



No. 389. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

GILLET & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.
BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
4288888. GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 6th March, 1914
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorized by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BUCK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

LONG SERVICE.

Twenty-seven years' service in a voluntary capacity is a noteworthy record, and it is not surprising that when the Rev. E. E. Broome retired the other day from the honorary secretaryship of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild the members should show their appreciation of his work in a tangible form. There are very few association secretaries in the country who can look back upon such an unbroken period of service as Mr. Broome, although there are, we believe, just one or two who have topped the quarter century.

The executive office of an organisation is usually an onerous one and only those who have discharged the duties are aware of the work which is involved. The smooth and successful running of an association is due very largely, if not entirely, to the ability and tact with which the secretary fulfils his task, and the absence of friction and discontent are in themselves a testimony to the labours of this official, who often has to take the brunt of the criticism, as well as shouldering the whole of the work. It is an impossible task to please everybody, and ringers are no exception in this respect. They are always the best and most loyal of comrades, but, human nature being what it is, they are never behindhand if there is grumbling to be done. They are none the worse for that, and when they have had their say they are ever ready to give credit to the men who do the work.

The Exercise, as a matter of fact, owes an inestimable debt to those men who discharge so conscientiously their secretarial work, a good deal of which is done behind the scenes and without the knowledge of the members. To men who give their labours in this direction for a length of time like that which the Rev. E. E. Broome has devoted to the Oxford Guild, ringers are doubly indebted, and we can well imagine that the Sonning Deanery members have received with the deepest regret the resignation of one who has served them so long and so faithfully.

While referring to the work of secretaries one may add that it is surprising that men who have acquaintance with little more than the elementary principles of ringing are often to be found taking an active part in the running of associations. One can readily understand a man who has dipped deeply into the fascinations of the Art, undertaking duties in connection with a ringers' organisation; but it is possible to find men acting as secretaries where practical knowledge of ringing is limited—we say this in no disrespectful sense—and the Exercise fully appreciates what these officials are doing. If a ringing organisation is to be successful much depends upon the secretary, and taken as a whole the associations up and down the country are fortunate in the men who to-day are filling these positions.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with me in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

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PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
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OF ALL KINDS.

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IN ALL BRANCHES.

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TEN BELL PEAL.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1918, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor 24½ cwt.

SAMUEL WESLEY Treble	WILLIAM J. TRYNG ... 6
JOHN HOLMAN 2	JOHN FLINT 7
WILLIAM LAMBERT 3	GEORGE HOLLIS 8
FRANK JACOBS 4	ARTHUR KNIGHTS 9
SAM THOMAS 5	WALTER ALLWOOD Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Rung as a farewell peal to the Vicar, Archdeacon Crosse, who is leaving for Whitwell, near Worksop.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, January 26, 1918, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, DERITEND,

A PEAL OF DRABSDIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANE FIVE-PART.

SAMUEL COLEY Treble	WILLIAM F. WEBB ... 5
JAMES GEORGE 2	ALBERT T. SCRIVENS ... 6
JOSEPH PORTER 3	JOHN B. COLLETT 7
ALBERT E. NORMAN 4	THOMAS PEARCE Tenor

Conducted by A. T. SCRIVENS.

First peal on the bells since their rehanging by Messrs. J. Barwell, Ltd. First peal by A. E. Norman, who was elected a member of the Association in the tower.

HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Tuesday, January 22, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

At 32, EDGELEY ROAD, CLAPHAM, S.W.,

A PEAL OF STEPMAN CATERS, 5078 CHANCES;

HERBERT LANGDON ... 1-2	CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... 5-6
WILLIAM T. COCKERILL 3-4	ALFRED B. PECK ... 7-8
HARRY R. PASSMORE ... 9-10	

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, and
Conducted by HERBERT LANGDON.

Umpire: EDWIN HORREX.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

A successful quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Nuneaton on Saturday week, when members attended from Birmingham, Chilvers Coton, Coventry, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, and Stoke Golding, including three lady ringers from Chilvers Coton, and one from Bishop Ryders, Birmingham. Touches of Grandshire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent and Duffield Major, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major were rung.

The business meeting was afterwards held in the belfry, presided over by Mr. James George (Ringing Master), who made sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. G. H. Kettle, the late secretary of the Guild, who died of wounds in France, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to the widow.

