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A TIME FOR ACTION.

The suggestion, made by a correspondent in our last issue in connection with the present unsatisfactory position of the ban on the use of church bells, that the Central Council and every association should communicate immediately with the Government department concerned with a view to getting some modification, is one that deserves close attention. Sufficient time has now elapsed for a studied review of the situation, and there is nothing in the scheme for using single church bells as air invasion warnings to prevent using rings of bells for their normal purpose of notifying Sunday services. The position with regard to churches, particularly in rural areas, having only a single bell, is rather different, because there could be no distinction between a service bell and an alarm, but where there are rings of bells there can be no possible confusion. Bells rung in orderly fashion in the way that the people of this country have been used to hearing for hundreds of years could not be in any way confused with just one or two bells clanged when the enemy is expected or has arrived. This is one thing that should be emphasised with the Ministry of Home Security which, in conceiving the idea of a warning scheme could obviously have had little or no knowledge of the technicalities involved on the actual bells side of the question.

If, however, representations are to be effective, any proposals which are put forward to the Ministry to obtain a modification of the ban must be reasoned and constructive. It would be useless and, indeed, unreasonable merely to make a general demand for the wiping out of the ban, and if the associations approach the authorities it should be on common lines which the Ministry can see are worthy of consideration. Such points as are put forward must clearly show that they would in no way interfere with the general scheme of the Ministry that an alarm in case of air invasion shall be given by the use of church bells. Those who know bells best know the limited effectiveness of such a plan and know also the difficulties of carrying it out, but that is not the sort of thing the authorities are likely to listen to with much patience. It seems to us that the best hope of sympathetic consideration will be to prove to the Ministry that service ringing and practices can be revived without the least risk of interfering with the warning, if only the advice of those who really understand bells is sought and that the public are taken into confidence in any plans that may be evolved.

There would admittedly be difficulties in the case of one-bell churches. These bells may still have to remain
(Continued on page 386.)

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silent except for the emergency which the Order contemplates, but the orderly ringing of bells in peal, at publicly recognised hours of service, could not, as we have already said, lead to any misconception. On the other hand, the restoration of ringing would be widely welcomed by the public. With the silence of the bells there is something sadly missing in the English Sunday, something which the public would gladly welcome back again, and we think that reasoned appeal to the Minister of Home Security by the associations, led by the Central Council, might open the way for a reconsideration of the total ban. It needs, however, thoughtful action. One difficulty in getting any steps taken within reasonable time by the fifty or so ringing associations spread over the country is that so few of them have any machinery for acting quickly, unless the leading officials are prepared to take the matter in hand on behalf of the members. This is an occasion and an object which, we feel, would amply justify the task being undertaken by responsible officers of associations without waiting to consult committees or general meetings, and it should be done without loss of time. Opportunity should be taken to call attention not only to the depressing effect, already expressed by many influential clergy in the public Press, which the silence of bells in town and village is having upon the people, but also to the fact that such silence is unnecessary in the interest of public security if the scheme is thoughtfully worked out. The question of practices might present some difficulty, but where there has, in the past, been a night fixed by definitely established custom, and when it is understood that the warning will be only the clanging of one particular bell, local knowledge would enable the scheme to be clearly understood. If need be, it could be locally advertised to save the possibility of any misunderstanding. The Central Council should give a lead to the associations in their approach to the Ministry, and might well ask for a deputation to be received. There is nothing to be lost, and there might be much to be gained by such action, for the decision of the Ministry to ban all bells was unquestionably hurriedly made and without consultation with those who could have imparted valuable information.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 5, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CONDUCTOR'S RESIDENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising seven 720's each called differently.

*ERIC DURRANT 1-2 | †JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 3-4

WALTER C. MEDLER 5-6

Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

* First handbell peal away from the tenors. † First handbell peal away from 1-2.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Thursday, August 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT PERRY FARM,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY... .. 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY 3-4

*HENRY G. LEWIS 5-6

Conducted by C. R. LILLEY.

* First peal on handbells.

**JOHN MARTIN'S MANUSCRIPT BOOK.
OLD LEICESTER COMPOSER'S 'TIT TOM' PEALS.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

John Martin was composer to the Leicester Scholars towards the end of the 18th century, when that society was at the height of its fame. His manuscript book, a brown quarto volume, is carefully ruled and neatly written. The ink is very much faded, but except where the edges of pages have cracked and broken off, everything can be read quite easily. The language is not elegant, but it is direct and very human, and it is free from that queer mixture of obscurity and florid eulogy that is characteristic of so many writings of the period.

The volume opens with accounts of two peals of Grand-sire Caters rung soon after the bells of St. Margaret's Church had been augmented to ten. The first was 6,012, rung on August 12th, 1776, and of this Martin says: 'We can safely say that a peal of such a Length Never was performed so compleat by the first Attempt Ever Made for the same.'

The second was the great 10,080 rung in 1777. Martin tells the story of this in inimitable style.

'It was agreed on By the Leicester Change Ringers To Go for a peal of Ten Thousand and Eighty Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, which They Did Every Monday Morning, and after a Tryal of several Times, They compleated Their Desires. Four Times They Rung Eight Thousand, and Once they Rung Nine Thousand, and then ye Man that Rung the Third misfd, his Salley, and ye peal was lost—Another Tryal Twook place on the 25th. Day of February, (1777) and 5000 changes was rung in the Morning and In ye afternoon of ye same Day they Compleated the Great peal of 10080 Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, in Seven hours and Twelve Minuets, the Next Day the Society Met and Chear'd (i.e. chaired) Three of the Oldest Members Through the principle Streets of the Town, and the inhabitants of ye (town?) Made a Subscription and it Ris to the Eight (height) of Thirty Three pounds and upwards, which Names are hear wrote under. Begin from St. Margaret's Church.'

Then follow 22 columns of names and the amount each gave. Contributions ranged from 2d. to a guinea, given by 'Mr. Watts for Ale.' The collectors missed very little ('In the Combship 2.6'), and their enthusiasm was in no way abated by the next day, for we read:—

'Received the Next Day of people that was not at home 2.2.'

The ringers in this great peal were 'Wm. Ryder, Treble. Benjn. Warburton, 2. Thos. Armstrong, 3. Thos. Scott, 4. Wm. Thaker, 5. John Martin, 6. Mark Greyham, 7. Joseph Smith, 8. William Bull, 9. James Slack and Richard Wright, Tenor. Conducted by Wm. Bull.'

Succeeding pages of this fascinating book give instructions for the ringing of Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and Bob Major. There are touches of progressive lengths in these methods, and the figures of two peals, Holt's Ten-Part and the 5,120 Treble Bob Major rung in 1718 by the Union Scholars. Inside the front cover of the book are the figures of 5,040 Bob Royal with this comment: 'Bob Bells for 5,040 Bob Royal with 789X Beating together Right way behind.' A touch of Grandsire Triples has this footnote. 'In ye Tittoms: a Favouirgt 504'; three leads of Treble Bob are said "to Shoe the Nature of a Bob and how it is to Be Made"; and on a page devoted to Bob Major is a quaint fragment of musical stave showing the ascending scale of D major.

