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BIRMINGHAM**

BELLS
FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
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FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.**

WALLABLE IRON BRACKETS
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

**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 BELLEINGERS 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.

ESTABLISHED 1780.

JOHN NICOLL,

**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer.**

60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway)

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Makers to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Locolo, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

THEIR MAJESTIES' SILVER WEDDING.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

PAINSWICK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF PAINSWICK YOUTHS.
(Etab. 1686.)

On Saturday, July 6, 1918, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5015 CHANGES;

Tenor 26 cwt.

THOMAS BALDWIN Treble	Ex-Sgt. JOSEPH WILLIAMS ... 7
FRANK COLE 2	CHARLES GARDENER 8
WILLIAM HASTINGS 3	WILLIAM HALE 9
JOHN AUSTIN 4	ALFRED WAITE 10
JESSE GILLET 5	JOHN JEFFERIES 11
ALBERT WRIGHT 6	JAMES SINGLETON Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by ALBERT WRIGHT.

Rung in honour of their Majesties' silver wedding.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, July 6, 1918, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

ALBERT DISERENS Treble	EDWARD F. COLE 5
MISS EDITH K. PARKER 2	WILBY J. HAZELL 6
E. MAURICE ATKINS 3	JAMES PARKER 7
*CHARLES V. HARE 4	GEORGE PARCE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JAMES PARKER.

* First peal in the method.

Rung in honour of their Majesties' silver wedding.

HORBURY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 6, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

GEORGE HUNT Treble	JOSEPH BROADLEY 5
HERBERT DRANSFIELD 2	FIRTH HOPWOOD 6
JOSEPH E. SYKES 3	FRANCIS BARKER 7
WILLIAM JOYCE 4	BENJAMIN THORP Tenor

Composed by JOHN THORP.

Conducted by BENJAMIN THORP.

Rung in honour of the silver wedding anniversary of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary.

CHELMSFORD.—Essex Association.—On Saturday, July 6th, at the Cathedral, by invitation of the Rector, to commemorate the silver wedding of their Majesties the King and Queen, a quarter-peal (1259 changes) of Grandsire Caters, in 57 mins., was rung by: A. Whight 1, A. Edwards 2, H. Richell 3, P. Timson 4, H. Allen 5, J. Wood 6, G. Green 7, A. Head 8, W. Lincoln (conductor) 9, I. Poulton 10.

ST. MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON.—On Saturday, July 6th, in honour of their Majesties' silver wedding, members met at 2.15 p.m., and rang a touch of Stedman Caters, followed by three leads of Treble Ten. On this occasion they had the pleasure of welcoming the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn and Mr. R. T. Hibbert, the Master and hon. secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

ST. PETER'S COMPANY.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

The annual outing took place on Saturday, July 6th, the places selected being Lymm and Warburton. Lymm was reached at 1. The bells (tenor 30 cwt. in D) were at once raised, and set merrily going to the tune of Grandsire. The Queens was rung, followed by a Feu-de-jo, in commemoration of King George's and Queen Mary's silver wedding. The ringing during the afternoon was much appreciated by the villagers. Afterwards tea was partaken of at the houses of Mr. Nagle and Mr. John Bradburn, where the necessary hot water to make the cup that cheers was provided.

After tea, and exchange of thanks and congratulations, we made our way to Warburton, being joined by several friends from Miles Platting. The Warburton bells have only been rung once or twice since the outbreak of war, so depleted is the company.

After raising the bells the same tune Grandsire, the firing of the bells, etc., were admirably gone through, as at Lymm. After descending the tower, expressions of thanks were tendered to the ringers by several of the village people for once more hearing the sound of their Parish Church bells.

INDEPENDENCE DAY.

A feature of the London celebration of Independence Day was the ringing of the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral. It is also interesting to note that for the first time since the outbreak of war, the bells at Manchester Town Hall were rung to celebrate the event.

At St. Mark's Church, Glodwick, Oldham, on Thursday, July 4th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins., by the following ringers: J. Knight 1, J. Lees 2, E. Geary 3, F. Crossland 4, J. Taylor 5, E. B. Shaw (conductor) 6, A. Clegg 7, J. Schofield 8; the above was rung to celebrate the independence of America.

