



THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,745. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper]

Price 3d.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

TECHNICAL TERMS.

One of the questions which is frequently discussed among ringers is the correctness of the technical terms and expressions used either in explanation of the theory and science of change ringing or in actual practice in the belfry. To many men some of these terms seem wrong and misleading, and from time to time someone will suggest an alteration.

We have an example of this in a letter just received from a man well known in the Exercise, who objects to the use of the words 'up' and 'down' when applied to hunting. Why up and down? he asks, and others have asked the same question before him. The treble, they say, is the highest note in the peal, and therefore it surely is absurd to talk of it occupying the lowest position in rounds. It is a nice point upon which we do not venture to give judgment.

Perhaps some readers may think that discussions on such subjects as this are only the splitting of straws and a waste of time, but that is a wrong view to take. Technical terms we must have, and it is most essential that they should mean what they say and should convey a definite idea from the man who uses them to the man who hears them. It was the recognition of this need which made Sir Arthur Heywood and the early Central Council anxious to publish an official glossary of ringing terms, and led Henry Earle Bulwer to devote much time and ability to its preparation. The book, when it appeared, was quite an excellent one, but it did not have the effect its sponsors anticipated, because they (like most people) overlooked one important truth about words. People as a rule think (if they think about the matter at all) that every word has its own proper meaning, and to find out what it is all that is necessary is to turn to a dictionary or glossary. That is not so. Every word has, of course, a general meaning, else it would not be a word but only an inarticulate sound. It is the way in which it is used that gives it its precise meaning and enables it to convey a distinct idea from one man to another.

It does not matter very much whether the terms we use in the belfry or in explanation of the science of change ringing are etymologically correct, or in accordance with their ordinary dictionary definitions. It does matter whether they express a definite idea and convey it distinctly and unambiguously from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer. And whether they can do that depends, in no small degree, on how they are used and how they are heard.

(Continued on page 362.)

How we got our ringing 'terms' was in some measure explained in a recent article on an early text book, the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanologia.' They were ordinary English words in everyday use taken to express new ideas in connection with a new science and art, and they did express them because the men who used the words had a clear idea of what they wanted to convey, and made sure that their hearers understood it. As the art and science grew and developed, it was inevitable that the meanings attached to the terms and expressions should develop too, and if, in course of time, these words lost sight of their origin and their meaning in ordinary language, that was no matter, for it is essential that a technical term, when used as a technical term, should have no other meaning than what belongs to its own art or science.

The Exercise has reason to congratulate itself that it has been able to acquire a vocabulary of plain and simple technical terms which are quite adequate to express fully not only what goes on in the belfry, but also the most abstruse points in the science of composition. We have been more fortunate than some other people and have been spared the necessity for long exotic words of Greek or Latin origin. Ringers, for instance, are not responsible for such things as 'campanology' and 'campanile.' They can get on very well with 'bellringing' and 'bell tower.'

Our technical terms are quite adequate, not only for ordinary use in the belfry, but in explanation of any point that may arise in connection with the art or the science, whether it be elementary or advanced, provided the speaker and the hearer do their part and use them as they should be used.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

MEETING AT HARMONDSWORTH.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at Harmondsworth on August 12th, was attended by over 40 members and friends, who came from Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's), Cranford, Croydon (St. John's), Ealing (St. Mary's, Christ Church and St. Stephen's), Feltham, Great Barford, Beds, Harmondsworth, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Madeley, Staffs, Pinner, Ruislip, Stanmore, Staines (St. Peter's), Uxbridge and Westminster (St. Stephen's). The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor and rounds. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Ross. The death was announced of Mr. W. J. W. Davey, of Hillingdon, killed in action in Normandy. Messrs. Albert Round and Peter Newton, of Harmondsworth, and P. J. Woodger, of Cranford, were elected members.

The secretary announced that in connection with the 700th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's, Acton, the Rector had invited the association's co-operation, and a general meeting of the association had been arranged for September 16th. It was decided to hold the next district meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, on October 7th.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

A quarterly meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Stratton on August 12th, towers represented being Dorchester St. Peter's, Maiden Newton, Bradford Peverell, Stratton, Fordington St. George, Wyke Regis, Upwey, Frampton, Wool and Sydling.

At the service the address was given by the Rector, the Rev. A. F. Godley, and Canon A. Wilkinson Markby read the lesson. Mr. J. E. Brown was at the organ.

