

THE RINGING OF THE WORLD

No. 298. Vol. XI.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1916.

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

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

BE READY.

We have no hesitation in returning this week to the subject of the future of ringing. In the past three issues we have tried to put before our readers the importance of the Exercise being prepared to meet any attempt which may be made to suppress the ringing of church bells in the future, but there may still be some who do not realise that such a step is within the range of possibility, and are not fully alive to the necessity of being ready for an emergency of this kind. These are days when no Act of Parliament is necessary to remove either rights or privileges. It needs only sufficient influence applied in the right quarter and, by a stroke of the pen, any existing state of things can be changed, and when this happens it is usually done without consulting those principally concerned. Such conditions are probably necessary in war time, but few people suppose that everything that has been altered in this way will revert to its former state with the declaration of peace.

The public interests, it will be said afterwards, were well served by this, that, or the other restriction, therefore it should be continued. Let an official ban be placed upon the ringing of church bells during war time, and there will be found after the war plenty of people who will clamour for its retention. In the last few months the daily press has contained a good deal of correspondence in which nearly every writer has urged the suppression of ringing on some ground or other. If these unanswered protests develop into crystallised official action, backed by the Bishops' own recommendations—made, it is true, in no spirit of hostility to ringing itself, but liable to be misconstrued by unscrupulous extremists—it may be difficult to re-establish ringing in its former place. Happily, up to the present, nothing has been done to suppress ringing altogether in daylight hours, but no one can say when the thing might be sprung upon us, and the wedge be gradually driven home.

Those who take up the attitude that, as nothing has been done, there is nothing to worry about, should remember the old adage about locking the stable door. It is no use thinking of what ought to be done when the time for action has passed. The course of the war might have been very different if the nation had been better prepared, and as ringers, we should be ready to meet any possible effort that may be made to extinguish us and our craft. It is no use living in a fool's paradise. If we are ready we can, as a correspondent pointed out last week, quietly await events. But at present we are not ready. There is no need to force a fight—that is the last thing we should seek to do—but we can see that we are prepared, not only with argument, but with the means of utilising all the influence which could be put into the scale on our side, if only action is taken in time.

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-banging 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.

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REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

**BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
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SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ISHAM, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25th, 1916, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

J. EDWARD CHAPMAN ... 1-2	E. MAURICE ATKINS ... 5-6
DAVID J. NICHOLLS ... 3-4	FREDERICK W. SAWFOOT 7-8

Composed and Conducted by E. M. ATKINS.

This is the first peal to be rung by Lt. E. M. Atkins, R.E., since being wounded last January.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Pte J. Dow, of Springfield, Essex, Essex Regiment, dangerously wounded during the Somme offensive, now in hospital at Bristol.

Pte W. Honey, of East Peckham, 2/6th Suffolk Regiment, now at Lincoln.

From St. Mary's, Godstone, Surrey:—

Sergt. John Humphrey, 1/4th Queen's, now in India.

Gunner William Thomas Beeson, Royal Garrison Artillery Signal School, Southampton.

REDHILL RINGER KILLED.

The fighting in France has claimed the life of another ringer, Sergt. A. Streeter, a member of the St. John's Society, Redhill, Surrey, having recently been killed at the front. On Saturday week, as a last tribute of respect, an unsuccessful attempt was made at St. John's Church for a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples. Subsequently a touch of 1554 was rung by: H. F. Ewins 1, A. Gear 2, W. Claydon 3, H. Jordan 4, T. Streeter 5, G. F. Hoad (conductor) 6, F. Hawkins 7, F. W. Rice 8. The ringing was also a last mark of respect to the late Mr. G. H. Croucher, formerly a member of the Reigate Society.

DEATH OF A KENT RINGER.

The death has occurred of Mr. H. G. Pope, of Staplehurst, one of the oldest members of the Kent County Association. At one time the Staplehurst band was one of the best change ringing companies in the county, but for various reasons the band has dwindled down until for some years Mr. Pope has been the only representative of the tower in the Association, in which he always took the keenest interest. When the Association was divided into districts he was a regular attendant at the meetings, especially at the annual district meetings, and his counsel was always sought on any matter that was under discussion. He was quite looked upon as the "father" of the district, and his genial face will be much missed at future meetings.

