

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 372. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd, 1918.

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Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Messrs. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918
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 gives general satisfaction.

I am authorised 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. BROM,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

RINGERS' WAR MEMORIALS.

As the war drags on and the long roll of heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice—long since swollen to appalling dimensions—continues to grow, the list of ringers who have given their lives for their country is increasing to tragic length. It is impossible to say at present how many members of the Exercise have thus died, although, later on, we shall hope to be able to ascertain approximately the number; but every Association throughout the country has had its losses, and in some cases comparatively heavy losses. A fond recollection of those who have fallen will be ever cherished by their comrades of the bellry left behind; but there will also be, we feel sure, a universal desire to perpetuate the memory of these men who by their deeds and their death have helped to uphold the honour of their native land.

To the Kent County Association goes the credit of being the first ringing organisation to take definite action in the direction of a war memorial to its fallen members, and they have a more or less complete scheme before them. They have inaugurated a fund by devoting to it the proceeds of the offertories at two meetings, and, doubtless, when a serious attempt is made to raise money, there will be a ready response from the members. Although this is a matter in which there is no need for precipitate action, the Kent Association, we think, have done well to take it up while the tragedy of the war is still with us. To be in a position to go right ahead without delay the moment the appropriate time arrives for pushing the scheme, is unquestionably a sound policy.

Other Associations will, doubtless, be anxious to provide a suitable memorial to their fallen members, but little yet seems to have been done. The settling of the form of the memorial is a matter in which the members will be desirous of having a voice, and as the majority of the Associations only hold a general meeting once a year, they will, we think, be well advised to follow Kent's example, and discuss without much further delay the steps to be taken, and put their ideas into concrete form. Matters of this kind move slowly where ringing associations are concerned, principally for the reason stated, that it is only once a year that the members meet as a whole to discuss subjects of this kind. In many things, too, ringers are slow to move, although in the way of war memorials it is probable that nearly all the Associations will desire to do something. No one knows how much longer the war is likely to drag out its weary length; but certainly it is not too early now for those societies, who desire to take collective action to provide a lasting memorial to fallen members, to set about the task so that their plans may be matured when peace arrives.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



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BIRMINGHAM**

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FOR CHURCHES.
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

**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 rearranging 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.

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SHIPLEY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1918, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

JAMES COTTERELL Treble	*HERBERT HAIGH 5
THOMAS B. KENDALL 2	JOSEPH BROADLEY 6
BENJAMIN THORP 3	FRANCIS BARKER 7
*WILLIAM JOYCE 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Conducted by BENJAMIN THORP.

Rung in respectful memory of the late Mr. Joseph Ridyard, of Worsley. A muffled peal was attempted on these bells on Easter Tuesday, but had to be stopped after two hours' ringing through illness near by.

* First peal of Grandsire.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, April 27th, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lbs.

EDWIN HORREX Treble	CHALLIS T. WINNEY 5
SAMUEL E. JOYCE 2	ALFRED B. PECK 6
WILLIAM HIBBERT 3	RICHARD T. HIBBERT 7
CHARLES S. BURDEN 4	THOMAS H. TAPPENDER Tenor

Conducted by RICHARD T. HIBBERT.

Rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. Edwin Horrex, also on the 50th anniversary (April 27th, 1868) of the 15,840 of Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green in which Mr. Horrex, the only survivor of the band, rang the 6th.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 13, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, NORTHOWRAM,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

EDWARD KERSEHAW Treble	EDGAR WHITELEY 5
ALBERT JAGGER 2	THOMAS B. KENDALL 6
JOHN LAWSON 3	FRANCIS BARKER 7
JOSEPH GARRETT 4	JOHN W. WRIGHT Tenor

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL.

Conducted by THOMAS B. KENDALL.

HANDBELL PEAL.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Friday, April 26, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes.

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. W. T. COCKERILL, CLAPHAM, S.W.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANCES;

WALTER S. WISE 1-2	HARRY R. PASMORE 7-8
WILLIAM T. COCKERILL 3-4	CHALLIS T. WINNEY 9-10
HERBERT LANGDON 5-6	THOMAS LANGDON 11-12

Composed by CHARLES H. MATTERSLEY.

Conducted by HARRY R. PASMORE. Umpire, EDWIN HORREX.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. H. A. COCKEY

It is proposed to erect a memorial in the Parish Church of St. Anne's, Oldland, in memory of the late Rev. H. A. Cockey, who spent nearly thirty years of his life in this parish. The late Vicar often expressed a wish that he should be spared to beautify the east end of the church by erecting a reredos. Unfortunately, his labours were shortened, and he was not allowed to carry his wish into execution. It has been suggested that under the circumstances a reredos would be a fitting memorial, and that the parishioners and other friends would be pleased to contribute towards the cost (which is estimated at £100) as a mark of appreciation of the spiritual work which he so long and faithfully carried out in this parish.

