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FRIDAY, MARCH 19th, 1926.

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The Recast Ring of 10 (Tenor 28 cwt.) for
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RECORD PEALS.

There seems to be no finality to the records which ringers will attempt, and each new longer length seems to be only an incentive to the acquisition of fresh laurels. We publish to-day the official notification that on Easter Monday, at Leeds, Kent, the tower made famous a century and a half ago by James Barham, a company under the auspices of the Kent County Association will attempt a twenty-two thousand of Stedman Caters, the present record of which is the 21,363 rung at Appleton four years ago. Throughout the history of peal ringing there have sprung up from time to time bands who have essayed to put up bigger performances than their predecessors, but there has never been a period when more records have gone by the board than in the last quarter of a century, and that, too, despite the period covered by the war and its after-effects. Although the preceding twenty-five years saw some keen competition for record lengths, which culminated in 1899 with the much debated 17,024 Double Norwich at Kidlington, the present century has seen no fewer than thirteen peals rung of over 12,000 changes in length, and they include the longest peals on all numbers from eight to twelve bells ever accomplished by men without relief. There have been the 17,280 of Kent Treble Bob Major at Over; the 21,363 Stedman Caters at Appleton; the 14,000 Kent Treble Bob Royal at Ashton-under-Lyne; the 13,001 Grandsire Cinques at Painswick (to say nothing of the 12,675 Stedman Cinques at Southwark) and the 12,240 Kent Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne. Anyone, therefore, who sets out to beat the existing record length on any number of bells has a big task in hand, and, apart from anything else, has to face a strenuous test in physical stamina and in mental concentration. We can think of no other pursuit in which more collective effort is necessary than in the ringing of a record peal. It is not like records in many other fields of pleasure, where usually it is a 'one man' show; or where, under the urge of keen excitement, a team may, by supreme endeavour, 'go one better' than any previous competitors. To set out upon a record peal is to embark upon a task in which not the energies of one man but of a whole company are slowly dissipated over a long period; where mental alertness is necessary from beginning to end, even when fatigue has sapped the strength of the human frame, for the least lapse, even in a simple method, may bring disaster to the attempt. A record peal, therefore, especially now that the number of changes required is well past the twenty-thousand mark, is a trial which will make demands upon the physical fitness and the mental calibre of the best of men, and the attempt at Leeds will be awaited with interest by the Exercise.

(Continued on page 178.)

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Even if it is admitted that these 'super-lengths' serve little purpose except to gratify the ambition of enterprising and enthusiastic ringers, one cannot take exception to them so long as their performance is no annoyance to the public. They are an object lesson in patience and endurance, and should create a certain spirit of friendly rivalry that ought to be good for the Exercise.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF FORWARD MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY... ..Treble	GEORGE A. FLEMING 7
WILLIAM TILLET 2	S. WILLIAM KINSEY 8
H. CHARLES GILLINGHAM ... 3	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... 9
PERCY MAY 4	WILLIAM P. GARRETT ... 10
ROBERT H. BRUNDLE 5	GEORGE E. SYMONDS 11
ALBERT A. FLEMING 6	FREDERICK J. TILLET ...Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY.

Conducted by G. E. SYMONDS.

First peal of Forward Maximus by all the band, and for the above Guild.

TEN BELL PEALS.

CARDIFF.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 11, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK ATWELLTreble	ERNEST COOMBS 6
JOHN W. JONES 2	*JOHN HAMMOND... .. 7
FRANK J. BAILEY... .. 3	*GEORGE COOKE 8
GEORGE LARGE 4	CHARLES GREEDY 9
ALFRED FARNELL 5	SEYMOUR R. BARKER...Tenor

Composed by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

Conducted by ERNEST COOMBS.

* First peal of Caters.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

ALFRED H. WINCHTreble	WILLIAM S. SMITH 6
JOHN BEAMS... .. 2	*GEORGE A. COOK 7
ALBERT HARMAN... .. 3	WILLIAM T. BENSON, JUN. 8
GEORGE MARRINER 4	ARTHUR DEAN 9
JOHN H. WHITE 5	FREDERICK G. MILES ...Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHEROOK.

Conducted by W. S. SMITH.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 31½ cwt.

WILLIAM WILLSONTreble	CHARLES DRAPER 6
MRS. L. W. JACQUES 2	H. EDWARD NORMAN 7
PERCY HARRISON... .. 3	WILLIAM H. CLARK 8
HORACE F. STUBBS 4	L. WILLIAM JACQUES 9
ERNEST MORRIS 5	RALPH HOBBS... ..Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON.

Conducted by L. W. JACQUES.

First peal of Stedman Caters by the conductor.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs. — On Sunday, March 14th, a quarter-peal of Doubles, 540 Grandsire, 480 St. Simon's, and 240 Plain Bob (10 callings): Miss N. Grassby 1-2, J. Bray 3-4, G. Hobbs (conductor) 5-6. First quarter in three methods 'in hand' by all.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION*On Wednesday, March 3, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-FORT,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

THURSTANS' ONE-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES Treble	THOMAS F. KING 5
FREDERICK G. LEARER 2	CHARLES W. BELL 6
REGINALD G. GILBERT 3	ARTHUR PRINCE 7
WILLIAM A. CAVE 4	URIAH BRAVEN Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR PRINCE.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt.

* ROY WILKINSON Treble	* CHARLES COOKE 5
ERIC M. ELLIOTT 2	FREDERICK EDWARDS 6
* EDWARD LEVERSTUCH 3	GEORGE A. HUGHES 7
CHARLES DYKE 4	* LEWIS A. WEARE Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK EDWARDS.

* First peal.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, March 6, 1926, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

FREDERICK W. TURNER ... Treble	* RICHARD A. HICKTON ... 5
* FREDERICK J. GUY 2	LAURENCE CHADBURN ... 6
JOHN W. BOOTH 3	ALBERT JOYCE 7
EDWARD JOYCE 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... Tenor

Composed by GEORGE H. CROSS. Conducted by FREDK. A. SALTER.

* First peal on inside bell. † First in the method.

EYE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.*On Monday, March 8, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ERNEST F. POPPY Treble	* GEORGE BAILEY 5
* ALBERT CHILVERS 2	DAVID WHITING 6
ALFRED OAKES 3	HUBERT J. DAY 7
GEORGE CATERNOLE 4	WILLIAM STEGGALLS ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by E. F. POPPY.

* First peal on eight; and great credit is due to him for the way he struck his bell, as he has only one arm. † First peal in the method. The above band reside in seven parishes.

GODSTONE, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.*On Wednesday, March 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 4 lb. in G.

DANIEL COOPER Treble	THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 5
FRANK E. DARBY 2	* GEORGE ELLIS 6
* ALFRED J. BULL 3	* FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
* JOHN F. GALYER 4	CHAS. H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 5th. First peal in the method, and quickest peal on the bells. * First peal in the method. The band wish to thank the Rector (the Rev. G. E. Hoare) and family for their kind hospitality after the peal.

WYE, KENT.—On Friday, March 5th, after the induction of the new Vicar, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes), with 7, 6, 8 covering: S. Cacket 1, J. Jordan 2, W. Henniker 3, C. Head 4, F. Good (conductor) 5, T. Pewport 6, G. Youngs 7, S. Jordan 8. First quarter for the ringers of I and 6.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Thursday, March 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB & BOB MAJOR (SPICED), 5066 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK A. COLEY ... Treble	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... 5
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 7
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER (No. 2.)

Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

This peal is now rung for the first time, and contains 2,528 changes of each.

CLIFFE-AT-HOO, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

FREDERICK A. MITCHELL ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN 5
EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... 2	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... 6
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 3	FRANK BELSEY 7
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	GEORGE H. DAYNES Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

NETLEY ABBEY, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD-THE-CONFESSOR,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.

WILLIAM T. TUCKER ... Treble	FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... 5
REGINALD BROWN 2	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 6
TOWER R. TAYLOR 3	FRANK BLONDELL 7
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

The first peal of London Surprise on the bells.

HALIFAX, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SOULS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6088 CHANGES;

Tenor 26 cwt.

JOE HARDCASTLE ... Treble	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5
GEORGE NAYLOR 2	JOSEPH BROADLEY 6
JAMES COTTERELL 3	* RONALD SQUIRES 7
ARTHUR GILL 4	FRED SALMONS Tenor

Composed by G. H. HARDY. Conducted by JAMES COTTERELL.

* First peal, and first attempt.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF CANTERBURY PLEASURE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	WILLIAM STANFORD 5
JOHN COOK 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 6
OLIVER SIFFETTS 3	JACK BRANCH 7
PETER CHARMAN 4	ALFRED H. PULLING Tenor

Composed by G. CONYARD.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

First peal in the method by all except ringers of treble and second

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NOTTINGHAM.**

TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

†OWEN BAYES Treble	HENRY GOLDING 5
*WILLIAM C. HUGHES ... 2	WILLIAM SHEPHERD 6
†AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... 3	JESSE POPLETT 7
†FREDERICK J. REEVES ... 4	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal, and first attempt for Major. † First peal of Major, and first attempt. ‡ First of Bob Major. The 31st anniversary of the wedding of the ringer of the 5th. The 7th ringer was re-elected a member of the association. First quarterly peal for the district.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM SHORT Treble	JOHN SMITH 5
*ROBERT G. KNOWLES ... 2	SAMUEL GROVE 6
JOSEPH PIGOTT 3	ALFRED HACKETT 7
JOHN BASS 4	ROBERT MATTHEWS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

JARROW, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, March 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and 720 Plain Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*THOMAS YARROW Treble	†JOHN GEORGE 4
JAMES E. SCOTT 2	*WILLIAM ROBSON 5
EDWARD A. HERN 3	†ERNEST GOSDEN Tenor

Conducted by E. A. HERN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor. Ringer of treble belong to Jarrow; 5th to South Shields; remainder to North Shields.

