

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 249. Vol. IX

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1915

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

Price 1d.

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



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

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

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

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

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

MODERN WORK.

THE MEMORY OF THE BRAVE.

"It appears to me to be eminently suitable that we should on the Day of Intercession—Sunday, January 2nd—give emphasis, by the use of muffled bells, to our sense of the loss the country has sustained by the death of the brave men who have given their lives in the cause of what we believe to be loyalty to righteousness and truth."

In these words the Archbishop of Canterbury gives his official sanction to the observance of the first Sunday in the New Year as a fitting occasion when, from all the belfries of the land, ringers, acting as the interpreters of public feeling, can pay a national tribute to all those who have yielded up their lives in the titanic struggle in which this Empire is involved. The letter from which this extract is taken is published in another column, and was written by the Archbishop as the result of a direct appeal to him, as Primate of the Church, for an expression of opinion as to the most suitable time for uniformity of action in the belfries of the country. Hitherto, diversity of opinion as to when this commemoration should take place, has prevented more than a limited number of towers coming into line on any particular day, but all doubts are now at rest, and we are sure that at every tower where the Archbishop's letter comes under the notice of the ringers, steps will be taken to participate in this muffled ringing.

The significance and value of this tribute to our fallen heroes will only be made fully apparent if the public in every parish are made aware of the special reason for which the bells have been muffled, and elsewhere we put forward some suggestions by which ringers may be able to bring the matter to the notice of those outside their own circle. We would, however, emphasise the importance of bringing the Archbishop's letter before the clergy at the earliest possible moment, so that on Sunday the announcement of the muffled ringing, and its special significance may be brought to the notice of the congregations. It should be borne in mind that this occasion will be an important one. It will not be merely the ringers' personal tribute to the memory of the fallen, but it will be a great public interpretation of what the Archbishop so aptly describes as "the sense of loss which the country has sustained by the death of the brave men who have given their lives in the cause of loyalty to righteousness and truth." Thus the ringers' contribution to the Intercession Services will have a special importance, and we would suggest that the occasion is one which might be emphasised, wherever there is opportunity, by the ringing of a special touch after the evening service. Let it be re-

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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.
Birmingham.

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

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

(Continued from page 289.)

membered that this ringing with muffled bells is not by any means in the nature of a mournful dirge, created to depress the spirits of those who hear it, but an impressive reminder of the magnificent sacrifice made by those whose lives have been ungrudgingly and heroically given in upholding their country's cause. Among them have been many ringers, whose memory their comrades will desire specially to honour, and the muffled ringing will be a means by which the example of all those whose lives have been given up on land and sea may be brought specially to the public notice, and their memory honoured.

A further point of importance to ringers arises in connection with the Archbishop's suggestion that, in addition to the observance on the Day of Intercession, "it would be appropriate in very many places to use Saturday, January 8th, to pay the solemn tribute of muffled ringing." This day is suggested by His Grace because he realises, that, apart from Sunday, Saturday is often to ringers the most available day. Thus there is official sanction to the ringing being continued on this day, and it will provide the opportunity, for those who wish to do so, of attempting peals. We should like to see advantage taken of this occasion, wherever it is possible, and, no doubt, with a fortnight in which to arrange details, many muffled peal attempts will be made.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, December 14, 1915, in Three Hours and Forty-two Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5017 CHANCES;

Tenor 36 cwt., in C.

ALBERT WALKER	Treble	ERNEST T. ALLAWAY	7
FREDERICK DICKENS	2	JAMES GEORGE	8
CHARLES DICKENS	3	ERNEST MANSELL	9
THOMAS H. REEVES	4	A. PADDON SMITH	10
JOHN NEAL	5	JAMES E. GROVES	11
JAMES H. SHEPHERD	6	*GEORGE YENDALL	Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER and
Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

* First peal on twelve bells. Rung with the bells half-muffled, and in the inverted tittums and hand stroke home positions, as a last tribute of respect to the memory of Miss Horton, who, after worshipping in St. Martin's Church for 72 years, received the home call on Advent Sunday, and was laid to rest in the Cathedral Churchyard on Dec. 3rd.

TEN BELL PEAL.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, December 18, 1915, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANCES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

CHARLES FAULKS	Treble	WILLIAM GOODMAN	6
WILLIAM MILLS	2	JOHN GOODMAN, JR.	7
SAMUEL SPITTLE	3	HARRY GOODMAN	8
HERBERT SHEPPARD	4	BENJAMIN GOUGH	9
JOHN GOODMAN, SENR.	5	*WILLIAM MEEK	Tenor

Composed by the late WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT, and
Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN, JR.

* First peal and first attempt. The above peal was specially arranged and rung in honour of the 79th birthday of Mr. S. Spittle, the esteemed Ringing Master of the St. Thomas' Society and the Dudley and District Guild. B. Gough bails from Coseley, W. Mills from Sedgley, the rest belong to the Dudley company. On the completion of the peal Mr. Spittle received the hearty good wishes of the band.

ESTABLISHED 1780.

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,

80, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L. B. & S. C. Railway)

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

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, December 13, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 14 cwt.

*ALFRED J. MAWBY Treble	JOHN T. HENSMAN 5
FRED HOPPER 2	WILLIAM FAREY 6
ALFRED P. HENSMAN 3	WILLIAM J. ALLEN 7
*WILLIAM R. PARKER 4	WALTER H. AUSTIN ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. ALLEN.

* First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Canon Sanders, who was buried at Rotheley on the above date. He was curate at St. Peter's for 21 years and also head master of Northampton Grammar School for the same period.

LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(BOLTON BRANCH).

On Monday, December 13, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

HERBERT ALLRED Treble	*WILLIAM HAYES 5
HENRY SMITH 2	FRED BANKS 6
HENRY HAYES 3	ROBERT ALLRED 7
SAMUEL HAYES, SDR. ... 4	†SAMUEL HAYES, Jnr. ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRED BANKS.

