

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 222. Vol. VIII.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18th, 1915.

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Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

CENTRAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

Committee work in connection with the Central Council is necessarily slow. To begin with, the members who compose the various committees live far apart and are unable to hold meetings, with the result that all their work has to be done by correspondence. This is a laborious method, although it serves the purpose well enough where, as is not infrequently the case, the questions under consideration are mathematical in nature and need to be carefully studied on paper as well as talked about. Then, too, some of the subjects involve much careful investigation, such, for instance, as the proving of hundreds of peals, before the Peal Collection Committee can issue one of those volumes, which makes an appearance at rare intervals; or, as in the case of the Towers and Belfries Committee whose work is concerned in the unravelling of technical problems concerning engineering matters. Work of this sort cannot be hurried, and it is because the majority of the committees have not made big strides in their labours between one meeting of the Council and the next that the Council themselves seem to some people to be doing very little. In the ordinary way of conducting business one looks to a committee to meet, discuss their subjects and report upon them to the body that has appointed them; but it is only under exceptional circumstances that any committee of the Council, except the Standing Committee, meets round the table, while their reports, if we exclude that of the Peals Analysis Committee, are of a purely informal character.

It would be more businesslike, we think, if the members of each committee drew up a formal report for presentation to the Council, and time would be saved if, as in the case of the Peals Analysis, the reports were published beforehand. It would enable the members to digest what was coming before them and to raise, if necessary, pertinent points of criticism or discussion, which under the present arrangement might easily be missed. It is true that from year to year some of the Committees have not much to add to previous reports; indeed, in the case of the Literature Committee the absence of any report of progress for years has been one of the standing jokes of the Council, although, on the last occasion, members regretted to hear that continued indisposition on the part of the member of the Committee doing the principal work, had been the cause of much of the delay. But the Literature Committee's slow movement is an exception. The other Committees do keep their work going, although, as we have pointed out, there is not always much to lay before the Council in detail. At the same time we think, if only for the purposes of record, something more formal than a mere chatty and sometimes disjointed statement seems necessary, particularly if the Council would maintain its dignity as a deliberative assembly.

MODERN WORK.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage, Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

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BIRMINGHAM**

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OR IN PEALS.**

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and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HENBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 5, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 21 cwt.

*JOHN BUSBY Treble	WILLIAM WHITE 5
*HERBERT HARVEY 2	JOSEPH GOULD 6
REGINALD DEVENISH 3	GILBERT WILTSHIRE 7
GEORGE TOMPKINS 4	J. MARTIN Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH GOULD.

* First peal. This was the first peal in the method on the bells, and first peal since they were rehung. G. Tompkins belongs to the St. Stephen's Guild and G. Wiltshire to the St. Nicholas' Guild, Bristol; the rest are members of the local band. Messrs. J. Busby, H. Harvey and J. Martin were elected members of the Association previous to starting.

OSWALDTWISTLE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN BRANCH.)

On Monday, June 14, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF IMMANUEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

ANNABLE'S THREE-PART. Tenor 11½ cwt.

JAMES HOULDSWORTH ... Treble	ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 5
*FRANK SHAW 2	*JOHN T. SULLIVAN 6
*JONATHAN WHEWELL ... 3	JAMES SHAW 7
JOSEPH RAWCLIFFE 4	†WILLIAM WHEWELL ... Teno

Conducted by W. WHEWELL.

* First peal. † First peal as conductor. Rung in honour of W. Riley (a ringer at the above Church), who has joined the colours.

SIX BELL PEAL.

MALINS LEE, SALOP.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

On Saturday, June 12, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being one 720 of Grandsire and six 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*FRANK CHILTON Treble	EDWARD V. RODENHURST 4
CHARLES R. LILLEY 2	EDWARD WOODVINE ... 5
†ALBERT GARBETT 3	ALBERT WOODVINE ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, June 8, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANCES;

REV. A. H. F. BOUGHVY 1—2	ERNEST PYE 7—8
WILLIAM PYE 3—4	WILLIAM SHEPHERD ... 9—10
GEORGE R. PYE 5—6	ALFRED W. GRIMES ... 11—12

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Umpire: C. T. COLES.

PRESENTATION TO LADY RINGER.

At Hadleigh, Suffolk, on Tuesday evening, a 360 Bob Minor was rung on handbells by: C. Willis 1, Rev. R. L. Gardner 2, E. Willis 3, Miss Grimwade 4, Miss E. Reed (conductor) 5—6. This was rung on the occasion of a presentation to Miss Reed by the older members of the company, as a token of their appreciation of the voluntary help she has given both in ringing and in helping to teach beginners.

A VICAR'S MUNIFICENT GIFT.

DEDICATION OF TOWER, CLOCK AND BELLS AT ERITH.

The tower, spire, bells and clock, recently added to Christ Church, Erith, were dedicated on Saturday week by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. There was a large congregation present for the ceremony, and the Bishop, attended by numerous robed clergy, including the Rural Dean and Vicar, and Canon G. R. Wood, of Almondsby, Bristol, eldest son of the first Vicar of Christ Church, entered the church at the west door. After an appropriate hymn, the Vicar commenced the special service which had been compiled for the occasion. After the lesson had been read by the Rural Dean, the Bishop and the clergy and the choir, accompanied by the wardens (Capt. W. T. Allen and Mr. H. Palmer), the architect (Mr. J. P. St. Aubyn), the bell founder (Mr. Robert Warner) and the clerk of the works (Mr. H. Jarvis) proceeded to the space near the tower, where the Vicar made the request to the Bishop to dedicate the tower and spire, with the bells and the clock, to the glory and praise of God. The Bishop then offered some appropriate prayers and pronounced the sentences of dedication, after which a few changes were rung on the bells. The Bishop and the clergy and choir returned to the chancel while the hymn, "Ring forth, holy bells," was sung.

THE VICAR'S DEVOTION.

