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FRIDAY, JUNE 27th, 1941.

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BELLS AND WAR RISKS.

The loss of towers and bells, and particularly some of the famous London steeples and their contents, by enemy action is a subject for which no apology is needed if we return to it. It seriously concerns ringers, and it opens up rather disturbing thoughts for the future. In London it is not only the notable city bells that have been lost, but numerous other peals within the area of the Metropolis that have played, in their time, a conspicuous part in the activities of ringers, have gone down in ruin, and the first doubt that arises in the mind is whether many of them will ever be restored. It is almost certain that with the replanning of London a number of the churches, historic though they may have been for various reasons, will disappear. The adoption of the suggestion that towers not substantially damaged should be left, even if the rest of the site is cleared, will depend entirely upon the policy which will be followed by the redesigners of the capital. In view, however, of the attitude which some sections of the Church are known to take, in regard to what they have considered to be redundant churches, it is more than likely that London will be permanently depleted of quite a number of its bells, and it seems quite certain that unless generous financial help is forthcoming, damaged bells will not be replaced in many instances whatever happens to the churches. One reason is that while the Government have undertaken to replace the fabric of churches damaged by raids, it is understood that the fittings, which, of course, include bells and organs, will be the responsibility of the Church. This fact, indeed, is causing a good deal of concern to many church authorities, who are having to find heavy insurance premiums—as much as thirty shillings per cent. up to September next. Such things as bells, therefore, are being, in a number of cases, very much under insured.

These are some of the points which appear to be emerging from the present circumstances, and if the country suffers further and more extensive raiding, as we are warned may be the case, further losses of bells will inevitably be sustained where churches are devastated, unless some prompt action is taken. Following upon Mr. R. F. Deal's letter last week, in which he pointed out the grave risks to bells, even when lowered from the tower, unless they are efficiently protected, a correspondent this week suggests that the Central Council should circularise diocesan authorities calling urgent attention to the steps that should be taken in this matter. If church authorities, particularly in what are regarded as 'safe' areas, like to take the risk

(Continued on page 302.)

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and leave their bells hanging in the tower, that is their responsibility, but we think it is their duty to cover the bells by sufficient insurance. If this is not done and the bells are unfortunately lost, it is more than likely that replacement will fall far short of the present peals. This is a matter about which ringers can use their influence with Church Councils and endeavour to ensure that the bells are adequately covered.

There seems little question, however, that in vulnerable areas other steps should be taken to safeguard the bells, and proper protection would seem possible only if they are removed from their frames. The base of the tower suggests itself as a place as safe as any other for their keeping provided, as has often been pointed out, the bells themselves are sandbagged. Compared with the value of the property involved, this would cost a negligible sum. It is, of course, useless to remove the bells from one place of danger to another, adequate protection must be provided, and these facts ought to be brought home by every possible means to those responsible for their safety. It is strange that in many instances the intrinsic value of bells is entirely unrealised by those in whose care they are placed. If they had something worth a thousand pounds standing in the full view of everybody in the church they would not hesitate to take every step for its security; yet a peal of bells, the least considered of church property, is often worth a thousand pounds or more. The responsibility of the authorities is equally as important where the bells are concerned as in the case, say, of the organ, and we hope that something may be done to induce a more active care of the bells under war risks than is apparent at the present moment.

THE LAST PEAL AT COVENTRY.

WAS IT TRUE?
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The note about the last peal at Coventry in your 'Belfry Gossip' recently prompts me to ask if the composition rung then was a true one? The figures appeared in 'The Bell News' of August 4th, 1883, page 213, and although by the late Mr. Henry Johnson. I have always understood that, by some singular lapse, the composition was not a true one. I am quite unable to remember the source whence I gathered this impression, but most probably, if I am right about its falseness, it was a note in a subsequent issue of 'The Bell News.' As it may well be called an historic performance, especially so in view of recent events, perhaps one of our composers will say if it is true or not. The figures are below. The 5,021 was rung at Warwick on September 25th, 1869, and the 5,063 at Coventry on June 9th, 1883. Sheringham, Norfolk.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

STEDMAN CATERERS.
By Henry Johnson.
5,021 or 5,063.
123456 4 5 16

512463 *	
514362	2
413562	— 2
312564	— 3
214563	— 3
412365	—
415362	S 3
513462	— 2
312465	— 3
215463	— 3
512364	—

213456	— 2
314256	— 2
416253	— 3
613254	— 3
316254	— S
312456	— 2
214356	— 2
416352	— 3
612354	— 3
216453	—

* Bobs at 2-4-6-8-10-12-16. The 5,021 round by bobs at 1-2-3-5-8. The 5,063 by bobs at 3-6-10-16. Both round at the fifth change.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, May 26, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At 106, LYNCHFOUR ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN Caters, 5007 CHANGES;

* HAROLD S. HOBDDEN 1-2	* PTE. L. J. FOX, P.C.... .. 5-6
SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-4	† MAURICE HODGSON 7-8
† WILLIAM H. VIGGERS... .. 9-10	

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First ten-bell peal 'in hand' and first in the method 'in hand.'

† First ten-bell peal and first in the method. The conductor's first peal of Caters 'in hand' and first peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF REVERSE BOB MAJOR, 5036 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	* CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6
* ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	* EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

NORTHREPPS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 14, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 14 in E.

F. NOLAN GOLDEN 1-2	* REV. E. WILLIAM BLYTH... 3-4
----------------------------	--------------------------------

CYRIL POOLEY 5-6

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First attempt for a peal of Minor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, June 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART (Dexter's Variation). Tenor size 18.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN... .. 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

First handbell peal in the method as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, June 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	CLEMENT GLENN 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	LEONARD LUCK 7-8

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	* EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT... .. 7-8

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 400th peal.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DISTRICT MEETING AT RAMSEY.

On Saturday week, a meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Ramsey, and nineteen ringers attended from Harwich, Thorington, Mistley, Ipswich and Dedham. Handbells loaned by the Harwich company, were used from 2.30 until 4.30 p.m., when service was held in church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Norman E. Sturgeon). Owing to catering difficulties, the members had each to bring their own eatables for tea, and whilst these were being consumed the business meeting proceeded in order to enable some members to catch an early bus.

