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FRIDAY, MAY 2nd, 1941.

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LOSS AND GAIN.

Last week we gave some account of churches and bells, well known to ringers, which have been destroyed or damaged in recent air raids. It is a pitiful tale, and unfortunately all, and perhaps the worst, has not yet happened. On one thing, however, we are all agreed. If this is part of the price we must pay to save the liberties of Englishmen and the soul of England, we shall pay it. Loss and gain are not ultimately to be reckoned in terms of material things. England may be much the better for all this. We hope and trust she will be, and we of the ringing Exercise may share her gain in an especial way of our own.

Just before the last war it might have seemed that the art of ringing had almost reached its zenith and was prosperous in a way it never had been before. Then suddenly all came almost entirely to an end. Bands were broken up or depleted; many ringers lost their lives; and those that were left were older. Reconstruction seemed a difficult and in some cases a hopeless task, yet it was accomplished, and in a surprisingly short time. We have never since in one year reached the number of peals which was achieved in 1913, but in other ways we have gained immensely. There has been within the Exercise during these last twenty years a new spirit which has made for life and progress. It was due almost entirely to the great cataclysm, and so out of evil has come good.

The same will happen again if we are true to ourselves, our art, our Church, and our country; and, much as we regret and hate the great loss of our bells and steeples, we have the consolation that England's wealth of churches and bells is so great that even if the worst we can imagine happens, we shall still be well equipped. Almost certainly when this war ends there will be more bells in ringing order than when the last war ended. That we owe to the splendid work done by our three great bell foundries.

It is in individual places that loss will be most felt, and the sympathy of the whole Exercise goes out to the ringers of Portsmouth, Southampton, Plymouth and suchlike towns. London's loss has been (and, we fear, still will be) heavy, but she had eight rings of twelve and, though two are gone, six are left.

Perhaps the thing most to be regretted is the destruction of some rings which were fine and typical examples of a style of bell founding which belongs to past ages. Modern bell founding is carried out on exact and scientific lines, and modern bells are uniformly better than those of earlier times. Of that there can be no doubt,

(Continued on page 206.)

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but in the attainment of this excellence, something neces-
sarily has been lost. The older founders worked by
traditional and rule-of-thumb methods, which did not give
such exact results, but did allow the craftsman to stamp
his individuality on his work. Abraham Rudhall's bells
could not have been cast by anyone but Abraham Rud-
hall. Thomas Mears' bells have a quality of their own.
These characteristics may quite possibly be due to de-
fects, but they are defects few would willingly see re-
moved. Modern rings of bells have reached a high level
of excellence where there is little room for individuality,
and there is undoubtedly a sameness in recent bells of
like weight. If we lost Mancroft or Painswick twelve, or
Fulham ten, they could be replaced by possibly better
bells, but the loss would be great. St. Bride's bells are
gone, and St. Lawrence Jewry, and St. Nicholas' at
Bristol. Some hope there is, and some talk, of restora-
tion. If it does come to pass, would it not be worth
while to consider whether the tradition of the old style
founding is quite lost? Perhaps the same firm that cast
the tenor at St. Saviour's, Southwark, and the tenor at
St. Andrew's, Holborn, will supply a whole new ring to
Jewry of the same old style and quality.

HANDBELL PEAL.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, April 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

IN THE Belfry of the PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES!

Being an extent each of Norbury, College Exercise, Duke of Norfolk,
Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Sandal and Oxford Treble Bob.
Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWARD F. COWPERTWAITE 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4
CYRIL CROSSBWAITE... .. 5-5

Conducted by C. K. Lewis.

First peal in seven methods 'in hand' by all. First peal in seven
methods in the district.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held on April 19th
in the belfry of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and the numerous boards
on the walls recalled memories of famous peals of the past. No
doubt there are many ringers in different parts of England who
have pleasant memories of ringing at this tower, and an instance
was given when Mr. G. E. Symonds read a letter from Mr. Arthur V.
Pearson, of Wolverhampton, wishing the Suffolk Guild success and
expressing appreciation of his visits and ringing a few years ago.

Mr. C. J. Sedgley (Ringing Master) was elected chairman.

The secretary said that it had been proposed to hold the meeting
on Easter Monday, but it was thought advisable to alter it to the
Saturday, as it might be a further inducement for members to attend
if shops were open.

The report of the treasurer showed a very satisfactory balance. It
was proposed by the Rev. Herbert Drake to buy War Bonds, but it
was decided by the meeting to leave the balance in current account.

In re-electing the officers, it was proposed to ask the new Bishop
of the diocese to become patron of the Guild in place of Dr. W. G.
Wittingham, who had resigned, and to elect Provost White, of Bury
St. Edmunds, as vice-president to fill the vacancy caused by the
death of the Rev. Robert Sinkler.

The following members were elected on the committee: Messrs.
W. J. G. Brown, W. Stannard, L. Poulson, D. H. Elliott, Miss S. R.
E. Bowyer and Mr. Frank Fisher, of Ufford.

It was proposed by Mr. C. E. Fisher, seconded by Mr. G. E.
Symonds, that a report should be printed for the years 1940-1941. It
was suggested that a list of members serving in the Forces might be
printed in a future report.

At the finish of the meeting handbells were rung in various methods,
the conducting being shared by Messrs. W. J. G. Brown and G. E.
Symonds

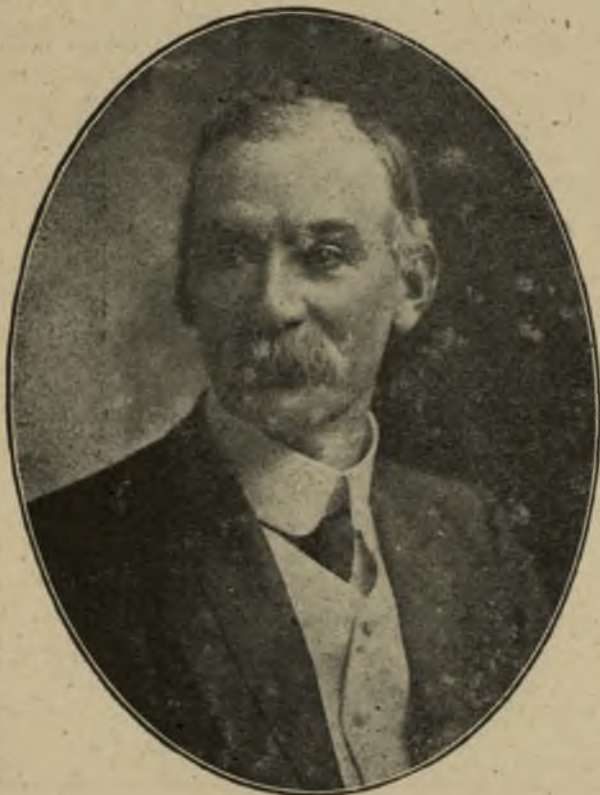
Among those present were Mr. George More, of St. Margaret's,
Mr. Fred Howell, of St. Clement's, the Rev. Herbert Drake and Mr.
and Mrs. Frank Fisher, of Ufford, Mr. William Dye, of Grundisburgh,
the Rev. Stannard, of Barking, several of the St. Mary-le-Tower
company and two ladies, Miss Sylvia Bowyer and Miss Hilda Snowden.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 196.)

