

# THE RINGING WORLD

No. 830. Vol. XXII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1927.

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

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### ANOTHER CONFERENCE.

Birmingham to-morrow is to try the experiment, suggested originally by one of its own prominent ringers and first put into practice last month at Bristol, of having an informal conference in conjunction with the gathering which will assemble for the Johnson Commemoration Dinner. At Bristol the experiment was an interesting innovation; it was part of a crowded afternoon, but it was certainly worth the trial, and doubtless a similar feature will find a place in the programme next year. At Birmingham the day's proceedings will not be so closely packed, and half an hour is to be given to the conference, between the close of ringing and the dinner. The subject chosen follows as an almost natural sequel to that discussed at Bristol, where consideration was given to the question of how best to obtain recruits for the Exercise. To-morrow's debate will centre round the question of how to retain the interest of beginners when they have been obtained. In view of present day tendencies the subject is no less pressing and no less important than the earlier problem.

Time was when recruits were not always welcomed to the Exercise. The young man who was attracted to ringing was not greeted with open arms, the mysteries of the art were not readily revealed to him, his place was on the belfry seat while his 'betters' were ringing, and it was only after a long and patiently spent probationary period that he was eventually, and even then sometimes grudgingly admitted to the select circle. It usually needed unquenchable interest and undaunted determination on the part of a man to force his way into the Exercise. How different are things to-day! We have far more peals of bells. Bells are going up faster than competent ringers can be found to man them; the gaps that occur in the personnel in the belfries are difficult to fill; the attractions of the picture palace and the dance hall are a lure which makes it increasingly hard to find young men willing to take a serious interest in our art. Even where beginners can be found, instructors lament that they cannot be kept; the close application and constant practice which, in the vast majority of cases, are necessary before a man becomes even a passable change ringer frequently damp the first enthusiasm of the learner, who then becomes an easy prey to the less intellectual, but more easily acquired pursuits which the modern world offers to everyone.

What the Exercise has got to do is to bring its methods of dealing with beginners more up to date. The treatment given to young aspirants fifty or sixty years ago.

(Continued on page 98.)

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has vanished, but it is by no means certain that introduction to and instruction in our art could not be made more attractive than it is at present. The problem is one that presents itself to all associations, and must be faced. In some few cases it is already forcing itself upon those organisations who are alive enough to realise its pressing importance. The conference at Birmingham to-morrow will have the opportunity of giving a lead on the subject, and we hope that out of it will come some practical suggestions, which associations and individual bands will be able to follow up and apply with advantage.

## TWELVE BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

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

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,  
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 33 cwt. in C sharp.

JOHN NEAL ... .. Treble	JAMES H. SHEPHERD ... .. 7
ALBERT WALKER... .. 2	WILLIAM DOWDING ... .. 8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... .. 3	ERNEST MANSELL ... .. 9
HERBERT C. SPENCER... .. 4	THOMAS SMITH ... .. 10
SYDNEY F. PALMER ... .. 5	HERBERT KNIGHT ... .. 11
MORRIS J. MORRIS ... .. 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by the late JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER

This peal has 20 courses in the inverted titlums position and 18 courses in the handstroke home position. Rung with the bells muffled as a token of deep respect to John Carter, of Birmingham, and Arthur Thompson, for 22 years a member of the choir at St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tuesday, February 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,  
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt. in C.

HERBERT C. SPENCER ... Treble	JAMES H. SHEPHERD ... 7
ALBERT H. WARD ... .. 2	*FRED PRICE ... .. 8
GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 3	ERNEST MANSELL ... .. 9
JAMES GEORGE ... .. 4	SAMUEL GROVE... .. 10
ALBERT WALKER... .. 5	JOHN NEAL ... .. 11
THOMAS MILLER ... .. 6	JOSEPH E. SYKES ... Tenor

Composed by the late JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER

\* First peal on 12 bells. Specially arranged and rung in the inverted titlums and handstroke home position, with the bells muffled, as a token of deep respect to the memory of John Carter, of Birmingham, for many years a very honoured member of St. Martin's Guild.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Four Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,  
A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

EDWARD JENKINS ... .. Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... .. 7
JOHN WILKINSON ... .. 2	TITUS BARLOW ... .. 8
THOMAS HAMMOND ... .. 3	JAMES MARTIN ... .. 9
THOMAS WILDE... .. 4	HERBERT LUDKIN ... .. 10
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... .. 5	JAMES H. RIDING... .. 11
*JOHN E. BIBBY ... .. 6	EDWARD CAUNCE... .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by EDWARD JENKINS.

\* First peal on twelve bells. This is the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on the bells and by all the band. It is the second peal of its kind in the county.

SIMPSON, BUCKS.—On Friday, December 31st, with the bells half-muffled to ring out the old year, 720 of Double Court Minor: H. Giles 1, G. Guest 2, R. C. Underwood 3, E. Hanks 4, J. Clare 5, C. W. Smith (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method on the bells and by all the band except the conductor.—On Sunday, January 23rd, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: R. C. Underwood 1, H. Giles 2, J. Clare 3, E. Hanks 4, C. W. Smith 5, G. Guest (conductor) 6. First 720 of Minor as conductor, and first attempt.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 13, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5002 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in C sharp.

FRED HAYES ... .. 1	HARRY WINGROVE ... .. 7
RALPH COLES ... .. 2	GEORGE TWITCHEN ... .. 8
*MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS ... 3	FRANK W. BOXELL ... .. 9
FRANK BOREHAM ... .. 4	CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. 10
*GEORGE WHITE ... .. 5	JAMES W. WILKINS ... .. 11
EDWARD R. COLES ... .. 6	JAMES BLACKMOOR ... .. } Tenor
	*ALBERT E. BUTLER ... .. }

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by FRED HAYES.

\* First peal on twelve.

TEN BELL PEALS.

SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,  
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK ... Treble	NORMAN A. TOMLINSON ... 6
JOHN ARMSTRONG ... .. 2	JAMES E. DAVIS ... .. 7
*MISS PHOEBE A. UPSHER ... 3	WILLIAM H. HEWITT ... .. 8
*MISS FRED A. ORR ... .. 4	JOHN E. MILLER ... .. 9
*MISS EDITH K. PARKER ... 5	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by JOHN ARMSTRONG

\* First peal of Cambridge Royal. First peal of Cambridge Royal as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to J. E. Miller.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ALFRED CHAPMAN ... .. Treble	HENRY RUMENS ... .. 6
ROBERT MAYNARD, JUN. ... 2	JAMES C. ADAMS ... .. 7
RONALD BULLEN ... .. 3	FRED C. MAYNARD ... .. 8
JOHN H. WILKINS ... .. 4	CHARLES T. COLES ... .. 9
ROBERT MAYNARD, SEN. ... 5	WILLIAM MORLEY ... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES

\* First peal on ten bells. Rung as a welcome peal to the Rev. G. D. Oakley, M.A., who was instituted Vicar of Walthamstow by the Bishop of Chelmsford on the previous Thursday. With the exception of the ringers of the 3rd, the above are all members of the local band.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

EDWARD ROBBINS ... .. Treble	BERNARD DITCHER ... .. 5
GEORGE LEWIS ... .. 2	CHARLES MASON ... .. 6
JOHN HOLMAN ... .. 3	JOHN H. BROTBWELL ... .. 7
* HAROLD KENT ... .. 4	JOHN FLINT ... .. Tenor

\* First peal of Surprise. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. Frederick Hancock, a member of the local band for over 60 years.

MALDON.—On Tuesday, January 25th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,440 changes, being 720 of Grandsire Doubles and 720 of Plain Bob Doubles: R. Bird 1, D. Hann 2, A. South 3, F. White 4, S. C. Cavd (conductor) 5, J. Wackter 6. These are the first 720's rung by these ringers in these methods.

HORNSEY.—On January 31st, at St. Mary's Church, in 29 mins., 720 Bob Minor, composed by Benjamin Annable: H. Bell 1, T. G. Deal 2, J. G. Nash (conductor) 3, E. G. Hibble 4, R. Lister 5, C. H. Ross 6. Rung for the 201st anniversary of the composer's death, and as a compliment to the conductor on his coming of age.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Three Hours,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

EDWARD G. STOCKER ... .. Treble	WILLIAM HOWE ... .. 5
EDWIN SHEPHERD ... .. 2	JOHN M. SPINNER ... .. 6
ALFRED MONKLEY ... .. 3	JOHN R. HAYMAN ... .. 7
FRED DIMOND ... .. 4	GEORGE RENDELL ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN R. HAYMAN.

Ringers of 2nd, 3rd and 5th from Exeter, the rest are local men.

SWINTON, MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. 7 lb. in E flat.

PETER LAFLIN ... .. Treble	ROBERT WALLWORK ... .. 5
WILLIAM BIBBY ... .. 2	TITUS BARLOW ... .. 6
JOHN E. BIBBY ... .. 3	THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... .. 7
THOMAS WALLWORK ... .. 4	EDWARD JENKINS ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

First peal of London on the bells.

KIRKBURTON, YORKSHIRE.

On Sunday, February 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

WALTER IDLE ... .. Treble	HENRY SMITH ... .. 5
HARRY ARMITAGE ... .. 2	WILLIE B. FRITH ... .. 6
JOHN ROLLINSON ... .. 3	FRED TOWNEND ... .. 7
* MARK HILL ... .. 4	JAMES E. CARTER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JAMES E. CARTER.

\* First peal of any method. Rung with the bells muffled in memory of the late Joseph Pickering, who was buried on Saturday, February 5th, 1927.

