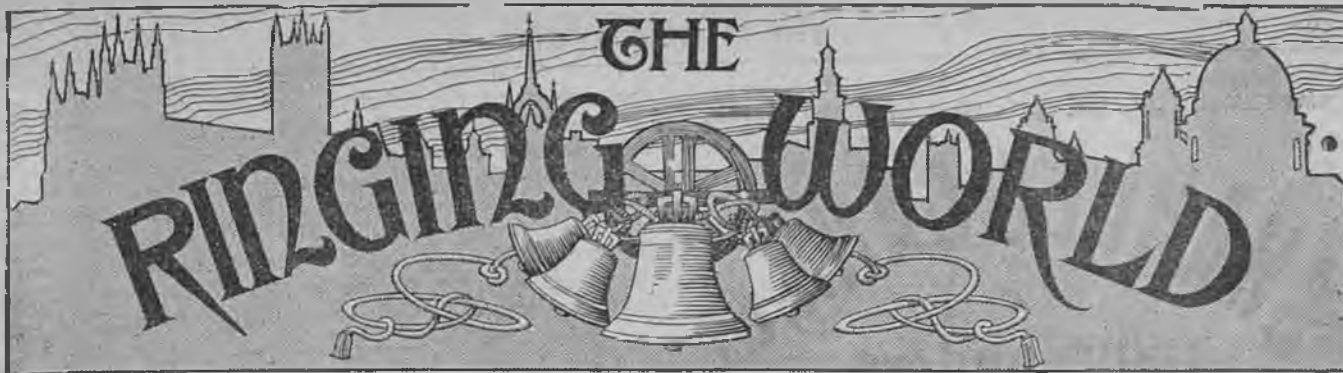




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FRIDAY, JULY 30th, 1926.

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A PROBLEM BEFORE THE EXERCISE.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild's festival is usually productive of an interesting meeting, and last Saturday's gathering at the University city was no exception to the rule. There can be no question that the members of the Guild take a live interest in the affairs of their organisation, and only the difficulties of travel prevented even a larger assembly than met in the Chapter House at Christ Church. Yet, despite the fact that the Guild is excellently officered, that meetings are really well attended, and members display a keen interest, it is a healthy sign that there is no smug complacency in the contemplation of the Guild's position. Would that this were so in all associations. A few weeks ago we commented on the Oxford Guild Master's rousing call for the local enthusiast, and on Saturday the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn enlarged upon this important matter, and offered it to the members as a subject for discussion at their district meetings in the hope that practical suggestions may be forthcoming, so that one of the pressing needs of the day, so far as the art of ringing is concerned, may be met in the towers in the diocese of Oxford.

The question, however, is not confined to the Oxford Guild; it affects every association in the country. In numerous centres there are to be found, of course, the local enthusiasts who keep both service and peal ringing bands going with more or less success, but in the vast majority of towers there are no such leaders. The men are content to go on doing their little bit of Sunday ringing, and practising, while they can keep together, but let a breach occur in the ranks, and in all too many cases the company practically drops to pieces. Recruits are hard to get, difficult to keep, and harder still to train, because of the many other attractions which now offer allurements to young people. It is only the real enthusiast who will overcome the obstacles, and this type of man in the ranks of ringers, as the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn pointed out, is not increasing in numbers in proportion to the numerical growth of our associations.

Only those who have had the disheartening experience of years of fruitless endeavour in raising and maintaining a change ringing band know the real weariness of the task; some who have laboured thus in vain are still valiantly carrying on, others as time goes on give up the seemingly impossible task. These are the men who can offer their associations valuable counsel on this subject of maintaining local interest in the art of change ringing. By their unaided effort they may not have been able to succeed, but they of all people should be able to point out where that individual effort has failed, and associations which will seek out the help of these ringers, as well as of

(Continued on page 466.)

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those who, at the moment, are reaping the reward of successful labour, might learn much which would enable them to help establish weak bands on a firmer footing. The Oxford Guild will discuss the matter at their branch meetings; other associations could profitably follow suit, and the Central Council might well debate the subject, for they could bring together the accumulated wisdom of the whole Exercise on this matter which, perhaps, more than anything else, concerns the future of our Art.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb. in C.

*GEORGE HUMPHREYS ... Treble	WILLIAM H. CLARKE ... 6
FREDERICK W. SHARMAN ... 2	ALBAN DISNEY ... 7
ALFRED BALLARD ... 3	ERNEST MORRIS ... 8
JOSIAH MORRIS ... 4	† GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 9
REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 5	JOHN GRANT ... Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by GEO. S. MORRIS.

* First peal. † First of Caters as conductor. A birthday compliment to the composer's wife (Mrs. E. Morris). The composition has all the 9468's and 9568's in 7896 position, 5789's and 4789's in 6879 position, 7489's and 7589's in tittums, 46789's and 56789's at hand.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

WILLIAM T. TUCKER ... Treble	WILLIAM G. EDWARDS ... 5
JOHN W. FAITHFULL ... 2	REGINALD BROWN ... 6
GEORGE PULLINGER ... 3	FRANK BLONDELL ... 7
JOSIAH D. HARRIS ... 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Conducted by G. WILLIAMS.

Arranged for J. D. Harris, of Portsmouth, and was his first peal of Cambridge.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ISAAC EMERY ... Treble	*CYRIL BRETT-SMITH ... 5
PERCY J. SPICE ... 2	GEORGE HUXLEY ... 6
GEORGE DURLING ... 3	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 7
ROBERT BRETT-SMITH ... 4	HARRY DURLING ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN.

* First peal of Stedman. This peal was rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Sir Thomas C. Dewey, for many years churchwarden of the above church, also an honorary life member of the association.

STANDISH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 21, 1926, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

ROBERT TAYLOR ... Treble	*JAMES WRIGHT ... 5
JOHN BROWN ... 2	JOHN BOOTH ... 6
FRED RIGBY ... 3	ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 7
FRED HINDLE ... 4	JAMES W. GROUNDS ... Tenor

Composed by REV. H. EARLE BULWER. Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal for the Lancashire Association.

**PULHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.**

*On Thursday, July 22, 1926, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,*

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST WHITING Treble	HARRY MOSS 5
FREDERICK R. BORRETT ... 2	HENRY ADCOCK 6
CHARLES CUTTING 3	WILLIAM C. ROMSEY ... 7
ERNEST F. POPPY 4	ERNEST E. GRIMES ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

**SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE, NORFOLK.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.**

*On Friday, July 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,*

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6024 CHANGES;
Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

FREDERICK BORRETT Treble	JOHN ALDIS 5
CHARLES CLARKE 2	RUSSELL RICHES 6
RICHARD BALDRY 3	GEORGE POYNTER 7
GEORGE GOWER 4	CHARLES CUTTING ... Tenor

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by F. BORRETT.

**DEVIZES, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
At the Church of St. John the Baptist,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 19½ cwt.

JAMES BILBY Treble	THOMAS F. KING 5
WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT ... 2	GILBERT H. HARDING ... 6
RONALD G. BECK 3	SIDNEY HILLIER 7
SAMUEL J. HECTOR 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by J. T. DYKE.
* First peal in the method. The ringers of 4 and 6 have now rung 50 peals together.

**WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,*

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 10 cwt.

JAMES GEORGE Treble	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5
GEORGE R. PYE 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 6
GEORGE M. KILBY 3	HARRY KILBY 7
WILLIAM PYE 4	REUBEN SANDERS ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late I. G. Shade, for twenty-eight years an active member of the above association.

**LENTON, NOTTINGHAM.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION AND THE SOCIETY
OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.**

*On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Trinity*

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt.

EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ... Treble	PERCIVAL PRICE 5
ALBERT COPPOCK 2	FRED BLOOD 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 3	FREDERICK S. PRICE ... 7
FREDERICK W. BAILEY ... 4	EDWARD BLAGDON ... Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT COPPOCK.

* First peal of Stedman. The conductor's 100th peal. Rung on the same bells, in the same method and with the same tenorman as his first peal (1902). The rest of the original band, with one exception, have passed hence.

**RUARDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. John,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

LEONARD NELMES Treble	JAMES BISHOP 5
BRUCE P. CBEW 2	WILLIAM BISHOP 6
ERNEST J. MATTHEWS ... 3	WILLIAM POSTON 7
GEORGE WILKS 4	JAMES P. HYETT Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

* First peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BARKSTON LE WILLOWS, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, July 17, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes.

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of St. Clement's and Double Court, two of Single Court, one of Oxford Single Bob, and two of Plain Bob.

Tenor 15 cwt.

WILLIAM E. WOODS ... Treble	HARRY BARNES 4
ARTHUR PALMER 2	WILLIAM E. DALE 5
A. WILLIAM STOKES 3	ARTHUR DRURY Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR DRURY.

Rung to celebrate the coming of age of Miss Palmer, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Palmer.

**BETLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Saturday, July 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

7 DIFFERENT EXTENTS. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*ERIC BENTLEY ALLMAN ... Treble	GEORGE ADDISON 4
JOHN MATTHEWS 2	JOHN BRASSINGTON ... 5
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY 3	ARTHUR ALLMAN Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR ALLMAN.

* First peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Thursday, July 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 3017 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 size, B flat.

GEORGE F. SWANN 1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5-6
ALBERT WALKER 3-4	*HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 7-8
JOHN NEAL 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee: FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH.

* First peal of Stedman Caters 'in hand.'

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

FAST RINGING.—A LANCASHIRE CONTEST.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

It has been remarked on more than one occasion lately that a notable feature in recent peal ringing is the quickness of the time. We frequently see footnotes saying that such and such a peal was the quickest on the bells, and, indeed, many ringers appear to think that there is merit in ringing a 5,000 faster than has been done before. Now there is a certain fascination in ringing bells very fast, and very fast ringing must (usually, at any rate) be very good striking. But the thing can be overdone. Good fast ringing is difficult, but really good slow ringing is much more difficult still. This is a point that ringers might attend to.

There are many rings of bells on which the ringing ought to be slow to produce the best effect, and especially is this the case with half-muffled ringing. A fast half-muffled peal, however good the striking, is artistically a bad peal. Yet, if you compare the times of half-muffled peals, you will find that they are usually just as fast as peals rung open. To get the best effect half-muffled ringing should be as slow as it can conveniently be rung; and the tenor should be turned in and not rung behind. Three hours and a half, where the open time is about three hours, is not any too long. Most of the modern Simpson-tuned rings, too, sound better if they are rung on the slow side.