THE 'KAISER' BELL.

Germany's shortage of metal has been indicated by the depredations made upon the belfries, not only of Belgium, but also of the Fatherland. Everything else had to go before the famous 'Kaiser' bell of Cologne Cathedral, but at last even this celebrated casting, said to weigh about sixty tons, has had to follow the rest into the melting pot. It was hung in the year 1877, and was last rung on New Year's Day, 1918.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Hertford County Association, presented at the recent meeting at St. Albans, included the following:—

In order to gain some definite information as to present conditions of ringing in the county, I recently submitted to band secretaries a series of questions. Most of these forms have been returned, and I would thankfully acknowledge my debt of gratitude to those gentlemen who furnished me with particulars.

From the returns it appeared that approximately the present ringing strength is about equal to the enlistments, also that only three bands definitely state that they are deficient in strength for peace ringing; whilst three other companies can do so by amalgamating. The list is also remarkable for the low percentage of members who have been killed since our last meeting, viz., five, not including, of course, the present great offensive.

LOSSES BY DEATH.

The obituary includes: Pte. C. Pentman, of All Saints', Hertford; Pte. Olney Luxon, of Harpenden; Pte. J. Payne and Pte. R. V. Hunt, of St. Michael's, St. Albans; Second-Lieut. Kirby, killed 11th May, 1917, in France. Mr. Kirby had acted as librarian for several years, and was a member of St. Peter's band, St. Albans. Not only was he a good ringer, but possessed of a splendid voice he rendered great service to St. Peter's Church choir, and also as a Sunday School teacher. He was of a singularly happy disposition, and 'Bob' is greatly missed by his friends and fellow church workers. Mr. J. T. Kentish, of Hatfield, a very old but useful member of the local company, has also been called to his eternal rest. Mr. Henry G. Rowe, of Cheshunt, a remarkably enthusiastic member, one who had done a tremendous amount of 'spade work' in teaching and helping beginners during the last 30 years, died somewhat tragically in the belfry of St. Mary's, Cheshunt, on Sunday evening, July 15th, 1917. The late Mr. Rowe possessed a number of ringing books, and during his life expressed a desire that at his death they should be given to the association library. Mrs. Rowe has very kindly carried out her husband's bequest, and our bookshelves are consequently considerably augmented by this generous gift. We sincerely thank Mrs. Rowe. The books include: 'A Key to the Art of Ringing,' by Wm. Jones and others; 'The Art of Ringing' (Snowdon); 'The Art of Ringing' (Benjamin Thackrah); 'The Art and Science of Change Ringing' (Wm. Banister); 'Grandsire' (Snowdon); 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' Parts 1 and 2; 'Change Ringing' (Troyte), two vols.; 'Stedman's Tintinnologia' (Reprint edition 1668); 'Church Bells' (H. B. Walters); 'Duffield' (Heywood); Shipway's 'Campanologia' (2 vols.); 'Elements of Campanologia' (W. Sattansall); 'Ropesight' (Snowdon); 'Change Ringing' (Troyte); 'Stedman,' by Rev. C. D. P. Davies. Other gifts of books received during the year include 'Snowdon,' 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' vols. 1 and 2, and 'Ropesight,' 'Change Ringing,' by C. W. A. Troyte kindly given by Mr. Henry Lewis; and 'Hubbard's Art of Ringing,' given by Mr. J. Porter. We thank both of these gentlemen. Twenty-one books have been added during the year.

I should also like to mention, continued the Secretary, the death of one who, although at his death was not a member, yet as an original member of the Association in 1884, exercised a great influence in making change ringing a success in Hertfordshire. I refer to Mr. N. N. Hills. As a pupil of the late Mr. Hills, I can testify to his painstaking ability and patience in the formation of the Cathedral Society. His love of ringing, and his ability as a conductor and instructor are well known to many present, and it was a genuine loss to the county when he retired from ringing activities.

VETERAN'S SERVICES.