The Master (Mr. G. Waterman) presided, and silence was observed for three departed members, Mr. Woodward, of Harwich, an hon. member, Miss Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, and Mr. A. J. Smith, of Langham, ringing members. The Master paid a high tribute to these members for all they had done to help the association, and it was proposed that the secretary should write to the bereaved relatives conveying the sympathy of the members of the division.

The Rev. Norman E. Sturgeon was elected an hon. member, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Bradfield some time in the middle of June.

Mr. Ellis proposed that the secretary should write to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' conveying their best wishes for a speedy recovery and their thanks for all he had done for the ringing community in general.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar on the motion of the Master for allowing the meeting to be held at Ramsey. He said he believed it was the first of its kind in the history of the village. Mr. Waterman also thanked the Vicar for the service and his address, the organist and his little blower, and the secretary's wife for the tea they had drunk. He also offered a welcome to the visitor from Ipswich (Mr. J. W. Jennings).

The Vicar, in reply, said as a probationer ringer it gave him much pleasure indeed to have the association at Ramsey, and he gave a history of the five bells, which date back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Among those present at the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday were Mr. R. T. Hibbert, of Reading, Mr. W. Hibbert, Mr. C. W. Munday, of Basingsoke, Mr. T. Groombridge, of Chislehurst, Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., of Willesden Green, and Pte. Len Fox. One of the subjects discussed was reconstruction of bellringing after the war.

Special reference was made by the Master to the tragic death of that great friend of London ringers, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, and the members stood in silence for a few moments as a tribute to his memory.

Four new members were elected: Messrs. Thomas N. Lanaghan, Peter E. M. Kearvell, of Reading, Edgar R. Rapley, of Horsham, and F. Warrington, of Swavesey, Cambs.

After the business handbells were well in evidence, the ringing including touches on the handbells brought by Mr. Taylor, of Watford. The next meeting will be held on July 5th.

WINCHCOMBE ABBEY AND ITS BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It may be of interest to some ringers, particularly of Warwickshire, to note that the tower of Stoneleigh Church, near Stratford-on-Avon, contains two pre-Reformation bells which originally hung in the tower of the great and powerful Abbey of Winchcombe, Glos. They are inscribed as follows:—

2nd: 'Micheale te Pulsante Wyncheleumbama Fetente Demone tu Libra. (On waist) R. K.'

4th: 'O Kenelme nos Defende ne Maligni Sentiamus.'

This latter bell was recast by Briant 1792. The initials on the 2nd are those of Richard Kyderminster, Abbot of Winchcombe 1488-1525.

These bells were probably cast at Nottingham, circa 1500, by Richard Mellor or his son Robert, and came to Stoneleigh at the Dissolution.

Winchcombe Abbey was founded in 787 by Offa the Great, King of Mercia, as a nunnery, but in 798 Kenwulf changed it into an establishment for 300 Benedictine monks, and in 819 Kenelm, the boy king and saint, was enshrined within its walls. The story of his murder in the woods on the Clent Hills is too well known to be related here.

The Abbey waxed rich and powerful, its abbots reached mitred rank and sat in the House of Lords as Peers of the Realm. Under Richard de Kidderminster (1488-1525) a man noted for his learning, the Abbey flourished 'like another university.' The 'Ordinances' of the Abbey, dating from the 13th century and ending with the last pathetic attempts of Abbot Kidderminster and Abbot Mounslow (1525-1539) to stave off Dissolution, make interesting reading.

The inevitable end came on December 3rd, 1539, when Abbot Mounslow and the monks walked out of their old home. Ruthless destruction followed. The ten bells were sold for £60 to one, William Farmer, the lead was torn from the roofs, stained glass smashed, the priceless library scattered and the buildings torn down. Now only a few grass grown stones mark the site. Thomas Cromwell's men could well write on January 4th, 1540, 'We have despatched Hailes and Winchcombe and will go next to Tewkesbury.'

So passed the 'magnificent' Abbey of Winchcombe.

Harborne.

WILFRED E. BOX.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 292.)

THE LEGITIMATE METHODS COMMITTEE.

HENRY LAW JAMES.

At first the Council did not appoint the conveners of the various committees. Each committee made its own arrangements, but almost always there was one member, who by formal or tacit consent of the rest, or through his own ambition, took the lead. Law James had proposed the appointment of the Methods Committee, and it was only natural that he should assume the duties of its chairman.

I came into very close relationship with him during many years and I had a better opportunity than almost anybody else of knowing and judging the work he did for the Council. For some reasons, which I cannot quite satisfactorily explain, he always reminded me strongly of Mr. Lloyd George. It was not the superficial similarity of names. It was not the common nationality. It was not that their views on politics and religion were alike (for in those things they were very diverse). It was, I think, because they had in common strongly marked characteristics which largely accounted for their successes and failures, strengths and limitations. Both were men of action rather than of intellect. Both were ambitious of leadership. Both had the quality of strongly attracting and strongly repelling those they came into contact with. To both the only thing that mattered was the one which at the moment was engaging their attention.

The stages they played on were vastly different in size and importance, and it seems almost ludicrous to mention together the Peace Conference at Versailles and the Central Council meetings; but human qualities and characteristics do not depend on environment and outward circumstances, and may be very similar in kind though different in intensity.

Henry Law James was born on November 8th, 1868, at Gloucester, where his father was Minor Canon of the Cathedral and Rector of St. Michael's. His interest in bells dated from his early boyhood, and when in 1887 the ring of six at St. Michael's was increased to eight he formed the Society of St. Michael's Juniors, a company which in the following years included several well-known ringers and scored a number of notable peals.

In 1887 James went up to Cambridge, where he was at Caius College. He joined the University Guild, and in 1890 called its first peal—Bob Triples on handbells. Later he rang 5-6 and called the first peal of Double Norwich Major ever rung in hand.

After leaving Cambridge he was for a short while science master at Stamford Grammar School, and then took orders on being appointed curate at St. Martin's, Stamford. In 1898 he became Vicar of Surfleet in Lincolnshire, and there he remained until his death in 1932.