* First peal with a bob bell. † First peal. Samuel Hayes was made a member of the association before starting. This peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled as a tribute to those soldiers and sailors who have laid down their lives for their king and country. It was also rung as a memorial peal for the late Mr. John Smith and Mr. David Smith, two of the local company of ringers who have recently passed away.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

On Sunday, December 19, 1915, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.

*WILLIAM BODEN Treble	EDWARD V. RODENHERST ... 5
LEONARD HEWITT 2	WALTER LAGO 6
JAMES L. YORK 3	WILLIAM SAUNDERS 7
ALBERT WOODVINE 4	JOHN ASTON Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM SAUNDERS.

* First peal. Leonard Hewitt was proposed a member of the Guild before starting. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the soldiers and sailors who have given their lives in the war, and all bereaved friends in the neighbourhood.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, December 18, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and three 720's of Bob Minor. Tenor 10½ cwt.

JOHN SPENCER Treble	ALBERT J. L. NAUNTON ... 4
ALBERT J. NAUNTON 2	*RIFLEMAN B. PREWETT ... 5
WILLIAM H. P. MELLIN ... 3	FRANCIS W. NAUNTON ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANCIS W. NAUNTON.

* First peal of Minor. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Mr. Ernest Pye; also to that of the two soldiers and one sailor from the parish who have lost their lives in the war, viz.: Private F. Johnson, Grenadier Guards, a ringer at the above church; Sapper B. Myall, East Kent Buffs, a sidesman; and H. Martin, A.B., Royal Navy; also of Sergt. G. E. Day, of Eye, who was killed in action at Suvla Bay. Sergt. Day rehung the above peal of bells in 1906.

OVERBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1915, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. FAITH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 Six-scores with 10 different callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

JAMES HEMMING Treble	† JOSEPH HALL 4
† WILLIAM PAYNE 2	GEORGE ASHLEY 5
* GEORGE GEENS 3	* WILLIAM ALLEN Tenor

Conducted by W. PAYNE.

* First peal. † First peal away from treble. ‡ First peal as conductor. This was the quarterly peal for the branch.

HANDBELL PEAL.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, December 19, 1915, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. H. CHECKETTS, 59, WINDSOR ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

MISS ELLEN M. JOHNSON 1-2	FRIDERICK J. JOHNSON ... 5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3-4	HARRY MIDDLETON ... 7-8

JAMES HEMMING 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER and

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Umpires: HARRY CHECKETTS and HENRY J. PHIPPS. Witness: Master ALBERT CHECKETTS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Harry Middleton.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who are serving their King and country:—

W. J. Yardley, of St. Michael's, Rushall, Staffs. Royal Naval Reserve, now at Crystal Palace.

Tpr. H. M. Hawkswood, of St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, 1st Life Guards, now in London.

Pte G. Cornock, of Keynsham, Somerset, 12th Battalion Gloucester Regiment.

Pte F. Parsons, of Keynsham, Army Service Corps.

From Farnham Royal, Bucks:—

Wm. Clarke, Motor Driver, A.S.C., serving in France.

Chas. Norcott, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 5th Battalion B.E.F.

SOLDIER-RINGER DIES OF WOUNDS.

The Ancient Society of Painswick Youths have lost a much esteemed member by the death of Pte Hubert Hanks, of the 10th Gloucester Regiment, who died of wounds received in action. He was seriously wounded in the advance on Loos on September 25th, and had been in hospital at Nottingham, where he made a long and brave fight for life. At one time it was hoped he might recover. He had to undergo an operation for the removal of a leg, and, at a time when there seemed to be hope for him, grew suddenly worse. His wife was summoned, and was present when he passed away. He died a true soldier's death, and the widow, who, with two children, is left to mourn her loss, has received from Lord Kitchener a letter conveying the sympathy of the King and Queen.

The deceased was a consistent and valued member of the Painswick Youths for about seven years, and, while he was always a tenor ringer, he was an excellent striker. Of genial and cheery nature, his loss will be much felt by the band. He had rung about twelve peals, including 7,325 Grandsire Cinques. Pte Hanks was also a member of the Painswick Fire Brigade, and was given a fireman's funeral, the remains being taken to Painswick for interment. The service was conducted by the Revs. H. Seddon and T. M. Williams, and the sad obsequies were very impressive. Before the service the ringers chimed the bells, and the service opened with the "Dead March" in Saul. The coffin, which had rested in the church since the morning, was covered with the Union Jack, upon which were the deceased's fireman's helmet and coat. The hymns sung were "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Peace, perfect peace." There was a large number of Painswick residents present to pay a last mark of respect, and the Fire Brigades represented were: Painswick, Brinscombe, Stroud Volunteer and Stroud Urban Council. The local V.T.C. attended, as well as boys from Painswick School. The wreaths included one inscribed: "With the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths' deepest sympathy for an esteemed member who lost his life for his country," and another, "From the members of the Painswick Fire Brigade. He did his bit."

After the funeral a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, with the bells deeply muffled, and the solemn whole pull and stand by Thos. Wright 1. William Hastings 2. William Halo 3. Albert Wright (conductor) 4. C. West 5. William Staits 6. William Ryland 7. Frank Cole 8.

MUFFLED RINGING FOR FALLEN HEROES.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTEPBURY'S VIEWS.

Primate Approves Intercession Sunday.

Various suggestions have been put forward in the past for setting aside some fitting day on which, throughout the country, ringers might unite in paying, by means of muffled ringing, a national tribute to those heroes who, on land and sea, have laid down their lives in the great struggle in which the Empire is engaged upon the side of right and freedom. On one or two occasions, including Intercession Sunday in January last, a great many companies adopted the proposal then put forward, and the ringing was done with bells muffled to honour those who had fallen. But opinions on the question as to the most suitable day for this observance were divided.

