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A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

Whatever may be the outcome of the storm and stress of these eventful days, this at least is certain, that everything will be changed. Already across the seas they are boasting of the new Europe, fashioned according to National Socialist ideas, which is to last for a thousand years. Here, at home, men with a vision, narrower in time but wider in humanity, are talking of the new and better world which will be born by the travail of the old.

We all hope for better things; the world we knew was not so good that there was no room for improvement, and we have faith that the sacrifices and the labour the country is called upon to make will not be in vain. But good intentions will not make a better world. What is new is not necessarily good, and what is old is not necessarily bad or outworn. On the contrary, the danger when the war is over is that, in the eagerness to remove old abuses and anomalies, we lose touch with the great things which have come down from the past. Here in England, far more than in any other country in the world, we are what we are because of what our forefathers have done. The English sense of liberty and justice, pride of race and love of country, are due to a multitude of little things, traditions and memories kept alive by customs and associations which may appear of no importance, but really are of vital importance. Common sense might tell us that justice would be administered just as truly and just as efficiently by a judge dressed in plus fours as by one vested in wig and scarlet robe, but we know that these trappings do add to the majesty of the law.

It is the same with the church bells. There may be people who think that bellringing is a small and trivial thing, the thought of which might well be laid aside until a more suitable time. If such people there be, they are wrong. The church bell may be a small thing, but it is not trivial. Rather it is a sign and a symbol of the great things of life, the things that really matter. For more than a thousand years the church bell has been a voice which has borne witness to the claims of religion and morality, and it has been a voice which has never gone entirely unheard. Surely the small things are sometimes the greatest. Is there anything nobler in the whole of the great City of London than the cross of gold which still shines above St. Paul's?

If this be true, then it is true that upon us ringers is laid a great trust and a great responsibility. We value the art of change ringing, and for its sake we must struggle to keep our bands and our associations alive and ready for happier days. That in itself is worth doing, but beyond and behind our art is a far greater thing—the

(Continued on page 194.)

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long and noble tradition of church bells and all they stand for. It is in times like these that traditions can be so easily broken and lost. An England without its bells may seem to us unthinkable, yet the danger is not unreal, though it would not happen all at once. It is our part to see that it does not happen at all.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

A SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, postponed from January, was held at Wokingham on Saturday, April 19th.

A good number of ringers assembled for handbell ringing in All Saints' tower before the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy. The Litany was said with special war-time petitions and reference to members serving in the Forces. A collection for the Branch Restoration Fund was taken and a fine course of Stedman Triples was rung in the nave of the church by three soldiers and one civilian.

About 34 sat down to tea, which had been ably prepared by Mr. Houlton and others in St. Paul's Parish Room. The party included Canon Coleridge (the Master of the Guild and chairman of the branch), the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master) and Mrs. Wigg, Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Guild secretary), the Rectors of All Saints' and St. Paul's and the Rev. A. P. Carr. The visitors included Mr. H. S. Hobden (Eastbourne), Mr. C. A. Levett (Hastings), Mr. J. Freeman (Lincoln), Mr. L. J. Fox (Stepney), Mr. F. Nye (Bagshot) and others from Reading and other parts of the Guild.

After the tea, the chairman, on behalf of those present, thanked Mr. Houlton and his helpers for the tea; and the secretary (Mr. W. J. Paice) thanked the Rector of All Saints' for the service, the Rev. Miller for his address, the organist and the Rector of St. Paul's for the use of the Parish Room.

The latter, in replying, said he was pleased to welcome the branch to his parish, and although the service had not been held there, he was glad they were able to use his parish room.

The business meeting was presided over by Canon Coleridge. He spoke of the death of Canon Norris, who was not only a ringer, but also chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and whenever anything came up before that body relating to towers or bells he was able to give practical and valuable help and always had the interests of the Guild in mind.

The secretary referred to the passing of Barzillia Hawkins, of Hawley, Hants, a life member of the Oxford Guild and an old friend of many of those present.

The treasurer presented the accounts, which showed a balance in hand of £7 2s. 11d. and the Restoration Fund £15 14s. 3d.; £15 had been invested in 3 per cent. Defence Bonds. The balance sheet was adopted on the proposition of Mr. Rance, seconded by Mr. Houlton.

The secretary read a short report of the branch activities in 1940 and said that up to the time of the ban things had been going well and practices and meetings were well attended. A programme had been arranged for the whole of the year, and half of it had been carried out when ringing ceased. He referred to the death of the Rev. F. D. Browne, a great friend of ringers, and concluded his report by thanking all who had helped to keep things going. The report was adopted.

The various officers were all re-elected, viz.: Chairman, Canon Coleridge; secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. J. Paice, with a special word of thanks for his past work; the foremen of the 13 towers as the Branch Committee and representatives to the General Guild, Messrs. Castle, Dentry, Moth and Rance.

The next item on the agenda, 'What steps can be taken to keep the Branch active?' was introduced by the secretary, who mentioned three ways in which he thought it could be done, by handbell ringing-dummy practice in the tower and by holding meetings whenever possible for social intercourse. A discussion followed, those taking part being Messrs. Parker, Hibbert, Rance, Castle and Diserens (Reading) and finally it was left to the secretary to see if he could arrange some handbell practice at a suitable centre.

The secretary brought forward the matter of a donation towards a wedding present from the Guild to the Deputy Master and Mrs. Wigg, and proposed that the sum of £2 2s. be given from the branch funds. This was seconded by Mr. Moth and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wigg, in reply, thanked the members of the branch for their gift, which he greatly appreciated. Mrs. Wigg also thanked the members and said how much she enjoyed being there that day. 'She said, 'I think your handbell ringing is beautiful.'

The Deputy Master congratulated the branch on a good war-time meeting and gave some practical advice to those taking up handbell ringing. The secretary appealed to foremen and others to help him in getting in subscriptions so as to keep their financial position sound. This concluded the business, and handbell ringing was continued until 8 p.m. It included Grand sire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Plain Bob and Double Norwich Major.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
LIVERPOOL BRANCH MEETING.**

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Woolton on Saturday last, and in addition to members of the local company there were present representatives from the following towers: Wallasey, Bebington, Halewood, Childwall and Liverpool (St. Nicholas).

The bells were rung with tied clappers and before the service a touch of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells in the church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Coxwell and the address was given by the Rev. D. Railton, Rector of Liverpool. The hymns were accompanied on the organ by Mr. P. W. Cave.

Tea was partaken of at a nearby cafe, after which the meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. D. Railton, warden of the Guild. Expressions of sympathy were voiced and the members stood in silence to pay their tributes of respect to the late Rector, the Rev. F. B. Hadow, who had died as the result of a bicycle accident. Mr. Hadow was Rector of Woolton for upwards of 17 years, was an hon. life member of the association and had been a good friend of the ringers. Sympathy and regret were also expressed to the relatives of the late P. C. Alan Trevor, a member of the National Police Guild, who was killed by enemy action during an air raid. It was also intimated to the meeting that the father of the four Robinson brothers of Halewood had died suddenly. The secretary was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to the brothers Robinson in their sad bereavement.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the branch on May 24th at St. Nicholas', Liverpool. As the tower is intact, the intention is to swing the tower bells with clappers tied and to ring handbells.

