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WHERE RECORDS FAIL US.

It is a great pity that there have not been through the long history of ringing more people who were able, not only to leave records of the ringing performances of their day, but descriptions of the men who took part in them. With few exceptions, we know little of the appearance or habits of those who laid the foundations of our art, of men like Stedman, or Annable, or the authors of the 'Clavis,' or, for that matter, of Shipway and many men who came later in the nineteenth century; and we are the poorer for it. Can we really picture the men who made ringing history in Norwich or Birmingham or London in the eighteenth century? Mr. J. Armiger Trollope has been endeavouring in our pages during past months to bring back to life some of the figures which had sunk into the limbo of the past, to show us from their achievements something of what he imagines them to have been as ringers; and he has been at great pains to abstract from contemporary sources all that can be ascertained about their activities outside the Exercise. For all his labours ringers owe to Mr. Trollope an immense debt of gratitude. No one before him has made so much research or delved so deeply into the original records as Mr. Trollope, and no one has been able to give the Exercise such readable and convincing accounts of ringers and ringing in the past, with the analytical mind and the deft touch of the true historian, which he has been able to apply. But even writers like Mr. Trollope have to regret the absence of detail in the material available. How much more complete could have been our appreciation of the men who made the Exercise in the first two hundred years of its existence had we been able now to find some record of those personal details which go to complete the historian's picture? Alas, there were so few who were able or thought it worth while to leave to future generations any material of this kind.

Thomas Hearne, among the Oxford ringers with whom Mr. Trollope is now dealing in his engrossing series of articles, was one of the earliest and perhaps the greatest of these, but he unfortunately turned his attention to it only in the concluding years of his life. Just occasionally in the last fifty or sixty years we have found a ringer putting on record his recollections of or his reactions to his contemporaries. Stories are, as no doubt they always have been, passed on from mouth to mouth by ringers concerning those whom they have known, either as friends or rivals, but these stories inevitably become distorted or blurred with the passage of time and lose their value, if they ever had any, in the historical sense. Once

(Continued on page 506.)

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or twice, however, men have put pen to paper and have left us something by which we can get a more or less true glimpse of some of those who in their day and generation left their mark upon ringing, or at any rate attained some local fame. John Day presented us years ago with pen pictures of Birmingham worthies, with whom, boy and man, he came into contact. Samuel Slater, of Glemsford, Suffolk, was another who assiduously collected notes of the same kind and left a valuable heritage to the Exercise which has been carefully preserved by his son, Mr. Theodore Slater. From time to time we have been able to publish information about ringers of the past, supplied to us by Mr. Slater, and in this issue we give a typical extract from his father's notebooks about men who, nearly a hundred years ago, spread the seed of scientific ringing in Suffolk. In themselves these details may not seem of great importance, but as a whole they present a picture of these men of East Anglia which is worth preserving. If only there were more such records existing throughout the country how much greater could be the interest in the performances of the past. Instead of conjuring up ghosts, we could, as it were, clothe their forms with flesh and blood. Are there, we wonder, any ringers in these days who are quietly making notes of the contemporaries they meet, so that those who come after them may get a more intimate picture of the ringers of to-day than will otherwise be the case?

HANDBELL PEAL.

LIVERPOOL.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

on Sunday, October 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes
IN THE TOWER OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6055 CHANGES;

*FRANK VARTY 1-2	THOMAS R. BUTLER 5-6
ARNOLD BRUNTON 3-4	*PERCIVAL W. CAVE 7-8
THOMAS W. HAMMOND ... 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

* First peal on handbells. First peal of Stedman Caters 'in hand' for all except T. R. Butler. First peal of Stedman 'in hand' ever rung in Liverpool. Attested by C. S. Benwell, T. Butler, sen., and G. R. Newton.

SINGLE HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the letter from Mr. S. H. Brown, I can remember in old volumes of the 'Bell News' seeing two single-handed handbell peals. The first was Bob Triples at Basingstoke, somewhere in the years 1890-2, conducted by the late Henry White; Frank Bennett was one of the band. The second was later at Peterborough. It was Bob Major and Thomas R. Vaughan was in it. Perhaps he and Mr. Bennett can give fuller particulars. E. BARNETT.
Crayford, Kent.

CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AT HIGH WYCOMBE.

Without any ceremonial, which might have been associated with happier days of peace, a commemorative panel, presented by the Mayor of High Wycombe (Councillor A. C. White), has been placed in the belfry of High Wycombe Parish Church recording an Empire Day achievement by a party of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. The story is told in the following inscription in gilt letters on the panel:—

'The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Wednesday, May 24th. 1939. In celebration of Empire Day, a peal of Stedman Cinques, 5,019 changes, was rung on these bells in 3 hours 27 minutes: Fred Hayes treble. Mrs. F. W. Housden 2, Alfred H. Pulling 3, Charles T. Coles 4. Ralph Coles 5, John S. Goldsmith 6, Edward R. Coles 7, Thomas H. Francis 8, George W. Steere 9, Leonard Stilwell 10, James Bennett 11, George H. Cross tenor. Composed by J. Carter. Conducted by G. H. Cross. This tablet was presented by Arthur Charles White, Esq., Mayor of the Borough, 1938-39, 39-40. Rev. W. L. P. Float, M.A., L.L.B., Vicar; C. P. Vine, L. Ryland, E. Woodward, F. W. George, churchwardens.'

The panel of teak, designed and made by Messrs. White Bros., of High Wycombe, is hand carved, the text lettering being surrounded by a scroll design in gold on blue background, with Tudor roses in red introduced at each corner. F. H.

OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING. MICHAEL DARBIE'S WORK IN THE CITY.

Michael Darbie was a bell founder who has gained a somewhat bad reputation. His headquarters were in London, but he did most of his work at the various places he visited. He travelled the country, taking his plant with him, and wherever there was a broken bell or a chance of adding a new one, he called on the authorities and tried to secure the order. He must have been an attractive person with a plausible tongue, for he was



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN
AND ITS FINE SPIRE.

not a good craftsman, and yet he managed to persuade people all over the country to entrust the recasting of their bells to him.

In 1652 he turned up at Oxford and was given the order to recast Great Tom. What sort of a job he made of it we cannot say, for twenty years later it was again recast.

At New College there was a heavy ring of five which, in the year 1655, Michael Darbie recast into an octave. The new bells were so much lighter that there was enough surplus metal to pay for the recasting. As the present tenor weighs about a ton we may suppose the old

tenor was twice as heavy. A ring of five of that weight would not be of much use for change ringing.