But for the ordinary ring and for ordinary peal ringing it matters very little at what pace you ring, so long as the striking is good. Most rings have a time of their own, and the best effect is got by keeping somewhere near it. What is wanted is to get a good beat and keep to it. Look after the striking, and let the time take care of itself. Any deliberate attempt to force the pace or to slacken the pace usually means bad striking, though, of course, a really skilful ringer can very often smarten up the ringing without appearing to be forcing the pace. I have rung in some very fast peals where the striking has been excellent, and my experience is that these fast peals are rung without any deliberate intention. When a band sets out with the intention of ringing a fast peal the result is usually choppy striking and not very quick ringing.

But it would be a mistake, when you see the record of a peal accomplished in a very short time, to say, as so many people are inclined to do, that it could not be done. Very fast and very good peals have been rung, and will be rung, but I should not advise a band to try to ring one, and I do think that the enthusiasm (shall we say?) which prompt ringers to slash the big bells along in the idea that no ringing is good unless it is fast is to be discouraged.

Nearly a century and a half ago there were rung in Lancashire some peals of Grandsire Triples in exceedingly fast time, so fast that the writer from whom I am taking the following declared that it was impossible. In fact, he declared that the bands were deliberately lying. I do not think we need go so far as that. The peals were rung as the result of a keen rivalry between two bands; they were rung under prize ringing conditions, and the times of at least some of them were attested by judges, and may fairly be said to be authentic.

Ringling for prizes and as a competition between different bands was at one time a recognised thing in the

Exercise. It was never very popular in the East and the South. Occasionally we hear of the rivalry between two bands leading to matches between them, and at such times wagers were made. There is the instance of the rivalry at Norwich between the Mancroft and the Coslany bands, of which I have written in these notes. Then, in the early eighteenth century, the College Youths and the London Scholars rang against each other. There was the historical contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands to see which could ring the longest peal of Treble Bob Royal, and a good many more such like. In these cases, although no doubt money passed as bets, the bands rang for the honour of victory, and not from any fixed money prize.

In the North and the West it was different—ringing for money prizes was an organised affair. Bands met at a particular tower, took their turns at ringing, and competent men were appointed to judge the ringing and award the prizes. There is no doubt whatever that this did lead to most excellent striking among the competing bands. But it was attended by some very discreditable circumstances. The men who, fifty years ago, set themselves to bring about belfry reform and the general raising of the standard of everything connected with ringing, used all their influence to stop prize ringing, and though it lingered on in places till comparatively recent times, it is now a thing of the past.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century the two leading bands in Lancashire were Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne. The Oldham men rang one or two long peals, notably a 10,080 of Bob Major on September 30th, 1783, in 5 hours and 30 minutes, and on January 4th, 1784, 14,480 in the same method in 8 hours 24 minutes. Both were conducted by Thomas Kay. The Oldham and the Ashton bands were keen prize ringers, and they frequently met in contests with varying results.

In 1808 a new ring of bells was put up at St. Michael's, Flixton, and on the opening day a prize ringing meeting was held. Both bands competed, and so keen was the contest that the judges were unable to decide between them, and the prize money was divided. Neither side was satisfied with the verdict, and a match was arranged between them to take place at the same church on June 24th. The match, as was usual, was treated and arranged as an ordinary sporting event, in just the same way as a prize fight would be arranged. The prize was £40, articles were drawn up and signed, and a deposit lodged with a Mr. John Travis, a publican, and prominent sporting man of Oldham. Money was freely wagered on the event, the betting being evens. The prize, it seems, was to go to the band which could ring the best peal in the quickest time. Before the actual match took place each band set themselves to ring some practice peals, and the following were accomplished in very fast time. On Sunday afternoon, May 15th, the Ashton men rang Holt's ten-part peal in 2 hours 38½ minutes. What the weight of the tenor was then I do not know. The writer whom I am following gives it as 28 cwt., and, on the strength of that, declares that the time was impossible. But probably he made the mistake of thinking that the peal was rung on the same bells which were in the tower when he was writing—the Whitechapel ring of twelve, which were put up in 1871, and of which the tenor weighed 27 cwt.

The next day the Oldham men rang the same peal in 2 hours 38 minutes. The tenor was 14 cwt., and, of course, the time is quite possible on that weight. On

Tuesday, May 24th, the Ashton men cut the time down to 2 hours 33 minutes, and five days later the Oldham men beat this by ringing the peal in 2 hours 29½ minutes. The very same day the Ashton men rang the peal in 2 hours 29½ minutes, just a quarter of a minute quicker; and on Saturday, June 4th, the Oldham band knocked off the odd quarter of a minute, and rang the peal in 2 hours 29 minutes.

The rivalry, you see, was intense, and probably both bands had now reached the very limit of speed at which a good peal could be rung at either of the two churches. But Ashton were determined not to be beaten even in the practice peals, and by no more than a quarter of a minute. On Thursday, June 9th, they walked over to Mottram-in-Longdendale, and there they rang Holt's peal in 2 hours 23½ minutes. I am not quite certain what is the fastest peal of Triples on record, but I believe this time has been equalled in recent years, and when we remember all the circumstances and the practice these men had had in fast ringing, there is no reason to doubt the truth of the time. Mottram tenor is, or was, usually given as 14 cwt., but the weight in Rudhall's list is 12 cwt. A contemporary writer says that 'the average speed of ringing the peal was thirty-four changes per minute, and toward the close of the peal thirty-six changes per minute, being the best and quickest ringing ever performed in this kingdom.' A fortnight later the same band repeated the performance at the same church and in the same time.

As I have already said, these very fast times seemed to many ringers quite impossible, and it was the usual thing to conclude that either the conductor had faked the calling, or that the band had mistaken the time, or were deliberately lying. Some years ago the late Mr. J. W. Washbrook rang the tenor to a peal of Stedman at Drayton, the Rev. F. E. Robinson's church, in 2 hours 30 minutes. Several people wrote to 'The Bell News' to say that it could not be done, and here is a comment written in 1883 on these Lancashire peals: 'I am sorry to call in question the veracity of any writer, much more of any writer on bells or ringers, but it is an utter impossibility for any band to ring 5,040 Grandsire Triples in the time stated—2 hours 23½ minutes. At the present day the Ashton-under-Lyne ringers are admitted on all hands to be a remarkably good set of ringers, and yet on the 31st of March, 1883, it took them 3 hours 18 minutes to ring a peal of 5,568 of Treble Bob Major on the Mottram bells, being at the rate of 28½ changes per minute with a tenor stated to be 14 cwt. Last year the Eccles men rang a peal in 2 hours 45 minutes, being the quickest on record with a tenor 12 cwt. Having been engaged in that peal, I certainly should have doubted the time had it not been taken by at least a dozen independent people, both inside and outside of the tower. I am, therefore, satisfied that a 5,040 cannot be rung properly with a due regard for striking in much less than the Eccles time. Again, I am afraid that something besides a spirit of rivalry had sprung up between these two bands of ringers, for, on reference to the time, the first peal was rung in 2 hours 38 minutes, the next in 2 hours 33 minutes. Then came 2 hours 29½ minutes, followed by one in 2 hours 29 minutes, and then came the last one in 2 hours 23½ minutes, evidently showing that neither side would be beaten if a bit of lying could help them.'

(To be continued.)

FOR THE BEGINNERS.

KENT ASSOCIATION'S SPECIAL INVITATION.

Our announcement last week that we intend to devote a space to record the progress of beginners in the Art has been welcomed in many quarters, and, in opening our columns for this purpose, we would remind ringers that what we desire to do is to encourage beginners to make progress. Therefore, while we are quite willing in this column to publish first 120's of Doubles, we ask that subsequent performances sent for insertion shall be of progressive lengths or of fresh methods.

There can be no question that the encouragement of beginners is the surest foundation on which to build the future of the Exercise, and for this reason it is particularly gratifying to notice that the Rochester District of the Kent County Association, which will hold a meeting at Northfleet to-morrow, specially invites beginners. If young ringers are given the opportunity to do some ringing at association meetings, however humble the effort may be, they will soon become more interested and eager to progress.

Articles are in preparation for the help of young conductors, and will appear in due course.

Some of the young band at Bolsover on Sunday rang their first touch of Kent Treble Bob Major. A touch of 276 was rung by W. Lambert (conductor) 1, *A. Robbins 2, H. Robbins 3, *E. Wagstaff 4, E. Robbins, sen., 5, *H. Kent 6, J. Flint 7, J. Moss 8. * First of Treble Bob. Afterwards S. Slaney rang his first course, and then six of them (on the front six bells), all under 17 years of age, rang 224 Bob Major: E. Fortitt 1, A. Robbins 2, J. Saxton (longest length) 3, S. Slaney 4, E. Wagstaff 5, H. Kent 6, R. Coupe 7, J. Moss 8.

At Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell, Yorks, 1,680 Bob Major was rung on Tuesday, July 20th, in 65 mins. *A. Wood 1, *P. Massam 2, *G. Copley 3, *E. Ward 4, G. W. Steel 5, C. Lawson 6, *H. Jones 7, †T. W. Strangeway (conductor) 8. * Longest length. † Longest length in the method.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District was held at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Farningham, on Saturday. The bells were raised at 3 p.m., and were kept going in various methods during the afternoon and evening. Service was conducted by the Rev. Fowler, who gave an interesting address. A splendid tea was provided at the Lion Hotel, by the generosity of Mr. Grey, of Farningham, about forty-five members participating.

The business meeting followed, Captain Skelton of the local band presiding.—One new member was elected, and the election of one member previous to a peal was confirmed. When the place of the next meeting was considered, it was stated that there was a hearty invitation to visit Crayford and also Lewisham from the Rector and Vicar respectively. On being put to the meeting, Lewisham was chosen, a hope that Crayford would be available for the next occasion being expressed.

Mr. W. J. Jeffries then informed the meeting of the tragic death of Mr. I. G. Shade, of Greenwich. He moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the deceased's relatives.—This was seconded by A. Bates, and the motion was carried with the company standing.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., moved a hearty vote of thanks to Rev. Fowler for conducting the service and for the address, to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to the organist (Mrs. Skelton), the donor of the tea for his generous hospitality, and to Captain Skelton for making such excellent arrangements.—This was carried with applause.—Captain Skelton responded in a happy speech.