Votes of thanks were passed to the local ringers for their efforts in making the meeting successful, and to the Rev. E. C. Coxwell for his cordial welcome.

**MR. WILLIAM SAMPSON.
GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION.**

On Friday, March 7th, Mr. and Mrs. William Sampson celebrated their golden wedding at Victoria, British Columbia.

Mr. Sampson came to Canada in 1907 and has been a regular ringer in Christ Church Cathedral since 1938. His native home was at Whitestone, near Exeter, where he first learnt to ring. In his boyhood days as he was watching the gravedigger, the new Vicar asked him to go up into the steeple and help him with the bells, which were four in number. They found them completely covered with jackdaws' nests, and, on striking them, they discovered that the tenor was cracked. The Vicar had it cast into two trebles by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol, and after the restoration Mr. Ferris Shepherd was engaged to teach a band of ringers.

In the following year a new tenor was added, and the band soon learned Minor and rang their first peal in 1886.

In January, 1887, Mr. Sampson left for London and lived within sound of the bells of All Saints', Fulham. It was three months before he could make up his mind to attempt ten bell ringing, but on one practice night Mr. Howe persuaded him to go up into the belfry. There he met several of London's most noted ringers, and they persuaded him to join the band.

Mr. Driver arranged for Mr. Sampson to be put through his first touch of Caters, and soon afterwards he rang a peal on the 5th at Putney. He has many peals to his credit, and several are recorded in the Fulham Peal Book.

On Mr. Sampson's golden wedding day, the ringers of Christ Church Cathedral presented him with a very beautiful silver bowl, and also paid him a surprise visit in the evening, when several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on the handbells. Those taking part in the ringing were Miss M. Izard, D. Boniface, A. C. Melhuus, E. Merrett, A. King, A. C. Lomas, E. Lake, A. Roberts and E. W. Izard.

THE BELLS OF ST. NICHOLAS', YARMOUTH.

FROM THE 'NORWICH MERCURY,' AUGUST 22nd, 1807.

'To Bell Founders.'

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

'Notice is hereby given, that such person or persons as is or are willing to contract for furnishing a new, good, and musical Peal of Eight Bells, or a Peal of Ten Bells, for the Church of Great Yarmouth of such of the weights hereafter mentioned as may be fixed by the Trustees; and for hanging and completing the same Bells, in a workmanlike manner, are desired to deliver Proposals, in writing, sealed up, directed to John Watson, Esq., at the Town Clerk's office, before Monday, the 14th day of September next.

A Tenor of Eight Bells to weigh about 21 cwt.

A Tenor of Eight Bells to weigh about 25 cwt.

A Tenor of Ten Bells to weigh about 25 cwt.

A Tenor of Ten Bells to weigh about 28 cwt.

'April 23rd, 1808.—A new peal of ten bells, cast by Messrs. Mears and Son, and hung by Mr. Edw. Simmons, of London, the tenor in D, weighing 30 cwt., will be opened in the church of this town on Monday, the 2nd of May next.'

'May 14th, 1808.—On Monday next the Norwich Ringers will gratify the inhabitants of Yarmouth with a peal on their new bells.'

**DEATH OF MR. GEORGE POPNELL.
EX-MASTER OF THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Popnell, of Bedwelly, Mon., who passed away on his 46th birthday, Easter Eve, April 12th, at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, where he had undergone an operation.

To a visiting friend he expressed himself as immensely pleased with the operation, was quite cheerful and conversed as though nothing had happened. He said he would be getting about within a week. Unfortunately it turned out otherwise.

The funeral was on Wednesday, April 16th. Before leaving the house a portion of the service was read by the curate of the parish, the Rev. A. L. Jones, and a prayer by the Rector, the Rev. James Davies. The hymn, 'Lead, kindly light,' was impressively sung by the large body of men who had assembled from the colliery. At the church the hymn, 'Jesu, Lover of my soul,' was sung and the organist played the Dead March in 'Saul.' The committal prayers were said by the Rector and the service concluded with the hymn, 'Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah.'

The whole of the singing was fervently rendered in the manner so characteristic of Welsh choirs.

The bearers were representatives and officials of the Markham Colliery, of which Mr. Popnell had been one himself, being the company's weighman. A large number of beautiful wreaths were sent. The old ringers of Bedwelly met at the church. The association was represented by Mr. George Large and Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport. Mr. Popnell's peal book shows that he had rung 256 peals. He would go any distance for a peal and was a member of a number of associations. His last peal was Holt's Original at Blagdon on April 20th, 1940.

**SILENT APPARATUS.
AN ELECTRIC DEVICE.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have followed with interest the correspondence on a silent ringing apparatus and would like to put forward a theory for the switching device.

So far, the chief difficulty has been to obtain an apparatus to act at the moment when the clapper would normally strike the bell. This moment depends on two factors; the swing of the bell, which is controlled by the rope, and the swing of the clapper, which is controlled by the force of gravity. Now, how can we reproduce this movement to make an electrical contact?

I suggest the use of a glass tube curved to the arc of the clapper's swing and fixed to the bell wheel. Inside the tube, a drop of mercury is free to roll backwards and forwards just as the clapper is free to swing through its arc. When the mercury hits the end of the tube (at the point when the clapper would normally strike the bell), it makes contact across two wires and gives forth a corresponding ding downstairs. The tube must be curved to the same arc as the swing of the clapper, and its length depends on the length of swing of the clapper at that point.

Thus, if it were placed on the wheel opposite the ball of the clapper, it would have to be as long as the diameter of the bell just there, that is, the distance travelled by the ball in striking the bell. A shorter tube may be used if placed nearer the axle of the wheel, but this would not be quite as accurate as one further out.

Now arises the question of air pressure, but I think this may be considered negligible since both mercury and clapper are heavy metals and fall at about the same speed no matter how big or small they are, just as a 10 lb. bomb falls as fast as a 1,000 lb. one.

I think this device will solve the problem, but the trouble now remaining is to obtain the apparatus. This is not as difficult as it seems, since it could be made quite easily and cheaply in the laboratory of any secondary school. You have only to persuade the science master to give the senior boys a lesson in accurate glass-bending and before you know where you are the job is finished. If this explanation is not quite clear, or if you can find any snags, I should be only too glad to answer them, if I can.

Finally, I would like to add that instead of using ordinary handbells clamped in the rack, a small set of those hated metal tubes would make a far neater and compact striking apparatus in the ringing chamber, since they would not require constant adjustment and removal for other practices.

T. R. BOYS.

3, West Street, Weedon, Northampton.

THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL'S, CORNHILL.