Merton had five bells, some of which, including the second, had been in the steeple since before the church was collegiate. The tenor was a very famous bell. It had the reputation of being the best bell in England, 'being as 'twas said of fine mettal silver found.' It was cast at the same time as the tower was rebuilt, when Dr. Henry Abendon was warden (1421-1438) and his name was on it.

Michael Darbie now called at the college and suggested that he should recast the five bells into a ring of eight, as he had done at New. The warden was away, but Dr. Thomas Jones, the sub-warden, approved the scheme and money was collected to defray the cost. Among those who contributed were Anthony Wood, his mother, and his two brothers.

There were many people who 'were much against the altering of that bell, and were for a treble to be put to the five and to make them six; and old Sarjeant Charles Holloway, who was a very covetous man, would have given money to save it,' but the bell founder and the sub-warden had their way.

The tuning of the new bells was entrusted to Dr. John Wilson, which shows that the tuning of bells in olden times was not always, as is usually supposed, a matter which was left to the hit-or-miss methods of incompetent founders, though they carried out the mechanical part of the operation.

But the bells were a failure; they did not at all please the critical; and several were found to be ugly dead bells. Wood, who never was sparing in his censures, said roundly that it was all due to the knavery of Michael Darbie, 'who stole a great deal of mettle from them,' and Thomas Jones, who, 'they say, was complice with him; and whereas the old tenor was the best bell in England, this now is the worst.' Wood, however, often rang upon them. He had no very high opinion of the sub-warden; later on he accuses him of foul play in the election of a new warden, and he said he was 'ambitious, discontented, covetous and destitute of preferment.' But Wood was always a hearty hater, and his judgment was warped by his prejudices. One does not easily imagine the sub-warden of Merton plotting with a travelling bell founder to steal a few shilling'sworth of bell metal from the college.

The old five bells were rung from the floor of the chapel; and, what with the weight of metal, the ancient fittings, and the long draught of rope, to ring them was certainly a strong man's job. When Darbie's bells were hung, a new floor was put in the tower a little below the arches, but, like the bells, it was of bad material and bad workmanship; and, later on, it was pulled down and another floor put in, which lasted until the latter part of the 19th century, when the present gallery was erected.

Michael Darbie's bells hung in Merton College steeple for twenty-five years; but in 1678 his Great Tom had either been cracked or could no longer be endured for the badness of it, and Richard Keen, of Woodstock, was ordered to recast it. A seven ton casting is not an easy job, even for the most skilled craftsman, and Keen had no luck at all. Thrice he tried, and thrice he failed. Eventually the job was turned over to Christopher Hodson, of St. Mary Cray, who was making a name as the

(Continued on next page.)

THOMAS HEARNE'S DIARY. HIS NOTES ON OXFORD BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

best bell founder in the South of England, and is said to have been at the time itinerating in the district.

Hodson was successful. He cast the bell on April 8th, 1680, but it was not until four years later that it was first rung. That was because the ringing peal in the Cathedral tower was at this time increased to ten, and 'Tom was reserved for the tower in the great gate,' which was being built by Sir Christopher Wren.

The Merton people took advantage of the presence of Hodson to have their bells recast, and on February 2nd, 1681, they 'rang to the content of the society.'

These bells, which are still in the tower, were heavier than Darbie's ring, for Hodson was paid above £300 for his work and metal.

It is worth noticing that besides Great Tom being recast, the rings at both New and Merton Colleges were recast and augmented during the time of the Commonwealth, showing that at that time there was plenty of 'pleasure' ringing in the University and, we may assume, in the country.

Anthony Wood died on November 29th, 1695, and was buried in the ante-chapel at Merton. Shortly before his death his propensity for saying bitter things about people got him into serious trouble. He had made some charges against the Earl of Clarendon, the statesman of Charles II.'s reign and, although the earl was then dead, his son was a powerful man in the land. Wood was condemned in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, his books publicly burned, and he himself expelled the university.

The most important man among the Oxford ringers at the close of the seventeenth century was John Sacheverel, a gentleman who lived at Cumnor. He was elected a member of the Society of College Youths, and in 1702 he held the office of steward, having as his colleague John Eccles, a leading musical composer.

Sacheverel was not only an excellent ringer himself, but a fine critic of ringing and an acknowledged authority on bells. 'He used to say that Horsepath bells, near Oxford, though but five in number and very small, were the prettiest tunablest bells in England, and that there was not a fault in one except the third, and that so small a fault as it was not to be discerned but by a very good judge.'

In the year 1718, when Dr. Shippen was Vice-Chancellor, a proposal was made to increase the ring of six at St. Mary-the-Virgin, the university church, to eight or ten. Dr. Shippen 'was mightily for it,' and one of the ringers named Brookland was sent over to Sacheverel to ask him to go and see the Vice-Chancellor about the matter. Sacheverel said that if they were made eight or ten, provided the fifth was recast, they would be the best peal in England, but he neglected to go to Shippen, 'and so the matter was dropt, and wholly laid aside.'

There are still six at St. Mary's, and except that Rudhall recast the treble in 1739 they are the same bells. The tenor is about 25 cwt., and so the ring was quite heavy enough to be increased to eight or ten. John Sacheverel died in 1724 or 1725.

Thomas Hearne was the son of George Hearne, the parish clerk of White Waltham in Berkshire. He was born in July, 1678, and being a clever lad was sent to

school at Bray by Francis Cherry of Shottisbrooke, a great gentleman, a patron of learning, and a leading Jacobite and non-juror. At Bray, young Hearne made the acquaintance of Thomas Wells, the son of the parish clerk there. Both father and son were good ringers, and the son, while still at school, 'delighted much in ringing and was observed to be very strong in the arm.' After leaving school, he went up to Oxford, graduated B.A. from Exeter College, and took Orders, but shortly afterwards died at his father's house of smallpox. He kept up his love of ringing to the end, and we are told that 'he was an ingenious young man and esteemed the very best ringer that ever was or ever will be in England or the whole world.' He proved a strong lusty man, and, being wonderfully good natured, he was much beloved.

To young Hearne, Tommy Wells, with his great physical strength, his skill in ringing and his sunny and lovable temper, was a schoolboy hero, and though, so far as we know, he never rang himself, yet, for the sake of his old friend, he took a lifelong interest in the art.

Unfortunately, though he was in close touch with the Oxford ringers, he did not make any notes in his diary of their doings until after the memorable visit of the College Youths to the city in 1733, when he had but two more years to live. The entries he made at that time are so interesting and give us so vivid a picture of Oxford ringers and ringing that we regret the earlier omissions; still more that he, or another like him, was not living in London and taking notes of Annable and his contemporaries.

