

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 329. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, JULY 6th, 1917.

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Price 2d.

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



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Messrs. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1911
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 authorized 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. BEOK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK

NOISY BELLS.

In a letter in another column, the Rev. H. Drake raises anew the question of noisy bells—noisy, that is to say, to the annoyance of the public living in the immediate vicinity of the church; and, if repetition of facts and the reiteration of remedies can do good, then the oftener the matter is brought to the notice of the right people, the better. It is the ringers' duty, where their tower is so constructed as to be likely to give the parishioners a genuine cause of complaint when the bells are rung, to bring to the notice of the church authorities the methods by which the trouble may be eliminated. It is generally recognised that the chief cause of the noise is the erection of the bells in such a position that the sound bows when ringing swing above the sills of the louvres. In consequence, the noise is driven down into the street below.

The perfect tower is the one which has no louvres in the walls, but which is constructed so that the sound escapes through openings in the roof. But if the bells are some feet below the louvres, the softening effect is most marked, and the added charm to the sound of the bells is appreciated by all. Unfortunately, however, we have to take the towers as we find them, and, in the vast majority of cases, the bells are hung on a level with or above the louvres, and the consequent noise around the church when the bells are going is such that, in many cases, there is genuine reason for complaint when ringing proceeds for long periods. It is the duty of the church authorities in such instances as these to mitigate the nuisance, and their usual course is to restrict the ringing or stop it altogether. Ringers, in their own interests, therefore, should see that the remedy takes the other and more sensible course that is open.

It is, to say the least, absurd that costly instruments like church bells should remain silent when the expenditure of a few pounds would effect such an alteration that the cause of complaint would vanish. It is now generally recognised that the closing up of the openings by brickwork or in some other equally satisfactory manner, at any rate, to a height above the lip of the bell when ringing, is the best means of stopping the noise. Very often among the ringers there are men well able and quite willing to do the actual work, if the church authorities would provide the materials, and the actual cost of effecting the improvement would then be very small. But even where the labour has to be paid for, there is no comparison in the cost and the permanent benefit that would ensue, and we can only urge that, where there is the least ground for genuine complaint by outsiders, that the ringers should show their vicar and churchwardens the simple way in which it might be obviated.

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

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield
Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

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and report on Bells and Towers.**

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SIX BELL PEAL.

PENWORTHAM, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
(PRESTON BRANCH).

On Sunday, June 24th, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob, each called differently.

† J. R. TAYLOR Treble	* J. GORWALL 4
D. SANDERSON 2	* W. LOXHAM 5
R. SANDERSON 3	A. E. WOODHOUSE ... Tenor

Conducted by J. R. TAYLOR.

* First peal. † First peal as conductor. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Gunner Ernest Fox, R.F.A., who died in France after being buried in a dugout for 20 minutes. He was one of five ringers from this tower who joined H.M. Forces, the others being now on active service abroad.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

From Chorley Parish Church, Lancs:—
Pte. G. W. Brindle, R.A.M.C., Blackpool.
Gunner H. Marsden, R.F.A., France.
From Christ Church, Kildown:—
Driver H. Blunt, R.G.A., France.
From Crayford, Kent:—
Frederick W. Brough, R.N.A.S.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SWINDON STEEPLEKEEPER KILLED.

News has been received that Pte. John H. Odey, of Swindon, has met his death in France, and for his wife and two children, who are left, sincere sympathy will be felt. Pte. Odey, who, before joining up last September, worked for Messrs Chandler Bros., as upholsterer, came to Swindon from Bath about five years ago. Soon after his arrival in the town he was elected a member of Christ Church Guild, having had previous experience in the art of campanology at Bath. Needless to say, his services will be greatly missed by his fellow ringers, with whom his quiet, unassuming disposition made him very popular. For some time Mr. Odey had been steeplekeeper, and here again he carried out the duties entrusted to him in a painstaking and thorough manner. As a last token of respect to a departed comrade, members of Christ Church Guild, with sympathising ringing friends from neighbouring towers, met at the tower on Wednesday evening in last week and rang touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major, with the bells muffled.

TROWBRIDGE TOWER LOSES TWO MEMBERS.