Another national day of Intercession is fixed for the first Sunday in the New Year, and, in view of its approach and of the inquiries which had been made as to whether muffled ringing should again take place on that day, it was felt that, to set the question finally at rest, the highest opinion that could be obtained should be secured, not only for the information of ringers, but in order to strengthen their position, and to ensure, as far as possible, uniformity of action. The facts were, therefore, laid before the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the following in his reply:—

THE PRIMATE'S LETTER.

Lambeth Palace, S.E.

15th December, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have delayed my reply to your letter of the 4th inst. in order to obtain a little advice from friends whom in this matter I should naturally consult. It appears to me to be eminently suitable that we should on the Day of Intercession—Sunday, January 2nd—give emphasis, by use of muffled bells, to our sense of the loss the country has sustained by the death of the brave men who have given their lives in the cause of what we believe to be loyalty to righteousness and truth. Saturday, January 1st, being the Festival of the Circumcision of our Lord, and within the octave of Christmas and being also New Year's Day, would not seem to be an appropriate day for this form of commemoration. But as Saturday is often to Bell-ringers the most available day, I think it would be found appropriate in very many places to use Saturday, January 8th, to pay the solemn tribute of muffled ringing. The matter is one for local consideration and decision, but I have told you what appears to me to be wise and appropriate.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) RANDALL CANTUAR.

J. S. Goldsmith, Esq.

The letter which was addressed to His Grace was as follows:—

Woking,

4th December, 1915.

My Lord Archbishop,

There have been, from time to time since the war began, discussions among Church Bell Ringers as to the most suitable occasions when the bells of our Churches should be rung muffled for the heroes who have laid down their lives by land and sea in this terrible struggle. In these discussions, clergy as well as others have taken part and, while it is generally recognised that local circumstances must, to some extent, govern this muffled ringing, there is a feeling among ringers that they would like to pay this solemn tribute to the dead on some day when the muffled ringing might fittingly take place generally throughout the country. Among the days which have been suggested are the Day of Solemn Intercession on the first Sunday of the New Year and the Eve of that day, but a desire is felt that some authoritative ruling should be obtained as to the most appropriate occasion.

May I venture, therefore, to ask your Grace whether the days mentioned are suitable for the purpose, and, if not, what occasion you think the most appropriate for muffling the bells in memory of those who have fallen?

As you will recognise, this question really goes deeper than the mere feelings of the bell ringers themselves, for, in performing a duty of this kind, they are giving expression, through the bells, to the feelings of the general public. Your direct expression of opinion in this matter, or the use of your name as authority for the observance of a particular day, therefore, would not only set at rest any doubts on the question, but would, needless to say, be most highly valued, and I sincerely trust that you will be able to give some direction upon the subject for the guidance of ringers in the many hundreds of bellfries where there is a desire to share, at the proper time, in this public tribute.

I have the honour to remain, my Lord Archbishop,

Your Grace's most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. S. GOLDSMITH.

To His Grace

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,
Lambeth Palace, S.E.

The Archbishop's views definitely put an end to any doubts which may exist as to the appropriateness of Intercession Sunday for paying this national tribute to those who have fallen. It now only remains for the ringers to do their part by joining, at every church where the bells can be rung for the services, in this great observance of honouring the memory of the dead. We invite their co-operation in securing universal muffled ringing on Sunday, January 2nd.

We would suggest, too, that the officers of associations might help the scheme forward by, wherever possible, circularising their branches, calling attention to the proposal.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CLERGY.

In order that the ringing may be carried out generally throughout the country, it is important that the Archbishop of Canterbury's letter should be brought immediately to the notice of the incumbent of each parish, and, unless there is some special local reason, there is no doubt that there will be ready acquiescence in the proposal. Moreover, it is extremely desirable that the fullest publicity should be given to the fact that the bells are to be muffled for this special purpose, and the assistance of the clergy in this matter would be extremely valuable. If the announcement can be made at next Sunday's services, when there are nearly certain to be some references to the forthcoming Intercession, the congregations will be aware of the significance of the ringing.

In many cases, too, it may be possible to reach the public outside the congregation, by securing the insertion of an announcement in the local Press, which will doubtless be willing to extend the courtesy of its columns for such a purpose, seeing that the proposal has behind it the approval of the Primate.

As to the ringing itself, it will, needless to say, be all the more impressive if the clappers are muffled on one side only, and it is best to have the bells open at hand-stroke.

BISHOPS SUPPORT PROPOSAL.

In order that the suggestion of which the Archbishop of Canterbury has approved may receive the widest emphasis possible the proposal, with the Primate's letter, was on Monday laid before the Bishops, asking for their support. Up to the time of going to Press we had received the following replies:—

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

The Bishop of London desires me to thank you for your letter, and to say that he is in full agreement with the spirit of the letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of muffled bells for those who have fallen in the war.—K. G. Averill, Private Secretary.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY.

You are at liberty to say that I concur in the suggestion of the Archbishop's letter as to ringing church bells muffled.—F. H. ELY.

THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER.

I am in full sympathy with the Archbishop's suggestion.—EDGAR C. S. GLOUCESTER.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.

I heartily approve of the Archbishop's suggestion.—J. A. LICHFIELD.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN

The Bishop of Lincoln desires me to say in reply to your question that he thinks the 8th of January a suitable day for the ringing of muffled peals in honour of the departed heroes.—W. E. Boulter, Chaplain.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK.

The Bishop of Southwark bids me to thank you for your letter, and say that he quite concurs in the view expressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.—Cyril Were, Chaplain.

DEATH OF A SONNING RINGER.

On Friday evening, December 10th, immediately after arriving home from choir practice, there died, in his wife's arms, Thomas Russell. Living in the peaceful village on Sonning-on-Thames all his life of 63 years, a ringer and chorister from his youth up, and taking an active interest in most of those affairs which go to make up the life of a village, it was no wonder that a large concourse of people assembled at the beautiful Church of St. Andrew on the occasion of the funeral which took place on Wednesday of last week.