The late Mr. Pope had seven sons, all of whom he taught to ring, and while they were at home used to ring the bells of Staplehurst Church regularly for the services. About fourteen years ago, on the occasion of the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pope, he and his seven sons rang the bells of the church, standing in the order of their ages, the youngest (then a boy of nine years) ringing the treble, and the late Mr. Pope the tenor. As the sons grew up they (as is the case with most families) left home, and some of them have not had the opportunity to continue the ringing, but one (Mr. E. Pope) was a member of the Tunbridge Wells band until the war broke out, when as a trooper in the West Kent Yeomanry he was called up, and is still serving at the front.

On Saturday, October 28th, a band of members of the Association, organised by the District Secretary (Mr. W. Latter), visited Staplehurst, and attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, as a last mark of respect to the memory of a most esteemed brother ringer. Unfortunately, after ringing nearly 1,700 changes in 1 hr. and 5 mins., it was found that a shift had occurred, and the conductor called stand. A quarter-peal in the same method was then rung, followed by the whole pull and stand. At the conclusion of the ringing, the band visited the grave of their old comrade, which is close to the tower and the bells he loved so well. They were then kindly entertained to an excellent tea at the Bell Hotel by the Rector (the Rev. C. W. Bourne), whose kindness was much appreciated by the ringers. Two of the late Mr. Pope's sons visited the ringers after tea, and expressed the thanks of themselves, and the other members of their family, to the ringers for coming to show their respect to their father, and also for the letter of sympathy the district secretary had sent in the names of the members of the district. The ringers were: B. and F. J. Lambert, of Horsmonden; G. Edwards and H. Seal, of Penshurst; W. Latter and G. Thompson, of Tunbridge Wells; Mr. C. Tribe, of Tenterden; and Mr. P. Hodgkin, of Headcorn.

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and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have followed with much interest your leaders on this subject, also the letters from various ringers, and I am of the same opinion as Mr. F. E. Dawe, that some effort should be made, both in the interest of scientific change ringing, and also in the interest of the general public, to try and get some restriction pressed on people responsible for the much overdone clanging of odd bells, at whatever time of the day it takes place. This is the sort of thing I am alluding to:—At a seaside town I have several times visited at week-ends, I have heard, on more than one occasion, at twenty minutes to 6 a.m. four bells of a peal of five begun to be chimed at five-minute intervals by an apparatus; at five minutes to the hour the chiming ceases and the tenor of the peal is swung frame high until the hour. That process was repeated at twenty minutes to 7, twenty minutes to 8, and again from 10.30 till 11. At another place (a country village this time) they have a children's service on Sunday afternoon, and just at the time when hard-working people are looking to get a little well-earned rest, the verger is allowed to get a lot of young lads round him in the belfry and try for three-quarters of an hour to chime a peal of eight bells, some of them are nearly frame high, others speaking only occasionally. The effect I need not attempt to describe. At another place I know there are two bells, hung in an outside turret. These two bells have been known to have been chimed, continuously, for twenty minutes—on some Sundays as many as five times during the day. Can you imagine anything more nerve-racking? Now, Sir, my point is this: All this is credited to "bell ringing."

The Bishop of Peterborough, in his reply to Mr. Willson, says: "The actual times when the bells are silent must be left to the discretion of each parish; it must obviously depend on the presence or absence in the district of munition workers," etc. But, Sir, whether there be munition workers in a district or not, such nerve-racking noises as I have tried to describe are an intolerable and entirely unnecessary nuisance to everybody within earshot of their sources. I believe there are very few people indeed, munition workers or otherwise, who would raise the least objection to properly executed change ringing done between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m., or 5.30 and 6.30 p.m., but unfortunately there are a lot of people (and this is the point I want to emphasise particularly) that are giving the credit for this noisy clanging (and in ignorant innocence, too) to change ringers. It is surprising the amount of crass ignorance existing in high quarters as to the difference between scientific change ringing and bell clanging; it is all bell ringing. And it is just here that our Exercise is going to be hit, whenever any restriction of bell ringing is demanded, unless we take steps to see that our side of the question is properly understood and recognised. Mr. Willson asks: What can the Council do? He also says that he is of opinion that we must win into our ranks the clergy from the Bishop downwards—and to that I would like to say, "Hear, hear!"