An apology for absence was received from the president (the Rev. H. C. A. Back).

Two new ringing members were elected, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Warwick on Easter Monday next as usual.—A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells concluded the business.

HANDBELLS SUBSTITUTED FOR ORGAN.

The organ of Kingston Magna Church, Dorset, having been removed for renovation the Rector, with three young ringers, took the place of the organist on Sunday last by accompanying the singing on a musical octave of handbells. The congregation followed the lead with great spirit, the hymn, "Jerusalem, my happy home," being thus rendered with especially fine effect.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

The annual general meeting of the Romney Marsh and District Guild was held at Appledore on Saturday last, when about 20 members attended, representing Ashford, Appledore, Biddenden, Mersham, Rye, Rolvenden, Stone and Tenterden. The bells were raised in peal soon after two o'clock, and were rung at intervals till 5 p.m., the premier touch being a 518 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by C. Tribe, with Sapper Limpus, from Vancouver, Canada, ringing the tenor.

A special service was held in the church, the Vicar (the Rev. A. O. Scuttl), president of the Guild, officiating.

Tea was served at Bean's Bakery, opposite the church, the president being in the chair. At the business meeting, which followed, the balance sheet was presented, and showed a balance of £5 8s. (£4 of which is invested in War Loan). This was passed, together with a proposition that £1 be allotted from the funds towards the rehanging of Brookland bells.

The President was re-elected, as was also Mr. H. Balcumb, the secretary.

The office of Master having become vacant, after some discussion it was decided by a majority to abolish the office, which was more or less a sinecure.

Four new members were elected, including Miss Rose Thomas, of Mersham, who thus becomes the first lady member of the Guild. Biddenden was proposed for the next place of meeting on February 23rd, and votes of thanks to the secretary, the chairman, and the caterer, concluded the meeting.

A pleasant hour was afterwards spent with handbells, patriotic songs and recitations, concluding with the National Anthem.

OXFORD GUILD PRACTICES.

On Saturday week members of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild had the unusual, and pleasing experience of being welcomed by the Vicar of the parish, when meeting at Bray-on-Thames, for ringing previous to attending the Branch Committee meeting at Boyne Hill, Maidenhead. Touches of Plain Bob and Oxford Bob Minor, and six-scores of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles were rung on this beautiful ring of six (tenor 28 cwt.), by Messrs. G. T. Leader and T. Smith (Slough), Miss G. E. Bateman, W. J. Bateman, and Will Henley (Stoke Poges), and Miss E. A. Fuller and G. H. Gutteridge (Fulmer). These bells which were recently rehung by Messrs. Warner, in a frame built up from the ground level on stanchions, are in first-class ringing order.

On Saturday, January 26th, a successful combined practice was held at St. John's Hillingdon, the methods rung being Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Bob Major. The following members attended: T. Smith (Slough), W. Lawrence and C. Edwards (West Ealing), A. Mason (Wembley), Misses Feltham and Williams, and Mr. H. H. Chandler (Hillingdon), Miss G. Bateman and W. Henley (Stoke Poges), and Miss Fuller and G. H. Gutteridge (Fulmer). Handbell ringing and a cup of tea, finished a most pleasant afternoon and evening.

PRACTICE MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

Some ringers who form the "rank and file"—to quote Campano's excellent letter—do not claim to be "leading lights," but who do claim to be enthusiastic, and try to "keep the pot a-boiling," met at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday afternoon for a united practice. By the field path, St. John's is fifteen minutes' walk from Cowley Station, and on their approach the fine tenor was giving a "hum" very pleasing to hear, and Grandsire Triples was rolling out from the church tower the Misses Feltham, Fuller, and Williams taking part. Two Oxford Guild men arrived, and a variety of touches including Stedman Triples and a 224 Bob Major were rung: Miss G. Bateman 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, W. Henley 3, C. Edwards 4, T. S. Smith (Slough) 5, H. H. Chandler (conductor) 6, A. Mason 7, W. Lawrence 8. The touch proved a good finish to a progressive and useful practice. The genial landlady at the hostelry near by provided a first-rate "war" tea, and Miss Fuller kindly presided.