A great portion of the book is devoted to Grandsire Caters, and here Martin is extremely interesting. He gives two leads of the plain course in full with this remark: 'I have hear prick'd two leads in (full?) length that it may be adapted to the Method, the Remainder of

ye Course I have prick'd the Back Stroke Leads of ye Treble as above.'

His touches are built on a mixture of the long-course plan and the short-course plan, and he uses 8 in 2 for placing a new bell behind the ninth, but his peals follow the traditional long-course plan. He loved the music of the Tittoms: 'Give Me the Tittom Beat, with 7th. Beating Down Before ye 8th, and the 8th. Before the 9th., when a person has Once got that Beat in is ear he Sails Before the wind with pleasure and his Ear will Never be Satisfyed with the Beat of Good Tittoms.'

In Martin we have for the first time a composer stressing the musical importance of the bell behind the ninth. Reeves dismisses the subject rather casually with the remark that some prefer the music of one bell behind the ninth and some prefer another. For John Martin no doubt whatever existed. He never failed to draw attention to the excellence of the block of courses with the 6th behind the ninth; he called it 'the Long Twelve Hundred Course with the 6th. behind ye ninth,' and for him it was the highest form of Cater music.

It grieved him to feel that only a limited amount of pure Tittum music was available. He knew that lengths exceeding some 6,000 changes must be patched up with non-Tittum music, and he sought by a means of his own to split up this inferior music and to distribute it as regularly as possible among the more desirable portions of the peal. Reeves and Gross had tacked the extra portions on to the front of the peal, as may be seen in Gross' 7,001. Martin had a plan of his own. His device was what he designated 'Calling the 7th. down out of the Tittoms.' He called the 7th Before,

64235978 In and out at 6 with a double. The Tittum position was broken up for 198
57628493 4 changes and then re-established, the total
76528493 6 result being the same as if 78 had been
65728493 6 called. Martin set out his peals and
42635978 1 touches by the bob leads, indicating by dotted lines in red ink where the 7th might be 'called down.'

The examples given here show, first the process of calling the 7th down, and, secondly, how they are written in the composer's book. From 52637489 26537489 one may call a bob at 7 and arrive at 36245978 in seven leads; or one may, from 26537489, call the 7th down, insert 198 changes, and still arrive at 36245978. The 36245978 bell behind the ninth was undisturbed by this plan, and when the 6th was in that position the music was tolerable. In other cases it was poor stuff.

Martin knew this quite well, and felt that he was only making the best of a bad job. Below his 10,080 he writes: '10080 is hear prick'd and has got all the Musick in it as can be Thrown into it, and by Filling up five of the Blanks it Will make a peal of 11070, and by Filling up the Other five Blanks it will make a peal of 12060, and the greater Lengths you Run the More Deficient the Music in some parts must Be, But preserve and get all the good Music you can.'

For his 10,080 Martin lengthened out only the block where the 6th, 5th and 3rd were behind the ninth. For him the music was more important than the symmetry. Read, in conclusion, what he writes of his 7,002:—

'7002 is more compleat when each course is Lengthen'd
(Continued on page 395.)

**THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.
THE FIRST TEN THOUSAND.**

To commemorate the peals of Grandsire Bob Triples rung in 1715, and Grandsire Triples rung in 1718, two boards were erected in Mancroft belfry, and they still exist. Some years ago the earlier one became decayed through age, and was taken down, repaired, and repainted. It was a rather drastic restoration, but the style of the board was faithfully retained. The other board has been carefully restored on more conservative lines, and is now in an excellent state of preservation.

The wording of it is interesting on account of the statements it makes, and what it claims and does not claim. The performance is not claimed to be the first peal of Grandsire Triples ever rung. On the contrary, it is stated that 5,040 changes had 'often times' been rung, but with changes alike. The Norwich claim is that though the 'most ingenious men' of the age who were ringers had studied the problem of producing a true peal of Grandsire Triples, yet all their projections had proved errors until John Garthon, with long study and practice, had discovered the secret.

From this we are justified in concluding that peal ringing was common at a much earlier date than is usually supposed; only, for want of a true composition, all the peals were false. And this is confirmed by what the authors of the J. D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' say. We may, perhaps, wonder why men should ring a false peal of Triples when they could without much difficulty have discovered true five-thousands of Major, but we must remember that Grandsire Triples was the standard method, that many ringers, perhaps nearly all ringers, did not know that Doleman's peal was false, and that as yet five thousand had not been accepted as the number of changes for a peal on all numbers of bells. There was a point in ringing the extent of Triple changes, but no more in ringing five thousand on eight than in ringing four or six thousand. And anyhow, Major ringing was little understood or practised.

Between the Norwich Scholars and the Union Scholars of London there was some communication. As soon as Garthon's peal had been rung at Mancroft it was sent up to London, and there, less than three weeks after its performance, it was again rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, with Robert Baldwin apparently as conductor. The London men evidently did not look upon it as the sort of peal they really wanted for Grandsire Triples, so they gave it a new name and called it Hick Triples after the distinctive calls in it.

In return, the Union Scholars sent to Norwich the Major method of which they had rung the first peal, and this led to the next important performance in the East Anglian capital.

In 1726 the ring at St. Michael's Coslany was increased to eight, and on the first of April in the following year 'a remarkable peal was rung, called the Quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in, or the Union Bob, consisting of 10,080 changes, in six hours and twenty-eight minutes.'

It was the first time that ten thousand changes had been rung anywhere, and, indeed, so far as we know, only one peal longer than the usual five thousand had up till then been scored—6,832 changes of Bob Major by the College Youths at Lambeth in the previous year.

Thomas Gardiner rang the fifth, Thomas Melchior rang the second, John Webster the fourth, Thomas Barrett the sixth, and Robert Crane the tenor. Three names appear for the first time—Richard Barnham, who rang the treble, John Harvey the third, and Edward Crane the seventh.

When men first began to practise Treble Bob methods on eight bells it did not occur to them that a composition might be true at the lead ends and yet have repetition of changes in the interior of the leads. They had learned by experience that in a symmetrical Treble Bob Minor method internal falseness is not possible so long as the lead ends are true; and they did not see why it should be otherwise in a Major method.

The result was that it was only a matter of luck if the early peals of Treble Bob were true, and, except in the case of the first peal of all, the presumption is that they were false.

We do not know definitely what peal the Norwich men rang at Coslany, and at first sight we should be inclined to conclude that it must have been false; but actually, as with the Grandsire Bob Triples, there is evidence which enables us to judge the matter and to decide, not only what peal was rung, but also whose composition it was, and that it was true.