His predecessor at Surfleet was an old and, it would seem, a disappointed man, who during a long incumbency had allowed the church and parish life to fall into decay. The building was in a dilapidated condition, and the fittings were obsolete and inadequate. James was sent there as a young man to bring back life and activity. The conditions were a challenge to him, and he set about his task with thoroughness and enthusiasm. The church was restored and reseated, and a new organ, a new altar, and a chancel screen were provided. The old ring of five bells in the steeple was restored and a

new treble added. Later James himself gave four bells to make what was then the lightest ring of ten in the country.

It was not only the material things of the church that engaged his attention; he was a devoted and hard working parish priest. He very much improved the services and the singing, and introduced a ritual based on pre-Reformation use which, though dignified and impressive up to a point, was really beyond the resources of a small village choir. It was one of James' characteristics, shown in this as well as in his peal ringing, that he often attempted more than he was able to do really well.

Law James speedily made his influence felt among Lincolnshire ringers, not only in his own parish, but throughout the county, and with permanent results. In 1899 he induced the four existing societies to form into one Diocesan Guild, and at Surfleet peals were rung, first of Minor and then of Royal, which have a definite place in the history of the art. Lincoln Cathedral owes its ring of twelve largely to his efforts, and the present advanced state of method ringing in the county is due in no small degree to his influence and example.

The whole Exercise owes a great debt to Law James; for though he was not the first man to think of spliced ringing, he was the first to put it into practice. He arranged and called the first five thousand of Minor with more than one method in each 720, and by composing a peal of Major in the four standard Surprise methods, he made possible the great advance in spliced ringing of recent years.

I have said that Law James was a man of action rather than of intellect. That is true, even though a good deal of his action in ringing matters was in his own study with a fountain pen in his hand. It explains much of his career, his successes, and his failures. So long as he had something to do, whether it was in organising, or in peal ringing, or in working out a composition, his industry and thoroughness served him well and brought him many striking successes. But it was quite different when he attempted to deal with matters which belonged entirely to the realms of thought. He had great ambitions to be a leader of thought in the Exercise, and from time to time brought forward what he believed were new and profound truths. At the time they attracted a good deal of attention and caused a good deal of opposition, but now they are all forgotten. To-day no one remembers, or if he does remember does not care anything about, the Stedman controversy of thirty years ago, or the disputed extensions of Superlative Surprise. The truth is that Law James, though he provoked so many controversies and engaged in so many arguments, was altogether incapable of logical argument. Deductive reasoning is of very little use in the majority of the things of life, but there are rare occasions when nothing else can take its place. Mathematics, for instance, cannot do without it, and it is equally essential in solving some (though not many) of the problems in the science of change ringing. Law James was incapable of deductive reasoning, yet he often claimed to settle dogmatically questions which could not be settled without it. Like so many more people, he reached his conclusions by experiments, by intuition, or by chance, and what he called arguments were only special pleading to induce other people to think as he did. He had taken third class honours in Natural Science at Cambridge, and, as stated above, had been a

teacher of natural science. He claimed that the same processes by which men discover the truths of natural science would enable him to discover all the truths in the science of change ringing. He was wrong.

He had no gifts as a writer and seldom attempted more than short letters, but as a speaker he was effective and convincing. His style was simple and direct, and his transparent sincerity and confidence in himself impressed even those who did not agree with him. In his more controversial speeches, however, he often adopted a style of dogmatic superiority which was intensely irritating to the older people whose opinions he was challenging. This certainly caused some amount of offence, and the opposition to him, shown by men like Heywood and Davies, was not altogether unmixed with personal dislike. He had a habit, when a supposed flaw in his argument was pointed out, of meeting it with some startling statement which sounded like a profound truth used as a crushing rejoinder, but really was only an irrelevance, or at best a half truth. A good example of this occurred at the Council meeting when the Methods Committee was appointed. He had produced his definition of a method and Nathan Pitstow pointed out quite properly that it did not cover Stedman. Instead of saying, as he might quite reasonably have done, that it was not intended to cover Stedman and the few other methods like it, James retorted that Stedman was not a method at all, its author had never called it a method; it was a principle. The fact that he honestly thought he had answered Pitstow illustrates his limitations, and goes a long way towards explaining why, with all his activity, he influenced thought in the Exercise so little.

As the chairman of the Methods Committee, Law

James was not a success. It never occurred to him that his job was to find out to the full what contribution every member had to make, and to combine the knowledge and skill of the men who were supposed to be authorities on the matter in question. He had already prepared his definition and his only anxiety was that it should be adopted first by the committee and then by the Council. He was quite prepared to give explanations, but rather in the style of a schoolmaster instructing his class. There was no need for him to learn anything. He was indeed by no means free from the snobbishness, not uncommon in his class, that divided mankind into those who had been to Oxford or Cambridge and those who had not, and he hardly ever attempted to understand an argument by one who could not write B.A. after his name. He had the greatest contempt for the opinions of the average ringer. He thinks he knows,' he told me, 'but he does not know really.'

It is hardly surprising therefore that he tried to run the Methods Committee as if it was his own personal and private affair, and he almost always spoke in its name without any pretence of consulting the members. All this sounds very bad, but actually it was inevitable in the committee system. Heywood dealt with the committees on which he served in much the same fashion, but there was the important difference between the two men that Heywood's authority was admitted and James' was not.

For years the work of the Methods Committee was mainly a keen fight between James and the other members. I naturally was in the thick of it and found myself in opposition to him on almost every subject. He was often very irritating, for he had a trick of answering

(Continued on page 309.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

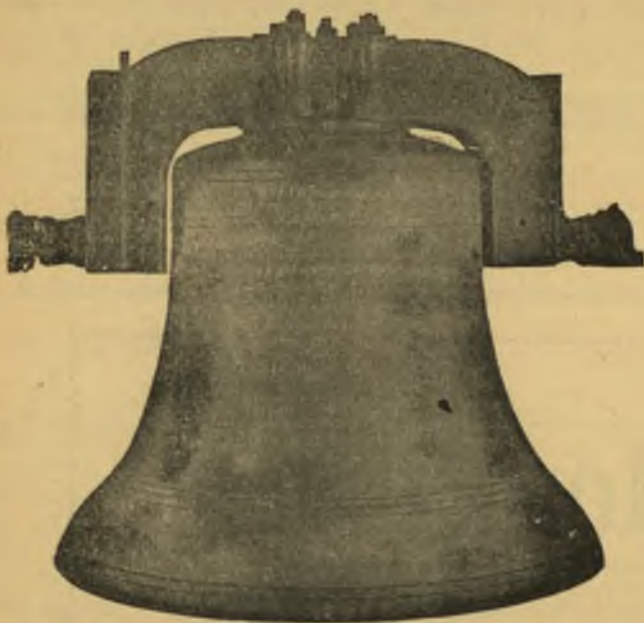
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. Bob Pye, who will be 69 years old next Monday.