At school, Hearne showed such aptitude for learning that Cherry took him into his house, treated him as a son, and sent him up to Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1699 and M.A. in 1703. He was appointed assistant keeper of the Bodleian Library, but on the death of Queen Anne he refused to take the oath of allegiance to George I., desiring, as he said, a good conscience before all preferment and worldly honour. He inherited his strong Jacobite opinions from Francis Cherry, and the sincerity of those opinions is attested by the fact that, though in his later life he was offered several lucrative posts, including the Camden professorship of history, keeper of the university archives, and head librarian of the Bodleian, he steadfastly refused them all.

Entries in his diary show his opinions. On May 27th, 1729, he wrote, 'This being the Restoration of King Ch. II., there was very great and very good ringing of bells in Oxford, but very little and very poor yesterday wch was the birthday of the Duke of Brunswick, commonly called King George.'

An entry relating to Thomas Flaxon, one of the Oxford ringers, shows not only Hearn's interest in ringing, but also his real sympathy and goodness of heart. Flaxon had been found dead in his bed the day after Hearne had met and spoken with him. 'He was a single man and turned of seventy years of age. He was a Taylour by Trade, but very indifferent at that business, minding chiefly ringing at wch he was most excellent being deservedly looked upon as one of the best Ringers in the World, He was a very honest, innocent, harmless man, and one that might be trusted on any account. He was very well beloved but was very poor. He was buried last night in St. Peter's-in-the-East, at which time were rung two handsome Peals, one round ringing (as he was carrying to Church), the other Changes (after he was put in the Ground).'

NOT SO LONG AGO.**A RINGER'S REMINISCENCES.**

Our Editor very kindly furnishes us with dates of performances and events of other centuries in his 'Belfry Gossip'; he recently published that it was 199 years since one of the earliest peals of Grandsire Triples was rung. Of course, we know that's not 'old' in comparison to some. Others supply us with items of what they do or don't do, and it caused me to throw my mind back to the days when I first became interested in ringing.

I am only a youth compared with some exponents of the art. I was fortunate in living in a district north of the Thames, where there was quite a number of rings and change ringing in every tower. I got opportunities of getting plenty of practice, but the practice was of one method only, Grandsire.

It was the only method rung in the district. If a stranger did happen to visit us, and spoke of Stedman or Bob Major, he was looked upon in the same light as the modern youth looks upon a film star.

A band of us got together and tried Stedman, but we were unfortunate in having a man in the band who never got out of the 'Slow.' He was in charge of the tower, and we dared not drop him, so we who were keen sought knowledge further afield.

I have since asked myself why progress was slow, and several matters presented themselves. Although there were good ringers, their striking and ringing of Grandsire being very good, they could not impart their knowledge to others. When I had learned to handle a bell I was told to stand behind Mr. So and So and watch him, but when I said, 'What does he do?' I was told to watch him carefully and I would soon pick it up. There was nothing difficult about it.

Then again travelling facilities were not as they are to-day; if you visited the next village you had to 'hike' or 'bike' it.

Lack of conductors was then a check on progress, and it still is to-day. The only difference is that then the knowledge of conducting was very guarded. I remember quite well two incidents. One of our young enthusiasts wanted to conduct a peal, so he asked the recognised conductor if he would stand in and keep his eye on the calling. He did. All went well for two hours without a hitch. Then this 'watchdog' set his bell, saying the bells were wrong. They were right, but jealousy prevailed.

In the other incident the 'old hand' offered to teach the 'young hand' conducting for the sum of £1, and his pound's worth amounted to 168 (three Home hobs). Then the contract broke; he was doing too well.

The 'Bell News' was in every tower, but the only interest was the peal columns. Other literature was never thought of. The majority were satisfied to remain in the same groove. A turn in the tide did come, and I firmly believe it came with the publication of 'The Ringing World' and literature issued by the Central Council. 'The Ringing World's' editorials and articles were inspiring. They created plenty of interest and knowledge was sought in the Central Council's publications, and very soon the visiting 'stars' were only like one of us. Since the war broke out, and handbells have come to the fore, we have had some very instructive articles published, and no doubt before long we shall see their fruits.

Handbell ringing brings back memories of a ringer who came from the Treble Bob County to live in our village. He could ring and conduct Treble Bob, but could not ring a lead of any other method on tower bells, yet he could ring any pair of handbells in Grandsire up to 12 bells, the same with Bob Major and Bob Royal, and pick up trips, yet he could not explain how he did it.

Perhaps some of our handbell experts could give us their method of working and put it in 'working lad's' words. A doctor was examining a class of first-aid pupils. He asked one man to describe the circulation of the blood. He said, 'It goes up one side and down the other.' The doctor replied, 'You have got it.'

There is a war on, the bells are stopped, our ringing lads and ringing lasses are away doing their bit, we have very little opportunity of talking 'ringing shop,' but do let us keep our 'Ringing World' going. We shall value it when 'That's all' is called to this mess up.

'A COTTAGE YOUTH.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.**

The October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne on October 12th, when members were present from Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

Ringing on handbells was practised in Minor and Major methods during the afternoon until 5 p.m., when tea was served at the Spencers Arms.

At the business meeting afterwards the president, Mr. E. Brookes, was in the chair, and Mr. C. Robinson, of Cawthorne, was chosen to act as judge at the handbell contest, to be held at Barnsley in January next.

Further handbell ringing and social intercourse followed, and the time for departure arrived all too soon.

During the afternoon and evening Plain Bob, Double Bob and Treble Bob Minor and touches of Bob Major were rung on the handbells.

The next meeting will be held at Darton on Saturday, November 9th.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The older generation of ringers will remember the palmy days of the St. Peter's Society, Brighton, at the end of last century, when largely through the skill and ability of Mr. George Williams the standard of ringing at that tower rose to the highest level. Yesterday was the fifty-first anniversary of the first peal which Mr. Williams conducted in that tower. It was a peal of Stedman Triples rung at the laying of the foundation stone of the new chancel of St. Peter's, and which, when built, brought the church to its present state of completion. Mr. Williams and Mr. G. A. King (who has been living in Canada for many years) are the last survivors of the band who rang the peal.

Exactly 16 years after, on October 28th, 1905, Mr. Williams received from the members a fitting recognition of the long and brilliant service he had rendered to the Sussex County Association.

John Freeman, of Lincoln, who is serving in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C., has been doing some splendid spadework among the enthusiastic handbell party at Aldershot. He has just been promoted corporal—not for his handbell ringing, but for his merits as a member of His Majesty's Forces. And, by the way, promotion came to him as a 21st birthday present; we understand it was the best the sergeant-major could afford.

The many friends of Mr. Jack L. Millhouse, of 32, Ruskin Avenue, Lincoln, will learn with regret that he has suffered hereavement by the death of his father, who passed away on October 10th after a short illness. Jack Millhouse has been in training for the past three months with the Royal Navy and will shortly be transferred to a destroyer.