The coffin, covered with wreaths, including one from the ringers, was borne to the church on a hand bier by special constables, of which body the deceased was a member. The mourners included the widow and two of her soldier sons, Leonard Royal Flying Corps and Jack (R.M.L.I.), both on special leave, the former from France and the latter from the Orkneys. The other son, Dennis, was in the trenches in France, and could not get away. The beautiful burial service, interspersed with two hymns, "Peace, perfect peace," and "On the Resurrection morning," was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. E. P. Crawford. As the cortege left the church the Dead March in "Saul" was feelingly rendered by the organist.

At the conclusion of the service, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave by four of his old friends: A. E. Reeves 1—2, A. W. Pike 3—4, F. Hoppood 5—6, W. Newell 7—8. Upon the melodious bells of St. Andrew's, in the evening, there were rung, half-muffled, touches of Stedman Triples and the favourite touch of the deceased: 336 Grandsire Triples by W. Newell 1, Miss M. Chillingworth 2, G. J. Wright 3, F. Hoppood 4, L. Russell 5, A. E. Reeves 6, A. W. Pike (conductor) 7, J. Swain 8.

The genial presence of our old friend will be much missed. His death further depletes the band of St. Andrew's. Through one cause and another there are now but four members of the band who a dozen years ago broke away from call changes, and, by perseverance, managed within a short space of time to ring quarter peals of Stedman. And so within sound of the bells he loved so well, we leave him to sleep in peace, until the morning breaks and the shadows flee away.

BRADFIELD, BERKS.—Oxford Diocesan Guild.—On Sunday, Dec. 19th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: S. Chapman 1, T. Wardman 2, T. Hillier 3, M. Bowley 4, Miss M. E. Chillingworth (conductor) 5, A. E. Reeves 6. Rung as a farewell touch to Mr. Wardman, who is returning to Scarborough after a year's sojourn at Bradfield.

THE LATE MR. ERNEST PYE.

The sad announcement in our last issue of the death of Mr. Ernest Pye came as a great shock to his many friends up and down the country, who had been previously unaware of his decease. Deep regret at his end and sincere sorrow for the bereaved relatives is felt everywhere, as is manifested by the numerous expressions which have reached this office.

Mr. William Keeble, of Kelvedon, Essex, who was associated with the brothers Pye in most of the Surprise handbell peals, as well as many performances on tower bells, writes: "As you well say, Ernest Pye had a wide circle of friends, but has left no enemy. I can go further, and say that, in all the hours I spent in his company—and they were not a few—never once did I hear an angry word from him. If any man ever deserved gratitude, that one was Ernest Pye: ever-ready, always willing, and, to my mind, the most perfect ringer I have ever met, never, even with a bad going bell, making any trouble. All the times I rang with him, only once did I hear him complain, and that was after ringing a peal of London at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on December 22nd, 1906. He asked me when we had still about six courses to ring how many more there were to come, and I told him. When we had finished I asked him what was wrong, but he made little comment, merely saying he had had quite enough, as the 7th went so badly, yet he seemed to me then, as he always did, to have rung the bell with perfect ease. I should like to point out to you that you made a slight error in the record that you gave in last week's "Ringing World," viz., that these peals of New Cambridge, London and Bristol are the only ones ever rung, double-handed. The mistake is in the New Cambridge, as I conducted a peal in that method at Bolsover on July 2nd, 1910, in which, of course, as you may be aware, none of the brothers Pye took part. Thanking you to make the correction, in fairness to others as well as myself."

[The reference to the handbell peals last week was written from memory, and, at the time, we were under the impression that the Bolsover peal was Cambridge and not New Cambridge.—Ed.]

At St. Edward's Church, Romford, where the late Mr. E. Pye was one of the Sunday service ringers, an attempt was made on Thursday of last week for a peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, but it failed owing to a shift course, after two hours' ringing.

On Saturday, at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, the bells were rung, half-muffled, by members of the St. Mary's Society and friends, touches of Stedman Caters being rung. The following were present: H. T. Scarlett, H. Rumens, G. Grimwade, C. T. Coles, J. A. Dart, J. C. Adams, R. Maynard, junr., H. J. Maynard, senr., J. H. Wilkins, R. Maynard, senr., W. Coakham, A. Chapman, T. Watson, F. Rumens, H. Stubbs, G. T. Clayton. It was at this tower that the deceased first attempted to learn ten-bell ringing.

At Wrentham, Suffolk, on Saturday, a peal of Minor was rung, half-muffled, as recorded in our peal columns, among those taking part being Rifleman Bertram Prewett, who had rung hundreds of peals with the late Mr. Pye, and who, although away on military duty, was thus able to pay his last tribute to an old comrade and friend.

It was at Little Heath, Essex, not far from the churchyard where he now lies buried, that the deceased learnt his ringing, and on the little peal of five there on Sunday, before the morning service, 360 Stedman the bells muffled, by: W. Theobald 1, A. Scampler 2, F. C. Newman 3, A. Hardy 4, R. Sanders (conductor) 5.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**BRANCH SECRETARY'S JUBILEE.**

A successful meeting of the Blackburn Branch was held at the Burnley Parish Church (St. Peter's) on Saturday, members attending chiefly from Blackburn, Colne and Burnley.—It was proposed to hold the next branch at Accrington, on Saturday, January 29th, 1916. After the usual routine business, congratulations were extended to Mr. J. Watson, hon. secretary of the branch, on attaining his 50th birthday. At the close of the meeting, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, composed by the late Matthew Wood, of London, was rung in honour of the occasion by the following ringers: Fred Wilson 1, A. Brook 2, Tom Redman 3, R. Foulds 4, R. Hartley 5, J. Watson 6, W. E. Wilson (conductor) 7, J. W. Heys 8.