SIX AND SEVEN-BELL PEALS.

It was a fortunate thing that one of the debates at the first meeting of the Central Council turned on a matter which strongly interested and divided the opinions of the ringers of the day. The average ringer was not greatly concerned about the more academic questions, although in the long run they might affect him profoundly. He did, however, have strong opinions about whether it was allowable to ring peals of Triples without a covering bell. As is usual in such cases, the interest had been created and stimulated by personal factors. A few bands, and one in particular, having met short in eight-bell towers, had rung Grandsire Triples,



DR. A. B. CARPENTER.

leaving out the second and turning in the tenor. Other men had led a crusade against the practice, and had tried to get the associations to refuse to book the performances. What real motives lay behind their action is of no consequence. It was fortunate that it gave the Council the opportunity of deciding a question which ordinary ringers did at the time consider important and in which they were keenly interested.

The debate arose out of a series of resolutions proposed by E. F. Strange, which attempted to define the conditions necessary to the accomplishment of a true and complete peal on all numbers of bells from five upwards. So far as the numbers other than Triples were concerned, the Council postponed the matter, and a good deal was to be heard about them in future years. But the seven-bell question called for an immediate decision, and Strange moved, and Dr. A. B. Carpenter seconded, that for a

true and complete peal on seven bells there should be not less than 5,040 changes rung with or without a covering bell, and without interval, being the extent of changes in the method chosen.

This was carried after a keen debate by 40 to 16, seven not voting. The division list was published, and makes rather interesting reading. The original dispute had occurred in the metropolitan area, and the voting by the societies most interested was as follows: For the resolution, the Cumberland Youths, the Trinity Youths, the Surrey Association, the Middlesex Association, and the Essex Association (except for one member). Against the resolution, the College Youths, the Waterloo Society and the St. James Society.

The great majority for the resolution came from the provinces, but Heywood himself voted with the minority. The sequel came two years later at the meeting at Oxford, when only 39 representative members were present out of 73 and two hon. members out of 12. A rider was added to the definition which declared that 'nevertheless a performance of seven bells without the addition of a covering bell is to be discouraged.'

The question of defining a peal on the numbers other than seven came up at the Council's second meeting, held at Birmingham in 1892, when 43 representative and two honorary members were present.

It was laid down that on five bells a peal should consist of not less than 5,040 changes, without the addition of a covering bell, and in not less than three methods. On six bells, not less than 5,040 changes, in true 720's, of which no two in the same method should be called alike. On eight, ten and twelve bells, not less than 5,000 changes in any one method; on nine and eleven bells, not less than 5,000 changes in any one method with the addition of a covering bell. In 1889, the words, 'in all cases, starting from and ending with rounds,' were added.

These resolutions showed one of the great weaknesses of the Council, which, however, in its early days was inevitable. The members attempted to lay down precise rules for an art which had grown up through the ages without any definite rules. They made no attempt to understand the history and traditions which lay behind the generally accepted standards, and they thought that they were fully competent to fix the standards for the future. Especially they were, as a whole, quite out of touch with five and six-bell ringing. There were, however, new ideas just beginning to appear in the Exercise which would refuse to be shackled by restrictions. So far as the higher numbers were concerned, these restrictions were not particularly felt for some years, but until 1925 anything like spliced ringing was formally illegal.

In the case of five and six-bell ringing there was an immediate revolt. The five-bell resolution was a bad and illogical one. Its aim was to set a high standard and to encourage Minor ringing in six-bell towers, but there was no justice and no real need for forbidding a covering bell to peals of Doubles. Nobody really cared anything about the resolution; it was totally ignored by the Exercise, and in 1897 it was quietly rescinded, nothing being put in its place.

Against the Minor resolution the opposition was long and active. For years past the Yorkshire men had been very keen six-bell ringers, and they practised a vastly greater number of methods than was done anywhere else

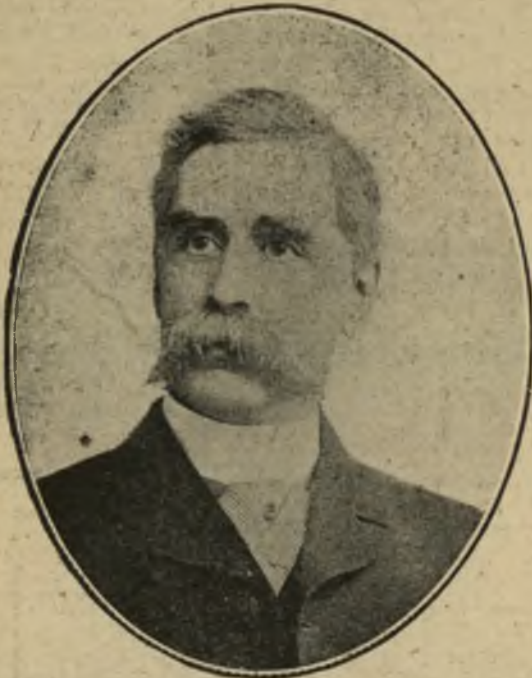
(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

in the country. In order to get more than seven into a peal of ordinary length, they rang 360's and even shorter lengths. They held, not without reason, that these performances were worth more than any peal in one or even in seven methods, and they asked that they should be allowed. This in 1893 the Council refused to do, largely by the direction of the president.

The Yorkshiremen did not accept defeat. Next year the matter was again brought up, and again the Council refused to sanction anything but complete 720's. The debate is interesting because the possibility of spliced ringing was mentioned for the first time. Heywood said that James Wilde had sent him a true 720 consisting of



WILLIAM SNOWDON.

several methods, and Mr. Bankes James pointed out that it was easy to splice plain methods with singles. Nobody, however, seemed to see very much in the idea, and its recognition and development had to wait for a quarter of a century. It was really an idea which had appeared in the early days of change ringing, but had lain dormant.

William Snowdon then started a long correspondence on the matter in the pages of the 'The Bell News.'

One of the chief objections to the fourteen 360's was that in such a peal some of the possible changes on six bells might never be rung at all. To get over this, William Snowdon moved at the Sheffield meeting in 1895 that, provided the 720 changes were first rung in their entirety, the rest of the peal might be made up of lesser lengths, no two in the same method. The Council, however, would not accept it.

It might have been thought that there was now no more to be said on the matter, but the six-bell ringers, and especially those of the north, were highly dissatisfied, and at the London meeting in 1897 the Council rescinded

the whole of its resolutions on the subject, and left no official ruling as to what is a peal of Doubles or of Minor. So the matter stood for fourteen years.