From the 'Norwich Gazette,' November 30th, 1728: 'On Thursday morning 7 Bells were brought from Mr. Phelps's Foundry in White-chapel to St. Michael's, Cornhill, to be hung up with the other 5 already in the Belfry, and all 12 are to be rung on St. Thomas's Day.'

GOOD STRIKING.—'Whoever can beat time' (which is called ringing by beat) will always strike his bell in due time (if the rest are not), nor will have occasion to trust so much to his sight, as he otherwise must: for as a true compass makes the ringing pleasant and harmonious, so on the contrary the want of it produces those "clamberings" and "firings" (as it is called) that destroy all music, and is very disgusting to every judicious ear.—'The Clavis.'

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting of the Central Council was held on Easter Tuesday, March 31st, 1891, at the Inns of Court Hotel in Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, London. Sixty-three members were present out of a total of seventy-four, and thirty-three societies were represented, out of a total of thirty-four. Canon Coleridge represented the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and he has continued to do so, not missing a single meeting. To-day he is undisputed Father of the House, for, although Mr. George Williams was present in 1891 and has been a member ever since, he has represented the Sussex County Association and the Winchester Diocesan Association as well as being for a time an honorary member.

Five other men who were present in 1891 are still alive—F. E. Dawe and R. T. Woodley (College Youths), H. R. Newton (St. James' Society), Joseph Griffin (Midland Counties Association), and C. Tyler (Sussex County Association).

Among the other members there were many whose names have passed into the history of change ringing—Leonard Proctor, of Benington, who had joined the Cambridge Youths as an undergraduate as far back as 1835, and whose band in his home belfry had distinguished themselves by being the first company to ring peals in all the three standard Surprise Major methods; Henry Dains, Nathan Pitstow, Dr. A. B. Carpenter, Charles H. Hattersley, C. D. P. Davies and John Carter, who were the leading composers of the day; James W. Washbrook, the greatest all-round ringer of his time and probably of all time; F. E. Robinson, William Snowdon, Henry Bastable from Birmingham, James R. Haworth, whose membership of the College Youths dated from 1839; John Rogers, William Baron and George Newson from the Cumberlands Society; John W. Taylor, the bell founder; Thomas Blackburn, the bell hanger; three future canons, T. L. Papillon, W. C. Baker and J. H. Elsee; Frederick Knights from Norwich, Robert S. Storey from Newcastle, E. W. Carpenter, E. F. Strange, Henry Earle Bulwer, and, of course, A. Percival Heywood. Two of the Norwich representatives were absent, both leading members of the Exercise, Captain A. P. Moore, who died soon afterwards, and W. L. Catchpole, of Ipswich.

Nine honorary members were elected at the meeting—Canon Wigram, the author of an elementary text book entitled 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' Canon J. J. Raven the antiquary, the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, J. C. Mitchell, H. Thomas, Charles Hounslow, William Wakley, James Pettit and William T. Patges.

It is rather difficult to see what particular strength some of these latter could bring, but, take it as a whole, the Council undoubtedly did contain the most representative and leading ringers of the time, and it can compare very favourably in that respect with any of its successors.

The preliminary meeting of the year before had been reported fairly fully in 'The Bell News,' but at its first formal meeting the Council was faced with a difficulty which was never solved until the publication of 'The Ringing World' in 1911. Properly to report a debate in the Council needs not only a skilled shorthand writer but one who understands what is being said and the technical language that is being used. In the early days there was no such person, and the reports published in 'The Bell News' were usually written up by Heywood from notes taken by Benjamin Keeble, who, though a ringer, was but an indifferent reporter. For the first meeting of all nothing but the official minutes were published, and we are left in ignorance of what was said by the speakers in the debates.

Heywood was, of course, elected as the first president, and it was characteristic of the man and the control he intended to exercise that in his opening speech he told the members, rather in the style of a schoolmaster addressing his boys, that they were met not to contest points of difference in an aggressive spirit, but to discuss the questions before them thoughtfully and with the earnest wish to arrive at decisions based upon careful and unprejudiced consideration of the various views presented.

For the very important office of secretary, there was a contest between E. F. Strange and F. E. Dawe, the latter being elected. Strange may have owed his rejection in some measure to personal feeling, for he was very much disliked by the older London men on account of some attacks he had made on the old societies and the general condition of ringing in the Metropolis. He held a position at the South Kensington Museum, and seemed destined to take a leading part in the Exercise, hopes which were only partially to be realised. At the next meeting Henry Earle Bulwer was appointed secretary, and he held the office till his death.

The most lasting work done at this session was the appointment of a committee to report on suggestions for the repair and preservation of bells and frames, and on the best means of moderating the sound of noisy bells. This was the beginning of one of the most useful of the Council's activities, which has lasted through various phases until the present day.

(To be continued.)

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 5,088 CHANGES

COMPOSED BY J. HUNT.							
	1	5	6		1	5	6
23456				23654			
35426	1		3	35624	1		3
52436	1		3	52634	1		3
42356	1		2	62354	1		2
32546	1		2	32564	1		2
53624		1		53426		1	
32654	1		3	32456	1		3
25634	1		3	25436	1		3
65324	1		2	45326	1		2
52364	1		3	52346	1		3
23654	S		1	23456	S		1

If the calling be begun at the fifth course (i.e., with the Bob at 5) the 4th will be replaced by the 5th.

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JAMES PETTIT.**A FAMOUS COLLEGE YOUTH.**

To-day is the one hundred and seventh anniversary of the birth of James Pettit, who for many years was a leading figure in the Society of College Youths and was representative of the best of the ringing Exercise during the second half of the last century.

He was a London man, born at Hackney, and his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was at St. John's Church, South Hackney, on December 3rd, 1857. It was a College Youths' peal, and thereafter he took part in most of the notable performances by the society. His first peal of Stedman Triples was conducted by William Cooter at Bethnal Green in 1862, and it was followed by Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, and Stedman Caters and Cinques, which methods with Grandsire Triples and Caters completed the ringers' repertoire in those days.

Among the most notable of his peals were the 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green in 1868, when he rang the third, and the 11,111 Stedman Caters at Fulham in 1883, which he conducted. Both were at the time record lengths for the methods. He was also the conductor when the College Youths lost a peal of Stedman Cinques at Cornhill in 1887 after ringing nearly ten thousand changes with only two bobs still to be called.

At one period James Pettit had probably called Holt's Original more times than any other man; he was the first to call it from every bell, including the tenor, and he took part in the first non-conducted performance in 1884.

He was for many years the conductor at St. Paul's Cathedral and he called the first peal, one of Stedman Cinques, on those noble bells. In his day he enjoyed a very high reputation, and many will still remember him as a gentlemanly man of the old-fashioned type. He died in May, 1912.

BEACONSFIELD. — On April 7th, at St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, K. E. Fletcher 7-8. First quarter-peal 'in hand' by all.

