

No. 348. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1917.

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

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

WULFEUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1914.
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 gives 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. BEOK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK

THE COUNCIL'S CANDID FRIEND.

When next the Central Council meets it will be three years since the assembly sat in conclave, and as has been pointed out so often, the occasion will be of special importance to the Council itself, inasmuch as circumstances have forced the Council to face what has been termed the parting of the ways. Whether or no the members of the Council will admit it, they will at the meeting in London next Whitsun, have to shape a course which is either going to make or mar the future of that body as the central organisation of ringers. When the war interrupted the sequence of its gatherings the Council had reached a stage when it seemed to have outlasted its welcome, and, instead of leading the Exercise, was becoming rapidly an object of contempt to a large number of ringers. Then came the death of the founder and president of the Council. Sir Arthur Heywood had, since its formation, guided the deliberations of the Council and shaped its policy with the result that the Council, through his influence—unintentional though it was—was getting more and more out of touch with the feelings of the Exercise, for no one seemed to have the courage to attempt to scotch this tendency.

Had Sir Arthur lived the Council might have dragged along, with its existence secure. When, however, he left the arena, the case was immediately altered. Without his strong personality the Council could not continue on its old lines, and an effort to rehabilitate it in the eyes of the Exercise must be made, because, unquestionably, there is need for a central body. Perhaps the interval since the last meeting may be a blessing in disguise, for the new Council will come to its task with a more open mind, and, we hope, renewed vigour.

But if the revival is to take place and is to be permanent, there must be a perfectly free and open examination of the causes which led to the falling away of the average ringers' interest in the Council. Many have known of the shortcomings; but few have cared to voice them. At length, however, a member has come forward to review the whole situation, and the articles which Mr. J. A. Trollope commences in this issue will be read not only with interest, but will be valued as a candid and yet moderate, as well as a considered expression of opinion on the failings of the Council, the causes and the remedies. Mr. Trollope writes with inside knowledge, for he has been a member of the Council for 20 years, and his standing in the Exercise, not only as one of the theoretical experts who are so constantly railed at, but as one of the practical ringers on the Council whose position as an authority cannot be denied, should give increased weight to the opinions which he puts forward. Most of our readers who have studied the work of the Council in the past will agree, we think, with his analysis of the shortcomings of the Council and will look forward to his subsequent articles with interest.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**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.**

UNLAKABLE IRON BRACKETS:
BEST BELL ROPES,
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLS RECAST sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

**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.

Near G. CABR. LTD.
Smethwick.

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

ESTABLISHED 1780.

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**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)

Late 188, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.

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.

SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

On Saturday, November 3, 1917, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt., in E flat.

*ALFRED SHUKER... .. 2	*LEONARD HEWITT 5
*FREDERICK DARRALL 2	*WILLIAM SAUNDERS 6
DANIEL JONES 3	*JOHN BRADNEY... .. 7
*GEORGE HAYCOX 4	CHARLES R. LILLEY Tenor

Composed by JOHN BRADNEY, and
Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Bob Major. The composition is now rung for the first time. This peal was rung on the occasion of the first visit of the new Archdeacon (Archdeacon Lambert) to Shifnal. First peal of Bob Major rung on the bells since May 6th, 1809. The ringers of 1st and 4th belong to Shifnal, 2nd, 3rd and 7th to Wolverhampton, 5th and 6th to Coalbrookdale, and tenor to St. Chad's, Shrewsbury.

PENDLEBURY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, November 4, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF CRANBSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAVIES' TEN-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM WALTON Treble	CHARLES SEDDON 5
DAVID HINDLEY 2	DANIEL HOWARD 6
ALBERT WALLWORK 3	THOMAS HOWARD 7
THOMAS LINGARD... .. 4	JOHN EDGE Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS LINGARD.

Rung with the bells muffled as a token of respect to the memory of the heroes from the parish who have given up their lives for their King and country in this war.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Lewisham district was held at Chislehurst on Saturday week, but owing to the unsettled state of the elements, the attendance was not as large as usual. The Association form of service was used, the Rev. Canon J. E. Dawson (Rector) officiating, and giving a short address on the Festival of All Saints.

Previous to the address he gave the members a hearty welcome to Chislehurst, but was sorry to say he could not join them after the service, as he had to attend a meeting, and on Sunday he had to preach three sermons.

The members then adjourned to the Boys' Club for tea.

The business meeting followed, Mr. W. J. Jeffries being voted to the chair. T. Phillips (Chislehurst) and A. Diserens (Sunbury-on-Thames) were elected members. The election of S. S. Coombes and A. J. Morton in the tower at Erith was confirmed.

Bromley (S.S. Peter and Paul) was selected as the place for the next quarterly meeting, on the third Saturday in January.