On Thursday, July 4th, for a special service, at York Minster, in connection with America's Day, 575 Grandsire Caters, by: T. Haigh 1, P. Firth 2, J. Thompson 3, A. Horner 4, Sergt. E. Morris, A.S.C., 5, G. Horner 6, F. Earnshaw 7, T. Hodgson 8, A. Haigh 9, Wayre and W. Thornton 10. Conducted by Sergt. Ernest Morris, A.S.C. (Leicester).

On July 4th, in honour of Independence Day (in an attempt for a quarter-peal), at Cranleigh, Surrey, 910 Grandsire Triples: Ida Charman 1, Mrs. R. Whittington 2, W. Streeter 3, E. Whittington 4, W. Charman 5, Sergt. Carrier 6, A. Charman (conductor) 7, E. Warner 8, Longest length and first attempt for a quarter-peal by the ringers of treble and tenor.

At the Parish Church, Dalton-in-Furness, on Thursday, July 4th, to commemorate Independence Day, 1260 Bob Minor, in 48 mins.: T. Watson 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Stuart 4, J. Huddleston 5, J. Burrows (conductor) 6, T. R. Jackson (cover) 7. First quarter-peal on the bells, and first of Minor by all. First quarter in any method for the ringers of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th bells.

On Thursday, July 4th, in honour of the visit of the American soldiers to Bristol, a quarter-peal (1299 changes) of Stedman Caters was rung at St. Nicholas' Church by the following: Mrs. E. J. Wilson 1, F. G. May 2, A. Pearce 3, W. Knight 4, W. White 5, W. Lansdown 6, J. Richmond 7, Det. Inspector Wallace 8, I. Long 9, U. Braven 10. Conducted by F. G. May. First quarter-peal of Stedman Caters by ringers of treble and 8th.

On Thursday, July 4th, to celebrate the great event, the Manchester Town Hall bells were rung, this being the first time after a silence of two and a half years, owing to the war. The ringing chamber, along with other parts of the building, having been utilised for war purposes, the ropes had been hauled up out of harm's way. This necessitated a special clearance being made to enable the bells to be rung on the above occasion. P.C. Walter Billinge was successful in getting together a scratch band of ringers. The bells were well overhauled by some few of the most energetic of the band, and were set going about 12 noon, and were rung intermittently until 1.15 p.m. in rounds and the Queen's change. Also 504 Grandsire Triples on the front 7, with 98-10 covering. The ringers were H. Chapman, R. Davies, W. Brown, W. H. Shaker, W. H. Cooper, J. Idle, A. Trippier, P.C. W. Billinge, P.C. R. Williams, P.C. J. Wilson (pensioner), A. Scrapp.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

In reviewing the work of the Guild during the past year, the Hon. Secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, writing in the annual report just issued, says: Owing to restrictions on travelling and other difficulties created by the war, the annual meeting for 1917 was omitted, the committee arranging that all officers should retain their posts. On the other hand several good meetings were held at various branch centres, and in some parts of the Diocese a gratifying degree of activity has been shown in maintaining the work of the Guild. The outstanding feature of the year in this respect was the annual meeting of the East Dorset Branch in December, when a splendid gathering of ringers took place at Wimborne, under the presidency of the recently appointed chairman of the branch, Canon Fletcher, and some fine touches were rung on the glorious bells of the Minster.

The efforts made in many towers to teach beginners, are deserving of all praise, and in several instances, notably in the Marlborough and West Dorset districts, ladies and boys have been successfully trained to take the place of men engaged in the grim exercise of a sterner art. We want an unlimited amount of this work done all over the Diocese, and it is in the patient instruction of young ringers that members of the Guild can best 'do their bit' for the church in this time of trial.

Our Bishop's inspiring appeal on the occasion of Sir Julian Byng's brilliant victory gave a timely impulse to ringing towards the end of the year, and when the glorious news came of the redemption of Jerusalem from the bondage of centuries, church bells in all parts of the Diocese did honour to the great event. The permission given in the Southern Command to ring till 9 p.m. has enabled members to continue their full Sunday work throughout the year, and the evening air at Christmastide was again vocal with the music of our belfries.

The death of Canon Thynne has removed from the Guild one of its oldest members. We are glad to record that the chairmanship of the West Dorset Branch, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Langford, has been accepted by the Rev. W. J. Coulter, Vicar of Bridport.