Shipway in his book gives a 10,080 234567 In Out as the composition of Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, but adds in a footnote that he had also received it from William 573624 — — Eversfield as the composition of Wil- 647253 — — liam Doubleday Crofts, of Nottingham, 426357 — and that it had been rung several times Four times re- in different places. peated with a H

at Out in last Crofts' notebook is extant and con- course of the tains the peal. Now Crofts was a re- last part gives lative or in some other way a connec- 34256. tion of John Garthon's family, and he The whole twice had inherited manuscripts and figures repeated. from the Norwich composer, including the figures of the peal of Grandsire Triples. Henry Hubbard suggested that this peal of Treble Bob was the one which had been rung in 1727 at Coslany, and after examining the figures we can come to the almost certain conclusion that not only is Hubbard's conjecture correct, but that John Garthon was the composer.

He had already, as we have seen, extended the standard 720 of Bob Minor and the six-score of Grandsire Doubles to seven bells. What more natural than that he should try to extend the standard 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor to eight bells, using the same plan as he had used for the others?

He knew that in Minor the half-hunt is called in and out of the slow until the two big bells come together again, and when one is going into the hunt and the other out, the bob is omitted.

When he applied this to eight bells it gave a three-course block in which the half-hunt and the quarter-hunt completed their revolution, and which would repeat four times and give the full revolution of the half-quarter-hunt (the sixth).

	2345678	
	8642735	3
	4862735	1
	8235476	6
	3825476	1
	8576342	6
P.	4263578	4

He had now the equivalent of the five-course blocks in the Grandsire Bob Triples and the Grandsire Triples, and it only needed to apply the composition of those peals to produce the extent.

As in the Grandsire Triples, he cannot omit or add any bobs without upsetting the hunts, so he again employed Hics, which in Treble Bob Major take the form of sixth-place bobs.

Whether he went on and produced the 40,320 changes we do not know, but most likely he did, and we can without difficulty reconstruct his figures. If he applied the composition of his peal of Grandsire Triples he would obtain the 40,320, and the lead ends would be true, but there would be internal repetition. That, however, Garthon did not know.

In those days five thousand had not yet been recognised as the standard number of changes for a peal except, of course, on seven bells; but to ring the full extent on eight or even half of it was obviously a physical impossibility for one set of men. A quarter-peal was within the bounds of possibility, though it was much longer than any company had as yet accomplished, and this the Norwich Scholars resolved to attempt.

The composition was an obvious one. Just as they rang a quarter of the 720 of Bob Minor by calling a bob in each of the three courses when 5-6 are at home, so they got the quarter-peal of Treble Bob Major by calling a Hic in each of the fifteen-course blocks when 7-8 are before and 5-6 in their home positions. This was the peal that Croft preserved and that Shipway printed, and this I do not doubt was the peal the Norwich Scholars rang in 1727.

It is significant that on the board they described it as 'the Quarter Peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in.'

The composition is true, and true for the same reason that the Union Scholars' peal is true, but it is too much to suppose that Garthon selected the courses with 7-8 together because they consisted of three of the six true groups. As with Baldwin, the composer of the other peal, in this matter luck was with him.

The conductor of the Coslany peal is not stated. Melchior had for long been the leading man among the Norwich Scholars, and, like Annable among the College Youths, he looked on the conducting as his right. But he rang the second, which was not an observation bell nor a sub-observation bell. Edward Crane rang the seventh, and he was beginning to push himself forward as the authority on composition and the successor of John Garthon. Moreover, the Cranes seem to have had control of St. Michael's belfry, and though the purse club, the ringers' organisation, claimed all the towers in the city, we may be sure that it was individuals that really counted, especially when they were parish clerks, sextons or steeplekeepers. Whether, therefore, Thomas Melchior or Edward Crane called the peal, we cannot decide, especially as a keen rivalry now sprang up between the two men.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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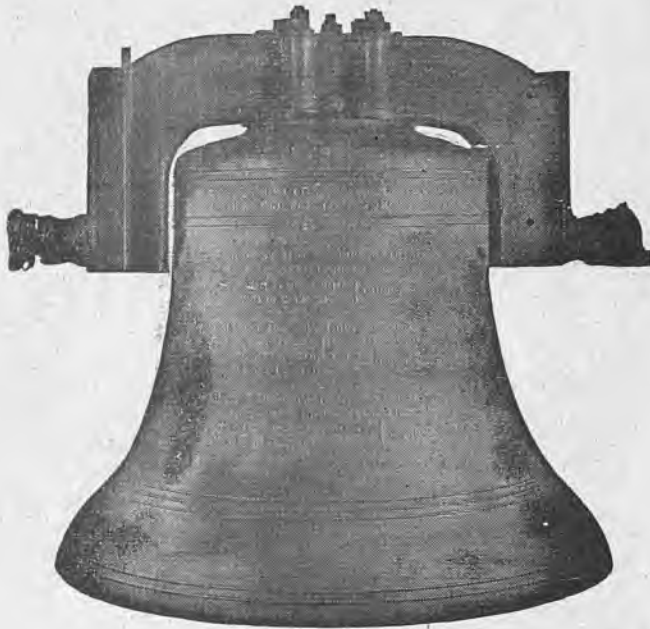
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. C. W. Denyer, the hon. secretary of the Farnham District of the Guildford Guild, has joined the Royal Artillery, and all correspondence relating to the district should be addressed to Miss E. Southby, 122, Ash Road, Aldershot. She is having the help of Mr. John Denyer.

William Pye was born on August 14th, 1870. During a long ringing career he took part in nearly two thousand peals and set up fresh long length records in several methods, of which London Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Maximus have not yet been beaten. He also called a peal in twelve Spliced Surprise Major methods, which so far is the highest point to which method ringing has reached.

On August 15th, 1908, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. James Motts called the peal and William Pye was in the band.

We have been reminded by a correspondent that an interesting anniversary fell on July 21st. The record peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (17,280 changes) was rung at Over in the year 1923.

One of the earliest peals of Surprise Major was rung on August 18th, 1811, when the Keighley band accomplished 5,376 changes of Cambridge Surprise. The composition was by Joseph Tibbs, who was in many respects a competent composer, but it was false.

On August 19th, 1765, a heavy ring of ten bells cast at Whitechapel was opened at York Minster by the Norwich Scholars with a long touch of Bob Royal. The first peal in the steeple was rung in 1788 by the College Youths, conducted by Thomas Blakemore.

The time of the tea at the Oxford Guild's meeting at Wokingham to-morrow is a quarter to five, not a quarter to six as advertised in our last issue.

RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—During the enforced silence of the bells there is one point that will require watching with close attention. One effect of this deplorable ban is the suspension of the Curfew, Angelus and other traditional bells. Due measures ought to be taken to ensure that on the lifting of the ban these venerable customs shall at once be resumed and that those responsible for ringing such bells shall be ready automatically to return to their duties. Especially important is that in the event of a new clerk, verger or other official customarily so responsible being appointed under existing conditions, he be informed that the ringing of the bell, as soon as it is allowed, will constitute one of his duties.