This might seem to be a very poor solution of the problem, and indeed, no solution at all, but it was the wisest thing to do, for the Council had fallen into the mistake to which such a body was very liable. It had attempted to decide on the matter before the members understood what was involved. It was not the first or the last time it would make a similar mistake, but that is nothing to its discredit.

One new standard at least was set up. The Exercise accepted the condition that no two 720's in the same method should be called alike. That has been the generally recognised rule ever since.

Spliced ringing became a real thing about the year 1910. On February 15th, 1911, at Edenham, in Lincolnshire, Law James called a 5,040 consisting of seven true 720's in fourteen methods, and at the Leicester meeting in that year he moved that nothing should be recognised as a peal of Minor unless it consists of at least seven true and complete 720's.

The proposal was not received very warmly. Maitland Kelly insisted (as he did on several occasions) that a 'peal' on six bells is a 720, and anything else is a 'performance.' This was a traditional opinion which lingered for long in the Devon Guild. In the end, James' motion was adopted as a 'recommendation,' not as a 'rule.'

What I believe was the last of the old style multi-method peals was rung on March 16th, 1911, at Tibenham, in Norfolk, and consisted of fourteen 360's.

The Council had not yet finished with the six-bell question, but the further controversies on the matter belong to the story of recent times.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

After the Great Fire of London in 1666, Sir Christopher Wren prepared a plan to rebuild the City on quite different and, as it was supposed more convenient lines, but the scheme came to naught because, while the authorities were thinking about it, the citizens went back to the charred ruins of their houses and started life afresh.

There is a good deal of the same spirit to-day, and among those who share it are the College Youths. They have gone back to the City, though not to their old haunt. You may search for The Coffee Pot, but you will search in vain, for every trace of it has gone, and the society meets at a tavern not so far away, and holds its business meeting at Mr. Langdon's office.

The Coffee Pot was not the only tavern associated with the College Youths' long history which has disappeared. There was The Goose and Gridiron. That fell to the house breakers 40 years ago and so escaped the fate of The Coffee Pot which it would have shared. There was The Barn, which stood where Trafalgar Square now is. There was the Barley Mow by St. Bride's. There is a tavern now on its site, but the name is changed, and it is but a small portion of an immense office building. The Old Bell, where Annable, and Cundell, and Hardham sometimes had a drink, is still there, how much rebuilt and changed we do not know. And what of the Whittington and Cat, as famous a tavern as any in the story of the Exercise, with so many memories of the London Youths and the College Youths, of handbell peals, and Matt. Wood, and Haley, and Cox, and Cooter? That, too, is gone.

The Two Brewers may be a poor substitute for these famous names, but 'twill serve. And the faithful few who every fortnight meet there are doing no small thing to keep alive an old and an honourable tradition.

Last Saturday the meeting was not large, but it was select. The Master, of course, and the secretary, Mr. Bert Hughes, Mr. George Price, Mr. Alexander Young, Mr. Harry Miles, Mr. Langdon, Mr. Murrel, and one or two others.

Business was largely routine and formal, but news of the deaths of three members, Fred Pike, Henry Parker and George Popnell, drew sympathetic references. And then the members, being in reminiscent mood, began to tell tales of the men of old, Wood, and Muskett, and Cooter, and Pettet, and kept it up so long that there was no time for more than a couple of courses on the handbells. But it was all worth while.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT CLENT.

Excellent weather drew an attendance of nearly forty members and friends to a meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held at Clent on April 19th, and members were present from Birmingham (St. Chad's and Selly Oak), Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley in the Northern Branch area, and Arley Kings in the Western Branch area.

The tower bells were available for 'silent' practice during the afternoon and evening, and very good use was made of them, the methods ranging from Bob Major and Grandsire Triples to Stedman and Treble Bob, while a course of London Surprise Major, which pleased everyone, was one of the high spots of the after-teea proceedings. Meanwhile the handbells were kept busy down below in the north aisle of the church, where excellent striking was again the order the day, one touch of 378 Grandsire Triples being particularly noteworthy.

The spirit of the gathering was, if anything, above 'pre-war' standard, in spite of the recent 'blitzes,' and many who had hurried away from their work in the munition factories for an hour or two's recreation at the ropes felt themselves amply rewarded for their efforts.

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

To-day is the 227th anniversary of what is generally regarded as the first true peal ever rung. The tablet, which still hangs in the belfry of St. Peter Mancroft, reads as follows—

'May the 2d 1715 Here was Rung by the Ringers call'd Norwich Scholars that most Incomparable Peal call'd Gransir Bob Triples, it being the 3d whole peal that they have Rung but the first whole Peal that ever was Rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever. It has been studied by the most Acute Ringers in England (but to no effect) ever since Triple Changes were first Rung but now at last its found out to truth by John Garthon one of the said Society and Rung by him and the rest of the Society in 3 hours 18 minutes which is about 1,550 Changes in an hour the whole Peal being 5,040 Changes and not one Bell misplac'd or out of Course. The Names of Which Ringers are underwritten against their Respective Bells as they Rung.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| John Garthon 1 | David Samevill 5 |
| Isaac Pearce 2 | Tho: Gardiner 6 |
| John Briggs 3 | William Dixon 7 |
| James Brooke 4 | Robert Woodcock 8 |

An account of the men and the peal was given in our issue of August 2nd last.

A FAMOUS SUFFOLK RINGING FAMILY.

THE MOTTS OF FRESSINGFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have wondered recently when reading accounts of old ringers of the past whether the Exercise would be interested in the Motts family.

Most people seem to associate them with the late James and Billy, of Ipswich, only, but they were natives and descendants of an old ringing line at Fressingfield. In fact, the last time I saw James Motts was there on the occasion of William Riches' funeral (about 1922), to whom they were related, I believe.

My father was born at Fressingfield in 1847, and a few years before he died in 1934 I tried his memory of the Fressingfield ringers in his younger days and made a few notes.

Before the funeral of William Riches my father, who was also on a visit, told me they would ring a 'dumb' peal and handbells over the grave. This was the only time I have seen or heard handbells with the tongues muffled, with felt or baize, I think it was. I did not know the late Mr. Poppy or Mr. Fred Borrett then, but I think they each rang a pair.

Although my father was not a ringer, he would chat about the ringers of his days there, and when peal attempts were made how people in the village would be interested and listen for the bells to 'come home' or be disappointed at failures.

Another thing connected with the funeral that day was after half-muffled ringing in the evening the bells were 'ceased' by first setting the treble, the second and so on to the tenor. I did not understand the whole pull and stand then, so do not know if it was rung.

At one time there were enough Motts related to ring the octave. James Motts, who kept the Fox and Goose, and Seymour Motts were brothers. James had three sons, William (a baker), Robert and James. William had three sons, Clement, James and William.

According to my father, all were ringers, and the last two were the well-known Ipswich men.

When Saxfield six were opened, the Fressingfield ringers won the gloves (white, I believe).

Dr. Raven, who was Vicar at the time, obtained the Queen's photo on the occasion of Ted Chandler (gardener) ringing for the fiftieth year in succession and Queen's Jubilees 1887 and 1897.