Tea was served on the rectory lawns. At the business meeting the chairman, Canon A. W. Markby, referred to the illness of Mr. J. T. Godwin and wished him a speedy recovery.

Several new members were elected, and Upwey was selected as the place of a meeting on September 9th.

During the afternoon and evening there was ringing at Stratton, Bradford Peverell and Frampton, and changes and hymn tunes on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN AUSTIN.

We much regret to say that last Monday we received a telegram announcing the death of Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester. He had been active until the end and no later than August 7th rang the third to a peal of Stedman Caters at Stroud.

Mr. Austin, who was in his 81st year, was born at Burton-on-Trent on November 19th, 1863, and at the age of 20 was invited to take up ringing at Winshill, near his home. He soon became very interested in the art, and later made the acquaintance of John Jagger, who was doing a lot of useful work among young ringers. On December 5th, 1885, Mr. Jagger conducted Mr. Austin's first peal—Grandsire Triples at St. Paul's, Burton, and, soon afterwards, Mr. Austin joined the St. Paul's company.

It was at the time the Burton men were beginning to make history and to break new ground in Surprise ringing. So quickly did Mr. Austin develop as a ringer that in May, 1886, he took part in the first



MR. JOHN AUSTIN.

peal of New Cumberland Surprise, and quickly followed this with peals of Stedman, Treble Bob, Superlative, Cambridge, and London. On November 8th, 1888, he rang in the 6,720 of London Surprise at Burton, conducted by Mr. Joseph Griffin. At that time it was the record length in the method. In this same year, too, Mr. Austin rang his first peal as conductor, calling Holt's Original.

In November, 1890, Mr. Austin went to live in Gloucester and joined the band at St. Michael's, which included the brothers Henry Law and E. Bankes James. They were at the time practising Double Norwich Major, and on Christmas morning rang the first peal of it for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

In 1893 Mr. Austin conducted the first peals of Superlative Surprise, Double Oxford Bob Major and Grandsire Cinques for the association, and, in the following year, the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major and Double

Norwich Court Bob Caters. In the Diamond Jubilee year, 1897, came the first peals of Bob Royal, Bob Maximus, Gloucester Surprise Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. The Double Norwich Caters and the Gloucester Surprise Major were the first accomplished by any band.

It was this band which really gave the first impetus to Surprise Royal ringing. On January 21st, 1898, Mr. Austin called a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Cheltenham. At the time it was believed to be the first ever rung, but later it was discovered that 80 years or so before a peal had been rung in Yorkshire. But the Cheltenham peal was the start of modern Surprise Royal ringing.

Afterwards Cambridge Surprise Maximus was practised, and, we believe, Mr. Austin was the first ever to call a bob in Surprise Maximus. On three occasions the band met for a peal at Cirencester, and at the last attempt rang nearly two courses.

The year 1898 was a very successful one, for it saw the first peals on the augmented ring of ten at St. Michael's and a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal at Hereford Cathedral, the latter a formidable task, for ringing takes place among the great old timber beams amid deafening noise.

St. Michael's Juniors later fell on quiet days, and the band became much depleted, but Mr. Austin kept up his peal ringing activities. Altogether he rang about 550 peals, of which he conducted over 300.

He was Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association from 1916 to 1918, and served for a number of years as Gloucester branch secretary of the association. He represented the association on the Central Council from 1908 to 1920, and from 1932 until his death.

MARHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: V. Bowen 1, F. Price 2, F. Matthews jun. 3, E. Barker 4, A. Mason (conductor) 5, R. Price 6.—On Sunday, August 20th, 720 Bob Minor: V. Bowen 1, W. Buckenham 2, H. Porter 3, F. Matthews, sen. 4, R. Price (first 720 as conductor) 5, E. Barker 6.

BURBAGE, BUXTON.—1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *D. Holmes 1, J. Puppelt (conductor) 2, *H. Kirk 3, *J. Bagshaw 4, J. Marriot 5, *I. Smith 6. * First quarter-peal.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PERCY L. HARRISON Treble | HAROLD G. JENNEY 6 |
| ALFRED H. PULLING 2 | SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7 |
| MRS. H. J. POOLE 3 | WILLIAM J. ROOT 8 |
| HARRY WAYNE 4 | ERNEST MORRIS 9 |
| SHIRLEY BURTON 5 | HAROLD J. POOLE... .. Tenor |

Composed by W. PYE.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung for the liberation of Paris.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LECKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| JOAN HOULDSWORTH Treble | † E. S. JOHN HATCHER... .. 5 |
| MARGARET D. TELFORD 2 | REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 6 |
| * ALAN WHITE 3 | JOHN E. SPICE 7 |
| † VERNON J. BENNING... .. 4 | REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG Tenor |

Composed by W. SOTTENSTALL.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob on an inside bell. † First peal of Treble Bob. The first peal of Treble Bob on tower bells for the association.