The Bishop based his address on Numbers x, parts of the 2nd and 10th verses. The following day, he said, was the forty-first anniversary of the consecration of their church. It was consecrated by Archbishop Tate, and on that occasion the present Archbishop of Canterbury was present as curate of Dartford. Archbishop Davidson had always retained the greatest interest in the church, which had fulfilled its spiritual purposes, and it was with deep regret that he was unable to accept the invitation of the Vicar to be present that afternoon. The Bishop then referred to the first vicar, the Rev. B. Wood, whose daughters and sons were present on that occasion, and to the late Rev. F. B. Gribbell, the second incumbent, who was present at the laying of the foundation-stone of the new tower a year ago, and who preached at the church on the day afterwards. Their present Vicar had been with them for nearly 24 years, and had given them the great gift which they had consecrated that day. They thanked God that he came to them nearly a quarter of a century ago, and that he saw the beautiful church completed. He had been a faithful pastor, and they thanked him for the tower which had been consecrated. He (the Bishop) knew what his feelings were; they were feelings of thankfulness to Almighty God. They thanked God for the completion of that noble work, they also thanked God for him who for nearly a quarter of a century had ministered there and had been a faithful pastor, priest and friend to all those with whom he had been so closely connected. It had been traditional of that parish that the devotion shown by its incumbents had not only been exhibited by tremendous work, but also that, as often followed when the heart of a man was stirred and his whole being was consecrated to some great work, he was willing to give of the substance with which God had endowed him to that great work. There was no more honoured, respected and loved clergyman in the diocese than Mr. Bouden. When the church was being consecrated their Vicar was at work as a priest in the county of Kent, and for a longer time than the period through which that church had stood he had been working devotedly for the extension of Christ's Kingdom within the county. They were thankful to Almighty God that the design for the completion of the church had been in the same hands as those which, as architects, designed the nave and chancel of the church. They were able to appreciate that design as a whole—its symmetry, its proportions, its nobility. It was not only the tower and spire which stood complete to-day—they had been completed without any accident to the builders of it—but also the bells and clock had their own lessons which it was well for them to keep close in their minds. He proceeded to speak of the various uses to which the bells would be put, and affectionately urged the people to make the fullest use of the opportunities for worship which the beautiful church afforded them. The bells were a call to awake them in the days of gladness and solemn assemblies, a call to reflection and meditation in those bustling days, and a call to assemble together in divine worship and to thank God for the opportunities given them, as well as a summons to battle. In the great struggle such as that with which they were faced, there was a call to the people to do their share, to bear their burden, and to help their neighbours and country. Let them be faithful to their God and King, faithful in service, not by popularity or waiting for something exceptional, but doing their ordinary duty of the day. On a bell at Hampstead Church was the couplet—

"Good people all that hear us ring,
Be faithful to your God and King."

Let them carry out that motto and be faithful to their God and King. May the clock and the bells summon the people for generations to come to the call of duty towards God.

THE CLOCK AND BELLS.

A collection was made towards the clock fund and this realised £11 16s. The amount contributed for this purpose now totals a little over £200, so that about £30 is still needed.

The service was concluded with appropriate prayers and the recessional hymn, "Now thank we all our God." The procession left the church by the tower entrance, then used for the first time. The Bishop

and the clergy and the church workers and friends were entertained to light refreshments by the Vicar in the parish room.

The new clock, which is the work of Messrs. I. B. Joyce and Son, of Whitechurch, Salop, contains all the best and most modern improvements. It strikes the hours on the tenor and the Westminster chimes on four other bells. The time is shown on four dials, each eight feet in diameter, filled in with white opal glass, so that they can be illuminated from the interior at night. The most notable feature about the clock is the escapement, which is the famous Lord Grimthorpe's gravity, the same as is now in use in all large and important clocks. The makers guarantee the clock not to vary more than a quarter of a minute per month. It is also fitted with an automatic apparatus whereby the chimes are thrown out of action between 11 p.m. and 5.15 a.m., but the hours are struck without any break.

The peal of eight bells were erected by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, Ltd., of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry, London. They are hung in a patent steel vertical cantilever frame, with Warner's patent self-aligning, self-lubricating oil ring bearings, and the whole installation presents an extremely smart appearance. The weight of the tenor is 17 cwt. 23 lbs., and the octave is in the key of E. The bell chamber is lined with louvres with heavy armoured glass in order to prevent the sound of the bells from annoying occupants of residences near the church. It is gratifying to announce that the work of constructing the tower, etc., although of a nature necessarily involving considerable risk to those engaged in it, was not attended by any accident, although during the winter months the heavy gales made the work anything but a pleasure to the men who were engaged on the erection.

After the service a special band of ringers, kindly procured by Mr. E. Barnett, of Crayford, rang several touches, and later in the evening a peal of Double Norwich was rung in 3 hours 9 minutes, as recorded last week. This fact speaks well for the "go" of the bells. The tone was greatly admired, and the general opinion was that the whole work had been carried out in an eminently satisfactory manner.

VETERAN HORLEY RINGER'S DEATH.

We chronicle with regret the death of Mr. W. Edwards, a well-known and highly-respected resident of Horley, Surrey, whose death occurred on the 3rd inst., and who was buried on Tuesday of last week, amid many manifestations of sympathy and respect in Horley Churchyard.

The deceased, who was 77 years of age, was born on May 12th, 1838, and for many years carried on business as village blacksmith, which brought him into personal contact with numerous friends. He first began to ring at Horley Church about 60 years ago, and was one of the oldest members of the Surrey and Sussex Associations, and was a familiar figure at meetings of both these organisations. For many years he was foreman of the Horley Parish Church bell ringers and a most regular attendant at Sunday service ringing. Although an old ringer, he never attempted to ring a peal of 5040 till the year 1897, but since then he has rung six others, of Grandire Triples. He was, however, more in favour of quarter-peals and short touches.

Some fifteen ringers attended the funeral, and a company rang, with the bells deeply muffled, the deceased's favourite touch of 336 Grandire Triples. After the service a quarter-peal was rung by: A. Songhurst 1, J. Kenward 2, C. Bashford 3, S. Kenward 4, G. Ilman 5, P. Etheridge 6, A. Harman (conductor) 7, C. Osborn 8.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The June meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Tong on Saturday week, and was attended by members from Armley, Bramley, Holbeck, Leeds Parish Church, Mirfield, Calverley, Pudsey, and the local company. The bells were utilised in the afternoon in touches of Plain Bob, Kent, Oxford, Duke of York, College Pleasure, and Cambridge. At the business meeting, held in the pavilion of the Tong Manor Cricket Club, Mr. P. J. Johnson gave an account of the business which was transacted at the Central Council meeting at Whitnashide.—Mr. E. M. Davis was elected a member of the society.—A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens of Tong, for the use of bells, and to the local band for their kind arrangements, was carried on the motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith, Mr. Bolland responding.—Some of the members then had a touch on handbells, this brought the proceedings to a close.

PRESENTATION TO A STOCKPORT RINGER.

On Sunday morning last, after the ringing for morning service, there took place in St. George's belfry, Stockport, an interesting presentation, a handsome pair of pictures being given to one of the members of the company, Mr. W. Jackson, who has recently entered into the state of matrimony.—The Chairman (Mr. J. W. Bayley) spoke of Mr. Jackson's connection with the church as a ringer, and also the esteem in which he has always been held by the company.—Mr. George Asbury, in making the presentation, on behalf of the company, asked Mr. Jackson to accept their heartiest congratulations and best wishes for his future happiness, and he, too, bore testimony to Mr. Jackson's personal goodwill, and the enthusiasm he had always displayed in his ringing duties since joining St. George's company.—In reply, Mr. Jackson thanked the members for the kindly thought which had prompted them to show their appreciation in so generous a manner.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

"THE RINGING WORLD" SPECIAL REPORT.

(Concluded from page 297).

We conclude in this issue our report of the Central Council meeting in London on Whitsun Tuesday. "The Ringing World" was not merely the only paper represented by a member of its own staff, but our reporter was the only shorthand writer present taking any note of the proceedings, and any report of the speeches appearing elsewhere has been taken, without our consent, from our columns.