Naturally, ringing has been completely upset by the war throughout the county, and it is chiefly the veterans who have kept the bells going. Among those who still do their bit is Mr. Thomas Conley, of St. Peter's, St. Albans, better known among his confreres under the youthful name of 'Tommy.' By the goodness of God years rest lightly upon his shoulders. He is now well on in his 82nd year, and besides ringing twice regularly every Sunday finds time to pull 'Edmund's leg' for the daily service at the Cathedral, and to ascend up higher to the belfry to amuse himself by hanging Tom Brown, or tolling the funeral knell. He has rung at St. Peter's Church for over 60 years, truly a record for a Hertfordshire man. His reminiscences of ringing and ringers in the early days is amusing and interesting (I won't say instructive). Suffice it to say that since 1884 great changes have taken place, and our friend would be among the first to recognise the good work our Association has done. I am sure that I unanimously express the wishes of the whole of our members when I say may God bless you, my brother, with many more years of useful activity in St. Peter's belfry. Other veterans occur to my mind: Mr. Dennis, of Knebworth, in his 80th year, who I understand is enthusiastic as ever among his children (the bells); Mr. T. Webb, of Baldock, still to be found at the rope's end, and Mr. Henry Lewis, of St. Albans, the latter having thrown off his migratory habits and nested again in the city of his birth. I will not dilate upon his love of ringing, and his many other qualities, both good and otherwise, but simply say how delighted we

are to see him present to-day, and to be cheered by his beaming smiles. We also welcome back again to St. Albans Mr. Walter Buckingham and his brother. Many of us remember what splendid work he did in days long ago. Many ringers in the danger zone are thinking of us to-day. Mr. F. C. Rice has written that he hopes we shall have a successful annual meeting at Easter, and that he should very much like to be here. He hopes that the next one all the ringers will be back from abroad, and that we shall have grand times, to which we all agree.

NEW ST. ALBANS DISTRICT.

The Association is again indebted to the district secretaries for another year's useful work, for which we heartily thank them. Speaking on their behalf, may I say that subscriptions become due at Easter, and that early payment is helpful. Mr. Lawrence has arranged two meetings, and a joint meeting with Mr. Bacon, our northern secretary at Knebworth. Mr. Lawrence is of opinion that the Eastern district is maintaining its standard, no band having dropped out owing to adverse circumstances, and that the meetings held have been very well attended. Messrs. Frank Smith and F. Edwards, for the Western district, have also arranged two meetings, at Aldenham and King's Langley. Both of these gatherings were highly successful, and afford stimulus for further exertions in the near future. I am glad to report that my appeal for someone to undertake to run the new St. Albans district, as recorded in my last report, has been successful. Mr. W. Nash, of North Mimms, having most kindly undertaken the position. The choice is excellent, and I bespeak for Mr. Nash your hearty support. The effort will certainly mean the opening of new towers and added membership. Mr. J. Prewett has once again audited our accounts, in the absence of his son, and we thank him for his kindness. In reviewing the year's work I am highly gratified. Although circumstances have been adverse, yet there has been the predominant note of cheerfulness and courage shown, and a readiness among individual ringers to lend a hand wherever possible. The enthusiasm shown at the district meetings, the readiness to help the beginner, and the real brotherly feeling shown toward each other, are the greatest factors for the success of any association; and these marks are discernible at all our meetings. Let us continue to look out upon the bell ringers' horizon with Micawber optimism, confident that in time 'Something will turn up,' hoping soon to again resume our normal conditions in the belfries of the county.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

In spite of the most uncomfortable weather conditions, a very successful meeting was held at the Church of St. Paul, Hammersmith, on Saturday week, members numbering upwards of 25, representing all parts of the Metropolis, being in attendance, when some capital practice in standard methods was obtained. Ringing commenced at 4 p.m., and was carried on until 8 p.m.

At the business meeting, which followed at the Brook Green Hotel, a good number were present the chair being taken by the Master (Mr. H. Taffender).—A letter from Pte. A. D. Barker, now stationed at Blackpool, was read by the Master, in which the kind regards of the writer were extended to all ringing friends, and that he expected to be going overseas shortly.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the authorities of St. Paul's for the use of the bells, and to the members of the local band who did so much to make the meeting a success.

At the conclusion of the business, it was found that the middle four of a peal of twelve handbells were missing. Scouts, however, located the two wanderers, who were brought back in time for touches, including Stedman Caters, to be rung.

A MIDDLESEX WEDDING.

On Saturday, April 20th, on the occasion of the marriage at Barnet Parish Church of Miss Alice Charlotte Milne, only daughter of Mr. Frank A. Milne, treasurer and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association) to the Rev. John E. Rowland Vicar of Llanfair Caereinion, Montgomeryshire, touches of 338 and 504 Grandsire Triples were rung before and after the marriage service, and later in the afternoon, when the newly-wedded pair were leaving en route for Salisbury, a quarter-peal in the same method was rung by the following members of the Association viz.: H. G. Eldred 1, R. Roffey 2, W. J. Dell 3, J. Waghorn 4, W. Soar 5, J. Sumpter (conductor) 6, G. B. Lucas 7, and W. T. New 8. In the earlier ringing, Mr. A. T. King, I.S.O., the President of the Association, and H. A. Lucas, also took part.