MEETING AT LOUGHBOROUGH FOUNDRY TOWER.

On Saturday, January 19th, the annual district meeting of the Loughborough Branch of the Midland Counties Association was held at the bell foundry tower. The district officers were re-elected en bloc, viz. Canon Pitts, chairman; Mr. J. Oldham, secretary; and Messrs. W. Thorley and E. Rearden, committee-men.

Afterwards some good ringing took place on the peal of eight in the tower, touches being brought round of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The ringers were especially pleased to see Lance-Corpl. W. Smith and Sergt. W. Trigg, both of the Leicestershire Regiment, home on leave from France, and were glad to have a ring with these two popular members of the Loughborough district once more, after their long absence from the Exercise.

THE LATE CORPL. HAWKINS.

AN APPRECIATION.

By the death in France (as reported in your last issue) of Corpl. Kenner G. Hawkins, 2nd Life Guards, late of Alderbourne Manor Farm, Fulmer, Bucks, at the age of 21, the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, has lost a very promising and enthusiastic member. Deceased took up ringing in 1912, and had rung three peals, one of Grandsire Triples and two of Minor. He was also a member of the Middlesex and Sussex County Associations. Always of a happy and unselfish disposition, he was very persevering at the practices, and "never late" could have been written across his character regarding his attendance on Sundays. He was very fond of horses, an expert rider and a fine shot (having practised both from his school-boy days); he was a fine typical English lad, of the like of which, alas! we have already lost far too many. The writer has recollections of many happy days spent in his company, and can truly say of him, that he was "one of Britain's best boys."

G. H. G.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

Two very successful combined practices of the above Guild have been held this month, the first on Saturday, January 5th, at Christchurch, with its fine ring of ten bells, when visitors turned up from over 30 miles around, including Messrs. G. Williams (hon. general secretary), W. H. George, W. T. Tucker (North Stoneham), L. W. Wiffen (Wyke Regis), W. Townsend (Poole), G. W. Goodenough (Bournemouth), Rev. Carew Cox and A. M. Stewart (Ferndown, Wimborne), also Q.-M.-S. W. Cave, R.E., who is stationed close by. In addition there was a big muster of the local band, including Mr. Street, who was home on holiday from Liverpool University. Touches were brought round of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Royal, also a plain course of Superlative Major, the bells being kept busy from 3.30 till 7.30 p.m., with a short interval for tea.

On the Sunday morning Q.-M.-S. Cave cycled to Ferndown (ten miles), when touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Minor were rung on Mr. Stewart's fine set of handbells, with Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams and Mr. Stewart.—It is proposed to hold another of these meetings immediately after Easter.

At Curdridge, on Saturday last, a good practice was held, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob, and Double Norwich Major being brought round. The following were present: Messrs. G. Williams, W. T. Tucker, W. H. George (North Stoneham), G. Robinson (St. Michael's, Headingley, Leeds), now serving on H.M.S. "Venerable," the Rev. E. Banks-James, with two of his pupils from Lee-on-the-Solent, W. Linter, senr. (Swanmore), H. Smith (Wickham), and the local band, including Messrs. Mears (2), Ryves (3), Pook, etc. Regret was expressed at the absence of Messrs. Hardy, R.G.A. (Leicester), Day (Bristol) and Bond (Burford, Oxon), who had hoped to be present. They were all elected compounding members of the Guild at the recent meeting at Fareham, being at the moment temporarily engaged in the district. It is hoped as many as possible will attend the district meeting at North Stoneham, on Feb. 9th, to ensure a successful meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Fylde Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Lytham, on Saturday, January 12th. Mr. James George, of Birmingham, who was spending a few days at Blackpool, was among the visitors. The first tower visited was St. John's (six bells), where several touches of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford, etc., were rung, and a considerable time spent in instructing the lady ringers, of whom there were a good number present. At St. Peter's (six bells) several further touches were rung, and then the ringers went on to St. Cuthbert's (eight bells), where the ringing included a 504 Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. James George; Thos. Crookall 1, R. Martin 2, George Mares 3, J. Tipping 4, W. Wild 5, James George 6, Sergt. Lloyd 7, J. Smith 8.