It is with much regret we have to announce the death of Pte. H. Butcher, of the Royal Warwickshire Regt., who died on the 4th June as the result of serious wounds to the head received in action in France. Pte. Butcher was a member of the Trowbridge band and of the Salisbury Guild. He was a promising young ringer. The sad news has also been received that Pte. Jesse Francis, of the Royal Marines, has been missing since April 28th last. Pte. Francis was also a member of the Trowbridge band, and was well known in the Salisbury Guild, and Bath and Wells Diocesan Association. Pte. Francis has rung 14 peals in all. He has a wife and five children.

These two ringers took part in the peal in St. James' tower, Trowbridge, in 1912, with an entirely local band, and it was the first peal by all Trowbridge men for 87 years. Out of the former nine members of the Trowbridge company eight are serving their King and country. The only member left of the original band is Mr. W. MacCaffery, but ringing is still carried on every Sunday and on practice nights (Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6.30) by Sunday School lads, who Mr. S. Hector taught before being called up. Any ringers visiting Trowbridge would be welcomed to the tower, and would be a help to the young ringers.

IN MEMORY OF FALLEN WORCESTERS.

On Saturday week, at St. Helen's Church, Worcester, a muffled peal of Stedman Triples was attempted in memory of the gallant Worcesters, who have so nobly given their lives in the cause of freedom on the battlefields of the world. Unfortunately, with the end in sight, "Mr. Slowman" had a serious lapse, which brought a full stop in the 59th course. Time: 2 hrs. 57 mins.; W. Powell (Worcester) 1, W. Ranford (Suckley) 2, L. Longney (Worcester) 3, J. Brettell (Worcester) 4, J. Eaton (Selly Oak) 5, R. G. Knowles (Madresfield) 6, S. Grove (Selly Oak) conductor, 7, C. Camm (Upton-on-Severn) 8. It is hoped to make another attempt at an early date.

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THE SALISBURY GUILD. ANNUAL REPORT.

Although existing conditions have made it necessary to postpone indefinitely the annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, the annual report has been issued, and we take the following extracts from the Hon. Secretary's remarks: At the annual meeting for 1916, held at Warmistur, a proposal for the subdivision of the Marlborough Branch was referred to a special committee, with power to act. Later in the year the matter was carefully considered, and it was decided to authorise the formation of a new branch, if officers could be found to work it. Since that date the Rev. A. E. G. Peters, who has rendered such eminent service to the Guild as Chairman of the Marlborough Branch, has been appointed Vicar of Bremhill, and it is confidently hoped that his removal to this district will both facilitate the formation and ensure the success of the new branch. The roll of honour shows that thirteen of our ringers have made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of King and country. Our long roll of service, though it no longer furnishes an index of patriotism, is yet significant in its witness to the large number of men in the full vigour of youth, who have devoted themselves to the service of the Church in the bell-towers of our Diocese. During the past year stringent orders—imposed under the powers of that political octopus, the Defence of the Realm Act—have silenced the bells on winter evenings; and in spite of an appeal made by the Guild to the Competent Military Authority, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve passed, for the first time on record, without the traditional peals from the towers of our parish churches. By the death of the Rev. C. F. Laugford, chairman of the Bridport Branch, the Guild has lost one of its most valued members, whose active participation in its work, both in the belfry and elsewhere, was a powerful aid in the furtherance of its cause. An honoured and distinguished life member has also passed away in the person of Mr. A. Hughes of the White-chapel Foundry, whose genial presence will be sadly missed at many a gathering of ringers. Several cases brought to our notice make it evident that a word of caution will be in place as to the extremely dangerous practice of "clocking" the bells, or sounding them by means of a rope attached to the clapper. It is the surest way to crack a bell, and many a fine example of the founder's art has been ruined by this illicit treatment. Nor is there the slightest need or excuse for it. Any bell of ordinary weight can be legitimately chimed by a boy or girl after a little instruction. We trust that this publication will be the means of calling the attention of incumbents and churchwardens to a most serious matter. We may take occasion to add a word on a kindred subject. One result of the war has been practically to create a revival of the mid-day Angelus in this Diocese. There is a world of difference between the feeble tap of a chiming machine and the strong, vibrant stroke of a bell in full—or half—swing. Care should be taken, wherever it is feasible, to have the bell properly rung.