But before we are able to win them to our ranks, we shall have to educate them (a lot of them at any rate) as to the essential difference between change ringing and making a noise on bells. I will not attempt to answer Mr. Willson's question: "What can the Council do?" except by saying that I believe each and every individual guild of change ringers has adequate means of doing all that is necessary, and much more effectually and directly than the Central Council could do, even if it had the best possible president elected and ready to act. If we could get the difference between proper change ringing and this bell clanging explained and recognised in high quarters, steps would then perhaps be taken to stop the real offenders in any district where complaints were being made, and injury to our Exercise would be avoided. The appeals made by the Bishops of Peterborough and Chelmsford will doubtless be followed by appeals from the bishops of other dioceses; and as, I suppose, all of our guilds have at least one or more members of the clergy on their committee, and some have a reverend master, I would like to suggest that these gentlemen should be asked to write at once to the bishop of their diocese, pointing out the differences that I have alluded to above. I submit that these gentlemen could do that much more effectively than president or secretary of the Central Council could possibly do. I am perfectly sure that the Bishop of Winchester would be in no doubt as to the nature of these differences after he had read a letter on the subject from the Master of our Guild (the Rev. C. E. Matthews), and I am equally sure that it would not be the Rev. Matthews' fault if change ringing suffered. And no doubt other guilds have equally as good reverend champions.

With regard to excessive peal ringing, surely that only requires the exercise of common sense and consideration for other people which ringers, as recognised church workers, ought not to be behind in showing.—Yours faithfully,

Winterfold, Cranleigh.

ROBERT WHITTINGTON.

SUNDAY RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read Mr. F. E. Dawe's letter with interest, and I thoroughly agree with what he says, the thin edge of the wedge is in, and if action is not taken it will be driven home. Those left at

home in the Central Council, and others, must take matters in hand. Things will not be the same after the war, and ringing will, in my opinion, suffer if action is not taken. Let those who can take this action do all in their power for the great art we ringers love so well.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. B. HESSE, Captain, A.S.C.

3rd Repair Unit, B.E.F., France.

RINGER'S REMARKABLE RECORD.

MILITARY MEDAL FOR HARWICH MAN.

Bravery on the field has resulted in the award of the Military Medal to Corporal Tom Bernard, of the Machine Gun Corps, a native of Harwich, and one of the ringers at the Parish Church there.

Corpl. Bernard has had a more than usually varied experience in this war, for he has been in both sea and land battles. Prior to joining the army he was in the navy, and was employed in the canteen on board H.M.S. Hogue when that vessel was lost with the *Aboukir* and *Cressy*, but luckily he was rescued. In that disaster Cpl. Bernard exemplified pluck and courage in saving the life of the canteen manager, whom he supported in the water for an hour before both were rescued. He subsequently served on board a light cruiser that distinguished herself in North Sea fighting, and afterwards he was employed on transports. He then turned his attention to the army, and left for France, where he has been many months, and where he has now further distinguished himself.

A member of the Harwich Parish Church Guild, and a good ringer on tower bells, but better still on handbells, he took part in the many handbell peals that were rung at Harwich three or four years ago.

AN EVEN-BELL METHOD

WHICH CAN BE EXTENDED TO INFINITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am indebted to Mr. Fright for calling attention to the Major method which I discovered many years ago, and which, in recent years, has been the means of bringing about the discovery that all methods, principles and systems are produced by bobs (or by bobs and extremes) from the quick and slow primary principles, separately, or in combination.

Mr. Fright did not give the Maximus of the method quite correctly, and with your permission I give again the Major, together with the Royal and Maximus; a glance at each will show that the 3rd is the pivot bell, that she makes all three bobs, 6th's, 3rd's, 6th's in Major, 8th's, 5th's, 8th's in Royal, and 10th's, 7th's, 10th's in Maximus; the other bells concerned in the bob-making being the same in each instance.

	Major	Royal	Maximus
	12345678	1234567890	1234567890ct
	21436587	2143658709	2143658709te
	24163857	2416385079	2416385079e
	42618375	4261830597	42618305t7e9
	46281357	4628103957	4628103t5e79
	64823175	6482019375	648201t3e597
	68432715	6840291357	68402t1e3957
	86347251	8604923175	8604t2e19375
	68374521	8069432715	806t4e291357
	86735412	0896347251	08t6e4923175
	87653142	8069374521	0t8e69432715
	78561324	0896735412	t0e896347251
	75816342	0987653142	09t8e69374521
	57183624	9078561324	t0e896735412
	51738264	9705816342	te0987653142
Lead end	15372846	7950183624	et9078561324
	13527486	7591038264	e9t705816342
		5719302846	9e7150183624
		5173920486	97e5t1038264
Lead end	1537294068	795e1t302846	795e1t302846
		1352749608	7591e3t20486
			57193e2t4068
			517392e4t608
			Lead end 1537294e8t80
			13527496e8t0

The above method can be extended on even numbers to infinity, by shifting the place—making back two positions for each additional pair of bells added.