Mr. J. A. Trollope, alluding to the motion, which had been passed, referring to the Legitimate Methods Committee the reconsideration of the rules laid down for the legitimacy of methods, said if all the points which Mr. Davies had brought up were to be accepted it would mean reconstructing the whole thing from the bottom, and meant undoing the work of 15 years. He did not know what other members of the committee were prepared to do, but he should not do it. They had got now far beyond rudimentary things, and he had made up his mind that it was not a question to be reconsidered from Mr. Davies's point of view. He meant it as no personal affront, but if it had to be done he would not be of any further use on the committee.

ARGUMENTS BASED ON WANT OF KNOWLEDGE.

The President said there was no reason for any member of the committee to resign. If a member of the Council made a motion that certain expert matters wanted reconsidering, and if he submitted his views to the expert committee, and that committee did not think there was any ground for alteration, then the committee would report to the Council that they were agreed that things should stand as they were, and upon their judgment, in all probability, the Council would decide. They would probably prefer to take the expert opinion of a number of gentlemen who were on the committee to the opinion of one gentleman outside it.

Mr. Trollope: It means really that we shall have to justify what we have been doing for 15 years. As far as I am concerned I have done that elsewhere, and if that won't carry conviction I don't know what will. The majority of people who talk about Bob Major lead ends and coursing order have not a rudimentary idea what is meant by it. It is not a question whether you are compelled to have certain lead ends, but of the truth which lies behind the whole thing, and until you know it you are not competent to express an opinion upon it. These arguments are based merely on want of knowledge.

Mr. S. Wood: The best way would be to engage a room for them until the next Council meeting. Perhaps they would have finished by then (laughter).

Mr. H. W. Wilde asked whether the committee would reconsider the word "Legitimate." It was not a very desirable title.

This was accepted as part of the reference to the committee, and the Council then passed on to the consideration of the next motion on the agenda.

RINGING IN WAR TIME.

The Rev. F. L. Edwards then moved: "That this Council recognises with emphatic approval the good judgment and consideration shown by ringers throughout the United Kingdom in their spontaneous abstinence from peal ringing since the outbreak of war: but that at the same time (the Council) regards it as the privilege and sacred duty of ringers, wherever circumstances permit, to continue, alike in time of war and of peace, to honour with the music of the bells the Lord's Day and other Feasts of the Church, as also on Royal and National Anniversaries, to give expression to the thankfulness of the British people to Almighty God for the many blessings vouchsafed to this Empire and for the preservation of His Most Gracious Majesty to preside over its momentous destinies." He said he was quite aware, as everyone else was, that that Council had no power whatever to regulate the ringing in any belfry in the kingdom, nor had any of the associations. The only persons who could really regulate the use of bells were the clergy responsible for each belfry. But as a matter of fact, it was the truth, though a deplorable truth, that the vast majority of the clergy responsible, not being ringers themselves, were not really competent people to direct the use of the bells, and the result was that a matter of this kind was practically left to the ringers. It was quite natural, therefore, that the ringers throughout the country should look to that Council for some guidance in the matter, the fact being that ringers were largely left to their own devices. During the war the ringers had taken their patriotism into their own hands. At Newcastle the Council discussed the question of peal ringing, and there were some of them who advocated the restriction of peal ringing in normal circumstances to occasions when they would have good ground for justifying the ringing. The war, however, had settled the question for the time being. Ringers had taken it upon themselves to abstain with one accord from ringing peals during the war. That showed the very important point that ringers realised the fact that peal ringing was not of the essence of their vocation as church officers, and should be relegated to second place. All would agree that the Council would be right in according their emphatic approval of the attitude adopted by ringers in regard to peal ringing during the war. That ringers had shown this sense of restraint was due to the fact that they possessed a feeling of respon-

sibility, that they realised that they were a body of public officers, officers of the Church and the whole Christian community, and that, therefore, the use of the bells was not primarily for their delectation, but to give expression to the feelings of the Christian community which they represented. While the Council would, therefore, accord its approval of this restraint by the ringers, he thought the Council should give some word of guidance as to the use of the bells which they considered legitimate during the war.

A WRONG-HEADED ATTITUDE.

Some of the authorities seemed to have gone off their heads over the war. He knew of churches where the bells were not even allowed to be chimed for services. That seemed to him to be a very wrong-headed attitude to take. Primarily the bells were put into the belfries for use on Church Festivals, and as an adjunct to public worship. Why in the name of common sense, because we were at war, should this particular function of the Church be entirely suspended? It was said that feelings of joy, during the present great national anxiety and the desolation of many homes, were out of place. So they were, from that point of view, but the expression of joy of those who held the Christian Faith was always in place as relating to the essence of their faith. The Bishops of the Church had not given orders that the "Te Deum" or the "Magnificat" should not be sung or that choirs should not take part in the services, and no clergyman had given orders that the organ should not be played. Why then should the bells cease to ring? It was the duty of the ringers to ring the bells for the Lord's Day, which was a weekly festival, and for the other Feasts of the Church as they occurred in rotation, and he held very emphatically that ringers had a great duty to perform, and had a privilege accorded to them in being able during a time of war, when there was much cause for anxiety, to remind the people by the music of the bells that there was cause for joy in the great fundamental truths of our religion. It was for ringers to set the key note of Christian worship in war time just as much as in peace time. The position of ringers was an especially honourable and useful one in war time, because by the regular ringing of bells they bore constant testimony to the fact that the great truths of the Christian religion were immutable and could not be impaired or destroyed by any of the vicissitudes of mundane affairs. Continuing, Mr. Edwards said that never before in the history of this nation or any other had there been such a grand and striking outburst of loyal devotion to the throne and person of the Sovereign as there had been in this Empire since the outbreak of war, and it seemed to him that for that very reason, during the period of the war, there was at least an emphatic reason for ringers to give expression to that loyal devotion on the royal anniversaries, and also to give expression to the thankful joy of the people in the preservation of His Majesty's life. In conclusion, Mr. Edwards said he hoped that resolution would act in some measure as a guide to those clergy who did not themselves take any action to regulate the ringing of the bells during this time of war.

Mr. A. Hughes D'Aeth seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously, without debate.

A MOTION POSTPONED.

The President said, with the consent of the gentleman who was going to speak on the remaining motion which was on the agenda, he would suggest that it be postponed until the next meeting. The motion was: "That the Council desires to draw the attention of the Exercise to the increasing abandonment of raising and falling bells in peal, as a result of which a large proportion of ringers do not acquire the necessary skill to enable them to take part in this ancient and musical practice." This was a question, said the President, which ought not to be put too lightly aside, and it was for that reason that he would suggest, with the consent of the gentleman who was going to propose it and with the consent of the Council, that it be postponed until next year.

This course was agreed to.

THE NEXT MEETING.