OSWALDTWISTLE,

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF INMANUEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

MRS. J. WHEWELL ... .. Treble	* REX STEPHENSON ... .. 5
THOMAS HOWARTH ... .. 2	ISAAC WHALLEY ... .. 6
MISS ELLRN SHAW ... .. 3	WILLIAM TAYLOR ... .. 7
FRANK SHAW ... .. 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

\* First peal. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, Rev. J. Dodd. Conductor from Churchkirk, remainder from Oswaldtwistle.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-WITHIN-THE-WALLS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING ... .. Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY ... .. 5
JOHN HAYES ... .. 2	HENRY W. WILDE ... .. 6
GEORGE R. JONES ... .. 3	JAMES MORGAN ... .. 7
ALBERT J. HUGHES ... .. 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

First in the method on the bells.

WITHYGHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

HERBERT MARKWELL ... .. Treble	WILLIAM COLLISON ... .. 5
JOHN T. RICKMAN ... .. 2	FRED. J. LAMBERT, SRN. ... 6
WILLIAM LATTER ... .. 3	FREDK. H. WHITE ... .. 7
FRANK BENNETT ... .. 4	KEITH HART ... .. Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK PITSTOW.

Conducted by KEITH HART.

COLERNE.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.		Tenor 18 cwt.	
ALBERT H. BALL... .. Treble	ALFRED E. REEVES ... .. 5	ARTHUR PRINCE ... .. 6	CHARLES W. BELL ... .. 7
JESSE H. BEAZER ... .. 2	EDGAR C. LEWIS... .. 3	JESSE HALLETT ... .. Tenor	
CECIL H. PAWSEY ... .. 4			

Conducted by ARTHUR PRINCE.

First peal for the ringer of the treble, and first peal with a bob bell for the ringer of the fourth.

WILLESDEN.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.		Tenor 10 cwt.	
HARRY KILBY ... .. Treble	ERNEST H. KILBY ... .. 5	E. MACRICE ATKINS... .. 6	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... .. 7
EDWARD LANKESTER... .. 2	GEORGE M. KILBY ... .. 3	WILFRID WILSON ... .. 4	

Conducted by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

\* First peal. † First peal inside. ‡ First peal of Triples.

WORSLEY, MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.		Tenor 21 cwt.	
SIDNEY JAMES ... .. Treble	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD ... .. 5	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE ... .. 6	JOHN POTTER ... .. 7
JAMES HOWARTH ... .. 2	FREDERICK GRUNDY ... .. 3	WILLIAM JONES ... .. 4	ARTHUR BURTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

\* First peal in the method. This peal was rung in honour of the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. P. Derbyshire, of Beesley Green, Worsley, and after the peal the ringers were entertained to supper by Mr. and Mrs. Derbyshire.

PENKRIDGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday, February 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.		Tenor 16 cwt.	
WILLIAM J. BASTONE... .. Treble	EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... .. 5	ALBERT G. HUNT ... .. 6	JOHN PERRY ... .. 7
JOHN W. PERRY ... .. 2	HERBERT KNIGHT ... .. 3	FREDERICK BIRKE ... .. 4	EDMUND WESTWOOD ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PERRY.

Rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bastone, also as a birthday compliment to Edmund Westwood.

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.	
THOMAS BRVAN ... .. Treble	WILLIAM T. POSTON ... .. 5
ROBERT E. SUMMERS ... .. 2	HARRY E. COX ... .. 6
WALTER T. BENNETT ... .. 3	ALFRED T. POULTON... .. 7
JOHN CLARK ... .. 4	WILLIAM POSTON ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by W. POSTON.

\* First peal of Major.

GRAYFORD.—On Saturday, February 12th, 720 of Cambridge Minor: F. J. Cullen, jun., 1, J. D. Matthews 2, H. Audsley 3, S. H. Green 4, I. Emery 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6. Rung after meeting short for a peal of London Surprise Major.

LANGPORT, SOMERSET.—At All Saints' Church, on Thursday, February 3rd, for practice, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 26 mins. was rung as follows: R. Mills 1, W. Tout 2, F. Lock 3, G. Lock 4, T. Creed (conductor) 5, J. Jeanes 6.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF COLLEGE SINGLE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 1/2 cwt.	
WALTER CHARMAN ... .. Treble	JOHN A. COLE ... .. 5
PETER CHARMAN ... .. 2	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... .. 6
JOHN COOK ... .. 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... .. 7
GEORGE ELLIS ... .. 4	ALFRED H. PULLING... .. Tenor

Composed by W. CHARMAN.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

\* First peal in the method.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

ILKESTON VARIATION.		Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.	
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD Treble	EDWARD C. GOBEY ... .. 5	JAMES S. HUTCHBY ... .. 6	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... .. 7
E. HARRY STONELEY ... .. 2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... .. 3	FREDERICK S. PRICE... .. 4	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD C. GOBEY.

\* First peal of Spliced Treble Bob Major. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. S. Price, wife of the ringer of the 4th.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.		Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.	
EDWARD C. GOBEY ... .. Treble	JAMES S. HUTCHBY ... .. 5	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... .. 6	E. HARRY STONELEY ... .. 7
J. FREDERICK MILNER ... .. 2	LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD... .. 3	PERCY PRICE ... .. 4	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

The conductor has now called a peal of Stedman Triples from each of the above bells.

ECCLESTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.	
ROBERT SPERRING ... .. Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY ... .. 5
HENRY W. WILDE ... .. 2	GEORGE R. JONES ... .. 6
JOHN HAYES... .. 3	JAMES MORGAN ... .. 7
ALBERT J. HUGHES ... .. 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. ... .. Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by HENRY W. WILDE.

\* First in the method. First as conductor in the method. First in the method on the bells. Mr. J. Swindley's 100th peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Rev. T. Lewis Jones and Arthur E. Peglar, of Bangor.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.	
HENRY CAVIGAN ... .. Treble	JOHN FLOWER ... .. 5
MISS ELIZABETH FOULK ... .. 2	JACK BAILEY... .. 6
REGINALD BOULTON... .. 3	GEORGE WARRINGTON ... .. 7
GEORGE FREEBREV ... .. 4	ALFRED MOULD ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by GEO. FREEBREV.

\* First peal of Major.

HALLOW.—On Saturday, February 5th, a quarter-peal of Cambridge Surprise Major (1,280 changes): C. G. Bowkett 1, W. Niblett 2, R. G. Knowles 3, \*C. Tansell 4, W. Ranford 5, W. Lewis 6, S. T. Holt (conductor) 7, C. Camms 8. \* First touch of Surprise Major away from the treble.

TILSTON, CHESHIRE.—On February 1st, in 23 mins., 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor (first in the method on the bells): W. Thomas 1, G. Jones 2, H. W. Wilde 3, A. E. Richards 4, J. Morgan (conductor) 5, J. W. Clarke 6.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, BLOOMSBURY.

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;  
Tenor 18 cwt.

REUBEN CHARGE... .. Treble	JAMES BENNETT ... .. 5
GEORGE M. KILBY ... .. 2	JOHN T. KENTISH ... .. 6
GEORGE R. PYE ... .. 3	WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... .. 7
WILLIAM MILLER ... .. 4	WILLIAM PYE ... .. Tenor

Composed by GEORGE R. PYE. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

This composition, now rung for the first time, contains the 6th its extent at home at 12 course ends, and has a call at 'before' in every course.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

SILVERTON, DEVONSHIRE.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, with ten different callings. Tenor 17 cwt.

W. FAIRCHILD ... .. Treble	A. G. SELLEY ... .. 4
W. I. BROOKS ... .. 2	M. DENFORD... .. 5
FRANK J. DAVEY... .. 3	F. ZELLEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK J. DAVEY.

First peal on the bells, and first peal for ringers of 1, 2, 5, 6. Rung as a compliment to Rev. G. F. Molineux, recently appointed chairman of the N.E. Branch of the above Guild. It was over 30 years ago the last attempt for a peal was made here.

WINCANTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 30, 1927, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores. Tenor 18 cwt.

E. G. L. COWARD ... .. Treble	* W. V. MATTHEWS ... .. 4
* C. C. HOLLWAY... .. 2	W. C. SHUTE ... .. 5
* F. J. PARSONS ... .. 3	H. J. RALPH ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. C. SHUTE.

\* First peal and members of the local band.

WIDNES, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE, FARNWORTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

P. BOARDMAN ... .. Treble	B. TREVITT ... .. 4
* J. LEATHER... .. 2	F. HANCOCK... .. 5
J. A. CALCAND ... .. 3	J. GARDNER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. HANCOCK.

\* First peal. First legitimate peal on the bells. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 4th.

COLD HIGHAM, NORTHANTS.

THE TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

C. BAYLISS ... .. Treble	J. W. HAYNES ... .. 3
M. ROCKALL ... .. 2	J. W. SHARP... .. 4
J. MONK... .. 3	... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. W. HAYNES.

First peal and first attempt by the ringer of the treble.

MALDON.—At the Church of St. Mary, on February 1st, 720 Plain Bob Doubles in 25 mins.: R. Bird 1, D. A. Ham 2, A. South 3, F. White 4, S. C. Card (conductor) 5, J. Wackter 6.

MONKEN HADLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Saturday, February 5th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major in 49 mins.: W. Langley 1, R. Roffey 2, W. J. Ellis 3, H. F. Eldred 4, R. H. Bullen 5, E. V. Johnson 6, J. G. Nash 7, N. A. Tomlinson (conductor) 8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Stedman.

KINGSLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Southwark, Violet, Duke of York, and two 720's each of Oxford and Kent. Tenor 12 cwt.

* FRANK EDWARDS ... .. Treble	HENRY CORNWELL ... .. 4
JOSEPH BERESFORD ... .. 2	HARRY BERESFORD ... .. 5
WILLIAM CORNWELL ... .. 3	EDWARD EDWARDS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by H. CORNWELL.

\* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor, who has been a regular member of the tower for 37 years.

REDBOURN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 11, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different extents. Tenor 14½ (approx.).

WILLIAM TAYLOR ... .. Treble	GEORGE DANIELLS ... .. 4
JOE HOBBS ... .. 2	AUGUSTINE V. GOOD ... .. 5
JACK STOPP ... .. 3	ARTHUR ARCHER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. V. GOOD.

First peal, and first attempt by ringers of treble, 2nd, 4th, and tenor, who are local men. This is the first time any local men have taken part in a peal at this church.

NORTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 11, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Ipswich and Cambridge Surprise, Duke of York, Violet, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford. Tenor 11 cwt. in F. sharp.

* OWEN WILLIAMS ... .. Treble	† WILLIAM CORFIELD ... .. 4
CHARLES S. RYLES ... .. 2	FRANK TRINER ... .. 5
JOHN E. WHEELDON... .. 3	JAMES WALLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES S. RYLES.

\* First peal. † First peal with an inside bell. First peal as conductor, and rung at the first attempt. This is a 'red letter' peal for the 'colts' of Norton.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

WILLIAM T. CLARK ... .. Treble	MISS ELIZABETH M. SUART 4
JOHN P. BARKER ... .. 2	THOMAS J. CLEMENT ... .. 5
MISS EMMA BUTTERFIELD... 3	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN JENNINGS.

\* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor on the bells. The ringers of the 5th and tenor are from Kendal, 4th from Dalton, the rest from Broughton.

APPLEBY MAGNA, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of eight 240's arranged by Leslie W. G. Morris, eight 240's by Albert J. Pitman, and ten ordinary 120's. Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.).

RONALD H. DOVE ... .. Treble	JOHN HOUGH ... .. 4
WILLIAM BROOKER ... .. 2	ERNEST MORRIS... .. 5
JOSEPH W. COTTON ... .. 3	* FRANK BOULSTRIDGE... .. Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

\* First peal. First peal on these bells, which have been six since 1774. The above, together with the local ringers, were entertained to tea by the Rector after the peal.

APSLEY END.—At St. Mary's Church, on Wednesday, February 2nd, 720 Minor, being 360 Plain Bob and 360 Oxford Bob, in 25 mins.: C. Munt 1, A. Brinklow 2, C. J. Henley 3, J. Stopp 4, H. Golding 5, A. V. Good (conductor) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of the tenor and 2nd, and the wife of the ringer of the 3rd.—Also 720 Bob Minor in 24 mins.: C. Munt 1, J. Stopp 2, C. J. Henley 3, A. Brinklow 4, A. V. Good 5, H. Golding (conductor) 6.

## NOTES BY THE WAY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Mr. Lukis puts the blame for the scandalous state of affairs (already described in his notes which I have quoted) on the churchwardens, and, of course, legally and technically, they were responsible. Perhaps more so than they would be now. For in those days the fabric of the church was kept in repair by a compulsory rate levied by the vestry on all ratepayers in the parish, whether they were churchmen or not. The churchwardens were the representatives of and elected by these ratepayers, and they naturally claimed and exercised the right to say how the money should be spent.

It was not until 1868 that these compulsory rates were finally abolished. Not only the towers, but the whole fabric of the churches has enormously benefited by the system of voluntary contributions which has taken their place. Even under the old style I think that the clergy were chiefly responsible for the bad state things had got into, but it seems that bellfries and ringers were the last thing they wished to be troubled with.

It took many years before anything like general reform came about. It began with the labours of men like the Revs. A. Gatty, H. T. Ellacombe and W. C. Lukis, who, by books and articles, like the one I have been quoting, stirred up the interest of archaeologists in the neglected treasures which hung forgotten in church towers. It was helped by the enthusiasm of men like the Rev. H. R. Haweis, who, though they got their inspiration from Belgian carillons, and misunderstood and despised our English change ringing, yet did much to popularise a love of bells. Chiefly it was the result of the greater reverence and care for everything connected with church fabrics which arose from the quickening of church life by the Oxford Movement.

Thirty years ago there were many towers still in the state Mr. Lukis describes. One of the first things the Central Council attempted to do was to bring home to church authorities the state of bells and bellfries, and the need for keeping them in order and repair. In 1898 a committee was appointed (of which I was a member) to get together a trustworthy account of the state of every eight, ten and twelve bell tower in England. It was feared that the result would show a bad state of neglect, and the intention was to publish a statement with the idea of inducing church authorities to take action in the matter. The reports were published week by week in 'The Bell News.' When they were completed it was found that reform had already begun, and that the towers containing eight and more bells were, generally speaking, in a satisfactory condition; far more satisfactory in fact than was thought.

It was decided, therefore, that it was not necessary to publish the intended statement. It was not possible to collect full information about five and six bell towers. Among them very many cases of bad neglect would have been found, but since then there has been a steady improvement there also, and now, if you want to find bells in really bad condition, you must go to the smaller towers of big towns rather than to village churches.

## A DATE TOUCH.

At the Parish Church, Shildon, Durham, for evensong, on February 6th, 1,927 changes of Minor, being 720 each of Kent and Oxford and 487 of Bob Minor with 7-8 covering: E. Hind 1, T. Robinson 2, G. W. Peverell 3, J. Smith 4, S. Bryant 5, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 6, J. Beck 7, J. Henderson 8.

## VARIATIONS OF THURSTANS' PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I please point out that Mr. Dexter makes a great mistake when he says I write about variations and transpositions for his benefit. I do not. I should not try to teach him anything about what he has proved himself to be a past-master of. What I wrote I did in the hope that it might be of some assistance to members of the Exercise generally, to enable them to differentiate between a transposition and a variation. They are not my views only. Turn to page 49 of 'Stedman,' you will find it says: 'The following is a transposition of our own.' Then follows what is known as 'Heywood's Variation,' but that does not make it a variation. Again, on the next page: 'The peal, as here given, is in a transposed form' (Lates one-part). On page 48 is given the 'Variation by Thomas Brook.'

As regards dates, it would be more to the point if Mr. Washbrook's reply to Mr. Fowler could be produced. I know Mr. Washbrook conducted the peal in 1918, but I do not say that was the first time. Indeed, I should very much doubt it. I expect 1896 or 1897 would be more correct. Mr. Washbrook knew and understood Stedman Triples far better than Thurstans ever did, and a simple transposition like the one in question would not escape him. During the years 1888-1890-1891 Stedman Triples was turned inside out, and there was very little left when it was finished with. It is open to anyone to become expert in the method for an expenditure of 2s. 10d. on a copy of 'Stedman.'

While writing, Mr. Editor, may I say I have received a letter from Mr. Tipler, in which he complains that you used your blue pencil too freely on a communication of his. If this is so, I am not surprised, for his letter contributed little of value to the subject being discussed. He sent me four peals, neither of which I propose to set out in detail. The first is, I take it, Tipler's 'Variation of Haley's,' which is certainly a variation of the Washbrook-Haley's peal and not a transposition. The fourth, which he describes as a 'variation of Thurstans' I have never before seen,' is merely Thurstans' peal, using omits first half and extras second half (treble sub-observation), with singles in the 9th and 10th parts, which I should term a simple transposition. The second and third examples are, I am afraid, false. It is called a variation of Thurstans', and runs thus:

3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6
12	13		
5	6		

I have only recently attempted to understand the proof of Stedman Triples, but to me the above seems to fail in two particulars to meet the requirements of a true peal. As far as I have progressed, I understand the rule is: 'If every 3-4 be hobbled, every 7-8 must be plained, and for every 3-4 that is plained a 7-8 must be hobbled.' That is the first failure. Also, 'If every 5-6 be hobbled, every 12-13 must be plained, and for every 5-6 that is plained a 12-13 must be hobbled.' That is the second failure. There is only one other variation in addition to the three which are so well known, and you get this by transferring the 12-13 in the second course above to 7-8 in the first course, making a six-bob set in every part, which is considered undesirable.

W. A. CAVE.

P.S.—Since writing above, I find the 'our' on page 49 of 'Stedman' refers to the Rev. C. D. P. Davies and not Sir Arthur Heywood, and that transposition of the Singles from 14 and 2 to 9 and 11 has suggested to me the following transpositions, in the last two of which the arrangement of the parts is varied.

Some variations and transpositions by Mr. Cave will be published in a later issue.—Ed. 'R.W.'

## CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting was held at Carlisle Cathedral on New Year's Day. Members were present from Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick, Egremont, Workington, and the Cathedral band. The meeting was presided over by the Dean of Carlisle (the Rev. Henry Venn-Stuart, D.D.), supported by the Hon. secretary, Mr. Wm. T. Holmes (Cockermouth). The accounts showed a balance in hand of £6 11s. 3d., an increase on the previous year.

All the officers were re-elected, and it was decided to hold the annual ringing contest on Easter Monday at Crosthwaite Parish Church, Keswick, and, if possible, to obtain the same judge, Mr. Geo. Newton, of Liverpool.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Dean for presiding, also for use of bells and room.

The Cathedral belfry was afterwards visited, and the following methods rung: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent Major. The association's certificate for Sunday service ringing was awarded to Crosthwaite with 724.88 points; Cockermouth were second with 454.92.

## YORKSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.

At Shelley Church, Yorkshire, on January 25th, as a last tribute to the late Mr. Amos Ramsden, who died on the 22nd of the month, after a brief illness, and was for 45 years an active ringer at the above church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob with the bells fully muffled: R. Sykes 1, H. Pearce 2, H. Roberts 3, F. Townend 4, A. Goldthorpe 5, A. Hoyle 6. The local ringers also rang for the funeral service in the afternoon.

**THE SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE RECORD.**

The following are the figures of the peal of Superlative Surprise Major (11,232 changes) rung at St. Peter's, Bolton, on January 29th, in 7 hours 10 minutes. It was composed on December 12th, 1925, by T. B. Worsley, and conducted by E. Jenkins.

234567	5th's.	M.	W.	In.	M.	4th's.	H.	
436527	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
672345	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
274365	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
346725	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
265743	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
524736	A	3	times.					
573624	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
372854	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
675425	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
372465	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
473526	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
372546	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
346257	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
675432	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
476253	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
675243	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
276354	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
675324	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
256347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
34652	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
43526	B	3	times.					
56234	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
35264	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
25465	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
64352	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35642	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
63542	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
56342	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
42635	C	twice.						
23456	Before							3

Can be brought round from 675234 by calls at M., W., 5th's, H, producing 5,408 changes.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.  
GRIMSBY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Grimsby District was held at Grimsby on Saturday, January 29th. Members attended from Bigby, Barrow-on-Humber, Barton-on-Humber, Uleaby, Burton-on-Stather, and the local tower. St. James' (eight) and St. Andrew's (eight) were available afternoon and evening. The service was held in St. Andrew's Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. T. Russell Warrilow), who gave an interesting address. Mr. Harold Rushby, a local ringer, presided at the organ. Tea was served in the Church Hall, and 21 members sat down to a splendid repast provided by Mrs. Todd, which was greatly appreciated.

The business meeting followed, Mr. W. Heyhoe being voted to the chair.

The Rev. H. T. Parry, Rural Dean and Rector of Bigby, who was unable to be present owing to illness, was re-elected president.

The Secretary (Mr. H. T. Mingay) read his report for the past year, which was adopted, and he was re-elected. Mr. C. W. Taylor was elected as the representative to serve on the general committee. Mr. G. Blanchard was re-elected Ringing Master, and Mr. J. Bray Deputy Ringing Master. Mr. Abraham Hodge, of Grimsby, was elected as an honorary member, and Mr. R. S. Long, of Sheffield, a non-resident life member. The latter, previous to his removal to Sheffield, was Ringing Master in the district, and a much respected member of St. Andrew's company, Grimsby.

Caistor was selected for a meeting on May 14th, Thornton Curtis June 11th, Burton-on-Stather July 16th, Bigby August 20th, Scunthorpe September 17th, Barton-on-Humber October 22nd.

Mr. Heyhoe presented the accounts of the bell fund, which were very satisfactory considering the industrial depression from which this district, like others, had suffered.

It is interesting to note that amongst the company present was Mr. Richardson, who a few years ago was a member of St. Andrew's band. He is now in his 91st year.

Mr. H. Rushby proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to the Vicars of St. James' and St. Andrew's for the use of the bells, to the Vicar of St. Andrew's for taking the service and for his address, to the caterers for the splendid tea, and to the local members for making arrangements. Also to Mr. W. Heyhoe for presiding at the meeting. Members are asked to note the secretary's change of address, namely, to 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**HOUNSLOW.**—On Sunday, January 9th, for morning service at St. Paul's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins.: C. J. Tricker, jun., 1, F. G. Goddard 2, J. Kent 3, W. F. Ellingham 4, S. Stilwell 5, C. J. Tricker 6, J. Milner (conductor) 7, C. Gash 8.

**John Taylor & Co.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

A treble to the fine ring of five is to be installed at Goodrich, near Ross, by Mr. J. E. Groves, of Birmingham.

Oxford's city Church of St. Martin and All Saints is to have a peal of eight. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have been entrusted with the work of rehangng the present six and adding two trebles.

Major F. A. Yorke, R.A., through whose researches it became known that the College Youths' certificate was the work of Bartolozzi, and who has been for some time in Iraq, will shortly be in England on leave.

The 'Johnson Dinner' and week-end is, we hear, attracting a large number of ringers to Birmingham from distant towers. It is astonishing how the 'clans' gather for this always interesting and enjoyable event. On second thoughts, however, it is not so astonishing—to those who have attended one of these gatherings.

A peal of College Single Major was rung at Warnham, Sussex, on Saturday. The first peal in the method was rung there on February 18th, 1889.

The first peal by the Trinity Youths, one of the many defunct London Societies, was Grandsire Triples rung at St. Nicholas' Church, Deptford, on February 18th, 1782.

What was claimed as the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on Sunday, February 23rd, 1783, by the College Youths, 'the greatest performance ever achieved in the campanianean art.'

A peal of Double Norwich Major was rung on handbells for the first time on February 23rd, 1891, by the Cambridge University Guild.

Mr. C. Edwards, of Ealing, wishes to thank his many friends who wrote him cheerful and sympathetic letters while in hospital, and to say he has now recovered sufficiently to return home, and hopes to be able to see them to thank personally before long.

The report of the peal of Oxford Treble Bob rung at Hemingford Grey, on January 29th, should have read: 'First in method by 1st, 3rd, and 5th ringers.'

At the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association at Sheffield, on Saturday, the officers were re-elected. A report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue.

Mr. Thomas Russam, of Birmingham, celebrated his 70th birthday on Sunday. His interesting reminiscences of John Carter's early ringing days will shortly appear in these columns.

## SEQUEL TO A PEAL.

When, in October last, the bells at St. John-the-Baptist Church, Pinner, were re-opened with a peal rung by members of the Middlesex Association, a wish was expressed by the ringers at that church that some assistance should be given them. Consequently they have since joined the county association, and on a recent Monday evening the hon. secretary, accompanied by the brothers Kilby, who have consented to act as instructors, visited Pinner with the object of commencing a series of practices in change ringing. A very encouraging start was made, several 120's of Grandsire Doubles being rung, most of the local ringers taking part.

The bells are a very fine ring of eight, with a tenor weighing 19 cwt. The restoration was undertaken by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who recast the cracked tenor and retuned the whole peal, which was rehung in an iron frame. The Whitechapel firm are to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work, as the present go of the bells leaves nothing to be desired; and the church authorities at Pinner are the proud possessors of one of the finest peals in the neighbourhood.

## WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### WINCHESTER DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

A quarterly meeting of the Winchester District was held at Alresford on Saturday, February 5th. The bells at Alresford (eight), Old Alresford (six), and Bishop's Sutton (five) were available, and were kept going during the afternoon and evening to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples, Bob Doubles and Minor, Double Norwich, Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise Major.

Tea and a short meeting were held at Crock's Restaurant, presided over by the Rector (Rev. A. J. Robertson), the Vicar of Bishop's Sutton (Rev. Lindsay Browne), Mr. G. Williams, Mr. Geo. Pullinger, F. H. Rogers and members from Bishopstoke, Bishop's Sutton, Fareham, Twyford, Hursley, North Stoneham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester, and some of the local ringers were present.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Williams, seconded by the district secretary, the Vicar of Bishop's Sutton was elected an hon. member, five of the Sutton band were elected full members, and Mr. W. Spiers (Alresford) an unattached member.

Mr. Pullinger offered to give instruction to the Bishop's Sutton band. This meeting was one of the best quarterly meetings held in the Winchester District for some years, 41 being present at the meeting. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rectors of Old and New Alresford and the Vicar of Bishop's Sutton for the use of the bells.

The next meeting will be held at Stockbridge on Saturday, May 7th, notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World.'



**WINCHESTER GUILD VICE-PRESIDENT DEAD.****AN ACTIVE WORKER FOR RINGING.**

We have to announce, with deep regret, the death of the Rev. C. E. Matthews, vice-president of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, who passed away on Friday evening at the age of 63 years.

He was appointed hon. secretary and treasurer of the Guild in 1895, and occupied these joint offices for eight years, during which time he missed only one quarterly meeting, and saw the funds of the Guild raised from £63 to £128. It was while he was hon. secretary, also, that the Guild was divided into districts—a step which greatly extended the activities of, and interest in, the organisation.

In 1903, he was elected to succeed the Rev. R. C. M. Harvey as Master, which post he held until he was appointed to the chief executive office of the Guild, viz., vice-president.

Born at Elstead, Surrey, in 1863, the Rev. C. E. Matthews was educated at University College, Durham, and Salisbury Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 1887 by the Bishop of Colchester, and priest in the following year by the Bishop of St. Albans. He was licensed to the curacy of North Weald Bassett in 1887, and there learned to handle a bell. Afterwards he was at Ospringe, Kent; Shere, Surrey; and Hursley, near Winchester. He was presented to the living of Bursledon by Winchester College in 1899. He became Vicar of Titchfield in 1907, and a few years ago moved to Milton, near Lymington.

Wherever he has been he has actively taken part in schemes for restoring or increasing the rings of bells, and, being deeply interested in the archaeological side of bells, he was largely responsible for the Church Bell History of Hampshire. He was a writer of ringers' hymns, one of the best known of which is 'The Sacred Bells of England.'

Although not a great ringer, he was exceedingly keen on promoting the interests of the art and furthering the objects of the Winchester Guild, which he represented continuously on the Central Council from 1906.