Mr. Clement Glenn's many friends will notice with great pleasure that after an interval of more than twenty years his name once more appears in the peal reports. Since the last war Mr. Glenn had been living in France, and he came home in connection with his duties as an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve. He was recently living at Bushey for a short time and so made the acquaintance of the very talented handbell band there. Unfortunately, his stay was short. We are informed that he had not forgotten how to ring Stedman double-handed.

All who appreciate Christopher Wren's genius will regret the loss of the beautiful little Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, which was one of those destroyed in a recent air raid. It was one of the buildings which could be least spared. In the steeple was a bell by Robert Mot which had already been through the fire of 1666 and had survived. What has happened to it now we do not know.

The first peal on the ten bells at St. Mary's, Taunton, was rung on June 25th, 1885. It was one of Stedman Caters and during the ringing two bells shifted and were put right by a single. This led some years later to a controversy and the peal was withdrawn.

Elijah Roberts tapped 5,016 changes of Stedman Caters at Birmingham on June 30th, 1833.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Oxford Bob Triples 1, Canterbury Pleasure Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM BIBBY.

HIS SERVICES TO RINGING AT FRODSHAM.

Cheshire in general and Frodsham in particular have lost through the death of Mr. William Bibby one of its most respected, popular and enthusiastic ringers. He commenced ringing when he was 18 at Frodsham Parish Church, which then had a peal of six bells, call changes and Bob Minor being usually rung. Mr. Bibby had been a member of the Chester Diocesan Guild since its formation in 1887 and was elected a member of the Society of College Youths in 1912.

With the coming to Frodsham of Mr. E. H. Lewis, ringing interest and practice increased in this locality and many peals were scored. The local band, conducted by Mr. Lewis, rang a peal of Bob Minor in 1908. Many peals of Minor were followed by peals of Triples and Major when the trebles were added in 1912.

When, in 1915, Mr. Lewis left, Mr. Bibby was appointed head ringer. His two sons, Mr. J. E. and Mr. Francis Bibby, joined the Frodsham band, and later his daughter, Miss Norah Bibby, became an accomplished ringer. Mr. Bibby was proud that, through encouraging lady ringers, he was able to keep a band together through the last war.

With the arrival of Mr. Edward Jenkins, ringing in the neighbourhood made further advances. Mr. Bibby collected together a local band which passed from peals of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob to Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise. Mr. Bibby's peals numbered 306 in all, in many methods, from Minor to Maximus.

Mr. Bibby always insisted on a high standard of ringing and was ever helpful to learners and beginners, with whom he took much trouble. He was a grand host at meetings and was always pleased to welcome visitors. His bells and ringing chamber were models. His ringers will ever remember not only the depth of his knowledge of ringing matters, but the reverence shown in all his ringing.

Mr. Bibby took part in ringing for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, King Edward's Coronation, King George V. Coronation and Jubilee, King Edward's Accession and King George VI. Coronation.

He was a regular churchworker, had held office twice as churchwarden and was for many years secretary of the Parochial Church Council. He was very proud of the fact that he and his son Francis were the churchwardens of his beloved church for 1941. G. H. R.

NEW TERMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Major Yorke, in his interesting letter, introduces two matters which call for consideration.

First he gives us something which is good for teaching beginners, viz., 20 changes containing two bobs of Bob Doubles. This is certainly better than teaching the plain course of Grandire Doubles by heart, which is what most people really do. It is true they do not intend to teach by heart, and probably do not see what they are doing, for they carefully tell the beginner he must not learn anything by heart. By the way, how else is he to learn anything?

Secondly, what are we to call that variation of a method, by which a bob lead is substituted for a plain lead, and vice versa? My own suggestion would be that it should be called a 'conversion.' Major Yorke's method then would be Converted Bob Doubles. I am not, however, proud of this suggestion, and would welcome something better.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

CITY OF LONDON CHURCHES.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Destroyed in Air Raid.

Of all the loss of churches and bells in the savage air raids on London, none is more regrettable than that of St. George's-in-the-East.

It was only three years ago that the bells were restored after a long silence, and since the church is in a rather unpopular and inaccessible district, they are probably known to few of our readers, but they were a very fine ring of the older style. During one of the raids incendiary bombs fell on the church roof and the whole building was gutted by fire. The tower was completely burnt out and the bells crashed and were destroyed.

In the ninth year of Queen Anne an Act of Parliament was passed which provided for the erection of fifty new churches. It was to be a thankoffering for the great victories won by the Duke of Marlborough over the French. Not all the fifty were actually built, but London owes several of her most famous churches to this Act. Three of them are in the ancient parish of Stepney—Limehouse, Spitalfields



THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

and St. George's—and all three are distinguished by massive and lofty bell towers. St. George's was designed by Hawkesmoor and Gibbs, and is a fine spacious building built regardless of cost. It was consecrated on June 29th, 1729.

No part of London has altered in character more than the surroundings of this church. When it was erected it stood in a good class neighbourhood, now it is in the middle of dockland. As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century the vestry could afford to spend £4,400 on improving the churchyard and an equal sum on beautifying the church and altering the organ, and to vote £500 for stained glass windows.

The bells were a heavy octave with a tenor of 30 cwt., cast in 1751 at Whitechapel by Thomas Lester. The first peal on them was 5,040 changes of Bob Major rung on August 4th, 1752, by the Eastern Scholars and conducted by George Meakins. In the following October, George Patrick called 5,152 of the same method for the Cumberlands and during the next eight years St. George's was a popular belfry with all the leading companies.

In 1753 a new society, which called itself the London Youths, was formed with its headquarters at The Three Goats' Heads in Whitechapel and St. Mary Matfelon and St. George's as its principal practice towers. Both rings have been destroyed in air raids.