The Master (the Rev. H. E. Tilney Bassett) in his "notes" says: The committee wisely postponed the annual meeting (1917) to a more convenient season. Very little ringing has obtained throughout the Guild during the year, owing to the depletion of companies by members on service with the forces, and the restrictions on ringing by the Defence of the Realm Act. It would be quite appropriate to have touches of muffled ringing on November 2nd in memory of members who have fallen in the war. When peace arrives there will be considerable scarcity of ringers to handle the bells in our towers: knowing this, it would be wise for clergy, churchwardens and sleepers keepers to obtain and instruct youths under military age in the art of ringing. Of our members, 360 are serving their King and country—13 have already made the great sacrifice. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori. Perhaps it may be possible later to erect a fitting memorial to them somewhere in the Diocese. We may hope the day is not far distant when we can take our part in ringing the bells to the glory of God in thankfulness for the restoration of peace on an honourable and lasting basis.

The balance sheet shows that the year was begun with a balance in hand of £37 11s. 2d., and that the receipts have been £29 10s. 6d. The expenditure, including a grant of £1 1s. to the bells of St. Mary's, Devizes, was £23 17s., leaving a balance of £42 4s. 8d. to carry forward.

EXCURSION TO UPWEY.

On Saturday last members of the Dorchester and Wyke Regis bands accompanied by the soldier ringers in the district, paid their annual visit to the beautiful village of Upwey, which is situated under the famous Dorset Downs. They were met by the local men, who had everything in readiness, and the light peal of six were soon set going to the tune of Grand sire Doubles, followed by Bob Minor, and further touches were rung during the afternoon. "Strawberry tea" was partaken at the noted strawberry gardens, and here a pleasant time was spent. Thoughts went out to the absent brethren who joined in the trip last year, some of whom are now doing duty on the Western front, and one (T. H. Hardy, of St. Margaret's, Leicester) who is now in hospital at Stratford-on-Avon. More ringing followed the tea, some of the local men being piloted through their first course of change ringing. Altogether a most pleasant time was spent, and good was done.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

RINGERS' RESPONSE TO THE COUNTRY'S CALL.

A meeting of the North and East District was held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday last. The attendance was very good, nearly 40 members being present during the afternoon and evening. Many good touches were rung, including Grand sire and Stedman Triples, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major. A well-tapped course of Stedman Triples on the handbells was much appreciated.

The service took the form of evensong and war intercession, followed by an address by the Vicar (the Rev. O. R. Dawson), who said how pleased he was to hear the bells rung again, and extended a hearty welcome to the Middlesex Association, hoping the time would soon come when the large enthusiastic gatherings of the past would be resumed. He referred to the great response made by ringers in general to the country's call, especially mentioning his own (St. Matthew's) band, who went practically in bulk at the beginning. Two had laid down their lives, Capt. Sudell, to whose memory the chiming apparatus and a tablet had been placed in the church, and Pte. G. Orford, to whose memory a sanctuary lamp had been placed in the Lady Chapel and a tablet erected. Referring to the great service ringers rendered to their church, the Vicar stated that he had only to ask for the bells to be rung on special occasions, and great willingness was always shown. He exhorted all ringers to make their service and example worthy of the church which they represented, for the greatest service to God was that which cost something, even if it be early morning rising.

The business meeting followed in the Church Hall, the chair being taken by Mr. F. A. Milne (vice-president). Mr. King's best wishes to the meeting were conveyed by the chairman, and votes of condolence were passed with Mr. W. Pye and other members of the family on the death of their eldest brother (whom they were burying that day), and with the relatives of the late Mr. W. H. Lewis, B.A., of All Hallows', Tottenham.

The Hon. Secretary read an interesting letter he had received that day from Dr. A. H. Nicholls, M.D., of Boston, U.S.A., and which is referred to elsewhere.

For the place of the next meeting Cubitt Town or St. Mary's, Walthamstow, was suggested, to be held on July 21st, if possible.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. O. R. Dawson for the use of the bells and the service, to the organist, and to Mr. S. S. Dunwell for arrangements made.

