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VISITORS.

At the anniversary luncheon of the College Youths, the hon. secretary of the Central Council referred to the difficulties which will have to be faced when the war is over, and expressed a hope that all the London societies will co-operate in the work of reconstruction which will be necessary. He mentioned the problem of the visiting ringer, and suggested that some sort of organisation should be formed by means of which a provincial man coming up to London might be directed to the belfry where he could get the type of ringing which best suited him. Mr. Fletcher's suggestion was made in the interest of the visitor, but it seems to have been misunderstood, and today we print a letter of protest from Mr. A. V. Davis, of Bournemouth, who tells us that it smacks of ringing snobbery and would be a blow to individual progress. The visitor to London towers goes, he says, with the specific object of ringing at a particular church or to practise certain methods, and expects welcome and assistance.

Mr. Davis has, we think, missed the whole point of Mr. Fletcher's suggestion. The idea is not to restrict or discourage the visitor, but to do what can be done for him. But let us face the facts. It is a laudable ambition for a ringer to aim at ringing at some famous church or to attempt some higher method, but it is not always possible to oblige him, nor should he expect it. Take the case which is often quoted, and which both Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Davis mention, St. Paul's Cathedral. We say quite definitely that not only has no visitor, not even the most skilful, the right to be asked to ring there, but, strictly speaking, the band have no right on Sundays to ask him to ring. The bells are not rung for the sake of visitors. The ringing is a part of the services of the Cathedral, and the Cathedral authorities appoint a band to ring them in the best possible way. In this there is no distinction between the ringers and the choir, and would anyone suggest that a visitor should be allowed to take part in the choir singing just because he had a fancy to do so, although he might possess a voice as fine as any and be a thoroughly qualified musician? Even on practice nights, when more latitude can be allowed, only those men who are competent twelve-bell ringers should expect to ring at St. Paul's. It is not an easy place to ring at, and with the weight of metal and draught of rope is certainly not the place to learn to ring Stedman Cinques. One inexperienced and incompetent man can easily upset the ringing and spoil the enjoyment of the whole band.

The same thing applies, though in varying degree, to every tower. Service ringers must first consider their duty to their church and see to it that the ringing is good.

(Continued on page 566.)

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If that is safeguarded they can meet the wishes of visitors.

Fortunately the spirit of brotherhood in the Exercise is so widespread that it is very rare that even the most exacting of visitors has any excuse to complain. Is there any other sport or anything else comparable to ringing in which a man can go into the society of persons totally unknown to him and expect them to welcome him and treat him as one of themselves? Yet the fact that a man is a ringer almost invariably ensures him a welcome in a strange tower.

This is one of the finest things in the Exercise and one which we should always prize and cherish. But do not let us forget that it is a privilege, not a right. Every time a man goes into a belfry not his own, and rings with the local men, he is receiving a kindness and a courtesy at their hands. But the thing is so common that too often the courtesy is taken for granted and the kindness not acknowledged. Visitors, however, are not the only people who have rights. The local men have some, too, and it may not always suit them to put aside their own objects just because some stranger has a wish to ring a particular method.

The aim of Mr. Fletcher's suggestion was to meet these difficulties and to ensure, as far as it is possible, that visitors should have the full benefit of all such facilities as are available in London steeples.

HANDBELL PEAL.

CRAYFORD, KENT

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4 | *EDWIN BARNETT... .. 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.'

THE LATE MR. W. WILLSON. HIS ASSOCIATION WITH 'THE BELLRINGER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I very much regret to read of the death of my friend, Mr. William Willson, who was a most untiring helper during our association in the publication of 'The Bellringer,' which is now but a faint history.

I had not been able to keep in touch with him lately owing to pressure of business, and perhaps to my inactivities in ringing affairs. As co-editor of 'The Bellringer,' Mr. Willson was most useful in his advice and spent much time in connection with the publication. His leaders were most interesting.

We had also some other good contributors; to name one or two: The Rev. A. T. Beeston, Samuel Slater and a lady who is famous for literature and some knowledge of bells.

I have not hitherto touched upon the whys and wherefores of the ceasing of the publication. Mr. Willson and I did our best to continue the good work, but there are many intricacies in connection with details for the ringing Press which are often times quite foreign to the average consumers of printer's ink. Owing to this defect in our working we failed to meet smooth waters, and reluctantly had to call 'Stand.'

I would like to pay my deep respects to a departed friend and extend my deep sympathy to those nearest and dearest to him who are left in bereavement.

Beeston, Notts.

W. C. HUNT.

ITALIAN AND GERMAN BELL BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have in my possession a book on bells and bellringing (in Italian) by the famous Italian bellringer, Augusto Bonacini (Frate Albaro); also two or three German books on the same subject. If there is any member of the Exercise who would be willing to translate portions of these books would they kindly communicate with

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

THE CLAIMS OF NORWICH AND LONDON.

During the last two and a half centuries something like one hundred thousand peals have been accomplished. Many of them are famous and mark important stages in the history of the art, but none is quite equal in interest to that which begins the series, the first true peal ever rung. When, however, we try to decide which performance is entitled to the distinction we are faced with a problem to which there is no absolutely definite solution, though some reasonable conclusions can be reached.

We know without any doubt whatever that on Aug. 26th, 1718, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Peter Mancroft a true peal of Grandsire Triples. As evidence we have the contemporary peal board and we have the figures of the composition. It has never been claimed that this was the first true peal, for there are accounts of earlier ones, but for them the evidence is not so conclusive, and we have to decide between rival claims.

About one hundred years ago Edward John Osborn investigated the matter and decided that the oldest record on a board is that of the Grandsire Bob Triples rung at Mancroft on May 2nd, 1715, and the oldest record in writing is that in the peal book of the Union Scholars of a peal of Hick Triples, rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, on September 12th, 1718. The first board put up in a London belfry was at St. Bride's to record Grandsire Caters, by the London Scholars on January 11th, 1717. Norwich would therefore seem to have beaten London by two years.

Jasper Snowdon agreed with Osborn. He mentioned that the College Youths in their rule book claimed to have rung Grandsire Triples at St. Sepulchre's-by-Newgate in 1689 or 1690; but without definitely denying the claim he made it clear that he did not accept it, and the Exercise generally has followed him and given the honour to Norwich.

Neither Osborn nor Snowdon is quite accurate in what he says. The Mancroft board is indeed the oldest in existence. It is still in the belfry, and, though it has in more recent years been restored and repainted, it may be taken as sound contemporary evidence. But the entry in the Union Scholars' book, though it records a performance earlier than any in other books, was not written until many years later. The oldest written record of a peal is the first one in the Eastern Scholars' book; but as James Albion, when he wrote up the Union Scholars' records about 1750, evidently used earlier and contemporary manuscripts, the peal book, as we have it now, is good and sufficient authority. I may point out here that on one rather important point Jasper Snowdon was led astray. He mentioned that John Holt's name in the list of members, instead of being in ordinary old English characters like the others, is highly ornamented, and he concluded that Holt must have been thought a great acquisition to the society. But the list of names was not written until after Holt had been several years with the company and made his reputation. When he joined in 1745 he was a young and unknown man, and it was more than two years before he rang his first peal.