CLUN RINGERS' THOUGHT FOR SOLDIERS.

The members of this newly-established St. George's Society of Ringers, Clun, Salop, with kindly forethought for their four members on active service, subscribed to a fund for sending each a Christmas parcel. These have been dispatched by the hon. secretary (Mr. W. Mead), and each contain a plum pudding, cake, cigarettes, and other little luxuries. The recipients are: Farrier-Sergt. E. Griffiths at present at Plymouth; Lee-Corpl. W. J. Lewis now in France; Pte Eric Morris in Egypt; Pte Jas. Lunn in France.

COGGESHALL, ESSEX.—On Saturday, October 23rd, for afternoon practice, at the Church of St. Peter ad Vincula, two courses of Bristol and one of Superlative Surprise Major. In the evening, on handbells, 448 Superlative, 224 Double Norwich and Plain Courses of London, Bristol and Cambridge Surprise, Stedman Caters and Grandsire Cinques, by the following ringers: I. and W. Sadler, W. Howell, F. Claydon, E. Newman, W. Keeble, D. Elliott and E. W. Beckwith.

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OFFICE, WOKING

BELLS OF ENGLISH CHURCHES.

STAUNTON HAROLD, LEICESTERSHIRE.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

Staunton Harold is the seat of the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers. The hall is a noble mansion of red brick with stone dressings, rebuilt about 1780, and surrounded by magnificent grounds and park of about 140 acres. The private chapel of the Holy Trinity, standing in the grounds of the hall, and adjoining the mansion, was erected during the Commonwealth as the following epitaph on the monument of the founder shows :—

prisoned in the Tower of London, where he died, not without a suspicion of poison, at the early age of 27. The church he built consists of an embattled tower, a nave of two aisles, and a chancel parted from the nave by beautiful wrought iron gates, on which are the family arms, supporters and coronet. The ceiling is painted. The ascent to the altar is by three steps of bluish marble, whilst the floor of the chancel is paved with marble. The tower contains a peal of eight bells.

TREBLE AND SECOND INSCRIBED:

" Sir Robert Shirley Barr. Doaer Hereof Dyed The 28 No. An. Dom. 1655. 1669."

THIRD.

The balls are so crowded that it is impossible to get a rubbing or clear reading of this: it appears to record that " Robt. Earl Ferrers donor died 1717 "



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STAUNTON HAROLD

" In the yeare 1653 when all things sacred were throughout the Nation either demolisht or profaned. Sir Robert Shirley Barronet founded this Church, whose singular praise it is, to have done the best of things in the worst of times and hoped them in the most calamitous." " The Righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

The main point of the phrase " done the best of things " may be understood to refer to the building of the church, the only Anglican Church, it is said, that was built in England during the period of the Commonwealth. Certainly his experience in this respect did not encourage others to emulate his example, for, upon it becoming known that he had built a church, an Order in Council directed him, saying : " He that could afford to build a church, could no doubt afford to equip a man of war." Whether he added to the naval as well as to the ecclesiastical establishment of this country is not known. For his fidelity to Charles I he was no less than seven times im-

FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH.
No Inscriptions.

SEVENTH AND TENOR INSCRIBED:

" Sir Robt. Shirley Barr Donor Hereof died Novr 28th 1656. T. Mears of London Feoit. Recast Anno Domini 1831. at the expense of the Right Honble Washington Earl Ferrers."

Only two peals have been rung on the bells, the first being recorded by a board in the belfry as follows :—

" Nothing so difficult but diligence Will overcome."

On Sunday, June 3rd, 1832, was rung by the Burton-on-Trent Society of Change Ringers. Grandsire Triples with 98 Bobs and 2 Singles, consisting of 5040 changes, in 2 hours 58 minutes, being the first peal ever completed on these bells, by the following band:—

Joseph Beale	Treble	Joseph Appleby	5
John Keates	2	David Gilbert	6
Joseph Hill	3	William Merrey	7
David Allard	4	Richard Roe junr.	Tenor

Conducted by David Gilbert.

The other peal was Holt's Ten-Part of Grandsire Triples on Wednesday, March 13th, 1889, by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Society, conducted by W. Canner.

TO OUR READERS.

SINCERE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

By "BOB MAJOR."

Though nearly all the world is at war, it will be the ringers' duty to-morrow morning to send out the message of peace and goodwill from the belfries, as has been done for hundreds of years. There may be some who say that bells of peace are out of place when nations are at death grips, but those who reason thus seem to me to miss the real spirit of Christmas ringing. The bells herald the day on which Christendom commemorates the birth of the Prince of Peace, and even amid war it is as well to be reminded of the great central facts of Christianity. The great truths of our religion will be ever present after this war, with all its horrors and suffering, has passed into history, after even the nightmare of its recollection has vanished, and when, like other great upheavals, it will be but a memorable incident in the passage of time. Christmas, therefore, even in war time, ought not to fail to be marked in the time-honoured way in which for centuries ringers have honoured it, a manner enshrined in the heart of every Englishman. Of the traditional merry-making which we usually associate with Yuletide it is but right that there should be curtailment, for there are now few families who have not either lost relatives or who have not sons or brothers daily facing death in some part or other of the great theatres of war. There must necessarily be a subdued feeling among us all, and yet the message of the bells, I make bold to say, will be as welcome as ever on Christmas morning. And to that degree to which circumstances permit it, I hope all my readers will enjoy "A Merry Christmas."

HISTORY RECORDED ON BELLS.

The couplet on the new treble at Exeter Cathedral is not the only rhyme upon a bell that records an event in history which occurred when the bell was in the making. At Wooburn is a bell that, having been damaged, was recast just before King Edward VII was crowned. At the time of the postponement of the Coronation, on account of the King's illness, the bell was hanging cracked, but it was restored in time for the great event when, eventually, it did take place. The fact is commemorated on the bell thus:—

"The King was ill,
And I was still,
The day his crowning fell
My wound was healed
And I was pealed
To tell the King was well."