The district Secretary then made his annual report, and no questions arising, it was adopted.—Messrs. T. Groombridge, sear., and W. J. Jeffries were re-elected district secretary and representative respectively.

A motion was unanimously carried that the Association annual meeting be held next year.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for granting the use of the bells, arranging the service, and giving the address, and to the lady organist. This concluded the meeting. Ringing was indulged in during the afternoon and evening, and one or two being able to serve their first course of London Surprise Major.

TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.

BY H. PRICE, FISKERTON, NOTTS.

5376			
23456	M	W	H
32654	2		2
53624		1	
35428	2		2
52436		2	
25634	2		2
24536	2		1
25346		1	2
23456		1	2

4-6 only in 6th's place; the 6th never below 4th's place, at course end.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**WINCHESTER DISTRICT MEETING AT SOUTHAMPTON.**

The annual meeting of the Winchester District was held at Southampton on Saturday. Various methods were rung at St. Mary's Church during the afternoon and evening, the bells being half-muffled in memory of those who have made the great sacrifice. The Rector (Rev. Canon Lovett) presided at the tea and meeting. Among those present were Mr. H. White (Basingstoke), Mr. G. Williams (general hon. secretary), Mr. W. H. George, and members from Curdrige, Dibdon, North Stoneham, Winchester, Bishopstoke, Hursley, Titchfield, Swanmore, Portsea and Southampton. Forty-two sat down to tea. Apologies were received from Canon Braithwaite, Mr. Wilfred Andrews, Mr. G. Smith, and from several of the hon. members.

Sincere regret was expressed at the absence of Canon Braithwaite, through the illness of his wife, and a vote of sympathy was passed to him, with the hope that she would soon recover.

The balance sheet was considered very satisfactory under present circumstances, there being a balance in hand of £5 18s. 1½d.

All the officers were re-elected, viz., Canon Braithwaite (chairman), Mr. J. W. Elkins (district secretary), Mr. C. Russell (assistant secretary), Mr. G. Smith (auditor), and Messrs. Wilfred Andrews and W. Tucker, representatives on the Central Committee.

The next annual meeting is to be held at Southampton, on Nov. 16th, 1918.

Only one quarterly meeting, it was reported, had been held during the past year, but the Rev. E. Banks James was strongly in favour of these meetings being continued, and it was decided to hold three during next year; one at North Stoneham, on Feb. 9th; the second at Romsey, on May 11th, and the third at Twyford, on August 31st.

In responding to a vote of thanks, proposed to him by Mr. E. B. James, Canon Lovett said it gave him great pleasure to welcome old friends again. He was very grateful to his ringers for keeping the bells going for the church services, though they had lost more than half their members. He often had letters from parishioners, who were now serving in the army or navy, in distant parts of the world, and in those letters they told him how they longed to hear again on the quiet Sunday mornings the sound of St. Mary's bells.

Mr. Houghton (captain of St. Mary's band) expressed his deep gratitude to Mr. Wilkes for the help he had given them, and said that every Sunday morning they had a short service in the belfry before the ringing commenced, at which the name of each member of the band away on war service was mentioned.

Several ringers were present in khaki, among them being Mr. Myles (Eccles), Mr. Bosley (Taunton), and Mr. Noyce (Winchester Cathedral) who, through the influence of Canon Lovett, was permitted by the hospital authorities to attend the meeting, he having been wounded in the shoulder at Ypres. He hopes time will restore to him the use of his arm, and so enable him to take his place again in the belfry.

The District Secretary impressed on the members the necessity of letting him know if they wished tea provided for them as of the 42 present that day, only 27 had signified their intention of being present. He made an exception to ringers serving in the forces, as they were often unable to give such notice, and said they would be heartily welcomed at all times.—Mr. H. White and Mr. G. Williams both said they had experienced the same difficulty, which just a halfpenny postcard would prevent.

Some touches on the bells brought a very successful meeting to a close.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Guildford District was held at Dorking on Saturday, and was attended by about 40 ringers from Leatherhead, Guildford, Haslemere, Chiddingfold, Godalming, Aldershot, Cranleigh, etc. Service was held in the Parish Church, and an admirable address given by the Vicar (Canon E. A. Chichester), who afterwards presided at the tea in the Church Rooms.

The new members elected at the business meeting included ten ladies, members of St. Martin's Guild, Dorking, all able to manage a bell.

The whole of the officers were re-elected, with the understanding that the secretary would be responsible only for the five district meetings, and that the Ringing Master would undertake the arranging of practices and peals.

The times and places of meetings were left to the officers to arrange as most convenient, with the exception of the next annual meeting, which is to be held at Guildford.

The Ringing Master's report was read and adopted, and it was agreed that future reports should be entered in a report book.