**CHANGE RINGING IN WILTSHIRE.****IN THE YEAR 1857.**

'When bellringing was more appreciated than unfortunately it is now, there were societies of ringers in Cambridge, Oxford, London—such as the College Youths (then practising at St. Michael's on College Hill, London) founded in 1637—Birmingham and in other places. There are some societies of ringers now in various parts of England, and there is among others in London a society of College Youths, but it is said not to be descended from the ancient society above mentioned, which became extinct in 1788. There is, I believe, an excellent society of Norwich Scholars.

'I do not know where to find a society of ringers in Wiltshire. There are sets of men who ring for what they can get which they consume in drink; but there is very little love for the science or its music; and alas! much irreverence and profanation of the House of God. There is no "plucking at the bells" for recreation and exercise.

'Church-ringers with us have degenerated into mercenary performers. In more than one parish where there are beautiful bells I was told that the village youths took no interest whatever in bellringing.'

The condition of the steeples and belfries matched the condition of the ringers. 'It is a matter for our grave consideration that so many of our village churches have their towers in so dilapidated a condition. I have seen several in the course of my Wiltshire rambles which are in so dangerous a state that the bells are forbidden to be rung.

'The principal cause of the evil is that churchwardens have been sadly negligent. With a little oil and new ropes allowed now and then, they have imagined that their duty to the bells and to the parish has been faithfully done, whereas mischief of a three-fold nature has been growing and increasing—mischief to the building, to the bells and to the parishioners.

'I have been frequently much pained by observing the shameful state of filth and neglect of many Wiltshire bell-towers. When the towers have no stone staircase, the bells have to be reached by a succession of crazy ladders, planted on equally crazy floors. How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected! Why should towers be so desecrated? Are they not as much a portion of the church as any other part? Why should they be left to the sole occupation of unclean birds and irreverent ringers?

'We may, I think, attribute this state of things to two causes, first to a want of interest in the art of bellringing; and, secondly, to the difficulty which is experienced by the clergy in managing the generally most unruly set of men in the parish—the ringers.

'I know of more than one instance where, in consequence of the sinful and disgraceful practices of the ringers, the bells have been silenced by the clergyman, only one being allowed to be tolled for service.'—Rev. William C. Lukis.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

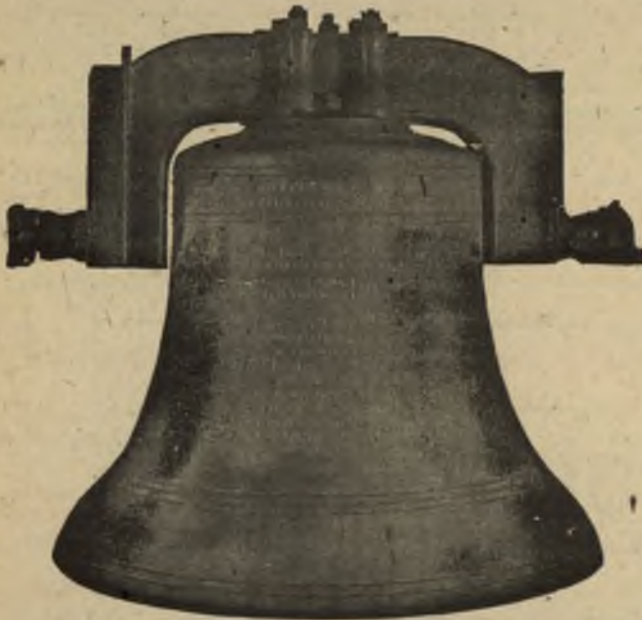
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(12th year
of reign of
Elizabeth).

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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith continues to make satisfactory but slow progress. He is still in hospital.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. Gabriel Lindoff that he is now much better.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Denison Taylor, who attains his seventy-seventh birthday to-morrow:

Last Tuesday was the anniversary of two famous long peals. On April 22nd, 1889, 15,227 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Cheltenham in 9 hours and 43 minutes. It still stands as the record of the method and was conducted by William T. Pates, who had not previously called a bob in Grandsire Caters.

In 1922 on the same date at Appleton, a band, made up partly by local men and partly by London College Youths, rang the record for any method. It was 21,363 changes of Stedman Caters, the time was 12 hours and 25 minutes, and the conductor was Mr. Herbert Langdon

Only two or three peals have been rung on the heavy ten bells at the Imperial Institute, Kensington. One of them, Stedman Caters, was rung on April 23rd, 1924.

The first peal of Bob Major was accomplished by the College Youths on April 26th, 1925, on the now destroyed bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Benjamin Annable rang the tenor and conducted.

On the same date in 1894 Mr. Charles E. Borrett called at Norwich what was then the longest peal on handbells—11,200 changes of Bob Major.

On April 27th, 1876, the Cumberland Youths rang William Harrison's peal of Kent Treble Bob, 8,896 changes, the longest length with the tenors together produced by ordinary bobs. George Newson conducted, and Henry Deans and John Cox were in the band.

It was the anniversary of the College Youths' long peal in the same method at Bethnal Green, which was rung in 1866.

The then record length of Stedman Cinques, 8,580 changes, was rung at Cornhill by the College Youths on April 27th, 1861.

It was stated last Saturday in a London evening newspaper that the bells which still hang in the steeple of St. Andrew's, Holborn, were rung to celebrate the victory of Agincourt in the year 1415. That is not correct. No single bell in London is nearly as old as that, but it is quite likely that a number of bells still exist which contain metal once part of very ancient bells and which has been recast many times.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one was Stedman Triples, and one Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

DEATH OF MR. EDWIN F. PIKE.

WELL-KNOWN LONDON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Edwin Frederick Pike, which took place on April 17th after a short illness. Mr. Pike was well known among London ringers and had taken part in many peals in a large number of methods. Before the last war he was associated with Mr. James E. Davis and the band that rang at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. John's, Waterloo Road. Since, he has been connected with St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and other churches. He was a frequent visitor at College Youths meetings.

RINGER AIRMAN KILLED.

Guildford Cathedral tower has lost one of its young ringers by the death of Sergt. Victor G. Elliott, R.A.F., V.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott, of 2, Woodlands Road, Guildford. Sergt. Elliott, who was 20 years of age, was killed in action while serving as a wireless operator and machine gunner. For three years he had been a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. He and his close friend, Sergt. D. E. Bristow, R.A.F., V.R., who is now a prisoner of war in Germany, rang their first peal of Grandsire Triples together in November, 1937. Regular in his attendance at the belfry, Sergt. Elliott will be greatly missed when once more the band of Holy Trinity reassemble to ring out the message of peace and victory. The funeral was at Guildford on Wednesday.

RECENT AIR RAIDS.

(Continued from next page.)