The President said the last business was the fixing of the place of next meeting. This triennium was the turn of West and East, and next year it was the turn of the West. The year after it would be the turn of the East, and he thought there was very little doubt that Ipswich was absolutely the place they must go to, for not only had it been a centre of progress for many years, but it was one of the places in the country that they had not been to, but to which they ought to have gone before. The immediate point before them, however, was the western place for next year. The Standing Committee had very carefully considered the matter, and suggested Plymouth. It was a very long way off, but Plymouth was a very old centre of ringing, and there were still a great number of ringers there. The Council had found, moreover, that the very distant places were not the least well attended, therefore he ventured on behalf of the Standing Committee to suggest Plymouth to them.

The Rev. M. Kelly (President of the Devonshire Guild) said he need hardly say what a hearty welcome they would give to the Central Council if they came to Devon next year, but he thought it was only right to say they had got to face this fact, they could not look into the future, and if the position next year was the same as it was at present he must warn members of the Council that there was not any likelihood of the bells in that neighbourhood being available for peals or for prolonged ringing. As it fell within the Whitsuntide festival, there would be no difficulty in having short ringing, but he was con-

vinced that the incumbents would not grant permission for any prolonged ringing, and it was a very long way for ringers to come and then not have a chance of having any peals.

The President pointed out that, as a Council, they recognised that they did not have their meetings in order to ring at them. The members were sent at considerable expense, and at considerable personal trouble by their various associations to represent their interests, and at the original formation of the Council it was carefully argued that, while it was eminently desirable to meet in London, it would be extremely beneficial if a certain number of meetings could be held in different parts of the country. The meetings of the Council in different parts of the country, his experience was, was doing an immense deal to help ringers and encourage them, but any ringing that took place at the time was merely a matter of pleasure for the ringers themselves, and in these times they did not think much about pleasure.

The Rev. G. F. Coleridge pointed out that, in regard to ringing at the present time, the same argument would hold good in any part of England.

Mr. J. Griffin formally proposed Plymouth, and the Rev. G. F. Coleridge seconded.

The Rev. H. J. Elsee said he had some diffidence in suggesting an alternative place, but he thought there was another consideration, and that was that, under present conditions, there were no cheap fares, and that did make a difference to representatives who had to travel a long way. The place which he would suggest as an alternative would be more central, viz., Gloucester. They had never been to Gloucester, and that would be a good deal nearer to some parts of England than Plymouth. In ordinary times Plymouth would be a good place to go to.—Mr. J. Austin seconded.

It having been pointed out that Gloucester was counted in the Midlands, the President said it would be rather a pity to break through their scheme of rotation.

Gloucester being dropped, the Rev. F. L. Edwards proposed Bath, and this was seconded by Mr. J. D. Matthews.

On being put to the vote, Plymouth was carried by a large majority.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

On the motion of Mr. H. E. White, seconded by Mr. C. H. Hattersley, a vote of condolence was passed to the relatives of the late Mr. Sam Reeves, of West Bromwich, and Mr. Rowland Cartwright, of Wombourne, who were former members of the Council, and who had died since last the Council met.

On the proposition of the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, a vote of thanks was accorded to Sir Arthur Heywood for presiding. This was acknowledged by the President, who expressed the hope that next year they might meet under happier circumstances.

The meeting then terminated.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE COUNCIL.

COMPOSED DURING A LENGTHY SPEECH.

Messrs. Carpenter, Williams, Griffin and King
Annually do a most marvellous thing.
They construct an Analysis,
Yet don't get a Paralysis;
Ringers thank Messrs. W . . . C . . . G . . . and King.

There was a fine old Yorkshire Tyke
Of him Ringers have ne'er seen the like;
Compositions unnumbered
And Peals by the hundred,
Prove the worth of this old Yorkshire "Tyke."

There was a fine Ringer of Burton,
Who never would ring with his shirt on,
When they said—"You'll get chills!"
He replied, "No such ills,"
For I drink the best beer brewed at Burton.

There was a young Ringer of Leeds,
Who swallowed a packet of seeds—
Now this silly young ass,
Is all covered with grass,
And cannot sit down for the weeds.

ST. MICHAEL'S, COVENTRY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. James George will probably be interested to know that at least one other member of the band who took part in the final ringing of these bells 30 years ago is still alive and well—viz., Mr. A. R. Judd, who rang the 4th. Mr. Judd is a native of Coventry, and well remembers the final pull and the men taking part, but he dropped out of the Exercise whilst still a young man, and at a time when he had not got further than Grand sire.

I have known Mr. Judd for some years, and he tells me that the proposed detached tower to take the bells fell through owing to the untimely death of a citizen of Coventry—Mr. George Woodcock, a solicitor—who had promised the new tower, but who died before the project had been put under way, and without leaving any provision in his will for the scheme.—Yours, etc.,

London, June 7th.

J. D. MATTHEWS.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of the ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

- O. H. Giles, of North Stoneham, Hants, A.S.C., Railway Section.
- J. Thompson, of North Stoneham, R.A.M.C., motor driver, both in France.
- Pte Jack Champion, of Wath-on-Dearne, Yorks, 168th Brigade, R.F.A., now at Holmfirth, Yorks.
- Pte W. Basil Paine (No. 081988), of Mayfield, Sussex, 360th Co. Mechanical Transport, A.S.C., now at Aldershot.
- Pte Leonard G. Reeves, of St. Mary's, Reading, R.A.M.C., now at Bristol.
- Pte H. Woodward, of St. Peter's, Huntspill, Somerset, Army Veterinary Corps, now in France.
- Pte S. Washer (No. 3592), of St. Peter's, Huntspill, 5th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, now at Hook, Hants.
- From Wolverley, Worcestershire:—
- Sergt. G. Head, 17th Worcestershire Regiment, now at the front.
- Pte A. Head, R.F.A., now at Worcester.
- Pte G. Crowe, Kitchener's Army, now at Fowey.
- Bugler W. Porter, 27th Worcestershire Regiment, now at Maldon.
- From St. Thomas', Glen Parva and South Wigston:—
- Pte Sidney Cox, 4th Leicestershire (T.), now at the front.
- Sergt. George Burton, 6th Leicesters.
- Pte Joseph Burton, 34th Leicesters (T.).

MUFFLED RINGING FOR THE FALLEN.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—It is now six months since there was a muffled ringing day for our soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in this great struggle. In my opinion a periodical day might be set apart for that purpose, and as a suggestion I should fix the first week-end in every third month.

What does it matter whether it is All Saints' Day or All Souls' Day, if the purpose is there? We set apart Sunday for a day of prayer, etc., and I cannot see why we should not act similarly.

When the day of peace comes and every ring of bells will be pealing forth joy, I am afraid "muffling" will be, to a certain extent, forgotten in the excitement.

If ringing is done as I suggest, I think the Vicar or Rector ought to let his people know why the ringing is being done. On the last occasion we went further, we put a notice in the local papers.—Yours truly,

PETER CROOK.

7, Melrose Avenue, Bolton, Lancs.

BELFRY ACCIDENT.