This concluded a very successful meeting, and the company dispersed, some back to the church and others to the neighbouring tower of Eynsford for further ringing.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. NORTHERN DIVISION'S NEW OFFICERS.

By kind invitation of the Rev. H. G. Metcalfe, the annual meeting of the northern division was held at Feliskirk. The chief business of the day was the election of officers for the district, the vice-president and the secretary having resigned.

Mr. J. H. Blakiston, of Middlesbrough, was elected vice-president, and Mr. Barker, the Ringing Master, also of Middlesbrough, was elected secretary.

The ringers were very grateful to the Rev. H. G. Metcalfe for his kindly hospitality and to the president of the association (the Rev. C. C. Marshall) for presiding at the meeting.

THE DEATH OF MR. I. G. SHADE.

TRAGIC CLOSE OF A LONG CAREER.

The brief announcement which we were able to make last week of the tragic death, by accident, of Mr. Isaac George Shade, of Greenwich, has been received with the deepest regret throughout the Exercise, for Mr. Shade was not only one of the most widely known ringers, but was a link with a past generation of men of whom few to-day have any personal recollection, but whose names are almost household words. Mr. Shade, as we reported, met his death on Monday of last week when returning from a practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. It was a wet, dark night, and when in Blackheath Road, not far from his home at 72, Blissett Street, about 9.45 o'clock, he attempted to cross the street. A car containing two ladies as passengers was approaching, and, when the horn was sounded, Mr. Shade apparently attempted to run across in front of the vehicle. The driver swerved, but Mr. Shade was struck by the off-wing of the car and knocked down. The car struck a lamp-post, which it demolished. Mr. Shade appeared to be quite dead, but with all speed he was conveyed to the Miller Hospital. Here, however, the doctor could only pronounce life extinct.

Thus closed, in tragic manner, a life which, to all appearances, might have had many years yet to run, for Mr. Shade, despite his more than 75 years, enjoyed, as he had always done, the best of health. But Providence ordained otherwise, and the Exercise mourns the death of one of its most respected members.

At the inquest a witness estimated the speed of the car at 15 miles an hour, and said the driver appeared to do all he could to avert an accident. Another witness said there had been three accidents at the same spot, which he described as 'a wicked road' and badly lighted.

The driver, William Albert Giffin, of 37, The Grove, Gravesend, gave evidence, and stated that he was a garage proprietor, and was driving towards Gravesend at a speed of 15 miles an hour. He immediately gave the warning sound when he saw deceased step off the kerb, but deceased ran, and he was caught by the car. Witness jumped down and went to deceased at the rear of the car. He also went to Miss Pryke, who had fainted, and someone went to the assistance of Mrs. Pryke (these ladies were the occupants of the car). In reply to his solicitor, he said that he was 15 yards from deceased when first he saw him start to walk across the road, and if he had continued to walk the car would have cleared him, but he ran right into the car. Witness had driven for over two years, and held a clean licence.

Medical evidence showed that Mr. Shade suffered a fractured skull and fractured ribs. Death was practically instantaneous.

A verdict of 'Accidental causes' was recorded, and sympathy expressed with the relatives.

A LOSS TO THE EXERCISE.

The death of Mr. Shade causes a distinct loss to the Exercise, in which he has figured prominently for more than fifty years. His father, William George Shade, was a ringer before him at Greenwich and Deptford, and the ringing history of father and son covers a period of the greater part of a century. Mr. I. G. Shade, who was born on April 27th, 1851, began ringing in the early seventies, and rang his first peal in 1875. From that time onward he added steadily to his total until, at the time of his death, he had scored no fewer than 1,450 peals—a number exceeded only by Mr. William Pye. To say that Mr. Shade was an enthusiast in ringing is to use but a mild term. Throughout his long working life, which began as a gas-fitter with the old Phoenix Gas Company, of Greenwich (later absorbed by the South Metropolitan Gas Company), and afterwards as a gas inspector, Mr. Shade utilised most of his spare time in the pursuit of his pastime, ringing regularly for services at St. Alphege Church, Greenwich, and seeking his peals wherever and whenever opportunity occurred. When he reached retiring age, and was pensioned by the company, he had leisure to prosecute his hobby even more intensively, and was ready to go anywhere at any time. While he could take his place in any band in any method, he was one who never raised a question of what was to be rung or made it a condition of his taking part. He would as willingly go a hundred miles for a peal of Grandshire Triples as for a peal of London Surprise or Stedman Cinques. His kindly and unassuming nature won him the respect of all who knew him, and, for all his wonderful performances—he had rung in many record peals—he was one of the most reticent of men. He never boasted, and, although he had done much upon which he might openly have prided himself, he was content to do his best with the job on hand and to leave whatever there was to say about it to others. And yet his record was one which is really and truly great in the peal-ringing sense. Sparingly built, he must have had a frame of whipcord. He looked extremely frail, but appearances belied him. He would stand the most strenuous tests of endurance with the best of ringers, and, though his place was always round the front, men of experience know that even here on heavy rings of bells the task is not always a sinecure.

When Mr. Shade began his ringing career, there were many obstacles in the way of those who desired to advance in change-ringing, and the 'stoney' hand at Greenwich long resisted the efforts of Mr. Shade, his father and his brother Harry, to introduce the art into that tower. Consequently, although they shared in the ringing at Greenwich they had to go further afield for their change-ringing practice. But even in the towers where the art existed, it was not easy for a young man

in those days to get initiated into the mysteries; but a keenness such as that which Mr. Shade showed could not be kept down, and gradually he worked himself to ringing circles which led him on to higher things.

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

When he got to the Surprise stage and could get little or no practice near home, he made frequent journeys to Crawley and Brighton, where at the time Surprise ringing was being carried on by two of the best eight-bell bands then in existence. Afterwards great strides were made in the advanced methods and on the higher numbers by the new-formed Middlesex County Association. Mr. Shade was one of the first of those able ringers whom Mr. William Pye has the genius for drawing round him, and not only in and around London, but on many tours into near or distant counties, peals were scored in great numbers. The association between Mr. Pye and Mr. Shade has been remarkable, for they had rung together no fewer than 875 peals—in itself a wonderful as well as almost a unique achievement, for only Mr. Wm. Pye and his deceased brother Ernest had taken part together in a larger number, they having been associated in 890.

Mr. Shade's vitality and mental keenness in his advancing years has been shown by the share he has taken in ringing expeditions in various parts of the country, attempting and often ringing two peals a day, while he has also participated recently in peals of unusual character, such, for instance, as that of only three weeks ago when he was one of the band which rang the first peal of Splined Bob Major and Double Oxford. One of the traits in Mr. Shade's character was that of punctuality, and a band which assembled at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, for a peal of Stedman Triples, in which he was to have taken part on Thursday of last week, ignorant of the tragic occurrence of the previous Monday night, wondered at his absence. It was not until a late-comer brought news of his death that they knew the cause of his non-appearance. The information came, naturally, as a great shock, and no ringing was done.

Among the many noteworthy performances in which he took part were the then record of 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough, on April 12th, 1909, in which, through the whole of the 12 hrs. 18 mins. ringing, Mr. Shade did not so much as miss a dodge, while three years later, at the age of 63, he took part in four Surprise peals rung in one day in four different counties.

Mr. Shade was a member of the following societies, etc.:—The Ancient Society of College Youths, Ashton-under-Lyne Society, Bedfordshire Association, Chester Diocesan Guild, Devonshire Guild, Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Guild, Essex Association, Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Guild, Hertford County Association, Irish Association, Kent County Association, London County Association, Lancashire Association, Llandaff Diocesan Association, Manchester Cathedral Society, Middlesex County Association, Midland Counties Association, Norfolk Guild, Oxford Diocesan Guild, Peterborough Diocesan Guild (formerly Central Northants Association), Sussex County Association, St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, Stoke Archidiaconal Association, Salisbury Diocesan Guild, Surrey Association, Suffolk Guild, United Counties Association, Winchester Diocesan Guild, and Yorkshire Association.

LIST OF PEALS.

Methods.	No.
Erin Triples	1
Union Triples	1
Grandshire Triples	41
Grandshire Caters	7
Grandshire Cinques	1
Stedman Triples	237
Stedman Caters	192
Stedman Cinques	88
Kent Treble Bob Major	53
Kent Treble Bob Royal	39
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	11
Oxford Treble Bob Major	5
Oxford Treble Bob Royal	4
New Cambridge Surprise Major	25
New Cambridge Surprise Royal	2
Cambridge Surprise Minor	2
Cambridge Surprise Major	68
Cambridge Surprise Royal	28
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	3
Superlative Surprise Major	276
London Surprise Major	133
Bristol Surprise Major	88
Norfolk Surprise Major	2
New Cumberland Surprise Major	1
Plain Bob Major	10
Little Bob Major	1
Little Bob Royal	1
Little Canterbury Pleasure Major	1
Canterbury Pleasure Major	1
Real Double Norwich Court Bob Major	1
Double Norwich Court Bob Major	118
Double Oxford Bob Major	1
Duffield Major	1
Reverse Plain Bob Major	1
Cam Variation of Kent Treble Bob Major	1
Splined Double Norwich Court Bob and Plain Bob	1

Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major	2
Spliced Double Norwich Court Bob and Double Oxford Bob Major	1
Spliced Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob Major	1
Total	1,450

The Stedman Caters included the peal of 18,027 at Loughborough in 12 hrs. 18 mins. The following other long lengths are included: Kent Treble Bob Major, 6,240, 6,336, 7,040, 8,896 and 10,464; Bob Major, 6,000; Double Norwich, 15,072; Bristol Surprise, 15,264.