KIDSGROVE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOHN PARKER Treble	JOHN BRASSINGTON 4
HORACE J. SMITH 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY ... 3	ARTHUR ALLMAN Tenor

Conducted by A. ALLMAN.

First peal in method on the bells. First peal by the Guild on these bells.

BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

MISS ELIZABETH J. ADDISON Treble	JOHN P. BARKER 4
EDMUND THOMPSON 2	WILLIAM ROBINSON 5
WILLIAM T. CLARK 3	GEORGE SLATER Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM ROBINSON.

rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. R. S. G. Green, M.A.).

ASTLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Viz., two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 13½ cwt.

ROBERT J. ARROWSMITH ... Treble	FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY ... 4
THOMAS W. ARROWSMITH ... 2	G. WILLIAM EDDULPH ... 5
CHARLES S. RYLES 3	HARRY PARKER Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

C. S. Ryles was elected a member of the Guild before the commencement of the peal. All the ringers are under 22 years of age.

HANDBELL PEAL.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, March 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT SUPERLATIVE VILLA,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5160 CHANGES;

MISS NORAH M. BIBBY ... 1-2	FRANCIS BIBBY 5-6
JOHN E. BIBBY 3-4	EDWARD JENKINS 7-8
WILLIAM BIBBY 9-10	

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 181). Conducted by E. JENKINS.

First peal of Treble Bob Royal 'in hand' in the county, by the Guild, and by all the band.

'OLD MOORE'S' BIRTHDAY.

On a recent Saturday, 'Old Moore's' birthday was duly celebrated at King's Norton, in real ringers' style. Attempting his first peal, our secretary gave a very good account of himself, considering the length of time he has been ringing. After 2½ hours our efforts came to grief by a 'swop course.'

I should like to explain why our worthy secretary is sometimes referred to as 'Old Moore,' but be sure it is not due to any disrespect to the old gentleman. For some years he has been very fortunate in not having a full-time occupation, and is regarded locally as the village handyman. He wastes his time chiefly by being secretary of the St. Nicolas' Guild of Ringers, head teacher at the Council School, organist and choirmaster, lay reader, etc., and doing all the parochial work that others cannot or will not do. His 55 years of inactivity have dealt very kindly with him, as he is fairly robust, and not at all bad looking, but we have warned him that, if he sticks to ringing, he will not only have blisters on his hands, but crow's-feet on his face.

After the peal attempt, he exhibited with pride a handful of medals, but was very pleased that he did not turn into the little grease spot that we had prophesied. Adjourning to the Navigation Inn, we sat down to a slashing sucking-pig supper, and all the refreshment one could desire, at the invitation of 'Poor Old Moore.' The way some of us devoured that little pig gave one the impression that we were taking a loving farewell of a very near relative. After the little pig had vanished we proceeded to an enjoyable evening with the handbells, and musical items were rendered by Messrs. Withers, Moore and Dowding.—Mr. F. B. Yates, on behalf of the band, thanked Mr. Moore for his kindness in providing such a capital spread, and one of the company quietly remarked that he wished he had as many birthdays as Walker, who usually manages to get four in a year when he wants a peal or two.

P. O. L.

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PRESENTATION AT YORKTOWN, SURREY.

On Sunday morning, for morning service, also a farewell to Mr. J. Smith, late captain of St. Michael's, Yorktown band, who has left the district, and is now at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. B. Hawkins, was rung in 45 mins.: E. Hunt 1, F. Ewens 2, F. Marchant 3, B. Hawkins 4, H. Hunt 5, F. Nye 6, C.Q.M.S. G. Gilbert 7, H. Hunt, sen., 8.

The members of the local band have presented Mr. J. Smith with a handsome silver-mounted walking stick, engraved with the inscription: 'Presented to Mr. J. Smith, from the Yorktown Bell Ringers.' Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith and family departed with good wishes for every success and happiness in their new sphere.

BELLS BROADCAST FROM VANCOUVER.

GREAT NEW YEAR RECEPTION IN FAR WEST.

The bells of the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Rosary, Vancouver, where the first peal in Canada was rung on July 1st, 1911, were broadcast on New Year's Eve, and from reports the results were the finest, from many points of view, achieved by the Canadian National Railway Broadcasting Station. The experiment roused special interest and appreciation, and particularly is it noteworthy that it stirred in the hearts of settlers from the Old Country happy and tender memories.

The 'Vancouver Sun' said 'directly the sound of the bells ceased telephone messages came into the "Sun" office telling how the peal had been heard in distant places, and what pleasure it had given to rappers over a radius of many miles.' But more interesting still are some of the letters which reached the Broadcasting Company. A few extracts are worth publishing, and we should like to know what other sounds than bells rung in the good old English fashion could have awakened such feelings.

'We are now listening to bells ringing in the New Year,' wrote one lady, 'and it's lovely; it's the first time I have heard a peal of bells since I came to Canada nearly 14 years ago. At my home town, Newbury, England, one of the churches there had a peal of bells, and they were played exactly as these bells were played of the Holy Rosary Pro-Cathedral. Thank the bell ringers for giving us such a pleasure.'

'I am writing to tell you,' said another, 'how very much we enjoyed hearing the bells chime the Old Year out and the New Year in. We had talked about the bells at home in the Old Country, and told our children how they rang on Christmas morning and also New Year's Eve, and last night we all sat around the fire and listened to them for the first time for 19 years for me, and 25 years for my husband, and we both said it was the best thing we ever heard on the radio.'

From Fair Cakes, Sacramento, Mr. Ernest Pouting wrote: 'We had lots of your jazz hornblowing from our stations here, but being from Essex and not having heard the real church chimes since leaving the old Country, now over 17 years, it brought that little tear of remembrance that after all the church chimes are the only message at the appropriate time.'

W. A. Dexter, of Alameda, California, U.S.A., wrote to the C.N.R.V.: 'Would you please acknowledge reception of swing chimes of the Pro-Cathedral Holy Rosary ushering in the New Year. Of all the celebrations we heard yours was the finest, and it was only by accident I tuned in on it. I was astonished when I heard where it originated, such volume and clarity. I can assure you it was enjoyed as nothing else was. I think it would be splendid if the broadcast of the chimes could be made a regular feature, at least, say, on Sundays. It would surely help to make radio really worth while.'

These characteristic expressions of opinion from sons and daughters of the homeland show how deeply the memory of bells dwells in their hearts.

Before the ringing began, the announcer, speaking from the belfry, gave a short description of the bells, and explained how they differed from the ordinary chimes of Canada and the United States. He also referred to what had been performed on them in the past. The microphone was then switched from the ringing chamber to the instrument above, which was situated some 20 feet outside the tower on the roof of the church, and the word 'go' was given. A few excellent rounds were rung with the bells half-muffled, followed by two courses of Grandsire Triples rung at a slow pace. This concluded about two minutes to midnight, when Mr. A. C. Limpus, who was waiting aloft ripped off the mufflers and gave the signal for the tenor to strike midnight. Following the last stroke, some excellent open rounds were rung, followed by a short touch of Grandsire, lasting some 7½ minutes. Every detail went off perfectly.

The ringers were: A. F. Hodges 1, W. Sampson 2, A. King 3, Geo. W. Foster (conductor) 4, Frank Dunnaway 5, Mathew Bennett 6, A. B. Lomas 7, R. H. Sapper 8. The greatest distance between points where the bells were heard was as far as is known 1,470 miles, viz., from High Prairie, near Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta, to San Francisco, California.

DEFIANCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Religious controversy is rightly barred at ringers' meetings, but it seems to have got into the Johnson Commemoration Dinner, of all places. I am quite sure you will not open your columns to religious controversy, but there is an aspect of what was said which does concern ringers, and I will mention it in such a way as, if possible, to avoid offending anyone.

But first I must tell the gentleman who said that the clergy 'at their ordination give their solemn pledge to observe the tenets embodied in the 39 Articles, that this has never been the case. Up till the nineteenth century we had to affirm our adherence to them; but now for 50 or 100 years all we are required to do has been to express our 'Assent' to them, and it is carefully explained to us that this means only a very general agreement with them, for all parties are agreed on this, that some of the statements in these Articles, which were believed to be right when they were drawn up, are now known to be wrong.

The same gentleman referred to fifteen churches in Birmingham which were openly defying the Bishop. Now, I doubt whether any of these fifteen churches have any towers yet, let alone bells, so it does not seem to be in any way a matter that concerns a ringing meeting. But my point is, that none of the clergy thus attacked could be present then to defend themselves. I hope, therefore, you will allow me to say that very many people, perhaps most people, would say that the words I have quoted convey a very wrong impression of the position.

I will not say more on this point, but there was another point which does concern ringers. The secretary, it seems, had been asked why this dinner is usually held in Lent; and he replied that they did not intend to alter it. Is not this a defiance of Church Order, and that an order which is not disputed or doubted, as in the other case?

May I beg of ringers to continue, as in the past, more sympathetic with those they differ from than most Churchmen are?

And that I may practice what I preach, I may say that I find that Mr. Trollope is hurt by the words I used about his writing, in especial 'not honest,' and 'eat his words.' I did not intend these expressions to be taken seriously, but merely in a 'Pickwickian' sense. As they have done harm, I will acknowledge that I ought not to have written them, and am eager to withdraw them. Nothing that I wrote was intended to be in the least personal and I hope no one so misunderstood me.