Mr. F. E. Dawe, in a few well-chosen remarks, said he was a great advocate for giving honour and credit where it was due, and, therefore, wished to place on record the good and excellent work recently done by one of their number at the front. He described how William John Russell, late of Fwhurst, and a constant ringer at Dorking Church, and whose name appeared on two peal boards in the belfry, had recently by his perseverance, combined with strict and conscientious attention to duty, gained the Military Medal, together with the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and followed this by obtaining a commission in the regiment; he voluntarily joined at the outbreak of

war, viz., the signalling section of the Royal Engineers, a very exceptional proceeding. Lieut. Russell had always proved himself a keen member of the Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths, being a skilled and most reliable ringer. All those present who knew him so well would share the speaker's congratulations at the honour this young man had brought upon himself and the ringing Exercise generally. It was indeed a great honour for a gardener to rise to the position of one of his Majesty's commissioned officers. This announcement was received with enthusiastic acclamation, and the secretary undertook to convey to Lieut. Russell the good wishes of the company for his safe and speedy return amongst them.

A sadder note was struck by Mr. Shepherd, of Hershams, moving a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Pte. G. B. Edser, a former secretary of the Yorktown District, who had given his life for his country.—This was agreed to by the members silently rising.

The bells at Rammoor and also at Dorking were kept going in various methods till the Defence of the Realm put a stop to campanology at 5 o'clock.

The Central Committee representatives were instructed to press for the printing of a full report at the next meeting at Winchester.

BELLS IN FRANCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I, also, have witnessed two freak results of the shelling of churches near the front. One instance is of a church apparently intact when viewed from one side, but on the "weather" side it has suffered rather severely. A shell has made a circular hole, 6ft. at least in diameter in the belfry, but has failed to dislodge the bell, now in full view and hanging as though nothing had happened. What the shell did eventually is not visible, so I concluded it was a "dud." This bell is the only one I have seen in France fitted with a stay. Another case is where the bombardment has reduced the tower to below the bell frame, the latter still standing with its three bells intact, so far as one can see from the road. Opportunity to closely inspect them has not occurred yet.

I had the pleasure of hearing three bells nicely chimed in rounds on Sunday last, which was a delightful surprise after the indiscriminate jangling which holds in most places. In one of these places, I, with the assistance of one of our Q.-M.-S., who proved a ready and willing learner, managed to chime the three bells at one church in good fashion. The bells were hung with vertical half-wheels, and could be rung frame high, but the ancient and unscientific manner of hanging makes them "go" uncommonly heavy. The casting of these three bells was very clumsy and inartistic, though the tone was good. There are some really fine-toned odd bells about.

The "Ringing World" comes to hand quite regularly, thanks to one of my own band at Beeston.—Sincerely yours,

(Bandsman) ALBERT COPPOCK, 10th D.L.I.

LEYTONSTONE RINGER KILLED IN ACTION

The Leytonstone ringers record with deep regret the loss of a promising young member, Gunner Harry P. Saffell. The deceased was only 24 years of age, and was born at Wenhamston, Suffolk, from which place he migrated to London in January, 1911. He was well recommended to the Leytonstone company as a ringer of Bob Minor. Like so many of the ringers in the East End of London he was in the employ of the Great Eastern Railway Company, he being a fireman, and although his occupation prevented him attending the practices regularly, he soon made such progress in the Surprise Minor Methods as to make him a desirable acquisition. In him was combined a fine physique and a natural aptitude for ringing. He joined the R.F.A. in April, 1915, without having obtained a release from his employers, and he was sent to the front in the following December.

The best testimony to the worth of the fallen hero is that of his lieutenant, who in a letter to his mother, writes: "He died nobly at his post, and I hope that this and the fact that he did not suffer any pain will be some consolation to you in your great grief. He was a splendid gunner, and always did his work well and cheerfully. He was very popular, and everyone had a good word for him. A large shell fell near him, and was the cause of the death of several other poor fellows besides. All the officers join with me in the deepest sympathy."

The "whole pull and stand" was rung on November 10th, with the bells half-muffled, by the following members of the company: W. Doran 1, W. Theobald 2, A. Prior 3, W. Miller 4, J. Moulle 5, H. Torble 6. Afterwards a 720 of York Surprise Minor was rung by the same band, but with G. Haydon on the treble. York was selected because Mr. Saffell's last 720 was rung in this method on July 16th, 1915. Requiescat in pace.

POTNEY.—At St. Mary's Church, on Saturday, November 3rd, 1280 Stedman Triples, in 47 minutes: R. Harvey 1, H. Cook 2, A. W. Darlington 3, A. E. Reeves 4, C. F. Hunt 5, T. Bolton 6, W. T. Elson (conductor) 7, C. E. Collis 8. Rung as a compliment to the conductor on his silver wedding, and as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Harvey, wife of the ringer of the treble.