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| VERNON J. BENNING .. Treble | JOHN E. SPICE 5 |
| * † BETTY SPICE 2 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 6 |
| MARIE R. CROSS 3 | REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 7 |
| * ALAN WHITE 4 | REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG Tenor |

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Surprise. † 50th peal. The first peal of Surprise as conductor and for the association.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 25, 1944, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 13¾ cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| EVEREST FORD Treble | * BRYAN STAVELEY 5 |
| ALBERT GREENHALGH... .. 2 | PETER CROOK 6 |
| LAURENCE WOOD... .. 3 | THOMAS W. SMITH 7 |
| HARRY S. COOPER 4 | RICHARD W. MOSLEY Tenor |

Conducted by THOMAS W. SMITH.

* First peal. First peal in the method as conductor. Rung for the 74th anniversary of the consecration of the church. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 5th.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CECIL G. CALUXTY Treble | † WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 5 |
| * NEIL ALLNATT 2 | REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 6 |
| EDWIN A. BARNETT 3 | W. BERTRAM KYNASTON 7 |
| CHARLES J. GARDNER 4 | WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor |

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method away from the treble. The conductor's 250th tower bell peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HALLATON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 six-scores Plain Bob and 30 six-scores Grandsire.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| RONALD RUSSELL Treble | * WILLIAM R. HAMMONS 4 |
| PERCY AMOS 2 | A. NORMAN GEARY 5 |
| J. GEOFFREY GEARY 3 | JOSEPH NORTON Tenor |

Conducted by J. GEOFFREY GEARY.

* First peal.

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob called differently.

Tenor 10 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * MISS MADGE GREWCOCK ... Treble | WILLIAM A. WOOD 4 |
| CHARLES W. BROWN... .. 2 | EDGAR VALLENCE 5 |
| † CYRIL ISON... .. 3 | † FRANK TROTMAN Tenor |

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods.

GREAT WELDON, NORTHANTS.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight six-scores Canterbury Pleasure, eight six-scores Plain Bob and 26 six-scores Grandsire.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| JOSEPH J. BAILEY Treble | WILLIAM R. HAMMONS 4 |
| PERCY AMOS... .. 2 | RONALD RUSSELL 5 |
| J. GEOFFREY GEARY 3 | ERIC W. CHAMBERS Tenor |

Conducted by J. GEOFFREY GEARY.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being five 120's of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, thirty-five of Grandsire (10 callings) and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| JOHN D. ROCK Treble | LAURENCE T. MAINWARING 4 |
| RONALD H. MEWIES... .. 2 | LESLIE EVANS 5 |
| * FREDERICK R. HARRIS ... 3 | E. PETER ROCK Tenor |

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal inside. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| JOHN E. SPICE Treble | JAMES S. WEBB 4 |
| BETTY SPICE... .. 2 | WALTER H. DOBBIE 5 |
| ARTHUR S. BOAR... .. 3 | GEORGE KENWARD Tenor |

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The conductor's 50th peal on tower bells and 100th as conductor. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

BINFELD, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Single Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CECIL W. BAILEY Treble | ARTHUR J. N. RANCE 4 |
| A. JOHN RANCE 2 | FRANK H. HICKS... .. 5 |
| C. ALFRED LEVETT 3 | GEORGE GILBERT... .. Tenor |

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. N. Rance.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' is sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance, but for the time being, owing to paper shortage, new orders cannot be accepted. We shall be obliged if subscribers will send their payments to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, 3a, King's Road, Bramhope, near Leeds, Yorks.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

DEATH OF MR. W. H. FUSSELL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William H. Fussell, who passed away last Tuesday morning. The funeral is this afternoon at Farnham Royal at 2.30 p.m.

'FIVE-BELL RINGING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I very much appreciated your leader in this week's issue. One gets far better striking in Minor and Doubles.