F. LL. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

His friends will learn with pleasure that Mr. James George is still improving after his severe operation. Last week he was transferred from Northampton General Hospital to the Margaret Spencer Convalescent Home, at Dallington, where he is likely to remain for a few weeks, after which he will make his home with friends at Wolverton.

Mr. George is still suffering considerable pain, but keeps up his spirits in a most remarkable way, while his tremendous vitality is standing him in good stead. He will be glad to hear from any of his friends.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—If Mr. Turner means a ten-part peal with a single half-way and end, and no other singles, as I expect that he does, then such a peal cannot be had.

The Thompson papers proved that it is not possible to bring an even number of round blocks together into one touch with bobs only. Grandsire Triples shows us all the 5,040 changes divided into 60 short courses called B blocks.

Since it is impossible to put 30 of these together to get the half-peal, one of them, at least, must be divided to show two rows of the B block in one half-peal, and the other in the other half. Take the B block:—

In course
234567
752634
467352

If put after the single it will read:—

Out of course
325476
643725
576243

Take any in course row and follow it with a plain lead:—

234567
253746

Now 576243 cannot be followed by a bob or it will bring up rounds, and it cannot be followed with a plain lead or it brings 527364, which we have already had. Try as you will, you cannot have two leads of a B block in one half-peal and one lead in the other and keep the changes true, with ordinary singles.

E. BANKES JAMES.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

READERS PROPOSE ACTION.

A MASS PETITION SUGGESTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. F. W. Housden's letter in your last issue, I suggest that it would be possible for you to organise a mass petition from ringers in general against what is generally accepted to be a very impractical ban on ringing.

My suggestions are as follows:—

Churches with three or more bells which are rung in changes in normal times could be given licence to ring for service on Sundays. Should invasion take place while ringing is in progress, the warning might easily be given by ringing treble and tenor together for a period of not less than (say) five minutes, the time limit being specified to allow for those unfortunate learners who cannot 'Stand' when required by the conductor.

At all other times, the ringing of a single bell for not less than (say) ten minutes would provide the alarm. This, in turn, would allow for the contingency of a broken rope, an overturned bell, or any other mishap which might render a bell uncontrollable. There would be no 'five-minute' bell, and churches with less than three bells would have to observe the existing rule.

Now, Mr. Editor, can you organise a petition which will allow us, if successful, to ring at least for Sunday services? Peals, practices and meetings could go by the board if necessary, although I see no reason why these should not be allowed as well as service ringing.

I shall be glad to hear what you think of Mr. Housden's suggestion. I heartily endorse it, and would point out that, if the Exercise is fortunate to get an M.P. on its side, half the battle is won.

W. E. CHALLICE.

AN INVASION FILM.

MUDDLE OF THE BELLS.

Sir,—It is urgently necessary that the Ministry of Home Security should at least make a definite statement to everyone concerning the sounding of church bells as alarms in the event of attempted invasion from the air.

In a local cinema last Saturday evening I saw a ten-minute film, shown under the auspices of the Ministry of Information, illustrating by means of a short play the action to take during an attempted invasion for the rounding up of parachutists and spies.

The scene is set in the country home of two ladies, who are awakened at night by a local Air Raid Warden, and told to get to the cellar, as a raid is on. On their way they hear a knock at the front door, which they open to find a dying parachutist outside. At the same time they hear the local ring of eight going to rounds and call changes, which informs them that an air invasion is on.

A man in the uniform of a military officer then knocks, is admitted, and gives himself away as a German spy by asking for the use of an Ordnance Survey Map. He is held up by one lady with the revolver taken from the dead parachutist, while the other rides to the Wardens' post to ask him to inform the Home Guard.

The fact that a whole ring of bells is used in this film can be very misleading and confusing to the public. At any rate, on the face of it, it gives the direct lie to the statement made by the authorities to the secretary of the Central Council some time ago, namely, that 'the ringing of church bells in full peal was not contemplated or required.'

Will people in the vicinity of a ring of bells, after seeing this film, know what to do when only one bell is rung? It is doubtful, to say the least. The suggestion of a ring of bells going at night in these times is absurd, because local ringers could not be got together at short notice, and members of the Home Guard would not be capable of ringing rounds.

Five weeks ago I walked into a belfry 16 miles from this city. The ropes had been removed from five of the six bells, leaving only the second bell to be rung as an alarm. No rounds can be rung from this tower. What would happen if clergy up and down the country were to go one better than this and remove all the ropes from the bells in their towers pending definite instructions from the Ministry of Home Security regarding the use of the bells as an invasion alarm?

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

Coventry.

On the last question raised by our correspondent, we venture to suggest that it might be dangerous to remove all the ropes from a tower. The clergy who did this might bring themselves within one or other of the Defence Orders for obstructing legal authority and the safety of the realm.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

DINNER GONG FOR CHURCH BELL.

When a vicar is inducted to his parish he has to toll the church bell as part of the ceremony.

Defence regulations recently prevented the Rev. G. Hutchinson, the new Vicar of Alton, Hampshire, from carrying out that part of the ceremony at his induction.

Instead he pulled lightly at the rope without sounding the bell—and at the same time struck a dinner-gong.

SUFFOLK RECTOR'S PROTEST.

THE RELIGIOUS SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

The following letter from a Suffolk clergyman recently appeared in the 'Daily Mail':—

Sir,—It is time someone uttered a protest about the use of church bells for war warnings, which precludes their normal use.

In a town there are so many ways of spreading news that bells are unnecessary.

Then there is the religious side of the question.

We are told that we are fighting against a system which sets out to kill religion. For that fight we need a prayerful nation, a people ever listening for those calls which draw them together, so that by mutual aid, companionship, and confidence in God's House they may be strengthened to face whatsoever lies before them.

What are those calls? What is one of the sweetest and most familiar, known down the ages? The church bells.

Let this song of England ring out again each Sunday, ring of homo and ring of country, ring of peace that was and yet shall be; ring of a Faith that never dies and of a victory that none can take away.

Euston Rectory, Thetford. E. N. Needham-Davies.

BELLS TO SUMMON L.D.V.'S?

A WESTERN AREA INSTRUCTION.

In one western area a scheme has been formulated for ringing church bells to signify the order of assembly of L.D.V.'s in the locality. Apparently the signal is to be given by platoon commanders, but it may be pointed out that, unless it is done by direction of a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces or the chief of police, it would be an offence under the Order to call a platoon together by this means.

Platoon commanders are not themselves necessarily either commissioned officers or chiefs of police. The L.D.V. in the area referred to have evidently got a plan for the use of the church bells, but are they not arrogating to themselves powers which, under the Order, they do not appear to possess? And unless there is a threatened or actual air invasion will they not be taking an action likely to lead to local panic? There has been no official intimation yet that the ringing of church bells is to summon the L.D.V., and while that may eventually be the best and most practical purpose for which they can be used under the Order, no local platoon commander is entitled on his own initiative to use the bells of his parish church for summoning his men.