I was shown a copy of the 'Clavis' once at the 'Fox' with the weights of Mancroft twelve written in ink on the inside cover.

DAVID VINCENT.

6, Stanway Drive, Hale, Cheshire.

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LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

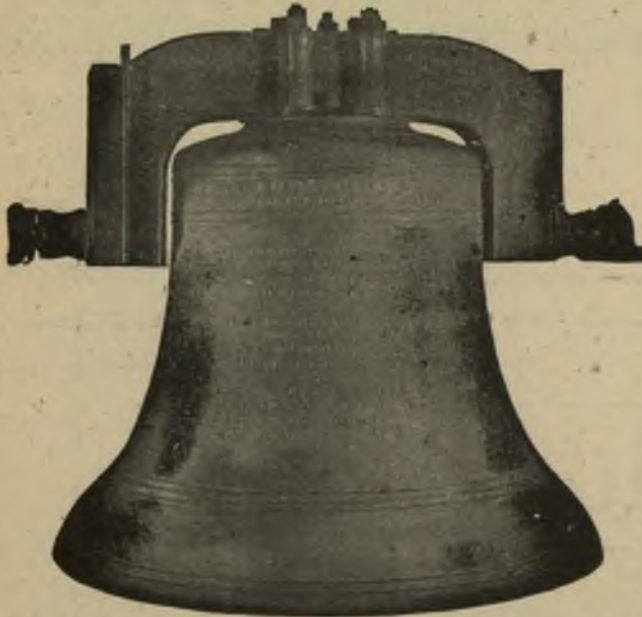
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THE EDITOR.

The Editor is still confined to hospital and, although his progress is slow, it continues to be satisfactory.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reaches his sixty-fifth birthday to-morrow.

Among the churches of South London damaged or destroyed in recent air raids is one which had one of the oldest rings of eight in the Metropolis. The belfry played a part in the history of the Exercise and for a short time was the headquarters of the St. James' Society, but for many years the bells have been unringable. The last peal in the tower was somewhere about 1912.

A church, where in the past fifty years much ringing history has been made, had a narrow escape in a recent raid, when several high explosive bombs fell in and around the churchyard. All the doors, windows and louvre coverings were blown out and the roof severely damaged. The bells are safe and sound.

It was here the Ladies' Guild rang their first Surprise peals, and a band whose average age was 15½ years rang a peal of Bob Major. A fund in memory of the late E. Barnett, sen., provides the bell ropes.

Last week we stated that a Taylor ring of eight in a South-Western suburban town had been destroyed. We are happy to say that this is not correct. A peal book dating from the 18th century, which records the doings of early ringers of the town, is also safe.

April 30th was John Carter's birthday. On that date in 1924, when he was 70, he gave a party at Mr. E. A. Young's house in Forest Hill and demonstrated for the first time his reconditioned ringing machine, Miss Edith Parker calling a touch on it.

The present record length of Grandsire Caters is 16,271 changes rung at Appleton in 1932, which beat the 15,227 at Cheltenham mentioned in Belfry Gossip last week.

Capt. Arthur Peniston Moore died on April 30th, 1891. He was a member of a very good band at Redenhall in Norfolk, where he usually rang the tenor. With Mr. Gervas Holmes and Mr. Mackenzie he started a bell foundry which cast several rings of bells, and he was one of the earliest members of the Central Council, although he was not able to attend the first meeting.

The first peal by the Cambridge University Guild was rung on handbells on April 28th, 1890. The method was Plain Bob Triples and the band consisted of the Rev. A. H. F. Boughiey 1-2, E. Banks James 3-4, H. Law James 5-6, and C. F. Wedemeyer 7-8. Law James conducted.

On the same date in 1923, the record length of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,898 changes, was rung by the Midland Counties Association at Stoney Stanton. The composition was by Edwin Hims and the peal was called by Harold J. Poole from the fifth, which was fixed throughout instead of the seventh. This was necessitated by the falseness of the method.

On May 5th, 1817, the Painswick Youths rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters. It was the longest at the time by ten men, but the Norwich Scholars as early as 1737 had rung 12,600 in the same method, but with the tenor double handed.

On the same date in 1887 the first peal in Dorset, Grandsire Triples, was rung at Bridport.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 4, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1. One of the peals of Stedman was Mr. Isaac Emery's first in the method. It was rung at Chislehurst and was called by J. W. Washbrook. The composition was 'Thurstans' Reserved,' about which there has lately been some correspondence in our columns. On the same day Washbrook called Holt's Ten-Part on the neighbouring bells, which have recently been destroyed.

THE LATE GEORGE POPNELL.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass on your valuable space to pay a short tribute to my closest ringing friend. He had a wide circle of friends, who will all regret to hear of his passing.

I first met him in April, 1928, when he arranged and rang in my first peal of Grandsire Triples. Although he was nearly 20 years my senior, age was no barrier to a friendship that made us well nigh inseparable. His enthusiasm was unbounded and infectious. Distance was no object in the cause of ringing, and in our association we had rung some 52 peals together, many of them my first peals in various methods.

I mourn the loss of a fine ringer and a staunch friend.

Bristol

DONALD G. CLIFT.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

For the first time in its existence the Hertford County Association held its annual meeting on a Saturday (April 19th) instead of Easter Monday, the arrangement being made under the impression that there would be no bank holiday. There certainly was not as large a gathering as usual, nor was it expected, but 39 partook of an excellent tea provided at the Waterend Barn, a sixteenth century timber barn removed from Lord Brocket's estate in Hertfordshire.

The members attended 4 o'clock evensong in the Cathedral. The Dean said that it was a pity the bells could not be rung, but it was good that the Herts Association should come to their annual service. They were practising their art in silence, hoping for the day when the bells would ring out for peace.

Mr. C. H. Horton (president) presided at the business meeting, and after a few words of welcome said that it was a pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which some people had taken up handbell ringing, and asked members to support their local secretaries and keep their subscriptions up to date, so that the association could be kept going, ready for the times of peace.

The secretary, in the absence of the treasurer (Lieut. G. E. Debenham) presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £3 3s. 3d., a drop of £10 5s. 10d. on the previous year, partly accounted for by the accounts of one district not being received until after the accounts had been audited on April 16th, and the non-payment by many members, who it is hoped will send along in due course. He also presented the report on the Benevolent Fund. The balance in hand now amounts to £29 6s. 2d., representing an increase of £2 12s. 9d. on the year. Contributions have fallen off during the year, the only sums received being from the Watford District and the St. Albans District.

The Voluntary Bell Fund now has a balance at the bank of £11 8s. 4d., an increase of £3 2s. 2d. on the year. The chief source of the year's income was the collection at the ringers' service at the Cathedral on Easter Monday, 1940, and, in addition, contributions have been received from the Watford, St. Albans and Northern Districts.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In his annual report, Mr. G. W. Cartmel referred to the ban on ringing and the uncertainty which for a long time existed as to how or on what occasions the bells should be rung in the advent of invasion.