A few Sundays ago I visited a tower in the Home Counties. I was told that ringing would start at 10.15. I arrived at that time—three of us, 10.25 five ringers, 10.30 six ringers, but still no move was made to raise the bells; 10.40 the eighth one arrived and by the time the bells were raised it was 10.45. That tower did not see me any more. All the ringing towers round here are more enthusiastic. The first one to arrive starts to raise the bells. Then a few rounds perhaps only on four, and as soon as there are five it is Doubles. Then some Major. Sometimes there is only about five minutes of eight bell ringing. At one tower with a 23 cwt. tenor there is generally a touch of Doubles on the back five till the rest arrive, and very impressive it is.

This is the spirit we want; we go to ring the bells for service, and it is up to us to ring for the full allotted time, whether it is rounds on four or five or Surprise Major.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

Wadhurst.

'THE BRIDES OF ENDERBY.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. Alex. Young is wrong in stating that at Enderby, near Leicester, there are but three bells. For many years there were five, and the old Leicester ringers' book says: 'June 24th, 1868. On Wednesday was rung at the opening of five bells at Enderby (cast by Mr. John Taylor, of Loughborough) several grandsires by the following ringers from Leicester, viz.: Stephen Cooper treble, Alfred Millis 2, Thomas Langham 3, Arthur Brown 4, Edward Biggs (conductor) tenor. They were a very difficult set to handle owing to clock works and cross supports just over the ringers' heads, causing the ropes to catch or rebound in any but the right direction. In 1928 they were all recast and augmented to eight with a tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 15 lb. by J. Taylor and Co., being rededicated on the anniversary of the opening of the old five—June 24th. The first peal on the new bells was 5,040 Grandsire Triples on July 14th, 1928, conducted by the writer, since when many more peals in all standard and some Surprise methods have been rung.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

Dear Sir,—My recent letter followed a discussion at a College Youth meeting. At to-day's, I find, per my ringing friend, that there are four Enderbys—the one in Leicester, to which I referred, and three in Lincolnshire itself. The latter are loosely strung together and one of the parishes is that of the Mavis Enderby quoted by Jean Ingelow. They each have a ring of three bells, whilst Leicester's Enderby has eight, by Taylors.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 353.)

Ellacombe was a diligent collector of all kinds of information relating to bells and their uses, and he printed the material he had got together in appendices to his three principal books, of which they form a very large proportion. For the most part this material consists of transcripts of old documents and extracts from books and journals. For many readers, these appendices are the most interesting pages in the books, and as they made available a mass of information which before had been practically inaccessible, they proved a rich mine from which later writers on bells could dig information on subjects not covered by their own investigations. In this way Ellacombe contributed very largely to other and later men's work. It cannot, however, be said that he made the best use of the material himself. He was content generally to print it as he found it, and leave to his readers to make of it what they could. He was an enthusiastic and painstaking collector of historical data, but he lacked the historical imagination necessary to see the truth behind the material he had brought to light.

Like many other men of his class, he looked back to the Middle Ages as a period of faith and order in the Church, and he saw the profanation and secularisation of bells of his own time in sharp contrast to their religious and sacred uses in the old times. As perhaps the majority of men do, he saw the past through a mist of idealism and judged bygone bells and ringers by those in his own and his neighbours' parishes. The result was that he was too harsh in his opinions of the customs and men of his time and too lenient to those of old. This bias influenced his whole outlook, and is shown continually in the letters he wrote to 'Church Bells,' 'Notes and Queries,' and elsewhere. He, and others likeminded with him, were quite properly vigorously protesting against the ringing of church bells for profane and unworthy purposes, and by contrast would not admit there was any such secular uses in old times. Bells, so he maintained, were originally sacred objects, consecrated and set apart for religious uses; they were rung from the floor of the church, not by laymen, who were not considered worthy of doing so, but by clerks in minor orders, wearing their proper vestments. It was after the Reformation, when Church discipline was much relaxed and the ringers were no longer in minor orders, that evils crept in, the singers were expelled from the chancel to galleries at the west end, and the ringers from the church floor to the belfries above, with what results all his readers knew only too well. No doubt he could have found justification for these views in the wording of some of the evidence he printed, but he might have read a very different (and much more probable) story if he had looked closer into the document on which, as it seems, he largely relied—the original manuscript, which states the duties of the deacons of Coventry, a document of which I gave a full description some months ago in 'The Ringing World.'