HERBERT DRAKE.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the North-Western Division was held at Thaxted on Saturday, March 6th. Fortunately the weather was favourable, and a large company attended. Members and visitors arrived from Epping Town, Epping Upland, Roydon, Nazeing, Maldon, Braintree, Bishop's Stortford, Sawston, and Swindon. The eight bells were kept in constant use from 3 p.m. until 4.45 p.m., when the Rev. Conrad Noel conducted a short ringers' service, and gave the address. Afterwards, at the Swan Hotel, 35 members were supplied with tea. The Rev. C. Noel, presiding, welcomed the ringers to his tower, and complimented them upon their afternoon's performance. To this, the Master (Mr. C. H. Howard) replied, and thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells, and for the warm welcome he had extended to the ringers.

Mr. H. Dew (District Master) took the chair at the business meeting. It was suggested that Hatfield Broad Oak be fixed for the next meeting-place, and this was agreed to. After the business meeting, most of the company returned to the church for more ringing. During the day, touches of Grandsire, Bob Major, Stedman, Cambridge and Double Norwich were rung.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

A very enthusiastic meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Kelvedon on Saturday, February 27th. The Vicar (the Rev. R. W. Croft) conducted the ringers' office, and gave an impressive address. The lesson was read by Mr. C. H. Howard (Master of the Association). Tea and meeting followed. Mr. F. Claydon, District Master, presiding, supported by Mr. W. J. Nevard, District Master, N.E. Division, Messrs. W. Keeble, D. Elliott, W. Elliott, and 46 members from eighteen parishes.

The meeting expressed its regret at the enforced absence, through illness, of the district secretary, Mr. W. H. Dyson.

One new member was elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Dunmow as soon after Easter as the work of rehanging of these bells is completed.

Touches of Bob Minor, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise were rung on the heavy and melodious ring of six, which are in excellent going order.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

SHIPWAY AND QUEX PARK.—THE QUEST FOR PEALS OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The peal of twelve bells at Quex Park was put up by J. P. Powell in 1819, and about the same time he induced Shipway to go and live at Birchington and act as instructor to the band he was forming. Quex Park is a large park with a mansion, which lies a mile or two inland, behind Birchington, a seaside village in the Isle of Thanet, not far from Margate. The bells hang in a tower specially built for them, called the Waterloo Tower, in the middle of the park, and at a considerable distance from the house. It is of brick; the main structure is circular, with four smaller circular turrets, one at each corner (if I may be allowed to talk of the corners of a round building). These act as buttresses, and carry the staircase. The base of the tower is flanked by four buildings, one of which has been consecrated as the mausoleum of the squire's family. The others are storerooms. The tower is surmounted by an openwork iron spire, copied from the stone at Faversham Church, and similar in general design to those at St. Dunstan's, London, and Newcastle Cathedral. The tower is surrounded and screened on all sides by trees. It is anything but a handsome building, but the general situation makes it an ideal spot for an enjoyable ringing expedition.

The bells are a peal of twelve, with a tenor of fifteen hundred-weight, and are still by far the lightest twelve ringing bells in England. They are not particularly good bells, and as a peal are decidedly a failure. When they were made, founders had not solved the problem of making really good little bells with high-pitched notes. Whatever opinions one may hold of the relative merits of the best of the old and the new big bells, there can be no doubt whatever that in very light peals modern bells are incomparably superior to old ones. Such peals as Surbeck; St. Martin's, Epsom; or the Loughborough foundry (to mention only three), could not have been cast a hundred years ago.

Ringing at Quex is done from the ground floor, and, as the bells hang in two tiers, and there are several floors between them and the ringers, the hearing is defective. The little bells especially are very difficult to distinguish, but the circle is a good one. On the wall of the belfry are painted the records of all the peals rung in the tower down to the time of the war. It is the intention now, I believe, only to record the first peals in any method or any peal of outstanding interest. The present owner of the estate, Major Powell Cotton, is naturally proud of his unique possession, and keeps the bells in order, but as is almost inevitable there is no local band, and they are only rung by visiting ringers. Any band who wishes to ring in the tower, or attempt a peal, can always be sure of getting permission, and receiving every kindness and courtesy at the hands of Major Cotton.

Besides the twelve bells, there are other very interesting things to be seen at Quex Park. In a turret over the stable is a clock which chimes on three bells, one of them dating from pre-Reformation times, which originally belonged to one of the city churches of Canterbury. It was one of a ring of five that was sold during the eighteenth century by the churchwardens, probably to raise money for some repairs to the church. Two more bells, one of them, if I remember rightly, an Eastern bell, hang in the Waterloo tower, but cannot be rung or used in any way. Grouped at the base of another tower in the park is a big collection of field guns of different sizes and dates. The house itself contains a magnificent collection of wild animals from all parts of the world. It ranges from tiny little beasts up to lions and elephants, giraffes and hippos. Every one of them was shot either by the Major or Mrs. Cotton, and it is said to be by far the finest collection ever shot by one man.

When Squire Powell built his tower, he, of course, wanted ringers, and Major Cotton told me that every man and boy on the estate was expected to learn to ring. What success Shipway had as an instructor I do not know, but he certainly did give a filip to ringing in that corner of Kent. At St. John's, Thanet, the parish church of Margate, is a board recording a peal, and at Quex a peal of Bob Triples was rung. J. P. Powell rang the tenor to the latter, and notwithstanding his enthusiasm, this seems to have been the limits of his practical ringing. In 1825 he visited Norwich to ring at Mancroft. He tried the tenor there, but finding it too much for him, he covered some Stedman Triples on the light eight. Under the tuition of Shipway he attained a considerable proficiency as a composer, chiefly in Stedman Triples. He published in 1828 a pamphlet of compositions in that method, which does not bear his name, but is said to be by 'An Amateur.' Hubbard printed a quarter-peal by him in his first edition, and this, too, is given as by 'An Amateur.' The Norwich Scholars rang a long length of his, 'double-handed,' either a quarter or a half peal, I forget which. Samuel Thurston was the conductor.

The reason why Powell devoted so much time and labour to Sted-

man Triples was, no doubt, because this was the one thing more than another which was baffling Shipway. When the latter published his 'Campanalogia' he had solved practically every problem that he set before himself. He had got his peal of Grandsire Triples without singles; he had got his peals of Cambridge, London and Superlative; he had got his 12,000 of Treble Bob. But Stedman Triples had proved a harder nut than he could crack. He says, 'A true and complete peal of Triples on this principle has for many years been the constant research of the most eminent professors of the art. The author has paid great attention to the subject, but hitherto without effect; he has, therefore, chosen to relinquish it for the present, rather than delay the publication of the work. The authors of "The Clavis" have published no more than 1,260, deeming that nearly the extent, except by using a multiplicity of bobs, which would keep two bells dodging together behind at various times during fifty-four changes; a practice justly reprobated as being both tedious and unmusical: although peals on that plan have been obtained and rung for want of better.'

And now he was at Birchington with, no doubt, plenty of leisure; he took up the problem again, and interested Powell in it as well. How much of Powell's pamphlet was really Shipway's work we cannot tell, but the latter's influence was great, as can be seen from what Powell himself writes. He begins by saying, 'Professors of the scientific Art of Change Ringing have for many years been endeavouring to compose a whole peal of Stedman Tripples, which might be considered the most perfect by having the fewest number of bobs and singles.'

Shipway's principle appears to me to be the best adapted for that purpose, but all attempts on his principle have failed as yet. There is a very curious peal I have seen composed at Birmingham, which has the 7th bell at home at each course-end, and really is an extraordinary and ingenious peal altogether. I have myself as an amateur been much interested toward the accomplishment of this peal, and although having studied it for the last six or seven years, and having experienced a vast deal of difficulty and perplexity, have also failed. I have, however, been successful in a few "touches" which I have great pleasure in sending forth for the gratification and amusement of all the above societies.'

And then later on: 'Feeling now a conviction of having pursued every plan where I have entertained any idea or possibility of success, and having failed, I do not further hesitate to pronounce this most harassing and perplexing peal of Stedman Triples is totally unobtainable on Shipway's principle, either in five parts; or if in ten having a single at the end of the first half to turn it; and the same number of bobs and singles in the second half, and in the same places as in the first half.'

Shipway's investigations were not altogether fruitless. He did not get the composition he aimed at. But he produced one with 362 calls—240 bobs, 120 common singles, and two Holt's singles. This was the one rung at Clerkenwell in 1834, and was of a succession of peals by different composers, all of whom were trying to reduce the number of calls used in earlier peals. Edwards' peal, composed in 1792, had 722 calls; Cooper's peal, rung in 1819, had 582 calls; Tobbs' peal, rung in 1828, had 622 calls; Thomas Day's peal, rung in 1830, had 422 calls; J. P. Powell's peal had 382 calls; Shipway's peal had 362 calls; and William Hudson further reduced the number to 262. Later he beat this with a peal with 248 calls, and James Lockwood went one better with one with 244 calls. All these contained In-Course Singles, besides bobs and ordinary singles.

About 1831 Shipway published a broadsheet which gave the peals of Stedman Triples which had been composed up to that time. Before that time he was back again in London. No doubt he found the country too slow. He had left Bath, where he could get ringing up to Treble Ten, because the art did not advance so quickly as he wished. At Birchington he was in a worse case, and for all the inducements that the squire held out he longed to be back once more among the steeples of London. Once he left Quex, and was induced to return, but he soon quitted it again, and returned to his old companions in the Cumberland Society.