It was a great pleasure to see Corpl. W. J. Kemp, former assistant secretary, present, he being on short leave.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

The members of the Swindon Branch held a meeting at Bishopstone, Wilts, on Saturday last. There was a fair attendance seven towers being represented. The meeting was an encouraging one for the beginners, some of whom had their first experience of ringing on a peal of eight bells, whilst others succeeded in accomplishing their first course of Grand sire Triples. Several six-scores of Grand sire Doubles and touches of Plain Bob Minor were also rung. An excellent tea was provided by Mrs. F. Stone.

A short business meeting was held immediately afterwards, at which the Rev. W. L. Stubbs (Vicar) presided. The Rev. C. F. Burgess, Vicar of Wanborough, was also present. The chairman, who was elected an honorary member, gave the visitors a cordial welcome to Bishopstone, and expressed great pleasure at hearing the bells rung, and hoped the members of the Swindon Branch would pay another visit at an early date.—It was decided to hold the next meeting at Purton (Wilts), on July 14th.—The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

A STAYLESS EXPERIENCE.

On Saturday week some members of the Oxford Guild, hailing from High Wycombe, with Driver A. J. Mawby, R.F.A., paid a visit to Cuckham tower for the purpose of ringing touches, with the bells half-muffled, in honour of, and as a solemn requiem for, the souls of those gallant heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice for King and country. On arrival, the Wycombe men were met by several members of the local band, who imparted the news that another party, who carried their methods with them on boards, had been given permission to ring till the arrival of the Wycombe visitors. They had, however left an unwelcome legacy, in the shape of a broken stay to the treble, but to their credit, also, it must be said that they had left the necessary money to cover the cost of a new stay. Nothing daunted, a 720 of Minor was gone through in good style, under the conductorship of Mr. W. T. Horne. Other touches were also rung, Mr. J. W. Wilkins conducting. After the bells had been lowered the party took a quiet stroll by the side of the "briny," and reached Bourne End in time for the 9.24 p.m. train. The party included Messrs. Johnson, Horne, and Kirk (Cockham), Driver A. J. Mawby, R.F.A., and Messrs. Wm. T. Horne, J. W. Wilkins, J. Graushury, R. Coles, E. Markham, A. J. Hoing, and G. Wiltchou (Wycombe). To Mr. J. W. Wilkins is due the credit not only of ringing the bell with no stay through the touches, but holding it on the balance in the intervals between the ringing.

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

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

NOISY BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—This is a subject of perennial interest to ringers. No one likes their best efforts to be a trouble to others when they might easily be a pleasure. And it would be well for all ringers to make themselves familiar with the causes which make ringing sound well.

The main idea is that the sound should not be allowed to escape until it is well blended. This is best attained by hanging the bells so that the highest lip of any bell when rung up is below the sill of the belfry windows. This not only throws the sound upwards (a most important point), but places the swinging weight of the bells well below the weakest part of the tower building.

If this cannot be done, the only way is to fill up the windows to the height mentioned. The best way of doing this is a wall of brickwork inside the louvres, so as not to show outside, or interfere with the architectural arrangements. This may be of 4½, 9, or even 18 inch thickness. The latter was employed at All Saints', Loughborough; and now in the churchyard and neighbouring streets the sound is beautifully softened, while one or two miles away the sound is much clearer and more even than before. When I was at St. Mark's, Leicester, we ringers put in a wall a single brick thick, with the result that a ring which was the most painfully noisy I have ever heard, was for the first time since it was hung, much admired by everyone.

An important point is that the wall, whether brick, wood, or other material, should be the same height all round. I am told that at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, all the windows were bricked right up but one, and that the result is that they are worse than before.

Braisworth Rectory.

H. DRAKE.

"RINGING WORLD" BANNED BY CENSOR.

The "Ringing World" is under the ban of the Censor, not, of course, because of disloyal utterances, but, according to Dr. Nichols of Boston, U.S.A., because somebody thinks that the compositions which the paper contains may be a vehicle for the use of German spies. The result is that our ringing friends on the other side of the Atlantic are unable to get the paper as they used to do. But we wonder whether other technical journals, which print arithmetical formulas, are similarly banned. It is, of course, of no use to complain, but we wish the Censor understood change ringing. If he did he would have a key to all the "cyphers" which from time to time appear in our columns.