It seems not to be understood that structurally the lead-end of all Methods, and the division-end of all Principles and Systems come at hand-stroke; a feature in connection therewith is the fact that all perfectly constructed Methods, Principles and Systems, have a simple transposition row at the lead-end or the division-end as the case may be.

A simple transposition row is a row in which the face value and the proving value are one and the same.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE BAKER.

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A.D. 1670.

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

A RINGER'S LIFE.

MR. WILLIAM NEWELL, OF READING.

Praise to the Art by practice made more bright.
My country's pride, my own supreme delight.

G. H. C.

The above eloquent lines came forcibly to my mind on a certain date in November, as I gazed upon that well-known Reading veteran, Mr. William Newell, a change ringer, a chorister, and a musician, whose many years of generous active life still show signs of further usefulness at the advanced age of 78 years, and whose birthday and golden wedding celebration was recorded last week.

In the remote little village of Brightwell, Oxon, on the 8th November, 1838, was born the subject of this article, a sturdy little fellow who was, as after events proved, destined to "brighten" the Exercise of bell ringing, and to succeed "well" in business. Often as a lad of about eight years of age would he watch his father, the local blacksmith, ringing the tenor of the village bells, a set of three, and ultimately he learned to chime and ring a bell. Having mastered the bassoon well before reaching his teens, he was "soon" the leader of the village choir, and this laid the foundation of his life-long services to the musical section of Church work.

A young man's glory is his strength.
An old man's honour is his grey hairs.

About the year 1849 Mr. Newell's family removed to South Stoke, near Watlington, where there is a peal of five (and a lady ringer at the present time), and William soon made the acquaintance of the ringers of the day, who, as was usual in those times, fought very shy of new-comers, but who were eventually to be the means of starting his ringing career. Mr. Newell's first situation was at Reading—and it is quite likely in the ordinary course of events to be his last—which he entered in May, 1851, the year of the great Exhibition in London, and here he lived with an uncle, who resided hard by the old flint tower of St. Mary's Church with its grand historical peal of eight bells, tenor weighing 28 cwt. approximately. (She measures 13ft. 10ins. circumference at the mouth.) Here again instinct took him to the ringing room, just as a duck takes to water, and soon he discovered that you may look, but you mustn't "touch."

A LINK WITH WATERLOO.

The famous Duke of Wellington resided at his mansion of Strathfield-saye, near Reading, for some time; therefore, it was only fit and proper that the neighbouring borough of Reading should honour the great soldier's memory by the ringing of muffled peals on the day he was buried, November 18th, 1852; but how could "all eight" bells be rung with only seven hands present, and no Washbrooks about? Our little Willie, then in his fourteenth year, shyly asked to be allowed to try the 2nd, which he did to the astonishment of the old band, and from that day became "one of them"; a connection which lasted to 1870, when a company dispute took place, and the churchwarden broke them up, Mr. Newell severing himself from the tower, after 18 years' service, during ten of which he acted as the foreman.

When I came to Reading, says Mr. Newell in his "Notes on St. Mary's Society, 1740—1870," the company at St. Mary's of those days (1851) were all good old English "call-change" men, who, under trying and neglected conditions, carried on their bell ringing with bulldog tenacity (and without let or hindrance from those in authority), very little having been done to the frame and fittings since the bells were made into eight in 1740. We used cards on which figures were set out for the respective changes, and these were placed upon stands, one for each man, so that he could read the changes and watch the ropes at the same time. Excepting for a month or so before Christmas, when practice for the annual Christmas fund was made, there was never any ringing done unless it was a "paid order" on behalf of a Member of Parliament, a wedding or funeral, and the usual high days of Church and State. Chiming by boys and odd men was all that was done on Sundays, and that was very indifferent.

In those days change ringing was practically unknown in Reading and the district round, but our veteran soon began to "ferret out" one or two little secrets; he was probably lured on to doing so by reading the old names on the handsome ancient peal tablets in the ringing room; and his youthful ambitions were fired by the record of John Lucas, who rang the tenor for 5 hrs. and 59 mins., when the 3rd rope broke. "Every man being in perfect strength."