The first peal at St. John's, Waterloo Road, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, was rung by the College Youths on October 24th, 1825. On the same date in 1934 the band then touring Australia rang at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the first peal of Royala achieved outside the British Isles. It was conducted by Mr. Rupert Richardson.

The Norwich Scholars rang at St. Peter Mancroft the first peal of Stedman Triples on October 25th, 1731, and on the same date in 1790 the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang at St. Philip's the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London.

On October 22nd, 1752, William Dixon rang the treble and called Holt's Original at St. Giles', Norwich. Two months previously the composition (with apparently the same conductor) had been rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, the first time it was performed in which the bob-caller rang himself. On October 23rd, 1791, James Bartlet called the peal at St. Giles-in-the-Fields with a band of College Youths, all of whom except one belonged to St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington. On the same date in 1884 at St. Giles-in-the-Fields a mixed band of College Youths rang it non-conducted for the first time.

On October 26th, 1837, a band belonging to the St. James' Society, with Thomas Tolladay as conductor, rang at St. Martin-in-the-Fields the then longest peal of Grandsire Cinques, 7,325 changes.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was Bob Major and the other four were Grandsire Triples. One of the latter was Hollis' Five-Part, rung at St. Edward's, Romford, by the Essex Association and conducted by William Pye. It was his first peal as conductor. Another, rung at Aldenham, was conducted by Mr. G. W. Cartmel.

Thomas Tolladay died on October 18th, 1843, and a belated muffled peal was rung for him at St. Clement Danes on January 3rd, 1844. Tolladay was for many years one of the most energetic of the London ringers and rang peals for several of the leading societies, but especially for the St. James' Society, which owed its prosperity largely to him. The majority of his peals were Grandsire Triples, and his best performance was to call 12,096 Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1837.

HISTORY MADE AT LIVERPOOL.

A HANDBELL PEAL.

The Merseyside, as has been learned from the wireless news, has been one of the most bombed areas in England, but that has not prevented local ringers from meeting and devoting their spare time to handbell ringing.

The result is that this week we record the first peal of Stedman ever rung on handbells in Liverpool, perhaps a small, but nevertheless conclusive bit of evidence that, despite all the enemy can do, the British people are not only not demoralised, but are still grimly but gaily carrying on.

Writing under date of October 13th, Mr. George R. Newton, one of the three ringers who attested the peal, says:—

'History has been made in Liverpool to-day by the ringing of a peal of Stedman Caters. The band have been practising together since the outbreak of war and had tried several times previously to ring it before to-day, but had not succeeded. An excellent peal has now been rung and we hope it is the forerunner of others.

'It may be of interest to the Exercise to know that handbells are rung in the vestry at St. Nicholas' Church prior to evensong on Sundays.'

HANDBELL DIFFICULTIES.

A CORRESPONDENT SATISFIED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—My letter to you a few weeks ago regarding the difficulties experienced by many would-be handbell ringers has brought such excellent replies that I must first of all thank you, sir, not only for publishing my letter, but also for dealing with the subject in your leader of the current issue. Of course, the articles which have appeared in previous issues have been most instructive and useful, but I venture to point out that any new recruits will have little or no opportunity of reading these articles, and I do not know of any text books on the market relating to handbell instruction.

I also sincerely thank those gentlemen who have responded to my appeal and taken so much trouble to give useful hints and tips, and I assure them that there are many raw recruits (and a larger number of the 'not so rare' recruits) who will find the advice they give most helpful.

To Mr. Brown I would like to point out that the tendency to want to run before walking is a common complaint in ringing generally, and experience and practice will teach all beginners in the art the validity of this statement. Again, perhaps Mr. Brown did not read my letter very carefully before sitting down to comment on it. It was stated that Stedman is a first rate method for handbells—not that it was desired to try to ring it after only a touch or two in plain methods. My query re Surprise ringing was an afterthought, as I know several capable plain method ringers who intend trying Surprise before long.

The expert who advised 'keeping the hands moving and don't think' is most certainly no fool and has always been very helpful towards keen learners. He really meant, of course, that over-concentration is detrimental to progress and also whilst the hands are kept moving it is helpful for the conducting, whilst a long pause and constant hesitation is certainly fatal. I think, therefore, that Mr. Brown's remarks about the expert were perhaps rather strong. No expert ringer is a fool, and I venture to add that no doubt Mr. Brown will have learned quite a lot from the views given this week by experts. It is as well to know that there are expert handbell ringers who can still remember some of the difficulties which they had when learning and how they overcame them, for, alas! too often capable ringers have forgotten all about the stumbling-blocks that tripped them in the early stages of ringing. C. D.

PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In answer to the letter from Mr. Wilfred E. Box in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' as to the ringing in the Isle of Man, I believe only three peals have ever been accomplished on the island, and all have been rung at St. Germain's Church, Peel.

The first two were conducted by Mr. C. H. Hatterley, of Sheffield ('Harry' to most of us), and I remember were rung in the summer of 1887. One was Stedman Triples and the other Kent Treble Bob. Mr. A. Thomas, of Birmingham, took part in them. The first of Grandsire Triples was called by me in the year 1889 or 1890 and was a College Youths' peal (Mr. R. T. Woodley was secretary at the time), and if my memory serves me these are the only peals that have been rung there. In 1888 we had attempted Grandsire and got within two or three calls of the finish when our tenorman gave up. He was a local resident, Harry Radcliffe, whose father was a builder, and built the pretty church, mostly of red sandstone and having a tall spire which was severely damaged some time after by a very heavy storm and had to be taken down for safety. I remember large cracks in the tower in the ringing chamber, and it all appeared to be of frail construction.

Anyhow, the bells, a nice little ring of eight, by Warner, have not been rung for many years, and during the last few years I have made several visits there, but have had to be content with 'chiming' plain courses of Grandsire Triples and a few times for morning and evening services.

I have been very ill lately, so I am unable to 'dig up' the old numbers of 'The Bell News' of those periods, but am certain that three will cover the number of peals ever accomplished in the Isle of Man. At the period I am speaking of there were eight bells at Douglas, but afterwards the back six were retained for chiming for some years. I took part in some ringing there with the late Messrs. Law James, Freeman Ball, of Chester Cathedral, and W. W. Gifford, of Salisbury, but when the peal was rung at St. Germain's the ringers were mainly from Liverpool (Messrs. Fisher, Davies and others being amongst them), and it appears in the College Youths' Peal Book at that date. F. E. DAWE.

2, Rosebery Crescent, Woking.

THUMBS UP!