It will be seen from our roll of honour, that out of our 850 ringing members no less than 398 are on active service, while 27 have laid down their lives in the sacred cause of liberty and justice. The Guild may well be proud of such a record.

Despite the dark outlook at the present moment, we have confidence that at the proper time it will be the privilege of ringers to proclaim victory for England, and an honourable peace.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Under very favourable weather conditions the annual meeting was held at Penkridge on Saturday week, when upwards of 50 members were present, including the Misses S. and K. Pigott, of Smethwick. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. J. Paskin, with an address by the Rev. J. A. Burton (Vicar of Bradeley). Tea was provided at the 'Littleton Arms' Hotel, followed by the general meeting, at which the Rev. L. J. Price (Vicar of Cannock) occupied the chair. The committee's report was read and passed, followed by the presentation of the statement of accounts by the honorary treasurer—which was considered satisfactory—showing a balance on the right side of £24 13s. 3d. The officials were re-elected en bloc: the lay secretary being instructed to act as temporary treasurer, in the absence of the Rev. C. Holroyd Barker—the latter having joined H.M. forces as motor ambulance driver in France.—On the recommendation of the committee the following places for meetings were adopted: Kingswinford (September), All Saints', West Bromwich—where the bells are being recast and rehung (January, 1919), Bloxwich (April), and Lichfield (June) for the annual. In a letter from Mr. E. Horton (Willenhall) it was suggested that certificates should be given members for the most regular attendance for Sunday ringing; also for those ringing their first peal. The suggestion was not adopted, so the matter was allowed to lie on the table. A letter from Mr. A. Madeley (Hull) was read recommending that steps be taken to erect some kind of memorial to those members who had gone forth to defend Right against Might, especially those who had given their lives for the noble cause. The meeting expressed its sympathy with the project, but felt that little could be done in the matter at present.

After the usual votes of thanks, the company dispersed—some homeward bound, while others indulged in further ringing in the tower. Here a little mishap occurred in the form of a stay being broken; but this did not hinder the ringing for very long, for touches in Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were successfully brought round before the bells were lowered in peal.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 1917-18.

For the fourth time our annual meeting is being held in war-time. The greater the demands of National Service on the man-power of the country the greater are the difficulties which face ringers in their attempts to keep hands together in the various towers.

Our last annual meeting, held at Wolverhampton, was generally pronounced a successful one—it being well attended; whilst the quarterlies held at Brierley Hill, West Bromwich and Penn, were very fair.

The fortnightly practices have been resumed, and the following towers have been visited: Penn, Sedgley, Tettenhall and Willenhall. It is to be regretted that fuller advantage has not been taken of this admirable opportunity of improvement, and it is hoped that members more advanced in the art will make an effort to attend and thereby encourage the younger ones.

The list of peals is again small, and is as follows:—

Grandsire Triples	3
Stedman Triples	2
Stedman Caters	1—6

The committee offer their congratulations to Mr. William Rock Small on the successful attempts he made for two peals to commemorate his 78th birthday, and hope that he may be spared to yet add to his large number of both peals and years.

During the year 21 new members have joined the society.

The roll of honour now includes 89 names.

We regret the loss, through death, of one of our members, viz., Mr. W. H. Hawkswood, of the Walsall band.

On behalf of the committee,

CECIL H. BARKER, }
HERBERT KNIGHT } Hon. Secs.

Addendum.—The committee wish to place on record their heartfelt thanks to the Rev. C. Holroyd Barker for his untiring energy and care for the welfare of the society in the capacity of clerical secretary and treasurer, and wish him God-speed in his new undertaking, viz., that of having joined the British Red Cross Society as motor ambulance driver in France.—H. K.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIVISION.

On Saturday, July 6th, to celebrate the Royal Silver Wedding, a 5005 of Stedman Cinques was attempted, but failed through the breaking of the 5th rope, after ringing 2200 changes in 1½ hours: C. L. Routledge (conductor) 1, E. E. Ferry 2, F. T. Goffon 3, J. E. Keen 4, W. Sinclair 5, W. H. Barber 6, J. W. Parker 7, B. Horton 8, A. F. Hillier 9, W. Story 10, R. Richards 11, J. Foreman 12. Tenor 37 cwt.