Last year Mr. Matthews had a long and serious illness, from which he never really fully recovered, and his death will be a great loss to the Winchester Diocesan Guild, with which he was so long and so intimately connected.

**THE LATE MR. JOHN CARTER.****SCIENTIFIC TRIPLES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Amongst the many clever things the late Mr. John Carter did, one, to my mind, stands next to the ringing machine. It is that wonderful brain buster, his peal of Scientific Triples—a puzzle for the puzzler, brain power for the scientist. Composed in 1904, published in the 'Bell News,' page 183, July 21st, 1906, it does not conform to rules laid down by the Central Council, as the plain course produces 250 changes. In the event of this peal being rung, the band should be presented with gold medals. I would be pleased to give my mite towards them. This composition should be preserved by the Central Council, if only to show the exceeding cleverness of its composer.—Yours truly,

LOOKER-ON.

Mr. J. E. Dawe writes: I am sure that all will appreciate the very excellent account in your paper of the career of our dear old friend, Jack Carter, but one most important and, indeed, national invention of his was omitted. I remember him being a principal witness in a law case, somewhere about 40 years ago, in which he stated in the witness box that he was the actual inventor of the well-known 'Webley' revolver, so extensively used in the Army and now of world-wide reputation. About that period also he won the much coveted badge of the 'Queen's Hundred,' the first time that it was a Hundred, and thus became probably the first change ringer to achieve this distinction.

At Coalbrookdale, on Monday evening, February 7th, with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. John Carter, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, Mr. Carter's favourite quarter-peal, was rung in 50 mins.: A. S. Bayley 1, W. Wase 2, J. Hanley 3, J. Stanier 4, R. Jones 5, W. Saunders (conductor) 6, J. H. Rixon 7, L. Jones 8.

Also 336 Stedman Triples, composed by Mr. Carter, was rung on the ten bells, 6, 8, 10 covering: A. Bayley 1, J. Stanier 2, J. H. Rixon 3, W. Wase 4, R. Jones 5, W. Saunders 6, J. Hanley 7, E. Wase 8, J. Garbett (conductor) 9, L. Jones 10.

It was intended to attempt a quarter-peal of Grandsire or Stedman Caters, had not influenza been just busy among the band. Mr. Carter was the first to subscribe £5 5s. to the Coalbrookdale bells fund. In the ringing chamber is also a very beautiful marble peal tablet, given by him, recording a peal of Stedman Triples which was composed and conducted by him.

At the usual practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, City, on Monday, February 7th, the bells were rung muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. John Carter. Courses of London, Bristol, Cambridge, Superlative and Norfolk Surprise Major were successfully brought round.

**AN ANCIENT BELL.****AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUZZLE.**

Probably one of the most interesting and unusual reconstructions ever undertaken was that recently carried out by Barimar, Ltd., the scientific welding engineers, of London, for Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the well-known bell founders.

The repair related to an ancient bell which was extensively damaged and consequently useless. When it is recalled that bell-founding is almost 'an exact science,' and that the welding of an 8in. crack in metal produced by methods which have long since been superseded demands profound knowledge of metallurgy, it will be realised that this is an achievement which reflects the greatest possible credit on the welders. Not only has the tone of the bell been preserved, but the clarity is absolutely unimpaired.



An ancient bell—badly damaged—before repair by new Barimar process. All record of its origin has been lost. Can any reader identify it?

Possibly someone seeing these notes will be able to identify the bell through its peculiar shape. Any information on the subject would assuredly be a valuable contribution to antiquarian lore, and would clear up a mystery of considerable interest to the bell founders and also to Barimar, Ltd.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****THE ISLEWORTH BELL FUND.**

The South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at Isleworth on Saturday, February 5th, by permission of the Rev. H. M. Rellon, D.D. (Vicar). Ringing commenced shortly after three with touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Service was conducted by the Rev. M. E. Thomas, M.C., M.A., and a most interesting and delightful service it was—enjoyed and appreciated by all. The Vicar and churchwardens again entertained the members to tea, and their kind hospitality was appreciated.

Mr. Edgley (churchwarden) presided, on behalf of the Vicar, and was supported by Rev. M. E. Thomas, Mr. C. S. Bird (vice-president), and Mr. C. J. Bridges. Sixty members sat down to an excellent tea served by Mrs. Brown.

The balance sheet showed a credit balance of 18s. 11d. on the year's working, and the report stated that 39 new members had been elected during the year, including the new band at Ruislip, with Mr. G. Kirby as instructor.

The Isleworth Bell Fund now amounts to £116 10s., for which best thanks are tendered to all subscribers. The committee again appeal to all members and ringing friends for their liberal support, as much more is needed. £3 11s. was collected at the meeting.

All retiring officers and members of the Central Committee were re-elected.

The secretary was requested to send a letter of sympathy to the president (Mr. F. A. Milne) on the serious illness of his wife, and to Mr. Tom Beadle (Isleworth) and Mr. C. Edwards (Ealing), wishing them all a speedy recovery.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells and their kind hospitality, to Rev. M. E. Thomas for conducting the service, the organist (Mr. N. Wilshire), Mr. Edgley for presiding at the meeting, Mr. Bridges (manager of Barclays Bank, hon. treasurer to the bell fund), and the steeple-keeper. Afterwards, the tower was again visited, and Cambridge and Bristol Surprise were rung. Twickenham was also visited, where ringing was indulged in till 8.45, and thanks given to the Rev. Cole Skeane, Vicar, for the use of the bells, and Mr. E. Morris for the arrangements.

**A LANCASHIRE DIAMOND JUBILEE.**

In view of the diamond jubilee celebration at Hindley, Lancs, this week-end, the following, taken by Mr. T. Wilde from the peal book of his grandfather, will no doubt be of interest:

'February 18th, 1867, opening a new peal of bells at St. Peter's Church, Hindley, near Wigan, cast by Mears and Stainbank, with a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (5,088 changes) in 3 hrs. 3 mins.: John Lawton treble, Hugh Shaw 2, Jno. Bramhall 3, Daniel Whitoley 4, William Fawcett 5, Joseph Rose 6, Robert Williams 7, James Wilde tenor. Composed and conducted by R. Williams. All are from Stalybridge except J. Wilde, Hyde.'

## LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the London County Association was held last Saturday, with a fairly good attendance of members, although illness was responsible for several absentees, notably Mrs. Pennington Bickford, whose presence was greatly missed. Ringing took place at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East and at St. Clement Danes' until 4.30, when the service was held, conducted by the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, Rector and honorary chaplain, who gave a most appropriate and interesting address, taking as his theme the inscription on the Sanctus bell, 'Robert Mott made me, 1588.' Robert Mott was the founder of the Whitechapel firm now known as Mears and Stainbank, who restored the bells of St. Clement's in 1919. Some eight of his bells still remain, but many were destroyed in the Great Fire. The preacher drew several lessons from the bell and its inscription. The Rector also referred to the great loss sustained by the Exercise in the death of Mr. John Carter, and associated himself with the words of the leading article in 'The Ringing World,' to whose editor he wished to pay tribute. At the close of the service, the 'Dead March' in Saul was played.

An excellent tea was awaiting the company on their arrival at the Parish House, the preparation of which had been carefully superintended by Mrs. Bickford at a distance. The meeting later expressed its sympathy with her in her illness, and its sincere hope for a speedy recovery. After tea, the tables were cleared for the business meeting.

First, the election of one member at the Southern District annual meeting was ratified, and five other new members elected.

The Secretary (Mr. A. H. Keighley) gave his report for the year, and referred to the various matters which had arisen. The practices had been fairly well attended, but further improvement was desired. The Southern District had carried out its arrangements successfully, but the Northern District Master, Mr. Alloway, and its acting secretary, Mr. Boltrill, had both been compelled to resign. In their places, the association had been fortunate in securing Mr. L. L. Gray and Mr. J. A. Hales, under whose guidance it was hoped the district would go forward.

New members elected during the year numbered 28, as compared with 26 during 1925, but the number of peals rung was smaller at 17, made up as follows: Bob Major 1, Stedman Triples 8, Cambridge Major 3, Stedman Cinques 1, Grandsire Triples 1, Cambridge Royal 1, Minor 1, Doubles 1. Mr. T. H. Taffender, the Master, conducted ten peals, and Mr. Symonds two, Mr. Brett one, Mr. Barker one, Mr. Mance one, Mr. Gammon one, and Mr. Judd one.

The financial statement was read and passed, showing an increase in funds in hand of nearly £4 10s. The peals were duly accepted to be sent to the writer.

The collection at the service amounted to £2 6s. 3d., which the Rector kindly gave to the association for disposal.—On the proposition of Mr. Mance, it was decided to give this sum to the St. Clement Danes' Sea Scouts, towards the purchase of uniforms, for which the Rector said he was very grateful.

Other matters were raised by the members, including a question relating to broadcasting, and votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for arranging the service and giving the address, to Mrs. Bickford for her kindness and invaluable help, to all those who had assisted, and, lastly, to the retiring officers.

Mr. J. Waghorn thanked the association for celebrating his 34th birthday by ringing a peal.

The elections of the district officers were confirmed, and the general officers appointed as follows: Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender; general secretary, Mr. A. H. Keighley; assistant secretaries, Messrs. R. Newman and T. W. Taffender; treasurer, Mr. E. A. Young; trustees, Messrs. J. George and F. E. Dawe; stewards, Messrs. F. W. Chorley and T. Wyatt, all these holding similar offices last year. The Master and Mr. A. D. Barker were appointed representatives on the Central Council for the next three years.