MITCHAM BELLS AND THE BAN.

The Mitcham Parish Church Magazine for August contains the following paragraph:—

All the world now knows that Mitcham Parish Church has a peal of bells. This has happened because the ringers at the end of their weekly practice left the bells 'up' on the night before a regulation was issued that church bells were not to be rung except in warning of invasion. Accordingly, notice that they were to be rung down had to be given on the wireless, in the newspapers and by word of mouth. The officials at the Ministry in London evidently like to think of Mitcham as still a place of lavender and liquorice, of camomile and the squirting cucumber, as their letter giving instructions about the ringing down speaks of the 'Church bells at Mitcham Village Church.' Alas, we can hardly style Mitcham a village any longer.

THE LATE MR. J BEAMS.

FUNERAL AT EWELL.

The funeral of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, Surrey, whose death we recorded last week, took place at Ewell Parish Church on Wednesday of last week. Mr. Beams, who was 68 years of age, was one of the oldest members of the Surrey Association and a foundation member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

A member of a very old and respected Ewell family which has been associated with the parish since the 18th century, Mr. Beams was a gardener. For several years he worked for the Kensington and Chelsea Schools, and from 1929 to 1938 he was gardening instructor at Ewell Boys' School. His father, Jesse Beams, who died some 20 years ago, was a ringer and beadle for about 50 years at Ewell Parish Church.

Mr. John Beams was introduced to the belfry as a child by his father and so had a lifelong connection with bells. He took part in more than 200 peals, including one at Widford, Essex, in 1894, rung by a band of gardeners, and the first peals on the new bells at Reigate in 1899 and at St. Martin's, Epsom, in 1921. In 1901 he headed the list of conductors for the Surrey Association and again in 1919. One of the peals he called was muffled for the funeral of Queen Victoria. His peals included a 'John' peal at Hersham in 1933 and one at Epsom with a band consisting of four fathers and four sons.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. C. Baring-Gould (assistant priest of Ewell), and the mourners included his son and other members of the family, in addition to ringers from the local band and other towers. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Surrey Association and the bands at Ewell Parish Church and All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, as well as the Ewell Parochial Church Council.

At the special assembly at Ewell Boys' School, the headmaster (Dr. D. W. G. Jones) referred regretfully to the death of Mr. Beams, and a memorial Communion service was held at All Saints' Church, West Ewell, on the morning of the funeral.

DEATH OF MRS. C. D. P. DAVIES.

WIDOW OF CELEBRATED RINGER AND COMPOSER.

The death occurred on Monday of last week of Mrs. Jessie Davies, widow of the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, celebrated as a ringer and composer, author of many works on ringing, and for over 20 years hon. secretary of the Central Council. Mrs. Davies had reached an advanced age and for some years had been an invalid. She was a native of Ringmer, Sussex, where Mr. Davies at one time held a curacy, before being appointed to the living of East Marden, a village among the Sussex Downs, where the first years of their married life were spent and where a family of two sons and two daughters were born. Later Mr. and Mrs. Davies lived for many years at Fretherne in Gloucestershire and afterwards at Deane, Hampshire. When Mr. Davies resigned the latter living, he and his wife retired to Tewkesbury, where Mr. Davies' father was once Vicar, and while incumbent of the fine old Abbey initiated the great restoration scheme. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Davies spent her remaining days at Brodon, near Tewkesbury.

Throughout their married life Mrs. Davies took the keenest interest in the work of her husband, whether in the parish or in his hobbies, which included not only bellringing, but astronomy—he was one of the most honoured Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society. Mrs. Davies' interest in ringing matters continued, and up to the time of her death she was a reader of 'The Ringing World,' which was posted to her every week.

A great tribute to the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, which was broken up by the death of the former, was paid by a lifelong friend, who wrote, 'All who came into contact with it could not fail to be influenced for good—father, mother, sons, daughter, grandchildren, all bound together in one perfect bond of love. Not a few felt the inspiration of that beautiful home of family life, lived in the very bond of peace and of all virtues.'

Mrs. Davies was buried on Friday in the Cloister Garth, hard by the south-east corner of Tewkesbury Abbey, where the Rev. C. D. P. Davies was interred in 1931. The service was taken by the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, one of the oldest friends of the family, whose association with the Rev. C. D. P. Davies began in their undergraduate days at Oxford University in the late seventies. Canon Coleridge was 'best man' at his friend's wedding at Ringmer. He married three out of four of the family, and has laid both father and mother to rest at the close of their long lives.

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' SERVICES TO RINGING.

In recognition of his service to the Central Council from 1901 to 1921, the Rev. C. D. P. Davies was presented with a silver loving cup on relinquishing the office of hon. secretary and treasurer. After his death in 1931 a national memorial was raised by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Two trebles were added in Tewkesbury Abbey to make a ring of twelve bells and a ringers' chapel was furnished.

Few men served the art of ringing so much as Charles D. P. Davies did, and none brought to bear on the science a finer intellect. Very much of the knowledge possessed by ringers to-day is the result of the work he began over sixty years ago. A Scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford, his mathematical mind was early directed to the investigation of the construction of peals of Grandsire Triples, and for his labours in this direction alone the Exercise will remain permanently indebted to him.

In those early days Mr. Davies was associated with investigators like Jasper Snowdon, Sir Arthur Heywood, the Rev. H. Earle Bulver and that non-ringing but eminent campanological mathematician, Mr. W. H. Thompson.

Before their time composition had been to a large extent haphazard. Men had produced peals largely by trial and error; but these investigators reduced the subject to an exact science.

By their work they were able to prove that certain natural laws operated in the production of peals, and thus they made the way far easier for those who have followed them by laying down well defined paths which it is necessary to follow to reach certain desired ends.

They eliminated, as it were, many of the blind alleys into which composers used to stumble and grope in search of peals, and by the publication of the results of their labours they saved others that fruitless wandering in the wilderness which earlier lack of knowledge made almost inevitable.

But there are other directions in which Mr. Davies laid the Exercise under a debt to him. It was he who after the death of Jasper Snowdon carried on the work which Snowdon had begun. He was the author of the first 'Stedman' and of a work on the Surprise Methods which had been continued by William Snowdon from the earlier writings and notes of his brother Jasper.

He also published on his own account smaller booklets on Grandsire Composition and kindred subjects, the gleanings of his long investigations into the subject.

Wherever indeed there was work to be done in the cause of ringing Davies was ready to shoulder a task, and not the least onerous of those he undertook was the office of hon. secretary to the Central Council, which he ably filled for 20 years. But he did not despise the humbler duties. He had at various times filled a district secretaryship in the Winchester Guild, and been twice Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, of which he was one of the founders, while one of the first offices he filled was that of hon. secretary of the Oxford University Society.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOCIAL GOSSIP AND HANDBELLS AT BUSHEY.