The very walls of the belfry appealed to him. What of the men who rang Union Triples in 1740, and Bob Major in 1745? and why should there be no "method" ringing in Reading now if there were local men able to practise it a century before his time? We can only wonder what sort of men these early Reading masters were, and how they fared, and I would pay a good fee to hear their own version of the Bob Major rung there in 1744, under the conductorship of Ben Annable, by a London band of the College Youths Society.

OLD CHANGE RINGING SOCIETIES.

Mr. Newell's duty as foreman also included the treasurership, and the old subscription books of the last seven years of office totalled

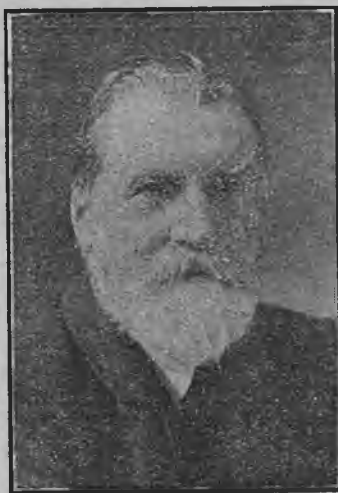
up to £118 3s., which, after division, amounted to the modest honorarium of two guineas per man per annum. From 1858 tunes and hymns were given by him on Sundays, and came to be looked upon later as a part of the tower "machinery" by the parishioners, and this was also part of his hobby, just the same as his gift of overtime and attention to bell ringing and ropes, etc., has ever been.

Picture to yourself the dejection, the disappointment, of an enthusiast upon giving up a tower after long and happy association, the more so in this instance because it was here that he was confirmed; here on November 8th, 1866, he was married to the kind and gentle lady who has faithfully helped him for 50 years to "carry on," and here he was invited to raise a "new" band of ringers about the year 1860. Why, St. Mary's, as Mr. Newell said, "is more like home to me."

"When we were boys, merry, merry boys."

During the year 1869, Mr. Newell became acquainted with two old change ringing societies—Oxford and Appleton, ringing his first peal, Grandsire Triples at the latter place—which led to his introducing the method to his old tower at Reading, where a "first" plain course of Grandsire Triples was brought round in memory of one of their members, Goodall, the bells being muffled. On Boxing Day of the same year the Oxford Society visited Reading, and rang Holt's Original in 3 hrs. 13 mins., conducted by Chas. Hounslow, to which Mr. Newell rang the tenor, and the following day at Caversham he rang his first six-score. Here, we may say, our veteran won his "spurs" as a change ringer, and soon afterwards he severed himself from the old scrouffe work for something higher and more worthy.

In 1871 there died one of the old team, Mr. J. Moore, a ringer of



MR. WILLIAM NEWELL.

St. Mary's for 50 years. Mr. Newell took part in the muffled ringing for the deceased, this being the last by the old team, whom he found in office 20 years previously. Going back to Moore's youth a century is almost completed for one tower by two men—Moore 1821, Newell 1916—whilst, as a local peal ringer, Mr. Newell helps to bridge a gap of 124 years, Lucas 1745—Newell 1869, both on the tenor. Mr. Newell can recount many an interesting story of the good old belfry times. He has rung for a set of "beaver hats," for a "ringers' supper," which the losers paid for, and last, but not least, a great deal of ringing for—"the love of it."

Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find.

1870—1880.

During the next decade of Mr. Newell's life another development of the "inborn ringer" was pursued, that of handbell music. He purchased a set of 50 bells, found suitable musicians for a quartette, and, with himself as conductor, his early musical training proving valuable. The Reading handbell party were quickly found in evidence at concerts and entertainments everywhere. Several other such teams have been trained by them with similar success, and the members, now scattered wide and far, if ever they see these lines, will be reminded of many a happy evening's practice at the table, with their patient tutor smilingly nodding the "beat."

In this period he continued his visits to Oxford and Appleton, and what he learnt he did his best to impart to others. Here I would like to quote from an article written by the Caversham curate of some 25 years ago:—

"Not to be beaten, Mr. Newell still kept on with his work among church bells and ringers, training in the space of a very few years at least four different bands in the town, though rebuffs too numerous

to mention fell on broad shoulders from clergy, churchwardens, and even from many of the ringers themselves, for whose benefit he had devoted no small portion of his leisure hours."

THE FORMATION OF THE OXFORD GUILD.

Time, that great healer of all, soon enabled our friend to forgive, but the sudden end of St. Mary's band in 1870 delayed the revival of change ringing in Reading by just ten years, a fact difficult to forget by one who had striven hard for it at considerable personal expense, and the family's inconvenience.