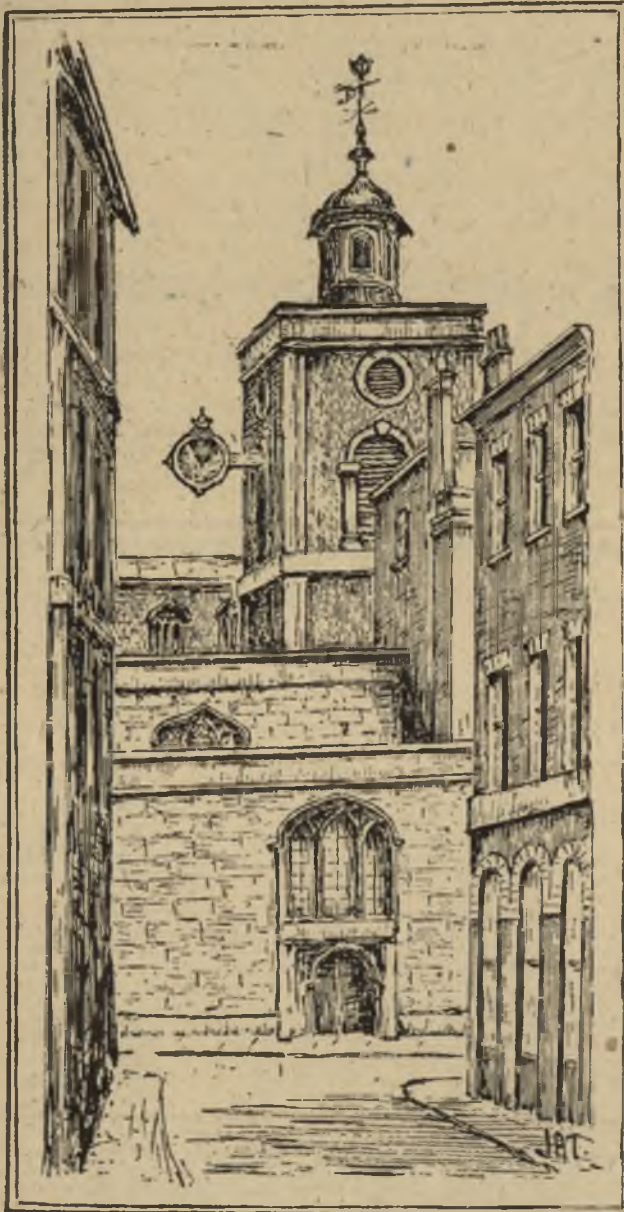
to help to provide for the ring of ten in that church. During the 60 years the old church had a ring, only one peal is known to have been accomplished there. It was 5,040 Bob Major in 1785 by the College Youths, conducted by James Worster. The tablet which recorded it still hung on the tower wall. Chelsea Old Church was one of the places which had an endowment for ringing the evening bell, but the ringing was discontinued in 1822, although the bell specially provided was still in the steeple.

RECENT AIR RAIDS

MORE FAMOUS CHURCHES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED.

More famous churches were destroyed or damaged during the air raid last week, which was officially described as the heaviest suffered by London since the beginning of the war.

A high explosive bomb crashed through the roof and vaulting of the north transept of St. Paul's Cathedral and penetrated as far as the crypt. The dome and the bell tower were not affected, but the structural damage was large.



A FAMOUS OLD CITY CHURCH.

One of the few City churches which survived the great fire of 1666 has now been demolished. The tower still stands and the fate of the ring of eight bells is as yet unknown.

St. Andrew's, Holborn, and the adjoining City Temple were gutted and nothing but the walls of either are left. St. Andrew's had magnificent carved woodwork, which is irreplaceable. In the steeple is a noble peal of eight bells. These are hung on iron stocks in an iron frame. They still hang, but it cannot be said how far they have been damaged by the fire.

All Saints', Chelsea Old Church, an ancient and historical building with memories of the great Sir Thomas More, has also been destroyed.

Another church destroyed was a very fine eighteenth century building with a massive tower and a heavy ring of eight bells. Only the walls and tower are left standing and everything combustible, including the oak frame, has been destroyed.

The bells were restored three years ago and are now, there is little doubt, a total loss. It was in this bellry that Mr. C. T. Coles and his brother Albert began their ringing careers.

St. John's, Leytonstone, has the distinction of being the first church in the London area to suffer damage. This is where the William Pye memorial bells hang. A bomb burst in the churchyard and smashed the windows, but, fortunately, no further damage was done.

St. Mildred's, Bread Street, destroyed in an earlier raid, was not very well known to ringers, for it had but two bells. It was, however, a very characteristic Wren church and had preserved the original atmosphere to a remarkable extent.

Another church, well known to ringers, which stood in a south-eastern London suburb, has, we hear, been destroyed and the ring of eight, which were by Janaway, ruined. It was here that the first muffled five thousand was rung.

A modern church in the same town with its fine ring of bells from Taylor's foundry has also been destroyed.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.

It can now be mentioned that among other churches damaged in recent raids is St. Martin's, the old Parish Church of Birmingham, which played so great a part in the history of the ringing Exercise. An explosive bomb of heavy calibre fell on the approach-way to the west door. It made a crater amongst graves; the blast tore a great hole in the masonry above the west doorway, blew away pinnacles, and damaged much other outer stonework; but—a happy omen?—the statue of St. Martin, standing in a niche on the western facade, was untouched. There was also a great displacement of tiles in the roofing.

Internally, although the havoc was less than the gaping hole in the west front might suggest, grievous damage was done. All the same, much that worshippers at St. Martin's prize escaped. The windows suffered heavily, but the Burne-Jones window that was in the south transept remains undamaged. The glass of the east window was destroyed, but the very beautiful reredos and the organ were unharmed.

The main structure of the church is sound, and a preliminary survey has shown that it will be repairable. It is believed that the tower and bells are quite safe and sound, but it was a narrow escape.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

At the time of Edward VI. St. Andrew's had 'iiij grete bells and a lyttell bell in ye, stepull.' In 1587 Robert Mot recast all the bells and supplied a new ring of eight, with a tenor weighing 28 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb., and a new saunce bell. Probably this was the first octave in London and at least one of the first in the country.

In the early part of the seventeenth century the church got into a very dilapidated condition, and John Hacket, who was then rector, collected funds to rebuild it, but the money was confiscated during the troubles which accompanied the Civil War. John Hacket was a member of the Society of College Youths and afterwards Bishop of Lichfield.

The building escaped the great fire of 1666, but was pulled down and re-erected by Sir Christopher Wren in 1686-7 at a cost of £9,000. The old tower was left standing, and in 1704 it was refaced with Portland stone and the upper storey added.

How many of Mot's bells had been recast before the eighteenth century we do not know, but it seems that the ring as a whole was not a good one, and Laughton is especially strong in his condemnation of the sixth.

A word or two I now shall write
about the bells but not in spite
that sixth is bad as e'er swung
the others not so good as e-er was rung
but pretty well if they were in tune
and a better sixth in that bells room
for no kettle pan or old dust tub
e-er made a worse one.

Shortly afterwards Richard Phelps recast the octave, and most of his bells remained until the recent catastrophe, but the tenor was again recast by Mears and Stainbank. They were a very fine and noble ring. Mot's saunce bell had survived.