'After centuries of ringing on Sundays,' he continued, 'the stoppage is not only a serious menace to change ringing, but it is a great national loss to the community. Well, we will shoulder our burden courageously, trusting the day may be near when righteousness, which alone can exalt a nation, will triumph over wrong, and our bells again ring their ever welcome music. To carry on in the best possible way is the test before us, which must be seriously tackled by us all. In the meanwhile, the upkeep of the bells must not be neglected for indifference may mean damage. As to ringing in general, I believe that much is being done in various ways throughout the country to keep bands together until peaceful days arrive. My information as to our own association is somewhat meagre, being confined chiefly to the St. Albans and Watford districts.'

Meetings for handbell ringing had been carried out in the Watford district under the capable and energetic guidance of the president with great success. Eight had been held with an attendance of 139 ringers. The effort is much appreciated, for it has given impetus to handbell ringing and renewed friendship over the cup that cheers and promotes good fellowship. At St. Albans Cathedral the clappers of the front ten have been displaced and electric bells have been fitted in the ringing chamber through the initiative and ingenuity of its conductor, Mr. H. E. Goodenough. This enables practices to be carried on and beginners instructed. At St. Peter's "dumb" practice is carried on most successfully, and rumour says that a touch of Cambridge was rung at a recent meeting. At this and at the Cathedral tower there is a strong nucleus of lady ringers. Broxbourne have also carried on with their practices.

NEW LADY RINGERS.

Following the example of St. Albans, the ladies of North Mimms have taken up practice, and at a meeting in June three joined as members. Mr. H. J. Hazell was responsible for this meeting and combined his secretarial duties with that of organist on the occasion.

Peals have been few: three on tower bells and three on handbells. Grand sire Triples at Bushey Heath, conducted by Mr. C. W. Woolley; seven Surprise Minor methods at Apsley End, conducted by Mr. Walter Ayre; Stedman Triples at Northchurch, conducted by Mr. E. S. Turner. On handbells, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Minor, conducted by Mr. C. W. Woolley, and a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, conducted by Mr. E. S. Turner.

We have lost by death, continued the report, several of our oldest members, notably Messrs. Challis F. Winney, G. B. Lucas, W. D. Smith, J. Chatley, Charles H. Howard, Alfred Pye and others. Mr. Winney first identified himself with ringing in St. Albans in 1884, at a time when change ringing was being revived in the city, and the Cathedral Society came into existence. His practical interest in our association was keen to the last, for he found much pleasure and spiritual uplift in our annual service and meeting. A scheme has been launched for the erection of a tablet to his memory in the ringing chamber of St. Clement Danes' Church, subscriptions for which are being collected by Mr. A. B. Peck, secretary to the Ancient

Society of College Youths. He has gone to his rest, but the memory and influence of a good life will remain with us always.

Mr. G. B. Lucas, of Walthamstow, was an ardent and enthusiastic ringer, and must have attended nearly all our annual meetings. I remember meeting him at Hertford at the annual meeting in 1890, and again in 1939. His "penny-farthing" bicycle must have carried him thousands of miles for ringing purposes with his chum, Waghorn. He was a gifted ringer, and it has been truly said of him that he was always ready to help others, many of whom are now famous ringers.

Mr. W. D. Smith was probably known more to London ringers, had been a member for many years, and was with us at the opening of the Cathedral augmentation.

Mr. H. Walker, who migrated from St. Albans to Luton many years ago, was a good ringer, and we sympathise with the Luton band in their loss. Messrs. Greenhill (Hemel Hempstead), Newell and Norris (Berkhamsstead) must also be added, with regret.

Mr. Joe Chatley was known to many especially in St. Albans, being a member of the Cathedral band and also associated with St. Peter's tower by honorary membership. At the graveside, a course of Grand sire Triples was rung on handbells, and in the evening, at St. Peter's Church, a touch of Grand sire Caters was rung.

Our sympathy goes also to the Aldenham ringers, in the death of their last Vicar, the Rev. Canon Gibbs, a member of the Association for many years. Canon Gibbs was greatly interested in ringing, and we shall remember his geniality and goodness towards ringers at all times. We also sincerely regret the recent damage the church has sustained by German barbarity.

I am sure we all heard with regret of the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the editor and proprietor of "The Ringing World," and that we are now glad to hear also that he is recovering from his operation. I feel sure that the goodwill expressed by letters to him from so many ringers will be a tonic to a quickened recovery and ever remain to him a monument of answered prayers and good fellowship. To keep "The Ringing World" in circulation is a problem he has to face, for it is uncertain what drastic measures the Government may take at any moment in decreasing supplies of paper. The absence of men under war conditions must have decreased the circulation, and I would suggest that this leakage might be met by new subscribers. One copy in a belfry is not sufficient for a band, and I would most earnestly ask for your support. We have a paper which caters for ringers alone, and I think the absence of peals has made the paper far more interesting to everyone than hitherto. Let us cheer our sick brother by becoming subscribers.

THE LIBRARY.

At the suggestion of the acting librarian, Mrs. Fergusson, it has been decided to remove the more valuable books of our library to safer quarters, and Messrs. Thompson and Debenham have kindly offered to put them into a safe; a very gracious act.

The treasurer's statement and the hon. secretary's report were adopted.

Mr. T. G. Hawkins, of Chalfont St. Giles, and Mr. W. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, were elected non-resident members. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. C. H. Horton; treasurer, Mr. G. E. Debenham; secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel; acting librarian, Mrs. Fergusson; auditors, Messrs. Mercer and Hole.

The president very nicely thanked the Dean for his presence and for his address, which the Dean acknowledged, regretting the absence of the collection at the service. He promised two guineas for the Voluntary Bell Fund, which has since been received.

Mr. W. Ayre moved that as a matter of economy the annual report be not printed. The secretary moved an amendment that it be printed in a modified form, as he considered it was vital for the success of the association. A chorus of voices supported the amendment, and the president said he could not carry on his work as a district secretary without it. It was carried with a large majority.

A vote of thanks to the officers of the association, the choir at the Cathedral for their beautiful singing, and to Dr. A. C. Tysoe, the organist, who played as a concluding voluntary 'The Music of the Bells,' was heartily given. Both the towers of the Abbey and St. Peter's were visited during the day, and some good practice was obtained both on the tower and handbells, the electric bells fitted in the Abbey chamber being voted a great acquisition and success.

The secretary thanked very warmly the members for notifying their attendance. Thirty-nine accepted, and the same number had tea. Thus concluded a meeting which was well worth while.

REMINISCENCES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in reading the reminiscences by E. B. It brought back to my mind very forcibly the occasion, some thirty years since, when I saw the late Ernest Pye ringing the eleventh bell to Stedman Cinques at York Minster, which the local men said did not go well. I much admired the splendid way he handled it.

I saw also at that time the late George Breed ring the tenor to a course of Kent Maximus there, and had the pleasure of hearing some of his reminiscences of London life and ringing there before he came to York.

W. L. DUFFIELD.

Long Stratton, Norfolk.

CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At last we are told what that absurd term, 'backward hunting,' is supposed to mean. It reminds me of the meeting of the Central Council at Liverpool, when we had a motion about it on the agenda. During the discussion, I asked Mr. Trollope straight out what it meant. He replied, 'Backward hunting is—er—backward hunting.' He did not intend this to be funny; indeed, he was never more in earnest. The reporters, however, had a different idea; they seized on it eagerly. Not only was this reported in our own papers, but it went all over the world. I heard from the other side such comments as, 'We saw in our paper the funny question you asked in Liverpool.' So we had, between us, added to the 'gaiety of the nations,' and caused people to think how absurd ringers are. Now I do not suppose Mr. Trollope worries about this; but he should remember that there are some ringers who do. And in any case it means that some likely recruits were warned off, and lost to the Exercise.

However, after the meeting I resolved to find out, and asked everyone I met the same question. But first of all it was put to me. For, encountering a large group of members, one of them asked me, 'What is this "backward hunting" you have been talking about? Is it the same as what we usually call "hunting down"?' Someone claimed in, 'Of course it is.' And with this they all agreed. My assurances that it was not were met by expressions of polite incredulity.

Now these men were in the front rank, as we should all agree. They were much better ringers than I was, though they did not consider themselves so good as I was in regard to nomenclature, or they would not have tackled me as they did. There were enough of them to alter the voting, had they understood what the words meant.

STEDMAN SLOW SIX.

All the others to whom I put this question agreed in one thing. This was that the slow six in Stedman is 'backward hunting.' They all admitted this with a curious reluctance. This was not because (as we shall see) all the six changes have not this motion. But because they thought it meant something more than appears in a Stedman slow six. And it was in this something more that the trouble began. For unfortunately they all differed about it. Evidently this ridiculous term conveys a different idea to each one who uses it. If, therefore, most ringers do not know what it means, and those who do think they know cannot agree as to its meaning, do you not think it would be better to give up using it?

Anyway it cannot be much wanted, for during all these years since the Liverpool meeting it has never been used till lately. The first time it appeared in print was when half of it was inserted in Trollope's edition of 'Stedman.' There, over a quick six is printed 'forward,' and over a slow six 'backward.' No attempt is made to explain these words, but 'hunt forwards' and 'backwards' is mentioned in the letterpress. About a year ago, the whole expression appeared in your columns; and since then another half of it has appeared. These instances, which I think are exhaustive, do not look as if it were of much use.

It is not difficult to understand why the expression is not much used, apart from the ridicule it brings on ringers. For with all due respect to what your article says about two kinds, I should say that there are three kinds of movement in change ringing. The first is hunting; the second places; the third dodging. Of these three, hunting is the one that neither causes or is caused by the motion with that absurd name. The dodging may be altered by it, but so it may in other ways; and to join the name to dodging would therefore be misleading, though not so wrong as perversely calling contrary motion 'hunting'—the one thing it is not.

It is, however, by places that the motion is altered. As long as the number of places is even—two ('making places'), four, and so on—the movement is not altered. But if there are an odd number of places—one (a snapping blow, at lead or elsewhere), three places, or an odd number—the motion is at once altered. If, therefore, a special name were required for contrary motion, it should be joined rather to places than to either of the other two.

THREE KINDS OF MOVEMENT.

These three kinds of movement, may overlap somewhat. Thus a snapping blow, at lead or elsewhere, partakes of the nature of all three. This, however, is no reason for mixing them, and for saying that 'leading and lying whole pulls are a part of hunting.' We are only misleading ourselves and others by writing such nonsense, which every ringer knows is not the case; and which no one would have thought of, had they not to support this impossible technical term.

Hunting is movement from or to the lead. As soon as the lead is reached again, hunting ceases—unless it is a snapping lead, when hunting down overlaps with hunting up. In other cases hunting down ceases, before hunting up begins. To see that this is so, we can imagine (though we should not be allowed to ring) a bell to lead three or more times. Then between the first blow at lead and the last there are one or more rows. These certainly do not belong to the hunting down, and equally they do not belong to the hunting up. Thus there must be an interval at the lead. But, it may be said, it is to prevent this argument that we say that leading is part of hunting. This is not very logical, but we will meet him who raises it on his own ground. From the row in which a bell leads at hand

stroke there is a change to the row in which it leads at back. Now is this change up or down? It cannot be down, for the bell has finished hunting down as soon as the lead is reached, that is by the time the preceding row is begun. Neither can it be up; for hunting up is only when a bell leaves the lead. It does not begin until another bell has led. There must, therefore, usually be one change which is pure leading, neither hunting down nor up.

This may be shown graphically thus. If there are a few changes containing the full lead of any bell, written on paper ruled in squares, and we join the centre point of each square occupied by the number which represents that bell, we get a diagram of its course. Up to the first lead we have a line at an angle of 45 degrees to the rulings. After the second lead we also have another line with the same angle, but in the other direction. How are we to join these two lines? If your article is right, we should produce them until they meet. This, however, is impossible, as a bell cannot be in front of the lead. It is equally impossible to join them by lines in the other direction. The only possible way is, as we know, by a line perpendicularly down. This line represents a lead—a down line; while hunting is always represented by a line which moves sideways as well as down. These are always different lines, and the two cannot ever be the same.

'BACKWARDS.'

This naturally brings us to the second portion of our delectable compound, 'backwards.' If a man is falling from a height, he will fall in a perpendicular straight line. If a wall is near, the place at which he falls will be the same distance from it as that from which he fell, and in the same straight line; he is, therefore, moving down only, not backwards or forwards. The article says the motion in question is when the leading is back and hand. This, however, is as we have just seen, vertical motion, like falling down from a height. How can it be forwards or backwards? No other science mixes up vertical and horizontal (or diagonal) motion in this way, or it would soon come to grief. And change ringing cannot claim to be a law to itself in this matter.

We are given an illustration in which one column is marked 'forward.' There is nothing forward in this column, or at any rate nothing that is not equally backward. The same applies to the other column labelled 'backward,' a word which is just as misleading.

Nothing is said as to which row is handstroke. If in each case the column is begun with a handstroke, as is usually the case where a line is not drawn, the result will not agree with the article.

We have already words to describe the two kinds of leading: 'right' and 'wrong.' I am not quite sure whether 'wrong' is the right word for us (to use an Irishism). But at any rate the word is in use, and it is understood by everyone. Why not use a slightly ridiculous term, rather than a wholly ridiculous one, even if its meaning has to be a little enlarged—if one must be used? Moreover, it has only one syllable instead of four.

But it may be said, so far we have only considered one part of the definition. Unfortunately, it is the only part which is intelligible. The other part says, 'When the odd bells go down, and the even bells go up.' Now in ringing as in other things, whatever goes up has to come down. In the examples shown, every bell goes up half the time, and the other half down, and this applies to odd and even alike. Evidently something has been left out; it would be unprofitable to speculate on what the missing words may be.