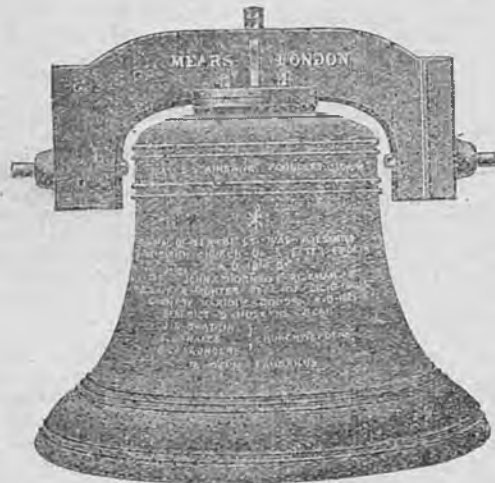
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STAINBANK,

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

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

RINGING AFTER DARK.

"HIGHER AUTHORITY'S" DECISION AS TO ESSEX.

As already announced, the whole question of bell ringing after sunset has been considered by "Higher Authority," and a decision with regard to Essex has been arrived at. It was only to be expected that the county which lies most exposed to aerial raiders, should be kept to the restrictions, and it is not surprising, therefore, to learn that permission to ring after dark cannot be granted in that area. Mr. Ridgewell, of Rayne, District Secretary of the Essex Association, has received the following from the Competent Military Authority in No. 9 Area, under date October 22nd:—

"Referring to your letter received 11th instant, I am to inform you that the whole question of the hours during which bells may be rung is now under consideration by Higher Authority, and that the Competent Military Authority regrets that, pending the issue of a general ruling in the matter, he is unable to sanction any departure from the hours laid down by the terms of No. 12b of the Defence of the Realm Regulations."

A letter, dated November 6th, was as follows:—

"In continuation of this office letter of the 22nd ultimo, number 25 above, I am to inform you that it has been decided that no permission for departure from the hours laid down by the terms of No. 12b of the Defence of the Realm Regulations in respect to the ringing of bells can be granted for any part of the County of Essex."

MIDLAND COUNTIES' CONCESSION.

A verbal message was sent by the police to Mr. W. E. White, hon. secretary of the Midland Counties Association, late on Saturday night, to say that ringing might be continued up to 9 p.m., and on inquiry on Monday morning at the County Police Office in Nottingham he was informed that clocks may strike and bells be rung up to 9 p.m. in the Central Midland Counties. This, Mr. White understands, will apply to the Counties of Notts Derby, Leicester, Rutland, Stafford, and Warwick, but as his information was only by word of mouth he advises those who wish to ring to first make inquiry at their chief police office.

7 P.M. AT LIVERPOOL.

The Head Constable of Liverpool announces that the Competent Military Authority has, under Regulation 12b, Defence of the Realm Regulations, granted permission for an extension of the time during which church bells, etc., may be rung up to 7 p.m. during the winter months.

Mr. F. J. Shephard, assistant hon. secretary of the Yorktown District of the Winchester Guild, has been informed by the Competent Military Authority for No. 10 district (headquarters, Hounslow), that ringing for Sunday evening service, from 6 to 6.30 p.m., will be permitted at Hersham and Oatlands, Surrey. If similar permission is desired in other places in the same area, each parish must make special application.

Application to the Competent Military Authority for Area No. 14 (headquarters, Bedford) for permission to ring after sunset has been refused.

ESSEX RINGER DIES OF WOUNDS.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death, in France, of Pte. E. Ridgewell, of the 11th Royal Fusiliers, who, before joining up, lived with his parents at Colne Engaine, Essex. News came a few days ago that he was severely wounded in the abdomen and leg on October 19th, and he died two days later at the Casualty Clearing Station. Deceased was 40 years of age, and first learned to ring at Greenstead Green on the peal of six, and made rapid progress, being able to ring and call seven or eight methods, but most of his ringing was done at Earls Colne on the ring of eight. His peals number about 26, including several peals of Minor in seven different methods, also Bob Major, Treble Bob and Double Norwich, most of which he conducted. He was a capital striker on either a light or heavy bell, and, being of stiff build, could ring a heavy bell with perfect ease. His death is keenly felt by the writer, as he had known him from childhood. The deceased lost a brother (killed in action) about a year ago, and another is lying in hospital wounded in the neck and arm.

The sympathy of the whole Exercise will go out to his family in their immeasurable loss.

On Sunday, November 4th, as a mark of esteem, and on the occasion of the memorial service to him, at his parish church, Colne Engaine, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, 120 of Plain Bob and 360 of Kent Treble Bob was rung half-muffled by the following ringers: S. Burst, R. Fleuty, J. Fleuty, F. Claydon, J. French (conductor), W. Burst.