Jasper Snowdon was wrong when he said the College Youths claimed to have rung Grandsire Triples in 1689. If they had we could decide the matter, for we know that no true peal in that method had been composed so early. The claim was for Plain Bob Triples and, as we shall see

presently, it is by no means certain that there was no true peal they could have rung.

The peal of Grandsire Bob Triples at Mancroft in 1715 is the earliest of which we have full particulars. As I said just now, the board still exists, and the definite claim is made that it was the third whole peal the Norwich Scholars had rung, 'but the first whole peal that ever was rung to the truth by any ringers whatever.' The admission is made that there had been other peals, but they all (it is asserted) were false, not through faulty ringing, but because, though the composition 'had been studied by the most acute ringers in England ever since triple changes were first rung,' it was all to no effect, and 'now at last it's found out to the truth by John Garthon.'

That is the claim, but the question still remains: Was Garthon's peal itself true? We do not know definitely, for the figures are lost, but I have given some close attention to the matter, and I think we may be reasonably sure it was. I dealt fully with the problem in 'The Ringing World' of August 2nd, 1940.

I should very much like to know whether there are any references to Plain Bob Triples in W. D. Crofts' manuscript. Crofts was in some way related to Garthon and inherited some of his papers or copies of them, including the Grandsire Triples rung in 1718. If any of our Nottingham friends could throw light on this matter I should be much obliged.

So much for the Norwich claim. And now let us consider the College Youths claim to have rung Bob Triples at St. Sepulchre's twenty-five years earlier.¹

The evidence depends entirely on the older of the two manuscript accounts destroyed or badly damaged in the air raid on London last December. This manuscript was printed in full in 'The Ringing World' of October 3rd last, and I gave a full description of it. The essential part is the quotation made in 1796 by George Scarsbrook from the Oxford Ringers' Register book, consisting of a short account of the College Youths written in 1738 by some man unknown but who was well acquainted with London ringers. The evidence is not contemporary, for it has been copied at least twice, but we may safely say that we have the testimony of a man who wrote forty-eight years after the event that a peal of Bob Triples was rung at St. Sepulchre's in 1690. Forty-eight years is a long time, so long that unless we can find some means of bridging it the evidence is robbed of most of its value.

A satisfactory bridge can, I think, be found in the person of John Sacheverel, who had joined the College Youths in the closing years of the seventeenth century and held the office of steward in 1702. Thirty years later he was living at Cumnor, near Oxford, and he had retained his interest in bells and ringing to such an extent that he was then generally recognised as the greatest authority on the subject in the university town. When Dr. Shippen, the Vice-Chancellor, had the idea of augmenting the six bells at the University Church of St. Mary, he would do nothing until he had consulted Sacheverel, and because the latter merely sent a message and did not follow it up, the project failed. Sacheverel must have known of the peal at St. Sepulchre's if it had been rung, and can hardly have failed to be acquainted with those who took part; and if, as is most likely, he directly or indirectly supplied the information on which the account of 1738 is based, then we have an unbroken chain of evidence reaching from the time the peal is stated to have been accomplished.

(Continued overleaf.)

But there are serious difficulties to face. The first is this: if this peal was rung in 1690, how is it that all memory of it seems to have been lost in the Society of College Youths, and only came back to them as late as 1796? Benjamin Annable and his fellows evidently knew nothing of it, or if they had heard vague rumours did not believe them. When in 1731 Annable called a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's, it was booked as 'the first that was rung in that steeple.' This may only have meant the first of Grandsire Caters, but when in 1730 the company rang 5,040 changes of Bob Triples at Southwark they definitely claimed it as 'the first that was performed in this method.' There is also the fact that Peter Bradshaw, who was a leading College Youth in 1690, and who was one of those who acted for the society when they undertook to recast the ninth in 1695, was elected Master in 1723, a little more than a year before Annable and his band rang their 5,060 of Grandsire Cinques. He probably would have been in the 1690 peal, and in any case would have known the truth. How is it that he did not tell the others about it? Here probably is our greatest difficulty in believing the report, yet I do not think it is so great as appears at first sight. There are unmistakable signs that soon after 1720 the Society of College Youths went through a crisis not unlike that of just over a hundred years later. The older high-class members were dying out, and the society, as it had been for nearly a century, had practically come to an end. It easily might have lapsed altogether, but its existence was saved by the influx of a number of young men, quite different in type and social status to those who had gone before them. Between the old members and the new there was little sympathy or intercourse, and most probably there was a distinct break in tradition. In any case Annable and his fellows were concerned about the present and were looking towards the future. They knew little and cared less about what the society had done in the past. No books or manuscripts seem to have survived this crisis, beyond a bare list of the names of members. It is evident from Laughton's manuscript that the aristocratic members whose names appear in the list down to 1710 and later had ceased to take any active part long before 1730. When we consider how little a young and active ringer to-day usually knows of what was done thirty or forty years ago, we need not wonder that Annable, who had no books or records to consult, was ignorant of the 1690 peal.

The next difficulty lies in the early date of the performance. We have no definite account of any peal having been rung before 1715, but from then onwards there is a steady succession of records. If the College Youths rang a peal in 1690, is it likely, we may ask, that so long a time as twenty-five years would have elapsed before the next? That argument rests on a misunderstanding. The Norwich peal in 1715 was not (as we have seen) claimed as the first rung. On the 1718 board in the same belfry it is stated that 'the extent of this peal, being 5,040 changes, have oftentimes been rung with changes alike,' and the 'Campanalogia' of 1702 distinctly states that before then peals of Grandsire Triples had been rung, but 'the only way that hath been practised is by making of a double change at the end of the half-peal' (given in the book), and repeating the calling. The result was a false five-thousand. Doleman, the author of the book, and John Patrick, who gave him assistance, both knew it was false, but many ringers did not know; and the peal was extensively rung throughout the country down to the time

that Holt's peals appeared. The St. Sepulchre's performance, though the first, was not an isolated one, and its early date need not create any particular difficulty.

When we look for positive evidence there are several things which make the record seen likely. We know that in 1690 the College Youths were practising at St. Sepulchre's, for on two occasions they recast bells there at their own expense, and we have ample evidence that the art was advanced sufficiently to bring the extent of Triples within the ambition of a keen and skilful band. Peal ringing as a normal thing in a ringer's career was still a long way ahead, but the men of 1690 might quite well have attempted a five-thousand in the same spirit as a band to-day might attempt a fifteen-thousand.

The fact that the exact date of the performance and the time taken are given seems to lend corroboration, though too much should not be made of that. Yet if the time had been a guess of a later man he would hardly have put it at three hours and three-quarters. Annable's band took three and a half hours to ring Caters on the same bells, and probably would have rung Triples in a quarter of an hour less time. But in older times the bells were rung with two or more men to each of the big bells, and were rung right up. The time given may easily be correct.