The London Youths rang their first peal on January 21st, 1753, at St. George's. The method was Bob Major and a month later they rang one of Bob Triples. Both were conducted by Peter Bailey.

The Cumberlands rang the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells in 1753 and the Eastern Scholars the first of Grandsire Triples. This was probably the first time that Holt's Ten-Part was performed, though George Partrick is usually said to have called it for the first time four months later.

The longest peal on the bells was 6,080 Oxford Treble Bob Major by the College Youths and called by Benjamin Annable, the last he conducted.

The only board in the belfry recorded a peal of Grandsire Triples called by the younger George Gross on March 11th, 1822, in which four fathers and four sons took part.

The sketch of the church is from 'The History of the College Youths.' It was reproduced in 'The Times Literary Supplement' of January 22nd, 1938.

DESTRUCTION OF BELLS AND PEAL BOARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—So many historic peals of bells have been destroyed by fire in air raids that it is of some satisfaction to read the statement by Mr. A. A. Hughes at a recent meeting of the College Youths that another City ring of ten is being taken down for safety. It is to be hoped that in this case further precautions will be taken to ensure that the fate which overtook the bells at St. Clement Danes' is not repeated.

You recently referred to a paragraph in 'The Times' which stated that the bells at St. Mary-le-Bow had been dismantled. Unfortunately that statement is incorrect. A further letter has appeared in a recent issue of 'The Times' which mentions this subject, and also contains suggestions for minimising the chances of towers being so completely burned out as that of St. Mary-le-Bow. A paragraph in the London 'Evening News' has since stated it is now disclosed that ten of the bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, 'including the tenor bell, which itself weighs 2½ tons, were shattered.'

The destruction of many historic peal boards is greatly to be deplored. Fortunately, the Central Council some time ago collected details of old peal boards, and possibly particulars of those since destroyed are amongst those collected, in which case it should be possible to replace the boards in the event of the churches being restored. Could not the work of replacement be undertaken by ringers, through the Central Council?

I recently paid a visit to the Church of St. George-in-the-East, with which I was very intimately connected many years ago. I was horrified to find that it had been completely burned out. The tower is gutted and many of the bells are cracked and are lying broken in the porch. The structure of the tower still stands, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to so repair it that it will long remain the familiar landmark to users of the River Thames not far away.

May I thank Mr. Deal for his very interesting letter. It is so difficult to get information about London churches and bells; any further contribution from the same source will be welcomed.

C. T. COLES.

FIRES IN CHURCH TOWERS.

THE FATE OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The following letter from Mr. W. A. Forsyth, the well-known London architect, appeared in 'The Times':—

'Fires due to incendiary bombs invariably break out in the roofs of nave or aisles and enter the tower through the belfry louvres or other available openings. Falling timbers ignite the sittings and other woodwork so that a great heat is developed at the floor level. Church towers act as flues when heat enters them in such volume. The usual draught is overpowered by a terrific upcast of heat and flame, which destroys wood, metal, stone and all else in its course.'

In many recent fires the entire fabric has been destroyed. The risk of total destruction of remaining examples can be avoided if steps are taken to isolate the towers from the body of the buildings. This can be done in a number of ways. A brick vault, for instance, or a concrete floor should be inserted in the tower above the nave level. The usual aperture provided for the passage of the bells should have fireproof trap doors. A similar reinforced concrete floor should be set below the bell frame. Both these insertions will provide additional structural stability in resisting movement from future bell-ringing. At the same time all openings above the church, including those containing the belfry louvres, should be bricked up until the day returns for the ringing of the bells.

Of the churches which have suffered total loss from fire, St. Mary-le-Bow is a typical example. Had the tower been isolated the famous bells would not have been destroyed. Your recent reference indicated that the bells had been previously removed. Unfortunately, that is not the case.'

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD'

LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY.

SAFEGUARDING OF BELLS.**CENTRAL COUNCIL SHOULD ADVISE.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—May I be among those who will say 'Thank you' to Mr. Richard Deal for his admirable letter in your last issue. As one who admires Wren's towers, I have mixed feelings in regard to his verdict on Bow steeple. It is good to have Mr. Deal's expert view that the 'leaning' of the steeple is not a matter to be unduly worried about, as the tilt which it possesses was adopted long ago.

It is, however, very disturbing to learn that the safety of this and other well-known towers, despite the fact that they have resisted the bombing, may have been seriously jeopardised by fire.

There is one other point in Mr. Deal's letter which deserves not only attention, but further action on somebody's part. I refer to the safety of Southwark Cathedral's fine peal of twelve bells. Cannot the Central Council, through its officers, take some immediate steps to bring the matter raised by Mr. Deal to the notice of the Cathedral authorities?

At the same time, the whole subject is one of urgent importance not only in London but throughout the country, and the Council should lose no time in directing the attention of all diocesan authorities to the need of sandbagging bells when they have been lowered from the towers. The College Youths sent a communication to the 'Church Times' a short time ago, but that does not seem to have been sufficient.

The bishops usually issue a monthly letter to the clergy and people in their respective dioceses, and the easiest way to bring the matter to the notice of clergy and church councils might, perhaps, be through this channel, with the bishops' assistance. This or some other step ought to be taken to bring the matter home to the responsible authorities, and that quickly, for I believe that in quite a number of towns the lowering of the bells from the towers has either been already done or is contemplated. To leave the bells unprotected on the floor of a church where they can be reached by fire or falling masonry is but spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar, for the cost and labour of getting the bells down may well be wasted, to say nothing of the loss of the bells themselves.

What is needed is action, and this is something which the Central Council, as the 'watchdog' of the Exercise, ought to take.

*'R.A.F.'***CHURCH DAMAGE.****DIOCESAN COMMITTEES TO SETTLE CLAIMS.**

The Church Assembly last week gave general approval to the Diocesan Reorganisation Committees measure, which provides for the appointment of committees to treat with the War Damage Commission.

It was pointed out that the fact that the Commission intended to act through the regional offices made it desirable that there should exist in every diocese a representative committee capable of settling claims by the Church.