The success of the meeting arranged at Bushey last Saturday for social gossip and handbell ringing fully justified the holding of such a gathering. About thirty members turned up, some from places so far afield as Crayford, Croydon, Beddington, Stepney, Kennington and Ealing. Two rooms and several sets of handbells were provided and the ringing was of exceptionally high quality. Courses and touches were attempted (and usually rung) in many methods, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise in the four standard methods. They included a course of London Surprise, one of Double Oxford Major, one of Bob Royal, one of Cambridge Surprise Major and one of Kent Treble Bob Major, as well as some Stedman Triples and Caters, Double Norwich Major and Grandsire Caters.

The social gossip, which was advertised as one of the objects of the meeting, was duly indulged in, partly at tea and partly after handbell ringing had been closed down, and a move made elsewhere en route for the station. A foursome in darts was won by a talented team, but who won the shoveha'penny competition is not known.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WATH.

The August meeting was held at Wath on the 10th, members being present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine and the local company.

Good use was made of the handbells in the afternoon, and at half-past four a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Russell, was held in the Parish Church.

Tea was served at Binn's Cafe, and after tea the Vicar spoke a few words of welcome. He said that he hoped it would not be long before the church bells would be allowed to ring again.

The business meeting in the Church House followed, the president, Mr. E. Brookes, being in the chair. After a discussion, it was agreed to select the next meeting place at each meeting. This will be a temporary arrangement during the restriction of tower bells, and when this is ended the rule of holding meetings in alphabetical order will be reverted to. After votes of thanks plenty of practice was put in on the handbells, the methods rung being Plain Bob, Little Bob and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Grandsire Triples and Plain and Little Bob Major. During the afternoon a 720 of Plain Bob Minor was rung by S. Briggs 1-2, H. Chant (conductor) 3-4, A. Gill 5-6. It was the first 720 'in hand' by A. Gill.

Felkirk was chosen as next place of meeting, which will be held on Saturday, September 14th.

HANDBELL RINGING AT BRASTED.

A USEFUL PRACTICE MEETING.

A very successful informal handbell meeting was held at The Mill, High Street, Brasted, on Sunday, August 4th, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Bond. This is the second of a series of handbell practices now being arranged by the Tunbridge Wells and Brasted bands. The first arrivals, a local contingent, brought 29 handbells, eight of which were immediately set in motion to Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, and at 3.30 the carload from Tunbridge Wells arrived (. . . where did they get the petrol?).

Two bands were then formed, one of which chose the big bells (recently overhauled by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank), and seated themselves in the garden, and the rest departed indoors with the small bells. After some time the two bands combined in order that the experts might help the beginners.

Tea was partaken of in the garden. Of course, the main topic of conversation was bells and ringing, and there was much discussion about the rival merits of different rings of bells, and many stories of peals and outings in the golden days before the ban.

After tea two members seemed desirous of breaking their cameras, so the party obligingly grouped themselves with the handbells and several photographs were taken. Revived by tea, several of the ringers felt they could attempt Grandsire Caters, and a plain course was brought round which was the first for nearly all the band.

Three other members, determined not to be outdone, retired to a far corner of the garden to ring a 720 of Bob Minor, which would have been the first in hand for two of the band. However, the distractions caused by the nearby mill stream and the not-so-distant Grandsire Caters proved too much, and the attempt broke down in the tenth course. After more courses of Grandsire Caters had been rung by different bands, three members were banished to the far corner of a nearby field, with strict orders not to return until the 720 had been rung (we fear they must still be in the corner of the field, as we have heard no more of the 720. . .).

The Tunbridge Wells people said that they could fix their clappers if there was any prospect of getting a band. It was, therefore, arranged that a tower-bell practice should be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, August 15th. We hope that this will be the first of many.

At eight o'clock the practice ended with firm resolutions to look up Grandsire Caters for the next association meeting at Leigh. However, the departure of the Tunbridge Wells band was somewhat delayed by one of its members, who felt it incumbent upon himself to drain the bottle in which he had been interested almost to the exclusion of ringing most of the evening.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AND HANDBELLS AT LEIGH.

On Saturday, August 10th, a highly successful meeting was held at Leigh. It was a lovely afternoon, during which some of the members enjoyed watching cricket played on the village green, others making good use of handbells in the vestry. Divine service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Sealy. Appropriate hymns were sung, the members being accompanied on the organ by Mr. H. Hitchcock, a member of the local band of ringers.

After an enjoyable tea, at pre-war prices, the business meeting was held.

For the first time in the history of the district, the members had the pleasure of having the guidance of a lady chairman, Mrs. E. M. E. Richardson being elected to preside. Mrs. Richardson is the widow of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, who was Rector of St. Nicholas', Hereford, and hon. secretary of the Hereford Diocesan Guild.

Miss Rosemary Medhurst, daughter of Mr. J. Medhurst, one of the district's representatives, was elected as a practising member. It was decided to hold, if possible, the annual meeting at Tunbridge Wells on October 8th.

Mr. B. Collinson asked Mr. Richardson, the district secretary, if the Editor of 'The Ringing World' had in any way cut the report of the last meeting. He said it was a very poor report, taking up only two lines. Mr. A. J. Battin also spoke on the subject, and said that the report gave the impression that the meeting was a failure.

The secretary answered the question by saying it was ridiculous to suggest that a meeting could be reported by only two lines of print, and added that the Editor had never cut anything sent to 'The Ringing World' for publication by him. So far as he could remember, the report of the last meeting consisted of about nine lines.

Mr. A. J. Battin said that Mr. Richardson's reports were usually rather lengthy, and made the one in question rather noticeable. The secretary, therefore, took the kicks.

Mr. J. Medhurst reminded the members how important it was that to-day more than ever 'The Ringing World' should be taken.

Of course, the present ban on the ringing of bells was the main subject for discussion. It was unanimously considered that the ban was an imposition, and that the purpose for which the bells were now intended to be used would for many reasons be, in the main, a failure.

Mr. B. Pankhurst proposed, and Mr. T. Saunders seconded, that the secretary should be instructed to convey to the general secretary the fact that the members of the Tonbridge District would associate themselves with any scheme put forward in the hopes of getting the ban lifted. This was carried, the secretary saying that he would certainly carry out their instruction.

Mr. A. Richardson, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Richardson for presiding over the meeting, said how warmly the members welcomed her in their midst, and also her four daughters.

Votes of thanks were also passed to the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Sealy, for taking the service, and to the organist, Mr. H. Hitchcock.

The meeting being declared closed, handbell ringing was indulged in, and a fine course of Bob Major was rung by the following: Monica Richardson (aged 16) 1-2, Dorothy Richardson (aged 14) 3-4, Brenda Richardson (aged 18) 5-6, Christine Richardson (aged 11) 7-8.