One of the ringers of Bowden Church, Lancs, met with an unfortunate accident when preparing for ringing on the morning of the King's birthday. The victim of the mishap was Mr. George Ollier, who appears to have got the rope of one of the bells under his foot and to have been thrown on his head. The wonderful ignorance frequently displayed by newspapers in regard to things relating to bells is again evinced in the recording of the accident in the "Manchester Evening Chronicle," which says:—

"As is usual with bell ringers, Mr. Ollier secured the rope to his right foot in order to help in turning over the heavy bell above. He was lifted off his feet, and taken up a second time feet first. He was lifted up in this position several feet from the floor, and was thrown down heavily on his head. The blow rendered him unconscious. Dr. Duggan was summoned, and Mr. Ollier was removed home."

LUTON CHURCHWARDEN'S DEATH.

Twenty years' work as churchwarden at Luton Parish Church was brought to a close the other day by the painfully sudden death of Mr. Edmund Tydeman, who, after attending to his duties at the church on Sunday, May 31st, was taken ill in the night, and passed away in an hour or so from heart trouble. The funeral took place on the following Thursday amid many manifestations of sorrow. The first part of the service was read in the church he had loved and served so many years, and was attended by the Mayor and Corporation and many friends.

As the funeral cortege was leaving the church a muffled quarter of a peal of Grand sire Triples (1260 changes) was begun, and was completed in 50 minutes by: 1. J. Shaw 1. T. Kendall 2. A. E. Shorman 3. A. King 4. F. Hunt 5. B. Jarman 6. C. Wing (conductor) 7. H. Shaw 8.

PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On a recent Saturday, at the invitation of Mr B. H. Fitzjohn (one of the local ringers), a friendly gathering took place at St. Kyneburgha's, Castor, where there is a handy ring of six, restored by Messrs. Taylor and Co. in 1900. Among those present were: Pte H. F. Cooper (Chelmsford), Pte A. Catterwell (Gestingthorpe), Mr. G. H. Barker (Ware), and members from Yaxley, Thorney, Woodston, St. John's and St. Mary's, Peterborough. Mr. Fitzjohn kindly entertained the ringers to a sumptuous tea at the Royal Oak, and, after touches on the handbells, the tower bells were set going to Stedman, Double Court, Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

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OFFICE, WOKING.

FALLEN HEROES FROM RINGERS' RANKS.

Several ringers have already given their lives for their country in this great war. We give here the photographs of three who have recently been killed.



Pte LOUIS A. DICKERSON,
of Thetford, Royal Marine Light
Infantry, killed in action in the
Dardanelles.



Pte C. HOWE,
of Linslade, Bucks, Oxon and Bucks
Light Infantry (T.F.), died of shrapnel
wounds, on May 29th in Boulogne
Hospital.



Pte WILLIAM HENRY SMART,
of Kettering, 2nd Northants Regi-
ment, killed in action on May 10th.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern District was held at Bolsterstone on Saturday last. The Church of St. Mary contains a handy ring of eight, tenor 13 cwt., and standing high up on the South Yorkshire moors, adjoining the Peak district of Derbyshire, commands a magnificent view of the surrounding country. Favoured in addition with a lovely June day, it is somewhat surprising that the attendance did not exceed 30 all told. At 3 o'clock, the new Vicar, the Rev. F. Meridith Brookes, was inducted to the living in the presence of a crowded congregation by the Lord Bishop of Sheffield, the prelude to the service being a touch of College Single by the local band. Immediately after service a public tea was served in the schoolroom, to which all ringers included, did ample justice. Afterwards the bells were kept going almost continuously till 9 p.m. in methods ranging from Oxford and Kent Minor through the Standard Methods and Double Norwich.

A short business meeting was held in the tower, when the new Vicar, to the delight of all, promptly "got into harness" by taking the chair. Mr. F. Willey apologised for the absence of vice-president, Mr. C. H. Hattersley, owing to the latter being under recovery from a severe and long spell of influenza. The Ringing Master (Mr. G. Halksworth) also sent regrets at his inability to be present.—A vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. Arthur Brearley, of the Sheffield Cathedral Society, and a member of the Association since 1878, was carried in silence, all standing. A district secretary, to take over the duties whilst Mr. Arthur Hagua is serving in the R.A.M.C., was found in Mr. Leonard Brightman, and the general secretary, who has carried on the work for the last few months, thereupon heaved a sigh of great relief.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his presence and for the use of the bells, also to the local company, with Mr. David Brearley at the head, with appreciative replies, concluded the business, and the way was then clear for all to enjoy themselves with ringing and viewing the lovely country.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

A monthly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at the fine old Parish Church of St. Leonard, at Keovil, on Saturday week, and being a beautiful day, the attendance was very good; ringers assembling from Holt, Westbury, Southbroom, Keovil, Trowbridge, Seend, Devizes, Edlington, Swindon, and Market Lavington, while the members also welcome one who was home from Canada. Some good ringing was performed up to tea-time, the meal being served at the Beach Arms Inn, 27 sitting down and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

A short business meeting then took place, presided over by the Chairman of the Branch (the Rev. J. A. Starton), supported by the Rev. F. M. Weller, Vicar of Keovil; the Rev. D. Pierce and Mr. H. Brownlee West, one branch sec.—Two new members were elected from All Saints, Westbury; and Enford was decided upon as the next place of meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar of Keovil for the use of the church bells, and the ringers then returned to the tower, where more ringing was indulged in, before the company dispersed to their various homes, after a most enjoyable meeting.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at All Saints' Church, West Bromwich. After ringing, members attended service in the church, conducted by the Rev. M. M. Connor (Vicar), who also gave an address founded on the words "simplicity," "diligence" and "cheerfulness," which he gave as a motto for the Guild to act up to, and pointed out that it was the duty of bell ringers to show by their attendance at church and their every-day life that they were real church workers.—The organist and choir boys were present, and assisted in making the service a bright and happy one. The new service books of the Guild kindly presented by Mr. Harry Mason, a vice-president, were used for the first time. The service was attended by upwards of forty members from Bilston, Blakenhall, Coseley, Dudley, Halesowen, Tipton, Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Old Hill, Oldbury, Willenhall, Christ Church, West Bromwich, and the local company. At the close of the service a splendid tea was provided in the schoolroom by the All Saints' ringers, at which the Vicar and Mrs. Connor and a number of ladies were present to look after the comforts of the visitors.

The business meeting followed, at which the Vicar presided. Bilston was again selected as the place to hold the next meeting on condition that the Vicar's consent was obtained.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. R. Small for his report of the Central Council meeting which he attended.

On the motion of Mr. Spittle, seconded by Mr. Small, and supported by Mr. Harry Mason, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for conducting the service and presiding at the meeting, to the organist and choir for their services to the ringers for providing, and to the ladies for so kindly preparing and serving the tea, and to all who had assisted in any way to make the meeting a bright and happy one.—The Vicar responded on behalf of all concerned.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A very successful meeting of the Sheffield District and Old East Derbyshire Amalgamated Society was held at North Wingfield on Saturday week, some 50 ringers attending from Alfreton, Barlboro', Beighton, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Darley Dale, Derby, Eckington, Nottingham, Norton Duffield, Ripley, South Normanton, Sheffield Cathedral, Staveley, Swanwick, Worksop, and the local company. During the afternoon some good practice was obtained in the Standard methods, with the addition of Double Norwich, Cambridge, London and Superlative Surprise.