LEISTON SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, March 17th, for evening service, 1008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: W. Bailey 1, H. J. Button 2, E. H. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, J. G. Rumsey 5, G. Wilson 6, J. M. Bailey 7, E. S. Bailey (conductor) 8.—On Sunday March 24th, 576 Bob Major: W. Bailey 1, Cornl. C. Whiting, R.E., 2, D. S. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, G. Wilson 5, E. H. Bailey 6, J. M. Bailey (conductor) 7, J. G. Rumsey 8.—On Easter Day, 1088 Kent Treble Bob Major, for evening service: A. Keeble 1, H. J. Button 2, G. Wilson (conductor) 3, E. S. Bailey 4, J. M. Bailey 5, W. Lambert 6, J. G. Rumsey 7, E. H. Bailey 8.

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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

LOST BELLS OF BELGIUM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you permit me to return to the subject of the lost Belgian bells? The carillon-playing of Belgium was, before the war, as famous as the ringing of England. In these two countries bell-music in two entirely different forms was brought to a very high standard. During the war we may have grumbled at restrictions on ringing, and we have regretted the temporary silence of the bells in some districts. But we at least in this country have our bells left to us, ready to be used once more when the ringers return. In Belgium, from all accounts, the towers which have not been destroyed have been robbed of their bells.

Reparation of Belgium is one of the objects for which we are fighting. With much restoration to be done, will all the bells be replaced without some assistance from sources other than indemnities? If every bell was replaced, would it not still be a desirable thing that the ringing of this country should present to Belgium a carillon, in recognition of the stand that nation has made for right as against might?

It may be thought that a carillon is too big a thing to aim at. But at its present price the cost would be very real. But presumably the price of tin will not remain at this level when freights are not so excessive. The cost of a carillon, such as the famous one of Malines, would probably run into five figures. That is why in my last letter I referred to ringers and their friends. With such assistance, I do not see why the money should not be raised. It has been suggested to me that each Association should be asked to raise the funds for one bell, in memory of its members who have given their lives in the cause for which Belgium has suffered martyrdom. I am hoping that the opinions of the Exercise on this suggestion will reach me soon, either through your valuable paper, or direct.—Yours, etc.,

Waygateshaw, Carlisle.

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

JUBILEE OF A FAMOUS PEAL.

But for the war, it is probable that a peal would have been rung at Bethnal Green last Saturday by the College Youths and that Mr. Edwin Horrex would have been one of the band, for it was the jubilee of the then record peal of 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major rung by the Ancient Society at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, in 9 hours 12 minutes, on April 27th, 1868. It was the longest peal, up to that time, ever rung by one set of men, and 'Ted' Horrex who has just passed his 80th year, is the only surviving member of the band, which consisted of: Henry Haley 1, William Cooter 2, James Pettitt 3, H. Booth 4, R. Hopkins 5, E. Horrex 6, Matthew A. Wood 7, John Murray Hayes 8. The peal, which was called by Haley, was composed by Thomas Day, of Birmingham.

Another anniversary of special interest to the College Youths fell on the same day, for it was on April 27th, 1861, that the society rang the then record length of 8580 Stedman Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, in 6 hours 41 minutes. This peal was also conducted by Henry Haley, the other members of the band being: Thomas Rav, John Bradley, Robert Jameson, William Green, George Stockham, Robert Haworth, George E. Ferris, Math. Wood, Edward Lansdell, George Muskett, and James Dwight. None of these survives.

Sunday last was an anniversary of interest in the Cumberland, as it was on April 28th, 1800, that the society rang 10,112 Oxford Treble Bob Major at All Saints', Edmonton. The peal is thus recorded in the Cumberland's peal book: 'Unrivalled in the annals of Campanistean fame, to the honour of Mr. George Gross, whose merit cannot too much be said for composing and calling a complete peal of 10,112 changes of Oxford Treble Bob, which was rung by this society, on Monday, April 28th, 1800, in 6 hours 29 minutes at All Saints', Edmonton, by: George Gross 1, George Gross, junr., 2, James Nash 3, Thomas Reeves 4, John Hints 5, James Barnard 6, Samuel Cowling 7, William Stephens 8.'

Since the above was written we have received a report, which appears in another column, of a peal of Stedman Trebles rung at St. George's, Southwark, to commemorate the jubilee of the Bethnal Green peal, and also to celebrate Mr. Horrex's 80th birthday the veteran himself taking part.