At Thorne, Yorks, after an attempt for 720 Bob Minor had failed, 360 in the same method was rung by T. Leask 1-2, J. Thorley 3-4, C. Thorley 5-6. Also several six-scores of Grandsire and Bob Doubles. Last, but not least, a touch of Bob Minor on thumbs!

HENRY HUBBARD.

AUTHOR, COMPOSER AND RINGER.

Wednesday, October 9th, was the fifty-ninth anniversary of the death of Henry Hubbard, one of the comparatively small number of men who have earned fame as authors of text books on ringing.

Hubbard was born on Tuesday, August 25th, 1807, at Norwich, and learnt to ring at one of the six-bell towers in that city. His first peal was 6,680 changes of Oxford Treble Bob at Alburgh in 1827, conducted by Samuel Thurston; and in 1829, when Thurston left for London, he was elected one of the company of twelve at St. Peter Mancroft.

With the Norwich Scholars he took part in several peals of more than ordinary historical interest. They included the first peals of Double Oxford Bob Major and of London Surprise Major, the second of Superlative Surprise Major, and the longest at the time of Stedman Cinques. Other performances were 6,160 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 1831, one of the earliest peals in the method, and the first half-peal of Stedman Triples rung double-handed on handbells.

In 1856 Hubbard removed to Leeds, where he joined the local band and where he rang a few peals, the last being one of Kent Treble Bob Major at Guiseley on August 23rd, 1868, which he conducted. He died on October 9th, 1881, and was buried at Hunslet, Leeds.

Hubbard had some claims to distinction as a composer. His ten-part peal of Bob Triples, though a rather obvious composition, was a very useful one when the method was practised, his peals of Treble Bob Major have considerable merit, and in Stedman Caters by fixing the sixth's in second's place, instead of the treble, he made a real improvement on the old style of titium peals.

In 1845 the first edition of his 'Elements of Campanalogia' was published. It was a rather modest little book, consisting mainly of a lead of each of a few chosen methods with a selection of touches and peals, mostly composed by himself. Nine years later a second edition appeared in a larger and more elaborate form.

In 1864 the printer who had been employed to produce the 1854 edition issued another impress without consulting the author, and the same thing happened to a great extent in a fourth edition issued in 1868. In 1876, however, Hubbard, with some assistance from Jasper Snowden, brought out the final and best edition of the book. William Banister's work, which appeared in 1874 and again in 1879, was largely based on and copied from Hubbard.

Henry Hubbard has no claims to be considered a writer and had none of the literary ability of Richard Duckworth, the author of the 'Tintinnaloga,' or William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis.' Intellectually he was far inferior to Fabian Stedman, the author of the 'Campanalogia.' His book is less ambitious than Shipway's and is copied from it in many ways. Nevertheless, within its limits it is a good and successful work, far superior to the books of Benjamin Thackrah and William Sottanstill.

DARTFORD CHORISTER AND RINGER.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD MORGAN.

Yet another old North Kent ringer has gone from our midst by the passing of Richard Morgan, of Dartford.

A native of Chelsfield, Richard Morgan became a choirboy at the age of nine, and later learned to ring on the five bells at Chelsfield Church. He was still a chorister and bellringer when he moved to Dartford some 37 years ago, and he immediately joined the choir and bellringers at Holy Trinity Parish Church. He retained an active interest in both, until his death at the age of 72 years on October 7th. He had thus been a chorister for 63 years and a ringer for something over 50 years.

Before moving to Dartford, Richard Morgan had become an efficient five-bell ringer at Chelsfield, where they practised several methods of Doubles. At Dartford and the neighbouring towers of Crayford and Erith he soon became an efficient eight-bell ringer, and for many years he took an active interest in peals and practices.

When in reminiscent mood he would recall his activities, particularly of practices and peals under the able guidance of the late Edwin Barnett, of Crayford.

Deceased, who was a safe ringer and a good striker, had rung a good number of peals in various methods up to Double Norwich. During recent years he had restricted his activities to Sunday service ringing and an occasional practice, but retained a first-hand knowledge of the affairs of the moment through 'The Ringing World.' His death has taken from us a devoted servant of the Church whose place will be hard to fill.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S**'COLLEGE YOUTHS'**
A History of the Society

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BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

To the Editor.

Sir,—I had no intention of continuing this correspondence, but the Rev. E. S. Powell's letter contains two misstatements of fact which should be pointed out.

The problem of the uniformly retarded motion of any body in a straight line does not require for its solution the use of integral calculus as he states, and the simple solution of the toboggan problem I gave recently is correct. Further, his so-called parallel case of a car going uphill five miles and then downhill five miles compared with one going 10 miles along a flat road is not a parallel case. I am afraid that I must leave your readers to take my word or his, for the columns of your paper are no place in which to explain the subtleties of dynamics.

It is, perhaps, fitting to recall the origin of this discussion. One correspondent wrote stating that there was a widespread opinion among ringers that when bells were fitted with ball bearings they went slower, and asking if there was any scientific explanation of this. I showed how, under certain conditions, if other things remained the same, a reduction of friction must cause a slowing down of the motion. There are naturally many other factors which affect the speed of ringing.

R. O. STREET.

The Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

PEALS AT CRAYFORD SPEEDED UP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. A. Lawrence's claim that Hatfield were the first bells to be hung in ball bearings may be correct, but I remember Mr. Selby, of Westerham, writing my father about the same time regarding their tenor, which was to be rehung. Messrs. Taylor suggested ball bearings, and Mr. Selby asked father's advice about them, as these were unheard of for bells at that time.

My father replied that he had no doubt Messrs. Taylor would not do anything that would not be perfectly satisfactory, but at the same time he advised safeguarding the churchwardens by an understanding with the founders that if it were not so, they would replace them with plain bearings.

Whether they were used I am unable to say, but, if so, it was one of the first occasions, if not the first time, ball bearings were used professionally.

I have not followed this correspondence closely, but I certainly cannot agree with whoever said ball bearings tend to make bells run slower. Our bells were rehung in ball bearings in 1923 and subsequent peals were 10 to 15 minutes quicker than those rung previously. Peals of Major used to take anything from 2.55 to 3.5 to ring and Triples from 2.50 to 2.55. The first peal afterwards was Double Norwich in 2.45, and the second, Stedman Triples, was 2.37.

Some years later, with no intention of creating a record, but simply to see how quickly they would run to a peal, we rang a peal of Stedman Triples in 2.14 and Bob Major in 2.17. The first was, and, I believe, still is, the quickest peal on eight bells. Both these could have been rung even faster with a slight rearrangement of the band. I well remember the remark of a well-known local ringer when the merits and demerits of ball bearings were being discussed. He said, 'Ball bearings are not wanted on bells up to half a ton, and over that they are no good.'