ABERAVON, S. WALES.—At St. Mary's Church, on July 4th (Independence Day), 630 Grandsire Triples, as follows: *F. Stone 1, A. Pitman (conductor) 2, *W. Herring 3, D. Frankcom 4, W. Norton 5, H. Perry 6, E. Stitch 7, *C. Jones 8. For evening service, July 7th, in 32 mins., 924 Grandsire Triples, *C. Jones 1, A. Perry 2, *E. Stitch 3, A. Pitman (conductor) 4, W. Norton 5, H. Perry 6, D. Frankcom 7, J. Wethersby 8. * Longest length and first attempt. † Longest length on inside bell.

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Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

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.

THE LADIES GUILD. WESTERN DISTRICT.

A most enjoyable meeting was held at Paulton on Saturday last, when a company of about 30 members and friends were present, including Mr. Wilkins, of Bristol; Mr. Holmyard, Midsomer Norton; Mr. Smith, and ringers of Paulton; Messrs. Gillingham, Nisbet, and Goldstone, of Portishead. The gentlemen, who are always a great help at these meetings, raised the bells at 3 p.m., and then left the members of the Guild to the ropes.

A collection was made on behalf of the restoration of Portishead Church Tower, with the result that £2 7s. was handed to the treasurer. A move was then made to the Vicarage lawn, where the Paulton band very kindly entertained the party to a sumptuous tea. After full justice had been done to this excellent spread, a short meeting was held, Mrs. Briggs kindly presiding. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Almondsbury, if convenient. After tea the tower was again visited, and touches of Grandsire and Steadman Doubles and Bob Minor were rung until our hosts and hostesses again summoned us to refreshments. Friends of the ringers very kindly lent conveyances for the whole of the party to and from the railway station.

It is impossible to fully express the appreciation of all who attended for the great kindness shown by the Rev. and Mrs. Briggs.

THE BELLS OF BELGIUM. 'HILLS WITH VOICES.'

The following article, by Mr. Charles Vince, which has just appeared in the public Press, is particularly interesting to ringers, especially in view of the recent discussion at the Central Council. It was read at the Ladies' Guild meeting at Slough, and serves to emphasise the need of co-operation amongst ringers of Great Britain to support the Central Council's efforts to help to replace some of Belgium's last bells. In sending the article Mr. Fussell suggests county collections to include every parish, and he thinks one large bell should go to the town of Viso, in memory of the faithful Cure who sounded the first note of the war, and was executed.

When I think of Belgium as it used to be, it is the belfries that I remember.

They were to Belgium what hills are to other countries. I think of them as great as the hills, as old and as secure. Like the hills, I saw them far away. Like the hills, I climbed them to see the wide views; and the towns seemed to have gathered at their feet, as villages gather round the feet of the hills. But the hills are silent. It is only when the beacon fires are lit that the hills speak to one another across a whole country. Those belfries of Belgium were hills with voices. They spoke across the plain to one another at all the hours, filling the fields and the streets of the towns. They were the voice of Belgium.

'For centuries,' wrote one Belgian poet, 'they rang on every occasion—in the hours of danger and tragedy, in hours of joy, for so many mournings, for so many feasts—that they seemed to carry in the resonant bronze the very heart of generations.'

And now that voice, which was the voice of the heart of generations, has gone. Some of the belfries stand no longer. For more than two years now there has been no belfry at Ypres or Nieuport or Dixmude. The others still stand, but they are dumb.

It is an old and beautiful belief of the Flemish children that on Good Friday all the bells flew to Rome, and coming back again showered down the Easter eggs. This spring they have gone, not to Rome, but to Germany, and from Germany they will never come back.

It is the last of the acts of the German governors which have swept Belgium bare of all that she had. Everything has gone. First her woods went, then her men and women, herded and driven to work in a foreign country, all the machinery of her factories, then one by one the very fittings of the houses—all these have been gathered by Germany to feed the war machine—all the copper down to the smallest things, the leather, the wool, even the blankets from the bed, even the stuffing from the mattresses.

In taking these, Kulkenhausen robbed the people of their last physical comforts. In taking the bells he has touched their soul. He has taken its voice away. 'The bells,' said one Belgian writer when he read the decree—'the bells are one with the Flemish life.'