M.C.A. ANNUAL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in your columns the notice of the above meeting. It contains the following, with regard to the facilities for ringing: '(except during the time of association service).' Last year, at Leicester, the same notice was displayed in all the towers, yet the bells of St. Margaret's were rung during the service! I should like to ask, therefore, will the notice be observed this year at Burton-on-Trent or not?—Yours truly,

W. R. E.

CHESTER.—On March 8th, 1,344 London Surprise Major, at St. Mary's-within-the-Wall: J. W. Davies 1, J. Hayes 2, H. W. Wilde 3, A. J. Hughes 4, J. Swindley 5, R. Sperring (conductor) 6, J. Morgan 7, S. Jones, jun., 8.

NOTICE OF RECORD PEAL ATTEMPT. TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND OF STEDMAN CATERS.

On Easter Monday, April 5th, 1926, ten members of the Kent County Association will (D.V.) attempt 22,033 of Stedman Caters at Leeds, Kent. Starting time, six o'clock in the morning.

KENSINGTON RINGERS' DINNER.

ST. MARY ABBOTS' GUILD ROUND THE FESTIVE BOARD.

The annual dinner of the St. Mary Abbots' Guild took place recently in the Parish Hall, when 27 members and friends sat down to an excellent meal. The chair was taken by the Vicar (the Rev. E. Marling-Roberts, M.A.), supported by the two churchwardens, Messrs. R. Carter and H. Kenyon. Among the guests were the Rev. S. A. Spackman, who was, until lately, chaplain to the Guild, and also Messrs. R. A. Daniell, C. F. Winney and Mrs. R. J. Wilkins, of Bristol. Letters of apology for absence were read from Bishop G. Forrest-Browne, and Messrs. E. G. Stibbons and A. W. Davis.—Bishop Browne, in his letter, stated that he very much regretted not being able to be present, as when he used to live at Bristol the ringers played a great part in his life, but he found that, at the age of 93, it was impossible for him to attend evening gatherings of any description, though he very much enjoyed hearing the bells, and if he went anywhere, it would be to a ringers' gathering.

After everyone had enjoyed all the good things to the full, the Chairman proposed the toast of 'The King,' which was enthusiastically honoured.

The toast of the 'St. Mary Abbots' Bell Ringers' was next proposed by the Chairman, who wished the Guild success, and said their ringing was very much appreciated by the parishioners, and no complaints had reached him during the past year.—Mr. W. E. Garrard, in replying, said it pleased him very much to hear that the ringing of the bells was appreciated, and that the Vicar had not been troubled with complaints. He thanked the members for their support to the Guild during the past year, and hoped that it would continue.

Mr. A. V. Selby then proposed the toast of 'The Chairman,' to which the Vicar suitably replied.

'Visitors and absent Friends' was proposed by Mr. A. B. Bennett, who told the company that it gave him great pleasure to welcome visitors to the dinner, especially Mr. Kenyon, who was present for the

first time. In reference to 'absent friends,' the speaker mentioned the name of Bishop Browne, and also of two ringers, Messrs. J. S. Wilde and W. R. Madgewick, now in Australia, one of whom, Mr. Madgewick, rang at St. Mary Abbots' on the last occasion that he came to England. He also welcomed the Rev. S. A. Spackman to the gathering.

Mr. Daniell replied, and stated that, although he now took no active part in ringing, it pleased him to hear the bells.—The Rev. S. A. Spackman also responded in a very happy speech, expressing his great pleasure at meeting old friends again, and recalling past incidents of great interest to the members. He also gave the company a most interesting description of his work in his parish in the East of London. His speech was received with great applause.

Mr. A. B. Bennett next proposed the 'Health of Mr. R. Carter,' thanking him most heartily for his great kindness to the Guild at all times.—Mr. Carter replied, stating that it gave him great pleasure to do anything for the Guild, and wishing the ringers every success.

This concluded the toast list, and the rest of the evening was given over to harmony, some good songs being given by Messrs. A. B. Bennett, R. A. Daniell, A. F. Harris, J. A. Dart, H. G. Miles, E. G. Locke and M. Giel. The Rev. S. A. Spackman and Mr. J. A. Dart acted as accompanists.

A course each of Grandsire and Stedman Caters was rung on the handbells, Messrs. R. A. Daniell, C. F. Winney, W. E. Judd, A. F. Harris, H. G. Miles and C. W. Roberts taking part.

A most enjoyable evening concluded with 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'God save the King.' The members wish to thank everyone who helped to make the gathering such a success, especially Mr. Carter, whom the Guild cannot thank too much for his kindness.

BISHOP OF LONDON VISITS RINGERS.

At Hornsey, on Sunday, March 7th, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Bob Minor, in 29 mins.: G. Northcott 1, E. G. Hibble 2, H. Blee 3, A. Howell 4, J. G. Nash 5, C. H. Ross (conductor) 6. Also 720 Bob Minor, in 28 mins.: G. Northcott 1, E. G. Hibble 2, H. Blee 3, J. G. Nash 4, T. Langdon 5, C. H. Ross (conductor) 6. Rung for service, and also in honour of the visit of the Lord Bishop of London on the 40th anniversary of his first sermon. The Bishop, with the Rector, paid a visit to the heltry, and gave his blessing to the ringers. His lordship also gave a short address, and spoke very highly of the work of the ringers in ringing the bells to call people to church.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Albert Chivers, who rang his first peal at Eye, Suffolk, last week, has only one arm, and is to be congratulated upon the way he rang and struck his bell.

Mr. Kippins' mono-mark, 'N.B.G.', as applied to the Croydon tenor (27th February) is equally applicable to Great Bentley (February 6th), where the 7th became 'Is-a-belle.' Our Bentley correspondent did not state that 'we finished the peal with the clapper out.' Is this possible?

Several bell hangers want to know if the hon. secretary of the Central Council, as an architect, would allow bells to be placed in a tower if it was built with masonry, as shown in the Major's recent sketch for eliminating noise from a belfry.

One of the visitors to the St. Martin's dinner was overheard in the Bull Ring asking 'the way up to the Cedar room.' Apparently he was anxious to have a touch of 'Imperial' or O'Cedar Mop. Alfred, put the Padd-on!

Another well known Midlands' ringer, found near Bishop Ryder's Church very early on Sunday morning, was inquiring the way to Gem Street, and explained that he was anxious to see where the early Cuckoo Netchells.

Peals of Forward Maximus have been few and far between, but one was rung on Saturday at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, thus adding another to the many methods of which peals have been scored in this famous belfry. The band would be interested to know how many peals of Forward 'Twelve-In' have been rung.

The first peal of Reverse Bob Major was rung at Harrietsham, Kent, on March 23rd, 1751, conducted by James Barham.

The College Youths, on Sunday, March 23rd, 1783, did ring in this steeple (Fulham) 5,020 Old Double Caters, in 3 hrs. 32 minutes, being the first peal ever rung in that method.

A peal of 'Double Twelve-In' was rung at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, by the College Youths on March 24th, 1784, and two days afterwards they rang 6,048 'Real Double Twelve-In,' at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

March 18 was the anniversary of a memorable handbell performance. On that date, in 1895, Mr. Harry Williams called a peal of Bob Major from 5-6 while blindfolded. The peal was rung for the Yorkshire Association in 2 hrs. 23 mins., and the other ringers were John and Joseph Thackray and John Whitaker. Mr. Williams still rings occasionally with the St. Michael's, Headingley, Leeds, company, and he is employed at New Wortley Cemetery.

March 20th is the anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich Royal ever rung in the Midlands. This was, at Duffield, Derbyshire, on Monday, March 20th, 1893, composed and conducted by the late Sir Arthur Heywood.

In Mr. J. Hunt's letter, which appeared in our last issue, with regard to the false peal of Double Norwich, the writer is made to appear as if he withdrew all claim to the correct version of the composition. It was the late Dr. Carpenter who withdrew all claim to the peal, leaving Mr. Hunt in undisputed authorship.

There is a day's work before Mr. A. H. Pulling and his merry men on Easter Monday if they achieve what they set out to accomplish. At Leeds, Kent, there is to be an attempt for 22,033 Stedman Caters, which will be a 14 or 15 hours' job. Shades of Barham!

We understand that certain ladies are already assiduously practising eating soup with chopsticks, in preparation for the next Johnson dinner.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Council will be held on May the 25th (Whit Tuesday) next, at Ipswich. Full particulars of the meeting will be published later. Notice of any motion should be sent before April 24th.

Will secretaries please note that the annual subscription is now due, and, together with the names and addresses of representatives, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Alexr. Young, 155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

The following Guilds have already paid, in the order given: Peterborough, Norfolk, Bath and Wells, Ladies', Llandaff and Monmouth, Dudley and District, Ely, Salisbury, Lincoln, and Surrey.

LIVERPOOL PEAL TO REMAIN INTACT.

ST. PETER'S BELLS TO BE RERUNG AT ST. HELEN'S.

As a result of the representations made by the Lancashire Association, and their president, Canon Elsee, the bells belonging to St. Peter's Church, Liverpool, which it was proposed to split up, so that only eight would be left in the ring to be transferred to St. Helen's Church, the complete peal of ten, we are informed, will now be hung in the tower of the latter church.

TWO BELLS AT A TIME.**MR. EDWIN HIMS' PERFORMANCE.**

Few men can handle two church bells at the same time, fewer still have rung two to a peal. Mr. Edwin Hims, of Ricester, as we recently recorded, has succeeded in this unusual task, by ringing the 2nd and 3rd to a peal of Minor at Launton, Oxfordshire. He has, however, long been an adept at handling two ropes, and was one of the first to do so. Years ago he used to ring two bells for evening service at All Saints', Oxford, and since going to Ricester he has constantly rung two bells in Triples for the Sunday service, as well as doing the conducting.