BUY A TICKET.

Our readers are reminded that, for the assistance of the widow and young family of the late Mr. Alf. Grimes, five bound volumes of 'The Ringing World,' which belonged to Mr. Grimes, are to be disposed of, and tickets (5d. each) may be obtained from Messrs. A. A. Hughes, Master of the College Youths (Whitechapel Foundry), W. Pye, Master of the Middlesex Association (8, Sanson Road, Lansdown Road, Leytonstone), C. F. Winney, W. Hewett, A. S. Pettitt, T. Walker, hon. secretary of the London County Association (10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate), E. Sanders, T. H. Taffender (Master of the London County Association), and W. T. Cockerill, hon. secretary of the College Youths (32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4).

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

INTERESTING MEETING AT ASTON.

The members of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham were on old familiar ground when they held the first quarterly meeting of the current year at Aston on Saturday week.

Before the Guild became a Diocesan institution, the tower of Aston was regarded as the 'second headquarters,' inasmuch as the Guild was formed by the amalgamation of the old St. Martin's Society, established 1755, and the Holt Society of Aston, established 1879. Many and excellent were the peals rung here, an especially large number of peals of Stedman Caters being accomplished. Two of the old stalwarts who helped to found the Holt Society, Messrs. Wm. Kent and Thos. Russam, and who later on took a large part in bringing about the amalgamation, were present at the meeting, and, as was very natural, they fell to fighting their battles over again. One of the twins, Mr. Russam, was somewhat amused when the curate, the Rev. — Stewart, who was welcoming the members on behalf of the Vicar as they arrived in the belfry, asked him whether he had ever rung there before!

Aston Parish Church is a graceful edifice of stone and in Henry II.'s time it belonged to the Monks of Tickford Priory Bucks. The noble tower is surmounted by a spire rising to about 180 feet, and contains a ring of ten bells, tenor about 22 cwt. in D. One or two of the bells, when rung singly, leave much to be desired, but when the whole peal is going the effect is really grand.

ASTON BELLS.

Aston bells have a peculiarly solemn, one might almost say sorrowful, sound, and when heard at a distance of three miles or so, as the writer of these lines frequently hears them when the wind is in the east the effect is charming in the extreme. Owing to this fact it will doubtless be a big job to convince the Church authorities that several of them should be recast; but the writer submits that, if this grand effect is produced from a peal containing a few poor bells, how much would it be enhanced by making good the faulty ones?

Tea was provided in the Vicarage Room by the generosity of Mr. W. C. M. James, a former warden, who has always shown a keen interest in the ringers, but who was unfortunately unable to be present himself. About forty members were present, which must be considered an excellent attendance, in view of the fact that the weather was more typical of January than April, a biting north-easter blowing half a gale, accompanied by driving sleet. — Dr. Trumper, Vicar's warden, welcomed the members, on behalf of the Vicar (Rev. Canon Hodgson), who was in Yorkshire for the week-end. He said how delighted they were to have so many present, and what a pleasure it had given him personally to hear their bells rung as they had been that afternoon. He lived practically in the churchyard, but he could honestly say that the bells never annoyed him in any way, and the more they were rung the better he liked it. Their own band had been sadly depleted, and it was indeed a treat to hear the full peal going once again. He had been told that one or two of the bells wanted some attention, and although he was afraid nothing could be done at present, he would do his best to have whatever was necessary done as soon as the war was over (cheers).

Mr. Phillips, people's warden, also added his welcome, and seconded all Dr. Trumper had said. He was a great lover of bells, he said, and particularly of Aston bells, and in his opinion nothing sounded more lovely than to hear them on a fine Sunday morning, calling people to church for the public worship of the Great Architect of the Universe. Unfortunately, their melodious call fell on some unheeding ears, and he was constantly meeting crowds of men off to the country on bikes, etc., or walking with their sticks and dogs, all unmindful of their duties on the day of rest. The members of the Guild were doing a work of which he had been quite ignorant. He had no idea that there was such a powerful ringers' organisation in Birmingham, or indeed anywhere else, and the members were to consider themselves always welcome in their belfry.

ALDERMAN PRITCHETT'S FREEMASONRY HONOURS.

The Guild's presiding Ringing Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., presided in the business meeting, at which five new members and one honorary member were elected.