There is, however, one thing which is clear. In the examples given, one column is the other inverted. The top of one is the bottom of the other, in both cases. Can it be that inversion is the real definition that the article is trying to give us? At any rate, three different definitions are mentioned—the incomplete one about odd bells going up; the leading at back and hand; and inversion. They have to be made to fit, which is not self-evident. And they must apply to principles, such as Stedman; a requirement which does not seem to suit any of them.

A PLAIN STATEMENT WANTED?

Can it be that what would solve the difficulties the writer seems to have got into would be a plain statement that to invert a piece of ringing (or to introduce contrary motion therein) you must have a snapping blow somewhere?

Take Stedman, as all seem agreed on it. In a slow six the contrary motion is introduced by the snapping lead with which it begins. That snapping lead is in the 'right' position, not as the two following leads (four rows), which are 'wrong.' The last row has a snapping lead (again in the 'right' position); this brings us back from contrary motion. Thus there are only five changes in this six which are in contrary motion. The first change is in ordinary motion, and could be added to the preceding quick six, which would then have (to use another Irishism) seven such changes.

From this we see that contrary motion is not opposed to the other kind in such a way that all changes are similarly divided; so that the number of one kind equals that of the other. In methods where a snapping blow is found neither in the plain course, nor in the calls, there is no contrary motion.

The other articles in this series have been so uniformly good that it has been an unpleasant duty to find fault with this one. But we know that even Jove has been known to nod, and if the writer felt himself bound to bolster up this 'backward' fallacy, well, we can only be sorry for the woolly and inconclusive arguments he had to introduce.

H. DRAKE.

THE STANDARD METHODS. DIFFICULTY.

Ever since the year 1835, when the Norwich Scholars achieved what they called the 'unsurmountable task' of ringing a peal of London Surprise and, indeed, from long before that, London has always been considered the most difficult of all Major methods. From time to time other methods have been rung or been published which have claimed to supersede it, but none has as yet succeeded in taking its place, nor are there any signs that its prestige is likely to be diminished in the future. What are the reasons for its great popularity?

No doubt the method owes a great deal to its name and to its history. It appeared in London, probably as the composition of the great Benjamin Annable, at a time when method ringing had not been greatly developed, and it proved too hard a nut to crack even by the very skilful band of the ancient Society of College Youths, who had already rung the first peal of Cambridge. After that it was printed in the 'Clavis' and most of the succeeding text books. So when the great modern expansion of method ringing began it had already gained its reputation.

But it is one thing to gain a reputation and another to keep it. Fifty years ago Cambridge and Superlative were difficult methods, only practised by the most skilful of all bands; now the average ringer reckons to ring them. London is certainly far more widely practised than it was, but it still is treated with respect.

The popularity of London is due entirely to its difficulty and to the demands it makes on the attention and skill of the ringer. In almost every other quality it is deficient and second-rate.

There have been people—perhaps there still are—who have maintained that London is a musical method, and usually they have based their opinion on the number of rows in the course in which the tenors are not parted by more than one or two other bells. Such a test is, as we have already pointed out, a purely fallacious one. It is difficult to believe that anyone who listens carefully outside the tower to a well-struck peal of London, can find any satisfaction in the music.

An excellent way of comparing the rhythms of different methods is to listen outside (not when you are yourself ringing) to an ordinary peal of Spliced Surprise on the 3-lead course plan. All four methods are then at their best, for only the Middle, Wrong and Home leads are rung, and the inferiority of London to the other three is most noticeable. When you are yourself ringing, the interest which London supplies entirely counterbalances this musical inferiority.

To ring a method properly, there are two things you must master; you must know thoroughly what you have to do, and you must know thoroughly how to do it. There are methods which require a good deal of time and attention to learn, but, once learnt, do not present any particular difficulties in ringing to the really competent men. And there are methods which scarcely need any learning at all, but which are supremely difficult to perform. Many years ago James Motts, of Ipswich, a first-class twelve-bell ringer, in a conversation on this matter agreed that probably the most difficult thing in ordinary ringing would be to perform well a peal of Plain Bob Maximus, in which all the bells were thoroughly mixed

up. The difficulty would be caused by the fact that the movement is rapid and that all the guides and landmarks by which you ordinarily find your way among twelve bells have been removed.

There is a considerable amount to learn before you start to ring London, and when you do ring it, the movement is rapid and there are not many signposts and landmarks to help you to find your way.

The movement in Plain Bob Major is rapid, quite as much so as in London, but in Plain Bob the path is a regular one, the signposts are many, and the regular coursing order brings the bells to you in a very easy fashion. In London most of the work is backward plain hunting with abrupt turns which, if you miss, will throw you far off the path you should be on. And when you do miss the path it is not so very easy to find it again.

Is it possible to produce a more difficult Surprise Major method than London? Probably not on its own lines, though there are many methods which at first sight and at first practice will appear more difficult, for, as in all other things, the difficulties of London grow less the more familiar they become. But there are methods which not only at the beginning, but after they are well known, will prove quite as stiff and even stiffer propositions than London. So far these methods have not been practised, and with some diffidence we present one here as possibly the most difficult of all.

GLASGOW S.

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| 12345678 | 25374681 |
| 21354687 | 23547618 |
| 12536478 | 32456781 |
| 21356487 | 34265718 |

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| 23154678 | 43256178 |
| 32514768 | 34521687 |
| 23157486 | 35426178 |
| 32517846 | 53241687 |

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| 23571864 | 35214678 |
| 32758146 | 53124768 |
| 37251864 | 35217486 |
| 73528146 | 53127846 |

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| 37582416 | 51328764 |
| 35728461 | 15238746 |
| 53274816 | 51327864 |
| 52347861 | 15372846 |

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When we draw out the skeleton course of this method we find that it contains a very large amount of work, much of it novel and almost all of it intricate. The places are made both at handstroke and backstroke, and the bells move both forwards and backwards. There is little of that symmetry of detail which is one of the great attractions of Bristol and which reduces its difficulty. A most unusual thing in a Major method is backstroke dodging in 4-5. An additional difficulty both in ringing and conducting is caused by the fourth's place bob.

Musically, Glasgow seems to be a very satisfactory method, though that cannot be properly judged without

(Continued on page 215.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

It has been the custom to hold the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association on Easter Monday, but this year, since the Government's decision as to the holiday was not known in time, the committee thought that a Saturday afternoon would be the best occasion, and it was held on April 19th at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham, when five of the seven districts of the association were represented.

The tower was open for handbell ringing and the vestry was used for the meetings and tea.

The committee meeting was at 2.45 under the chairmanship of the president, Canon FitzHerbert, who piloted the business through in his characteristically efficient way. It is a great pity that pressure of other business has prevented him from attending more meetings. A résumé of the decisions of the committee was given to the general meeting.

The Rector of St. Peter's conducted a short service, during which the ladies busied themselves in preparing tea, and what a tea! It did one's eyes good, in these days of rationing to see such a 'spread,' and members showed their appreciation of the good fare in no uncertain manner—the ringers' wives are to be specially thanked for making such sacrifices from their larders.