YORK.—On Sunday morning, Oct. 28th, at York Minster, 395 Grand-site Caters, conducted by F. Earnshaw; also 462 Grand-sire Cinques, by: A. C. Fearnley 1, H. Ineson 2, W. Thornton 3, P. Firth 4, W. Ayre 5, G. Horner 6, Sergt. E. Morris, A.S.C. (conductor) 7, T. Haigh 8, F. Earnshaw 9, A. Hodgson 10, A. Haigh 11, E. Rickett and A. Horner 12.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

ITS FAILINGS AND THE REMEDIES.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

I.

In the past the Central Council has done good work. In the great development of change ringing during the last 30 years it has had a share, not the greatest share, of course. That belongs without doubt to "The Bell News," which with all its faults (and they were many) did for years supply the one link that bound ringers together. In due season its place was taken by a much better paper, but that should not blind our eyes to the debt we owe to the older journal.

The second and third larger shares belong to Mr. Snowden's books and to the county and diocesan associations, in which order it is difficult to say. These are the three great factors of the development, and besides them there are several others, of which the Central Council is one. What good exactly it has done it is not easy to state, but those of us who have been intimately connected with it will agree that its influence has been greater than one would suspect from an examination of visible results. Nevertheless it is also certain that there is a great feeling of disappointment with the Council in almost every thinking member of the Exercise. So much show and so little result. So much talk and so little done. One could mention several men, clever and standing among the highest of ringers, who have ceased to interest themselves in the Council because, as they think, it is not worth it. One could mention many more who attend the meetings, because it is a pleasant holiday and a good opportunity of meeting old friends, and nothing else. As for the ordinary ringer, as a rule he looks on the Council as a thing which does not interest him in any way. He is not actively antagonistic. He is merely indifferent.

Many reasons have been given for all this. You will hear people say that the Council is too much given over to discussion of "ultra scientific" subjects that do not concern the body of the Exercise, and really practical and useful subjects are crowded out. "Experts" do all the talking, and the really representative ringer has no chance. ("Experts" is a courteous word by which the speaker means a crank or a faddist.) I do not think this is the case. I think the trouble is deeper.

The real cause of the failure of the Council is this—that it professes to be a representative and legislative body, and in reality it is not representative, and cannot legislate.

It is not representative. Let us see clearly why: not chiefly because of its personnel. There are, it is true, a few members whose qualifications are difficult to see and whose presence there can only be explained by supposing that their associations wished, for some reason or another, to pay them a compliment. But they are few. The majority are men who have well earned at one time or another their position, and the Council could without altering a single member be really representative. The real trouble is that the Exercise as a whole has not commissioned the Council to think and act in its name. Of course the members are formally elected. But the election is really formal and little else.

The ordinary ringer does not feel that these men have been sent by him and his fellows because he trusts and respects them, and, therefore, the ordinary ringer attaches no weight to anything the Council does. It is my experience, and I dare say many more, that if one is discussing any point among ringers it is useless, almost childish, to quote the Council as an authority. I remember being present, as a guest, at a College Youths meeting, when their representatives reported after the Winchester meeting. The attitude both of delegates and meeting was one of contempt, of which there was no pretence of concealment.

And the remedy? It is not easy, nor can I suggest any infallible plan by which the Council may really become the head of the Exercise. But two things are needed anyway. First, the Council must earn the respect and confidence of the Exercise, and then it will get it; and, second, the Associations should be induced to take a greater interest in the central body, and to try and induce their members also to take an interest.

II.

The second great fault with the Council is that it pretends to be a legislative body, and in reality it cannot legislate. Consciously or unconsciously, directly or indirectly, it is modelled on Parliament. A member proposes a resolution; it is seconded; debated on; and then the whole Council is supposed to judge it on its merits; and, if passed, it becomes an act of the Council. So far all is easy enough. But having passed its resolution, the Council has no power to enforce it.

When Parliament makes a law it knows that there is force to carry it out. When bodies, like Football Associations, make rules they know they have the means to see they are not disobeyed with impunity. But the Central Council can do nothing. It cannot bind even the associations, still less the individual bands and ringers. A band can go on serenely breaking every resolution the Council has passed, and no man may say them nay.

Of course the founders of the Council recognised this. They hoped that a resolution passed by a body of leading and representative ringers would have a moral force that the Exercise would willingly submit to. Unfortunately the hope has largely been disappointed; chiefly because, as I have pointed out, the Exercise has no confidence in the Council. And also for another reason. Many of the resolutions concern things that a large proportion of the Council does not understand, or at any rate does not understand thoroughly. Many are in the form of reports of committees, and though adopted by the Council, have been and are the subject of keen disagreement. As a result, not only do these resolutions not bind the outside ringers, but they do not bind the members themselves. Indeed, I am not quite sure if they bind the Council itself as a Council.