Finally, there is the question: Was the peal a true one? That we cannot say, and so far the Norwich claim must stand. But there is a composition which the College Youths might quite well have rung and which, with some hesitation, I am of the opinion they did ring. It is true. At the beginning of his manuscript book now in the British Museum, Benjamin Annable copied out a peal on seven bells which he calls Restoration Triples. It is quite different in style to anything else in the book, and is on a plan which was obsolete before Annable began to ring. Its name shows that it dates from as far back as the reign of Charles II., and Annable, who was nothing if not up to date, would hardly have attached any importance to it unless it had been in some way or other a traditional composition which he had got from the older College Youths.

The plan of the peal is a very simple and effective one. Throughout the bells rung full courses of Plain Bob Triples. There are no bobs or singles, but the courses are joined together in this way: At the first course-end, instead of the bells running round the second and fourth lie still, the others plain hunting. At 243657 and 246375 the second course-end the second and sixth lie still; at the third the second and seventh; and so on, until the fifth course-end where, if the second and third only lay still, the bells would run round. Instead 2,3,5 lie still and a dodge is made. The whole is then repeated three times until at the twentieth course-end 2,3,4,6 lie still. That produces 234675, the first part-end of a three-part peal.

It is the plan of the old Plain Changes. The treble is the whole hunt, the second the half-hunt, the third the quarter-hunt, and the fourth the half-quarter hunt. The second rings Plain Bob Triples undisturbed throughout.

This composition I am very much inclined to believe is the one rung by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's on January 7th, 1690, and if so they have the credit of ringing the first true peal. But no definite conclusion is possible.

243657
246375
264735
267453
276543
275634
257364
253746
235476
235746

BELLS AFTER THE WAR.

UNITED FRONT NEEDED

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent, 'Plain Hunt,' evidently doesn't like plain speaking, but I warn him that this is no time for half-heartedness, smooth words or appeasement. In very many ways this matter can be paralleled with the national situation for which we are at war—definite issues are at stake. The 'enemy' has thrown out a direct challenge or 'declared open war' on the future expansion of the art; in fact, we can say its future security in some places; therefore, we need the necessary material to meet him. Thanks to 'The Ringing World' that this is made possible. When your correspondent says, 'The arguments seem to be leading us nowhere.' If he will look through the report of the Kent County Association meeting at Chislehurst, published in your issue of November 14th, and follow the letter of Mr. F. E. Pitman as well as those of other correspondents besides myself, he will see different—indeed, what is the purpose of his own letter if it is not to stir public opinion?

'Plain Hunt' says 'he believes "Anti-Silent" began this discussion and he ought not to be so annoyed, as he apparently is with those who disagree with him. I will remind your correspondent that we are not dealing with any 'hims,' we are dealing with fundamentals about which there must be universal agreement if the fraternity is to win through this utilitarian ramp and nonsense. It is insufficient to conclude by saying, 'I thank Mr. So and So for bringing this matter to the notice of the Exercise,' and perhaps letting our case rest there; or by an odd association registering regret and disapproval with the founders of this ramp or policy; by an occasional letter to the Press, Members of Parliament or even the Primate; by registering regret from just a campanological point of view. We must fight the 'enemy' in terms that he will best understand, with the 'sword of the spirit,' holding him at bay with the present-day spiritual value of the bells as well as the social, as explained in my previous letters.

The 'enemy' can talk rigid economy, utilitarianism, lack of finance or whatever else he likes—all these are but earthly things or reasons against the erection of further 'wayside pulpits' (as we ringers often call our belfries) in the newly-constructed areas which are bound to spring up after the war. 'Let no man deceive you with vain words; be ye not partakers with them,' we are told. With these words of holy writ ringing in our ears, our case must be for ever kept in the front line. There can be no 'putting up the shutters,' 'no slacking,' 'no appeasement.' Like our brave Russian Allies, we must be for ever bringing the 'enemy' to grips, not only at association meetings, but wherever else he may be found.

There are many among us who are capable of giving a talk or lantern lecture in aid of the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade,

parcels for prisoners of war, relief among those rendered homeless by air raids, the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Police Court Missions, Prisoners' Aid Society and a large number of other funds one could think of. How many among us have thought of bringing the 'enemy' to grips in this way? I say it without fear of contradiction—that *now* is the time. Let it never be said of any one of us that we were 'too late'! In a cause so valuable as the maintenance of and erection of our 'wayside pulpits' and the bringing of many a young man or woman by the fascination of campanology into the Church, there can be no room for 'Quislings'—and this is the true description of these people, whether 'Plain Hunt' likes it or not, either among our own ranks or those of the ecclesiastical authorities. United we stand, divided we fall. Where things are right internally a great work is still being done, despite all the difficulties. Where there is disunity and wrong leadership, where money is put before all else, we can expect to find things go down.

In conclusion, I must say that what is wanted to-day is the spirit of that worthy bulwark who has just passed from our ranks, 'He was no respecter of persons,' we are told, 'and was looked upon by some as a stormy petrel in ringing politics. He was a doughty fighter who could take hard knocks as well as give them, and when he entered a controversy the sparks usually began to fly.' Oh, if there were only more among the Exercise to-day of that type! Are they in the end respected? Yes! as was said of another only a week or two ago, 'the more he opposed me, the more I learned to like him! What better proof do we want? Are not many of those spoken of in the Bible men of this type? I suppose I shall have my opponents tell me—but they never called people 'Quislings'! How often did our Lord say, 'Thou hypocrite'? Perhaps some of my opponents will tell me what is the difference. 'ANTI-SILENT.'

THE LIGHTEST RING OF BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Fairfield Church was pulled down and rebuilt in 1913, and as I was a regular attendant there at that time I was asked by the late Vicar to learn to ring one of these three light bells. The tenor is 3 cwt. 11 lb. Before I could manage one of them I was invited to ring at other churches, and soon I was made hon. secretary and treasurer of the Romney Marsh and District Guild, which office I held for 10 years. I was often asked the weight, so I wrote to the bell foundry.

I cannot tell 'Enquirer' any more about Fairfield Church, but if he cares to find me in Appledore I will take him to Fairfield and help him to have a measure up, but he had better come before we get the heavy rains, as the church is often surrounded with water in the winter and he might want his waders. H. BALCOMB.

High Street, Appledore.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Will 'College Youth,' of Bath, Somerset, who has sent us a letter complaining of our report of the silent Holt's Original rung on November 8th, be kind enough to send us his name, which was omitted from his letter.

We understand that owing to special all-day intercession services in Leatherhead Church to-morrow (Saturday) there will probably be no ringing until after the tea. Mr. A. H. Smith tells us that owing to the absence of the Vicar, he did not know of the arrangement until it was too late to postpone the meeting. After tea all will be clear and there should be a moon.

All correspondence regarding matters concerning the Irish Association should be directed to Mr. F. E. Dukes, the assistant secretary, 23, Skreen Road, Cobra, Dublin, pending the election of a successor to the late Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

In connection with the peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung for the Kent County Association at Crayford last Sunday week, it is interesting to note that the previous peal in the method 'in hand' for the association was called by the late Mr. Alfred Grimes 28 years ago.