[Photo by W. Harris Morgan.]
MR. E. HIMS RINGING TWO CHURCH BELLS.

Mr. Hims is probably better known to the older generation of ringers, for he has done comparatively little peal ringing in recent years. He has no record of his peal performances, but the two most notable achievements in which he has taken part are the 17,024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, rung at Kidlington, Oxon, on May 22nd, 1899, in 11 hours 15 minutes, in which peal he rang the 7th; and the 11,328 London Surprise Major, at Drayton, Berks, on Sept. 17th, 1896. Mr. Hims has rung peals from Minor to Maximus, and, in addition, is a composer of no mean ability, his most notable composition being the 12,896 Cambridge Surprise Major, which was rung at Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, and which took him twelve months, in his spare time, to obtain.

A PEAL CHALLENGED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the publication of a peal of Superlative Surprise as having been rung at Turner's Hill on Saturday, February 27th, I would like to mention that I, among others, had the pleasure of listening to the last two-thirds of the ringing. The striking generally was good, but the point I want to get at is, what happened during the last four courses?

From a listener's point of view, the ringing during that period was such as to cause me to suggest that it was not a true peal. Generally speaking, this part of Sussex is not a district where one would expect to find ringers enthusiastic enough to make a journey with the object of listening to a peal. But on this occasion the unexpected happened, and I am very much surprised at the conductor allowing such a performance to be published as a peal.—Yours truly,

'LISTENER.'

THE BELLS OF LYDD.**NEW RING OF EIGHT AT THE 'CATHEDRAL OF THE MARSH.'**

By E. EDWARDS.

Saturday, March 6th, will be long remembered in the ancient town of Lydd as one of the most important and interesting days in its history, for it was the occasion of the dedication of the church bells.

The Church of All Saints, dating, in part, from Saxon times, chiefly built eastward in the 13th century, lengthened westward in the 14th century, and finally completed about 1450 by its magnificent perpendicular tower, is one of the most beautiful in the county of Kent. It is the longest parish church in the Diocese of Canterbury, measuring from east to west 199 feet, and its tower is 132 feet in height. Situated in this corner of Kent, so rich in noble churches, it is often designated the 'Cathedral of the Marsh.'

Its bells, only five in number, had been long in a parlous condition; they were pronounced unsafe to ring, the framework was decayed, and the tenor bell cracked and chipped beyond repair. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston were consulted, and upon their advice the five old bells were recast with metal added, and the ring augmented to a peal of eight. The bells have been rehung in a solid teak frame, and tuned on the Simpson principle. The whole work has been most successfully carried out, and, in the opinion of all who heard it, Lydd now has a peal perfect in tone and quality, and unsurpassed in the county.

The dedication ceremony was a short festal evensong, commencing with a hymn, in procession, sung by the choir and a large number of clergy from neighbouring parishes. The service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Collins (the Rector), assisted by the Rev. Dr. Lummas. The Dean of Canterbury gave an address of great interest, in which he described the history and various uses of bells from early times, and referred to bell ringing as a great work in the house of God. The choir and clergy then moved in procession to the tower, singing the hymn, 'When morning gilds the skies,' and the Mayor (Mr. Arthur Finn, F.S.A.) requested the Dean to dedicate the bells to the honour and praise of God. The bells then rang out for the first time.

At 4.15, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was begun by the selected band from the Kent County Association. This was broadcast by the B.B.C. with great success, and brought telegrams of congratulation from Wales and France, while innumerable letters have been received from all parts of the country, expressing admiration of the sweetness of the bells, and the excellence of the ringing.

At 5 o'clock the Mayor entertained the ringers of the district, with the choirmen and sidesmen of the church, to tea at the Town Hall, about 90 being present.

Some friendly discussion took place on the much debated subject of Simpson tuning, and it was unanimously agreed that nothing could be more beautiful than the bells which had been heard for the first time that day.

A word of praise should be given to the excellence of the singing of the choir during the service. The Mayor and Mr. E. C. Mitchell shared the duties of presiding at the organ.

Too much cannot be said of the splendid work carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, who spared no trouble to ensure a satisfactory result.

On Sunday, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): T. W. Player (Stone) 1, C. W. Player (Stone) 2, R. Birch (Hythe) 3, H. S. Humphrey (conductor, New Romney) 4, A. C. Kay (Ashford) 5, A. G. Wratten (Hythe) 6, E. W. Powell (Ashford) 7, S. J. Boulton (New Romney) 8.

FIRST PEAL OF LONDON AT NETLEY.

The peal of London Surprise, at Netley Abbey, Hants, on Saturday, was the first peal on the bells since November 30th, 1912.

After the peal the band were kindly entertained to an excellent meat tea at the Victoria Cafe by the Vicar (the Rev. R. E. Henty Summers), who is himself a ringer, and an hon. member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and to whom a vote of thanks was accorded for his kindness and welcome.

It is very gratifying to know the local band are anxious to join the Guild, and thus affiliate the tower again to the Guild.

READING'S VETERAN VERGER.

On Friday, March 5th, the bells of St. Laurence's Church, Reading, were rung half-muffled, as a last mark of respect to Mr. G. Foxell, for more than 50 years verger and parish clerk, who passed away on March 1st, at the ripe age of 99 years and eight months. The following touches were rung: 518 Grandsire Triples: R. T. Hibbert 1, Miss D. Blencowe 2, Miss S. Davis 3, Miss V. Robinson 4, J. W. Higgs 5, C. Brown 6, H. Tucker 7, H. Simmonds 8. 504 Stedman Triples: C. Brown 1, Miss M. Cross 2, Miss S. Davis 3, Miss V. Robinson 4, J. W. Higgs 5, H. Tucker 6, R. T. Hibbert 7, W. Hibbert 8. Also 306 Grandsire Caters.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER. A BROAD HINT TO EDGBASTON.

(Continued from Page 170.)

Mr. A. Paddon Smith, the hon. secretary, responded to the toast of 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' If he had been able to do anything at all for the Guild it had been due almost entirely to the loyalty and hearty support of the officers, and of every member. They were a very loyal body indeed, and the secretary would indeed be a 'mug' if he could not get on with such a body behind him (applause). They were particularly fortunate in having Alderman Pritchett as their presiding Ringing Master. At their annual meeting they re-elected him, and they would not let him resign as long as they could induce him to accept office (applause). He was an ornament to the Guild, and a distinguished man outside ringing. Continuing, Mr. Smith said they as ringers thought 'no small beer' of themselves. They thought they were an important body of men, and perhaps they might be, but it was well sometimes to take notice of what other people thought of them. The following appeared in the 'Birmingham Mail' recently: The diocese of Exeter has 3,000 bell ringers. In other parts of the country the trouble is 'foot-and-mouth disease' (loud laughter). 'Foot-and-mouth disease', of course, was a very mild term compared with some of the things which would-be orators in the Bull Ring sometimes called them (laughter). Proceeding, Mr. Smith said they had had a very successful year. They did not regard peal ringing as the sole hall-mark of a good or successful society, but their chief object was to perform efficiently in the belfries on Sundays for Divine Service. He took strong objection to their work being described as a means of calling people to church. It was one of the greatest acts of worship that ever took place in connection with any church—a good peal of bells well rung (applause). It had nothing to do in these days with calling people to church. They had an excellent band at St. Martin's, and there were good bands at, among other churches, Erdington Parish Church and Catholic Church, King's Norton, where an excellent job was made of recasting the bells, and where, if the ringers were not altogether satisfied, they were not grumbling at the tone of the bells, but because they were anxious to get two more (hear, hear). They could do very well with an excellent peal of ten in that neighbourhood—they were not too well off near the city for ten-bell towers—and he hoped at no distant date that they might be able to congratulate the King's Norton men on having two more bells. There were also excellent hands at Perry Barr and Solihull, and a good six-bell company at Edgbaston. Unfortunately the band there was considerably better than the bells warranted (laughter). The bells were not in keeping with the church to which they belonged, and he could not understand how the people of that wealthy parish put up with their piffling little peal of six (laughter and hear, hear). The Vicar of Edgbaston was present that night, and they all hoped he would take steps to provide his ringers with a peal of bells worth ringing on. If their use was merely to call people to church, he suggested that the Vicar had a very poor congregation (laughter). The speaker added that at St. Martin's they had been able to do a little special ringing in connection with the mid-day services on Thursdays, and it was a fact that on many Thursdays they had rung eight, ten, and sometimes twelve bells. He doubted whether there were many places in the country where they could get together twelve ringers to ring voluntarily for an ordinary mid-day service on a week-day (applause).

A HANDBELL GIFT.

Mr. Albert Walker submitted 'The Visitors,' and said they welcomed the Birmingham clergy who were present, as they also did the representatives of the numerous ringing societies from all over the country. They were specially delighted to have with them Mr. Challis Winney (applause), so that they could bestow on him the welcome which he always gave to visitors to London, where he was a real 'guide, philosopher and friend.' He would find many friends in Birmingham, and he hoped he would now come every year (applause). They also welcomed Mr. Young, the secretary of the Central Council. They had to thank Mr. Young for all he was doing in trying to alleviate the suffering of their dear old friend, Mr. John Carter. Mr. Young had brought with him Mr. Carter's handbells, which he (Mr. Carter) desired he (the speaker) should accept as a personal gift. He accepted those bells as their Deputy Ringing Master, and he took it as a tribute to the Guild that they had been presented to him. Mr. Carter hoped that a peal each of Forward Major, Royal and Maximus would be rung on them, and in this they would endeavour to gratify him (applause). In conclusion, Mr. Walker again welcomed the visitors, and wished success to their respective associations.