It is said in "Rules and Decisions" that these are the laws of the Council on such and such matters; but, on the other hand, it has been laid down from the chair that reports of committees do not bind the Council otherwise than in a general way.

Now, what is the use of passing resolutions and adopting reports if, when you have done so, you cannot enforce them and you and other people hold yourselves at liberty to recognise them or not as fancy dictates? Better far not pass any at all; and I submit that the procedure by resolution and committee report is a mistake and should be dropped.

On matters which concern the routine, personnel, etc. of the Council, you must, of course, pass resolutions; but to pass resolutions on outside matters, and especially matters more or less connected with the theoretic side of ringing, is a mistake, and a mistake which causes much of the failure of the Council.

III.

Many of the resolutions submitted to the Council are such that they cannot be debated and settled in an open meeting. The usual way of dealing with these is to refer them to committees, of presumably able and qualified men. In due season these committees present reports which are then debated and usually adopted. In theory this procedure is an excellent one; in practice it is not at all a success. I speak as one who from the first year I was a member (1898) has not ceased to be engaged on committee work.

The plan of working is supposed to be this: One member prepares a draft. This is circulated among the others who suggest amendments. It is revised; again circulated, and finally presented as an agreed report. Now, if the matter is one so easy that an original draft with a few amendments will meet the case, it does not seem to need a committee to decide. If it is a matter that really requires deep investigation to arrive at the truth, you speedily find that your committee is far too cumbersome a concern, and the committee as a committee breaks down.

It is impossible for any ordinary man, with ordinary business to attend to, to carry on an investigation by correspondence with three or four other people. As a result the work is done perhaps entirely by one man, the others being merely figureheads. Or, perhaps, by two who find themselves involved in an almost interminable correspondence, and who must perforce neglect the other members. Then, when the report comes out, you find that it represents the opinion, not of the whole committee but of one or perhaps two of the members. The others find in it things they do not agree with or do not understand, and we have often the rather unseemly sight of the different members wrangling among themselves at the Council meeting over what is supposed to be an agreed report.

There is a little book containing a collection of six-bell methods, prepared by the Method Committee, of which I was a member, and a very useful, and, on the whole, excellent book it is. That book has a preface, and a mongrel affair which is called Superlative Surprise Minor. Neither I nor any other member of the committee, save one, saw these things before they were in print. Most of us utterly repudiate them, and Mr. John Carter felt so strongly that he resigned from the committee. This sort of thing is, perhaps, unavoidable. I mention it merely to show how in actual practice the committee system does not work. The remedy is simple and drastic. Do away with committees and committee reports.

Not entirely. You must, of course, have your Standing Committee, and there is the admirable Analysis Committee, which works in perfect harmony and contrives to get through such an immense deal of labour. There is a different case. With them it is subdivision of work, not collaboration of mind. They do not need to strive for any agreement. Each man has his allotted share of work, and he does it, and there is an end.

In such cases committees should be retained. In the others, they should make way for something better.

(To be Continued.)

FALING.—Recently, at Christ Church, 235 Grandsire Triples: Miss Bateman 1, G. Vickery 2, G. Gutteridge 3, C. Edwards 4, Robt. Holloway (conductor) 5, J. Frim 6, A. Harding 7, A. E. Smith 8. Also 720 Kent Treble Minor: G. Harbour 1, G. M. Kilby 2, Robt. Holloway 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. Horton 5, A. W. Davies 6, C. Phillips 8.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

DOINGS DURING THIRD YEAR OF WAR.

The annual report of the Lancashire Association is a much abridged publication this year. And for this, says the report, there are two reasons. First, there is little to record of the doings of ringers at home in this third year that has been wholly covered by the war. Our branches have kept their meetings going as regularly as possible, but often with small numbers, and in many towers the bells have only been rung with the assistance of lady ringers. Here, as in so many other departments of English life, the women have done their best to fill the gaps left by the men at the front. A second reason for the brevity of the report lies in the cost of paper and printing, and in the depleted state of the Association funds. The present membership may be stated as follows: 81 honorary life members, 10 honorary members, 390 performing life members, 676 performing members, 147 non-resident members. The performing members are thus distributed among the branches: Manchester branch, 186; Bolton branch, 143; Rochdale branch, 139; Blackburn branch, 138; Rossendale branch, 125; Preston branch, 88; Liverpool Diocesan Guild, 85; Furness and Lake District branch, 84; Fylde branch, 78; total, 1,066.

As far as can be ascertained about 175 members are now away on military service, and, in accordance with the resolution of the Association, are excused subscriptions during their absence.