The name of Alfred Grimes is not so well known, perhaps, to ringers of to-day, unless their ringing memories go back to the days before the last war. Alf Grimes, for a period, seemed to spend nearly all his time in peal ringing, and is the only man who ever rang 250 peals in the space of two years. This he did between January 1st, 1912, and December 31st, 1913. In the first year he rang 114 and in the second 136.

At the time he was living at Haggerston, London, and rang peals at the week-ends with the Pye band and in the mid-week at Waterloo Road, with lots of handbell peals and odd tower-bell peals sprinkled among the rest, to say nothing of the sundry 'tours' during the autumn. An average of nearly five peals a fortnight kept up over two whole years was an amazing performance.

Lt.-Col. G. F. Jerram, R.M., C.M.G., now of Helston, Cornwall, is a member of the family who were for three generations Vicars of Chobham, Surrey, and played a leading part in the life of the village referred to in our issue of November 7th.

On November 23rd, 1775, the first peal on the famous twelve bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, was rung. The method was Grandsire Cinques.

On the same date in 1732 the City Scholars rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate. It was the longest length in the method at the time.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on November 24th, 1816; and on November 24th, 1843, the Norwich Scholars rang Stedman Caters at St. Andrew's in that city.

A very fine heavy bell feat was performed by Philemon Mainwaring on November 25th, 1737, when he turned the 28 cwt. tenor at West Ham in to 15,120 changes of Bob Major.

The Union Society of Shrewsbury rang 6,006 Grandsire Cinques on the old twelve at St. Chad's on November 25th, 1799, and on November 26th, 1792, they rang 5,040 Bob Major at St. Mary's.

The London Scholars rang 6,204 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on November 27th, 1729.

One hundred and twelve years ago the first peal was rung at St. James', Bermondsey.

William Doubleday Crofts died on November 29th, 1809.

An early peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Wye in Kent on November 30th, 1738.

Fifty years ago to-day 14 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 5, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, and Minor 1.

A LANCASHIRE VETERAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—John Harrison, Ashton's oldest ringer, if spared to the 28th, will attain his 90th birthday. Born at Chelford in 1851, he first learned to pull a bell at Marple, in Cheshire, and scored his first peal at St. Peter's, Ashton, in 1886, and his last at the age of 79 at Mossley in 1930. Since then his longest length was 81 leads of Bob Major on his 81st birthday.

I saw him recently and he feels he could still ring a 500. Mr. Harrison met with an accident and broke several ribs shortly after his 81st birthday. He rang up to the ban on ringing.

I have read with interest (sad though) of the list of lost London churches. Perhaps at some time you may be able to give the dates when the churches with destroyed bells met their fate.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

103, Victoria Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

DEATH OF MR. J. W. SHARP. CAPTAIN OF TOWCESTER BAND.

Ringing in the Towcester district has sustained a loss by the death of Mr. J. W. Sharp, the leader at the Parish Church.

At the funeral, which took place on November 11th, Messrs. C. Johnson, J. Garlick, V. Burt and A. Johnson acted as bearers, and the other ringers present included the Rev. H. S. Vinning and Messrs. E. C. Lambert, G. Mansfield and A. Mansfield. Among the large number of wreaths were one from the Green's Norton ringers and one from the Towcester band. Mr. Sharp had done a lot of teaching in the district and had rung several peals.

VISITORS TO LONDON.

RINGING FACILITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was certainly most encouraging to read the account of the Ancient Society's very successful anniversary meeting, and no doubt many provincial members like myself feel grateful to those who are carrying on the society's affairs so well and are thus more confident of the future of church bell ringing.

The speeches were excellent and constructive, but I felt not a little disturbed at one suggestion made by Mr. Fletcher that an organisation should be set up in London so that a visiting ringer could be sent to a tower where he will get the type of ringing to which he has been used. Now, sir, I submit that this will not do at all; it smacks of 'ringing snobbery' and seems to me to be a blow at individual progress, and if individual progress be hampered then the Exercise in general must suffer.

When I entered my tower to learn to ring the band indulged in nothing but Triples and had such an organisation as suggested by Mr. Fletcher existed in the other districts round about I should never have rung anything but Triples. Similarly it is easy to visualise a six-bell ringer being a six-bell ringer all his life, it being 'the type of ringing to which he has been used.'

The visitor to London's towers generally goes with a specific object in view, be it to get a ring on a certain peal or to practise another method, and, rightly, I think, he looks for a welcome and assistance from the resident ringers.

The organisation suggested would be a dangerous one, it is easy to imagine the result—all the crack ringers enjoying themselves in one tower and all the learners banging about in another.

If a ringer goes to St. Paul's on a practice night I submit that he should be given an opportunity to ring, that is what he has gone for and the officers there should assume he is competent to ring until it is obvious he is not. My experience, in a tower which in the past year or two has attracted hundreds of visitors, has been that with tactful commonsense prevailing the ringing of all methods can be kept at a very decent level and all visitors allowed an opportunity according to and sometimes a little above their capabilities.

I trust nothing will be done in London town to hamper the novice after the war, for we shall be glad of all the recruits we can muster.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

DEATH OF MR. J. MARTIN.

A LIVERPOOL LEADER.

By the death of Mr. James Martin, Liverpool has sustained a very regrettable loss. He died in hospital after a fortnight's illness on November 13th at the age of 75 years. Mr. Martin was born in the village of Muckleton, near Norton-in-Hales, Staffordshire, and there learnt to pull a bell. He went to Liverpool in 1888, then joined the Lancashire Association, and when he died the association lost one of its most able and capable members.

In the years 1919 and 1920 Mr. Martin was vice-president of the Lancashire Association. He was also bell adviser to the Liverpool branch.

For many years Mr. Martin was the mainstay of the ringing at St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, the bells of which have now been destroyed by enemy air raids. Among the many fine achievements in which he took part at Walton was a 5,040 in seven Surprise Minor methods, non-conducted, in 1913.

After the last war Mr. Martin joined St. Nicholas', Liverpool, company, and rang in many notable performances. He was one of the band that rang in peals of Cambridge Surprise Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus in the same tower.

Mr. Martin composed many peals in a variety of methods and also conducted a large number, including a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Nicholas', which was the first by all the band, the first peal of Double Norwich by the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, and the first peal of Superlative Surprise by that branch. The Double Norwich was at Port Sunlight in 1906 and the Superlative at Bebington in 1914. Mr. Martin rang 139 peals for the Lancashire Association and had rung very many for the Chester Diocesan Guild.

In his later years he rang at Christ Church, Bootle, where he and his company made the most of their six bells.

Mr. Martin will be greatly missed. He was an excellent ringer on all numbers of bells, a great teacher and friend to all young ringers, and was always pleased to help them. He was laid to rest in Bootle Cemetery on November 17th, and among the many floral tributes were wreaths from his fellow-ringers at Bootle and his former colleagues of St. Nicholas'. The deepest sympathy is extended to his family in their sad bereavement.

A LIGHT RING AT DUBLIN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter of 'Enquirer' in 'The Ringing World' of October 31st about a light peal of ten in a private house in Dublin, my father tried to find out about them when he first came to Dublin in 1897, but he could find no trace. He even advertised in the newspapers, but with no success.

Whether they ever did exist we do not know.