'To-morrow is a lovely day' and the inevitable 'Drink to me only' were played by the Misses Brenda and Dorothy Richardson with goodness knows how many bells in each hand.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Christine Richardson 1-2, Monica Richardson 3-4, Tom Sone 5-6, Alfred Battin 7-8.

The beautiful music of Grandsire Caters was heard, a course being rung by Peter Bond 1-2, Dorothy Richardson 3-4, Brenda Richardson 5-6, Tom Sone 7-8, Alec Richardson 9-10.

After more ringing in the vestry, the members departed on their various ways carrying away memories of a very happy meeting.

SINGLES IN BOB MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The two old standard 720's of Bob Minor are always shown to have a Single half-way and end, making 20 calls. Why use 20 calls when 18 will do? Herewith are the two 720's with the Singles otherwise placed:—

From 6th	5th
23456	23456
S 32564 1	— 64235 4
— 45326 4	— 64352 1
— 45263 1	S 32645 4
— 24563 5	— 63245 5
— 35246 4	— 63452 1
— 35462 1	— 24635 4
— 43562 5	— 62435 5
— 25436 4	— 62354 1
— 25364 1	— 43625 4
PL 32456 4	PL 32456 1

Each to be repeated.

JAMES HUNT.

Taunton.

'THE RINGING WORLD' MORE INTERESTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—First let me say what I dare say many other ringers are saying, that 'The Ringing World' is more interesting to-day than it was when it was so cluttered up with peals that there was room for little else. Notwithstanding, we all deplore the ban on the use of our beloved bells. Still, the increased number of articles and letters, very interesting on account of the variety of ideas they represent, should compensate in some measure. We see some of our pet ideas in print, without the bother of spreading them abroad ourselves, and we see points of view we had never thought of, and a good many we can't agree with anyway, and it is all to the good, so long as personalities are avoided.

Mr. Bunce's letter this week seems to hit the right note in the ball and plain bearing controversy. The fact is, unless the tower and frame are solid, no bearing, of any description, will make the bells run easily. I know one or two rocking towers where the frames are modern and good, and the bells on ball bearings, but they are as tricky as they were on the old plain bearings, and require study and knack to ring them. Either kind of bearing would give the same result, because the tower sways.

For some years I have had charge of a ring of ten, tenor 30 cwt., which have been on the same plain bearings since they were put in in 1896. The bells still run easily and well, and one has only to look around the tower and frame to see why. The tower is huge and solid. 26ft. 6in. by 24ft. 6in. internal measurement. The frame is of huge section timber, and therein lies the secret.

Ball bearings will no doubt supersede the plain ones in due course, but the 'go' will be about the same. In my opinion, all towers that rock excessively should have the bells taken out of them, for the sake of the striking. How often can a band be found that can really make a job of ringing in such towers? Or else reduce the number of bells to what the tower can stand.

May I give a hint on keeping plain bearings in good order, either during the ban or at any time. Cut pieces of half-inch felt to fit in the gudgeon box, press down and soak with good medium oil, three or four drops weekly will make the bells run well, and keep the water and rust away during the ban. All success to you.

PETER LATTIN.

Stockport.

CALL CHANGES.

MR. BAILEY REPLIES TO MR. DRAKE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I quote the Rev. Herbert Drake from his letter of June 28th?

'In the greater part of the country the use of call changes is, I know, condemned, but here in East Anglia it is practised.'

'... it is said the practice is good for this or that... I have noticed it as no good for any of them.'

'I think we may say call changes can do no good.'

'They are a sort of anodyne to prevent real progress.'

On July 19th he said, 'They are always bad.'

'Call changes are unutterably bad.'

'Let both—bad striking and call changes—go headlong where other rubbish goes into the ditch!'

In his latest letter he says:—

'Mr. Bailey writes of a suggestion that East Anglian ringing is inferior to that of any other part of the country. *I made no such suggestion...* It is apparently a product of his own imagination.' (The italics are mine.)

After reading his first paragraph and the following ones, I fail to see how Mr. Drake can deny making the suggestion.

Apart from that, the fact remains that in East Anglia, and elsewhere in the country, there are thousands of ringers, second to none in ability, who were instructed by the help of call changes.

Mr. Drake will have to produce evidence that where ringers have been taught by other means, they are *better* ringers, before his case is proved.

One paragraph of good solid fact will be more convincing than the three columns of theory which we have had from Mr. Drake's pen up to the present.

In conclusion, let me quote one more extract from his letter of July 19th:—

'I have never said there were no advantages to be got from call changes. On the contrary, I said there are advantages, etc.'

After reading the quotations I gave at the beginning, I give it up.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.

HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

Before the learner tries to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples double handed there are two more combinations of work which he should study. Although these do occur between bells in the plain course, they do not occur between 1-2, or 3-4, or 5-6, and so they give something which he probably will not have learnt when he has been practising the plain course.

The first of these combinations is when he is ringing the trebles and the second is out of the hunt. We can study this combination in the plain course by taking the works of 1-3. After the third has been turned from the front by the treble and has made third's place, the two bells cross in 2-3 and hunt in parallel paths, with one bell coursing between them. That bell is the bell-in-the-hunt.

The pair next cross in 5-6, and continue hunting until the treble has led, when the third has to dodge in 4-5 down. That puts a second bell between 1-3 in coursing order, and now they cross each other in 3-4 and 4-5 and are as widely parted as they can be. The next dodge for the third is in 6-7 down. This brings three bells between the treble and third in coursing order, but at the same time reduces the number between the third and the treble to two, so that the pair are hunting in the same relative order as in the previous lead, but reversed. Instead of the treble leading and then two bells and the third, the third leads and then two bells and the treble. The pair cross in 4-5 and 3-4.

The next dodge is made by the third in 6-7 up and brings the bells closer together again. They now hunt with one bell between them in coursing order and cross in 5-6 and 2-3.

Finally the dodge in 4-5 up brings the pair next each other in coursing order, and for one lead they follow each other in hunting in the same way that 1-2 do in the plain course, except that the treble follows the third instead of the third following the treble.

If you draw out the diagrams of the work of the treble and the third in the plain course you will see how in each successive lead their paths diverge more and more until they are as far apart as they can be, when they begin to come together again. This is still more striking when we study Caters or Cinques.

Now, since within one course the man who is ringing 1-2 may have every possible combination of hunting, it is very easy for him to make a mistake and to imagine that his work has got further on, or not so far on, as it actually has, and so to try and ring the wrong lead. To avoid this, he should notice carefully where his bell dodged last lead and where it will dodge next lead, and not depend solely on dodging when the treble has led.

The other combination of work to be studied is when you are ringing 3-4 or 5-6 and one of your bells is in the hunt. All the possible combinations of hunting are shown by the combined paths of the second and the third in the plain course.