Mr. Jas. George, who is recovering from the effects of a bad carbuncle on the neck, which has pulled him down considerably, asked leave to say a few words about various peals he had rung, under the auspices of the Guild, more especially those he had rung at St. Martin's Church. He recounted the number he had rung under the Mastership of Henry Bastable, Wm. Short, Albert Walker, and Jas. E. Groves, and recalled with pride and thankfulness the manner in which he had always been received in St. Martin's belfry, from his earliest ringing days. In conclusion, and because of the many happy hours he had spent in the old belfry, he had pleasure in handing to Mr. Smith a cheque for one guinea, with the request that he would forward it to Canon Willink as a donation towards the cost of repairing the spire (loud cheers).

Alderman Pritchett expressed appreciation of Mr. George's action, and in proposing a vote of thanks to Canon Hodgson and the Church authorities for the use of the bells and the room, said he was particularly pleased to be able to be present, as he used to attend the Thursday night practices at Aston many years ago, when he was quite a learner.—The proposal was seconded by Mr. A. E. Parsons, who said he also was pleased to be there, as it was twenty years ago since he last had a ring in Aston tower.

Alderman Pritchett then proposed a special vote of thanks to Mr. W. C. M. Games for his kindness in providing tea, which he understood was partly done through the instrumentality of Mr. Parsons, who was a personal friend of his, and to the ladies, including Mrs. Hodgson, for their services at the table.—This was seconded by the Rev. C. H. Barker, and carried with acclamation.—Mr. Phillips suitably responded.

The formal business being disposed of, Mr. A. Paddon Smith said he was sure the members present would like to join him in congratulating their esteemed presiding Ringing Master on the great honours that had recently been conferred upon him in the world of Freemasonry, of which he was a very distinguished member. In Craft Masonry, he had recently been offered the office of 'Senior Grand Deacon' in the United Grand Lodge of England, and in Royal Arch Masonry the office of Past Principal Grand Sojourner. These offices were amongst the very highest and most important in the Order. Alderman Pritchett had now attained an eminence and dignity among Freemasons that was only excelled by a select few. They hoped he would long be spared to them and to the craft, of which he was such an ornament, and they heartily congratulated him on his new dignities (cheers).

Alderman Pritchett said that when he showed the letters conveying the offers to his friend Mr. Smith, he had expressly requested him not to say anything about the matter at the meeting, but their secretary said it was something the members would like to know (laughter). He was indeed proud that he had been honoured in this manner by the great Order in which he had been keenly interested for more than thirty years, and he thanked the members of the Guild for their hearty congratulations.

After the meeting, a splendid touch of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Messrs. Russam, Swann, Miller, Groves, Kent and Morris, while the tower bells were kept going until about 8.45, in Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob. A course of Cambridge Royal was also rung. A. P. S.

RINGER'S CROIX DE GUERRE.

Pte. Harry Bardsley, of Denton, Manchester, who has seen active service with the Royal Army Medical Corps at Lemnos, and for a considerable period in France, has been on a well-earned twelve days' leave to his home, having sufficiently recovered from gassing and trench fever, after a sojourn at Arbroath, of which he spoke in glowing terms. He has now reported again at Aldershot. Pte. Bardsley wore the ribbon of the Croix de Guerre, which he obtained for gallantry while conveying wounded in the field, the medal not having yet been presented to him. While at home he visited the tower of St. Anne's Church, and rang touches for services on April 7th and 14th of Plain Bob, Oxford, Kent, Woodbine and Killamarsh. Other ringers taking part were: H. Fletcher, D. Wilde, F. Overton, A. E. Marshall, J. Pollitt, J. Shaw, S. Bloomfield, A. E. Walters and J. Heckingbottom.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North Western Division was held at Sawbridge-worth on April 13th, when ringers attended from Suffron Walden, Stansted, St. Mary's, Harlow; Bishop's Stortford, Little Munden, and London.

The business meeting was held in the Church House Mr. F. Pistow, the Master presiding, supported by Mr. W. Waits (district secretary).—Bishop's Stortford was selected as the place of next meeting, to be held in September.—A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar (the Rev. E. O. Beverly) for the use of the bells, and the Church House.