The income of the Association for the past year has been £20 6s. 6d., but it is to be noted that no return has been made by two branches. The expenditure has amounted to £28 17s.

The list of peals is as follows: Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, Plain Bob Minor 2, Minor in Three Methods 1, Bob Major 1; total, 7. The list is the lowest we have ever had to publish. Of the two peals of Grandsire, one was rung to oblige Serge, John Nuttall, who was over on leave, and the other was rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Alderman John Miles, late organist at Dean Church. The Stedman peal was rung for the coming-of-age of Pte. Joe Ridyard and as a birthday compliment to Harry Chapman. The two peals of Bob Minor, rung at Oswaldtwistle, were both rung with the assistance of their lady ringers, and we heartily congratulate them on so early achieving this result. The Minor peal at Penwortham was rung half-muffled as a tribute to Gunner Ernest Fox, a former ringer at the church, who is another of our members who has given his life for his country. The Bob Major was rung as a compliment to the conductor (Mr. Alfred) on completing 30 years of service in the belfry.

We offer our respectful sympathy to the relatives of our members who have given their lives for the nation in the war. The roll of honour includes the names of some of the best of our younger members.

Our thanks are due as always to the branch secretaries for keeping things going in their own districts. Here we may congratulate Mr. G. Pincott on the presentation made to him by the Bolton branch on his retirement from its secretaryship, after 15 years' good service.

DEATH OF DR. H. C. PAULI.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. Harry Pauli, of Middleham, Yorks, who passed away at a nursing home at Bedford, after only a short illness. The deceased took a great interest in ringing in his North Yorkshire home, and while he had not rung many peals he was always enthusiastic.

Dr. Pauli was a son of a clergyman, for many years the beloved Vicar of Redmire, in Wensleydale. Prior to removing to Middleham Dr. Pauli was in practice at Luton for about ten years.

In the early part of 1900 he, with the present churchwarden, Mr. Samuel Green, and a few others, took up the question of repairs to the Parish Church bells, which were sadly in need of renovation, and after many meetings succeeded in having the work carried out, including an entirely new frame, new wheels, and new clappers to the bells, the restoration being done by the well-known firm of Messrs. Neary and Stainbank.

Touching reference to the death of Dr. Pauli was made from the pulpit by the Vicar of Luton, and as a token of respect the bells of the Parish Church were rung half-muffled for evening service, 720 Bob Minor (42 singles, with tenor covering) being brought round in 30 minutes, by: J. Shaw 1, A. J. Smith 3, A. King (conductor) 4, B. Wilson 5, J. Rookwood 6, T. Kendall 7, H. Shaw 8. A. K.

A BRECON RING TO BE INCREASED.

St. David's Church, Brecon, is, after the war, to undergo extensive alterations and enlargement, and the tower, which now contains a poor ring of four bells, is to have a new peal of six. The Vicar (the Rev. J. Simon) is most enthusiastic in his work for the scheme, and already has a considerable sum of money in hand, and more promised. Recently, a clock, with two 5ft. skeleton dials, was added to the tower at the expense of Alderman Thomas Williams, the senior alderman of the borough, who has in many ways shown his generosity to the town and parish. The new clock was dedicated by the Bishop of Swansea, and in honour of the event members of the St. Mary's band rang St. David's bells.

BISHOP VISITS RINGERS.

The ringers of Cranleigh (Surrey) were very highly honoured on Sunday evening last week, by the presence of the Lord Bishop of Winchester in the tower. His Lordship was spending the week-end at Cranleigh Rectory. The Rector had told the ringers that the Bishop would arrive at the Rectory between 5 and 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, and would give an address at the 6 p.m. evensong, and he said he would much like the bells rung for that service, also to serve as a welcome to the Bishop on entering the village. A 480 Bob Major and 420 Grandsire Triples were rung before the service, by: A. C. Hazelden 1, W. Streeter 2, Mrs. R. Whittington 3, A. Charman 4, T. Worsfold 5, R. Whittington 6, W. Melville 7, W. Charman (conductor) 8; and a 336 Grandsire Triples, after the service, conducted by W. Melville, who, with A. C. Hazelden, had kindly cycled over from Guildford to help, it being impossible for enough of the local band to be present at that time on Saturday.

It was principally to thank the ringers for the welcoming peal that his Lordship climbed the stairs. He referred, while in the belfry, on the marked difference in the condition of belfries, and on the improved status of the ringers as recognised church workers, compared with a few years ago. Another visitor in the tower at the same time was Sergt. R. Carrier, of Victoria, B.C., who had cycled over from Willey Camp to take part in the ringing for evening service. He was introduced to the Bishop by the Rector of Cranleigh, and his Lordship was much interested in the enthusiasm thus displayed.