Mr. Shade's ringing career has been an interesting one, and we hope in a subsequent issue to give our readers some further details concerning it.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Friday afternoon at Charlton Cemetery. The service was quite a simple one, and was impressively conducted by the Vicar of Greenwich (Rev. F. J. Tackley). The family mourners were Miss Shade (who had kept house for her brother), Mrs. Everett (sister), Mrs. Phillips (sister), Miss Phillips (niece). Among those who attended were the following ringers: Mr. E. Alex Young (hon. secretary, Central Council), Mr. W. Pye (Master of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild), Mr. F. Wilford (Master of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild), and Mrs. Wilford, Mr. J. J. Lamb (who was closely associated with Mr. Shade), Mr. J. Waghorn, sen. (East Ham), Mr. G. R. Pye (Romford), Mr. T. Groombridge (Chislehurst), Mr. I. Emery (Bromley), Messrs. F. W. Thornton, F. H. Gooch and E. E. Richards (Greenwich), Mr. H. Warnett, jun. (St. Mary's, Lewisham), Mr. W. Martin (St. John's, Deptford), Mr. E. Barnett, sen. (Crayford), Mr. A. G. Hill (hon. secretary, Lewisham District, Kent County Association), Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), etc. The South Metropolitan Gas Company (with which Mr. Shade was employed for 47 years) was represented by Mr. W. E. Collins and Mr. W. D. Harvey. Mr. Shade's known wishes that there should be no flowers resulted in no floral tributes being sent from any ringers' organisations, while the family desire that there should be no handbells was also respected.

At St. Nicholas', Deptford, on Saturday, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal with the bells half-muffled in memory of Mr. I. G. Shade, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung: A. Harding (first quarter-peal) 1, E. E. Richards 2, H. Hoskins 3, A. J. Ford 4, G. H. Daynes (conductor) 5, W. H. Daynes 6, T. Jakeman 7, P. C. Elliott 8.

A half-muffled peal was rung by the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild at Willesden on Saturday.

AN OLD FRIEND MOURNED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The pen which I use to-day is the same pen that I used when I congratulated you on your first issue, but I don't believe that this beloved pen has ever been called upon to perform such a melancholy task as I now endeavour to perform. I have written you on several occasions, on different subjects, but—I know not how to express my sorrow at the demise of my dear old friend, George Shade. A friend, indeed, a friend in need, he always was. For nearly thirty years have I known the dear old gentleman: we were both in the same trade, and oft have we joked together that 'gas' had kept us from knocking at the workhouse door all our lives and always would do so.

George stood behind me while I rang my first course of Stedman Triples; he called my first quarter of Stedman, he rang in my first peal of Stedman—'twas also Alf Grimes' first of Stedman. He stood behind me what time I rang my first courses of Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative, and gave me much good advice. I have rung with him in many places—Fainwick, Cirencester, Birmingham, Quex Park—and always has he been the same kindly, unassuming old friend, always the gentleman nature intended he should be. This world is the poorer; the hereafter is the richer for the sad demise of Isaac George Shade. I could wish for no better mentor to guide my tottering footsteps in the methods I must learn in the place to which he is gone. I, more than many, mourn his loss.

JOSEPH E. SYKES.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

LAVENHAM DISTRICT.

A successful bye-meeting was held at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, July 24th. The ringers were welcomed at the Church by the Vicar (the Rev. S. J. Buchanan) and Miss L. Barton, churchwarden. Several touches of Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were rung during the afternoon and evening. During an interval the assembly partook of refreshments, kindly provided by Miss L. Barton.

The members present were: Messrs. S. H. Symonds (assistant secretary), A. Symonds (district secretary), W. R. J. Poulson and F. Turner (Lavenham), A. Keeble (Monks Eleigh), H. D. Lister (Bildesdon), J. King (Polstead), L. Poulson (Stowmarket), F. A. Salter (Nottingham), W. Hollocks, C. Pryke and R. Poulson (Preston). A member of the Thetford band was also present.

It was unanimously agreed that similar bye-meetings were urgently needed throughout the county.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We have received many congratulations upon the completion of 860 issues, and we tender our thanks to all our well-wishers.

Miss Phyllis Routledge, daughter of Mr. C. L. Routledge, of Jesmond Road, Newcastle, who recently graduated M.B., B.S., Dunelm, has since sat the final of the Conjoint Medical Board in London, taking the L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., England. All these examinations were taken within the calendar month. Mr. Routledge's many friends in the Exercise will join in congratulating his daughter upon her distinguished successes.

The famous Belgian carillonneur, M. le Chevalier Jef. Denyn, gave a recital on the new carillon of 40 bells in the Croydon foundry tower on Tuesday evening, when he delighted a large audience with a varied programme, in which he brought out all the beauties of The bells in this latest creation of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

The lady members of 'St. Clement's Youths' were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. Alexander Young at a garden party given at 277, Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, recently.

The opening of the ring of twelve bells in the Waterloo tower, Quex Park, Kent, took place on August 4th, 1819.

The first peal of Grandsire Major of which there is any record was rung at Aston, Birmingham. It was a 7,552, accomplished on July 30th, 1792, but it would be strange if some shorter length had not been previously rung.

It was at Aston also that the first peal of Grandsire Royal was rung. This was in the year 1814, but it turned out to be false, and the honours of the first true peal went to the Painswick Youths, who rang 5,099 'Tittum Grandsire Royal' on August 6th, 1815.

CENTRAL COUNCIL AND COVENTRY BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In accordance with the instruction given at Ipswich, I am sending out during the next few days the booklet dealing with the whole of the action taken by the Council in respect to Coventry bells. This is already in the hands of those who were at the meeting, and will thus be sent to those who were not. If the Guild secretaries have not supplied me with the latest addresses of their representatives, will they notify the latter to get into touch with their postmasters, who would then forward the booklets on?

The illustrated booklet is confined to a limited issue, and for private circulation only. It contains the letters which passed and also interesting reports and descriptions of the bells and Cathedral together with a reprint of the proceedings, in the Consistory Court at Coventry, before the Chancellor.

As the members who were at Ipswich also had given them my pamphlet on 'Bell-tones and how to observe them,' it being hoped at the time that it would help them to appreciate and discuss my motion on 'Simpson' tuning, I have ventured to insert a copy of the pamphlet in the booklets being sent, and do so with my best compliments.

—Yours faithfully,

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

RINGING RESUMED IN DURBAN.

After several months' silence, the bells of St. Mary's Church, Greyville, Durban, are being rung again. All the old members of the band are back again, and under the guidance of Messrs. J. E. Prickett and F. Heywood May great progress should be made by this enthusiastic band. Practices have been resumed, and many weeks ought not to pass before the first peal for the diocese of Natal is recorded.

SOUTH AMERICAN BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the church tower at Lincoln, a small town about 150 miles west of Buenos Aires, there are four bells. The inscriptions are as follow:—

Treble: G.E.G. V. Bochumer Verein Bochum 1903.

Tenor: B.V.G. Bochum 1903.

Two and three have the same, or very similar, inscriptions. Do any of your readers know where these bells, which are individually quite good, were cast, and by what firm?—Yours sincerely,

M. G. C. HOOTON.

ELIJAH ROBERTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following appeared in the 'Liverpool Daily Post' of February 1st, 1865:—

'Inquest on the body of Elijah Roberts, licensed victualler, 21, Whitechapel.

'The deceased had been drinking heavily for the last fortnight, and on Thursday last (that is, January 26th) was in a delirious state. In the afternoon he went into the water-closet, and soon after a rushing and gurgling sound was heard by the servant. The barman opened the door and found the deceased sitting on the floor with his throat cut, and a large quantity of blood in the closet. A razor covered with blood was also found there. Life was extinct. Verdict, "Temporary Insanity."

A similar account of the tragedy occurs in the same paper on the day following the event. It concludes with the sentence: 'He had been very widely known as a clever handbell ringer.'—Yours faithfully,
University Club, Liverpool.

R. O. STREET.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

There was a large attendance of members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at the annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, all the branches being well represented. The city, with its numerous rings of bells, offers many attractions to ringers apart from the general interest which centres in its fine old colleges and buildings. The festival began with a service in Christ Church Cathedral, which was conducted by the Master (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn), and at which the address was given by the Bishop of Oxford. Bell-ringers, said his lordship, were church-workers; they had their place and duty in the system of the work of the church. They should not look upon their work as merely the source of energy which caused the bells to call the faithful to worship. It was much more than that if approached in the true spirit, and they would perform their task best and carry their message home most successfully if that message came from their own hearts. They might ask how a man, shut out of sight in the tower, could make any difference to the message. They could, he urged, show the spirit in which they sent out the message by themselves joining in the services for which they rang. If, when their task was done, they left behind those whom they had summoned, it might be taken as a fact that their work was a mere mechanical job, in which they had no special or real interest so far as the church was concerned.

The whole service was an inspiring one, and the singing, led by the organ, was not the least impressive part of it. An offertory was taken for the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund, and concluded with the 'Te Deum' and the 'Blessing.'

The business meeting was held immediately afterwards, in the Chapter House, the Master presiding, supported by the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. J. Wright), the secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert), the Rev. R. H. Hart Davis, and Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge.

THE LOCAL ENTHUSIAST WANTED.

A summary of the reports of the Master, the treasurer and the secretary has already appeared in our columns. The Master, in proposing that his report be adopted, said he hoped, if members had not read it, they would do so, because he had touched on a subject which he thought was a very important one, not only for that Guild but for the whole of the Guilds of the country—that was to say, the question of the recruit. The difficulty at the present time was not that their Guilds were not increasing in numbers—their own certainly was—it was not that they did not get good meetings, both annual and branch meetings, but they did find they got names in their report from a tower one year, and they were changed almost entirely the next year, which meant that a certain number were constantly dropping out. He was told that was the case all over the country. What accounted for it was, he thought, the changing conditions through which the country had passed and was passing. Whereas in the old days there was very little for the young ringer to do, at any rate in the country parishes, in the evening, now there were many attractions. There used to be no cinemas or motor-bicycles and few village clubs. Now there were many attractions that called the young men, and, for that matter, the young women too. The difficulty was to get the young men to really devote sufficient time to the mastery of the art of change-ringing. They would, perhaps, come and ring as long as what they were doing was fairly easy, but there were a great many who did not seem able to afford the time to master the more difficult side of the art. In fact, it was the local enthusiast who was wanted. He did not think the local enthusiasts had increased with the general increase in members. They had just about the same number of local enthusiasts as they had in the days when he first joined the Guild. He did not want to discuss the subject that morning, but he wanted the members to think about it and to talk it over at their meetings, and perhaps there might be some suggestions forthcoming at their next committee meeting. A valuable suggestion had been made by the Editor of 'The Ringing World' in an article which he had printed on the subject, and perhaps they might have others. He did not think, of course, that change-ringing was in any prospect of dying out; the point was, were they going to see to it that in all their bellfries change-ringing was encouraged so that their bells were rung for service, and that they could give the very best that was possible? They would always have talented bands of ringers, taken from here and there, who would delight people with their ringing, but were they to have a band in every tower able to ring methods for the church's services? They could not do it without the local enthusiast (applause).