The Master announced that the association's gift to Mr. Keighley on the occasion of his marriage had taken the form of an oxidised copper curb, for which Mr. Keighley expressed his grateful thanks, stating that he would prize it very much, and that whatever he had done for the association had been a pleasure to him. Although he had wanted to be relieved of office, he would do his best for another year.

## ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

A quarterly meeting was held at Darlaston on Saturday, January 22nd, the attendance being less than usual owing to the inclement weather. A service was held in church, and an interesting address delivered by the Rector, the Rev. J. W. Augur. At the Church Institute a capital tea was laid, the only regret being there were so few present to do justice to the abundance of good things provided.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for his address, use of the bells, etc.; to the organist and choir boys who helped to brighten the service; and to the ladies who served tea.—This was responded to by the Rector.

The ringing consisted of touches in a variety of methods, and it is worthy of note that 'budding' conductors were conspicuous by coming to the fore.

The next meeting is provisionally arranged to take place at Bloxwich on April 30th.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.  
INTERESTING SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

The ninth annual meeting of the Clan District was held at Clun on Saturday, when members from Clun, Clunbury, Hopesay, Knighton and visitors from Ludlow attended.

At the business meeting, following tea, the Ringing Master (Rev. H. J. Scott) presided, and the hon. secretary (Mr. W. Mead) presented the balance sheet, which showed the income had been £5 8s. 6d., and the expenditure £3 1s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £2 6s. 11d. He said they had increased their balance on the year's working by 19s. 5d., had gained one new hon. member, but had lost five ringers by removals, etc. There were, however, good prospects of this loss soon being made up.—The balance sheet was accepted and considered very satisfactory.

The Rev. H. J. Scott was re-elected Ringing Master, and Mr. W. Mead re-elected hon. secretary; the Rev. I. Harrison, the new Vicar of Clun, was elected an hon. member, and one probationer was elected.

The next quarterly meeting is to be held at Bishop's Castle on Saturday, April 30th.

The Hon. Secretary said he had put two subjects on the agenda for discussion with the idea of making the meeting as interesting as possible. Both the subjects were of considerable interest to ringers, and were being discussed by other associations.

The first was, 'How to induce young men to become ringers, and how to maintain their interest afterwards'; the second was, 'The insurance of voluntary ringers.' He said the first was of great importance if they wished to increase their members or even to maintain their membership. The second was almost of greater importance on account of the risk to ringers when oiling the bells, repairing tops, etc. At present, they had no claim on the church authorities, as they were not paid servants and were not included in their insurance.

The Chairman said he was very pleased the subject had been put on the agenda, and he should like to hear the views of those present and also suggestions.—Mr. F. Evans (Knighton) said the idea of maintaining the interest of probationers was to take them to all the ringing meetings within reach and so keep them interested. Of course, this could only be done when towers had funds of their own and were able to pay the cost of these outings.

Mr. A. Nason (Ludlow) said he wished to know, if any ringer broke an arm or leg during ringing, who was he to look to for compensation?

Service time having arrived, and the subjects not having been fully discussed, the Chairman suggested that the discussion be adjourned to the next meeting, the hon. secretary being asked to get as much information on the subjects as possible, and place the items on the agenda, which he promised to do.

Rev. H. S. T. Richardson proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his presence at tea and the meeting, and also for the words of welcome he knew he was going to give them at the service.—This was carried with acclamation, and the meeting concluded.

After service, the bells were again rung in Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Bob Major.

## PRESTEIGN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Presteign District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Eardisland on Saturday, January 29th. Sixteen members attended from seven towers. The Guild form of service was held, conducted by the Vicar, Rev. P. A. H. Birley, one of the local ringers acting as organist.

Tea was afterwards partaken of in the schools, kindly provided by the Vicar. At the subsequent business meeting the Vicar presided.

The Secretary reported combined practices at Lyonshall, December 2nd, when ten members were present from four towers, and at Penbridge on December 11th, when eight members were present from five towers. In the past year, four meetings had been held, with an average attendance of twenty members, and five combined practices with an average of fourteen members. One practice was abandoned owing to bad weather. One tower had joined the Guild with ten members, and one had left. The number of members had increased from sixty-nine to seventy-six, viz., six honorary, 49 ringing, 17 probationers and four unattached members, and eight towers were in union with the Guild in the district.

The accounts for the past year were presented and passed as satisfactory, with a balance on the year's working of £2 17s. 4d., and a total balance in hand of £9 17s. 8d. Through the kindness of the clergy and friends in providing teas at the meetings, there had been no expenses to the Guild or the members in the past year.

The officers were unanimously re-elected, viz.: Ringing Master, Mr. W. Evans, Lyonshall; and hon. secretary, Mr. J. Preece, Staunton-on-Arrow.

Two new members were elected from Kington, and it was proposed to hold combined practices at Dilwyn in February and at Presteign in April, and the spring quarterly meeting at Lyonshall in May.

The Rev. M. Berkley, of Kington, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness in providing tea and taking the service.

The tower was then again visited, other members having arrived in the meantime. The following methods were rung during the afternoon and evening: Grandsire and Bob Doubles and Bob Minor. Members attended from Burghill, Dilwyn, Eardisland, Kimbolton, Kington, Lyonshall, Old Radnor, Staunton-on-Arrow, and Weobley.

### THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS. A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the letter published in 'The Ringing World' at January 28th last, the following words appear: 'and is entirely independent of the church authorities.' It should have read 'and claims to be entirely independent, etc.' It was the insistence of this claim, and the disinclination on the part of certain members of the society to meet the Vicar, that misled us to seek the columns of 'The Ringing World.' We regret that this statement should have appeared, and tender our apologies to the Vicar and his predecessors, and wish to place on record our appreciation of the courteous reception accorded us in a recent interview with the Vicar. Thanking you for your interest in the matter,—Yours, etc.

T. R. DENNIS.  
A. T. CHENERY.  
E. G. HIBBENS.

### CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE (NOT THE METHOD).

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with regret, though not surprise, of the sad state of affairs now existing at Cambridge, and quite agree with the remarks of your correspondent, Mr. Robin Goodfellow. I myself know a 'brother string,' a good ringer, who went to reside in the University town, and naturally hoped to be able to obtain regular (or, at least, some) practice in the art he loved, but I learnt afterwards that all his efforts to accomplish this aim met with so little encouragement that he eventually gave them up in despair. Now, how different are the conditions in some of the surrounding villages, where one often reads in these columns of real progress, regular practice, and peals in advanced methods, and I am sure that £ s. d. is the last thing that these ringers would think of considering.

I have often wondered why such a town as Cambridge, the headquarters of the Ely Diocesan Association, is so behind in things campanological. As many may know, there are the noble twelve at St. Mary's, a magnificent eight (tenor 32cwt.) at the R.C. Church, and a poor-toned eight at St. Andrew's—all, I believe, in good ringing order. Then there are the six at St. Benet's (Stedman's old tower), which, I expect, are by now unringable. Several years ago I had a pull on the tenor there, and wondered if it had been rebung since Stedman's time. Perhaps it hadn't. Also a six at St. Edward's, unringable, besides one tower with five bells and two with four in a like condition. At all the latter five towers I believe the pernicious habit of clocking has been allowed for years past. How sad, when one considers that some of these towers contain historical monuments in the form of pre-Reformation bells of great value, archaeologically, and should be preserved at all cost from their great risk of becoming cracked. Will they? Nobody knows, and, I fear, nobody cares.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that at the meeting of the Ely Diocesan Association, to be held at Cambridge on Easter Monday next, these urgent matters may be brought up for discussion, and should give serious food for thought to both those who ring the bells and the apathetic authorities who have charge of the rings that have become dilapidated, so that in the near future we may hope to reiterate in the words of the Village Blacksmith, 'Something attempted, something done.'

Apologising for trespassing so far on your valuable space, Yours faithfully,

'PLAIN BOB.'

### DEATH OF AN OLD RINGER.

On Wednesday, February 2nd, there passed away a venerable and outstanding figure in the art of change ringing in the person of Mr. Joe Pickering, of Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, who died at the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

Readers of 'The Ringing World' will recall the article in these columns in 1923 giving a resume of Mr. Pickering's ringing career, which has extended well over a period of seventy years, as he was able to ring at contests before he was eighteen years of age.

The funeral took place on Saturday, February 5th, in the church where Mr. Pickering had for such an extended period been a regular service ringer, and was attended by ringers from the surrounding villages and towers.

On Sunday, February 6th, a muffled peal was rung for evening service, consisting of 5,024 changes of Treble Bob Major, as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. Pickering.

Mr. Pickering's two sons, Messrs. Herbert and Joe W. Pickering, are following their father's footsteps in the old belfry where their respected parent spent so many happy hours.

### MUFFLED RINGING.

On Sunday, January 30th, at Leeds Parish Church for evensong, by the local band, 925 Stedman Cinques, rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Vicar of Guisborough (the Rev. O. G. Mackie), formerly senior curate of this parish: G. Barraclough 1, J. A. Teale 2, \*C. E. Lawson 3, J. Hutchinson 4, H. Lockwood 5, \*J. E. Redfern 6, F. Renton 7, \*J. Jessop 8, \*L. Drake 9, W. Woodhead 10, W. Ash (conductor) 11, H. Smith 12. \* Longest length in Cinques.

### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

READING BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch was held at Reading on Saturday last. Proceedings commenced with touches of Grandsire, Stedman, and Bob Major on the bells of St. Laurence's and St. Giles's Churches. A well-attended service followed at St. Laurence's, led by the Vicar, the Rev. J. T. Mumford, who gave an inspiring address.