The Cranleigh ringers here would like to thank their two Guildford friends, whose kindness made it possible for the whole peal to be used.

BELLS AT BOMBAY.

CIRENCESTER RINGER FINDS A LOUGHBOROUGH RING.

No. 301842 Gunner F. J. Lewis, 79th Company R.G.A. (of Cirencester), writes from Colaba, Bombay, India: "By the last mail from home I received a parcel of 'Ringing Worlds.' I am very pleased to see our old paper is still running. This is the first ringing news I have seen since last March. We came out via the Cape. We went ashore at Capetown, and went into camp at Durban for a month. I believe there is a peal of six at Capetown, but did not have time to find them out, as we were only allowed ashore for a few hours. At Durban there are no ringing bells.

"I am stationed at one of the forts in Bombay, and on the first Sunday night was surprised to hear a peal of eight being chimed. I soon made tracks for the tower, and found a good peal of eight by Taylor and Sons, Loughborough, tenor about 15 cwt. The bells are only hung for chiming, but the wheels, etc., are here ready, if wanted. The Vicar told me the tower would not stand the strain of the bells being rung, and I know the temperature would be a bar to much ringing. It is very hot here, and we can sweat doing nothing. I go most Sunday nights and chime changes and hymn tunes, and the Vicar says the sick and wounded in his hospitals close by quite enjoy listening to it. I expect it reminds them of home, I know it did me when I heard them the first time.

"At present I am on a signalling course, and I find this is a good thing for keeping the brain in good working order, and ready, I trust, for the change ringing I hope to take up again after the war. Wishing the 'Ringing World' the best of luck, and with kind regards to all old ringing friends,—Yours sincerely, F. J. LEWIS."

RINGING FOR THE BISHOP.

The new Bishop of Exeter and his wife, Lady Florence Cecil, are staying in Plymouth for six weeks. On the occasion of Hospital Sunday (recently) he paid his first official visit to Charles' Church, and in the morning preached the sermon. For this service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Kentsfield 1, Hooper 2, Woodley 3, Rundle 4, Richards 5, Malins (of Rugby), conductor, 6, Marsh 7, Kerswill 8.

In the afternoon of the same day the Bishop preached at St. Andrew's, and for this service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters was rung by Messrs. Kentsfield 1, Marsh 2, Woodley 3, Rundle 4, Holloway 5, Malins 6, Hamblin 7, Richards 8, Myers (conductor) 9, Parr 10.

In the evening, being harvest festival at Emmanuel Church, an attempt was made for a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples by Messrs. Woodley 1, Marsh 2, Williams 3, Myers 4, Rundle 5, Richards 6, Malins (conductor) 7, Hobbs 8. After ringing seven courses the tenor man gave out, want of oil on the bearings of the bell being the cause.

STAVELEY—Recently, at the Parish Church, 360 Bob Minor: L. G. Palmer 1, Corpl. A. E. Parsons 2, W. Daffin 3, F. E. Parsons 4, S. Smedley, senr., 5, W. T. Palmer 6. Arranged for Corpl. A. E. Parsons, a member of the local band, who was home on leave after being in hospital suffering from shrapnel wounds in the face, received on the Ypres front on July 9th. For evening service, on October 7th, for harvest festival, 720 Bob Minor: A. Markwell 1, H. Mollershead 2, L. G. Palmer 3, W. Daffin 4, S. Smedley, senr., 5, W. T. Palmer 6.

NOTICES.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Stretford, on Saturday, Nov. 17th. Bells available at 3.30. Meeting at dusk. Reports ready. Subscriptions due.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Great Chart on Saturday, Nov. 17th. Bells (6) available from 2 o'clock until sunset.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore, Kent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Barnet on Saturday, Nov. 17th. Ringing from 2.30 to 6 p.m. Short service with address by the Rector at 6 p.m. Tea, 6.30 p.m., followed by business meeting, handbells, etc. Outstanding subscriptions for 1917 should be sent now to W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.—Bristol Association.—A quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Almondsbury on Nov. 24th. Bells (8) open at 3.30. Particulars of tea, "if any," per card.—G. Wiltshire, Hon. Secretary, 4, Hudd's Hill, St. George's, Bristol.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice, on November 29th, and for general business on the 20th (Election of Officers), all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, Nov. 24th. Bells at St. Michael's and at All Saints' from 3 p.m. Service at the Parish Church at 5.30. Tea and meeting at St. John's Schools at 6.—F. G. Hume, Dist. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Dec. 1st. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Service, 4 p.m.; meeting to follow. No tea will be provided. No ringing after dark.—W. Sear, Sec., 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

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.

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WANTED, a Set of 8 good Handbells, size 17 F or 18 G preferred.—W. Mead, Clun, Salop.

IN MEMORIAM.

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