E. BARNETT.

Crayford, Kent.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

ANOTHER LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In my book on Stedman I refer to a legend that George Partrick had composed a peal of Stedman Triples and that £50 had been paid him for doing so by the Norwich ringers. The first notice of this legend (which is entirely baseless) is in an entry in Robert Southey's 'Common Place Book,' said to have been copied from a sporting magazine dated 1796. It is interesting to compare this with the following extract from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' which Mr. Charles E. Borrett has sent me:—

'On Tuesday, February 1st, 1791, the body of Mr. George Gross, a celebrated composer of church bell music, was interred at Bethnal Green. He has left £50, the reward paid to him for the composition of a remarkable peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes, by the ringers of St. Peter Mancroft in this city (whose bells and performance are esteemed the first in England) to pay the expenses of ringing Shoreditch bells annually on his birthday and funeral day for ever.'

This account cannot be true. George Gross died in 1805 and was buried at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. He never rang in a peal of Stedman on any number, and certainly did not compose a peal of Triples.

It would be interesting to know where the legend of the Norwich Scholars paying £50 for a peal of Stedman Triples came from. It cannot be true. Everything we know about the Norwich men forbids us to believe it. But why did 'The Norfolk Chronicle' repeat it? One would have thought that they should have known the truth.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

LONG MELFORD BELLS AND RINGERS

EXTRACTS FROM SAMUEL SLATER'S NOTEBOOK.

In a history of Long Melford, Suffolk, it is stated that in 1547 there were five bells and a Sanctus bell in the steeple of the Parish Church and that in 1582 or 1584 they were taken down and sent to the Bury Foundry and there recast into eight. These bells were said to weigh: No. 1, 3 cwt.; No. 2, 4 cwt.; No. 3, 6 cwt.; No. 4, 7 cwt.; No. 5, 9 cwt.; No. 6, 12 cwt.; No. 7, 17 cwt.; No. 8, 21 cwt.

These bells remained until 1709, when the steeple and bells were destroyed by fire caused by a storm.

When the new tower was built a new ring of eight bells were put in, tenor 16 cwt., and all cast by Thomas Lester, of London. Only two of these bells remain. Horham bells were made eight in 1672.

The treble of Hadleigh bells were cast in 1678 and the others in 1680 by Miles Graye.

Framlingham bells were made eight in 1718 and Bungay old eight the same year.

The following interesting information about ringers living in Long Melford, Sudbury and the neighbourhood is kindly supplied by Mr. T. E. Slater, from the notebooks of his father, Mr. Samuel Slater:—

In the year 1851 a peal of Bob Major was rung on the bells of Long Melford Church, the treble of which was rung by Hirham Ambrose, a weaver by trade.

This Hirham Ambrose had two sons, Amos and Arthur, and in due course they were taught to ring and became able to ring Bob Major double-handed. Arthur conducted a 6,160 of Bob Major rung on handbells in 1869 at Cavendish.

As they progressed, some other young men were taught to ring, and in 1866 Annable's peal of Bob Major was rung on Melford bells. Josiah Rogers, of Hepworth, rang the 7th bell in this peal, and soon after went to live at Burton-on-Trent and was a member of St. Paul's Society. From there he went to Pendleton, Lancashire, and there he died. He was a blacksmith by trade. This peal of Bob Major was conducted by James Strutt, of Sudbury.

Afterwards the band went into practice to ring the old peal of Treble Bob (Oxford) and got on well with the practices, but Strutt was fee-ed to miscall the peal. So it was never completed true, and he did miscall it.

These failures caused the band to be made the height of fun, and their nicknames were put into couplet form thus:—

Butt'ny, Dillihey, Slow, Slack,
Brushley, Bentliu, Squeaks and Hack.

Butt'ny was James Strutt, a silk weaver by trade, and while the band were learning to ring Treble Bob he said trade was bad and he had no shoes to wear. So the Melford men bought him a pair of shoes in which to walk from Sudbury to Melford to call the peal. His conduct in this matter caused him to be expelled from Melford.

Dillihey was Thomas Bonney, Slow was Walter Bonney, Slack was John Bonney.

These Bonneys were brothers and all were silk weavers and lived and died at Sudbury. John Bonney, sen. (Old Slack), had a son, John Bonney, and he afterwards went to live at Bethnal Green, London, and used to ring there with the late Matt. Wood and other leading lights of the College Youths, who used to frequently visit St. Matthew's. He died at Bethnal Green. The other Bonneys died at Sudbury. Their names are also spelt Boney.

Brushley was Henry Duce, a horsehair presser by trade, and when this trade declined he got a living by hawking and selling nuts and sweets at home. When he was 20 years of age he married a lady one year his junior, and they lived together 63 years. They had by their marriage one child only, a son, Charlie, who died at Long Melford at the age of 49 years from consumption and left a widow and 18 children.

Henry Duce was a fine built man about 5ft. 9in. in height, had a nice fresh complexion and was very clean in his manners, dress and conversation. He was a very good ringer and struck a bell perfectly, and could ring 5-6 to Plain and Treble Bob. He used to ring the fifth, but in his latter years rang the 2nd. He lived and died at Long Melford.

Bentliu was Amos Ambrose, a horsehair weaver by trade, son of Hirham Ambrose, who was known as Old Shady. Amos was a very little man, about 5ft. in height, and weighed about 8 stone; a very good ringer and striker, and could ring the trebles double-handed to Plain and Treble Bob. He always rang at the little end with a short rope. He always had a very neat appearance, although very poor, and died in very poor circumstances and was buried at Long Melford.

Squeaks was George Perry. A fret-sawyer by trade, he was a short, stout man and could ring the tenor to Bob Major very well. He was the first man to ring the present tenor bell in Melford tower to a peal in 1866. He lived and died at Long Melford.

Hack was Arthur Ambrose, a son of Hirham Ambrose, a horsehair foreman. A thin, spare man, a good ringer on six and eight bells, he rang the trebles and conducted 6,160 Bob Major on handbells at Cavendish in 1869. He resided at Cavendish at that time and also took part in a peal of Minor in seven methods on both Cavendish and Glemsford bells. He died in 1883 and was buried at Long Melford.

Mr. T. E. Slater knew Henry Duce and Amos Ambrose and saw them ring many times. He also knew George Perry, but that was after Perry had given up ringing.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

PROGRESS DESPITE THE BAN.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in St. John's College on Wednesday, October 16th.