It was the same prejudice which led Ellacombe to give the account of the origin of the morning and evening bells and of other local uses (common in his time) which was generally adopted by writers and still is often quoted as a proven fact. These bells, he said, were originally rung for the Angelus, and as they proved useful in marking the time of the day they were continued after the Reformation as secular bells. 'Somebody,' he wrote in

'Church Bells' in 1872, 'asks about bells at strange hours of the day and called by strange names. They are all lingering relics of the Angelus or Ave bell, which, prior to the Reformation, was rung in every parish morning, noon and night when practicable in memory of our Saviour becoming man for us and for our salvation, and of the 'morrow' Mass bell. The people had been so long accustomed to their sound, and they became so useful for social purposes, that they were in many cases continued after the Reformation, when they were given new names which would not savour of the ancient religious meaning. The early single bells on Sunday mornings are to be accounted for in the same way.'

In 1865 Ellacombe, in his 'History of Clyst,' wrote, 'where there are more than three bells it will be found that they have been added since the Reformation. It has occurred to me that the number was so ordered in accordance with a practice of the early church that at morning, noon, and evening the Angelus bell, as it is called, should peal forth from every steeple and bell turret in the Kingdom. The triple peal throughout the day might have induced a bell of different note to be sounded. Though its origin is forgotten, the bell is still rung at these hours in some parishes serving to call the labourer to and from his work is really a relict of the Angelus.'

These opinions are plausible, but there is ample evidence that the morning, noon and evening bells were secular in their origin and had no connection with the Angelus. The ringing of a bell for the Angelus was in fact not a custom in this country before the Reformation, though at times some of the bishops granted indulgences to such as should say so many Aves and Pater Nosters when they heard curfew rung, and in some dioceses an Ave bell was rung after the morning service on Sundays. It is not fair, however, to judge Ellacombe hardly in this matter. He was a pioneer and bound to make mistakes, and much of the evidence upon which a sound opinion can be based was probably not at his disposal.

In comparison with the round ringers of the West, Ellacombe looked somewhat favourably on change ringers, especially those of the College Youths whom he met occasionally and, of course, under the most favourable circumstances, but he evidently bracketed change ringing with the Reformation as the two influences which changed the old religious uses of bells and introduced the secularisation which had such disastrous results in his own time. 'Cathedral churches,' he wrote, 'were not allowed to possess more than five or seven bells, and often they were not placed together for simultaneous use. Collegiate and parish churches were not allowed more than three besides the Sanctus bell. Under the old system bells were few and heavy. They continued so until the Reformation, soon after which the art of change ringing completely overturned the existing order of things.' 'Change ringing led to a complete revolution in the art of the bell founder; from, say, 1637 most of the heavy peals of three and four and five were reduced in weight and multiplied in number.' It was for the sake of change ringing that bells were cast shorter in length.

These opinions have been repeated many times and by responsible authors, but they are pure conjecture, and have no foundation in facts. Change ringing certainly did not influence the way in which bells were cast, nor is there any reason to suppose that it led to the recasting

of heavy bells. What did happen was that some time about the middle of the fifteenth century it became the custom to ring bells 'in peal,' and for that purpose bells were cast in a 'tunable' ring. Ringing in the restricted sense of swinging bells high enough to clapper fully on both sides and striking them in ordered rounds was a distinctively English invention. It dates from more than a century before the Reformation, and was definitely a custom introduced and fostered by laymen. It was the ordinary lay folk of England, not the clergy, who provided the bells of the parish churches, who controlled their uses, and who rang them. No doubt the clerks and 'deacons' who were entrusted with their care and everyday use were in minor orders, but they were the predecessors and exact equivalents of the later parish clerks and sextons, and as little, or as much, belonged to the clergy. They received their instructions from the churchwardens and the parish vestry, who maintained the bells and exercised full control over their use. Change ringing was a later development of the ringing which had long before become a prominent feature of the life of the people, not only religious but social and sporting. Ringing generally, and change ringing in particular, did lead to a great increase in the number of bells in a peal, but in most cases it took the form of adding two bells to a ring of three or a treble to a ring of six. There was a good deal of recasting, but it was done for the same reason that bells are recast to-day, namely, to improve the peal. It is rather futile to lament the loss of fifteenth and sixteenth century bells recast in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, for they had not then acquired the glamour of old age, and if they were bad there was no more reason why they should not have been recast than there is now why a bad eighteenth or nineteenth century bell should not be recast. Some few poor and unwieldy rings were no doubt recast into lighter and better rings, as at Lichfield Cathedral in the seventeenth century and Stepney in the early nineteenth, but it would not be true to say it was done for the sake of change ringing, and where change ringing most flourished the tendency was to have not only more bells, but heavier ones.