Upon the formation of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, in January, 1881, a new influence from higher quarters soon began to make itself felt in the towers of Reading and neighbourhood, which formed a branch for itself, with Mr. Newell as a keen supporter, and one of its first members. Simultaneously, a question of restoring the bells of the municipal Church of St. Lawrence was raised, and the Rev. Chas. Kelly, the Vicar, wisely asked Mr. Newell—even then a familiar campanologist in the town—to form a band of change ringers for the restored peal of ten. The whole history of the St. Lawrence's Society, its tower and bells from 1881 to 1916, is interwoven with the name of William Newell as tower warden, instructor and conductor. The records of the society (of which he was elected captain) and the walls of the belfry afford ample evidence of his work here, ably assisted for many years by Mr. W. J. Williams, one of the Richmond Brothers of the Seventies. Thirty-five years of valuable service made full amends for a brief void, and now there seems to be a fair prospect of his making it up to the even forty.

Raise me often, ring me long, not too hard if you are strong;
Poise me nicely, so my tongue falls exactly right and wrong.

The Abbey tenor, 1600.

It was in this tower that the "first" peal in Reading, of which there is record, was performed in 1734, with two men on the tenor. Henry Peaty being the "Bob Caller," and about this time such men as Ford, Newberry, Lucas and Booth appear to have rung at both towers, and were probably part of a "scrouffe" that worked all paid jobs between them for both churches.

To him that waiteth, all things in due season; and to William of Reading fell the "plum" of his life, the honour of conducting a peal of Grandsire Triples on the eve of the new year, 1914, and within six months of 150 years since such a similar performance had been achieved in the ancient borough, added to which most of the team were his own pupils.

Here I would like to repeat what Mr. Newell's biographer said in the "Bell News" in 1891, referring to the above peal. "Doubtless it was this fact which earned for him the title by which he is commonly known among his friends—the Father of Change Ringing in Reading." Since then there has grown up another generation of ringers who would prefer to call him "grandfather."

OCTOGENARIAN JOTTINGS.

As one of the instructors of the Guild, Mr. Newell has done good work in the neighbouring villages, placing the art on a sure footing in not a few of them. Space would not suffice us to give any idea of his uphill work in connection with his beloved art. It is as a patient and indefatigable instructor that William Newell is best known (though his name was not infrequently to be seen in our peal columns), and he has taught change ringing to 550 men within a 20-mile radius. There are 57 steps to the belfry which Mr. Newell has climbed on an average four times a week, thus making 7,280 ascents in St. Lawrence's tower alone!

During the scaring time of the Anarchists' revolt, a small black bag was removed from the tower base, where it was found by the verger, who suspected an "infernal machine," and refused to take any risk. The Vicar, consulted, was anxious for its removal to the police station, the bag eventually being carried to the officer in charge, who forced it open with a long iron bar, and lo! out rolled a jangling set of handbells, the property of Mr. Newell, who had temporarily placed them at the foot of the stairs.

There is no royal road to success in the belfry, Mr. Newell is one of the first to say. He advises patience and perseverance. Many allow early enthusiasm to evaporate; others "stick it," and find as their tutor has found a hobby that promotes physical fitness, appeals to the finer instincts and fosters good fellowship.

Mr. Newell has rung 140 peals in the Standard methods, and has rung at 220 different towers, has taken part in both Caters and Triples when the entire band were of the same Christian name—"William."

About a twelvemonth ago Mr. Newell retired from the choir of St. Mary's, Castle Street, where for 47 years he was tenor singer. Picture him, if you can, dear reader, hurrying from the tower, where he usually stood at the back end of the peal, to don his surplice at a distant church, summer and winter—year in and year out; can we not say with admiration, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"?

At his home, 247, Oxford Road, will be found many pictures, books, and objects of interest to his fellow bell ringers, some of which I hope to see reproduced or described some future time in these columns. The collection includes a beautiful peal of handbells, once the property of the foreman at South Stoke, who had his own name and date engraved on the tenor, and which Mr. Newell, by lucky

chance, had the opportunity of purchasing from the widow many years after leaving the place. A list of 50 airs are placed near the bell stand, most of which you may have tapped to you double-handed. One cannot close without mentioning Mr. Newell's peregrinations in search of "Thurstans' four-part" with another "Father of the Art," the late Rev. F. E. Robinson. They formed a pair of buxom boys, who hauled bad going back-end bells with a certain amount of gusto; but no peal seemed so sweet as the first by the Reading branch, conducted by Harry Egby, in 1883 (in which Mr. Newell rang the 7th), at Wokingham.