Remember that the great bells of Belgium were known by name. There was Carolus in Antwerp and Salvator in Malines, and Melchior in Bruges.

Remember, too, that for three years no Belgian has been allowed to sing a patriotic song, nor wear the colours of Belgium, nor write nor read a word which the Germans did not approve. But he could still hear the singing of the great bells. They were the last articulate thing of all his old life, the one voice that rang clear and clear and unchanged above the orders of his conquerors. And now the belfries are silent, and the bells have gone to Essen to make munitions.

When Cardinal Mercier received the decree he sent a message to his clergy bidding them 'keep a strict account of the bells seized by the enemy,' give no help to the despoilers, and recite in their churches the collect 'against persecutors and evil-doers.'

The account will be strictly kept and remembered, but it will not bring back the bells. They will never return from Essen. The belfries are dumb.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I had not intended taking part in the discussion about the Central Council, although I have followed it with much interest, but I feel compelled to offer a remark or two on the letter of Mr. J. Armiger Trollope in yesterday's 'Ringing World,' and especially his complaint that members of the Council do not meet upon a footing of complete equality. I wish to say emphatically that there is not nor ever has been a 'select circle' of the kind he imagines. Every member has the same opportunity of addressing the Council, and if he is 'snubbed' it is by the Council as a whole, and not by the President or any particular individual; but as a matter of fact nobody ever is 'snubbed'; the earliest attempt at a speech is always received with courtesy and indulgence, and no one is ever made to feel himself at a disadvantage either by patronage or contemptuous treatment. I am quite at a loss to understand what Mr. Trollope means by saying there is no 'equality of authority'; every member has his vote, and all questions are decided by a majority. Notices of motion and subjects for discussion are entered impartially on the agenda, and no one can say that the Executive Committee is not thoroughly representative. Will Mr. Trollope explain precisely what he means by saying that members are 'by turns used and ignored'? Used for what and ignored by whom? While it is possible that the discussions of the Council might be more interesting, I am certain that nothing could be fairer than the conduct of its proceedings, and I am inclined to suspect that Mr. Trollope is vexed with something that he has not approved of, and allows his personal feeling to colour his imagination. At any rate there is not the slightest foundation for his insinuations. —I am, yours faithfully, S. PRITCHETT.

MEDIÆVAL BELL INSCRIPTIONS.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute last week the Rev. A. H. F. Boughy (the new President of the Central Council) read a paper of 'Mediæval Inscriptions on Church Bells.'

OXFORD GUILD.

A united practice at the newly affiliated tower of Warfield, on June 22nd, resulted in 19 members attending. Young hands and visitors enjoyed this hay-time meeting. Mr. Brant and the tower foreman kindly made the arrangements, which, with a visit to the Cricketer's afterwards, were fully appreciated. Practice at Windsor, Slough, and Farnham have also met with a hearty response during the past few weeks, double teams and Triple methods resulting in each case.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SOLIHULL.—On Monday, April 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes): E. C. Shepherd (conductor) 1—2 H. Bragg 3. G. A. Martineau 4. Pte. V. Rigg (Hampshire Yeomanry) 5—6. The ringer of 1—2 has recently been discharged from the army. The ringer of 5—6 was home on leave.

TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.—On 13th April, at the Church of St. George, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: H. Watts 1. G. Pincott 2. Herbert Allred 3. T. B. Worsley 4. P. Crook 5. R. Allred (conductor) 6. W. Pennington 7. T. Barlow 8. Rung in memory of the conductor's father. —On Sunday, May 5th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins. Rung as a farewell to Herbert Allred, who was about to join the colours: H. Watts 1. J. Allred 2. R. Allred (conductor) 3. B. Allred 4. W. Hindley 5. J. T. Allred 6. Harry Allred 7. J. Watts 8.

ACTON.—London County Association. — At St. Mary's Church, Acton, on Sunday, April 14th, for men's service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major in 50 mins.: A. Cuthmore 1. A. Darlington 2. A. W. Davis 3. E. A. Reeves 4. C. Iles 5. J. Milner 6. F. Skerington (conductor) 7. H. Mance 8.