Ringings during the afternoon included touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Minor.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Christ Church, Southport, on Easter Monday. Various methods were rung by representatives from Garston, Walton, Liverpool, Pendleton, Crosby, Bolton, Bebington, Oxtol, and Southport. Service was held in church, at which the address was given by the Rev. E. C. Collier (one of the hon. secs.). A business meeting was afterwards presided over by the Rev. Canon Inskip (Vicar), at which a vote of condolence on the death of Mr. Jos. Ridyard, Worsley, was passed by the members, upstanding, and a letter conveying the resolution was sent to Mrs. Ridyard.—Tea was provided for the ringers by the kindness of the Vicar and wardens of Christ Church, to whom a cordial vote of thanks was given.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The following points are taken from the 33rd annual report of the Worcestershire Association: The year 1917 has passed as another war year, and ringing activities have again been restricted by the more serious calls on so many ringers and gate regulations. In many places even ringing for services has become rare, and practices impossible. But England is still at heart 'the ringing Isle'; there is still a good nucleus of ringers ready to man the ropes, and to start afresh, perhaps with renewed enthusiasm, after the war is over. Who can doubt that the many members of famous towers and ringers of quiet country parishes, who are doing their duty in the forces, will be the keenest of all to get to work again at our fascinating art when the happy time arrives? Soldier ringers on leave, that love their bells, generally find their way to the tower and get a meeting arranged; and how glad we are to see them! It is certain that a great revival will begin as they come home for good, and the Church's 'outward voice' will be heard to the full when the cannon have ceased. Meanwhile, wherever possible, some young lads can be taught at least to handle a rope, and they will soon recruit our ranks and complete our bands. Our outstanding ringing event of 1917 was the victory ringing after the battle of Cambrai and the taking of a considerable length of the Hindenburg line, on November 23rd. From St. Paul's Cathedral and from hundreds of churches the bells pealed out in good style, and the mysterious heart-quickening that joy-bells alone can give, cheered all who heard that ringing for victory. All the branch officers have been re-elected and the meetings of the Northern and Southern Branches have been well attended, but in the Western only one meeting was held, and unfortunately the attendance was very bad. The branch officers are doing real good work under most trying circumstances, and everyone should try to assist and give encouragement by attending these meetings. The balance sheet is again satisfactory, for we have not only cleared our expenses but have added to our funds, which now total £77 14s. 4d.; the Belfry Repairs Fund having a balance of £21 15s. 11d. The number of peals is, of course, very small, eight having been rung on tower bells and one on handbells, this being a peal of Stedman Caters rung at Old Hill, at the residence of our Master, on Oct. 20th, conducted by G. F. Swann, it being the first in the method on handbells by our Association.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ACTON, LONDON.—On Sunday, March 24th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, composed by Arthur Hubbard: J. H. Hunnisett 1, J. W. Frut 2, A. W. Davis 3, C. Edwards 4, Robt. Hollaway (conductor) 5, W. Lawrence 6, A. Harding 7, W. H. Hollier 8.

CARDIFF.—Llandaff Diocesan Association.—On Sunday, Feb. 3rd, for evening service, at St. John's Church, in 48 mins. a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): S. Williams 1, H. Day 2, J. Clutterbuck 3, W. Coombs 4, S. Dawe 5, F. Chamberlain 6, W. Bolton 7, S. R. Barker 8. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar (Canon A. Henderson), who was leaving the parish for Malvern.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOS.—On Sunday, March 24th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples: F. Pitts 1, H. Gillett 2, H. Packer 3, H. J. Hill 4, J. Colbett 5, T. Banning 6, W. Strafford (conductor) 7, J. Buttlar 8.—On Easter Day, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Pitts 1, W. Strafford 2, H. Packer 3, T. Banning 4, J. Colbett 5, H. Gillett 6, W. Large (conductor) 7, J. Buttlar 8.

GUILDFORD.—At Holy Trinity Church, on March 21st, for a Confirmation service, 504 Grandsire Triples: F. Radford (first 504) 1, S. Radford 2, M. Smither 3, W. R. Melville 4, J. Scott 5, Sergt. R. Carrier 6, C. Hazelden (conductor) 7, R. W. Melville 8.—On Sunday, March 24th, for evensong, 1260 Grandsire Triples: H. Harris 1, R. W. Melville 2, C. Hazelden 3, M. Smither 4, W. C. Duffield 5, S. Radford 6, W. R. Melville (conductor) 7, J. T. Scott 8.—On Sunday, April 21st, for evensong, 504 Grandsire Triples: Rev. E. L. M. Allen (first 504) 1, W. E. Jeiley 2, M. Smither 3, W. R. Melville 4, F. E. Dawe 5, W. C. Duffield 6, C. Hazelden (conductor) 7, J. T. Scott 8.