One, two, three—one, two, three—the bells of Brightwell still call to prayer and praise, as they did when Father Newell first saw the light of day, and after all the strenuous labours of his long and active life memory will gently carry him back to those early days—

Of youth and home and that sweet time,
When last I heard their soothing chime. W. H. F.

PRESENTATION AT LIVERPOOL. SECRETARY'S SERVICES RECOGNISED.

A very interesting ceremony took place in the course of an enjoyable evening spent at the George Hotel, Garston, Liverpool, on Tuesday evening, November 21st, when the opportunity was taken to present to Mr. Walter Hughes, Liverpool branch secretary of the Lancashire Association, now Liverpool Diocesan Guild, but still affiliated to the former body, a Keystone gold lever watch, suitably inscribed, and also a gold-mounted cameo brooch for his better half.

Mr. James Martin, who took the chair at a smoking concert, reminded those present of some interesting reminiscences in connection with the above society and ringing matters in general, and intimated that it was well known that Mr. Hughes had given his ungrudging services for the benefit of the Liverpool members for the last 15 years. He spoke in eulogistic terms of the sustained interest that Mr. Hughes had taken, and of the good work he had accomplished in an honorary capacity.—Mr. H. H. Barker (Walton) and Mr. Geo. Woodhall (a former secretary of the branch) both fully endorsed all the chairman had said, and further testified as to Mr. Hughes' success for such a long period.

Mr. Hughes suitably replied, thanking the members for the beautiful presents, and the programme of the evening was continued. Vocal items were given by Messrs. Edward Breeze (Port Sunlight), Tom Gilmour (Walton), Henry Martin (Oxton), and H. H. Barker, who also gave a selection on the fairy bells. Some double-handed change ringing was also done during the evening, the following taking part:—Messrs. J. Martin, George Woodhall, Walter Hughes, John Turner, John Allen, Tom Jennings and George Hyslop, all names which have appeared from time to time in your peal columns in normal conditions.—Votes of thanks to Mr. Fred Hackett, who ably presided at the piano; to Host F. Woodin, and to Mr. John Turner for his share in the arrangements for the evening were accorded.—In moving thanks to the chairman, Mr. Breeze referred to Mr. Martin's geniality in the belfry, and his untiring energy in all matters connected with ringing. His smile Mr. Breeze metaphorically likened unto a ray of sunshine spreading cohesion and giving confidence to all with whom he came in contact.

In regard to the Lancashire Association (Liverpool branch) being now known as the Liverpool Diocesan Guild, this will, I think, be the first intimation in your columns of the amalgamation of these two societies, this having taken place during the last three months.

H. H. B.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. THE NEW TREASURER.

The annual meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, on Tuesday of last week, when Mr. Albert A. Hughes was re-elected Master. The treasurer'ship, rendered vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Arthur Hughes, was filled by the election of his son, Mr. Leonard A. Hughes. Mr. Alfred W. Grimes was appointed senior steward, and Mr. Reuben Sanders junior steward. Mr. Charles F. Winney and Mr. Walter Prime were re-elected trustees, and Mr. William T. Cockerell hon. secretary.

WEST EALING.—For the morning service, on Oct. 8th (harvest festival), a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Diserens 1. G. Harbour 2. A. W. Davis 3. C. Edwards 4. W. Lawrence 5. R. Holloway (conductor) 6. H. H. Chandler 7. E. Newell 8. A. Diserens, a lad of 15, hails from Sunbury, and it was his first quarter-peal.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, Sept. 10th, for morning service, 504 Stedman Triples: W. Mead 1. R. Nichols 2. F. Stonton 3. H. Sear 4. W. Sear 5. E. Marks 6. E. Reader (Loughborough), conductor. 7. F. Whitehead 8. For evening service, 336 Stedman: W. Mead 1. J. Mead 2. H. Morris 3. W. Sear 4. H. Sear 5. E. Marks 6. F. Stonton (conductor) 7. J. Atkins (Rector's warden) 8. 336 Grandsire Triples: H. Sear (conductor) 1. W. Sear 2. W. Mead 3. H. Morris 4. J. Mead 5. E. Marks 6. F. Whitehead 7. F. Stonton 8. These touches were rung in honour of the dedication of the church.