All the reports were adopted, the treasurer making the request that members would pay their subscriptions at the beginning of the year instead of waiting until the end.

OLD OFFICERS HONOURED.

The Master was re-elected with acclamation, and the treasurer and secretary were also unanimously re-elected. The committee was re-elected as follows:—Messrs. F. Barlow, J. Evans, G. Caudwell, G. Holfield, E. Humfrey, W. Hibbert, sen., G. Martin, F. Webb, R. White, A. D. Cullum, H. Sear, and J. W. Wilkins.

The Master submitted the names of the vice-presidents for re-election, and said he wished also to propose two other names of men who had done good work for the Guild, and who, for various reasons, were not able to continue that work, but whom, he thought, the Guild would like to honour. The first was the Rev. A. C. R. Freeborn, who had been chairman of the Witney and Woodstock Branch since it was

started at the beginning of this century. He believed that in the whole of that time he had missed only one meeting of the branch, and that was when the motor which was conveying him broke down. He was always ready to put the tower at Kidlington at the disposal of ringers, and always made them welcome. He had also regularly attended their annual festival, but now he (the Master) regretted to say his health had broken down, and he had been compelled to resign the chairmanship of the branch, much to the regret of the members. The second name was that of a layman, one who had done good work for the Guild for many years, who rang many peals with the old Master, who had been chairman of his branch and rang in many of the early peals for the Guild. That gentleman was with them that day, but he did not think he had any knowledge of the proposal to make him a vice-president. He referred to Mr. W. P. Routh, whom they all loved and, he was sure, would delight to honour (applause).

Canon Coleridge seconded, remarking that there were no two men who would honour the Guild more than by accepting office as vice-presidents.—The motion was carried amid applause, and Mr. Routh briefly replied, being obviously surprised at the compliment paid him.

The Master said he would like to make mention of another branch chairman who was about to leave them—the Rev. W. J. Palmer—who was going to take up work in a parish in another county. He would like, in the name of the Guild, to propose a vote of thanks to him, and to wish him health and happiness in his new sphere of work.

The motion having been carried, the Rev. W. J. Palmer thanked the members, remarking that he was going to the diocese of Lincoln, his native county, to try and send forward the work of restoring a beautiful and ancient shrine.

The representatives on the Central Council were re-elected as follows:—The Master, the Rev. Canon Coleridge, Mr. F. W. Hoppgood and Mr. J. Evans.

Canon Coleridge made a report on the proceedings of the Council at Ipswich. He remarked, at the outset, that it ought hardly to be necessary to do so, as the detailed account of the meeting should have been read in 'The Ringing World' by every member. In his reference to the confirmation of the action of the officials of the Council in regard to Coventry bells, he said the matter was an important one, and if ever such a question came up again in connection with any other church, authorities would know that they would have to contend with the Central Council, who would look into the rights of the ringers and do their best to preserve good and ancient bells from the melting pot (applause). The Council, he said, had a full day's business, and there was the greatest good-humour and good-feeling all round. It was a most successful meeting in every possible way. He had now been president for six years, and he thought it was full time that the Council looked round for a younger man to take his place.

The Master, in thanking Canon Coleridge for his report, said his presence as chairman of the Council had had a good deal to do with the improvement of the meetings in the last few years.

THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

The following recommendation from the General Committee, moved by Mr. Wright, and seconded by Mr. A. D. Barker, was carried without discussion: 'That a collection be taken at the service of the annual festival each year, the proceeds to be added to the Guild's Restoration Fund.'

Mr. Culliam moved, and Mr. Barlow seconded, the following recommendation of the General Committee: 'That the annual festival for 1927 be held at Oxford. If for any reason Oxford be not available, Slough be the alternative.'

Mr. Barker proposed that the meeting be held at Slough. This, he said, had nothing to do with the recent disagreements on the subject, but he proposed it because the East Berks and South Bucks Branch had been through some very hard times lately, and they wanted the other branches to visit them and give them a 'leg up.' He was quite sure that a visit of the Guild to the branch for the annual festival would do a great deal of good, and he hoped the amendment would be supported out of friendship for the branch and in the interests of the Guild.—Mr. J. Evans seconded, and the motion was supported by Mr. C. C. Mayne and Mr. Fowler.

On being put, 16 voted for the amendment and 44 against, and the original motion was then carried by 49 votes to 5.

The committee recommended a grant of £4 to the restoration of East Hagbourne bells, which Mr. Butler explained, it was proposed to rehang in an entirely new frame. At present they had about £123 in the bank, and other promises amounted to £40 or £50.—Replying to a question, the Master (to whose satisfaction the work must be completed before the grant is paid over) stated that he most certainly could not advise the bells themselves being touched. At present the scheme was merely for rehousing.—At the suggestion of Mr. Trollope, it was resolved that the amount given to the fund should be £5, and the secretary said that if the people of East Hagbourne would have the job properly done he would do his best to help them in raising funds.

The election of 175 members during the year was confirmed, and, after reports by the Master and the treasurer upon the completion of the Washbrook Memorial had been made, the Memorial Committee, having completed its work, was discharged.

It was stated that after the cost of the work had been defrayed, £28 9s. 8d. remained in hand. £18 of this was given to St. Ebbe's Church to help form a fund for the maintenance of the bells, £10 to

St. Giles' towards the proposal to place two more trebles in the tower (a scheme which was much favoured as a memorial to Mr. Washbrook), and the balance to the Guild's Restoration Fund.—Mr. Miles stated that it was possible St. Giles' peal of eight might be completed much earlier than many of them had at one time hoped.

Mr. W. P. Routh proposed a vote of thanks to the Memorial Committee, and this was seconded by Mr. J. P. Fidler, of Norbury, Cheshire, a visitor to the meeting, who said that the ringers of Cheshire and Lancashire, who were associated with Mr. Washbrook in the later years of his life, much appreciated what the Oxford Guild had done in connection with the memorial. They were extremely pleased with the support that was given to the fund and with the way in which the work had been carried out.

A vote of thanks to the Bishop for his sermon, to the Dean and Chapter for making them welcome in the Cathedral and Chapter House, to the governing body of Christ Church for the use of the Hall for the luncheon, and to the organist, whose services they much appreciated, was passed on the motion of the Master, seconded by Sir George Dashwood, Bart.

This terminated the business, and the members then adjourned to the handsome dining-hall of the college for the luncheon.

Afterwards they dispersed to the various towers of Oxford and neighbouring villages for ringing.

INTEREST IN THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I doubt whether the Council take into consideration the subjects that are most interesting to ringers. They spend a good deal of energy upon the naming of methods, analysis of peals and the tuning of bells, and seem more like a debating society than a body instituted for the purpose of upholding the interests of the ringing Exercise. The question of cheap railway fares, although essentially practical, is purely one of business negotiation. What is our status, and how do we stand with the British public? One of the principal aims of the Guilds and Associations is to be 'recognised as church officials.' I think that object has already been attained. At most meetings there are a number of clergy, and generally one in the chair. Many of the chief offices of the different Guilds are occupied by a parson. Altogether we have become 'recognised' by them, and I do not see how anyone can say that we are not treated as church officials. As such we have our duties to carry out and position to uphold. If on descending a tower after a peal a hand is met with a complaint, it is hardly playing the game to coolly refer the complainer to the church authorities who gave the permission. The least that can be done is to express regret for any annoyance that may have been caused, and remind that man that for every one who did not like the ringing there were probably hundreds who did. Is not our position as ringers that of assistants to the clergy in their work? The time has gone by when one went to the parson and said, 'Please, sir, may we ring?' or 'Thank you for permission to ring.' Surely we do our bit from the tower to the best of our ability, as does the parson from the pulpit and the choir from their stalls. We are rather more important than we have hitherto led ourselves to believe. But if I read the signs of the times rightly many towers in large towns are becoming closed for peals. Is public opinion becoming alienated slightly against ringing, especially peal ringing? If this is so, what are the Council going to do about it? The clergy, I am sure, are on our side, but what about the people as a whole?—Yours faithfully,

HARRY BARTON.

The Country House,
Venlaur.

LADIES' GUILD.

A very successful meeting of the Ladies' Guild, Western District, was held at Portishead on July 17th. The weather was delightful, the bells all that could be desired, and the number of members attending much larger than usual. The Guild service was held at half-past four, Miss Orchard, of Portishead, kindly presiding at the organ. The members then adjourned to the White Cot Dairy, where an excellent tea was served.

The Rev. H. S. Briggs, on behalf of the Portishead ringers, extended a very kind welcome to the Guild, and in this he was seconded by Mr. Gillingham, who said that he should like it to be known that in Portishead they had been, for many years, almost entirely dependent on their band of ladies for their Sunday service ringing.

Tea was followed by the annual business meeting, at which the officers for the district were re-elected for the following year, and Clevedon chosen as the next place of meeting.

STREATHAM OCTOGENARIAN STILL ACTIVE

Mr. William Shepherd, for many years a member of Immanuel Church bell-ringers, took part in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins., in celebration of his 81st birthday on Monday, July 19th: W. E. G. Hewson 1, W. Shepherd 2, C. H. Shuffell 3, E. E. Bish 4, J. Lee 5, J. L. Watkins 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, H. Turner 8.

RINGERS' OUTINGS.

BRAINTREE RINGERS IN SUFFOLK.

The St. Michael's Guild, Braintree, had their annual outing on Saturday, July 10th. Starting at 8 a.m. and accompanied by some of the members' wives, the party made for Bury St. Edmunds via Haverhill. An enjoyable ring at St. Mary's was the first item on the programme, followed by touches of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich at the Norman tower. After an excellent lunch at Everard's Hotel, the party again visited the Norman tower, and rang some well struck touches of Grandsire Caters, several making their first attempt on ten bells. Lavenham was reached about 3.30 p.m. No ringing was anticipated here, as previous arrangements had been made by the Suffolk Guild for an attempt for a peal. A rest of about half an hour was made to listen to the ringing, and the splendid striking of these world-famed bells to the tune of Double Norwich was much enjoyed. At Long Melford a few touches were rung on the recently restored bells, and Sudbury was reached at 5.30 p.m.