On the following day, for morning service, at the Church of the Sacred Heart (R.C.), 517 Grandsire Triples: R. Martin 1, W. Wild 2, J. Smith 3, W. Wilkinson 4, Sergt. Lloyd 5, T. Crookall 6, James George (conductor) 7, J. Bolton 8. Afterwards, for Divine service, at St. John's Parish Church, Blackpool, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Howarth 1, R. Martin 2, J. Eckley 3, Sergt. Lloyd 4, W. Wild 5, James George (conductor) 6, J. Bolton 7, J. Smith 8. Mr. George left Blackpool at noon on Sunday, with the best wishes of the Blackpool ringers, who were delighted to have had his company, and hope to receive another visit from him at some future date.

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At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN BRANCH MEETING.

A largely attended meeting, in connection with the Northern Branch, was held on Saturday last at Halesowen, and ringing was indulged in on that splendid ring of eight, where the first long peal of London Surprise Major was attempted, and unfortunately lost after over five hours' ringing. Many towers were represented, including Kidderminster, Old Hill, Selly Oak, Northfield, Tipton, Smethwick, Birmingham, Edgbaston, Wollaston, and the local company. It was very pleasing to see the ladies well represented, and to welcome soldiers on leave from the front anxious once again to take a rope in their beloved art.

The service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. H. Colville) was well attended. Taking as the basis of his remarks, Tennyson's famous poem, "The Bells" (published in 1858), he spoke of the use of the bells and the purpose of ringing. When eight men ascended those belfry steps, looked themselves in the church, and commenced ringing, the people who heard the bells asked each other, "What are the bells ringing for?" Sometimes it would be for a wedding, or alas! with the bells muffled, as a token of respect for some departed friend. Sometimes they had rung for peace. He wondered how many times they had been rung for peace? He trusted it would not be long before they would be rung for a peace which would last for ever, a peace after which they would welcome those brave heroes who were carrying their lives in their hands on the sea and under the sea, and also to those heroes who were so nobly doing their duty on the various battle fronts. In conclusion the reverend gentleman quoted the poem upon which he had based his address, and it was very much appreciated by everyone who was at the service.

After the service, the business meeting was held at the Church House. The Rector presided, and said how pleased he was to welcome the Association there. It was the first one that had been held there since he became Rector, and he regretted that owing to the conditions of the food supply he had not been able to offer the members the same hospitality that they had been in the habit of receiving, but he hoped that when the Association visited them again—he trusted at no distant date—they would be able to entertain them once again. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Wollaston, on June 22nd.

Two hon. members were elected, including the Rector, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for arranging the service and giving the address, and also to the local ringers for making all necessary arrangements.

Ringing was continued up to 8 o'clock, and some well-struck touches were brought round in the standard methods, while some of the veterans were successful in bringing round several touches of Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major, which brought a very successful meeting to a close.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

A pleasant afternoon was spent by those who attended the quarterly meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Hinckley on Saturday last. During the afternoon touches in various methods from Grandsire to Cambridge were attempted on the bells. After tea, which was served at six o'clock, and to which 25 sat down in the Dining Rooms, Market Place, the usual business meeting was held, the president, Mr. John W. Taylor occupying the chair, supported by the hon. treasurer, Staff-Sergt. W. C. Wakley (home on leave from France), the hon. secretary (Mr. W. E. White), and representatives from Barwell, Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Leicester, Loughborough, Nuneaton, Sapcote, Sharnford, South Wigston, Stoney Stanton, in addition to the local ringers.

One honorary and four ringing members were unanimously elected. The retiring auditors (Messrs. E. D. Taylor and C. Draper) were re-appointed, on the proposition of Mr. J. Garratt, seconded by Mr. H. Argyle.—A vote of thanks to the Rev. Hurrell for the use of the bells, and to the local men for making arrangements for the meeting, was unanimously recorded.

The President, when putting the vote to the meeting, regretted that the Rev. Hurrell was unable to be present, as it was most desirable that the Association should get in as close touch as possible with the clergy and church workers generally.

BIRMINGHAM.—At St. John's Church, Edgbaston, on Jan. 6th, for evening service, with the bells muffled before a service in memory of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in the war, half a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 28 mins.: G. Bluck 1, A. T. Scrivens 2, J. Porter 3, W. F. Webb 4, A. E. Norman 5, T. Pearce 6.—On Sunday, January 20th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 45 mins., by the same band, both conducted by A. T. Scrivens. This was the first quarter-peal of Doubles by all the band.