GEORGE G. LINDOFF.

90, Elford Terrace, Dublin.

THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

A FRIENDSHIP OF OVER FIFTY YEARS.

As a very old friend of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff—our friendship extended well over fifty years—I would like to add a few words to your leading article and other appreciations in your last issue.

As Mr. Coles remarks, Mr. Lindoff was little known to many present-day ringers, but I first met Gabriel Lindoff when he was stationed at Aldershot, serving in the Royal Engineers, in the late eighties of last century. In those days he visited George H. Barnett, of Farnham, Surrey, and through him we rang a peal of Grandsire Triples together at Farnham on November 8th, 1888, with the local band of that time. Those were happy times for ringers visiting Farnham, and they were made so by the welcome always given to them by Mr. Barnett, whose early death was a great blow to the Winchester Guild and to Farnham tower in particular.

Some years elapsed before I again met Gabriel Lindoff, for I migrated to Brighton in 1889, but we never lost touch in correspondence. In 1899 Lindoff and W. H. Barber came to Brighton on holiday. Gabriel was full of his personal charm as described by one of your correspondents. We rang three peals during their short stay, viz., Stedman Triples at Uckfield on one day and Superlative at Havant and Chichester on the following day. I have no doubt our old friend W. H. B. will remember it.

In 1906 we met in Dublin, where we made two unsuccessful attempts for Stedman Caters. This was after visiting Arklow, where we had rung two peals of Double Norwich, J. W. Washbrook coming on with us to finish the week in Dublin. Lindoff had fixed us up with excellent hotel accommodation and joined us as much as possible and showing us the sights of Dublin, not the least interesting of which was the trip over Guinness' Brewery, where Mr. Lindoff was then employed.

Since that date, and especially during the last 20 years, I have met Gabriel Lindoff almost yearly and we have rung many good peals together from Major to Maximus in many counties. He was always the same quiet unassuming friend and counsellor, always willing to give any little tips as to methods and composition. Of our last tour together in Liverpool district in 1939 I have very pleasant recollections, as I think he and I were about the last to 'turn in' at night during the five nights I was in Liverpool. Our last peal together was at Runcorn on the morning of August 26th, after which I wished him 'Good-bye' for the last time. I finish these few lines by quoting his own words to me on the death of my dear wife six years ago, 'Not dead, but gone before.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

HIS HELP TO HELMINGHAM RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was grieved to read of the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff and would like to pay a small tribute to his memory, for his kindness and help to our company at Helmingham during the last few years when we were looking for new methods to ring. He was always kind and obliging and spared no efforts in providing us with what we wanted. Without such men as him we should never have got as far as we have in our Surprise ringing at Helmingham, and I feel that more credit is due to him than to our own efforts in what little progress we made.

I only met him once, just for a handshake, when the ringers' rally was held at Croydon. Although he had expressed his intention of coming to Helmingham for a peal with us on some future occasion, unfortunately the war prevented the fulfilment of this wish, much to the regret of us all. We shall always feel grateful to his memory and feel that the world is a better place for his passing through it and leaving his mark.

T. W. LAST.

EVER WILLING TO HELP.

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret I read of the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff. Although it had only been my privilege to know him for a short time—just over six years to be exact—I realise the Exercise has lost a great ringer and friend.

He was one of the men of whom few are to be found, for he was ever willing to help the beginner, whether it was in method ringing or composing or conducting. I am sure the heart of the Exercise goes out to those who mourn his death.

E. W. PYE.

THE LATE T. J. ELTON.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL.

Before evensong on Sunday, November 23rd, a short but impressive ceremony was conducted by the Vicar of Walsall (the Rev. Preb. H. J. Carpenter) in the belfry of St. Matthew's Church, when he dedicated a peal tablet to the memory of Mr. T. J. Elton, for 38 years a ringer and chorister at St. Matthew's.

The dedication took place in the presence of a representative gathering of ringers from the Archdeaconry of Stafford, relatives and friends.

Between the two services a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells in slow time by the following: J. S. Eastwood 1-2, H. Knight 3-4, F. Brotherton 5-6, G. E. Oliver 7-8.

The Vicar referred to Mr. Elton's work in the belfry and choir and to the death on active service of his son, Mr. S. Elton, who was a ringer at St. Matthew's before moving to Guildford.

The tablet of bronze with white lettering records a half-muffled peal of Stedman Cinques.

ALBERT GEORGE DRIVER.

SOME OF HIS WORK, AS REMEMBERED BY 'MINORMANIA.'

I suppose that the Leytonstone band had more to do with the introduction of Bert Driver's work to the Exercise than any others, although others went much farther with it eventually. He often used to say to me, in later years, that he wondered just how much of it would have been known but for the lucky chance of his letter to my old friend, George Dawson, hon. secretary of the Leytonstone band, and to George's good-humoured laziness. Since it was my personal good fortune to enter very fully into Driver's earlier work, perhaps I may be allowed to add to those tributes so justly paid to this great and gentle man. It is a long while ago, I write mainly from memory, and beg to be excused any mistakes of fact; but it goes something like this.

A dozen or so years ago, Dawson wrote to 'The Ringing World' about an eleven-surprise 720 supposed to have been rung elsewhere, and he received from Driver a diffident, retiring sort of letter, agreeing that the 720 was not possible, but *not* for the reason Dawson gave. Enclosed were some figures, showing a lead of a method with red ink lines ruled amongst them. Next practice night George tossed this letter over to me, saying, '... Here, you've let me in for something; now jolly well get me out of it. ...'

We were to cut along the red lines, insert this for that, and, behold, where Carlisle Surprise had been we now found Cuneastre. This was typical of the man—simple visual examples, no matter how much trouble. Thus we rang the first 720 which spliced methods with different 'starts.' He had offered more new types, for which I begged, and back came his 'masterpiece,' as he liked to call it, and of which he was very proud—justly so. It was so much wholly his own, and so very ingenious that I make no apology for offering a short description of it.

The five leads of the plain course of Cambridge Minor, when cut in halves where the treble lies behind, give ten half-leads, which can be so rejoined that a plain course of Ipswich results (the well-known splice by courses). But if the top halves of this lead and that be joined to the bottom halves of so and so, we have two complete leads each of Cambridge and Ipswich, leaving two halves which *cannot be joined at mid-lead*. This 'unjoinable' pair, if joined, would cause the fourth bell to pivot (or make the place) at mid-lead, instead of the 3rd (as Cambridge) or the 5th (as Ipswich), and Bourne Surprise is a 4th pivoting method. Moreover, the diagram of the 4th bell, both in Bourne and the unjoinable, is the same, and the nature of the rows is alike in each. Thus six complementary leads of Bourne produce the same rows as six of the unjoinables, and we rang the first 720 on the composite-course plan, as well as many other types also.

Meantime, with the object of saving Driver trouble, I suggested that he looked up an article of mine on Minor splicing, so that he might judge how little visual example was necessary. This he did, and (as he put it), 'to his horror,' he found there one or two examples which were not in his tables (London-Cuneastre was one, I think). He would start all over again, he said, and explore *every* avenue this time! I asked to join him, and he gladly agreed. Thus began a correspondence of some years, pleasant to both I hope, and extremely interesting and instructive to myself. I shall always be grateful for the opportunity.