There was a good deal of opposition to the measure on the ground that it put autocratic power into the hands of a few persons, and that the proposed committees were not responsible to any specified body. The Bishop of London (Dr. Fisher) said these objections would be met.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL CHURCHES,**A COMPARISON.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—I am afraid Mr. James E. Bailey's memory must serve him rather badly when he says he has never heard anyone describe Bow bells (either old or new) 'as a poor lot.' I never had the pleasure of hearing the old Bow bells (only the recording), therefore I can only accept the views of those who have, which is generally to the effect that they were good. But I have both read and heard a totally different view expressed of the recast bells in 'The Ringing World.' Drawing upon Mr. Bailey's other points, 'that the typical English church one finds in towns and villages would in his opinion look ridiculous in London,' I beg to differ. In many large towns and cities we have churches built upon street corners 'without a hallowed acre' (St. John's, Leicester, for example), but here no one would ever have cause to ask, 'What's that?' There is no corn exchange appearance about it! In London, this church would look equally the same. The steeple is a typical church steeple and not a resemblance of 'a clock tower.' I have just been studying a picture in to-night's local newspaper of the bombed Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, after a London blitz, and here the same impression is given of the steeple—a mere clock tower like you see on any town hall: nothing to make one think it was a church.

In conclusion, let me remind Mr. Bailey that I am not writing this letter from Leicester and that town is not my home. I mention this because on occasions like these often one hears, 'Well, you're bound to stick up for your own!' I could name scores of churches outside Leicester similar to St. John's, which, no matter where they were built, would be distinguished at first sight. I could also name several in other towns and villages (like those in London) where one would have to get right up to the building and go inside to make sure that it was a church, Daventry for example. These I claim are little better than the modern style of building.

*'TOURIST.'***YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****WESTERN DIVISION'S SUCCESSFUL SUMMER MEETING.**

After a lapse of 15 years since the last visit, the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association were indeed fortunate to be able to hold their summer meeting at Almondbury in the Huddersfield district. This delightful little township, situated on the edge of the Colne Valley, was seen at its best, and the weather could scarcely have been better. Owing to the continued ban on the ringing of tower bells, an attractive ramble had been arranged, and upwards of 30 members and friends climbed to the top of Castle Hill, one of the highest points of the district. The view from the summit was worth all the effort of the ascent, but in spite of longing glances, the doors of the inn remained closed. However, the party found the return journey much easier, and arrived at the school house in good form for the well prepared tea which was awaiting them.

At the tea table the company were joined by the Rev. A. F. Bellman, M.A., who gave the association a hearty welcome to Almondbury. He had been unable to accompany them on their ramble, owing to being engaged on more strenuous duties—the day being one of the church's 'fatigue' days, when the church grounds are planted with the summer flowers. Though the ringing of tower bells was now prohibited, he was proud to see the association was still carrying on its very useful work, so that when the time of victory arrived everyone would be ready to ring the glad tidings all over the countryside.

The business meeting was held in the grounds of the School House, with the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, in the chair. The association's president, Canon Marshall, had unfortunately had to leave before the meeting owing to urgent business.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the main item on the agenda—the 'next meeting'—was discussed at length, and eventually it was decided to endeavour to arrange this at Heptonstall in September.

The secretary, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the local company, and especially to Mr. Dransfield, who had made all the splendid arrangements, pointed out that it was not an easy task to receive a party in these times. Catering was one of the main difficulties, but it had been accomplished splendidly, and the association were really indebted to their good friends for receiving them and preparing for their comfort.

Mr. W. E. Dransfield, in reply, assured the visitors that he had been only too pleased to make the necessary arrangements and would do so again whenever the occasion arose.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund realised 6s. 2d., which was considered very satisfactory.

Mr. Sherwood proposed that a letter expressing regret for his illness and hopes for a speedy recovery be sent to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' who had done and was doing such a great and valuable work for the Exercise.—This was carried unanimously.

After the meeting handbell ringing was enjoyed in the School House, whilst some sought the beauty of the countryside and others the peacefulness of the bowling green. Altogether it was a most enjoyable meeting.

During the day over 40 members were present from the following towers: Almondbury, Armlay, Bradford Cathedral, Earlsheaton, Calverley, Halifax, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Huddersfield, Lindley, Pudsey, Queensbury, and also Mr. V. Jarrett, of Chatham.

ONE BELL, ONE MONTH.**IRISHMAN SENT TO PRISON.**

For having rung a bell once at a church in Chadderton, Lancs, an Irishman named James Stewart, a twenty-five-year-old labourer of Oldham, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by the Chadderton magistrates. The charge was brought under the Defence Regulations.

A police inspector said that Stewart was seen by the Rev. Peter Taylor coming down the steps leading from the belfry of the church after Mr. Taylor and others had heard the bell peal once. Stewart's action, said the inspector, might have caused a good deal of work among Civil Defence personnel, in addition to upsetting the morale of the public.

Stewart declared that he went into the church to look round, and he touched the bell without meaning to ring it.

One month for one stroke on a bell seems a pretty heavy sentence, and it does not say much for the morale of the people of Chadderton if one stroke on the church bell might upset it.

We shudder to think what is going to happen to the morale of the Chadderton people if and when the bell is really rung for the purpose for which it is now reserved.

GOODS STRIKING.—It is almost incredible what extremely small portions of time are forced on the observation in change ringing. Assuming a quarter of a second to elapse between the striking of any two bells (which supposition is very near the truth), it will appear that an error of a quarter of that space too quick or too slow would be distinctly felt and heard by an experienced ringer, and hence the sixteenth part of a second becomes an appreciable quantity.—Henry Hubbard.

THE STANDARD METHODS

If ringers can rid themselves of the idea that there is some superfine quality attached to a Surprise method, and can realise that a Plain method may be a very high class and difficult method, they will have at their disposal a group of ten and twelve bell methods which are not only very interesting to ring, but will satisfy all the requirements which are needed for producing outside effects.

A fortnight ago we described Double Coslany Court Major with its three Court shunts in each half lead. We can apply similar constructions to Royal, and there (because we have more scope) we can have a greater variety of methods.

The shunt is made by the bell next in front of the treble in coursing order making a place, crossing the treble's path and immediately making another place.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
 2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 0
 4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7 0 9
 2 4 3 6 1 8 5 0 7 9
 4 2 6 3 8 1 0 5 9 7

This can be done either at handstroke or at backstroke, and anywhere during the treble's journey from the front to the back (the second half-lead will, of course, have to balance the first half-lead).