OXFORD GUILD.

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

REV. E. E. BROOME RETIRES: INTERESTING PRESENTATION.

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday week at Wokingham. Proceedings commenced with a service of intercession at All Saints' Church at 5.30 p.m., at which the Rector (the Rev. B. Long), assisted by the Rev. F. M. C. Hare, officiated.

The Rural Dean (Rev. Canon Coleridge) gave a most appropriate address from Acts xi. 29, "Every man according to his ability." He had chosen those words, he said, because they brought home very much what was being done throughout the country at the present time, and because they appealed with very great force and meaning to them as ringers. The disciple determined, every man according to his ability, to send relief unto the brethren who dwell in Judaea, and we, as a nation, were at the present time doing the same. Every man, according to his ability, had been sending, and would continue to send, relief as long as the war lasted. "Man-power" was the phrase heard on all sides. Our sorely diminished force needed relief. Was it possible anyone calling himself an Englishman would think of saving his own skin, skulking away in some safe employment, when far more urgently needed elsewhere? That man, whose age and stamina fitted him for the line of battle and yet was found wanting, failed in his duty. Some might be more usefully placed where they were, holding vitally important positions at home. Few ringers would shirk their duty. They saw bellfries stripped of their most promising members, the choir stalls of the singers emptied, their places filled with veterans; the ranks of the clergy cruelly depleted; organists gone for military duties. Every church in the land had been affected—the bellfries most of all, but the remnant have determined to carry on, and in spite of all difficulties to persevere. The Sonning Deanery Branch of their Guild met that day, first and foremost for worship, then for its annual meeting. Few opportunities had occurred during the past year of his visiting their towers, owing to difficulties of travelling. Many, probably most, towers had been greatly depleted of members, and their places had been taken by boys and young girls and women. All honour to them for coming forward, and to those who had undertaken their instruction—a not easy task, yet followed by a rich reward by perseverance. All were learners. None could say like the well-known head of an Oxford College, "What I know not is not knowledge." The science and the art of ringing were quite distinct, the art was not so much needed as the head. When he started ringing 45 or 46 years ago, there were few bands in England who could ring the higher Surprise Methods on eight bells. There was one at Woolwich—the members of the Banister family—and one at Bennington, in Hertfordshire. They attained to the very highest. To look at one would have thought there was not a bit of ringing in some of them. Some agricultural labourers in the field were splendid ringers. They could hardly write the figures one to eight, yet with straight lines marked on a piece of slate or tile, they in their spare time, worked out the most intricate combinations of the higher methods—Superlative Cambridge or London Surprise. Thus these illiterate men learned to ring those intricate methods. This should provide encouragement for those who exercised a good deal of patience with but little result. Nine-tenths of the art was learned resistably at home with pencil and paper. The practical side came in the belfry afterwards. The qualities needed were those of perseverance and determination, exercised according to the ability with which one might be endued. Ringers were determined, according to their ability, to do what they could to further the art—the more failure the greater the perseverance and determination—and so become in time efficient, able to further that important branch of church work for which their abilities had fitted them able to take their part in the bellfries in that bright and happy day of a lasting peace.

The address was followed with much interest and great appreciation. Some 50 members were present, including several ladies. The ringers' hymn, "Unchanging God, who livest," was sung during the service, which closed with the National Anthem.

A move was then made to St. Paul's Parish Room, where one had been prepared. Mrs. Barry and Miss Cooper, assisted by Mrs. Long, Mrs. Tyndale Heelas, Mrs. F. Heelas, Miss Eaglefield and Miss Heelas, being in charge of the arrangements, which were most ably carried out. On the platform were the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, the Rev. B. Tong, the Rev. H. M. Walter, the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, the Rev. F. M. C. Hare, the Rev. E. E. Broome (branch secretary), Mrs. Broome and Mr. Hibbert (general secretary of the Diocesan Guild), and about 60 ringers sat down to tea.

THE MEETING.

The Rural Dean said the Rev. R. S. Hart-Davis, their chairman had asked him to preside, as that day he had lost his wife, after an acute illness. All, he knew, would deeply sympathise with Mr. Davis. —On the motion of Mr. S. Paice (All Saints'), a vote of condolence and sympathy was immediately passed, all silently standing.