ERNEST PYE.

What a shock it was to many of us to read of the death of Ernest Pye. Even now one can hardly realise what his loss means to the Exercise, for, strange though it may seem, there is not, so far as one is aware, just exactly another Ernest Pye to fit into his place. You may find men of equal physical strength and fitness; you may find men of equal ability in ringing difficult methods; you may find men with the genius that he possessed for rectifying the mistakes of others; you may find men who were his equal in some respect or other, but I cannot call to mind—and my knowledge extends over a pretty wide field—anyone who exactly combines all the merits he possessed. It was an education to be in a peal with him, and those who never saw Ernest Pye tackling a big job missed one of the greatest of all sights in ringing. Don't let me be misunderstood. There are some splendid big bell men in our ranks, men who have done and are capable of doing big things, but, at the moment, the gap which Ernest Pye has left cannot be exactly filled.

A MAN TO BE RELIED UPON.

To those with whom he was so intimately associated, the memory of Ernest Pye will ever remain green. That cheery nature of his, which made light of difficulties and obstacles; that undaunted spirit which made him ever ready to take on the worst going bell in the tower; that unselfishness which showed itself in his willingness either to stand out or to stand in a peal as occasion required—and there is unselfishness even in standing in sometimes, when it involves giving up other pleasures to make up a band—combined to make a man whom it was a delight to know. It may not be generally known that Ernest Pye was a keenly enthusiastic follower of football, and if Tottenham Hotspur had a particularly enticing tit-bit for its supporters, Ernest did not like to miss it. Yet I have known him give up his afternoon at football to make up a band for a peal of Superlative—of which he rang over a hundred and fifty peals—at some out-of-the-way tower, or to rush away in the middle of some exciting match in order that seven or nine other men might not be disappointed at some distant London belfry. He was a man to be relied upon—for more things than that one. And now he has gone. What a strange thing is Fate!

BLINDFOLDED.

That quarter-peal of Stedman Triples rung the other day at Halesowen with a blindfolded conductor "gives one furiously to think" as somebody—I've forgotten who—once said. It was the Master of the Wor-

ceslershire Association, if I mistake not, who undertook the task of calling the bobs without being able to see the bells. He is emulating the example of Bill Barber, who called four quarters strung together to make a peal. One must want a pretty good ear for the job, but what would worry me if I were blindfolded would not be my ear, but my neck; what, in fact, would happen to me if I missed the sallie. I should be afraid of an unexpected coil in the rope dropping round my neck and making me the victim of an unauthorised execution, as it were. Absence of body would be better than presence of mind in such a case, but these blindfolded gentlemen do not seem to suffer from fears of any such risks. It seems to me, if you want to call peals without seeing the ropes, the best place to be is outside the tower and, like our friend of Dulcimer fame, "press the button."

FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE.

Some of the wonders of the world are to be found among ringers—no doubt about that—and ringing is about the most wonderful of all hobbies. What other pastime is there, requiring both mental and physical exercise, that man can indulge in for so long a period as ringing? Practically from the cradle to the grave our art is open to its devotees. Fancy a boy of seven ringing Grandfire Doubles, double-handed on handbells! Yet, as we read in "The Ringing World" last week, this has been done at Broughton Astley by Teddy Webb, whose brother, who boasts of two years seniority, rang another pair. It's marvellous! The wonderful juvenile record of the Johnsons, of Hinton, down Evesham way, may yet be beaten. And then at the other end of the scale, why, a man isn't thought to be anywhere near the end of his tether at 75, and there are several ringers about who are still actively engaged at over 80. I remember, some years ago, the Press made a great fuss about a well-known occupant of the Woolsack who played a round of golf on his eightieth birthday, but a round of golf is not to be compared to three hours at one end of a rope with a bell on the other end. If you get tired at golf you can have a rest; if you get tired at ringing you crack up the peal, and I never saw a veteran yet who gave in. I'm told that last Saturday dear old Sam Spittle, of Dudley, rang in a peal of Grandfire Caters in celebration of his 79th birthday. Here's an example for you! No, there is nothing that I know of to compare with ringing, for where will you find a pastime that combines the same opportunities of physical and mental exercise and the absorbing interest which attaches to ringing?

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY METHODS.

The reference in my last notes to the achievement of the Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, company, in ringing the extent of each of the 41 Surprise Minor methods in the Central Council's "Legitimate Methods," has brought me a letter from the Anston band. At this church, which is up in the neighbourhood of Sheffield, they have a company who can boast of having rung 720's in 130 methods. Ghee, whizz! It would make my hair turn grey to get that lot, or half of it, into my head. Up to two years ago this Christmas they had rung 100 methods, all but one being Treble Bob—the odd one being a Canterbury Pilgrim, or was it Pleasure? Since then 30 more in Surprise methods have been added. There are two or three in the book which they have not yet rung, but they are living in hopes. "It is wonderful," says my correspondent, "what can be accomplished if you keep a company together. Four of us have been together 28 years, six of us 20 years, and the last to join us was with us 13 years, but he has just gone away. We have, therefore, enlisted two more learners, who we hope will turn out all right." And I hope so, too. I trust the band will long continue to hang together, and never hang separately.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

WEST DORSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the West Dorset Branch was held at Bradpole on Saturday last, when representatives from Beaminster, Bradpole, Bridport, Litton Cheney, Lodors, Netherbury, Stoke Abbott and Symondsburry were present. Ringing commenced on the handy peal of eight at three o'clock, and continued until 4.30, when service was held, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. F. Langford), the special preacher being the Rev. C. A. Phillips, of Bournemouth, the hon. secretary of the East Dorset Branch of the Guild. Being a practical ringer, he held the attention of those present in an admirable address on "Goodwill," in which he pointed out that the same qualities of forbearance, unity, and persistence—that went to make up a good ringer, could be applied to every walk in life, and so make up a good parish or nation.