The field was a large one—the correspondence voluminous. Our letters travelled both ways—what we wrote came back again with marginal reply if possible, or the point carried forward to another letter, carefully referenced. Any data to be retained was copied off, to save the other trouble. One point—one paragraph, with its reference number. One or two letters each week; flimsy foolscap paper to save the (double) weight. Hundreds of sheets, and every single one well worth while. I kept very little of his—they all travelled back to him, but I did gain knowledge. My part was to check, criticise and suggest (he called my suggestions '... flashes in the pan, which often set the house afire ...'). His part to create, and produce in true mass-production style.

We tackled the Treble Bob methods first. The book was ignored (as some methods were missing from the edition he had), and every possible method was produced by formulæ and section-diagrams (I still have these and the tables of elimination). Step by step *the diagrams* (not the figures) were analysed, sorted and sifted, for all combinations of lead, 3-lead, 6-lead, course, composite-course, and mixed-place splicers (I wish I could show how scientifically he tackled this job). Complete tables resulted, showing those methods which would splice with which, in all sorts of ways. I say 'complete,' but it is typical that he would not bother with the one or two odd ones which 'ought' to go, the splice being there but the composition not. It was the principle which fascinated him, the others were not worth the trouble. So thoroughly and carefully had we worked that I wanted to say 'completion!' but he would not admit of it, and some years later he enjoyed his 'I told you so' when Kenneth Lewis came along with (at least) one type which had been missed. It was the same with his six-surprise 720. We thought that his and I. W. Parker's were the only two, but he said 'Caution!' Sure enough Albert Relfe produced the third.

Combinations of key-compositions were produced, useful and useless—they must all be there to satisfy him. To please me, the practical

ringer, he analysed (again) *the diagrams*, step by step, to produce complete tables of methods with like work 'above' the treble, and with like work 'below' the treble, showing, say, all methods with 'Cambridge work above'; and all, say, with 'London work below.' No wonder that, at one time, I could ring scores of Treble Bob methods without looking them up. Then we gave mass-production a miss for a while, and (for relaxation!) discussed plans for compositions, q-sets, 65's and what not.

The way he proved his extents is typical. I was conscientious in my checking, and once caught him napping with a dud 720 (a 'rush job'). He asked me what system I used, and chaffed me no end when I told him. He used a proof-scale of six columns, the first being 30 lead-heads, divided into six P. rings (i.e., plain courses), pricked from the three normal part-ends, and also from the three first-wrong-bobs in each part. These rows he called the 'heads,' the other five columns the 'tails.' Col. 2 were the thirty handstrokes, obtained from Col. 1 by transposing by handstroke 124365. Columns 3, 4, 5, 6 were the rows of Col. 1 transposed by 132546, 146253, 153624 and 165432 respectively—each transposition 'in line' with its mate in Col. 1. The lead ends of a 720 could then be marked with the P. ring number (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6), and, naturally, no line across the proof-scale could be visited twice. If line 1 of Col. 1 was used, line 1 of all other columns must be avoided, and so on. So that, no matter what 'handstroke' the method brought in as a 'lead-end,' and no matter which way 'up' the leads were, there was no fear of repetition. Moreover, no matter where (in the 720) they came, each lead was identified with its P. ring by the number, so useful when substituting one method for another from the tables.

For certain reasons I had to leave him to do the plain methods alone. He would not touch Major until he had exhausted the Minor problems, and it was not until some long time afterwards that we re-started, on what was to be our last real job of work together—the re-shaping of my system of Major proof, the version of which is the one (I suspect) mentioned lately by Mr. Alan Pink. Here I enjoyed some little 'start,' as he had practically never looked at Major at all; but he soon left me behind, because I was forced to his points of view by unshakable logic. While he was a non-ringer, I think that it is not true to suggest that he could not handle a bell. I seem to remember that we persuaded him to ring the tenor behind when he came to Leytonstone to see us ring his masterpiece. But he was a 'non-ringer,' and, although he mellowed later on, at that time he was intolerant of the illogical practices to which the 'practical' ringer is so prone. His unfailing good humour alone saved many a squabble, when I fought for the practical view, against his entirely new angle of approach. For instance, at one time we toyed with the idea of publishing our (joint) system of proof. I wanted to show the ideas 'practically,' but he refused to allow them to be 'twisted about'—for example, years in the belfry had ingrained in me the coursing order of 2468753—I had *seen* the bells come down like that, the 8 before the 7, and so on. But Driver insisted that, since proof was based solely on the position of the tenors 7-8 (7-8 mark you, not 8-7), why reverse them and all the other coursing pairs, seven of them, just to keep coursing order 'practical': everybody wants the tenors right, so keep them all the right way, and also, as 7-8 are the pivot of all proof, show the coursing order thus, 7864235. This was one of many points, and the upshot was that I went over to him lock, stock and barrel, and put the combined system into type. One copy went to Driver (I hope 'young Teddy' finds it), one I kept, and one travelled about—it is now in Lincolnshire, I believe.

I am very glad to know that 'young Teddy' is to have Driver's MSS., as I know that Driver thought a lot of him, but it will be a heavy responsibility if Driver kept a tithe of what I saw—MS., diagrams, formulæ, card indexed methods, proof scales, compositions and what not. I know that one of Driver's first major-jobs was to produce all of the hand-back Surprise methods and record them (in formulæ, of course). I can only remember one job against which he violently shied. I tried to persuade him to produce a 'zero' proof-scale, against which the proof of any method could be clamped—a colossal job, even if possible. I have often wondered whether he gave this '... flash in the pan ...' any more thought. He was quite capable of it!

One final word. He was a tram driver only by force of circumstance. John Cross, of Hornchurch, accompanied me on a visit to Driver, one Saturday afternoon, to see a Woodhouse ringing machine, and I spent an unusually silent afternoon (for me) listening to the two engineers deep in constructive technicalities. Driver was extremely unlucky, and even in his hobby was inclined to be overlooked. The Central Council did him the honour (!) to appoint him *assistant* demonstrator of the Carter ringing machine, and I well remember how he looked forward to this opportunity, only to be bitterly disappointed by the restrictions. It is typical of the Council that no other use was found for his undoubted genius, which, if employed, would have ranked high with the best—if *it must have been known to many members*. I suppose that kissing goes by favour, and Driver never sought favour. As a teacher (and potential writer of text books) he was supreme, and that goes for *all of those* I have read 'high regard though I have for the names of Jasper Snowden, J. A. Trollope and other writers.

Well—God rest his soul. The Exercise has lost a great campanologist, and I have lost a great friend.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEEDED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—World events have reached such an important stage that the question of the future of bellringing as we know it may seem unimportant at the present time, yet I would venture to suggest that now is the time to inaugurate a sound constructive policy in preparation for the day of victory which will surely come.