The Chairman then felicitously thanked the ladies who had so kindly provided the tea, and had waited upon the members. He was glad to do this, before those ladies left them, and not, as on other occasions, in their absence. —The Hon. Secretary (the Rev. E. E. Broome) presented the balance sheet for the past year. This showed a balance from 1916 of £7 13s. 8d.; annual subscriptions of 28 hon. members, £7 5s.; 158 ringers, £8 1s.; donations to tea, £1 6s. 6d.; total, £24 6s. 2d. After paying various items of expense there remained a balance in hand of £9 19s. 10d.

The Hon. Secretary, after referring in terms of deepest sympathy to the loss sustained by their chairman, said the number of members stood at 184, ten less than last year. They had lost the Rev. A. R. Price, of Ruscombe, and as far as he knew, three of their ringers had been lost. A. Edwards (Arborfield), F. Collins (Sandhurst), killed in action, while G. Collins was still missing as last year. Fifty-seven members were on active service, eight more than last year.

The balance sheet was unanimously adopted, on the proposition of Mr. Moth, seconded by Mr. Dentry, the Chairman adding with best thanks to Mr. Broome's untiring energy.

Foremen of towers were all re-elected to form the committee, with the addition of Miss I. White, and Miss Rose Hurst.—Messrs. F. Dentry, S. Paice, Moth, and G. I. Wright, were elected representatives on the Guild General Committee.—The Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis was unanimously re-elected chairman.

The Chairman said that for 27 years the Rev. E. E. Broome had acted as their secretary and treasurer, but he felt that the time had come for him to resign that position owing to advancing years and the state of his health. They accepted Mr. Broome's resignation with deep regret, and with great and hearty thanks for the care and attention he had bestowed on their affairs for those many years.—Mr. S. Paice voiced the regret of all the members at Mr. Broome's resignation, and proposed that Mr. F. Dentry be his successor.—Mr. W. Houlton seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Dentry thanked the members for electing him, and said he would do his best to discharge the duties.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. R. T. Hibbert who had been appointed assistant secretary of the Guild to carry on as Mr. Reeves had "joined up."—Mr. Hibbert said he was willing not only to "carry on," but hoped when Mr. Reeves returned to be able to show progress. The general Guild report would not be issued as usual in book form, thus saving some £12 or £15.

Thanks to the Rev. B. Tong for the use of his church, to Miss Walker (organist), and to the Rev. H. M. Walter for the use of his parish room, were heartily accorded.

PRESENTATION TO REV. E. E. BROOME.

The Chairman then read letters written by the Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. W. J. Jenkyn) and the chairman of the branch (the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis), expressing earnest and affectionate appreciation of Mr. Broome's work. Canon Coleridge then presented to the Rev. E. E. Broome a handsome Louis bureau, subscribed for by the members and purchased by the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, together with a list of subscribers to be copied later in book form. Mr. Broome, said the speaker, reminded him of the prophet that gentle man who goeth in and out among us continually. It was the modest and unassuming man who did best. Mr. Broome had done everything, thrown his whole heart and soul into the work for the good of their branch. He retired from his office with the warmest wishes of every member for his future health and welfare. Last March his brother clergymen of the Church of England congratulated Mr. Broome on the completion of his 50 years' ministry, and presented him with a token of the esteem and affection in which he was held by all of the clergy. With the book of their names was a small blotter. Now that bureau was the very thing to contain that blotter. In the name of the ringers of the Sonning Deanery he asked Mr. Broome to accept the gift as a memento of the esteem and affection they had for him for all that he had done for them in the past 27 years.

The Rev. E. E. Broome, in acknowledging the gift, expressed his complete surprise, and thanked the members for the expression of their esteem and affection. He had served them long, but without their help, and that of his dear wife, he could not have done as he had. He hoped still to be of some use to them. In Mr. Dentry they had chosen, happily, his successor. Mr. Dentry had been resident in the district since 1902, was a first-rate ringer, well known to all, and ever ready to help the Guild and the branch.—Mr. Broome, who was most affected by the expressions of esteem which had been made, referred to their long and cordial relations, and said, though in one sense he wished them "good-bye," yet he hoped to be ever ready to help them in any way he could (applause).