When the first peal on the bells was rung we do not know. From what Laughton says we may gather that a five thousand in some method or other had been rung before 1754 and that the first single-handed peal in the steeple was 5,040 Bob Major by the Ramblers on May 9th in that year. John Trenell rang the tenor. Four years later a 'friendly' society rang 6,160 also of Bob Major, with John Box at the tenor.

For several years there has been an excellent local band connected with the tower, and it was one of the few churches in central London where the bells were rung regularly for Sunday services.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH.

Chelsea Old Church had 'in the steeple three greate bells and one lyttill saunce bell' in the year 1552. In 1762 Thomas Janaway recast the bells and increased them to eight, but when the new Parish Church of St. Luke was built, all but the fourth were sold

(Continued on previous page.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A NEW PRESIDENT AND A NEW SECRETARY.

The sixtieth annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held on Saturday last in St. Peter Mancroft Parish Hall, Norwich, when the Rev. Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, Vicar of Great Yarmouth, was elected president and the Rev. Alfred G. G. Thurlow general secretary and treasurer.

The service in St. Peter Mancroft Church was attended by fifty members and friends. Canon Aitken gave the address.

Six of St. Giles' bells, with their clappers securely fixed by a member of the City Police, were available before the service, and there were handbells in St. Peter's belfry and the Parish Hall until a late hour. A number of touches in a variety of methods were successfully completed.

After tea the business meeting took place. Mr. William L. Duffield was elected chairman and was supported by Canon R. A. Aitken, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow and Mr. A. L. Coleman (vice-presidents), Mr. W. J. Lee (East Norfolk Branch chairman), Mr. F. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. H. Tooke (North Norfolk Branch secretary), the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, Messrs. W. Clover and W. Barber (committee members), and members from Acle, Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Heithersett, Mellis (Suffolk), Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Giles', St. Miles' and St. Peter Mancroft), Paston, Redenhall and Wiveton.

Canon R. Aubrey Aitken was unanimously elected president on the proposition of Mr. A. L. Coleman, seconded by Mr. W. J. Lee. Returning thanks, Canon Aitken said he was proud to be elected the president of such an important body of churchworkers, not only because he recognised the great work that ringers had done, but also because he was extremely fond of bells.

The vice-presidents were all re-elected.

THE HON. SECRETARY RESIGNS.

Mr. F. Nolan Golden regretted that owing to his impending departure from the diocese he was unable to continue in office and proposed that Mr. Thurlow, who had all the qualities of an ideal secretary, should be asked to take his place. Mr. William L. Duffield, while regretting the loss the association would sustain by Mr. Golden's resignation, was pleased that they had a man of Mr. Thurlow's ability to take over the reins of office. Mr. Thurlow's election was heartily approved. In accepting the office, Mr. Thurlow said he would be glad to do what he could and appealed for the support of every member.

The President expressed the association's thanks for Mr. Golden's hard work, and supported the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation. Mr. A. L. Coleman, with over 20 years' experience, said he could testify to the diligence and capability with which Mr. Golden had discharged his duties. In reply, the retiring secretary attributed any success he had had to the wholehearted support and co-operation of the officers. He was naturally sorry to have to sever his connection with the association, in whose service he had spent many happy hours.

Mr. Golden was the South Norfolk Branch secretary from 1929-1937, when he was elected general secretary. He had also been secretary of the North Norfolk Branch from 1934-1937, and had represented the association as a member of the Central Council since 1930. His peal total for the association numbers 392, a large proportion of which he has conducted and which includes 26 first performances of the association, and the longest lengths of Superlative Surprise and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

The committee was re-elected en bloc. The president ruled that as no branch meetings had been held, the officers of the branches should be considered as still in office.

The report, due notice of which has appeared in 'The Ringing World,' and the balance sheet were adopted. The reserve fund stands at £156 13s. 4d. in National Savings Certificates, and there is a balance in hand of £2 13s. 9d.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Bergh Apton on June 21st.

Mr. F. Nolan Golden spoke of the many people who had contributed to the success of the meeting. He thanked Canon Aitken for his part in the service and for accepting the presidency; the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow for arranging the service and for the use of the hall; Mr. Madden Williams, the organist; Mr. W. C. Duffield and Mr. and Mrs. Gowing for certain supplies for the tea; Miss Tunnadine, Mrs. Golden and Mr. Sayer for catering and waiting at tea; the Vicar of St. Giles' for the use of the bells, and Mr. Clifford Bird for securing the clappers of the bells. This collective vote of thanks was heartily endorsed by the members.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I had no wish when I wrote my letter to misrepresent the Highcliffe Society in any way. They (or their secretary) had published accounts of 'a system of teaching handbell ringing having many novel features,' and which they recommend for general adoption by other people. It was a fair subject for comment and criticism.

Here are some of the points: 'Young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off.' 'Never keep them pegging away at one method or one touch until they get heartily sick of it.' 'Before we could ring touches of Bob Minor properly we started to learn Kent. Before we could ring that properly we went on to Grand sire Triples and Bob Major, and before we could ring the latter properly we were practising Double Norwich.'

Whatever progress the Highcliffe Society may have made, of which, of course, I am no judge, I am sure that the above system of teaching is for ordinary people a bad one. The thing that matters is not what methods are rung, but how they are rung. I have had no experience of really first-class handbell bands, but I do know that for ordinary ringers Bob Major and Grand sire Triples will supply all they want and more. Long before they have begun to exhaust what those methods have to give they will have ceased to be learners and may do what they please or rather perhaps what they are able.

It is far better to aim at ringing methods like Bob Major really well (and that will take a lot of doing) than to make a spurious sort of progress by muddling through a lot of more difficult methods somehow or other. 'What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.'

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

ASHTEAD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been following with great interest the articles on the standard methods and the correspondence arising from them.

In the most recent article I see that Cornwall Surprise is selected as being most fitted to become a standard method. Now I have always been of the opinion that standard methods should be reasonably easy of attainment, and I think that had more methods been available when 'Standard Methods' was produced, progress would have been more rapid because we could have taken more gradual steps.

For instance, the gap between Double Norwich or Treble Bob and Superlative or, even more so, London, is a big one, and with our present knowledge it should be possible to make this gap smaller. Many ringers can advance in small steps where they would otherwise fail.

If this reasoning is accepted it follows that our Surprise methods should include one or more which are very simple, and here I want to advocate the claims of 'Ashtead,' first produced by Mr. George Baker. For simplicity of work it must be hard to beat. The coursing order is maintained throughout, the tenor dodging exclusively, both back and front, with the 7th and 6th place bells. Dodging is 4 pull except internally where it is 3 pull. This brings up the question of music, and here I think the question of composition does enter, in spite of what has previously been written about judging the musical qualities of a method by its peal figures. If it is contended that the plain course is musical, as it is so contended in the case of Ashtead, then a good series of 6th place bells in this method must continue to produce the music. Since this method has a clean proof scale, composition is unlimited.