Evening prayer, including the special intercessory prayers for the war, was said by the Rector, assisted by the curate.

The Rector (the Rev. C. J. Boden), with his customary generosity, kindly provided tea which was partaken of in the rectory garden beneath the spreading branches of a splendid "weeping ash tree," in the midst of a profusion of blossom, specimens of white and coloured hawthorn, and white and scarlet horse chestnut, along with the golden showers of the laburnum, making an ideal setting for an "alfresco" tea.

A short business meeting was held in the same "room," when one new member was elected, and the usual compliments were quickly disposed of, after which some went again to the tower for "London," while others stayed in the garden, where various games were played until the call for home ended a most enjoyable meeting.

METHODS.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

If things had been otherwise than they were, two or three members had intended to have taken part in the debate on methods that did not come off at the last Central Council meeting, and what they were going to propose was that we should get rid of the words "legitimate" and "illegitimate." I think the Council would have agreed with them, and the Methods Committee would have had no objection whatever. Instead, it would have been suggested that we should use the words "regular" and "irregular." Personally I do not think the alteration much of an improvement. "Regular" does, of course, mean "according to rule," just as "legitimate" means "according to law," but regular also means pretty much the same thing as symmetrical, and that is the sense in which it is used nine times out of ten in ordinary life. When you talk about a method like Bristol or Double Norwich being perfectly regular, you do not mean that it is produced according to all the strict rules of method construction, but that the positions of the places and the work of the bells are symmetrical. So that the new word would only add confusion where, above all, we do want clearness. Further, Mr. Carpenter seemed to suggest that we are dealing with "rules" which we can adopt or reject as we please, and not with "laws" which are above us, and to which we must submit, whether we like it or not. There I disagree with him.

If you must have a word, then "legitimate" is the only word. But I am going to propose that we do without any such word at all: partly because the misuse of the word "legitimate" has done a lot of harm, and chiefly because no method is illegitimate in the sense that it is altogether outside law. Instead, let those whom the matter concerns first find out what the laws really are which make methods, and then they can judge of a method whether it is good or bad, suitable or unsuitable according as it more or less comes up to the standard that change ringing itself lays down.

To this end I submit the following suggestion for a re-draft of the "Method Report," and would like those that are really interested in the matter to give it their attention, only asking them to try and understand it before they criticise, and not condemn it off-hand because it may not agree with some of their preconceived ideas.

METHODS.

A. STATEMENTS OF FACT.

Change ringing consists of the interchanging of bells among each other conditioned by the three following rules:—

- i. Every bell must alter its position (actual or relative) at every blow.
- ii. A bell may move upward or downward only one step at a time, or, in other words, a bell can change positions only with its next neighbour.
- iii. All movement is cyclical in form.

B. LOGICAL RESULTS FROM A.

- iv. The principle is the foundation of all systems of change ringing.
- v. Methods are developed from principles in two ways:
 - X. By additional shunts made on two or more bells: these additional shunts being independent of each other.
 - Y. By one or more bells (called the hunt or hunts) changing positions in coursing order successively with each of the other bells (called the working bells). These methods may or may not contain independent additional shunts on two or more bells.
- vi. At the natural division head and ends of methods produced as X, all the bells are in the same coursing order.
- vii. At the natural lead heads and ends of methods produced as Y all the working bells are in the same coursing order.

C. STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.

No method should be deemed a correct method unless it reaches the following standard.

1. No repetition of rows should occur within any one full course.
2. No bell should lie more than two consecutive blows in any one position.
3. The following Rules of Symmetry should be kept.
 - (a). In methods produced as X there should be as many divisions as there are bells.
 - (b). Each division should be equal in size, and should contain exactly the same places and work.
 - (c). The places made in any division counted from the division head should be balanced by corresponding places counted from the division end.
 - (d). In methods produced as Y there should be as many leads as there are working bells.
 - (e). Each lead should be equal in size, and should contain exactly the same places and work.
 - (f). The places made in any lead counted from the lead head should be balanced by corresponding places counted from the lead end.

NOTE.—The balancing of places involves the balancing of all other work.

4. The natural division and lead heads and ends should not be concealed.

D. DEFINITIONS.

SYSTEMS.—This word is used broadly to include every possible way of ringing changes that can be termed change ringing and includes

all methods, peal compositions and other round blocks, regular or irregular in form.

PRINCIPLE.—A principle is any round block in which all the bells hunt forward at the same time or hunt backward at the same time. The hunting course on any number of bells is the plain principle, and all other principles are made up of the same rows or some of the same rows with greater or fewer numbers of repetitions.

COURSING ORDER is the order in which the bells are coursing or hunting when all are hunting forward or all are hunting backward. All the rows in the same coursing order are contained within the hunting course. The coursing order is never broken within a principle.

A SHUNT is an alteration in coursing order, and always consists of a cyclical movement from any one coursing order through other coursing orders back to the original coursing order. The bells involved in any shunt always keep the same coursing order among themselves. The "q sets" are one form of shunt.

A LEAD is the number of rows involved in the movement of a hunt (or hunts) from any given point back to the same point.

A comparison of the foregoing with the "Method Report" as it stands will show that although the form is different the actual substance is not much altered. The chief improvement lies in drawing a distinction between what are facts and what are standards of excellence. Without A and B change ringing does not exist. D is to some extent arbitrary, but is based on general natural law, and on the experience of two centuries of practical experience.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN HERTS RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death, which took place on the 3rd inst., of Mr. Ernest Edward Huntley, ex-President of the Hertford County Association, and late Master of the Bushey Society. Mr. Huntley, who was 53 years of age, was a prominent figure in the ringing world a few years ago, and for 21 years, from 1887—1908, was Master of the Bushey Society, and in 1910-11 was President of the Herts County Association. He had also been very active as a peal ringer, having, in all, rung over 200. The funeral took place on Monday week, when the bells of Bushey Church were rung half-muffled.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUMMER MEETING AT BURGHFIELD.

The summer quarterly meeting of the Bradfield Deanery branch of the Oxford Guild was held at Burghfield. Over 50 members of the Guild were present, and after raising the bells 360 of Plain Bob Minor was rung by: L. G. Reeves 1. L. T. Osborne 2. Miss M. E. Chillingworth 3. G. Parsons 4. G. Abery 5. A. E. Reeves (conductor) 6. Grandsire Doubles were rung for service, which was conducted by the Vicar of Burghfield (the Rev. W. H. George). The hymns sung were: "We love the place, O God," "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," and "O God, our help, in ages past." The Rev. H. C. Wilder read the lesson, and the sermon was preached by the Vicar of Mortimer (the Rev. A. B. Mynors) from the text: "And he first findeth his brother And he brought him to Jesus." St. John i, 41 and 42. The preacher referred to the fact that the ringers, as church workers, must exercise constant watchfulness over their actions so as to preserve a high tone. He also exhorted them to make more use of the Blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as by that means, not only individual grace, but unity and co-operation would be better established.