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Continued from page 37.

The Rev. B. Tong proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was heartily carried by acclamation.

The National Anthem brought the most interesting proceedings to a close.

The bureau presented to the Rev. E. E. Broome bore the following inscription, engraved on a brass plate:—

"Presented to the Rev. Edmund Broome, secretary to the Sonning Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, 1890-1917, by the ringers and their friends, January 19th, 1917."

Parties of ringers visited each of the church towers of All Saints and St. Paul's for ringing at the close of the meeting.

DERITEND BELLS RINGING AGAIN.

The peal, rung on Saturday at St. John's, Deritend Birmingham, was the first on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. J. Barwell, Ltd. The last peal rung on them, we believe, was during the passing of the last century and the beginning of the present, the only one, if we are not mistaken, to be rung at midnight on that occasion. Since that time very little ringing has taken place at St. John's, on account of the bad condition into which the bells had got. Thanks, however, to the perseverance of the tower keeper, Mr. F. Webb, this state of affairs has been altered, and while one or two further improvements remain to be effected when funds permit, it is very satisfactory to know that the bells themselves are in ringing order again. The peal, which is recorded in another column, enabled Mr. James George to add yet another tower to his already long list.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ACTON.—For afternoon service, on December 2nd a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (composed by H. Miles, Kensington): A. Smith 1. W. Lawrence (conductor) 2. R. Holloway 3. C. Edwards 4. J. Abbott 5. J. H. Frin 6. E. Vickery 7. C. Brown 8.

BIRMINGHAM.—At St. Chad's Cathedral (R.C.), on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 1917, after morning service, in 44 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted and composed by A. T. Scrivens: J. B. Collett 1. A. T. Scrivens 2. G. Mackenzie 3. J. Porter 4. W. F. Webb 5. T. Miller 6. T. Kelly 7. J. King 8. Arranged for Mr. J. King as a birthday compliment.

WICKHAMBREAUX.—On December 6th, 720 Plain Bob Minor, at St. Andrew's Church, on the occasion of the golden wedding of the Rector (the Rev. G. Hyde Smith) and Mrs. Hyde Smith: B. Wood (Wickhambreaux) 1. R. J. Cobbold (Littlebourne) 2. E. Rye (Littlebourne) 3. W. Savage (Littlebourne) 4. Pie, G. Hope (South Notts Hussars and Gloucestershire Association) 5. J. A. Johnson (Littlebourne) 6.—On Sunday, January 13th, 720 Plain Bob: E. Wood (Wickhambreaux) 1. Harrison Smith (Wickhambreaux) 2. Corporal Lancaster (South Notts Hussars and Lancashire Association) 3. P. J. Cobbold (Littlebourne) 4. W. Savage (Littlebourne) 5. A. Johnson (Littlebourne) 6.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, January 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Pitts 1. T. Banning 2. H. Packer 3. H. Gillett 4. W. Stratford 5. W. Large (conductor) 6. J. Collett 7. J. Buttler 8. Also on Sunday, January 27th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Pitts 1. H. Gillett 2. H. Packer 3. T. Banning 4. W. Stratford 5. J. Collett 6. W. Large (conductor) 7. J. Buttler 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 20th, for evening service 518 Grandsire Triples: H. Holderness 1. H. Sear 2. W. Mead 3. A. Crane 4. W. Sear (conductor) 5. E. Marks 6. P. Whitehead 7. F. Hedges 8. Great credit is due to Mr. Holderness, and this was his first 500.

ACTON.—On Sunday afternoon, January 20th, 720 Bob Minor (from the "Clavis"): C. Brown 1. H. G. Frin 2. W. Lawrence (conductor) 3. R. Holloway 4. C. Hunt 5. F. Skerington 6.

CHIPSTABLE.—Bath and Wells Association. — On Jan. 22nd a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1290 changes) was rung in 52 mins.: W. Poole 1. W. V. Young 2. A. Smith (conductor) 3. G. Jones 4. C. Quicke 5. W. Smith 6. First quarter by all except ringers of 3 and 4.