One further point I want to make and that is the method has 2nd's place at the lead end. It may be just a prejudice of mine, but I should think that if a ringer is contemplating the step from Plain or Treble Bob to Surprise, a 2nd's place method will be easier for him, as he is used to the 'in, out and 4th's' at a bob. If an 8th's place method such as Cornwall is used, the question of 4th's or 6th's place bobs arises. If 4th's are used, all the bells above are affected by a bob, thus creating a little more difficulty for our beginner. At all events, I hope that Ashtead has been included in the new Surprise Major book.

Kennington, Oxford.

ALAN R. PINK.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.—It has frequently been observed that learners oftentimes attempt to ring rounds, and sometimes changes, before they are capable of managing a bell itself properly, which is the reason we have so many awkward practitioners in this art; for the attention being divided betwixt the management of the bell, and the method of the changes, the former, which ought to claim the first attention is frequently neglected, which brings on a train of ill habits that soon grow familiar, become natural by constantly practising, and are at last incorrigible.—'The Clavis.'

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THE STANDARD METHODS.
CORNWALL SURPRISE.

To judge the value of Cornwall for practical ringing, it is well to draw out a skeleton course, and when we do that we find the diagram is a very attractive one. It has most of the good features we hope for in a method except difficulty. There is plenty of variety; the bells move freely without stagnation, such as occurs in Superlative, or great rapidity such as we get in London; the place-making and dodging are all at backstroke, and there is no awkward or uncomfortable work. A bell dodges in 7-8 only with its course-bell, after-bell and the treble, and the same thing happens in 1-2, except for the change when the treble is lying its whole pull behind. If we are hypercritical, the one complaint we can make is that when a bell is placemaking in 5-6, either up or down, both places are made with the same bell. It is not easy to say why it should be so, but it is a fact that when we make a place and dodge with a bell, we expect that bell to go away, and we instinctively look for another to come to us. When the same bell stops we rather wonder what he is hanging about for, and why doesn't he get about his business. This, however, is a small blemish in an otherwise excellent method.

CORNWALL *S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
<hr/>	
2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8	3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8
4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7	2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
<hr/>	
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 8 3 5 7
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	4 2 1 6 3 8 7 5
<hr/>	
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	4 1 2 6 8 3 5 7
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	1 4 6 2 3 8 7 5
6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
<hr/>	
	1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5

To take the work in detail. After a bell (the tenor in the first lead) has lain its whole pull behind at the lead-end it does a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 down, does Treble Bob work (dodge-place-dodge) in 5-6, and Treble Bob work in 7-8. In both cases the first dodge is with the treble. Places in 5-6 down follow (fifth's—dodge—sixth's), then dodge 3-4, and go to work on the front. This consists of a double and a single dodge in 1-2, Treble Bob work in 3-4, and another double and single dodge in 1-2. The last dodge of all is with the treble.

The bell then does a dodge in 3-4 up and makes Court places (fourth's and third's) round the treble, dodging with that bell between the places. Fourth's place and a dodge in 3-4 immediately follow, then Treble Bob work on the front, and 5-6 places up. This is followed by a 3-pull and a single dodge behind, and Treble Bob work in 5-6. The place in this latter is the turning place of the method, and from it the work is repeated in reverse order.

The natural bob of the method and the one which most people will prefer is the sixth's place bob. The bell making 5-6 places up makes sixth's and then 5-6 places down. The two bells behind dodge.

The alternative bob is the fourth's place bob. In it the place is made by the bell which has just finished all its work on the front, and, after doing a single and double dodge in 1-2 and a single dodge in 3-4, is on its way to places in 5-6 up. The two bells which have just made places in 5-6 dodge together and make another set of places.

The effect of this bob is that the work of the bells in 5-6-7-8 is put forward three leads. This will allow a very great range of peal compositions and of a style which has, so far, been very little developed.

The defect of these bobs and, indeed, of the bobs ordinarily used in most eighth's place methods is that they cause a rather excessive amount of dodging in 7-8. In actual practice this is not a great defect for extra dodging at a bob does not produce the monotony the same amount of dodging does at a plain lead. No one, for instance, complains of the 5-pull dodging at the bob in Double Norwich, and many do complain of the 5-pull dodging at a plain lead in Superlative.

This extra dodging could, however, be avoided by making the bob, not at the lead end, but in the interior of the lead. The best position would be at the second cross-section, a whole pull on the front being substituted for third's place. We should get

42316587 instead of 42316587.
 43261857 24361857.

This is a possible alternative bob for Double Norwich also.

There seems no real theoretical objection to a bob of this sort, but it is outside the traditions of the Exercise, and is hardly, we think, likely to be adopted.

Cornwall has a clear proof scale with the tenors together, and therefore sixty full natural courses available for composition. This is one of the features in which it is much superior to almost all the Surprise Major methods.

As a musical method, Cornwall ranks very high. It has claims to be the best of all the Surprise Major methods in this respect. To begin with, it has double the number of musical natural courses that all but a very few have. In Superlative, if we use the three 5-6 courses we are debarred from the three 6-5 courses; if we use

(Continued on next page.)

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GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1940.**

The General Committee report that the war and the ban on church bells having hung a curtain over change ringing, the sixty-sixth annual report of the Guild is of necessity short and withal a disappointment to all enthusiastic ringers.

When the Low Countries were invaded the president (the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox) decided to cancel the annual meeting fixed for Whit Monday at Exeter. His action is without precedent in the history of the Guild; even so, it was justified by subsequent events. Nor can we expect anything better until the ban is raised.

Well-attended branch meetings have been held at Topsham, Ottery St. Mary, Cullompton and Exeter, but since May only the Exeter Branch has held a meeting. This latter gathering was successful and handbells afforded occasion for change ringing practice. The committee recommend that other branches should try to hold similar meetings, on the assurance that such gatherings would be helpful in stimulating interest in the Exercise.

Forty-five members of the Guild are serving with H.M. Forces. The General Committee further decided that 'the annual general meeting of the Guild shall be in abeyance for this year (1941); that the subscriptions for the year 1941 shall be reduced by one-half the usual amounts, and that the annual report of the Guild shall be reduced as much as possible for this year.'

Mr. T. Laver was nominated as the hon. treasurer in place of Mr. F. C. Smale, who now is the general secretary.

The finances of the Guild are in a very satisfactory condition. There is a balance of £81, as against £77 in 1939, standing to the credit of the general account. The balance to the credit of the Bells Restoration Fund stands at £115 16s. 6d.

One peal of Grandsire Triples and one of Grandsire Doubles have been rung on church bells previous to the ban, while six handbell peals have been recorded. All these peals were conducted by Mr. C. R. Lilley.—Fredk. C. Smale, hon. secretary.

WEDDING OF MISS M. K. I. EASTES.