Dr. Nichols, writing to the Hon. Secretary of the Middlesex Association, in a letter read at a meeting of the North and East District, held on Saturday, says: "We are unable to get the 'Ringing World' now, owing to the action of the Censor, who thinks the figures contained in it may be a dangerous vehicle for German spies." He adds: "We are all delighted at the prospect of extending help to our British kinsmen, and, if we came late, you may rest assured that we shall stay with you till the end."

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, a very successful meeting of the Manchester Branch was held at Birch, members being present from Ashton-under-Lyne, Barlow Moor, Denton, Eccles, Flixton, Gorton, Manchester, Pendleton, and Prestwich.—The Rector gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, expressing pleasure in meeting such a body of men, and said he was sure that they, like his own company of ringers, were worthy of the calling in which they were placed as officers and co-workers in the church.

Pendlebury was chosen as the next meeting-place, on August 4th, and a hearty vote of thanks was recorded the Rector for presiding over the business proceedings, and granting the use of the bells, and also to the local company for having things in readiness.

Ringng was indulged in in various methods until a late hour.

MORE HANDBELL RINGING OVERSEAS.

The handbell band, who are practising overseas, are progressing, as shown by the following paragraph received this week:—

On Monday, 25th June, at "an oversea port," 720 Bob Miner, 364 and 265 Grandshire Triples: Sergt. H. Blake, Lance-Corpl. Claude I. Davies, Pte. Arthur Hague, 3rd Writer C. Glenn, R.N. First 720 "in hand" in the method by Lance-Corpl. Davies, and longest length of Triples "in hand" by him and Sergt. Blake.

What a memorable performance it would be if a peal were scored in this, at present, unmentioned country!

MRS. A. W. GRIMES' THANKS.

Through the medium of the "Ringing World," Mrs. Grimes begs to tender her most grateful thanks to all the kind friends of her late husband, Mr. A. W. Grimes, who have in any way assisted and subscribed to the funds organised on behalf of herself and her little ones. The number is so large that it is quite impossible for her to thank each one individually, the addresses of the majority being quite unknown to her.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES SLARKE.**CENTRAL NORTHANTS LOSES A PROMINENT FIGURE.**

The death of Mr. James Slarke, of Towcester, which took place at his residence, the Cemetery Lodge, on the morning of Sunday week, will be received with widespread regret throughout the ringing world, especially in Northamptonshire, where he was well known and highly respected. Mr. Slarke, who was 76 years of age, was a wonderful example of a well preserved life. Up to a very short time before his decease he was of untiring energy, and frequently walked many miles in pursuit of his business.

Born at Cottesbrook, Mr. Slarke had been a ringer for 64 years, having learnt to ring at his native village when twelve years of age, and his interest in bells and ringing has never for a moment waned. He has worked enthusiastically in the cause of ringing, and has never missed an opportunity of furthering the art.

He was one of the founders of the Towcester and District Association in 1894, an organisation which has now grown into a society embracing some 25 villages, amongst whose members Mr. Slarke was looked up to with reverence and respect.

Of his great love for bells and bell ringing ample evidence is to be found in more than one church belfry in South Northants, particularly at Easton Neston, where the deceased was a regular worshipper, and of whose ringers he was the highly respected head. Here there is a beautiful peal of eight bells, one of which was a gift from Mr. Slarke.



THE LATE MR. JAMES SLARKE.

and another the gift of Mr. Slarke's family, both being in memory of the deceased's brother, Mr. Eli Slarke, who died some years ago. In other belfries many proofs of Mr. Slarke's generosity are to be found. Another gift of Mr. Slarke to Easton Neston Church is a war shrine, dedicated only a month since to the memory of the ringers of the church who have fallen in the war. This proved the last Sunday on which Mr. Slarke was able to be out. In addition to his connection with the Towcester District Association, he was also the Vice-President of the Northampton District of the Central Northamptonshire Association, never missing one of its meetings until recently, when his health failed him, and, as a mark of the high esteem in which the members held him, a valuable presentation was made to him some time ago. His loss will be a serious one to the Association, as well as to a large circle of friends and acquaintances, whom he had gathered round him during his 30 years' citizenship in Towcester.