What is being done in the meantime? Actually very little, if we are honest with ourselves and review the matter carefully. District and other meetings have been held in all parts of the country by the stalwarts of campanology (I like the word) under extremely adverse conditions, some excellent articles have appeared in 'The Ringing World,' discussions have taken place, but little has been done of a constructive nature in preparation for the events of to-morrow.

It is difficult at the present time to estimate the work of those two outstanding men, J. S. Goldsmith and J. A. Trollope, but I have no doubt whatever that their efforts will go down in history as one of the most outstanding events of the Exercise. It would be foolish to presume that after the cessation of hostilities ringing will follow in the footsteps of 1939 and that all we have to do is to enter the belfry and all will be well.

Drastic changes will take place, the extent of which we cannot foresee, and it is worth noticing that business associations have recognised this and are making preparation accordingly. Can we do the same?

Yes, I think we can. A national association should be formed immediately to contain all societies in one body, casting aside, for the future of the Exercise, all association with the past. This may seem rather drastic to some members, but on reflection the issues at stake could not be successfully dealt with by the disjointed machinery we have at the present time.

I suggest that a full-time secretary be appointed and an executive body be elected to represent the Exercise.

I visualise that from this would emerge a body powerful enough to carry through the great work which would be thrust upon them in the time to come.

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Another very pleasant and successful meeting was held last Saturday at the Whitechapel Foundry by the College Youths. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. H. Miles, Mr. G. Price, Mr. H. R. Newton and others. Mr. J. Shepherd turned up from Swindon, Mr. C. H. Kippin from Beddington and Mr. G. M. Kilby from Ruislip.

Warrant Mechanician C. F. Guy, of H.M.S. 'Victorious,' wrote congratulating the society and its officers on the work they are doing to keep the old order in existence and expressing his good wishes for the future. He was sorry he could not be at the annual lunch as he had intended.

Mr. William Keeble also wrote giving his best wishes and congratulations.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, who had been nominated at the luncheon, was duly elected a member, as were Mr. Cecil C. Mayne, of Harrow, and Mr. Christopher P. Heath, Penarth, Glamorgan.

The loss sustained to the Exercise by the deaths of Mr. William Willson and Mr. Gabriel Lindoff was mentioned, and the members stood in silence as a tribute to their memory.

All were pleased to hear from the Master that his son, who has been serving in the 'Ark Royal,' is safe.

The fine collection of ringing books given to the society by Mr. Ernest Morris was on view, and his generosity was much appreciated.

After the business meeting there was some handbell ringing, and, among other things, courses of London Surprise Major and Double Norwich were rung.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The two letters by Mr. Murrell and Mr. Deal are most valuable and sensible contributions to the very difficult question of the London City churches and their future.

Mr. Deal has a knowledge and understanding of these buildings which is truly admirable, but I hope he will not mind my disagreeing with him about St. Mary, Aldermay. That church still stands, but if it had been destroyed we could have spared it far better than some that have gone. To my mind, it is chiefly interesting as showing how far Wren was out of his element when he tried to build in the Gothic style. It has an elaborate ceiling which looks like a Gothic vault and is quite effective, but is in plaster: and the tall tower with its rigid vertical lines is a poor affair compared to scores of really Gothic steeples. It is said that the parishioners insisted that Wren should copy as nearly as possible their old tower. I do not think it would be much good as a bell tower.

I should be sorry to see it pulled down, for it is a familiar landmark in the City of London, but how much better it would have been if St. Dunstan's-in-the-East spire, or St. Magnus', London Bridge, stood in that prominent position.

'X.'

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

HOW THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your reference to St. Paul's Cathedral bells and the fine photograph of the north-west tower have brought back happy memories of the time I spent in London and of the kindly welcome I received, even to the extent of being allowed to ring the 62 cwt. tenor, from the Ancient Society of College Youths. I am appending a copy of the report of the first meeting held in connection with the St. Paul's Cathedral bell scheme, which appeared in 'Church Bells' of November 6th, 1875. This report will probably be of interest to your readers, especially as it refers to rings of bells described as excellent, but which, during the past few years, have been replaced by something better—at least according to most ringers' judgment.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

A. S. ROBERTS.

APPEAL BY THE LORD MAYOR.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the Mansion House in inauguration of a fund for the furnishing of St. Paul's Cathedral with a ring of bells and chimes for striking the quarter-hours. The Lord Mayor took the chair, and was supported by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Rev. Canon Gregory, Sir E. Beckett Denison, Q.C., Mr. Philip Cazenove, Dr. Stainer, Mr. F. C. Penrose, the Rev. J. Erskine Clarke, Vicar of Battersea, and others.

The Lord Mayor, in opening the proceedings, remarked that it had always struck him as a curious anomaly that while many of the larger City churches, such as Bow Church, Cripplegate Church, St. Botolph's Bishopsgate, St. Sepulchre's, St. Bride's, and St. Dunstan's, had excellent rings of bells, the largest Cathedral in this country—St. Paul's—had but one bell. He had heard it stated that the citizens and those at work in the City would be distracted in their occupation by the sound of church bells, but he really believed very few people were of that opinion. He had been especially struck with the want of a ring of bells for St. Paul's when recently he escorted the foreign and provincial mayors and magistrates to divine service in that Cathedral. Instead of the beautiful chimes and carillons which they listened to abroad with so much interest, they only heard one solitary, dismal bell. He trusted that the wealthy citizens of London would take this matter into their consideration. The steeples were ready to receive the bells, and it only required a comparatively small sum of money to give St. Paul's a ring of bells and chimes which many provincial and enterprising towns had readily contributed for their own parish churches.

The Dean of St. Paul's said the want of a ring of bells for the Cathedral had struck almost everybody. St. Paul's was unique in its architecture; in its name it was unique among cathedrals; and unique also in this, that there was no church of its rank on this side of the Alps which was so deficient in bells. On Thanksgiving Day the City was gaily decked, and the Cathedral was full within and without, but excepting the cheers of the populace there was no music to greet Her Majesty on her approach to the Cathedral until she entered the western door, when the organ spoke both wisely and well. To all intents and purposes the fabric of St. Paul's was dumb on that occasion. He thought it was their duty to bring the matter before the citizens of London, and he believed they had only to mention their need to have it supplied. St. Paul's only desired to be put upon an equality with Worcester Cathedral, which had a splendid new ring.

ST. PAUL'S DESTITUTE OF BELLS.

Sir E. Beckett Denison, Q.C. (later Lord Grimthorpe), in moving that it was desirable that a ring of bells should be supplied to St. Paul's Cathedral and, in addition, a set of chimes, contended that while so many of the large towns of the kingdom were providing—some of them even out of the rates—beautiful rings of bells for their parish churches, it was hardly creditable to the residents in London that St. Paul's Cathedral was to this moment absolutely destitute in that respect. He cited, as instances, Bradford, Rochdale, Manchester, Doncaster, Exeter and Worcester, describing the ring in the latter Cathedral as the finest in England. He combated the impression that bells for churches could be founded better abroad than in this country.

Mr. P. Cazenove seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Dr. Stainer, organist of St. Paul's, who entered into some details, suggested that they should have first a good English ring of bells, which would cost about £3,500 and with chiming apparatus £500 additional, and next, if money were forthcoming, that they could have a ring of Belgian bells with chimes, at a further cost of between £3,000 and £4,000 more. The projects, however, were entirely separate; and for himself he should be glad, in the first place, to get the rings without the chimes.