BROMLEY, KENT.—At SS. Peter and Paul's Church on April 14th, for morning service, and as a birthday compliment to Mr. G. Huxley, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: Mrs. F. H. Herbert 1. I. Emery 2. A. E. Newick 3. G. E. James 4. P. J. Spice 5. G. Huxley 6. G. Durling 7. T. Phillips 8.

LONDON.—London County Association. — On Sunday, April 14th, at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, for special morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: H. T. Gowley 1. T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2. A. Discrens 3. A. R. Davis 4. H. W. Hibbert 5. A. W. Ayres 6. T. Walker 7. W. T. Walden 8. — On April 30th, for special evening service, at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: F. V. H. Sinkins 1. T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2. A. Discrens 3. A. W. Davis 4. E. A. Reeve 5. W. A. Alps 6. W. H. Smith 7. A. Dyas 8. — On May 12th, for evening service, at the Cathedral Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, 1193 Stedman Cinques, in 55 mins.: C. E. Winney 1. T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2. F. G. Symonds 3. A. Jones 4. J. Scholes 5. A. W. Davis 6. G. R. Fardou 7. A. W. Durlington 8. A. J. Neale 9. W. Shepherd 10. R. Sanders 11. M. Feusom 12. Longest length on twelve bells by the ringers 3rd, 6th, 8th and tenor.

CONCERNING LEADS.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

It is important to remember that a 'lead' is not really a definite distinct thing to the same extent that a 'course' is. A course is a round block consisting of a fixed number of rows which are all definitely related to each other. For instance, in Double Norwich you can say that such and such a row belongs to a certain course, and to no other. A lead is a factor of a course, that is to say, that every course divides into as many parts as there are working bells, and each and every one of these leads is exactly alike. But where the lead begins and ends is not so easy to say. Any consecutive sixteen rows of Double Norwich make to some extent a factor of the course, and so far may be said to be a lead. There are, however, one or two other considerations which will enable us to fix with some great degree of certainty the lead heads and ends of any method.

In this connection the custom of the Exercise does not help us much. It has been usual to call the first row after rounds the first row of the lead, and, consequently, the back stroke of the treble's whole pull the lead end. How this custom came about is easy to see, but it will not stand any real test.

The two things that do enable us to fix the lead heads and ends are first, symmetry; and, second, the fact that the lead is really a factor of the course, and should, therefore, contain within itself the whole of the working of the method and the whole of the construction of the method.

First, as to symmetry. What seems to escape the notice of most authorities is the fact that symmetry is a quality which is inherent in change ringing. It is not merely that all the best methods and compositions are symmetrical. Everything in change ringing is more or less symmetrical, and by far the greater part of asymmetrical methods are really symmetrical. If, then, the lead is to be a true factor of the method, if it is to show in itself all the qualities of the methods, it must show its symmetry, and, therefore, it must be symmetrical itself. This argument will enable us to fix the lead heads and ends within certain limits.

In Treble Dominated Methods with one hunt, the division between the leads will be between the two blows of the whole pull of the hunt, either before or behind.

In Treble Dominated Methods with two hunts it will be between the whole pulls of the two hunts either before or behind.

No other division will show a symmetrical lead, and, therefore, no other division is admissible.

The second point is this. Methods are not haphazard collections of figures. They are series of rows which are produced by definite natural laws. No one will dispute that this is the case with peals of Grandsire Triples. Mr. Thompson's investigations showed us that all the bobs in a peal are divided into a number of groups, and the bobs forming one group make what he called a 'q set.' This law of q sets is a universal law of change ringing, and is practically the one law on which all round blocks are founded. It is the means by which methods are produced, just as much as it is the means by which peals are produced, although it may be slightly modified at times to meet particular circumstances.

Just as every peal of Grandsire consists of a number of courses, joined by bobs in a series of q sets, so the basis of every method is a set of rows in the same coursing order (i.e., the rows of the plain hunting course), and this is lengthened by 'shunts,' which are really nothing else but q sets.

These shunts are of two kinds. First there are the shunts which lengthen the lead to the course, and which I called constructional shunts. And, second, there are often in methods shunts made on a number of bells, which shunts are self-contained and independent. These I called additional shunts.