After service an adjournment was made to the Forster Institute, where a capital tea had been prepared by Mrs. Beams, to which the party did ample justice, the frosty nip in the air giving a decided whet to the appetite. At the head of the table, supporting the chairman (the Rev. C. F. Langford), were the Revs. C. C. Cox, Hutton, Owen, Phillips and Sharpe, and it was pleasing to note that four out of the six were ringers. Time, indeed, works changes, for it is only about six years ago that it was difficult to get even one clergyman to attend a meeting in this locality.

The officers were re-elected, and a suggested list of places named for next year's meetings. It was also decided to ask the general committee of the Guild to allow the extension of the West Dorset district so as to take in all that part west of the line from Yeovil to Maiden Newton.

The meeting terminated with more ringing.

**MODERN METHODS AS APPLIED TO BELL INSTALLATIONS
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The patent self-aligning bearing immediately ensures the perfect "go" of bells of any size.

**ALUMINIUM HEADSTOCKS FOR BELLS OF
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The fitting of aluminium headstocks to the "back" bells of a heavy or medium ring equalises the time of revolution.

Bells hung on this system quite surpass those hung upon so-called modern principles, and ease of ringing, and more especially good striking, is assured.

STEEL "ANTI-VANDAL" HEADSTOCKS (Patent No. 17367/14).

These steel headstocks are especially designed to eliminate the prevailing vandalism of cutting off the cannon heads of ancient and historical bells, and thus meet the oft expressed wishes of Clergy, Ringers, Ecclesiastical Architects, Archæological Authorities, and also agree with the sentiments of the general public.

SYSTEM FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BELLS.

Bells fitted with the "Warner" system of attachment to the headstocks by means of a centre bolt, precludes any possibility of clapper-wear with its attendant expense and danger, and thus ensures for an indefinite period, the lifetime of a bell.

**RENEWABLE GUDGEONS, IMPROVED STAYS AND
GUN METAL CLAPPER STAPLES.**

The renewable gudgeons enable bells to be rehung at a minimum of expense, and the improved stays are fitted to the headstocks by means of clips, and thus are not weakened by holes being bored through them.

THE CHURCH: THE KING: THE EMPIRE. THE CHURCH BELLS INQUIRY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

To the Editor.

Sir.—The question of the ringing of Church Bells during war time, as being a likely guide to hostile aircraft, and an annoyance to wounded soldiers, was, as reported in your last issue, raised in the House of Commons. The consensus of opinion throughout the country, gleaned from Press comments and personal remarks of invalid and wounded soldiers in hospitals and other buildings adjacent to churches, town halls, etc.; also the individual experience of men in the ranks of Lord Kitchener's Army stationed in all parts of England (where the bell ringer is frequently to be met with wearing the King's uniform) serve to show that the regular moderate pealing of a full ring of 1 bells is greatly conducive to the cheerful spirit and happiness of those soldiers who are quartered near enough to hear a set of bells well rung.

There is scarcely a unit of His Majesty's Forces, both among "Kitchener's Army" and the "Derby Recruits," without some men who have in the past been bell ringers, and no battalion would fail to produce a team of bell ringers; therefore, when so many devotees of other crafts and past-times are eulogised by newspaper men for their war work, it is hardly just to omit a reference to the Campanologist.

The records of our Diocesan and County Ringing Associations will prove—towards the end of 1916—how readily the men of the belfry have enlisted, for it has been estimated that there were upwards of 30,000 ringers before 1914. The humble bell ringer has stood firm upon those three points affecting the welfare of the nation mentioned in the heading of this letter, due to his being entrusted with the solemn duty of emphasising them by a peal on the bells—services willingly given, mostly without fee or reward, or of thanks in some cases.

When we peruse the ringing journals and the local parish magazines, and see the numerous lists of men who have taken up arms, there can be no doubt about the patriotism of the bell ringer right from the commencement of the war, because this is bred in him. Go to the ringing rooms of Great Britain this Christmas-time and watch the remnants of parish bands trying to ring out "the old, old message" to those at home; note the number of lads in khaki who drop into the nearest belfry for a pull; look up the rolls of honour and see what ringers have gone "to do their bit"; and much will be discovered to enlighten the layman.

References to the old subscription lists for church bell, or bell ringing funds in nearly every parish will astonish you, for it will be found that this English love of bells is practically shared by men of all religious denominations. It leaves no room to doubt the Englishman's partiality for the old English custom of ringing bells, for their sounds are free to everyone without distinction of creed in our joy and sorrow, in our trials and happiness, and it is this very freedom of the bell music which has made it so popular.

There may be an isolated case now and again where real cause for complaint arises, but the point to be remembered is that numbers of sensitive people who do not fully appreciate the sound of bells patiently bear with performances as much because it is an old British custom as that of their neighbours' fondness for their bells.

One of the most wonderful facts brought to our knowledge during the war is the staunch loyalty for the motherland shown by her overseas sons, a response clearly indicated some years before the war by the simple process of ringing bells. It should be universally known that no other nation has so far furnished a team of men capable of attempting a complete peal such as we Britishers perform, yet Australia, Africa and Canada has already done so, each colony revealing its natural instinct as a sector of Empire by pealing its bells across the sea.

"OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD."

Slough, December 15th, 1915.

HERTS ASSOCIATION AND THE LATE DEAN LAWRANCE.