SHREWSBURY.—Salop Archidiaconal Guild, and St. Chad's Society.—On Sunday, March 24th, at St. Chad's Church, 288 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, G. Brolin 2, W. Brooks 3, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 4, W. Stockdale 5, W. Lago (Coalbrookdale), first touch in method, 6, A. Fullick 7, W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale) 8. Also 168 of Stedman Triples, conducted by W. Saunders.—On Easter Day, for Matins, in 50 minutes, 1260 Grandsire Triples (the last quarter of Holt's Original): R. F. Turner (first quarter) 1, W. Brooks 2, G. Scarratt 3, G. Jones 4, W. Stockdale 5, A. E. Fullick 6, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 7, J. Evans (first-quarter) 8. First-quarter of Grandsire on the bells for evening service, 168 Grandsire Triples and 160 Bob Major.—On April 2nd, at St. Julian's Church, in honour of the election of churchwardens, 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor: G. Scarratt 1, W. Stockdale 2, W. Brooks 3, G. Jones 4, A. Fullick 5, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 6.—On April 7th, at St. Chad's, 352 Bob Major: R. F. Turner 1, G. Brolin 2, W. Brooks 3, G. Scarratt 4, W. R. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. E. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—Owing to unforeseen circumstances the meeting fixed for Uphill next Saturday, May 4th, is postponed.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Frome, Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available all the afternoon and evening. Buckland Dinham bells (6) also available. Tea and business (Union Jack Restaurant) at 5 p.m.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Portishead on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available 4 p.m. Tea at the Café, High Street, at 5.45.—George Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxbourne on May 4th when the bells will be open during the afternoon and until dark. Tea will be provided at the Welcome Temperance Rooms. All members and friends will be made welcome.—W. H. Lawrence, Hon. District Sec., Little Munden.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, on Saturday, May 4th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. A good attendance is required. All ringers welcome. The church is easily reached by bus No. 6, from Kensal Rise to Lauriston Road, or car from Liverpool Street. Subscriptions for 1918 are now due.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The postponed annual meeting will be held at Burton-on-Trent on Saturday, May 4th. Committee meeting at 4 o'clock, followed by general meeting at 4.45 p.m. in St. Margaret's Schools. St. Paul's bells will be available for ringing from 2.30 until about 7. No arrangements have been made for tea, but it may be obtained at various cafés in the town.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of the Division for the election of Divisional Officers will take place at the Parish Church (St. Peter's), Bexhill, on Saturday, May 4th. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Half railway fares to members attending.—Geo. H. Howse, Div. Hon. Secretary, Kenilworth, Latimer Road, Eastbourne.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Chesterfield on Saturday, May 4th. Ten bells available from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in vestry at 5 o'clock.—Sam. Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4th, at Shore Parish Church. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting at 6.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown and Guildford Districts.—The proposed combined practice meeting on May 4th is unavoidably postponed until further notice.—F. J. Shepherd and J. J. Jones, District Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Grassendale on Saturday, May 4. Bells ready at 4. Service at 5. Meeting at 5.30. Rev. E. C. Collier.—Walter Hughes, Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The second quarterly meeting will be held at Warmley on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30.—W. Stafford, Branch Hon. Sec., 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society—Established 1824).—A meeting will be held at the Church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, E.C., on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available from 3 to 6.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this District will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, May 11th, 1918. Tower open at 3; service at 4.30; tea at 5.15, followed by business meeting. Members intending to attend must notify the District Sec. not later than Tuesday, May 7th. Subscriptions are now due and should be either sent to the District Sec. or paid at the meeting.—W. Lather, Hon. District Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice, on May 16th and 30th, and for general business on the 7th and 21st, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting for business will be held in the Vestry of St. Thomas' Church, Salisbury, on Thursday, May 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Short Service of Intercession in the Church at 12.45. St. Martin's bells (8) available, also St. Thomas' conditionally.—F. St. Edwards, Hon. Sec.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Raunds on Whit-Monday, May 20th, 1918. Tower open at 12 noon, earlier if sufficient members are there to ring. Committee meeting at 1.30. Service in Church at 2 o'clock, meeting to follow. Tea arrangements next week.—Fred Wilford, General Sec., 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Brighton, on Whit-Monday, May 20th, 1918. Short service at 4 o'clock, address by the Vicar of Brighton (Canon F. D. Pierce), Business meeting at 4.30 p.m. in Parish Room, adjoining Church. Half railway fares without limit. Towers open as follows: St. Nicholas, 10.30 a.m. to 12, 6.30 p.m. to 8; St. Peter, 2 p.m. to 4, 6.30 p.m. to 8.—H. R. Butcher, Gen. Hon. Sec., 2, Kent View, Crowborough, Sussex.

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.

CRANLEIGH, SURREY.—On Easter Day, for the evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): Mrs. R. Whittington 1, W. Stroeter 2, Sergt. R. Carrier 3, A. Charman 4, R. Whittington 5, J. Knight 6, W. Charman (conductor) 7, T. Worsfold 8. Rung as a farwell to Sergt. Carrier of the C.R.A., who, since he has been stationed at Witley Camp, has been a very welcome and regular attendant at Cranleigh. He was expecting to be drafted again to France.

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