The funeral took place at Towcester on Wednesday week, amidst many signs of respect and sympathy. The first part of the service was held at the Parish Church, Towcester. In addition to the family mourners there were in the cortege representatives from the Towcester Parish Council, the Burial Board, the Cemetery Committee, the Conservative Club, Towcester and District Bell Ringers' Association, and

the Central Northamptonshire Association, Messrs. F. Wilford, F. Hopper, T. Law, and S. J. Lawrence, acting as bearers. In accordance with a wish which had been expressed by Mr. Slarke, his handbells were hung on a rail, which was attached to the coffin, and were carried with him to his last resting-place. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by: Messrs. T. Law 1—2, F. Wilford 3—4, S. J. Lawrence 5—6, F. Hopper 7—8; and two old friends of the deceased, Mr. G. Blunt, of Gayton, and Mr. J. Basford, of Pinedon, were among those present.

Muffled ringing was done at Easton Neston and Towcester Churches in the evening, and on Thursday, at the Church of St. Giles', Northampton, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,257 changes) was rung with the bells half-muffled by the following local members of the Central Northamptonshire Association: W. Rogers (conductor) 1, W. Farey 2, F. Wilford 3, S. J. Lawrence 4, J. Hensman 5, H. Key 6, F. Hopper 7, H. Blundell 8, G. Flavel 9, E. James 10.

By his will, Mr. Slarke has left the sum of £50 to the churchwardens of Towcester Parish Church for the repair of the bells, and £10 to the Towcester and District Bell Ringers' Association.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**THE PEACE RINGING SCHEME.**

The second quarterly meeting of the year, in connection with the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, was held at Selly Oak, on Saturday. Ringing commenced at 3 o'clock, and was continued until 5 p.m., when choral service was held, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. K. D. Mackenzie), who prefaced his address by giving a hearty welcome to the Association, it being the first to be held at the church since he became Vicar. In his address, he referred to the different uses of bells, and to the meaning of their ringing at different times of the day, and impressed upon his hearers the reasons why bells should be rung not only for the ringers' pleasure, but to warn others that service was about to take place in the House of God. The address was very much appreciated by those privileged to be present.

After the service a move was made to the Vicarage close by for tea, which had been invitingly laid out on the lawn by some of the local ringers' wives and friends. Happily, the weather kept fine, although a little chilly. After doing full justice to the good things allowed by the Food Controller, the business meeting was held. In the absence of the Vicar, Mr. A. E. Parsons (the Master of the Association) presided for a time.—A discussion arose, out of the minutes of the last meeting, with reference to ringing for peace, when that happy day comes. It was pointed out that many towers had not returned the printed forms which had been sent out, and the members were urged to see their incumbents and get them filled in, so that when the time came arrangements would be complete, and as many bells as could be dealt with in the day should be rung.

The Master called attention to the notice appearing in the "Ringing World," about the proposed memorial tablet to the late Mr. Samuel Spittle, of Dudley, who had helped to form the Association, and Mr. Harry Mason, Master of the Dudley Guild, also referred to the subject, and asked all who could to give something, however small or large, so as to make the subscription list as representative as possible, and show their appreciation of one who had done so much good work for their Association, and for ringers generally.

Six new performing members and one hon. member, the Vicar of Selly Oak, were elected.

Bromsgrove was selected for the next quarterly meeting, on Sept. 22nd.

On the proposition of Mr. W. Page, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to the Vicar for arranging the service and giving the address, and also for the use of the Vicarage and grounds for the meeting and tea. He also coupled with it the thanks of the meeting to the ladies who had attended to their wants, for the admirable way in which they had looked after them.—The Vicar, in responding, said it gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome the Association there, and it was the first time he had met such a large body of ringers. Wherever he had been before he came to Selly Oak there had only been one or two bells, and he was always delighted to hear the bells ringing out. They at Selly Oak had suffered, in common with others, in having so many of their ringers away, doing their duty for their King and country, and he should be glad when the war was over and the boys were at home once again. He added that six members of the company were serving. He hoped, when the time came round again, that he would once more have the opportunity of welcoming the Association to Selly Oak.