To the memory of the late Dean Lawrance of St. Albans, who used to pride himself upon the fact that the Herts Association was formed beneath his roof, and who was an hon. member from its formation in 1884 down to the time of his death, a stained glass window is to be placed in the South Presbytery aisle and a tablet bearing a suitable inscription placed in the Cathedral. With a view to enabling the members of the Hertford County Association to share in placing this memorial in the mother church of the diocese a circular has been issued by the President and Hon. Treasurer (Mr. E. P. Debenham) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. W. Cartmel), in which they say: "We feel that the members generally will be glad to have the opportunity to contribute towards this memorial and, with this view, we invite your co-operation. We suggest that a contribution of one shilling, as a minimum, should be made by each unattached member." Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, "Duffield," St. Albans.

CARILLONS.

At a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts, on Wednesday in last week, most interesting papers on "Carillons and Carillon Playing," with illustrations, were given by M. Josef Denyn, the famous carillonneur of Malines, whose performances have also delighted audiences in this country, and Mr. William W. Starmer, F.R.A.M., probably the greatest English authority on the subject.

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Thursday, December 30th, for handbell practice, at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Newport, Mon., on Monday, December 27th. Service in St. Woolos Church at 3.30. Meeting and tea to follow. St. Woolos bells (10) and All Saints bells (8) available.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., John W. Jones, 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon., Hon. Secs.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Hertford on December 27th, when the bells of All Saints' (10) and St. Andrew's (8) will be open from 2 till 5. Tea at the Coffee Tavern, Old Cross, after, members 6d., others 9d. All members and friends will be made welcome.—W. H. Lawrence, Honorary District Secretary, Little Munden.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch will be held at St. James's Church, Trowbridge, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916, at 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, 9d. each to those who advise me before January 3rd next. Important business meeting to follow; good attendance hoped for.—Henry Brownlee West, Hon. Secretary, Avalon, Devizes.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting for practice will be held at Loughton on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available from 3 to 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. Rumens, District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Bloxwich on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available at 3. Short service at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. J. C. Hamilton). Tea (9d.) in the schoolroom at 6. Please send word not later than Tuesday, January 4th.—H. Knight, Honorary Secretary, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Annual meeting will be held in the Guild Room at the Tamworth Arms Hotel, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, January 11th, 1916, at 7.30 p.m. All subscriptions are due, and should be paid at this meeting. The balance sheet will be presented.—A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

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.

TO PARENTS.

Rev. F. L. Edwards, Kington Magna, Gillingham, Dorset (Salisbury Guild), can for a limited time take gentlemen's sons, age 12 to 15, as pupils on exceptionally favourable terms. Spanish may be taught. Also farming.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

GREETINGS.

To all friends "A Happy Christmas and re-union in the coming New Year," is the sincere wish of

F. A. HOLDEN, R.M.L.I

H.M.S. "Manzinita."

Heartiest good wishes for Christmas and a Victorious New Year to all ringing friends, both far and near, is the sincere wish of

RIFLEMAN BERTRAM PREWETT,
"B" Co., London Rifle Brigade.

Southwold, 24th December, 1915.

That all ringing friends may have a happy Christmas-tide, and that the New Year may dawn with bright prospects for all, is the sincere wish of

CLEMENT GLENN,

11, Fisher Road, Sheffield.

RINGING DAYS.—CHIMING APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I most heartily agree with the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards that Ascension Day ought always to be included in the list of ringing days, whether at Exeter Cathedral or anywhere else. It is certainly of as much importance as Easter or any of the other greater festivals; and much more so than any of the loyal occasions on which bells are usually rung.

But I do not at all agree with what he says with regard to chiming apparatus. It is quite true that no mechanical contrivance can ever in any way be a substitute for ringing; nor can it even produce music like bells chimed on the swing. But in the case of heavy peals of eight and upwards such an apparatus is very useful. It is wellnigh impossible to chime some of our heavy peals of ten and twelve on the swing; and even if it can be done, it would require a man to each bell, and probably more than one man on the heavier bells. Chiming hammers get over this difficulty without the objectionable practice of clacking the bells with clapper ropes.

I fully admit that unless they are used by someone who keeps good and regular time, and opens the leads, the effect produced is irritating in the extreme. In fact, I myself would rather hear a single bell rung or tolled. But, granted that you have a man who can do it properly, it is very convenient to be able to chime even a light peal of eight without being dependent on the services of three or four men, which it is not always possible to command, especially on a week-day.

As regards the danger of accidents, I may say that a manual open and exposed, and placed in the basement of a tower where the ringing floor is above, as at Exeter, must always be a source of danger. All chiming manuals, whether fixed in the ringing chamber or below, should always be enclosed in a lock-up case, so constructed that it is impossible to close the door when the apparatus is in gear. This may best be effected by having a single roller and ratchet arrangement for putting the hammers in gear, with a block so fixed to the inside of the door that it is impossible to shut it while the pawl is down in the ratchet wheel. A printed notice stating that the apparatus must always be thrown out of gear, and the door of the case shut and locked immediately after using is also advisable.

I may here say that many years ago Exeter Cathedral bells were chimed by means of outside hammers falling on a spring (like clock hammers) and worked by levers below, like a keyboard.—Yours, etc..

December 18th, 1915.

J. R. JERRAM.

NEW YEAR'S DAY RINGING.

Following an old custom, the bells of St. Mary's, Salehurst, Sussex, will be rung at intervals through the day on January 1st. Any visitors will be most welcome. Tea will be obtainable at the Old Eight Bells at 1s. 6d. per head.

At Martock, Somerset, the bells will be available all day on January 1st.

GUILDFORD.—At St. Nicolas' Church, on Sunday, December 5th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. W. Radford 1, E. Etheridge 2, H. Mason 3, E. Raddon 4, G. Petter 5, S. G. Steer 6, S. Radford (conductor) 7, W. Loader 8. Rung on the Eve of St. Nicolas' Day.

PETERBOROUGH.—For evening service, at St. John's Church, on Sunday, December 19th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins.: V. Butler 1, F. Dainty 2, S. Wright 3, T. Vaughan 4, F. Davis 5, W. Jarvis 6, P. Cooke 7, J. Howling 8.

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