After the service, the party proceeded to the Men's Club Room for tea, among those present being the Revs. E. M. Thorn (Bucklebury), F. R. Horwood (Aldermaston), H. G. Stubbs (Burghfield), G. W. T. Tyndale-Biscoe (Bradfield), and Mr. A. E. Reeves (general secretary).—The Rev. H. C. Wilder said, after tea, that, although there was no business to be transacted, he should like to thank the Rev. W. H. George for his kindness in welcoming all present, and also the Rev. A. Mynors for preaching such an excellent sermon. He also thought that the number of ringers present justified the committee in arranging the meeting. Miss Chillingworth was also thanked for assisting in the arrangements.—The Rev. A. B. Mynors and the Rev. W. George both returned thanks, and the latter invited the ringers to stroll round his garden, and also intimated the presence of a churchwarden, Mr. Lowsley, and apologised also for the absence of Mr. Willink.

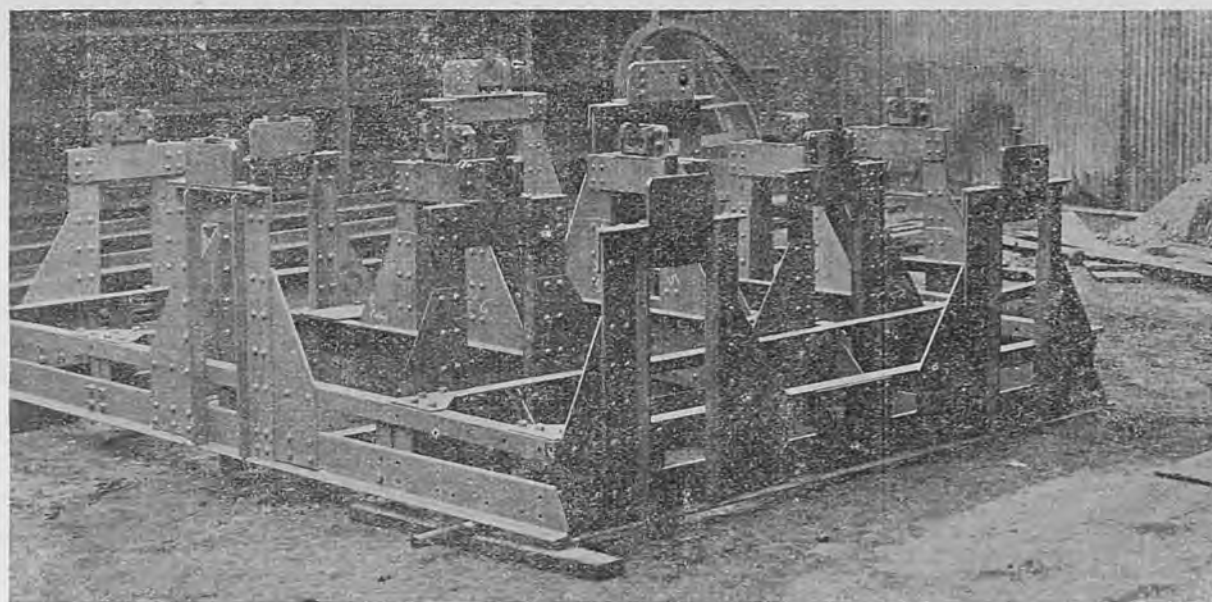
At the belfry six ladies rang some rounds (an unusual sight in these parts) and then touches were rung of Stedman Doubles, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and College Single. PLAIN BOB

WHO IS THE YOUNGEST RINGER?

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—May I, through the columns of your paper, ask members of the Exercise who are connected with young change ringers, if they know of one who is younger than Master T. Kitchen, who rings the treble for a young band at Pudsey. He attained his 12th birthday on the first day of this month, and since then he has rung three 720's of Minor peals on the lower bells; with regard to handbell ringing, he can ring 1—2, to either Bob Minor or Bob Major.

The members of our young band, who started change ringing a few months ago, are now progressing favourably, and each has rung a 720 on lower bells, and each can ring two handbells in either Bob Minor or Bob Major. Their average age is slightly over 14 years.—Yours truly, WM. BARTON.



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A LINCOLNSHIRE CYCLE TOUR.

On Whit-Monday, "Empire Day," an enjoyable ringing tour in Lincolnshire was arranged by Mr. J. H. Clark, of Heckington. The party included eight members belonging to the amalgamated ringing company from Heckington and Great Hale churches: Messrs. J. E. Clark, J. T. Holmes, W. Dickinson, W. H. Woods, C. Ward, H. Bowcock, H. P. Nash, Master M. Clark. Mr. Clement Glenn, the popular hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Association, and Mr. Arthur Andrews, of Daventry, Northants, also accepted the invitation to join the company. A start was made at 8.30 a.m., and after an enjoyable ride along the flat fen roads, in the teeth of a strong head wind, the party reached Timberland, the first tower to be visited. Hardly had they dismounted when the throb of a motor-bike told them that their friend from Sheffield was up well to time. The six bells, by Osborn, of Downham, were soon afterwards going up in peal. Although Timberland is a small and isolated village, the peal boards round the tiny belfry give evidence of the existence of a good change ringing band only a few years ago. Two of the survivors of this band came in and had a pull with the visitors. The ringing included a well-struck 360 Double Court, Plain Bob, with Master Clark on the treble, and Oxford Treble Bob. After lowering the bells in peal the ringers were conducted to the vicarage and partook of light refreshments very thoughtfully and kindly provided by the Rev. Canon Foster. Thanks were accorded Canon Foster for his hearty welcome and hospitality, and then the party set out for Metheringham, the next tower, some five miles away.

The church, dedicated to St. Wilfrid, contains a light ring of eight, increased from five some two years ago by the addition of three trebles. There was only time to raise the bells in peal and run through a course of Double Norwich before dinner, but having satisfied the inner man at the Railway Hotel, the tower was again visited, and the party were met by three of four of the local band, who joined in touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples. Although prior to the bells being restored about two years ago, there was only a "stoney" band in power; things have changed, and it is gratifying to report that Stedman Triples is the order for Sunday ringing. This new state of affairs reflects great credit on Mr. F. Stokes, of Blankney, who instructed the present band of ringers.

Ruskington, the next tower, was reached about four o'clock after another seven miles had been wound off. This church contains six bells which hang in a low western tower. Double Court, Plain Bob, and Kent Treble Bob were the methods rung, but the bells were found rather tricky to strike well, as one or two of them are very "old struck."