A further visit was then made to the tower, where Grandsire Doubles, and touches in the four standard methods, and Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise were successfully brought round.

STOURBRIDGE.—On Sunday, May 13th, at St. Thomas' Church, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), for evening service, in 45 mins.: O. W. Cooper 1, G. Popnell 2, G. H. Pagett 3, A. W. Doid 4, W. Short (conductor) 5, A. E. Whatmore 6, J. Bass 7, W. A. Pugh 8. Arranged for and rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Geo. H. Pagett, conductor of the local band, on his 60th birthday.

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on every first Sunday in the month at 6 p.m.; and at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on July 17th and 31st, for general business, also on the 12th and 26th for handbell practice, at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham S.W.4.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at North Wingfield (8 bells), on Saturday, July 7th. By kind permission of Canon Boden the Vicarage grounds will be open to ringers for games, etc., during the afternoon. Clay Cross station, Midland railway.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held by kind permission of the Rector (Rev. H. Wilson) at Haslington, on Saturday, July 7th. Ringing from 3.30. Tea at a nominal charge at 6. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Heston, Honnslow.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The Summer Festival will be held at Woburn, on Saturday, July 7th. The bells will be available from 2.30. Service in the Church at 4. Preacher, the Rev. Canon Parr. Tea at 5 at King's Tea Rooms.—A. Rust, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The meeting members are invited by Mr. Young for a handbell practice at 277, Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, S.E., on Saturday, July 7th, at 4 p.m. Car service 58 (by the door) or 66.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTS ASSOCIATION.—Northampton District.—The quarterly ringing meeting will be held at Boughton, Saturday, July 7th. Bells ready 3 p.m., service 5 p.m., tea 6 p.m.—T. Law, Dist. Sec., St. Peter's Cottages, Weston Favell.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY, IPSWICH.—The 50th anniversary of the present peal of bells of St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich, which were augmented to 12 in 1867, will be celebrated on Saturday, July 7th. The bells will be available from 3.30 until 5.30 p.m. A meat tea at a nominal charge will be provided at 5.30 p.m. Ringing friends should notify me of their intention to be present by Tuesday, July 3rd.—William Motts, Secretary, 25, Orchard Street, Ipswich.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Abbots Leigh on the 7th July. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., to those notifying by 3rd July.—Chas. J. Walton, 4, Jamaica St., Bristol.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next monthly meeting of the above society will be held at Rothwell to-morrow, Saturday, July 7th, 1917. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting in the White Swan Hotel at 7.30 p.m.—William Barton, Hon. Sec., 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Ewhurst on Saturday, July 7th. Bells (6) available from 3 o'clock. Service 5.15. Tea at "The Crown Inn" at 6—6d. to members, visitors 1s. 3d. Will those intending to be present at tea kindly drop a postcard, not later than July 3rd, to Mr. R. Whittington, Winterfold, Cranleigh?—J. J. Jones, Hon. Sec., Bridge Street, Guildford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The summer meeting of the S.E. Division will be held at Great Waltham on Saturday, July 14th. Bells available, 3.30. Service, 5.30. Tea, 1s. per head, at the Six Bells, at 6 p.m., followed by meeting. Those intending to be present please notify me not later than Wednesday, July 11th, first post.—F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Barning on Sat., July 14th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m.; tea provided by churchwardens at 5.45. All ringers welcome. The Secretary would be glad to know of those who intend to be present not later than Monday, July 9th.—Stephen Hayzelden, District Secretary, Lower Street, East Farley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Yeovil on Saturday, July 14th. Service at 3.30. Meeting in St. John's School at 4 p.m. Tea at Maynard's Restaurant at 5 p.m. Bells available from 1 p.m.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—North Forest Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Churcham on Saturday the 14th July. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for those who will kindly notify me not later than the 10th July. All bell ringers welcome.—Joseph Williams, Hon. Sec., Glen Holm, Newent, Glos.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, July 14. Bells available at 4 o'clock. Tea will be arranged if sufficient members let me know by July 10th.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 97, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A special general meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, July 21st. Bells available all afternoon and evening. Committee meeting at 4.15. Service at 4.45. It is important that I should be notified by those intending to be present not later than July 15th. Business meeting after tea.—Joseph H. White, Hon. Secretary, 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Todmorden Unitarian on Saturday, July 21st. Bells ready at 3 o'clock till dusk. Meeting at six.—T. K. Driver, Middleton.