The members then proceeded to the Central Cafe, where an excellent meal tea was spread, 60 members in all sitting down to the tables, among those present being the Rev. J. T. Mumford, Canon Coleridge, Mr. W. P. Routh, Mr. A. W. Pike, Mr. R. Wing, Mr. A. J. Wright (treasurer), Mr. H. H. Wilder, Mr. H. Tucker, and representatives from most of the towers in union. Several who had hoped to be present were away through illness or other pressing engagements.

The business meeting followed, with Mr. H. Egby in the chair, as the chairman, the Rev. J. T. Mumford, had to leave early owing to another engagement. The balance sheet having been presented, the Secretary gave his report, mentioning that it had been a very successful year, and the quarterly meetings that were arranged last year had been extremely successful.

The election of officers then took place, and in every instance they were re-elected, namely: Chairman, the Rev. J. T. Mumford; secretary, Mr. F. W. Hopgood; auditors, Messrs. Foster and Wiggins; committee, Messrs. J. Swain, W. Appleby, and H. Tucker.

The quarterly meetings for 1927 were arranged for Shiplake, Checkendon and Caversham.

Tower reports were then given, and in most cases were satisfactory. Mention was made of three members whom the Guild had lost by death during the year, namely, Messrs. W. Webb, N. Cox, and the Rev. Lovett-Cameron, and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The latter part of the evening was spent in listening to the 'Maxims' concert party (under the leadership of Mr. F. Baker), who gave a very admirable programme, each item being very much enjoyed, and all agreed that once again the Reading Branch meeting had been a success.

### NORTH BUCKS BRANCH VISIT NEW TOWER.

A visit of the North Bucks Branch, between the usual quarterly meetings, was made to Woughton on Saturday, February 5th, by an invitation from the Woughton ringers, whose bells have recently been relung and augmented from four to six, and a nice little ring of six they are, the 'go' of them leaving nothing to be desired. A fairly representative gathering of the branch met, considering the unsettled weather conditions. The bells were started at 3 p.m. A service was held at 3.30 p.m., conducted by the Rev. L. Moxon, chairman of the branch, in the absence of the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Whittaker, who was unavoidably absent through a severe cold. Tea had been provided in the schools, where about 30 sat down. After tea, the Secretary (Mr. W. Sear) addressed the meeting, saying how pleased he was that the branch had been invited to Woughton, and stating the object of the North Bucks Branch and the Oxford Guild of which they were a part. He hoped that their visit would be rewarded by the Woughton tower becoming members of the branch, and that they would have the support of the branch to learn the art of change ringing by having instruction provided. The Secretary expressed regret at the absence of Canon Whittaker, and asked that good wishes for a speedy recovery should be conveyed to the Canon from the branch.

Further ringing took place, in which the local ringers shared.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

CHESTERFIELD DISTRICT.

The first visit, and a very pleasant meeting, of the above was held at Dore on Saturday, February 5th. About 20 ringers, including six ladies, were present from Chesterfield, Dore, Handsworth, North Wingfield, Norton and Sheffield Cathedral. The musical little ring of eight by Taylor (tenor 11cwt.) were kept going at intervals from 3 to 7.30 p.m., the methods rung or attempted including Double Norwich, College Single, Oxford Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Major, and Stedman and Grandsire Triples. A feature of the practice was the scope afforded to learners, two local ladies scoring their first course of Bob Major; others their first attempts at Oxford and College Single.

Tea, at Hurst's Cafe, was presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. W. R. Gibson, who, with his usual geniality, welcomed the M.C.A. to Dore, and at the close provided cigars all round.

At a short business meeting, presided over by Mr. J. P. Tarlton (North Wingfield), six new members were elected, viz., Misses Jessie Daveport and Marjorie Helmer, Messrs. R. E. Johnson, A. S. Robinson and N. Short, all of Dore, and Mr. M. Wilson, Sheffield Cathedral.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Eyam, provided that permission could be obtained.

In reply to a vote of thanks, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey (people's warden) extended a warm welcome to the M.C.A., as had previously been accorded to the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield District Society, especially as they were really the Diocesan Society of the area, and expressed the hope that their first would be followed by other meetings in the future.

## SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

**CHARING, KENT.**—On Sunday, February 13th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung in 45 mins.: S. Cacket 1, W. Henniker 2, W. Good 3, J. Edwards 4, F. Good (conductor) 5, J. Wood 6. Rung for Mr. Edwards' 72nd birthday.

**FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.**—On Sunday, February 6th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 23 mins.: F. Cherritt 1, W. Webb 2, P. Blake 3, B. Tubb 4, F. Tubb 5, F. Barker (conductor) 6.

**WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.**—For morning service, on Sunday, February 6th, 720 changes of Norwich Surprise Minor was rung by the following: T. Spencer 1, W. C. Bunn (conductor) 2, E. Bailey 3, A. J. L. Naunton 4, G. Lee 5, F. W. Naunton 6.—For evening service, touches of Oxford Treble Bob.

**PORTSMOUTH.**—On Sunday, February 6th, for evening service at St. Mary's, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 46 mins.: J. D. Harris 1, J. J. Symons 2, C. Groves 3, R. J. Stone 4, J. Paterson 5, T. R. Taylor 6, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. T. Greenwood 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the Bishop of Southwark (Dr. Garbett), a former Vicar of this parish.

**CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.**—For evening service on February 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: Miss M. Attwell 1, W. G. Brockhurst 2, G. Luff 3, A. Ashdown 4, M. Smither 5, T. Attwell 6, A. J. Bartlett (conductor) 7, W. Bullwinkle (first quarter-peal and first attempt) 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the tenorman, who hails from St. George's-in-the-East.

**NEWBURY, BERKS.**—On Sunday, February 6th, at St. Nicholas' Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 46 mins., with 4, 6, 8 covering: W. H. Adkins, jun., 1, C. Poole 2, C. Pearce 3, H. W. Curtis 4, E. Crocker 5, C. Osgood 6, E. W. Smith (conductor) 7, T. Thorn 8. First quarter-peal for ringers of 6 and 8.

**LONDON.**—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong at St. Clement Danes', Strand, 1,280 Bristol Surprise Major in 48 mins.: E. F. Pike 1, A. W. Coles 2, C. T. Coles (conductor) 3, \*Miss E. E. Chapman 4, \*C. W. Roberts 5, J. Bennett 6, W. J. Nudds 7, R. Sanders 8. \* First quarter-peal in the method.

**FARNEHAM, SURREY.**—On Sunday, February 6th, at St. Andrew's Church for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 49 mins.: H. Prior 1, W. Monk (Havant) 2, C. Wells 3, S. Meadows 4, R. J. Hasted (Havant) 5, T. Upshall 6, R. H. Hasted (conductor) 7, A. E. King 8.—For evening service, 504 Stedman Triples: G. Upshall 1, F. Kemp 2, C. Wells 3, S. Meadows 4, H. Kemp 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted (conductor) 7, A. E. King 8. Longest length in the method by ringers of 2, 3, 4, and 5.

**LOUGHBOROUGH.**—On Sunday, February 6th, at the Parish Church for evensong, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: W. Thorley 1, E. Cartwright 2, J. Grundy 3, J. Saddington 4, H. F. Stubbs 5, W. Smith 6, E. Reader (conductor) 7, J. Hutchley 8.

**FALING.**—On Sunday, February 6th, at Christ Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: F. Laws (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Wilson 2, M. Stacey 3, J. Hunnissett 4, J. A. Trollope (conductor) 5, H. Burton 6.

## MASONIC PEAL TABLET.

## UNVEILING AND DEDICATION AT GARSTON, LIVERPOOL.

There was a large assembly of Freemasons at Garston Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, January 30th, for the unveiling and dedication of a tablet recording a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, which was rung by a band of Freemasons to welcome the Lord Bishop to the diocese of Liverpool. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Canon T. Parnell Rowe, M.A., Vicar of Garston, and W. Bro. Canon T. J. Mitchell, P.P.G.C. The officers of the Province of West Lancashire present included the Rt. W. Bro. John Hearn Burrell, P.G.D. (Eng.), the Provincial Grand Master, W. Bros. L. C. Bailey, P.G.D. (Eng.), Deputy Prov. Grand Master, J. S. Cannington, J.G.D. (Eng.), J. A. Wilson, P.A.G.D.C. (Eng.), E. E. Jefferis, P.G.D.C., E. Arden, P.P.A.D.C., E. Fell and G. Atkin acting as Prov. Grand Deacons.

The tablet, which is of oak and has been placed in the porch of the church, was unveiled by the Prov. Grand Master, who said that it commemorated an event unique in the annals of masonry in the provinces.

The Bishop of Liverpool, Very W. Bro. A. A. David, D.D., Past Grand Chaplain (Eng.), after dedicating the tablet, said that the memorial was of beautiful simplicity, yet worthy of the spirit of brotherhood for which their order stood.

The brethren who took part in the peal were: Bro. A. Jackson, Kirkdale Lodge 1756; Bro. G. Lunt, Dominion Lodge 4289; Bro. C. I. Davies, Lancastrian Lodge 3631; Bro. J. R. Taylor, Coppull Lodge 4232; Bro. J. R. Griffin, Emulation Lodge 1505; Bro. W. Taylor, Coppull Lodge 4232; Bro. J. Wilkinson, Mariners' Lodge 249; Bro. J. E. Sykes, Kilwinning Lodge 5.