When we study the paths of these two bells we shall see that they work together in the same way that 1-3 do, getting further apart in coursing order and then coming together again. Indeed, so far as a course is concerned, the bell-in-the-hunt is just as much a treble as the treble is. Only the dodging is when the bell-in-the-hunt leads its

first blow at handstroke instead of when it strikes in seconds.

When you have learnt all these combinations of work—those of 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 1-3 and 2-3—and when you can ring them without any aid from the tune or from the familiar features of the plain course, you should have no difficulty about ringing touches. For bobs and singles do not introduce any new combinations of work. All they do is either to switch your pair of bells from one of the combinations we have described into another, or to cut out a part of the combined work.

Take the courses and diagrams you have written out and make bobs in them and notice how the combined works are affected. A bob at the first lead end of the plain course puts the trebles into the work of 1-4, 5-6 into the work of 3-4, and cuts a lead out of the work of 3-4.

We have taken Grandsire Triples as our sample method in these elementary notes because it is the method which most men will wish to start on, and for many reasons it is the best. But when there are four men who have a natural gift for double-handed ringing and who mean to take up the thing seriously, they would do well to start with Plain Bob. Bob Minor at first and then Bob Major. They should remember our advice. Learn all you can about such things as coursing order and how methods are constructed, and don't keep to one pair of bells when you are learning.

EDWIN BARNETT.

AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED.

One of the best known and most beloved ringers of our time passed away eight years ago last Sunday. Edwin Barnett was born at Ross in Herefordshire in 1862, but spent most of his ringing career at Crayford in Kent, which he made a headquarters of the art. He rang over 800 peals, but more noteworthy than their number was the variety of the methods, for Edwin Barnett was a man who was always seeking something fresh to do. He was one of the band who rang the then record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Romford in 1894. The band had just previously attempted the peal at Brentwood and after ringing more than 13,000 changes, had been frustrated by the breaking of the treble rope. Double Norwich was one of Mr. Barnett's favourite methods, and he composed several peals of it, one or two of them of exceptional merit. Among the peals he conducted were Union, Oxford Bob, Darlaston, Court Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Erin Triples; Reverse Bob, Hereward Bob, Crayford College, Double Oxford, Cam and Granta Treble Bob, and Erith and Dartford Little Bob Major; Little Bob, and Cam and Granta Treble Bob Royal; and Little Bob and Canterbury Pleasure Maximus. This list shows how much he tried to get out of the ordinary rut in his ringing. He took part also, of course, in many peals in the standard methods.

Peal ringing was only one of his many activities. He was for 30 years a member of the Central Council. He took a great deal of interest in composition, and spent much time in teaching. Few men have had so acute an ear as he had in following changes outside the tower. It is related that once a well-known conductor went to Crayford and called a peal of Stedman Triples which was unknown to anyone but himself. Edwin Barnett was recovering from an illness at the time, and so was not in the band; but he was outside the steeple listening, and when the conductor came out of the tower he presented him with the figures of the peal he had just called.

Perhaps we may quote what we wrote when he died eight years ago, for the passage of years has not caused us to modify in any way the opinion we then held.

Edwin Barnett was one of the world's quiet, unassuming workers. He held his own opinions, sometimes very strongly, but he never thrust them on others. He was content to think for himself, and to act according to his lights. He went his way conscious only that he was striving to do his duty, and whether at work or play he gave of his best. He was a prolific peal ringer, but his peal ringing was by no means all done to achieve his own ambitions. Much of it was done to help and encourage others, and he was never better pleased than when helping some struggling beginner through a peal of Grandsire or some other simple method. And he upheld the standard of ringing. Nothing delighted him more than a well-struck touch or peal, but he had no toleration for bad striking. In short, Edwin Barnett was an exceptional ringer—in enthusiasm, in ability, in patience—an example to be followed.

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 the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 17th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, at 3 p.m. Handbells available, also 'silent' tower bells. Learners, here's a fine opportunity to learn ropesight! Tea can be arranged nearby.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wokingham on Saturday, August 17th. Service in All Saints' Church 4.15 p.m.; preacher, Canon Coleridge. Tea at Great Mead, near church, 4.45, followed by handbell ringing and a social hour. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COALBROOKDALE.—The Bellingers' Festival will be held on Sunday, August 18th. Sermons will be preached in the morning by the Rev. F. T. Brooks, in the evening by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hereford (Dr. Lisle Carr). The offertories at all services during the day will be given to the bellringers, who receive no other remuneration for their services.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, August 24th. General meeting at the George Hotel, Princes Square, at 6.30, to be followed by social evening, with handbell ringing, etc. A hearty welcome to all. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for handbell practice at Belbroughton (D.V.) on Saturday, August 24th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Further ringing and social evening afterwards.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, August 24th. Bells (7), without clappers, also handbells, available from 3 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but cafe close by. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The meeting of the Grimsby District, which should have been held at Louth on Saturday, August 24th, is cancelled.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Horsell on Saturday, August 24th, for handbell practice and social intercourse. Bells available (hand, of course) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Will those who intend to be present to tea please notify me by Tuesday, the 20th, and also bring their own sugar? All are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A 'silent' tower bell practice, followed by a social gathering, handbells, etc., will be held at Earl Shilton on August 24th. All welcome. Meet at the church 6 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 27th, at 8 p.m. Handbells from 7 p.m. and after the business meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Efforts are being made to arrange the quarterly meeting for Saturday, August 31st. The operation of the Defence Regulations and other circumstances rendered the selected towers and date impossible. Will members likely to attend please send me a card during the coming week? The venue will be as central as possible. Half fares will be paid. Details next Friday.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

The address of Mr. D. Smith is now 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

The address of Mr. L. Derrick and Mrs. Derrick (nee Miss F. Boon, of Bristol) is now Campano, The Grove, Nailsea, Somerset.

APARTMENTS.

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JOHN MARTIN'S MANUSCRIPT BOOK

(Continued from page 387.)

Equal, that is Each Course having the 7th Down Once In it, it may to the Eye Look more compleat to see Each course equal, and that is the Reason I wrote it so—But was I to call it I would call all the course the same as the 6012, Except the Course with 6th behind ye 9th and In that Course I would Through the whole 990—or Otherwise would call three of them in the Course of 6 behind 9th and Two of them in the Course of third behind the 9th the Ear and Not the eye is to be considered, what think you Brother String of This Method.'

Was there ever a more categorical statement of musical policy? And to the query at the end, surely each Brother String must reply: 'It is well said, John Martin.'

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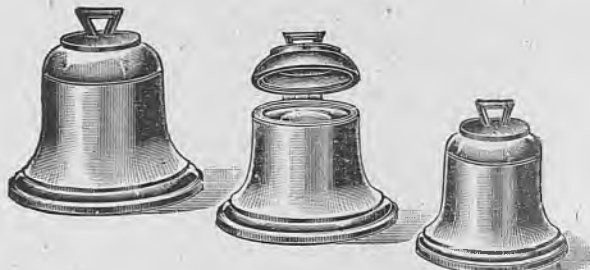
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