SELINFOLD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, January 27th 1918, for the morning service, 720 Bob Minor: G. Worsfold (Itchingfield) 1. F. Denman (Shipley) 2. Mrs. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) 3. W. Short (Warnham) 4. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) 5. A. J. Bartlett (Chiddingfold) conductor, 6. In the afternoon, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Denman 1. P. Doick (Pulborough) 2. Mrs. R. Whittington (first 720 of Treble Bob on an inside bell) 3. W. Short 4. J. Bowell (Shipley) 5. W. Denman, junr. (Shipley), conductor, 6.

NOTICES.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Wellingborough District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Irthlingboro on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Bells ready 2 p.m., tea at 4.30 p.m. (no sugar).—W. Perkins, Dist. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Short service, 6 p.m., followed by business meeting and handbells. Tea arrangements depend upon the necessary articles being obtainable. Outstanding subscriptions for 1917 should be forwarded before the meeting.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Burnham-on-Sea, Feb. 2nd. Service, 5.30; tea and meeting after. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Intending visitors please write.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, February 2nd, 1918. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting following the ringing.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting of the society will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 1918. Bells will be available from 2.30 p.m. till dusk. The business meeting will afterwards be held in the White Cross Hotel at 7 p.m.—William Gage, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on Feb. 7th and 21st, and for general business on the 12th and 26th, all at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1/8 which entitles members who have not attended twenty meetings in the past year to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before the 28th inst.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas's Church, Pendleton, on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting for practice will be held at North Stoneham on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells from 3 p.m. till 9 o'clock. Tea cannot be provided owing to food restrictions.—James W. Elkins, Dist. Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Aldershot on Saturday, Feb. 9th, 1918. Bells (6) available from 3.30 till 9 p.m. Service at 6 p.m. Meeting at 6.30. No tea will be provided, but members attending will be allowed 9d. instead. Subscriptions should be paid at the meeting. The next meeting will be at Haslemere in April. A cycle tour round Farnham and neighbourhood is being arranged for Whit-Monday. Full particulars later on.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society—Established 1824).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Ringing will take place as follows: Southwark Cathedral, 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. and 4.15 to 5 p.m.; St. George's, Southwark, 3.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting, election of officers, etc., will be held at the Southwark Tavern at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to be present.—Ringing friends invited. T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at West Derby on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells ready at 4. Meeting, 6.30.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Hon. Secs.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Bromwich, on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells (12) at 3. Committee meeting in vestry, 4.45. Short service in church at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (the Rev. Basil G. Nicholas). Tea if possible (1/-) in the Parish Room at 6. Those intending to be present please notify me by Tuesday, Feb. 12th.—Rev. C. Holroyd Barker, Hon. Treas., 57, Lodge Road, West Bromwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Leesfield, Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A meeting for handbell practice, etc., will be held at the King of Denmark, Old Bailey, E.C., on Saturday, Feb. 16th, at 6.30 p.m.—J. Parker, Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. Dr. Relton) at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Ringing from 3 to 6, followed by short service. Tea will be provided if necessary arrangements can be made. Members please note that all 1917 subscriptions should be paid by the date of the meeting.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

DICK NEWTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Writing from Boston, U.S.A., Mr. Richard Newton, late of Manchester City Police, sends his third contribution of 15s. to the War Fund, the amount being the sum formerly spent on his birthday peal at Manchester Town Hall.

Referring to the efforts made in Boston to assist in the war, he says the organisation with which the ringers from England are connected cleared over 1,300 dollars in the last Empire Day Festival. This amount was equally divided between the American Red Cross and the Prince of Wales' Fund, which means it practically all comes to this side in warwork, "but," he adds, "we must include the American now, and that was the best way to do it. We had a great success. We had our first meeting on Sunday, January 6th, 1918, to start our arrangements for the 1918 festival, on May 24th. Thus we are at it nearly all the year round, and we hope to do better this year. We also organised a mass meeting in the Great Mechanics' Building for the Halifax (N.S.) Disaster Relief Fund. We charged 50 cents (2s.) admission, got about 1,800 in attendance, collected nearly 2,000 dollars, and cleared over 2,000 dollars for the fund, so you see we were soon 'on the job.' The explosion happened on a Wednesday: we had our meeting the following Sunday; some speed, wasn't it? I wish to be remembered to all my ringing friends in and around Manchester, and also other parts."

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