NOTICES.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Owing to funerals, the meeting which was to have been held at Slough on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, will take place at St. John's, Hillingdon, at 2.30 p.m. on same date for a Cater Practice. Middlesex men please note this amendment.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The quarterly meeting of above will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available during afternoon from 1.30 p.m.—Walter Sear, Branch Secretary, 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Eckington on Saturday, Dec. 2nd (8 bells). Will those members whose subscription is yet unpaid kindly remit before December 31st?—Sam Thomas, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South Western Division.—The Annual District Meeting will be held at West Ham on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells available from 2.45 to 4.20 p.m. Tea at 4.45 in Church Hall, Meeson Road. Meeting (at which Officers for the ensuing year will be elected) to follow.—E. J. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. George's Church, Bolton, on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 1916. Bells from 2.30 to 5.30.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wickwar on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 to 5 p.m.; tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify to W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Sec., Ham, Berkeley, Gloucestershire?

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A Meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on December 5th and 19th for business, and on the 14th and 28th for handbell practice. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members, who seldom attend the meetings, to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society, Est. 1824).—A meeting will be held at the headquarters, "The Edinburgh," Milford Lane, Strand, on Saturday, Dec. 9th, at 6.30 p.m., for business, followed by handbell practice, etc. All ringers cordially invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Heywood Parish Church on Saturday, December 9th. Bells, ready at 2 o'clock, till dusk; meeting to follow. Reports will be ready for this meeting.—T. K. Driver, 132, Morton Street, Middleton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Clifton, on Dec. 9th. Bells at 2.30. Service, 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Kindly notify by Dec. 5th.—C. J. Walton, 4, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the South Eastern Division will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells available 3.15 till dusk; followed by handbell ringing, and service. Tea, 6 o'clock at the Cedars Hotel, followed by meeting, election of officers, etc. Tea 1s. each to non-members. Will those intending to be present please notify me by Dec. 13th?—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey, on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) available until dusk; afterwards for handbell ringing at "White Cross," business meeting there 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Sec.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—All subscriptions and communications for the above Guild should for the future be addressed to Mr. J. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

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.

SITUATION VACANT.

PORTER-GARDENER required for Trinity Hospital (Almshouses), Clun, Salop. Opportunities for ringing.—Apply to Rev. Subwarden, giving references.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY.

It is announced that Lord Chief Justice Cherry has retired from the Irish Bench on account of his health.

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland is the only judge, so far as we are aware, who has ever been actively identified with ringing. For many years past, whenever his Parliamentary and official duties permitted, he has been regularly in his place for the Sunday ringing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and has rung several peals.

DEATH OF A BIRMINGHAM RINGER.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. T. Collinson, of Birmingham, which occurred rather suddenly, at his residence, 46, Highgate Road, on November 10th. Deceased was interred on November 18th, at Brandwood End Cemetery in the family grave, a large number of relatives and friends attending, and many beautiful flowers being sent, bearing testimony to the esteem in which Mr. Collinson was held. The bearers were brother/ringers—Messrs. H. Withers, J. Johnson, J. Heaton and T. J. Bratton—and after the committal, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. W. Bryant, H. Withers, R. Hunt and T. J. Bratton, at the conclusion of which one of the ringers impressively said: "Dear departed brother: May the sound of the bells we have now rung over your grave be wafted on the breeze to you in heaven. Amen."

The deceased was a native of Chepstow, where he learned to ring. On going to Birmingham he joined the Amalgamated Society at St. Phillips', and for the last ten years had been a Sunday ringer at Edgbaston Old Church. Unfortunately, he did not keep any record of his peals, but he had taken part in a good many, his two last being the "Tom" peals of Stedman, Triples, and Caters in the spring of 1914. He is the first of these Toms to be laid to rest.

The following lines set up by the Ramblers, in the early days of the College Youths, form an appropriate ending to this report:—

For dear old Tom we met to ring
The handbells o'er his grave for him,
The last respect that can be shown
A ringer when he's dead and gone.
A pity 'twould be to neglect it,
As ringers when they die expect it.

MR. E. P. DEBENHAM ILL.

We are sorry to have to announce that Mr. E. P. Debenham, Town Clerk of St. Albans, President of the Hertford County Association in 1907 and 1915, is lying seriously ill. At the time of writing he was somewhat better, but his condition gives cause for grave anxiety.

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