The Rev. J. Erskine Clarke moved that Dr. Stainer's proposal for a ring of bells and the arrangements of chimes be generally approved and suggested that the ringing societies of London—the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Royal Cumberlands, the Waterloo Society—should be interested in the proposal, as he had great faith in the enthusiasm of ringers, whether rich men or poor men. This was seconded by Mr. Penrose, surveyor to St. Paul's Cathedral, who stated that the steeples and belfries were admirably suited for the proposed purpose; and it was adopted.

Canon Gregory moved that a committee be at once formed to promote the work and to collect subscriptions, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for presiding.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 562.)

Thomas Sibson succeeded John Martin as composer and conductor to the Leicester Scholars.

He strove hard to produce short musical touches, and the 1,133 given here is interesting because it shows the modern short-course plan quite clearly coming into favour. Other touches given in his

book reveal mild efforts to use other positions besides the Tittums, but these bits of work are quite undistinguished.

So the 18th century drew to its close. It was an interesting era, in which experiment led to convention and convention to revolt. In literature, form and style were predominant. Bach and Handel established the shape and style of the Oratorio. Haydn completed the creation of symphonic form and gave the orchestra a life and importance of its

own. In social life there was much wit and much artificiality, much loose living and much rigid conforming to convention. Towards the end of the century these things were giving way to new forces. The classical rigidity of Pope was broken by the romanticism of Blake, Wordsworth and Coleridge. The young Beethoven was looming up to take the symphonic form of Haydn and make it the vehicle for the expression of intense human emotion. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were heralding a return to a more primitive life; and the century ended with the dreadful volcanic uproar of the French Revolution.

In such an age large things and small followed the general trend, and change ringing was no exception. Cater ringing was, as has been shown, almost entirely in the Tittums, and the conventional long-course plan was for the most part adhered to. The use of the Single was not merely prohibited; it was not mentioned or even considered in any way necessary. Annable's views on Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples show that the Single was regarded as a rather disreputable ally, and one to exploit only when peals could not be obtained without its aid. Its possibilities were known even as far back as the beginning of the century, for 'Campanalogia Improved' (1702), when introducing Grandsire Caters, remarks:—

'By making of bobs it will go to 181440, and then by making a Triple Change, it will double the Peal to 362880.' The 'Clavis,' too, demonstrates to its own satisfaction the impossibility of bringing Triples and Cinques round at hand: 'If we could obtain a single change . . . it would be full as easy to obtain a triple or quintuple change . . . but the system of odd numbers is so inimical to the nature of the thigg, as renders it totally impossible.'

The theory of odd and even rows, therefore, was well understood; it was seen quite clearly what a Single could do; and yet so remote was the thought of employing it that the 'Clavis' suggests the augmentation of a perfectly good Tittum, 6,660 to 12,312, by running the whole of the second half in the plain course position!

This ostracism of what is now a perfectly legitimate call is not easy to understand. It may be that the old

prejudice of Annable's day was as strong as ever; it may be that Treble Bob, about which there was so much excitement at this time, needed no such call. The fact remains that no composer would sell his soul to His Satanic Majesty the Single in return for an enrichment of his music.

Shipway, in his 'Art of Ringing,' 1816, was the first to champion the cause of the Single. His views are given quite clearly in Part 2 (page 3): 'Some ringers have thought that singles should not be used unless the object cannot otherwise be attained: but I differ in opinion; as they not only afford a pleasant variety but also an opportunity of introducing a greater number of musical changes.' In Part 3 (page 66) he explains the conventional long-course plan and then adds: 'Thus, by means of the five bob bells, the peal may be extended to upwards of 6,000 changes; and with two singles, any true number may be doubled, if called the same after as before the first single, without any danger of its becoming false, except by the operation of the bobs, as before explained, which turning the backstroke changes to the hand, should be observed.'

He demonstrates his point by the touch given here, which seems to be the earliest recorded touch in which singles are used.

The argument is clinched by the publication of a 5,147, a peal with four singles.

Of this composition Shipway remarks: 'The first of the following peals is round at hand on the foregoing plan in which (whilst in the tittum position) the 5th and 6th are the only bells behind the 9th, being their extent in both courses. This is, probably, the first peal ever composed with only two

bells behind the 9th, which alone sufficiently proves the utility of singles.'

Another departure from the old order is revealed in the peal by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, published in Shipway.

Here a bell is fixed *in front of the 7th* for twelve courses at a time, a plan impossible under the old long-course system. The short-course plan has here been definitely adopted, and the new sixth's place bell is put into position by an 89. This splendid peal contains sixty 89's and sixty 978's.

	5,003.	
23456789		Thrice repeated, calling the first course 8-3, produces:—
42356978	1.4	23564978
34256	9-3	
23456	9-2	32564879
43652	89	52463
63254	89	42365
26354	9-3	34265
32654	9-3	34265
62453	89	34265
46253	9-3	8-3
24653	9-3	
64352	89	
36452	9-3	

Henry Cooper.

This peal composition, by Henry Cooper, of Birmingham, is dated 1816, and is very interesting. For the first

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. **NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th. Bells (8, clapperless, tower) or handbells available after tea. Service 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.15, followed by business meeting. Everybody is welcome.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopgate, on Saturday, Nov. 29th. Handbells in the Parish Room adjoining from 3 p.m. Short service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Bring your own sugar. Business and more handbell ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at the Woodbarners Cafe, Ap'ley End, on Saturday, November 29th, at 4 p.m. Handbells will be available. I shall try to arrange for tea to be available.—W. Ayre.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when the accounts and balance sheet for 1941 will be presented. Service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m. Tea (free) at 4.45 in the Parish Room. All those requiring tea must let Mr. E. J. Ludd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, De-

GRANDSIRE CATERS

(Continued from previous page.)

time a composer incorporates a block of changes in the Handstroke Home position.

Both Tebbs' peal and Cooper's peal will strike the observer by reason of the modernity of the plans. Away back in the 1890's, Mr. J. A. Trollope, in an article on 'Variation,' drew attention to the debt owing to the early composers, and pointed out how little fresh material has been provided in the standard methods. The plans of the pioneers have been taken, used, and adapted, and credit has not always been given to the giants of old for all their weary labours. A study of old compositions reveals in startling fashion how much these old stalwarts knew, and how up to date they were in so much of their work. It is right that their knowledge should be put to good use in the light of modern ideas, but the debt should be freely acknowledged.

(To be continued.)

ember 3rd. Eight silent bells will be available. There are a few more subscriptions owing, which the hon. district secretary would be glad to receive before the meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Pad-dock Wood.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock for those who notify me by Wednesday, December 3rd. Business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, December 6th. Bells available for 'silent' practice 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting after.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than December 9th. All members and ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James'). The business will include the election of officers for the ensuing year, presentation of annual accounts and 'Shall the Branch continue to hold its monthly meetings?' Handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, hon. secretary of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, is now Listoke, 1, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13.

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