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

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LATE MR. SAMUEL SPITTLE.

Subscriptions to the above should be forwarded at once to the Ringing Master, Mr. Harry Mason, Stourdell, Old Hill, or to the Hon. Sec., Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

BELLS RING THEIR OWN KNELL.

HAMBURG CARILLONS FOR MUNITIONS.

According to German papers, the Hamburg Church bells have solemnly rung their own knell in the presence of large multitudes. They are now to be removed and melted down.

Of the 34 bells in the Nikolai Church, the largest, which is known as the "Kaiser Bell," weighs six tons and a quarter, and as a contribution to its casting the Emperor William I. presented 600 kilogrammes of bronze from captured French guns. Only one small bell of the 34 is now left, whilst of the 50 bells of the Petri Church only three remain.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday week, members met at the fine old Church at Northill, where the good ring of five bells was at their disposal. Ringing started with a six-score of Bob Doubles, and then five of the lady ringers took part in Grandsire and Bob Doubles. Tea and meeting took place at the house of Mr. Ilumphries, Mr. C. W. Clarke being in the chair. Members were present from Bedford, Sandy, Biggleswade, Elstow, Willington, Old Warden, and the local tower, and it was proposed to hold the next meeting at Cardington, on July 21st.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to the local men. The members then returned to the tower, and Stedman Grandsire and Bob Doubles were rung until 8.30 p.m.

KING'S VISIT TO TYNESIDE.

On Saturday, June 17th, to celebrate the visit of King George and Queen Mary to Tyneside, touches of 594 and 660 of Erin Cinques, 713 and 581 Stedman Cinques, and 576 Forward Maximus, were rung at Newcastle Cathedral, in which nearly all the members of the Cathedral Guild took part, including Warrant Officer W. A. Cooke, R.N., and W. J. Hazell, who were unanimously elected members of the Guild in the belfry, according to rules.

Their Majesties visited the Cathedral the next day and attended morning service, when several short touches of Stedman and Erin Cinques were rung.

Mr. Tom Gofton, of Whitley Bay, was present on the first day, and assisted in touches of 713 Stedman and 660 Erin Cinques.

WILTSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.

An old and respected resident of Upper Wanborough, Wilts, has passed away, in the person of Mr. Charles Lawrence. Deceased was an enthusiastic bell ringer and a regular worshipper at the church. For many years he was captain of the local Guild of ringers. The funeral took place on Saturday week, the Rev. C. F. Burgess, Vicar, officiating. During the evening members of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang the bells, muffled, as a last token of respect to the memory of deceased.

SAILOR-RINGER'S WEDDING AT BURNLEY.

The wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on June 26th, of Seaman Edwin Ogden, A.B. (H.M.S. Dublin), son of Mrs. E. Ogden, of Mossley, and Miss Elizabeth Holgate, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Holgate, of the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Garstang (formerly of Burnley). The bridegroom, who was a ringer at this church before he joined the navy, had the hearty congratulations of his former colleagues, who attended and gave him a rousing welcome through the medium of the bells. The Vicar (the Rev. E. W. Wallis) officiated and a large number of parishioners attended in the happy event.

DEATH OF C.S.M. HARRY WAKLEY.

ONE OF A FAMOUS BAND.

It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of Comv.-Sergt.-Major Wakley, of Burton-on-Trent, who passed away, after only a short illness, on June 14th, at Colchester General Hospital. The deceased ringer, who was 54 years of age, was one of the band that made Burton-on-Trent famous in ringing annals in the eighties, and was one of the original members of the Midland Counties Association. He had been connected with the Volunteers and Territorials since 1881, and was serving with the 21st No. 1 and Derby Regiment at the time of his death.

Next week we hope to give a sketch of his career.

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