If we use backstroke places only, we can have 4ths and 3rds; 6ths and 5ths; and 8ths and 7ths. In addition we can use either or both of the Extremes (2nds at the lead-end and 9ths at the half-lead-end).

It is a simple job to work out the combinations of these, and we shall then have a group of first class Royal methods, interesting to ring, not particularly difficult, and (since the natural coursing order is kept throughout) decidedly musical.

Isleworth B.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
 2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 9
 4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 9 7
 4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 9
 6 4 8 2 3 1 0 5 9 7
 4 6 2 8 3 0 1 9 5 7
 6 4 8 2 0 3 9 1 7 5
 6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 1 5
 8 6 0 4 9 2 7 3 5 1

6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 5 1
 8 6 0 4 9 2 7 3 1 5
 8 0 6 9 4 7 2 1 3 5
 0 8 9 6 7 4 1 2 5 3
 8 0 6 9 7 1 4 5 2 3
 0 8 9 6 1 7 5 4 3 2
 0 9 8 1 6 7 4 5 2 3
 9 0 1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 9 1 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2
 1 9 7 0 5 8 3 6 2 4

1 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2

Farnham B.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
 2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 9
 4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 9 7
 4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 9
 6 4 8 2 3 1 5 7 0 9
 4 6 2 8 3 5 1 7 9 0
 4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1 0 9
 2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 1 9
 4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 9 1

4 6 2 8 3 0 5 9 7 1
 6 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 1 7
 4 6 2 8 3 0 9 1 5 7
 4 2 6 3 8 0 1 9 7 5
 2 4 3 6 8 1 0 9 5 7
 4 2 6 3 1 8 0 5 9 7
 4 6 2 1 3 8 5 0 7 9
 6 4 1 2 8 3 0 5 9 7
 6 1 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 7
 1 6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 5

1 6 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 7

Two things, however, should be noted. When the total number of shunts within the lead is three or a multiple of three, a full course will not be produced; and when a large number of shunts is used the amount of dodging is apt to be excessive. This is particularly so in the case of Double Oxford which is produced by the maxi-

mum number of Court Shunts and Extremes. Double Norwich is produced by 4ths and 3rds and 8ths and 7ths. Sixths and 5ths give a method rung in 1919 at Surfleet and claimed by Law James to be entitled to the name Double Court Royal without any qualification. Perhaps the best of the series is Isleworth Bob Royal which has 6th and 5th and the two Extremes.

A fortnight ago we saw that by adding the handstroke shunt between the two backstroke shunts of Double Norwich we can produce Double Coslany, a far more difficult method to ring. Similarly in these Royal methods, wherever there are two backstroke shunts made together, we can insert a handstroke shunt and produce a ten bell method which, while maintaining the natural coursing order and the musical qualities, will tax the skill of the most expert band. Just before the war broke out an attempt for a peal in one of them by a first class band had been arranged. Whether they would have been successful is by no means certain.

On twelve bells similar constructions will give similar methods. There, because the scope is greater, the number of possible methods is larger. Double Norwich is the only one which has been rung so far and appended are two other excellent methods.

Plain Maximus Methods.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T E	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T E
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 T 9 E	2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T
4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 T 7 E 9	4 2 3 1 5 7 6 9 8 E 0 T
4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 T 9 E	2 4 3 5 1 7 9 6 E 8 T 0
6 4 8 2 3 1 0 5 T 7 E 9	2 3 4 5 7 1 6 9 8 E 0 T
4 6 2 8 3 0 1 T 5 E 7 9	3 2 5 4 7 6 1 8 9 0 E T
6 4 8 2 0 3 T 1 E 5 9 7	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 0 9 T E
6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 1 5 7 9	2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 1 9 T E
8 6 0 4 T 2 E 3 5 1 9 7	4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 9 1 T E
6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 1 7	2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T 1 E
8 6 0 4 T 2 E 3 9 5 7 1	4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 T 9 E 1

8 0 6 T 4 E 2 9 3 7 5 1	4 6 2 8 3 0 5 T 7 E 9 1
0 8 T 6 E 4 9 2 7 3 1 5	6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 1 9
8 0 6 T 4 E 2 9 7 1 3 5	4 6 2 8 3 0 5 T E 1 7 9
0 8 T 6 E 4 9 2 1 7 5 3	6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 1 E 9 7
0 T 8 E 6 9 4 1 2 7 3 5	6 8 4 0 2 T 3 1 5 E 7 9
T 0 E 8 9 6 1 4 7 2 5 3	8 6 0 4 T 2 1 3 E 5 9 7
0 T 8 E 9 1 6 7 4 5 2 3	6 8 4 0 T 1 2 E 3 9 5 7
T 0 E 8 1 9 7 6 5 4 3 2	6 4 8 0 1 T E 2 9 3 7 5
T E 0 1 8 9 6 7 4 5 2 3	4 6 8 1 0 T 2 E 3 9 5 7
E T 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	6 4 1 8 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 7
E 1 T 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2	6 1 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 9
1 E 9 T 7 0 5 8 3 6 2 4	1 6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 7

1 E T 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2 1 6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 9

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 305.)

some carefully thought out argument by scrawling the word 'rubbish' across the page almost before he had read it. This difference of opinion did not prevent a large amount of very real friendship between us. I spent many holidays and week-ends at Surfleet and he came and stayed with me at Ealing. In the long run I benefited greatly by these controversies. They compelled me to go very thoroughly into the fundamental problems of the science of ringing and whatever merit there may be in any of the articles I have written for 'The Ringing World' and elsewhere is almost entirely due to my struggles with Law James.

CONTRARY MOTION.

REV. H. DRAKE'S REPLY TO MR. TROLLOPE.

Oh, no, Mr. Trollope, I will not walk into *that* parlour! No doubt you would like me to say that something is hunting backward, in order that (whatever it was) you could say that it was not.

Besides, I have taken up the line that I do not know what it is. Nor does anyone else. Least of all does Mr. Trollope himself! If he did he would never have made his famous reply at Liverpool, 'Hunting backward is—er—hunting backward,' thus exposing himself, and all of us, to so much ridicule.