Canon Blafeld, who first replied to the toast, said the gentle hints thrown out about the bells at Edgbaston had been going home for some little time, and he had dropped gentle hints in his parish. After what he had heard that evening he would continue to drop hints, a little less gentle, perhaps. He had found it difficult just at this mo-

ment to make a positive appeal. It would be a great help to them to have a good peal of bells, but his parish, in common with others, was being appealed to strongly for large sums of money to provide, not bells, but more churches for the one hundred thousand people in that diocese who at the present time had no church in their own district, and he found it difficult, therefore, to make a positive appeal for what was, to some extent, a luxury for themselves. But that did not mean that he would not take still fuller opportunity of reminding people that here was an opportunity for a gift, either in memory of someone or for some other high reason, to provide Edgbaston with what they certainly ought to have (applause). He was always an optimist, and he did not think he would leave Edgbaston without seeing these bells hung and hearing them rung many a time (applause). He agreed with Mr. Smith in the view that the ringing of church bells was as essential part of the worship itself, and he admired the spirit which was always manifest among ringers in doing all they could in promoting their particularly high calling.

Mr. C. F. Winney had a cordial reception when responding to the toast, and had some interesting reminiscences to tell.

Mr. E. A. Young also replied, and remarked that dinners like that had a great value in maintaining the social atmosphere which was characteristic of ringers. It was all to the good that St. Martin's Guild held a gathering of that kind to preserve the memory of Henry Johnson, and he hoped the traditions which had been set up would long continue.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Mr. Frank Smallwood proposed the toast of 'The Ringing World.' He complimented the editor upon having, since the very first number, written the weekly leading article, which always gave them something to think about, and also upon the splendid fight which the paper had put up in the endeavour to save Coventry bells. He stood, said the speaker, for the protection of the Exercise from the results of acts of vandalism, and the support which was given to ringing in every way was a great asset to ringers. Ringers in their turn, therefore, should support the paper, and should do their utmost to increase the circulation among those who at present did not subscribe to it. He often wondered what would happen if the editor got tired of his task and gave it up. Would the Central Council take over the paper? It certainly could not be run by a body of the financial standing of the present Council, which affiliated members at half a crown a time. While they had a good man at the head of affairs they should support him, and increase their support so that he might do what he knew it was his desire to do, give them a larger paper at a cheaper price (applause).

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, in responding to the toast, said the solution of a larger paper at a lesser price was a larger circulation. Like the H.B.C. programmes, the contents of the paper was often criticised, some critics being of opinion that it was too 'high-brow,' and others that it was too 'low-brow.' Within the limits of the present size it was impossible to satisfy everyone, and the most important thing at the moment was more pages. That was an expensive course, and it was not fair that the extra cost should, under existing circumstances, fall either on himself or on the present readers. The people who should provide the money were those ringers who at present did not buy a weekly copy. If these would, just for a few weeks, demonstrate their willingness to regularly support the paper by becoming subscribers, it would be possible quickly to decide if a permanent enlargement of 'The Ringing World' was a financial possibility.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith, in the absence of Alderman Pritchett, who had had to leave to attend another gathering, gave 'The Chairman.' Their Rector was already very much appreciated in that city. London's loss was Birmingham's gain, and although they did not want to pat their own backs it was gratifying to know that there was still one place a man might go to after London, and that was Birmingham (laughter and applause). They hoped, as they believed, that the Rector had a distinguished future before him and some day doubtless they would see him a Lord Bishop (applause). Without wishing him ill-luck, however, he hoped that day, for the sake of Birmingham, might be fairly distant (laughter and applause).

The toast was drunk with musical honours, and the Rector, in replying, said, although he had been present at a great many dinners, that was the first time he had had the opportunity of taking the chair, so that one of his pleasantest memories would be associated with the honour they had conferred upon him in that assembly (applause).

This concluded the speeches and the proceedings, which had been most enthusiastic and enjoyable, concluded with the National Anthem.

The whole of the vocal music was splendidly sustained by Mr. Tom Davies and Mr. Dai Thomas, who each gave some delightful songs, and were also associated in duets. Mrs. Tom Davies being the accompanist. Tunes on handbells, played by Messrs. A. Walker, T. Miller and H. Withers, also gave great pleasure.

SIMPSON TUNING.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I have very little to add to what I have already said on this matter. My chief complaint is against the vandalism which is continually going on, in smashing up so many beautiful peals of bells of good mellow tone, absolutely true to ear. Just because some of them happen to be a few vibrations out, a fact which it is impossible to detect except by the tuning fork, they are ruthlessly condemned, and in many instances substituted by bells of vastly inferior quality. There is no denying that five-toned Simpson-tuned bells when rung, produce poor, thin, soulless music, with an enormous amount of hum, and can only be heard to any advantage a long way away, which certainly does not benefit those whom they were intended to benefit.

Let our bell founders drop those two top harmonics. They can then give us proportionately thicker bells with an improved tone. I am pleased to note that this is now being done by 'some' of our founders, and might well be copied by others. We should not then be having bells falling off at the crown, as we have had in more than one instance recently.

Last year I was able to examine a peal of bells, with a tenor of over 30 cwt., tuned on the five-toned principle, and noted how some of the larger bells were laced about on the inside, especially near the crown, presumably to produce the two top harmonics, the inside of some of them presenting an appearance like the waves of the sea. I remarked then to some of my ringing friends that it was no wonder bells fall off at the crown when they are subjected to such unequal vibration, and I should not at any time be surprised to hear of many others sharing the same fate.

Of the peals of bells Mr. Laffin mentions, I have only heard one, the peal of twelve at Leicester, which are undoubtedly a very good peal, certainly not over-Simpsoned, and cannot by any means be classed with a new light peal of eight recently installed in this neighbourhood, which a very musical friend of mine, who lives near the church, describes as the finest set of tin cans he ever heard. I agree with what Mr. Groombridge says, with one exception, where he says a bell is improved in tone when it has been retuned. You may bring a bell in line with the tuning fork by retuning it, but you certainly do not improve its tone. On the contrary, you make the tone harsh and irony, compared to what it was before.

About two years ago a peal was augmented to eight at a church in the Rochester Diocese. The tenor was a tolerably good bell, by Taylor, and had done duty for between forty and fifty years. It was a little out of tone, and was taken away to be retuned. When put in the tuning machine, and its outer skin was cut away, the metal was found to be spongy, and the bell became a 'dud,' and had to be recast. Now, this was no fault of the firm who did the work, but I mention this case, which proves to the hilt the theory I advanced more than three years ago, when I stated that the resonance of a bell lies in its outer skin.—Yours, etc.,

E. BARNETT.

MACCLESFIELD'S SPLENDID RING.

Dear Sir,—May I have a few lines, in answer to Mr. Walker's invitation to the ringers who have had new peals recently to give their opinions re the old and new methods of casting the tuning?

We had here what I always thought were a very good peal of ten bells, eight by Rudhall, and the trebles by Taylor. The tenor cracked about sixteen years ago, and, because we proposed a scheme to make them into a peal of twelve, we had, for various reasons, to wait a long time to get the job completed. Personally, I think this has been a blessing in disguise, as I don't think we should have had as good a peal as we have got now if the job had been done at once. I have heard nothing but praise for the twelve bells we have got now, and although I thought our old peal were good, they were not to be compared to the present ring.

When the bell hanger, Mr. R. Lane, came to hang them, the first words he said to me were, 'You have got in your tenor one of the best bells for its weight we have ever turned out at Loughborough.' When, at the opening day for ringers, one of the church officials asked for the opinion of visiting ringers, the late Mr. J. W. Washbrook said he had never heard better trebles than the first four bells.

Mr. Barnett, in his letter, said Simpson-tuned bells were always thin, and of the tin can type. We have got no tin cans in ours.

Mr. Lilley says he thinks Shrewsbury bells will want a lot of beating, and I am of the same opinion as regards Macclesfield. We have got a beautifully balanced peal of good tone, and no howlers, which are a credit to the firm who cast them, and everybody here thinks the £2,000 they cost well spent.—Yours truly,

J. NORBURY.

SURPRISE MINOR AT FULMER.

On February 15th, at St. James' Church, 720 Wells Surprise Minor. On March 2nd, 720 Norwich Surprise Minor. On March 10th, 720 Primrose Surprise Minor: J. W. Harrison 1, Miss P. M. Moss 2, G. H. Gutteridge 3, F. Corke 4, H. Wingrove 5, C. C. Mayne (conductor) 6. First in these methods by all the band.

REVIVAL OF RINGING AT BRAMSHOTT, HANTS.

On Wednesday, March 3rd, at the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. Mr. Polchampton) and the members of the Parochial Church Council, the members of the Holy Trinity Society of Guildford visited the Parish Church of Bramshott, Hants, with the object of reviving change ringing there. Demonstration touches were rung in Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles, and one or two of the local men also took part in some of the ringing.

After ringing, the visitors were entertained to supper in the Liphook Village Hall, at which the Rector presided. Those also present included the Rev. A. H. Taylor and the Rev. A. H. Bowles, Colonel Overton and Mr. W. H. Wright (churchwardens), Mr. A. C. Dryden, Mr. W. R. U. Critton and Capt. Spriggs (members of the Church Council), and about twenty young men of the parish who are interested in the art, and anxious to learn to ring.