(To be continued.)

THE LIBERATION OF PARIS.

On August 23rd, by request of the Lord Mayor of London, the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral were rung to celebrate the liberation of Paris from German control, which had lasted for four years. The ringing consisted of three courses of Stedman Cinques and the band was E. G. Fenn treble, J. F. Smallwood 2, H. Langdon (conductor) 3, W. H. Pasmore 4, R. W. Green 5, H. Hoskins 6, H. Belcher 7, H. G. Miles 8, R. F. Deal 9, J. Bullock 10, A. B. Peck 11, J. Rumley and T. Langdon tenor.

Later in the day five courses of Stedman Triples were rung at Westminster Abbey by H. R. Newton treble, W. H. Pasmore 2, T. Langdon 3, H. G. Miles 4, A. B. Peck 5, H. J. Pitstow (conductor) 6, H. Langdon 7, J. Rumley tenor.

Notice of the ringing was given on the wireless and the daily papers, and the majority of the latter reported it the next day.

DEATH OF THE REV. N. C. WOODS.

The death occurred on August 9th of the Rev. Norman Charles Woods, who until 1944 was the chairman of the Winchester Branch of the Winchester Diocesan Guild. He was a life member of the Guild, and in 1939, when he left Winchester, the branch persuaded him to retain office until a successor was found. He was a very popular chairman and took the keenest interest in all the activities of the Guild in general, and of his own branch in particular.

The funeral was at Edgbaston on August 12th.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, August 13th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Boh Royal: C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 1, F. J. Daniell 2, T. Cullingworth 3, E. J. Berry 4, G. W. Townsend 5, H. Bishop 6, T. Townsend 7, A. G. Wells 8, S. Palmer 9, J. H. Shepherd 10.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think you will agree that the proposers of the decentralisation of the Midland Counties Association are very lax in supplying details of the great advantages to be expected from their proposals. There is only one conclusion from their silence, there are none.

I appeal to all members, that unless there are some decided advantages which cannot be obtained within the framework of the Midland Counties Association, to have nothing whatever to do with the proposed decentralisation.

As an alternative, I would suggest that the association delete 'for the Dioceses of Derby, Leicester, Lichfield and Southwell,' and make it open to the Midland Counties, including Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. This would eliminate any restrictive boundaries which diocesan guilds create and which are unable to cater for towers situate on the boundaries of adjoining dioceses. Any tower would then have the option of deciding which district association could best cater for them, whereas with diocesan guilds they would be restricted.

If any of the existing districts feel they are restricted in developing any section of their territory, then the remedy is obviously for the districts to be re-formed, subject, of course, to the consent of the towers affected.

But apart from decentralisation altogether, surely the first consideration is the rehabilitation of ringing as a whole, and this can better be done by an organisation of over 60 years' standing than by an untried experiment, which gives members of the Forces engaged in more important matters no say in the matter.

These men will be in the majority as office holders in the future, one has only to consider one's own district to see how many ex-Service men are doing excellent service in the cause of ringing, to realise what a disservice would be done them by deciding on such a matter as decentralisation in their absence.

WILLIAM LANCASTER, Hon. Sec., Derby District, M.C.A.
83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.**

A joint meeting of the Burton and Loughborough Districts of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ashby on August 12th, at which members attended from Ashby, Appleby, Measham, Netherseal, Overseal and Ticknall (Burton District), and Hugglescote, Ibstock, Oaks in Charnwood, Shepshed and Whitwick (Loughborough District). Mr. J. Pagett, of Derby, Mr. G. H. Straw, of Leicester, and Mr. Thomas Chapman, of Worcester, were also present.

Twenty-seven members were present at tea, which was provided by the Vicar, Canon H. D. Hanford, and Mr. E. W. Beadmore.

Meetings were arranged for the Burton District at Repton in September and Appleby in October, and for the Burton District at Old Woodhouse on August 26th. A discussion on the proposed division of the association followed the lines of earlier discussions and nothing was added to clarify the position.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT THORVERTON.**

A meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild, held at Thorverton on August 19th, was attended by members from Bramford Speke, Heavitree, Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Exeter (St. Thomas'), Silverton, Thorverton and other bands. Service was conducted by the Rev. F. R. Moses (Vicar) and Prebendary E. V. Cox (president of the Guild).