I did not make any of the errors of which he speaks, nor did I even write what he says I did on two occasions.

Thus I said nothing about an odd number of places being made on an even number of bells. I said that one way of inverting the order of rows was by making an odd number of places, and I referred to the six on three bells. (Three, by the way, is not an even number.) After writing out the usual six changes, go on writing out changes, but make the treble lead a third time. You will then get, of course, the same rows as before, but in the inverse order. This proves what I said: You have an odd number of places made (in this case the treble has led three times). Therefore, the rows have been inverted. This is all I meant, and there is no error.

Incidentally, the first of these sixes is called quick and the other slow. Therefore, if that is all that is wanted, we have already got the terms to describe it.

Nor did I ever say that it was 'impossible for one bell to be hunting forward at the same time others are hunting backward.' How could I? Neither I nor anyone else knows what these words mean. I was speaking of inversion, and I said that all the bells in the piece of ringing that was inverted were affected.

However, this gives an opportunity for yet another definition of these wonderful terms. Change ringing is caused, it seems, by one bell hunting forward, while 'others' hunt backward. What the remaining bells do is not stated. Perhaps they just look on at the wonderful gyrations of 'one' and 'others.'

Here we have a fifth definition, or is it a sixth? Well, it does not matter, they are all inconsistent with one another, and not one can be made to apply to Stedman.

Mr. Trollope says that some of my arguments are beside the point. Are they? Well, this is the point. We do not understand these absurd terms, and we do not intend them to be used. If we cannot ring changes without being made fools of in this ridiculous way, we will give up ringing. But that will never be.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

HERBERT DRAKE.

DEFINITIONS INDIFFERENTLY EXPRESSED.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The duel between Mr. Trollope and Rev. H. Drake is interesting and may do something to settle for the future the accuracy or otherwise of the terms 'forward' and 'backward' as applied to hunting. But haven't these words come into comparatively recent use through their application by some individual (I care not whom) who, at the moment he thought of them, used them because he could think of nothing better?

Ringing has been sprinkled through the ages with many terms which might have been better expressed. They have often been applied by people who have had little sense of the value of words, and have grown into recognition simply because no one bothered to challenge them, if, that is, they were ever thought worth disputing.

I have read words used by composers, who not so long since dominated the scene, which were obviously by no means the best that could have been selected for what it was intended to imply. Without casting any reflection upon them, it was doubtless due to the limits of their education, but the Exercise was given and accepted terms which might have been more aptly expressed. It was worse still, of course, in the more distant days when, for instance, the same word was sometimes used with different meanings.

Whether the terms 'forward' and 'backward' hunting are good definitions may be a matter of opinion, but by those who need to use them they are by now well understood. The man in the street, or, rather, the ringer at the rope-end, doesn't care two hoots about these particular terms and won't until it becomes the practice—which I personally hope it never will—of conductors to give orders to erring ringers, 'Hunt forward' or 'Hunt backward,' instead of 'Go up' or 'Go down.' Wouldn't there be some fun if the conductor called out imperiously, 'Hunt backward' to a ringer who was floundering about in the middle and didn't know whether he was coming or going?

But, of course, people who compose, invent, manufacture, produce, quarry, mine or otherwise turn out methods, singly or in the mass, must have some means of describing the virtues or failings of their offspring (if I am not mixing the metaphor), and to me 'forward' and 'backward,' to indicate which way the bells are coursing, are just as good, or bad, as any other words, because I can't tell when I look at the figures of any method more complicated than, say, Plain Bob or Double Norwich, which way the bells are hunting; and as to whether the 3rd in Grandsire and the 3rd in London are hunting forward or backward when they start, I'm beaten to a frazzle. But in any case it doesn't much matter.

T. F. THOMAS.

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual general meeting will be held at Gravesend (D.V.) on Saturday, June 28th. Committee meeting at St. George's Church at 3 p.m. Association service at 4, conducted by the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate). Tea and business meeting at 5 at the Town Hall, by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor, will preside. Travelling allowance up to 2s. 6d. will be allowed to practising members notifying and attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting at Shrewsbury will be held on June 28th. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Please note change of address.—W. A. Farmer, 70, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held at Horsell on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., tea at 5 p.m. Visitors bring their own sandwiches to be pooled. The Vicar and his wife will supply tea and other niceties. Everybody welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thomas Ditton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, June 28th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged. Handbells available.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Batley on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells in the tower 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, June 28th. Meet at tower at 4 p.m. It is hoped to have silencers on the bells. Bring your own "eats." Handbells, etc., from 6 p.m. onwards.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Pulborough on Sunday, June 29th; tower bells (front six; silent) and handbells from 3.30. The Rector (Rev. E. Frost) has kindly offered to provide tea and buns for those sending names by previous Wednesday to E. Treagus, Acting Hon. Div. Sec., Queen's Lane, Arundel. (Evensong 6.30.)

LADIES' GUILD.—Members are reminded that the subscription for 1941-42 becomes due on July 1st. To save district secretaries having to make personal application, will members please forward this direct as early as possible? Many members have not yet paid the current year's subscription. Please send this before June 30th.—Edith K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec., 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—The next meeting will be at Moorside on Saturday, July 5th. Tower bells and handbells available. All ringers and friends welcome. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.) — Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by handbell practice.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. —

The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, July 5th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying to tea kindly notify Mr. A. Rowley, 120a, Church Street, Stone, Staffs, on or before Monday, June 30th. No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.

—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, July 5th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.15, at Swan Hotel, meeting and handbells after. Those requiring tea must notify by Tuesday, July 1st.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, July 5th. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Bring sandwiches and sugar. — Peter Crook and John H. Ridyard, Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—

A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Maldon, on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Will all those requiring tea please let me know by Tuesday, July 8th, so that the essential arrangement may be made? — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—

The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Please inform Mr. G. Horner, 91, Clifton Green, York, by Thursday, July 10th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea.

It is essential that all intending to be present should notify the secretary not later than Wednesday, July 9th, to make the necessary arrangements for tea.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton

District. — This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern

Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — Victor A. Jarrett (late Chatham) is now living at 14, Rothwell Mount, Halifax. He would be pleased to get into touch with Halifax ringers.

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