After a bountiful tea, supplemented with strawberries and cream, St. Gregory's tower was visited. Some enjoyable touches were rung, the 'go' of the bells being excellent. The last item on the programme was at All Saints'. Here was quite another proposition, with a tenor of 28 cwt., but some good touches of Stedman Triples and Bob Major were brought round on this noble and melodious ring. Leaving Sudbury at 8.15 p.m. with a slight shower falling, the run was via Heddingham, and home was reached at 9.30 p.m., concluding one of the most pleasant outings the Guild have ever experienced. The Guild wish to tender their sincere thanks to Mr. Woodwiss, of Bury, Mr. Bexley, of Melford, and Mr. Dixon, of Sudbury, for the excellent arrangements made for ringing, and to the band that provided the rare treat at Lavenham. The courses with the 5th in 6th's place were almost faultless.

ST. ANDREW'S GUILD, HOLBORN.

The annual outing of the above took place on Saturday, July 3rd. Leaving St. Andrew's Church at 8.30 a.m. by charabanc, the route was to Beaconsfield, where at the church the party were met by Mr. C. Mayne. After pulling the bells up in peal, touches of Double Norwich, Treble Bob and Stedman were rung. The next destination was West Wycombe, and here, after stabling the charabanc and leaving the steeplekeeper, Mr. Joe Rayner (who is over 90 years of age) in charge of Mr. Harman, who is 85 years old, the party undertook the climb up to the church. After much gasping, they succeeded in reaching the top, where Messrs. Hoing and Coles were awaiting them. The bells were soon going to Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Major, and most of the party took the opportunity of going up in the ball at the top of the tower, from where a fine view is obtained. At dinner, at the George and Dragon, they were joined by the Vicar of West Wycombe, who gave the party a hearty welcome. After a substantial repast, cigars, which had been kindly sent by the Rector of St. Andrew's, were passed round, and his health was heartily drunk. Next going by way of Stockenchurch, Lane End and Marlow to Boyne Hill, Messrs. Copey and G. Martin were awaiting the party, who had an hour's ringing in various methods before continuing the journey to Slough for tea, for which Mr. Fussell had made arrangements. It had been intended to ring at Slough, but owing to illness this could not be done, but Mr. Fussell, with ever-ready thought, had got permission for the use of Windsor Parish Church bells for an hour's ringing. Stedman, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise were tapped off, and after leaving the tower the company adjourned to the Carpenters' Arms for a social, in the course of which songs, handbell selections and gramophone selections were enjoyed. After a splendid run up the new West Road, St. Andrew's was safely reached, all unanimous in having spent a perfect day. The ringers take this opportunity of thanking the various vicars and steeplekeepers for their kind permission for use of the bells, Mr. Hoing for making arrangements for dinner, and, last but not least, Mr. Fussell for making all arrangements at Slough and Windsor.

NETHERTON RINGERS VISIT DERBYSHIRE.

On Saturday, June 26th, the annual outing of the St. Andrew's company took place, a visit being paid to the beautiful town of Matlock, Derbyshire, by motor charabanc. The company, under the leadership of Mr. Albert Prestidge, included Mr. A. Greenfield, who had assisted the first-named gentleman to make the whole of the arrangements, the veteran 'Dick' Round, who is serving his fifty-fourth year as a Sunday service ringer at Nether-ton Parish Church, and Mr. Reuben Hall, of West Bromwich, who was looking and feeling exceedingly well considering he is in his 74th year. Mr. Hall is now the 'father' of the Black Country ringers. Another ringing enthusiast was also with the party, namely, Mr. Alfred Rowley, formerly of Martley, Wore., and now of 'Pepper Box' fame, for he holds at present the position of leader at the latter tower, an office held for many years by the late Mr. Wm. Rock Small. The party, numbering fifteen, among whom were twelve accomplished ringers, prepared themselves for a long 'peal' of pleasure. The conducting was placed in the hands of Mr. A. Greenfield, and the word 'go' was given shortly before eight a.m. The outward journey reminded one of the 'treble' in Surprise methods, for it was a zig-zag 'course' until Walsall was reached. A good 'compass' was attained, for the 'charm' was running smoothly and well. At Alrewas the first 'part end' came up in something like an hour and a quarter. By this time the

appetites of the party needed a 'splice.' The first strand of this was well 'overlapped' by a second, and the third litted in and was well 'tucked,' making a 'long splice' to last through Burton, Derby and Duffield, the latter being well known as the home of the late Sir Arthur P. Heywood. The last part of the outward route was through beautiful scenery, and Matlock was reached shortly before mid-day. The next 'course' was dinner at the Crown Hotel. This was splendidly served, and there was not a 'trip' in this 'turning course.' During the afternoon places of interest were visited, and one important event took place which was appreciated by the 'twelve,' but the special request of 'Leader' Prestidge forbids the writer to give account of the same.

Later, two hours were spent at picturesque Matlock Bath, and then the return journey was made, and home was reached about 9.40 p.m., after such a long and enjoyable outing. Thanks are extended to the clergy and wardens of Netherpton Parish Church, and to all those who assisted to make the outing a success. The ringers also wish to thank their leader, Mr. A. Prestidge, and Mr. A. Greenfield for carrying out the arrangements in such an excellent manner.

CHICHESTER RINGERS' TOUR.

Chichester Cathedral ringers had their outing on Thursday, June 24th. Leaving by cars at 9 a.m., Mr. P. H. Doick was picked up at Pulborough, and Billingshurst was reached in good time. There they were met by the Vicar, who gave them a very hearty reception. Two touches were brought round on the bells, and then the party went on to Warnham, where they were met by another good friend, and after two touches proceeded through some lovely country to Capel (Surrey), where a cold luncheon was awaiting them. Having afterwards visited the tower for ringing, they proceeded to Newdigate, but could not ring there as one of the chiming hammers was in the way. Tracks were, therefore, made towards Horsham, a heavy thunderstorm being encountered on the way. Mr. Stephen Knight, a very old friend, met the party and rang with them. After a 'knife and fork' tea the journey was resumed to Petworth, which was reached by seven o'clock, where two more touches were rung. The conducting was shared between Messrs. W. E. Ticehurst and H. J. Tucker. Chichester was eventually reached at 10 p.m., after a most enjoyable day. The best thanks are due to all the incumbents for the use of the bells, and also to all those who met the party on the tour.

SOUTH CROYDON RINGERS.

On Saturday, June 19th, the ringers of St. Peter's, Croydon, again enjoyed a very pleasant day, visiting a few of the beauty spots of Sussex and Kent, bent on climbing the belfry steps and ringing the bells of the churches which greatly help to make such places so picturesque. Leaving South Croydon by charabanc soon after eight o'clock, and favoured with lovely weather, they spent the morning visiting the churches at Turner's Hill, Edenbridge and Coleman's Hatch, after which they proceeded to Lewes to enjoy an excellent luncheon which was prepared for them, to be followed by a visit to the ten-bell tower there. At Lewes they had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Robert J. Dawe, who accompanied them to Chailey, where they had another pleasure of meeting Mr. Western and Mr. King. After enjoying a few good touches on the six bells at Chailey, the journey was continued to Hartfield, where an awaiting tea was thoroughly enjoyed. Unfortunately no ringing could be done here as the bells were being renovated, so tracks were made for the tower at Oxted, where the last ringing of the day was very much enjoyed. Touches of Stedman, Kent and Grandsire formed the programme of the day, and after a pleasant evening run through the country lanes from Oxted, South Croydon was reached soon after ten p.m.

ST. JAMES', LEYLAND.

On Saturday, June 26th, the ringers of the above church, with their wives and friends, and accompanied by the Vicar, had their annual outing. A start was made about 1.30 p.m. in cars kindly lent by friends in the parish. At Scorton, the church was visited, and after a look round the ringers made for the tower, where the bells were raised and several touches rung. A move was then made for Lancaster, which was reached about 4.30. Here the ringers paid a visit to St. Thomas' Church, where they were met by some of the local band, and enjoyed an hour's good ringing. They then made for the Empire Cafe, where a substantial tea was provided, after which they proceeded to Horsey, where they were again met by the local ringers. Full advantage was taken of this lovely peal of bells, and touches were rung of London and Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob and Plain Bob. After viewing the scenery and the ancient church, a start was made for home, which was reached in safety, all expressing pleasure with the day's outing. The ringers wish to thank the Vicars, steeplekeepers, and all those who helped to make the outing a success.

CHELLENHAM (ST. MARY'S) GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 30th, the annual outing of the above Guild took place. A start was made at 9.30 a.m. for Arle, where photographs were taken of the party after others had joined up. The route lay through Gloucester, Newnham-on-Severn, where on the river bank lunch was partaken of. After a few touches on the eight bells, a move was made to Lydney, where dinner was served at the Swan Hotel. After dinner a short toast list was gone through, and then a move was made to the tower. The eight bells were raised in peal, and a few touches were rung with the assistance of Mr. Davis and

other Lydney ringers. At Newland, a few more short touches were rung. Going on to Coleford and Kerne Bridge, the party arrived at Ross for tea, and the last ringing of the day was on the Parish Church bells. The Guild had the company of their old friends, Mr. Clark and Mr. Richards, and the Vicar paid them a visit while the ringing was in progress. Cheltenham was eventually reached about 9.30 p.m., all having spent a most enjoyable day.

ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

On Saturday, the ringers of St. Margaret's, Westminster, held their annual outing. Train was taken to Hatfield, where there is a peal of eight bells (tenor 26 cwt. or thereabouts). Here touches of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Major and courses of Cambridge, Bristol and London were rung, and the interesting features in the church, so closely connected with the Cecil family, were inspected. Mr. J. T. Kentish joined the party here and acted as guide. After the ringing, the ringers sat down to an excellent meat tea served at the 'One Bell.' Next came a drive by charabanc through the delightful scenery of Hertfordshire by Hertford town to Ware, where there is a good peal (tenor 22 cwt.). Stedman, Double Norwich and Bristol were rung here, and then on to Knebworth Church, which is situated in the middle of a park and near the mansion of Lord Lytton. Superlative and London Surprise were rung here, and a postcard signed by all the party was sent to Mrs. Deal congratulating her on the happy advent of a son and heir. And time was getting late a move had to be made back to Hatfield to catch the last train. Whether it was the coal strike or the pure 'cussedness' of railway companies or whatever it was, that train was late coming in and later still getting on with its journey, and it was just midnight before it arrived at King's Cross. Now, the St. Margaret's ringers do not live at King's Cross. Some had a dozen or fifteen miles more to go, and as it was a case of catching last trains south and east and west, they stood not on the order of their going, but directly the train did arrive, went. Fortunately, no one did miss his last train, so that was all right. The thanks of the party are due to Mr. Hewitt, who was general secretary and treasurer, and to Mr. Kentish, who made the local arrangements, for a most successful and enjoyable outing.