Afterwards, the Rector proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Holy Trinity Society, and Mr. A. H. Pulling, who responded, gave some practical advice on change ringing, which was very much appreciated, and at the conclusion of his remarks he was accorded musical honours.

Mr. W. H. Wright, who made all arrangements necessary for the ringing, including the provision of a conveyance for the visitors from Liphook Station to the church, and Mrs. Wright, who was responsible for catering for the supper, must have worked very hard to make the evening such an enjoyable one.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Rochdale Branch was held at East Crompton on Saturday, March 6th. About 30 members were present, including ringers from East Crompton, Todmorden (Unitarian), Newhey, Teesfield, Crossstone, Milnrow, Todmorden Parish, Balderstone, Middleton, Ashton and Disbury. Touches in various Minor methods, including Grandsire, Kent and Oxford, London Scholars' Pleasure, Woodbine and Plain Bob, were rung during the afternoon and evening. In the evening, two framed peal boards were unveiled, one by Mr. Mason, one by the churchwardens, and the other by Mr. G. Wild, the chief ringer. They each expressed their pleasure in being asked to unveil the boards, and afterwards a vote of thanks to them was passed.

The business meeting then followed, the Vicar of East Crompton, who extended a hearty welcome to those present, being in the chair.

A vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. J. Harrison, of Heywood, was passed.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Whitworth on April 10th, and a vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens for the use of the tower and bells, and also to the local ringers for having everything in readiness, brought the meeting to a close.

BELLS ON THE GRAMOPHONE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Referring to your correspondent's letter re gramophone records and bell ringing, the only record which, to my knowledge, reproduces changes on bells is one issued by the 'His Master's Voice' people—the Gramophone Co., R. 509, 10-inch. The description in their catalogue is 'Changes on Ten Bells,' so it is probably a recording of 'popular changes.' It was made by the carillon at Bournville Village.

I might warn your correspondent against the Columbia records of the Trinity Chimes of New York, as the trebles are dreadfully flat. Of course, these are only hymn tunes.—Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH W. HIGGS.

BOW BELLS.

Sir,—You were so kind as to print a letter from me, on the subject of gramophone records, in your issue of January 22nd, and I have now to thank Mr. H. F. Cooper for the information he supplies in your issue of February 12th. From Mr. A. L. Coleman, I have heard also of the following, which is actually on sale, and which I have thus been able to obtain:—

'Homochord.' Part I. and Part II. S. 020. L. 00474/5. 'Full peal of the original Bow bells, Chertside, London.'

Rounds on the 12 bells on one side, and some changes of Cinques on the other, this record gives a very fair representation of actual ringing, although its title leaves something to be desired.

Much has been said of late on the subject of preserving records of the past. Present-day records become in time records of the past; and one wonders why it is more gramophone 'records' of ringing have not been taken, especially on some of the more celebrated rings of bells. In the recent case of Coventry bells, it would have been possible, with the help of the gramophone, to have preserved some record of them rung in peal for the benefit of those of the present day, as well as for posterity, and as an example of the work of the 18th century bell founders, which it seems is doomed to vanish.—Yours very truly,

G. P. BURTON.

Beechwood, Old Cailton, Norwich.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

HARBORNE.—At St. Peter's Church, on Sunday, March 14th, for evening service, 720 Grandsire Doubles: L. Grosvenor 1, E. Cairns 2, S. Grove (conductor) 3, F. H. Hawkins 4, G. W. C. Virgo 5, N. James 6, T. Otley 7, R. D. Clark 8. Rung, with the bells half muffled (6 and 8 covering), as a last mark of respect to Mr. H. Grosvenor (for 40 years tower keeper at the above church), who died earlier in the day.

CAERPHILLY, GLAM.—On Sunday, March 14th, for evening service, at St. Martin's Church, and also for the 15th anniversary of the opening of the bells, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 50 mins., the first quarter by all the band: S. Addicott 1, E. Dare 2, W. Pike 3, P. Jones 4, A. Addicott 5, W. Dare 6, H. Broughton (conductor) 7, G. Cooke 8.

RICKMANSWORTH.—At the Parish Church, on March 14th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes), in 50 mins.: W. Croseley 1, H. W. Kirtton 2, T. Stephenson 3, F. W. Elliott 4, A. Jones 5, E. Hookham 6, J. B. Marks 7, J. H. B. Freeborn (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method by ringers of 1, 5 and 6; and by a local band.

NORTH REPPS, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, March 14th, for evensong, 720 Grandsire Doubles (six extents each differently called), in 24 mins.: E. L. Riscrow 1, J. W. J. Brown 2, C. Pooley 3, H. F. Carter 4, F. N. Golden (conductor) 5.

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE.—At St. Giles' Church, on Sunday, March 14th, 720 Ipswich Surprise: W. Halford 1, W. R. Drage 2, J. Hall 3, A. Freeman 4, R. H. Cox 5, H. Turner (conductor) 6.

PETERBOROUGH.—On Sunday, March 14th, for evening service, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: F. Rowlinson 1, Miss K. A. Jutson 2, E. Wakeling (first in the method) 3, Miss A. M. Dale 4, W. H. Waldron 5, J. J. Jutson (conductor) 6.

CHIPPING BARNET.—On Sunday, March 7th, at St. John's Church, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 49 mins.: T. Smith 1, R. Sturgeon 2, F. Chandler 3, J. Sumpter 4, R. Roffey 5, F. A. Milne (conductor) 6, H. J. Eldred 7, G. Herbert 8.—On Feb. 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes), in 49 mins.: T. Smith 1, S. Casley 2, F. Chandler 3, R. Roffey 4, J. Sumpter 5, J. A. Dart 6, H. J. Eldred (conductor) 7, S. Child 8.

ELM, CAMBS.—At the Church of All Saints, before evensong, on Sunday, March 7th, 720 Bob Minor, in 26 mins.: R. Welbourne 1, S. J. Haw 2, F. Crofts 3, L. Fletcher 4, G. F. Mason (conductor) 5, R. W. Crofts 6.

PORTISHEAD.—A very impressive service took place at Portishead Parish Church, on Sunday, March 7th, to consecrate the new burial ground, which piece of land adjoins the church, and was presented by the late Mr. R. Hudleston (churchwarden). Numerous clergy were present, and the church was crowded. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 45 minutes for this service: Miss G. Stadden 1, Miss A. Stokes 2, W. Edwards 3, Miss H. Orchard 4, J. Nisbet 5, A. E. Colburn 6, W. Gillingham (conductor) 7, J. Thomas 8.

PUBLICATIONS.

'HANDBELL MUSIC.'—Catalogues from W. Gordon, 37, Norwood Road, Great Moor, Stockport.

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YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Cathedral, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 13th. Most of the towers in the division were represented, ringers being present from Rotherham, Tickhill, Arksey, Wath, Handsworth, Barnsley, Doncaster, Bolsterstone, Wortley, Ecclesfield, Rammoor, St. Marie's, All Saints, and the Cathedral. Out-county members were also present from Norton, Bolsover, Dore, Eckington, Chesterfield and Killamarsh, bringing the number up to about 50.

The business meeting was held in the ringing chamber, the vice-president (Mr. F. Willey) presiding. The Rev. E. S. Powell, of Holbeton, Devon, was elected an out-county life member, and Messrs. E. Davenport, A. S. Robinson and R. Johnson, of Dore, were elected ringing members. Mr. F. Clark (Arksey) was re-elected secretary for three years, and was heartily thanked for his past services. Messrs. G. Holmes (Sheffield Cathedral), G. Clark (Arksey), C. D. Potter (Barnsley) were re-elected to serve on the committee for three years.

It was resolved that a letter of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. William Lomas, of the Cathedral company, be sent.

For the joint meeting of the societies in the Southern Division area, Whiston, near Rotherham, was selected, if the necessary arrangements can be made; the date to be Saturday, June 19th.

Mr. G. Lewis gave a short account of the arrangements made to date for the annual association dinner, and appealed to all who possibly could to try and be present at that function.

Votes of thanks to the Cathedral authorities and to the local band brought the meeting to a close.

CANON ELLACOMBE'S BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Barrett asks what became of Canon Ellacombe's books? I imagine that they were scattered. A few years ago I purchased 'An Account of Church Bells,' by the Rev. William C. Lukis, M.A., F.S.A., which is inscribed, 'The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe from the Author.' It contains a number of manuscript notes, and two reviews, one cut from 'The Guardian,' of December 8th, 1858, and the other from 'The Athenaeum' of December 19th, 1857.—Yours, etc.,

Wishaw.

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Ashford District was held at Hythe on February 27th, when 20 members attended. The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. H. Dale), who also presided at the tea and meeting, it being the last occasion that he would do so before his retirement.

Ten new members were elected, and Sellindge was chosen for the next meeting-place, in April.