At the general meeting the president read a letter of apology from Mr. Ernest Morris, the general hon. secretary, who, very regretfully, was unable to be present on account of other duties. The election of officers for the ensuing year was the main item of business, and in relinquishing the office of president, Canon FitzHerbert said how fortunate they were to secure the nomination of Canon Wilkinson, who had recently removed from Ordsall in North Notts to West Bridgford in South Notts. A ringer of first-class repute and well known amongst the clergy for his interest in our art, he knew of no one who was more fitted to be president.—Canon Wilkinson's election was carried unanimously. The new president acknowledged Canon FitzHerbert's kind remarks in a humorous and racy speech, and said that although his parochial duties of looking after 23,000 souls was a big job, he would do his very best to merit the honour which had been done him.

The vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) and the general hon. secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) were re-elected, but Mr. W. E. White, the late faithful treasurer, felt that he could not continue in office owing to advancing years and ill-health. The president and other members spoke of the great work Mr. White had done for the association throughout his 54 years' membership, and particularly his office as treasurer during which he had looked after the best interests of the association. It was with sincere regret that his resignation was accepted, but he would receive some consolation from the fact that Miss I. B. Thompson, a friend and zealous worker for the association, would take over the office.—Miss Thompson was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. White.

Mr. Colin Harrison, vice-president, acting as secretary pro tem., gave a brief outline of the decisions reached by the General Committee, which included:—

No general meeting to be held until the next annual meeting unless in the meantime the ban on ringing has been lifted. District meetings to be carried on as hitherto.

Honorariums to be paid as follows for the past year: £5 to the general secretary and £1 each to the district secretaries.

The minute, authorising the transfer of interest on War Loan and Building Society investments from appropriation account to Bell Repair Fund, be suspended for the time being.

Reports for 1940 to be issued free to members serving in H.M. Forces.

Mr. Harrison thanked Canon FitzHerbert for the kindly and efficient way in which he had conducted the meetings during his tenure of office, and congratulated both Canon Wilkinson and Mr. A. J. Harris, the former upon his elevation to a Canonry in Southwell Minster and the latter upon his investiture by His Majesty the King of the medal of the Order of the British Empire for conspicuous gallantry during the air blitz in Leicester.

After a most interesting letter had been read from Capt. R. Radcliffe Hall, an honorary member now in a Bournemouth nursing home, the proceedings were brought to a close.

The first three members to enter the committee room had an average membership of 53 years.

The annual report shows that during 1940 14 peals were rung, half of them on handbells. The tower bells were one each of Stedman Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples, and four of Minor. Two of the handbell peals were Bob Minor, the others Doubles. Forty-eight ringers took part.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first half-hour of the annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, was spent in examining the old peal boards, which date back to 1838. After that handbells were rung until the time of the business meeting, at which the president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) took the chair. He was supported by members from Armley, Bramley, Batley, Burley, Bradford Cathedral, Almondbury, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church and Rothwell.

The officers were elected as follows: President, Mr. J. F. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Barran, W. H. Senior and T. W. Strangeway; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse.

The secretary reported that 10 ringing and one committee meetings had been held. The financial position had been well maintained and only eight subscriptions fewer than in the previous year had been collected. That was very satisfactory, and the total balance of the society is greater than it was a year ago. The report concluded with an appeal to those who had not attended many meetings to spare an hour or two on the last Saturday of the month, bearing in mind that most of them are working for longer hours and have many voluntary duties to perform.

It was agreed to approach the Shipley tower (where the bell clappers have been removed) for permission to hold the next meeting there on May 31st.

One of the Leeds clergy had asked if the society could arrange to ring handbells before the services on festival days, and after discussion the following resolution was passed: 'That this meeting expresses its approval of the idea and leaves the matter to individual towers to consider details and carry them into effect.'

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens, proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. Helliwell, concluded the meeting.

Further handbell ringing took place until 6 p.m.

DEATH OF MR. DAVID AYLING.

VETERAN WITLEY RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. David Ayling, of Witley, at the age of 76. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding in December, 1938.

Born at Witley, Mr. Ayling worked on his father's farm at Culmer, and for a time was baker to his father. For many years he had been gardener to Miss A. Foster at Inglewood, Witley, and was at work until a few weeks before his death. One of the oldest bell-ringers in the district, he had been a member of the Witley company for about 50 years, and captain for most of that time; in 1939 he became captain emeritus, and on occasions rang, despite his age, until the outbreak of war when ringing was prohibited. At his golden wedding, the ringers rang to commemorate the anniversary and presented the then captain with a case of pipes. At one time Mr. Ayling was captain of the Witley Drum and Fife Band, which long ago ceased to exist. As a boy he was in Witley Church choir.

In addition to the widow, Mr. Ayling leaves two sons and two daughters. The elder son, Mr. Hubert Ayling, is in America.

At the funeral the Witley ringers were represented by Messrs. F. Hagley and F. Woods, and former ringers present were Messrs. G. Baker, J. Russell, E. Rapley, A. and E. Ashdown, A. Hardy, G. Hammond and G. Wootton.

THE LATE MR. EDWIN F. PIKE.

At the funeral of the late Mr. Edwin F. Pike on April 22nd the Ancient Society of College Youths was represented by Mr. E. Alexander Young, who maintained the ringers' tradition by striking three whole pulls slowly and solemnly on a handbell over the grave after the Benediction.

SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the growing interest taken in new methods, and the fact that the new Surprise Major methods book cannot be published until some time after the war, would it be possible to give weekly (or when space permits) an article on methods selected from the book, on the same lines that Cornwall Surprise has been so ably dealt with in recent weeks? I feel sure that this would add an interest that would help the sale of the book when publication becomes possible.

G. MARRINER.

Leatherhead.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with 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.

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.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

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. Business meeting for election of officers, etc. Annual reports available at meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Handbell practices will be resumed at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 7.30 p.m., commencing Tuesday, May 8th.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern and Western Branches).—A joint meeting will be held at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.), on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Six tower bells probably available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.30 p.m., followed by handbells and social evening. Numbers for tea by previous Tuesday, please.—B. C. Ashford, Northern Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cassington on Saturday, May 10th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea for those only who let me know by May 6th. Handbells available. A good attendance is necessary.—W. Evetts, Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 in the tower.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Sandal on Saturday, May 10th. A room will be reserved at Duke of York Hotel, Agbrigg Road. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and handbells. Those requiring tea must let me know by May 7th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel, opposite St. James', on Saturday, May 10th. Handbells 2.45. Tea and meeting 4.6. All ringers welcomed.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addi-on Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Girls' Club Rooms, Chain Street, Reading, on Saturday, May 10th, at 4 p.m., followed by tea at 5 p.m., 9d. per head. Handbells available. Please let me know by May 6th how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, May 17th. Service at St. Nicolas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall (next to the church) at 5 p.m. Please send numbers for tea to me by May 13th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

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

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from page 213.)

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