The marriage was solemnised at Emmanuel Church, West Dulwich, on Saturday, April 12th, between Miss Mary Kathleen Isobel Eastes and Mr. Reginald George Knights, R.A.F. The Vicar (the Rev. E. Cooke) officiated, and the bride, who is the only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Eastes, was given away by a friend, Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A., and was attended by Miss Ida Hall. The bride was attired in a turquoise blue dress and coatee with nigger brown hat and accessories, and the bridesmaid in a blue flowered dress. The best man was Mr. Donald Forbes, cousin of the bridegroom, and following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's parents. Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Knights are making their new home at 12a, Park Hall Road, West Dulwich. Miss Eastes was for a period secretary of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild prior to leaving Ottershaw to take up residence in Dulwich.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

the three 6-4 courses we may not have the three 4-6 courses. In Cornwall, all are freely at our disposal. Many other Surprise Major methods will only allow us to use a definite number of natural courses which include some of those with the poorest music. So that, if the music of the plain course of Cornwall were no better than the music of the plain courses of other methods, Cornwall would still be the better method musically.

But the music of the plain course of Cornwall actually is equalled by very few and surpassed by none. If the Oxford places of the first section had been in 3-4, and so given parallel dodging in 5-6 and 7-8, it would, so far as that section is concerned, have been better. But the price that would have to be paid in other things is excessive.

There is about the right quantity of dodging in the method, and as the natural coursing order is well maintained, varied only by the 4-bell Treble Bob hunting course, the necessary rhythm is produced.

The more one studies Cornwall and compares it with other methods, such as Cambridge, for instance, the more one appreciates its merits. Here, surely, is one which is worthy to take its place among the standard methods.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL MEETING AT CARDIFF.**

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Cardiff on Easter Monday in St. James' Church Schoolroom and opened with prayer.

Owing to the damage at Llandaff Cathedral, where the meeting was to have been held, Canon Lewis, Vicar of St. John's, Cardiff, very readily agreed to have the meeting in the schoolroom of the daughter church, St. James'.

Canon Lewis met and welcomed the members and took the chair at the meeting. Mr. J. W. Jones said it was his painful duty to report the passing of Mr. George Popnell, of Bedwellty, who during last year was Master of the association. He died on Easter Eve in the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Only 48 hours before Mr. Jones had sat in hospital with him. He was most cheerful and confident that he would soon be well and wished there would be a good annual meeting. Alas! it was a false hope. He had evidently been buoyed up to think he would soon be all right. As a last tribute of respect the members stood for a few moments in silence.

On the proposition of Mr. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Bailey, all the officers were re-elected.

It was agreed to hold the next annual meeting at the Cathedral Church of St. Woolos, Newport, on Easter Monday, 1942.

The hon. secretary reported that so far as he could learn not a single church with a ring of bells in the association's area had been damaged as regards the tower and bells. Llandaff Cathedral is badly damaged, but the tower and bells are all right. The tower and bells of St. John's, Cardiff, too, have escaped.

It was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' in his illness with a hope for a speedy recovery.

A suggestion was made that when the time arrived for peace ringing all ringers should assist those towers where there is a depletion of ringers owing to service in the Forces.

Canon Lewis was thanked for his kindness and suitably replied. The attendance was the smallest on record for an annual meeting. Representatives were present from Cardiff, Bridgend, Aberavon, Newport, Penarth, Llandaff and Ebbw Vale.

BOWDON BELLRINGER MARRIED.**HASSELL—PRIESTNER.**

Mr. John Hassell, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hassell, of Bowdon, who was a ringer at Bowdon before joining the Royal Navy, was married at Bowdon Parish Church to Miss Edna Priestner, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Priestner, of 1, Vicarage Lane, Bowdon.

The bridegroom returned to his unit the day following the wedding. He belongs to an old and respected Bowdon family.

The Rev. J. W. Hollinshead, curate at Bowdon, officiated. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. William Priestner. She wore a powder-blue two-piece suit with fur revers, and a hat to match. Red carnations made her bouquet. The best man was Mr. Frederick Hassell, brother of the bridegroom.

The service was choral, the hymns, 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us,' and 'God of love,' being sung. Dr. H. L. Read, the organist and choirmaster, was at the organ.

A reception was held at the Methodist Chapel schoolroom in Priory Street, Bowdon.

NOTICES—Continued.

PRESTON HALL, MAIDSTONE.—Mr. Bryan O'Neill (secretary of the St. Peter's Society, Burnham, Bucks) has been admitted to the above sanatorium. As he is in a strange county, I should be grateful if any of my K.C.A. ringing friends would pay him a visit (it would be more than appreciated). He can be visited at almost any time on the top floor, Preston Hall.—Geo. Gilbert, Instr., St. Peter's Society, 5, Fairstead, Lent Rise, Burnham, Bucks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. James George's address is now 645, Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham, 8.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Thomas G. Bannister's address is now 14, Adelphi Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex.

DEATH.

PIKE.—Edwin Frederick, of 10, Becroft Road, S.E.4, on April 17th, 1941, after a very short illness.

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.

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

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farrington Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MEETING AT BUSHEY, Saturday, April 26th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, 3.45 p.m. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice in all methods and social gossip. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. Open to all interested in ringing. Good bus service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Herts Association.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Worcester, on April 26th. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Cookham on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells available. Guild service at 4 p.m. Tea at Royal Exchange at 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The tower of St. John's will be open, with handbells available. A service will be held at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Danbury. Service at 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Six 'silent' tower bells available from 3 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells will be available in the schoolroom from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due, Reports to hand. Do your duty.—Ivan Kay, Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 26th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells in the belfry from 3

p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. You are requested to be present.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. Ringers wishing to enter the restricted defence area are advised to send 2½d. stamp for a personal summons.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Broughton Astley on Saturday, May 3rd. Meet at the Social Club sharp at 6 p.m. Handbells and various games available. Reports now ready. Subscriptions are due.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbells available from 3 p.m. All ringers welcome, and will the association members try to attend? Will ringers make their own tea arrangements?—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Howden, on Saturday, May 3rd, when handbells will be available. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea in Manor House Cafe at 5 o'clock; names, please, by Wednesday, April 30th. Business meeting for election of officers, etc. Annual reports available at meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury, on Saturday, May 10th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., at a cost of about 1s. (please bring your own sugar). Annual business meeting to follow. Owing to catering difficulties, tea will be provided only for those who make application to me by May 5th. Please note, to avoid disappointment. Nearest station to Kingsbury is Wembley Park (Met.), from whence No. 83 buses pass the church.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH, ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—We invite ringers to join with the local band in a social afternoon of handbell ringing at the above church, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea in the Mission Hall, South Street. Do come and join us, we shall be delighted to see you. Names for tea please, no later than Tuesday, May 6th.—O. L. Ashbrook, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available at 2.30. Service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30. Tea at 5.30 (1s.) if a sufficient number signify their intention of being present by May 3rd.—F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. —Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

(Continued on page 202.)

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