A. Cutmore 1, W. H. Hollier 2, A. W. Davis 3, L. Attwater 4, J. W. Driver 5, H. G. Miles (conductor) 6, W. E. Garrard 7, C. Charge 8.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.—At the St. John the Baptist's Church, on Sunday, Sept. 9th, for evening service, 546 Grandsire Triples: A. Thornton 1, P. Tyler 2, W. Hewett (Westminster) 3, A. E. Mitchell 4, E. F. Pike (Westminster) 5, J. Rice (conductor) 6, A. G. Mason (Erith) 7, W. Vincent 8.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, Sept. 9th, at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, for evening service, a touch of Stedman Cinques: E. Evans 1, E. Pemberton 2, R. H. Hayward 3, R. H. Brundle 4, H. C. Gillingham 5, W. L. Catchpole 6, W. Tillet 7, W. Whitehead (R.N.A.S.) 8, J. Motts (conductor) 9, W. Burgess 10, Fredk. Tillet 11, Hawkins English 12.

WEST BROMWICH, STAFFS.—At Christ Church, on Sunday, Sept. 9th, before evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 47 mins.: Rev. C. H. Barker 1, R. Hall 2, T. Horton 3, S. Asbury 4, J. Walker 5, J. Screen (conductor) 6, J. Jaggard 7, F. Troth 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to T. Horton, who is now in his 72nd year, and has been a ringer at Christ Church for 51 years.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Sunday, Sept. 9th, at the Cathedral, for evensong, 640 Erin Cinques: W. A. Cooke (H.M.S. 'Illustrious') 1, A. Dalton 2, C. L. Routledge (conductor) 3, J. Keen 4, W. Sinclair 5, J. McKeag 6, B. Horton 7, W. Hazell 8, A. Hillier 9, W. Story 10, R. Richards 11, Pte. T. Male (Royal Defence Corps) 12.

READING, BERKS.—Oxford Diocesan Guild.—On Sept. 9th, at St. Giles' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins.: G. Cook 1, G. Boddington 2, N. Cox 3, Corpl. D. Williams 4, 2nd A.-M. E. Buller 5, 1st A.-M. W. G. Elkins 6, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 7, A. W. Phillips 8. Longest length by the ringers of treble and tenor. Rung in the octave of the Patronal Festival.—On Sunday, Sept. 16th, for evensong, 504 Grandsire Triples: Miss D. Batten 1, N. Cox 2, G. Cook 3, A. W. Osborne (conductor) 4, Lieut. G. Goodship 5, Sapper H. Osbourne, R.E., 6, H. Egby 7, A. W. Phillips 8. Lieut. Goodship was home on leave from France, Sapper H. Osbourne also home on leave. Both were members of the society before joining the colours. 2nd A.-M. E. Buller hails from Staines, and 1st A.-M. W. G. Elkins from Farnham.

GLASTONBURY, SOMERSET.—Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—On Monday, Sept. 10th, 1917, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): J. Farthing 1, H. Hobbs 2, F. Hey 3, H. Edwards 4, H. J. Trim 5, G. Chamberlain 6, J. W. Jones (conductor) 7, H. Brass 8. Arranged to oblige J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, Commercial Road, Woking.

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.

ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER, S.W.—Ringing for evensong, commencing Sunday next, Oct. 21st, will be from 5 to 6 o'clock, and fortnightly, until further notice.—W. H. Hewett.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A Meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on the 23rd, at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—It has been considered advisable, owing to present war conditions, to postpone for the present the meeting arranged for St. Peter-in-Thanet, on Saturday, Oct. 27th.—The Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Hon. District Secretary, Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford, Kent.

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. Wolmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual festival will be held in Sunderland on Saturday, October 27th, the bells of St. Michael's, Bishop Wearmouth (8; tenor 11½ cwt.), Holy Trinity (8; 14 cwt.), and St. Ignatius (8; 13 cwt.) being at the disposal of members and friends after 1 p.m. Committee meeting at the North of England Café, Fawcett St., at 4 p.m. Evensong and address, at 5 p.m., at one of the above churches, to be notified in the circular convening the meeting. Tea at the above café at 6 p.m., 1/3 to members, 2/6 to non-members, followed by the annual general meeting. Those intending to be present must advise the Hon. Secretary before Wednesday, Oct. 24th. Members are requested, on arrival, to take the Tatham Street car to St. Ignatius Church, where bands will be made up for the other peals.—G. T. Potter, 13, Park Parade, Whitley Bay, S.O.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Eastern Division.—Annual district meeting at Felsted, Oct. 27th. Bells ready 2 p.m. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea at the Old Schoolroom, 1/- each to all giving notice not later than Oct. 24th.—B. Redgwell, Dist. Sec., Rayne.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Malvern Link, on Saturday, Oct. 27th. Service in Church at 6.30 p.m. Business meeting in vestry afterwards. Bells will be available, before and after service and meeting.—R. G. Knowles, Branch Sec., Madresfield, Malvern.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Congresbury, Saturday, October 27th. Service 5 o'clock, tea and meeting after. Bells (8) afternoon and evening.—Those requiring tea please write.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Oatlands Park (near Walton Station, L. & S.W.R.), on Saturday, November 3rd. Ringing from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Short service, 5 p.m., to be followed by tea. All ringers welcome, but those intending to partake of tea must notify me on or before Oct. 29th. Business meeting at conclusion of tea for election of officers, etc.—F. J. Shepherd, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 1, West Carr's Lane, Hersham, Surrey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Chislehurst on Saturday, Nov. 3rd, neither of the towers selected being available. Full particulars next week.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Boreham on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. Service, 5 o'clock, with address, followed by tea and meeting. Bells available 2.30. Tea 1/- per head to all who notify me before Oct. 31st.—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle, Chelmsford.

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, King-ton Magna, Gillingham, Dorset.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. F. Davis, of Kingston-on-Thames, has removed to 171, Sumner Road, Peckham, S.E.

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.

OXFORD.—Oxford Society.—On Wednesday, Sept. 12th, at St. Ebbe's Church, at a memorial service for those who have fallen at the war from the parish, two 120's Grandsire Doubles, half-muffled: L. Bennet 1, W. Prosser 2, W. H. B. Wilkins (conductor) 3, Mrs. Evans 4, E. Rivers 5, J. Waklin 8.

LEICESTER.—On Sunday, Sept. 16th, in the belfry of St. Margaret's Church, on handbells, in 32 mins., 1260 Grandsire Doubles, being 10½ six-scores called differently: Sergt. E. Morris (conductor) 1—2, Alfred Ballard 3—4, Josiah Morris 5—8.

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