Touches of Stedman, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Double Norwich were brought round till 8 o'clock, and a very successful meeting came to a close.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—(Established 1637).—Meeting for practice will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd, at 7.30. Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Clitheroe on Saturday, March 20th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 12 noon. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head.—F. Hutchinson, Hon. Dis. Sec., Weetwood Lane, Headingley, Leeds.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Next meeting will be held at Northchurch on Saturday, March 20th, when a good attendance is requested. Bells available in the afternoon and evening. Short, attractive service at 4.45 p.m. Subscriptions to be in by that date.—W. Ayre, School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of this division will be held at All Saints', Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. (by the kind invitation of the Rev. G. M. Hanks). Business meeting to follow. St. Saviour's tower will also be open from 6.45 to 8 p.m.—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Upholland Parish Church on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. A good attendance requested.—James W. Grounds, Sec., 10, School Lane, Standish.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 3.15. Cheap tickets issued on the Southern Railway.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Phillips, Branch Hon. Sec., Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Rothamsted on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (5) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock.—T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Royston on Saturday, March 20th. Bells ready early. Tea will be provided for those who apply to Mr. W. Hemings, Ringer, Royston. All ringers are cordially invited.—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Higham-on-the-Hill on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (6) available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—W. Cope, Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Highworth on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify me early.—S. Hopper, Branch Hon. Sec., 2, Florence Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Framden on Saturday, March 20th. Tea at the Greyhound Inn at 4.30, at a charge of 1s. each. Business meeting to follow. Helmingham bells also available, and it is proposed to ring there first, at 2.30. Subscriptions may be paid at this meeting.—W. C. Rumsey, Debenham, Stowmarket.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A business meeting will be held on March 20th at St. Mary's, Putney. Tower open from 4 o'clock. Business at 6. Everybody cordially welcomed.—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 4, Phene Street, Chelsea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells available 3 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

HALIFAX & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting and an 8-bell contest will be held at Lightcliffe (near Halifax), on Saturday, March 27th. Draw to take place at 2.45 p.m. All those desiring tea must notify me not later than March 22nd. Tea 1/6 each.—L. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec., 30, Banksfield View, Halifax.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The first quarterly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belgrave, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea in the Parish Rooms at 5 p.m., for those who advise me not later than Thursday, March 25th. Business meeting in Talbot Inn at 7.30. A good attendance is requested.—Alban Disney, Local Hon. Sec., Belgrave Vicarage, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 1 p.m. Short service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, at 1s. 3d. per head. Applications for tea tickets to be made to Mr. G. Thornton, Church House, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Wednesday, March 24th. For further particulars see circular.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting at 7. A good muster of members is expected to be present. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Clare District.—A meeting will be held at Clare on Saturday, March 27th. Bells (8) available from 2 o'clock. Meeting in Vestry at 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is hoped for.—W. Underwood, Assistant Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Bristol Branch of the above association will be held at Winterbourne on Saturday, March 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Please notify me by March 23rd.—P. C. Williams, Branch Sec. (pro tem.), 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Thorne on Saturday, March 27th. Bells ready early. Tea only provided for those who notify me before the 24th.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belper, on Saturday, March 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.—Chas. Draper, Local Sec., 25, Western Road, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Kegworth on Saturday, March 27th. Tea will be provided at 1s. per head for those who notify Mr. Felix Sutton, Market Place, Kegworth, on or before March 25th. A hearty invitation to all ringers and friends.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday at Burton-on-Trent. Bells of St. Paul's (10), St. Modwen's (8) and Winshill (6) will be available all day (except during the time of association service). Committee meeting at 3 p.m. in St. Paul's Institute. A short service will be held at St. Paul's at 4 p.m., at which the Rev. H. E. Worthington, M.A., R.D. (Rector of Seales) will preach. Collection for Bell Repair Fund, and it is hoped all members will attend. Meat tea will be served in St. Paul's Institute at 5 p.m., followed by the general meeting. All intending to be present at tea (1s. 6d. each) must advise Mr. Ronald H. Dove, 128, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent, on or before March 29th.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Secretary.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Lawrence, Thanet, on Easter Monday, April 5. Service at 12. Dinner at the Ramsgate Commercial Hotel 1.30 p.m. Business meeting after dinner. Towers open for ringing, St. Laurence's (10), St. Peter's (8), St. John's, Margate (8), Birchington (8), Quex Park (12). The Rev. H. A. Serres (Birchington) invites members to tea (5.30 p.m.). Those who wish to accept must send a postcard direct to him before April 1st. For dinner tickets apply to the secretary before March 31st.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Canterbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester, on Easter Monday, April 5th, 1926. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 2.30 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, D.D., President. Service, with address, in the Cathedral at 4.15. Tea will be provided at 5.30 p.m. for all those who notify me before Wednesday, March 31st. As the allowance will not cover the cost, a small charge will be made. Bells available: Cathedral (12), 12.30 to 2 p.m.; All Saints (10), St. Helen (8), St. Nicholas (6), and St. John-in-Bedwardine (6). Subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained in St. Helen's Church House between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.—J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec., Shepcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Knaresborough on Easter Monday, April 5th. Bells (8) available throughout the day. Further details later.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will take place at the Cathedral, Chester, on Easter Monday. Meeting 11 a.m. Service 12.30 p.m. Preacher: The Bishop of Chester. Dinner 1.15 p.m. in the Refectory. Tickets 2s. 6d.—Edward W. Elwell, Hon. Sec., Capenhurst, Chester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Painswick, Glos., on Easter Monday, April 5th. Cold luncheon 2s. 3d. Tea 1s. 3d. Management Committee meeting at 11 a.m. Service 12.15 noon. General business meeting 2.30 p.m. Tea afterwards. Charabancs from Bristol will pick up en route, if convenient. Fare 5s. 6d. Early notification for luncheon, tea or charabanc should be given.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Central District.—The next meeting will be held at All Saints', Banstead, on Easter Monday, April 5th. Tower open from 2.30. Service 5 p.m., with address by the Vicar (Rev. A. W. Hopkinson). Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea (1s. 3d. per head) should notify Mr. F. G. Woodiss, 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, not later than Thursday, April 1st. A good attendance is requested. All are welcome.—A. J. Trappitt, Hon. Sec., 57, Mellows Road, Wallington.

NORFOLK GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 5th, at Norwich. The bells of St. Peter Mancroft (12), St. John de Sepulchre (8), St. Michael Coslany (8) will be available. Service at St. Peter Mancroft Church at 12.30 p.m., at which the Very Reverend the Dean of Norwich will preach. Luncheon (2s. 6d. per head) will be served at Messrs. William Grix, Ltd., Criterion Restaurant, White Lion Street, Norwich, at 1.30 p.m., followed by the general business meeting. All intending to be present at the luncheon must advise the general secretary on or before Thursday, April 1st. All ringers are cordially invited.—Arthur L. Coleman, General Sec., High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Gosforth, Newcastle, on Easter Monday, April 5th, it being the 25th anniversary of the opening of the bells. Bells available from 10.30 a.m., short service at 1 p.m. Dinner in the Parish Hall at 1.30 p.m., at a charge of 2s. 6d. per head, to those only who send their names to Adam Deas, 8, Howard Place, Gosforth, on or before March 29th next.

DEVON GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—The annual district meeting will be held at Axminster on Easter Monday, April 5th. Bells (8). Service, Parish Church, 4.30. Tea 5. Meeting 5.30. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in the Chapter House, Christchurch, Oxford, on Saturday, April 10th. Notice of motion should reach secretary at least ten days before that date.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Forest Branch.—The next meeting of the Forest Branch will be held on March 27th at Awre. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. at Red Hart Hotel. All ringers who intend to be present must let the Secretary know by March 25th. —Oliver Thomas, 44 Lewerne Street, Lydney, Gloucester.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Cambridge on Easter Monday, April 5th. Service at Great St. Mary's at 12 noon, address by the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, Rector of Castle Camps. Luncheon and general meeting at the Dorothy Café at 1 p.m. The bells of Great St. Mary's (12), St. Andrew the Great (8), Trumpington (5), will be available. The Secretary will be glad to know how many may be expected at luncheon by March 31. —R. Copman, End House, Owlestone Road, Cambridge.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Silvertown on Saturday, April 10th. Bells available at 2.30. Service 4.45. Tea at 5.15, 1s. each. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, April 6th. —M. Hanson, Hon. Sec., 2, The Avenue, Tiverton, Devon.

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.—The Lord Bishop of Hereford will (p.v.) dedicate the two new trebles at the official opening on Saturday afternoon, April 17th. All ringers will be most welcome, and special arrangements will be made for all ringers to have a pull. Complete bands, from Plain to Surprise methods, will be given every opportunity, so that the bells may be heard at their best during the afternoon and evening. There is exceptionally good train service from Shrewsbury and Wellington. Train leaves Coalbrookdale 8.15 Saturday evening. Midland bus runs to and from Wellington Saturday nights from Coalbrookdale 6.5, 8.45 and 10.55. Sunday service, from Wellington 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. From Coalbrookdale, 12.45, 4.25, 6.25, 8.25 and 9.47 p.m. All the above connect at Wellington for Shrewsbury. Lodgings can be booked at Coalbrookdale if arrangements are made in good time. G.W. trains leave Coalbrookdale for Wellington on week days 6.20, 7.20 and 9 a.m.—All ringers who propose visiting Coalbrookdale should write to William Saunders, Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS (Established 1921).—Meetings for handbell practice will be held at St. Thomas' Church Room, Victoria Street, Bristol, at 8 p.m. the last Friday in every month. Business meeting if necessary. Few seats only left in charabanc for Painswick on Easter Monday.—Edgar Guise, 'Elder Cottage,' St. Michael's, Bristol.

DEATH.

SMITHSON.—On Sunday, March 14th, at 22, Hooton Street, John W. Smithson, aged 43 years, dearly beloved husband of Louisa Smithson.

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RYE, SUSSEX.—On Wednesday evening, Feb. 24th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 48 mins.: H. Parkin 1, Miss G. Clift 2, J. Downing 3, S. Driver 4, J. Bennett 5, G. Hodson 6, A. Levett (conductor) 7, A. Frampton 8.

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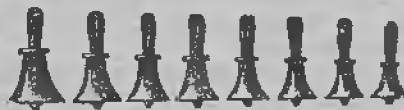
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