## NOTICE.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Lincoln District,—Next meeting at Bassingham (6), Saturday, Feb. 26th. Tower open at 2 p.m. Notification for tea to Harold Marcom, Dis. Sec., 26g, Wagby Road, Lincoln.

## HIGH WYCOMBE BELLS AND BELFRY.

## A PEAL MARKS THE CONCLUSION OF RESTORATION SCHEME.

The peal of Stedman Cinques at All Saints', High Wycombe, on Sunday last, was rung to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the exterior of the magnificent tower of the church, which marks the final stage of a great work which has been carried out step by step over a period of 17 years. In 1905, in an effort to stir up local interest in the state of the old ring of ten, Mr. W. H. Fussell bore the cost of recasting the poor old flat treble of this peal, but matters went from bad to worse, and the collapse of some of the gear about two years later finally called 'stand.' But the time of silence bore fruit, and on All Saints' Day, 1909, the present fine peal of 12 rang out for the first time, and the interior restoration of the tower as far as the base of bell chamber was completed.

Some time later the old carillon was removed, and an entirely new one installed by J. Smith and Sons, of Derby. A later stage of the work comprised a complete overhauling of the clock and restoring the illuminated dial, the old gas lighting being replaced by electric.

The work now completed comprises the removal and rebuilding of the old louvres (a delicate undertaking, as these were in an advanced state of decay) in order to give greater strength. Behind each of these a course of brickwork has been carried to about half their height, and this besides protecting the bells and gear from the weather, greatly lessens the sound of the bells in the immediate vicinity. The outer walls of the tower from top to bottom have been put in a thorough state of repair.

A member of the belfry has recently installed electric light in the ringing chamber.

Mr. Fussell's many friends regret he could not take part in the peal, having been knocked down by a car during the preceding week, but not seriously injured, and all his friends will hope for his speedy recovery. Thanks are due to Mr. Wingrove for stepping into the breach, also to Mr. Boreham for filling a gap at a few hours' notice, while Mr. Cork travelled from Hillingdon in case the band would be short.

F. H.

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**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words, per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

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

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 39th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, at 6 o'clock prompt, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30. Bishop Ryder's (8) 3 to 4.30 p.m. An informal conference at 5 p.m. in the Baptistery at St. Martin's. Subject: "How can we keep beginners interested in the art?" Early application for tickets (with remittance) should be made to Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not attended twenty times in the past year to vote on financial matters, should be paid before February 28th. Meeting for practice will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Poulton (6 bells) on Feb. 19th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Business meeting 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting for united practice at St. Peter's Church, Colchester, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by tea and social at St. Peter's Parish Room. Tea 1s. 4d. each.—R. W. Stannard, Hon. Sec., N.E. District, 12, Ireton Road, Colchester.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Sutton Bonnington on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (5) open from 3 o'clock onwards. A hearty invitation is given to all ringers and friends.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Rose Dene Bungalow, Swing Bridge Road, Loughborough.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells open from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Phillips, Hon. Sec., Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Newbury Branch.—A meeting will be held at Beedon on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. at 1s. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Branch Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow at White Horse Hotel. Subscriptions for 1927 are now due.—P. Timson, Dis. Sec., 80, Springfield Street, Chelmsford.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Barking on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells from 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Municipal Restaurant, East Street, 5.15 p.m. Subscriptions for 1927 are now due.—E. Butler, Hon. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Hindley St. Peter's Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Bells, Sunday, Feb. 20th.—Special Services 10.30 and 6.30. Preacher at evening service, the Rev. Canon Elsee, President, Lancashire Association. Ringing before and after evening service. All ringers welcome.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Spalding on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available after 12.30 p.m. Tea at Barker's Restaurant at 4.30. Evening song at 6.30. Anyone requiring tea please let me know not later than first post Feb. 23rd.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Clifford District.—The annual meeting will be held at Eardisley on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage 4.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please advise by the 22nd.—J. P. Hyett, Hon. Dis. Sec., Dulas Terrace, Hay.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Hereford District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Hereford on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available: St. Nicholas' (6) 2.30 to 4.15, All Saints' (8) 2.30 to 4.15, Cathedral (10) 6.30 to 8.30. Service, All Saints', 4.30 p.m. Tea, Booth Hall, 5.15 p.m. Please notify me not later than Feb. 22nd.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deanery Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Newchurch, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells ready at 3.30. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand. A hot pot, provided at 5.30, for those sending in to Mr. Wm. Ashworth, 15, Wardle Street, Stacksteads, not later than Feb. 23rd. Meeting to take place afterwards.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 8, Oaklands Road, Edenfield, near Bury.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Appledore on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available from 2.30. Service at 4.45, followed by tea at the Swan Hotel. Business meeting to be held afterwards. All ringers invited.—A. C. Kay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 6, Sturges Road, Ashford.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5 o'clock, followed by tea (kindly provided by the Rector). Business meeting afterwards.—J. A. Hales, Hon. Sec., 20, Aspland Grove, Hackney, E.8.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Yorktown District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Pirbright on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available 3 p.m. Guild's service 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Subscriptions for the year are now due.—J. B. Hessey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Queen Street, Chertsey.

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Broadclyst on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Sowton, Honiton Clyst, Pinhoe and Poltimore towers also open. Tea 1s.—Further particulars from T. J. Stokes, 35, Okehampton Road, Exeter.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Isle of Wight District.—Next quarterly meeting at Freshwater on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., provided by the Rector in the Parish Hall, for those who notify me by Tuesday, the 22nd. Business meeting after tea.—B. J. Snow, Hon. Dis. Sec., 2, Collingwood, Daniel Street, Ryde, I.W.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—A meeting of the above will be held at Ockbrook on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (6) at 3 o'clock. Tea will be arranged if sufficient number will send me their names at once, or not later than Wednesday, the 23rd, that they will be present. All ringers will be welcome.—Chas. Draper, 25, Western Road, Derby.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The Pre-Lent Meeting will be held at Lanchester, Co. Durham, on Saturday, February 26th. Committee meeting at 4 p.m. and tea at 5 p.m., at the King's Head Hotel. Tea 2/- to members and 2/6 to non-members. Owing to difficulty of catering, those coming to tea are requested to send in their names by first post on Monday, February 21st.—E. Ferry, Hon. Sec., 16 Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be at Barwell on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available from 3.45. Tea provided at 4.30 prompt. Business meeting after tea. All ringers welcome.—W. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—A bye-meeting will be held at East Farleigh on Saturday, February 26th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service at 5 p.m. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar, after service. Subscriptions for 1927 are now due, and should be paid at this meeting. Members intending to be present please notify me before Wednesday, the 23rd.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec., Bungelow, Linton, Maidstone.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged for all who send in their names before Wednesday, Feb. 23rd. Tea 1s. each.—H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Netley Abbey on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at the Alexandra Café for all who notify me by Tuesday, the 22nd, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Sec., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next ringing practice has been arranged at Marlow on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) available at 6.30 p.m. Belfry foremen should note that subscriptions for 1927 are now due.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Bowden and Stockport Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Northenden on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells ready 3 o'clock.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 36, Higher Henry Street, Hyde.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Warmley on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those intending to be present kindly notify by the 23rd inst.?—C. H. Jennings, 10, Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Witham on Saturday, Feb. 26th. The bells will be available during the afternoon and evening. Service in the church at 4.15. Tea after the service. Will those intending to be present please notify me not later than Thursday, Feb. 24th, in order that proper provision may be made?—W. H. Dyson, Dis. Sec., High Street, Braintree, Essex.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Dorset Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stalbridge (6 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Preacher, the Rev. E. S. Merriman. Tea 5 (6d. for members). Meeting to follow. Towers available: Stalbridge (6), Lydlinch (5), Bishop's Caundle (5). Will ringers who wish for tea please let me know by Tuesday, Feb. 22nd, at the latest?—Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, Feb. 26th. The bells will be available at 2.45. A good attendance is requested.—Arthur E. Sharman, 199, High Street N., Dunstable.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Conisborough on Saturday, Feb. 26th. A good meeting is desired, and all towers in the district are requested to send at least one representative. Tea only provided for those who notify me before the 23rd.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45. Tea in St. Mary's Hall. A cordial welcome to all ringers and friends. Please notify me if you are coming.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Christchurch District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Brockenhurst on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available at 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m.—G. Preston, 3, Waterden Place, Christchurch.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Dunster Deanery Branch.—The next annual meeting will be held at Timberscombe (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at the School Room at 5. Business meeting to follow. All those intending to be present kindly advise me not later than Feb. 22nd.—G. Stacey, Hon. Local Sec., 6, Park Street, Minehead.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Canterbury District will be held at Canterbury on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Cathedral service 3 p.m. Tea at Gaywood's Restaurant, High Street, 4 p.m. Business after tea. The bells of the Cathedral and St. Alphage will be open for ringing. Members desiring to be present must send their names to me before Thursday, Feb. 24th. Subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Old Warden on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT.**—The annual meeting of this Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, which will be conducted by the President, the Rev. Canon Phelps, Vicar of Dudley. Tea and business meeting afterwards. All those intending being present must send their names to me not later than March 1st.—Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—A special meeting will be held on Saturday, March 5th, at Nottingham. The bells of St. Mary's (10) will be available from 3 p.m., and the meeting will be held in the belfry at 6 p.m. Tea can be obtained nearby at reasonable prices. It is urgently requested that all who possibly can will attend for the election of local officers for the ensuing year.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Helen's, Worcester, on Saturday, March 5th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards in Parish Room.—J. Rowlatt, Branch Sec.

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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by The Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.4.