The president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) was in the chair. In his report of the previous term's activities, the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, New College, said that he was satisfied with the progress that had been made. Attendances at the practices on muffled bells at New College each Wednesday evening had been quite good, and ringing meetings on Saturday afternoons at various towers around Oxford had been popular, and some useful work had been put in. The society's Sunday ringing started at St. Mary Magdalene, and the members then dispersed to various of the city churches with the aim both to swell their numbers and also to gain valuable experience.

The society was especially grateful to Miss M. R. Cross, of St. Michael's and All Saints', Oxford, who had helped on all possible occasions and had initiated several members into the more subtle methods of ringing. It had been hoped to close the year with at least one peal to the society's credit; the first attempt failed, though the full extent was rung, and the second was frustrated by the Government's ban on all ringing except to herald invasion. Nevertheless, the year as a whole had been most successful, and was well up to pre-war standards.

Nearly half of last year's members are still up at the university, and with a fair number of fresh enthusiasts, prospects for the coming term are good. Silent practices are to continue at New College, where permission has been obtained to have the clappers removed from the bells to prevent any embarrassing accident, and handbell ringing on Sunday mornings will take the place of ringing for service. Other meetings may be arranged later.

The meeting closed with a handbell demonstration, in which all members participated, for the benefit of those who were unacquainted with the art of change ringing.

THE BACHELORS.

ANOTHER FALLS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Those who remember the sensational revelations by 'Kate,' in our correspondence columns, about eight years ago, after eight bachelors had rung a peal of Cambridge Surprise at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on Leap Year Day, will be interested to learn that another of the band has fallen by the wayside—or nearly. The marriage is shortly to take place of Mr. Alfred Howkins, the junior member of the company.

He is only the second of the band to surrender. There are still six of them who have eluded the charms of the ladies—perhaps it will be a kindness to them not to mention names.

Reading again the story of their escape on that memorable day (or night) in 1932, it looks as if they were in a state of funk all the time. Here is the story of their adventure as told at the time in 'The Ringing World':—

'They have escaped again, but surely the Ladies' Guild could not have known about it! On Leap Year Day eight mature and eligible bachelors, well known in ringing circles, after sleepless nights of growing anxiety, spent many hours in trepidation. It is said they dared not venture out until dark for fear of being waylaid and captured by those cave-women who on this day of special privilege seize their prey by the hair—if they have any—and drag them off to a lifetime of matrimonial bondage.

'But these eight, although timorous, are wily birds—their age proves their experience, or is it their phenomenal luck that has saved them thus far?—and when they did set out for a clandestine meeting they sallied forth disguised as married men.

'By devious routes they arrived at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, but it was not until they had locked themselves in the tower and had searched every nook and corner to make sure that there was no hidden siren who might yet hook one of them, that they were able to breathe freely.

'And then, to celebrate their escape, they rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, which in future is to be known as "Bachelors' Joy."

The following week came a bombshell from a representative of the ladies. Signing herself Kate, she wrote: 'I rather think that your correspondent who wrote about the above (it wasn't you, surely?) could not have known the band. One of them, it is true, is a handsome, intellectual looking person such as any woman would be proud to own, but for the rest! Oh, my gosh! No wonder they are bachelors!'

THE DEATH KNELL.

THE KNELL AT GUILDFORD.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The death knell was a regular thing at our own church up to about 10 or so years ago. Before the last war it was carried on as follows: The tenor was chimed three times three for a man, three times two for a woman; if it was a child the treble or second was muffled up and struck every minute; a young person the fourth or fifth, and the older ones the seventh. The tenor was and still is pulled up only for the death of the King or Archbishop of Canterbury. The Grammar School, Guildford.

A. H. PULLING.

(Other letters on this subject will appear next week.)

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

AN INTERESTING COMPOSITION BY MR. A. J. PITMAN.

We publish the figures of a peal of Stedman Triples by Mr. A. J. Pitman, which should interest Stedman conductors and those people who study the problems of composition.

The composition of Stedman Triples presents certain features and difficulties which are peculiar to itself and therefore has always appealed to the most skilful of composers. Readers of Jasper Snowdon's history of the method will be familiar with the various stages which ultimately led to the production of Thurstans' famous masterpiece, and those who have followed Sir Arthur Heywood's 'Investigations' will remember how he unravelled the secrets of composition on the twin-bob plan.

Peals on the twin-bob plan are all based on a set of course ends which are known as Hudson's course ends, from the fact that they were first used by William Hudson in a peal composed early in the nineteenth century. We gave some particulars of that peal in our issue of August 9th.

Thurstans' peal and the majority of peals which have been rung in recent years are based on Hudson's course ends, but composers have always been trying to find some other set of course ends which would enable peals to be composed on different plans. John Carter's odd bob peal is an example. It is based (intentionally or unintentionally) on the plan of Thomas Edwards' composition, the earliest which we definitely know to be true.

Another very interesting peal by Henry Cooper was rung as far back as 1819. It is given in Davies' Stedman, but is false as there printed. Mr. J. W. Parker pointed out the correct arrangement, and it was printed in 'The Ringing World' of December 18th, 1932.

In Cooper's peal the seventh is undisturbed throughout, and though it has as many as 350 bobs, 230 common singles and two special singles, it was on a plan which was capable of producing a variety of good peals.

In the year 1845, after Hudson had produced his peal and when the Birmingham men were busy trying to introduce improvements into it (which in the end led to Thurstans' four-part composition), Cooper gave to Henry Johnson a very interesting peal, the figures of which are printed in Davies' 'Stedman.' It is based on Hudson's peal and has 240 bobs, and every time the seventh lies its whole pull behind after slow a double is made by the bells in 34567 lying still. Two other doubles are made when the seventh is lying its whole pull behind after quick.

In 1898 Mr. John O. Lancashire produced a 5,040 in which there are never more than two consecutive calls, and now Mr. Pitman has further developed the plan by composing the following peal, which is very regular in its construction.

As in Mr. Lancashire's peal, a single is always made when the seventh lies its whole pull behind, whether after quick or after slow. In Cooper's peal the singles are always made after slow, but are occasionally omitted after quick.

In Mr. Pitman's peal the sixth does a regular work which is completed every three courses, and the composition is put together by varying the positions of calls which do not affect the sixth or seventh.

It was first rung at the Church of St. Peter, Pentre Rhondda, by the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, on January 9th, 1932, conducted by the composer.

MR. A. J. PITMAN'S COMPOSITION.