After tea Mr. F. J. Ryall presided at the business meeting. The next meeting was fixed for December 2nd at St. Thomas', Exeter, and one new member (Miss June Hosgood) was elected. The president gave reasons for not holding the annual meeting of the Guild on August 7th.

The chairman welcomed friends from other guilds and branches and proposed votes of thanks to the Vicar, to Mrs. Edworthy and the ladies who provided tea. Before and after the service rounds and courses of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

Some twenty members of the Universities' Association recently enjoyed a week's ringing in the Worcester district, the local arrangements being in the hands of the Rev. A. C. F. Davies, Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral and clerical secretary of the Worcestershire and Districts Association.

The object was not to attempt a lot of peals, but to provide the beginners, who made up a large proportion of the party, with opportunities for practice. About thirty towers were visited (cycles being the main means of transport), and the ringing ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal. Four peal attempts were made and three were successful—Grandsire Caters, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Major. There were a good number of 'firsts' in these peals. In the peal of Grandsire Caters six universities were represented in the band—Oxford, Cambridge, London, Reading, Bristol and Birmingham.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wellingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Beedon, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—West Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Grimston, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Bring food and drink.—W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Southill on Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 6th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Great Gaddesden, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Names by Wednesday previous.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Rawtenstall (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Branch Sec.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Whimble, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Usk (Mon.), Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Business meeting follows.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting, St. John's, Silverdale, near Carnforth, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at South Marston on Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Joint meeting with the Barnsley and District Society at Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Tea details in Barnsley Society's notice.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stone, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. No tea.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., Horn Street, Winslow.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Names by Thursday, Sept. 7th, to A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting at Sandhurst (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (free) 5.15. Names to W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos., before Sept. 5th.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Combined meeting with the Kent County Association at Tonbridge on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 6th to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Stalybridge (St. Paul's), Saturday, Sept. 9th. Notify Mr. S. Hodgson, 111, Spring Bank Street, Stalybridge, by Tuesday, Sept. 5th.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Joint meeting with Sheffield District, Rawmarsh, Sept. 9th, 2.30. Names to Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhills, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, by Sept. 6th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Farnworth, nr. Widnes, on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names to Mr. J. A. Calland, 35, Allerton Road, Widnes, before Sept. 6th.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Harrison, Lyneside, Stutton Road, Tadcaster, by Sept. 13th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bulkington (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. each. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Upham, near Southampton, Sept. 16th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 13th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, September 16th, 2 p.m. Bring food and a pinch of tea.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Washingborough, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting later. Bring tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

WANTED.

HANDBELLS.—Urgently wanted, 6, 8 or 10 handbells; any condition; good price offered.—Rector, Ockley, Dorking.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KNEBWORTH.

A meeting of the Northern District of the Hertford County Association was held at Knebworth on August 12th, at which members were present from Hitchin, Stevenage, Baldock, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, North Mimms, Southgate, St. Albans, Clifton, Melbourne and the local belfry. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major. Service was conducted by the Rev. L. Denton-Sayers, and 36 members sat down to tea provided by the local band in the Lytton Hall. The Rector took the chair at the business meeting and Hitchin was selected as the place of the next meeting to be held on September 9th. Thanks were given to the Rector, to Messrs. G. Crane and J. Ferris and the ladies who provided the tea.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT FELKIRK.

The following towers were represented at a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Felkirk on August 12th: Cawthorne, Darfield, Earlsheaton, Handsworth, Monk Bretton, Sandal, Shelley, South Kirkby, Wath-on-Deerne and the local belfry. Tea in the old school-room was followed by the business meeting, at which the vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, took the chair. Two new members were elected, Messrs. C. Kirk and E. Awthorne, both of Monk Bretton.

An invitation of the Sheffield and District Society to hold a joint meeting at Rawmarsh on September 9th was accepted.

GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.—On August 16th, 720 Bob Minor: N. Smith 1, Mrs. S. Hough (first 720) 2, J. Breeze 3, S. Hough, jun. 4, J. Ashcroft (conductor) 5, C. Raddon 6.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On August 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Huckstepp (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 1, A. E. Clemence 2, H. C. Castle 3, G. Swaffer 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, T. Keeley 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 8. Rung for the wedding of Flight-Sergt T. Cullingworth and Miss L. Wickens.

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