STANMORE RINGERS' OUTING.

The ringers of Stanmore, Middlesex, had an outing on June 26th, when, en route to Haslemere, they stopped to ring at East Molesey. At Haslemere they had lunch, then rang at the Parish Church, touches of Grandsire and Stedman being brought round. The return journey was made via Staines, where, after tea, there was ringing at St. Peter's Church, and a visit to the British Legion, where Messrs. J. Milner, F. Goddard and C. Tucker gave selections on handbells.

A SUFFOLK TRIP.

The ringers of Thornham Magna, Suffolk, had a long motor trip to a number of towers, at each of which ringing was indulged in. The first was Earl Soham, where there are six bells, then Framlingham, with its peal of eight, Dennington, a ring of six, Peasenhall, also a peal of six, and so to Southwold with its octave. Old friends were met in the person of Mr. W. Crickmer at Earl Soham, J. Hall at Framlingham, J. Wardley at Dennington, and several of the local men at Peasenhall, while at Southwold Mr. J. Larter received them. Dinner was partaken of at Wrentham, and some of the local men, with Mr. F. W. Nantoun, joined them at the towers. The tour was continued to Lowestoft and Beccles, the eight at the former town and the fine peal of ten at the latter being rung, tea, arranged by Mr. R. J. Goate, being enjoyed at Beccles. The last call was at Bungay, where there was ringing with the local men and Mr. E. Lincoln. The Thornham ringers were accompanied by Messrs. E. F. Poppy and H. Day, of Eye.

'RINGERS' SUNDAY' AT HANLEY.

Sunday, July 18th, was set apart as 'Ringers' Sunday,' and the collections at both services were set apart to defray the expenses of the ringers' outing which was held at an earlier date. An invitation to visit the belfry after each service was accepted in a warm manner by the congregation, who came in good numbers to see how the bells were rung.

They were welcomed by the head ringer (Mr. S. Sargeant), who showed them the manipulation of a bell and gave a short talk on ringing generally.

The idea underlying this was the education of the public, as has often been urged in 'The Ringing World,' and it was felt to be a good thing if, on 'Ringers' Sunday,' at least a few of the congregation should get to know a little about how church bells are rung and who rings them. The innovation was successful, and visitors were both interested and instructed.

During the day the band rang the following touches:—504 and 168 Stedman Triples, 350 Grandsire Triples, and a Plain Course of Stedman Caters.

QUARTER PEAL IN A NEW METHOD.

At Norbury (Hazel Grove), Cheshire, on Monday, July 19th, at the Parish Church of St. Thomas, 1,280 Clarendon Surprise Major in 48 mins.: L. Clough 1, W. W. Wolstencroft 2, J. Fenley, jun., 3, H. Langley 4, T. Wilde 5, W. Fernley 6, J. Fenley, sen. (conductor) 7, J. W. Hartley 8. Longest length yet rung in the method.

SINGLE METHOD 'SUPERLATIVE' EXTENSION.

By GEORGE BAKER.

Having cleared up the misapprehension concerning Shipway's Surprise method, let us now turn our attention to 'Superlative.'

Everyone knows that Superlative Surprise Major is a double method, but only a few know that Superlative on ten bells is an irregular double method except for three lead-heads, for which see below:—

1st lead-head	1234567890	REGULAR.
2nd	"	083974526 irregular.
3rd	"	658243907 "
4th	"	795038264 REGULAR.
5th	"	429685073 irregular.
6th	"	302759648 "
7th	"	860492735 REGULAR.
8th	"	578320489 irregular.
9th	"	947806352 "

We are all, or nearly all, agreed that methods with irregular lead-heads are not worth ringing, and that is the reason I discarded this extension of 'Superlative' many years ago, and why I am not now going to ask the Editor to publish the figures: they are not worth the space they would occupy; but in passing I might add that this irregular extension of Superlative Major to Royal can be carried on to twelve bells, and the lead-head of 13527496e8t0 can be brought up by leaving out the Extreme when the treble is having her whole pull behind. If the Extreme was made in that position, the Maximus, too, would be an irregular method.

Following are Single Method Extensions of Superlative Major to Royal and Maximus, and anyone who will take the trouble to compare the place-making will find there is no alteration from Major in either Royal or Maximus until the Treble passes into 9-0; and the Royal extension, discovered in 1915, is a true method.

Royal. Maximus.

1234567890	1234567890et
2143658709	2143658709te
1246357890	1246357890et
2164538709	2164538709te
2614357890	2614357890et
6241538709	6241538709te
2614538709	2614538709te
6241850397	6241850397e9
2648153079	2648153079e9
6284510397	6284510397e9
6824153079	6824153079e9
8642510397	8642510397e9
6824501937	6824501937e79
8642059173	8642051937e79
6840251937	6840251937e79
8604529173	8604521937e79
6840592173	6840529173e79
8604957231	860415e29173
8068475213	8064e521937
0896742531	08t6e4259173
8069475231	8064e295713
Lead-head	08t6e4927531
1573920486	0t8e69472513
	t0e896745231
	0t8e69472531
	Lead-head
	157392e4t608

For reasons which at the present time would hardly be intelligible to the Exercise, but in which reciprocal relationship of the opposite pairs of bells, as found in the Primary Principles and the Treble Bob Principle, have a large part, I am more than ever convinced that the double extension of Superlative Major to Maximus discovered by Mr. H. W. Wilde is the nearest and probably the only true double extension of Superlative to 12 bells.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S DEPARTURE.

The Bishop of London left London yesterday for Quebec on his world tour, and on Sunday last he went to his old Parish Church of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, to preach, at evensong, his last sermon in this country before leaving. He was welcomed in the usual way by the ringers, and a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Triples was brought round in 45 mins.: T. O. Bone 1, J. H. Parrott 2, F. Parrott 3, W. W. Stevens 4, S. Penfold 5, H. Hills 6, F. Smith (conductor) 7, H. C. Taylor 8. After service a short touch of Grandsire Triples, conducted by S. Penfold, was rung as a farewell to the Bishop and an expression of good wishes for the success of his tour. During his sermon the Bishop made mention of the bells and congratulated the parish on the splendid peal it possesses.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

HORNSEY.—On Sunday, July 25th, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Bob Minor in 28 mins.: C. H. Ross 1, T. G. Deal 2, H. Blee 3, E. G. Hibble 4, R. Lister 5, J. G. Nash (conductor) 6.

GREAT HORKESELEY, ESSEX.—On Sunday, July 25th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: W. Gusterson 1, E. Leggett 2, A. Ives 3, C. Bowor 4, J. King 5, W. Stiff (conductor) 6.

DARTFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, July 25th, at Holy Trinity Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 41 mins.: J. H. Cheesman (conductor) 1, R. Smith 2, R. Smith 3, E. Brown 4, B. Holden 5, E. Bates 6, T. Groombridge, jun., 7, R. Jenkins 8.

NORTHFLEET.—On Sunday morning, July 25th, 1,200 Bob Major: L. Stacey 1, H. Argent 2, R. Copohn 3, L. Carrot 4, G. Ambrose 5, G. Morrid 6, W. Ware 7, R. Smith (conductor) 8.

OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: T. Marshall 1, Miss E. M. Burnett 2, R. Martin 3, J. Hughes 4, R. Kynaston 5, R. Edwards 6, R. T. Evans (conductor) 7, E. H. Kynaston 8.

BATH.—On Sunday, July 25th, for morning service, at St. Saviour's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,344 changes) in 48 mins.: A. Prince 1, J. Greening Taylor 2, Miss N. G. Williams 3, W. J. Prescott 4, G. Jones 5, T. Grant 6, J. Hallett 7, C. W. Bell (conductor) 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, July 25th, for evensong at St. Mary's, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 44 mins.: J. J. Symons 1, T. R. Taylor 2, C. Groves 3, H. Jennings (Ryde) 4, J. Topp 5, J. D. Harris 6, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. T. Greenwood 8.

CROYDON.—At St. Peter's Church, South Croydon, for evening service, on Sunday, July 25th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: D. Wright (conductor) 1, *T. Bloxham 2, *F. Larbey 3, W. Bulpitt 4, T. Bannister 5, C. Dean 6, F. Collins 7, W. Groves 8. *First quarter-peal of Kent Major.

LEICESTER.—On Sunday evening, July 18th, at St. Margaret's, for patronal festival service, at which the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury preached, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 48 mins.: W. L. Johnson 1, F. W. Sharrman 2, W. J. Tanser 3, R. Grant 4, J. Morris 5, G. S. Morris 6, E. Morris (conductor) 7, J. Grant 8.

LLANDAFF.—On Sunday, July 3rd, at the Cathedral for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 47 mins.: E. Coles 1, C. O. Hobbs 2, F. J. Bailey 3, L. Wright 4, S. Dawe 5, E. Coombes 6, E. Carter (first quarter as conductor) 7, J. Povey 8.

PETWORTH, SUSSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, June 21st, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: A. D. Rowe 1, P. H. Doick 2, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 3, W. E. Ticehurst 4, C. F. Greenfield 5, J. H. Blake 6, M. Heffer 7, H. J. Doick 8. The ringers of 2, 5 and 8 hail from Pulborough, the rest from Chichester.

CHELMSFORD.—At the Cathedral, on Whit-Sunday, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): E. Rueter 1, J. Wood 2, A. Saltmarsh 3, A. Head 4, R. C. Clark 5, F. W. Elliott (Rickmansworth) 6, H. W. Kirton 7, C. Pease 8, L. J. Clark (conductor) 9, G. Cooper 10.