Sleaford Church, which was the last tower to be visited, was reached about six o'clock. "Tea and light refreshments" were the first methods attempted, at the Cross Keys Hotel, during which Mr. C. Glenn gave some Stedman Triples on the piano with the perfect ease of anyone playing a tune from music, much to the delight of all those present. At the church the party was met by Mr. Townsend, the genial steepie-keeper, who had everything in readiness. The bells, a melodious ring of eight by Osborn, of Downham Market, were raised in peal, in spite of the long draught of rope. The ringing included Bob Major, Stedman and Grandsire Triples. It is to be regretted that such a fine peal of bells are lacking a good band of change ringers to handle them, as they are one of the finest rings of eight in the county of Lincoln; and one would have to visit many churches to find one to equal Sleaford in beauty, both inside and outside. Ringing finished at 7.35. Mention may be made of the creditable manner in which Master M. Clark rang the treble in all the four towers visited. He has only recently started ringing, and is but 15 years of age. In each tower the ringing chamber is on the ground floor with a long draught of rope. The visitors departed for their various destinations at eight o'clock, expressing a fervent wish that, should they all be spared to meet again, it would be under peaceful conditions, and that their bells would ring out their message of joy and thanksgiving and help to cheer the saddened hearts of those who had lost dear relations and friends who had given their lives for their country's sake.

Through the medium of this paper the ringers wish to thank the various incumbents for placing the bells at their disposal.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM INDIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am writing, through the medium of your paper, to congratulate most heartily the lady ringers of Portishead on their splendid performance in scoring a peal of Grandsire Triples. I was delighted to read that the lady ringers of England are keeping up the traditions of the Art while so many of us are away on active service. It came quite as a refresher. I envy them that peal, as it is almost a hardship to be away from the tower. I hope the performers, and especially the young conductress, will accept my heartiest congratulations on the feat. The performance was all the more worthy, when one considers it was to the memory of one who must have been a valued comrade and friend. I am sure the Ladies' Guild must be extremely proud of the Portishead ladies' band, and no doubt we shall be looking in that direction for the first peal of Stedman by a ladies company. Trusting the bells of England will soon ring for a lasting peace, Yours very truly,

U. H. RUSSELL, Sergt.

A Company, 4th Hants Regt., D Division,
India Expeditionary Force, Bombay.

NOTICES.

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

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Ringing for Divine service at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for business on the 22nd at 8 p.m. At St. John's, Hackney, for service on Sunday the 20th, at 6 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturdays for practice at 7.30 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Rochdale Branch).—The next monthly meeting will be held at Heywood on Saturday, June 19th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 6.30.—Joseph Ogden, Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Liverpool Branch).—A meeting will be held at Childwall on Saturday, June 19th. Bells ready at 5.—Walter Hughes.

THE LADIES' GUILD (postponement of Meeting).—The Annual Meeting announced for to-morrow, Saturday, is postponed as a sufficient members could not attend.—E. K. Parker, Hon. Sec., 97, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The quarterly meeting in connection with the above will be held at King's Norton on Saturday, June 19th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service in the church at 4.45 p.m. Business meeting in the schools at 5.30 p.m. Annual reports and certificates can be had at the meeting.—E. J. Dowler, Honorary Secretary, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and eight-bell contest will be held at Elland on Saturday, June 19th, 1915. Ballot for order of ringing at 3 p.m. at the Mexboro Arms. F. Salmous, Secretary, 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. Western Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Martley, on Saturday, June 19th. Service at 4 o'clock. The Rector is kindly providing tea.—R. G. Knowles, Branch Sec., Madresfield, Malvern.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual Festival will be held at Winchester on Monday, June 21st. General meeting at 2 p.m. in St. Maurice's Hall. Service, 4 p.m. at St. Maurice's Church; preacher, Rev. E. Bankes-James. Tea, 5 p.m. at St. Maurice's Hall.—George Williams, Hon. Gen. Sec., West End, Southampton.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will take place at Tettenhall on Saturday, June 26th. Bells available at 2.30. Service in Church, with an address at 5. Tea and general meeting at the Rock Hotel at 5.45. Tea, 6d. to fully paid-up members, to others 1/-. Bells at St. Peter's from 7.30 to 9. Please send word not later than Tuesday, 22nd inst.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

SAFFRON WALDEN SOCIETY (Established 1623).—The anniversary of Great Ringing will be held on Saturday, June 26th. Bells available all day. Service at 1 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—R. A. Strong, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A monthly meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (6) ready at 3.30. Will those members who intend to be present kindly let me know by June 21st?—H. Kettle, Hon. Secretary, Allesley, Coventry.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Sible-Hedingham, June 26th. Short service, with address, at 4 p.m. Meat tea will be provided at the White Horse, at 5 o'clock, at the kind invitation of the Misses Webster, to all giving notice to me not later than June 23rd. — B. Redgwel, District Secretary, The Street, Rayne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Manchester Branch).—The next meeting will be held at Worsley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells ready at 3.30. By kind permission of the Earl of Bridgwater the grounds will be open to ringers and friends at 5 p.m. Meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD (Stockport Branch).—The next meeting will be held at Mottram on Saturday, June 26th. Rev. A. T. Beeston, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD (South and West District).—The next meeting will be held, by kind permission of the Rector (Rev. H. Wilson), at Harlington, on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Tea provided at a small charge, at 6. Members and friends heartily welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Heston, Hounslow.

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

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

VISITORS TO BRISTOL will find every convenience and moderate charges at Mr. Ponton's, Admiral Duncan, Nicholas Street, Bristol. Headquarters of the Bristol Ringers.

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

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

To celebrate the coming-of-age of one of the members of the Cranford, Northants, band, Mr. Ben Saddington, who is now away on military duty with the 4th Battalion Northants Regiment at Peterborough, a company of Central Northants ringers rang a quarter-peal of Minor at St. John's Church, Cranford, on May 20th. It comprised 240 each of Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Oxford Bob, and 300 Plain Bob, and was rung by: J. Saddington (Cranford) 1, G. Basford (Finodon) 2, M. Hobbs (Barton Seagrave) 3, H. Meadows (Burton Latimer) 4, Bernard Saddington (Cranford) 5, G. Lines (Burton Latimer), conductor, 6. Good wishes for "many happy returns" and a quick return home were expressed for the young soldier ringer. The ringers of the treble and 5th are father and brother respectively of "Young Ben," who, it may be remembered, was the smallest of the boys who rang in the peal by "youngsters" at Cranford, which at the time constituted a record in regard to average age, and which was conducted by Mr. E. M. Atkins.

STOKE COVENTRY.—Warwickshire Guild.—On April 25th, for service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): F. Andrews (first in the method) 1, W. J. Smith 2, H. J. Balcombe 3, O. J. Hunt 4, W. T. Cox 5, F. E. Pervin 6, A. Roberts 7, E. H. Johnson 8.—On Sunday, May 16th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1280 changes): J. H. W. White 1, *F. Andrews 2, H. J. Balcombe 3, F. E. Pervin 4, *J. Herron 5, E. H. Johnson 6, C. Freeman 7, A. Roberts 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

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