231456

51243	A	B	C
43512	C	B	C
12435	C	B	C
34215	C	B	D
15342	C	B	C
42153	E	B	C
53421	C	B	C
21534	C	B	C
35124	C	B	D
24351	C	B	C
54132	F	G	C
32541	H	B	C
41325	H	B	C
25413	H	B	C
13254	H	B	C
45231	I	G	C
31452	H	B	C
52314	H	B	C
14523	H	B	C
23145	H	B	C

	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	13
A	S	—	—	—	S	—	—	S	—	—
B	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
C	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
D	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
E	S	—	—	—	S	S	—	S	—	—
F	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
G	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
H	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
I	S	—	—	—	S	S	—	S	—	—

FALSE COURSE ENDS.

HOW THEY AFFECT COMPOSITIONS.

In a number of recent articles we have discussed the question of false course ends; and we showed from a method chosen as an example how they can be worked out, and how they are related to each other. We picked the method because it gave us an example of every sort of false course end that can be found in any method. For the purposes of illustration it was an excellent method, but we could soon see that it was hopeless to try to use it for composing true peals. With few exceptions, only those methods are of any practical value whose false course ends are confined to one or other of the two groups ABCDE and BFG. We will next see how the presence of those false course ends in a method affects its capacity for producing true peals.

In every Treble Bob or Surprise Major method there are sixty in-course rows with 1, 7, 8 at home. These form the natural course ends of the method, and from each of them a full natural course of 224 rows can be pricked, in the same way that the plain course is pricked from rounds. These sixty natural courses constitute the material at our disposal, and from which we can construct our peal. Our task is to join together a sufficient number of them, or of parts of them, by means of bobs.

When the method has a clear-proof scale we can use freely any or all of these sixty natural courses, and so long as we do not use the same part of the same course twice over, our peal will be true. But when the method has false course ends we know that among the sixty there is one or more that contains certain rows which are also contained in the plain course, and that, in a similar way, every natural course has one or more other natural courses false against it. Before we begin to compose our peal we must, therefore, set down our sixty natural courses so that we can distinguish those which are true with each other from those which are false.

When we are composing there are two general plans we can adopt. The first is to consider the whole of any particular natural course as true or false for our immediate purposes. Suppose our method is Superlative. The two natural courses 43265 and 32465 contain rows which are also included in the plain course; therefore, as we want to use the plain course, we must consider the two courses 43265 and 32465 as false and strike them out of the material available for our use.

Similarly, if we intend to use the natural course 23564 we must strike out 53246 and 32546, and for every course we select for use there are two others which must be struck out.

When we have gone through the sixty natural courses and struck out those which are false, the remainder will form the material from which we can compose our peal. This plan is composing by full natural courses.

But though one natural course may contain rows which are also included in the plain course, every lead of that course is not necessarily false against the plain course, and it may be possible, and often is, to use parts of courses which, if used in full, would be false. When we divide any course into that part which we may use and that part which we may not use, we do not divide it by leads, but by the positions at which bobs can be made. We treat all that part of the course down to the Middle as one unit and consider it as either true or false, as the case may be. Between the Middle and the Wrong is

another unit; and between the Wrong and the course end a third unit. These divisions are somewhat varied when bobs Before are used, and of course in some methods the Wrong comes before the Middle.

When a peal is composed entirely of the whole or parts of true courses it will be true for every method with the same lead ends and the same false course ends. When it is produced by bobs M, W and R (I, B, O) only, in the majority of cases it will be true for every method with the same false course ends, whatever the lead ends may be, and whether the method is a second's place or an eighth's place method. We propose, therefore, for the present, to confine ourselves in this explanation to composition by true natural courses only, and to ignore what can be done by using the true portions of false courses. We will assume that our method has the three false course ends B24365, F32465 and G43265. These are the false course ends of New-Cambridge.

We must first of all see how many of the sixty natural courses are true and available, and how many are false and must be struck out.

Our peal starts with the plain course, and that at once automatically rules out the three courses 24365, 32465 and 43265. Similarly for every other course we use there are three which are debarred us.

But, there are only sixty natural courses in all. If for every one we use we must strike out three, how are we going to get twenty-three true courses which is the minimum number required to produce five thousand changes? This is where the fact of the false course end of a method belonging to either of the two groups ABCDE or BFG helps us.

The rows in each of these two form a cyclical group based on 24365. If we set down a similar group of natural course ends based on 23456, we shall find that the courses false against the second group are all included in the first group.

23456	—	24365	32465	43265
42356	—	43265	24365	32465
34256	—	32465	43265	24365

The same courses as are false against 23456 are false against 42356 and 34256. So that instead of considering that we have three true courses each with three other courses false against it, we can consider that we have a group of three true courses and another group of three false against it.

In the same way the sixty courses can be set down in ten groups of three true courses, each group having another group false against it.

This will give us thirty true courses from which to compose our peal.

THE EXTREME.

USED IN THE WEST COUNTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The 'extreme' referred to by your correspondent C. T. B. is probably the following. It is still used fairly extensively in the West Country and also in Gloucestershire for Grandsire Doubles.

54132
51423
15432
15342
51324
53142 etc.

While hardly an 'extreme' in the sense in which that term was used in the early days of ringing, it is nevertheless a very useful call, since, with its aid, a 5,040 of Doubles can be had with each of the 42 six-scores called differently.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

We thank the other correspondents who have written to us, replying to C. T. B.'s question about extremes. As they all say much the same thing, we have printed only a selection of their letters.

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Bradford Cathedral. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in the city. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Roads, Leeds 12.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Express Dairy Company's restaurant, High Street, Eltham, on Saturday, October 26th. Private room available from 3.30 p.m., when the business meeting will commence.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—It has not been possible to arrange a meeting for October as proposed. Members are asked to watch these columns for notices of any arrangements that may be made.—C. A. Bassett, Assistant Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. N. Sargeant, 58, Eastbourne Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than October 29th.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A short meeting to discuss the question of monthly ringing practices during the winter will be held at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, November 2nd. There will also be handbells and a social gathering. Meet at Star Inn, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held on November 2nd, at St. Peter's. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. The Parish Hall will be open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Plenty of DARTS if you like.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western and Southern Districts) AND **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Chertsey District).—A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Handbells, etc., also available after service. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, not later than Tuesday, Oct. 29th. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A luncheon to commemorate the 303rd anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 9th, at 1.30 p.m., at 4s. per head. Will members who intend to be present kindly send their names to reach me by November 4th. Business meeting afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BIRTHS.

FIELD.—On October 12th, at the County Hospital, to Joan Philippa Sidney (nee Davidson), the wife of E. T. Paul Field, Ridouts, Stoke Wake, Blandford, the gift of a son (Paul Alexander Charles).

FERNLEY.—On Sunday, October 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. James Fernley, the gift of a daughter, Carol.

MARRIAGE.

KERSEY—BAILEY.—On September 28th, at St. Margaret's Church, Leiston, Reginald Charles Kersey to Agnes Muriel Bailey.

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