OVER, CAMBS.—At St. Mary's Church, on Whit-Sunday, for evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor in 24 mins.: A. W. T. Ginn 1, F. G. Gleaves 2, B. Wayman 3, F. Ginn 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.—On Monday, for practice, 720 Kent Treble Bob: H. Robinson (first of Treble Bob) 1, W. Ginn 2, A. W. T. Ginn 3, Len. Ginn 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5, F. Ginn 6.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

By a curious coincidence our leading article of July 2nd on 'Educating the Public' appeared at a time when the suggestions were being carried out in a practical manner at Wakefield by Mr. William Reyner and brother ringers. Two societies amongst others in the city with which Mr. Reyner is connected are the 'Wakefield Paxton Society' (the first of its kind in England) and the 'Wakefield Naturalists' Society.' Both these societies have regular weekly meeting and lectures on a variety of subjects, and recently Mr. Reyner was invited by the committee to contribute to the programme. He chose, 'Bells and Bell-ringers,' and his address was illustrated with lantern slides. This lecture was a complete success. Mr. Reyner was fortunate in securing slides and valuable information from Messrs. John Taylor and Co. of Loughborough, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel, and Messrs. Gillett and Johnston of Croydon, while Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, loaned interesting literature. To all these Mr. Reyner tenders his sincere thanks.

The audience were deeply interested, and on the following Saturday over fifty of them, both ladies and gentlemen, visited the tower at Sandal (about two miles from the centre of the city) and saw a practical demonstration of change-ringing. For the lantern lecture, Mr. Reyner had a few special slides prepared, including one of that famous campanologist, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, and recited the lines on his death, composed by the Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, which made an appropriate conclusion to the lecture.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 8d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Clifford District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Clyro—bells (5) available from 3.30 p.m.—on Saturday, July 31st. Service 5.30. Tea 6 o'clock.—J. P. Hyett, Dis. Sec., Dulas Terrace, Hay.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Melksham on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5. Business meeting follows tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Branch Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next ringing meeting will be held at Penn (6 bells) on Saturday, July 31st, at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. There will be no business meeting.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Horwich on Saturday, July 31st. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Halesworth District.—A meeting will be held at Wissett on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. A hearty invitation to all ringers.—J. Larter, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bakewell on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) ready from 3 o'clock. All ringers will be welcomed.—Charles Draper, Local Hon. Sec., 25, Western Road, Derby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Twickenham on Saturday, July 31st. Tower open at 3.15. First meeting here since the bells have been rehung, and a hearty welcome to all.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at Stonham Aspell (Eye buses) on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (10) available from 2 p.m. Tea (1/- each) at Ten Bells Inn at 5 followed by business meeting. Please send notice for tea to Mr. W. C. Rumsey, Dis. Sec., Debenham, Stowmarket.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, July 31st. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Bay Horse Inn at a charge of 1s. 9d. per head.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Northfleet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells available at 3 p.m. The association service will be held in the church at 5 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. C. G. T. Colson, M.A. Tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome, beginners especially.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Alfriston on Saturday, July 31st. Tower open at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at the George Inn at 5 o'clock (1s. per head). Business meeting to follow.—George W. Stokes, Hon. Dis. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY will hold their quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 31st, at Norbury Parish Church. Bells available from 3.30 p.m., and the meeting held at 7 p.m.—F. Althorp, Hon. Sec.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Blaenavon on Saturday, July 31st. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Galleywood on Saturday, July 31st. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Buses leave Chelmsford 2 o'clock, 3 and 3.15, and leave Galleywood about every half hour until 9.45 p.m. The bells have just been overhauled, and are to be opened at this meeting by the Vicar. All visiting ringers will be welcomed, and a good attendance is requested.—P. Timson, 80, Springfield Street, Chelmsford.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. Meetings for August: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 1st, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 16th and the 30th, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 10th, at 8.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18, Merrick Square, S.E.1.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—A quarterly meeting of the district will be held at Cleobury Mortimer on Monday, Aug. 2nd. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Kindly advise me not later than Wednesday, July 28th, number attending requiring tea.—W. J. Beniams, Hon. Dis. Sec., 33, New Street, Ludlow.

NORFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Aylsham on Bank Holiday, August 2nd. By kind permission of the Vicar, the ring of ten bells of the Parish Church are placed at the disposal of the members. Luncheon at the Black Boys' Hotel at 1.30 p.m., followed by the business meeting. Tickets 2s. 6d. per head.—Arthur L. Coleman, Sec., High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT.—Gala Day and Sports, Dancing, etc., in aid of Sutton-on-Trent Church Bells Restoration Fund.—The new bells of Sutton-on-Trent will be open all day for ringing from 10 a.m. on Monday (Bank Holiday), Aug. 2nd. Visitors from everywhere welcome. Tea provided on ground from 3.30 p.m. in marquee. Plain tea 1s., children 6d.; meat tea 1s. 6d. and 2s. Admission to grounds 6d. and 3d. The L.N.E. Railway will issue cheap tickets to Crow Park Station from Doncaster, Grantham, Sheffield and intermediate stations. Cheap motor buses from Retford and Newark.—H. Haigh, 103, Gateford Road, Worksop.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Next meeting on August Bank Holiday at Handsworth (8 bells). Committee meeting 4.45. Tea at 1s. per head, providing a minimum of 30 apply for same not later than Friday, July 30th, to Mr. F. Watkinson, 159, Hall Road, Handsworth, Sheffield. The Vicarage grounds will be thrown open to visitors.—Colin Harrison, 62, Roach Road, Sheffield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on Aug. 5th and 19th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 10th; Southwark Cathedral on the 17th; *St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 24th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 26th; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guildsborough District.—A special meeting will be held at Wellford on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Usual arrangements. Will those requiring tea please notify me by the 4th?—W. Bott, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. James', Waterfoot (6 bells), on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting 7 o'clock. A good attendance is requested.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Hereford District.—A quarterly meeting of the district will be held at Wellington on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Bells (6) available 3.30 to 8.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. free. Please notify me not later than Aug. 4th.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deanery Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7th, at Harlow Common. Bells available at 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Tea will be provided free of charge to all advising me before Aug. 4th. A business meeting will follow tea. (Buses will be running down from Wanstead through Epping and up from Saffron Walden through Bishop's Stortford.) All ringers welcome. — Claud Beeston, Hon. Sec., 5, King Street, Bishop's Stortford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Axbridge on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Service 5 o'clock. Tea and meeting after. Bells afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Whitwick on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Bells (8) open from 3 o'clock. Business meeting 4.30. All ringers and friends welcome.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting of the above will be held at Clifton (6 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Tower open 2.30. Buses start from Collin Street 1.30, 2.40, 4.5, Bartons Greyfriar Gate 1.45, 2.45 and every hour onwards. Tea will be provided for those who advise Mrs. H. Butler, Clifton, Notts, by Thursday, Aug. 5th. All ringers welcome. The Rectory gardens will be open to the members. F. Blood, Hon. Local Sec., 21, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Hale on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting 5.30.—W. Hughes, Hon. Sec., 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—The next meeting will be held at Headcorn on Saturday, August 14th. Bells available from 2.30. Tea at 5 o'clock.—A. C. Kay, Dis. Sec., 6, Sturges Road, Ashford.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District. — Next quarterly meeting at Whitwell on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) available 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea, provided by the Vicar, for those who notify me before Tuesday, the 10th inst.—B. J. Snow, Hon. Dis. Sec., 2, 'Collingwood,' Daniel Street, Ryde, I.W.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District. — The next meeting will be held at Knebworth on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea, kindly provided by the Rector (the Rev. W. V. Mason) at the Rectory, at 5 p.m. Will those intending to be present kindly endeavour to let me know not later than Wednesday, Aug. 11th?—E. W. Day, Hon. Dis. Sec., 117, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY, GUILDFORD.—There will be no Sunday service ringing at Holy Trinity, Guildford, throughout August. Church closed for renovations. Practices as usual from the 17th prox.—George W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

SITUATION VACANT.

KINGTON MAGNA, GILLINGHAM, DORSET. — Post of Parish Clerk vacant September; communicant required, with good tenor voice, musical, change ringer; remuneration £16 per annum, with free allotment; good house available at moderate rent.—Apply, Rev. F. L. Edwards.

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THE PARISH CLERK AND HIS DUTIES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I shall be much obliged to you if you will give me a little space to supplement my advertisement appearing among your notices. The resignation of our clerk, after twenty-nine years' service, renders a new appointment necessary. As in most country parishes, the office includes the various duties attaching to the church and churchyard—cleaning, lighting, heating, bell-ringing and other details. (For digging graves the clerk makes a special charge.) Canon law provides that the clerk shall be 'of honest conversation, and sufficient for his reading, writing, and also for his competent skill in singing.' In our case we require a man with a good tenor voice. We also want a change-ringer in elementary methods—a bob-caller will be acceptable—but one, like the late James Washbrook or Mat Wood, not above ringing well-struck call-changes for the benefit of the 'weaker brethren.' Naturally, such a church official must be a regular communicant.

I imagine readers making the ironical comment that the authorities of Kingston Magna Church 'don't half expect something for £16 a year!' But given the qualifications, the actual hours of work amount on the average to quite a few in the week. Obviously, the man appointed needs to have an independent occupation. A shoemaker could well ply his trade here. A jobbing gardener, or any man handy with a spade, scythe and reaphook, could find a fair amount of employment. We can, as stated, provide a small allotment, and by an apt coincidence a good house and spacious garden, with apple trees and pigsty all complete, will be vacant at Michaelmas, and can be let under certain conditions at a very reasonable rent. Many applications for the house have been received, but it is being held open at present for this purpose. An early reply to the advertisement is invited. Needless to say, any applicant should be a genuine and devoted churchman.—Yours obediently,

F. LL. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna.

PRINCE'S VISIT TO WEST HERTS.

At St. Mary's, Apsley End, on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to the West Herts Hospital, on Tuesday, July 20th, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: F. Tompkins 1, J. Stopp 2, C. Henley 3, A. Brinklow 4, A. V. Good 5, H. Golding (conductor) 6. First quarter in the method by all the band.

CHICHESTER.—On Wednesday, June 23rd, at the Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 49 mins.: T. Doick 1, F. Bird (conductor) 2, A. D. Rowe 3, H. J. Tucker 4, W. E. Titchhurst 5, C. Button 6, J. H. Blake 7, C. Smithers 8. The above was rung as a birthday compliment to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. C. Button hails from Yapton, and F. Bird from Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

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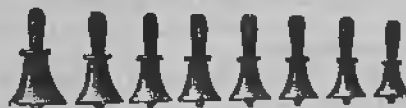
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