If you will take a q set of any method, say, Grandsire, and examine it, you will find that the bells in it are all in the same coursing order. And similarly the bells in any shunt are all in the same coursing order. Now a lead end is the result of a constructional shunt, and, therefore, if you take only that part of the method which really lengthens the lead to the course, you will always have your lead ends in the same coursing order. That is, that Bob Major lead ends are the natural lead ends of every method. When you have other lead ends it simply means that you have an additional shunt which is partly in one lead and partly in another. This additional shunt hides the natural lead ends, but you must remember that it does nothing towards the construction of the method, i.e., the lengthening the lead to the course.

If the lead is to be a true factor of the course it should show all the construction and all the additional shunts, and this it does not do if part of an additional shunt is in one lead and part in another.

This is a really scientific case for Bob Major lead ends. They are not merely the best set of lead ends out of many available sets. They are the only set that are really lead ends. And they are as much the true lead ends of Union or Oxford Surprise as they are of Grandsire or Superlative.

There are a great many practical reasons why methods which have their true lead ends hidden are not worth ringing, but I leave them. I am merely concerned to point out, without attempting any proof, that the division of the leads and Bob Major Lead Ends depend not on any fancy or opinion, but on the natural laws on which change ringing is founded.

France, June 12th, 1918.

NOTICES.

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

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of the Maidstone District will be held at East Farleigh on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock; service at 5; tea at 5.45, business meeting after. All will be welcome.—Stephen Hayzelden, District Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society—Estab. 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 4 p.m.; business meeting to follow at the Nag's Head Tavern at 8.30. All ringers welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting of the above district will be held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 13th. By kind permission of the Vicar the bells (8) will be available all day. Business meeting at 5.—W. Hinton, District Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. Established 1755.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Solihull on Saturday, July 13th. Bells (10) available from 4 o'clock. Tea will be arranged for 5.30 at the Masons' Arms Hotel.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A Combined Practice will be held at Cranleigh (8 bells) on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 3.30 till 9 p.m. Tea at 4.30 o'clock (members must bring their own eatables), at Mr. W. Charman's cottage.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Wellingboro District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Earls Barton on Saturday, July 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock; tea at 4.30.—W. Perkins, District Sec., 6, Addington Road, Irthlingboro.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Newchurch near Warrington on Saturday, July 13th. Bells ready at 3; meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Sec., 507, Wigan Road, Bolton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Cobham on Saturday, July 20th. Bells (6) available from 3.5 and 6.30-9; service at 5; tea at 5.45, but members must bring their own rations, gd. will be allowed towards cost.—The Vicarage Gardens will be open to Members (by kind permission of the Vicar) during the afternoon.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, July 20th. Bells available during the afternoon and evening; meeting at 7. The association Committee meet at the same place on the above date.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, July 20th. bells available from 3 p.m.; service 4.45, followed by business meeting.—J. H. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A District Meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, July 20th. Bells available from 3.30 to 9; business meeting in the Tower at 5 p.m. Owing to difficulties in catering no tea can be arranged. Will those intending to be present please note?—E. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—By kind permission of the Rev. T. F. J. Mummery, the next quarterly meeting will be held at Eynsford, on Saturday, July 20th. Bells will be available at 4 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. Half railway fares up to but not exceeding 2s. paid to those attending.—T. Groombridge, Hon. Dist. Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Rainford on Saturday, July 20th. Bells ready at 2.30; service at 5; meeting at 5.30.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Secs.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Northampton District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Great Brington on Saturday, July 20th. Bells ready at 3; service at 5; tea at 5.30, no food or sugar provided. Election of district officers for the ensuing year.—T. Law, District Sec., St. Peter's Cottages, Weston Favell.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 20th, at 3 o'clock.—Please note, the meeting will be at St. Giles' Parish Room, Woodstock Road (near St. Giles' Parish Church). Ringing will be arranged if possible.—R. T. Hibbert, Sec., Warren House Lodge, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Publow, Saturday, July 27th. Divine Service at 3.30; tea and business at 4.15. N.B.—No sugar provided.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., School House, Midsomer Norton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—A Summer meeting will be held at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, on Saturday, July 27, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Ringing 3 o'clock, evensong 5.30, and tea 6 p.m. for those who notify the hon. sec. that they will be present.—W. H. Fussell, Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.—A friendly gathering for bell ringing and tea drinking is proposed for Saturday, July 13th, at Great Missenden, Bucks. Bells available at 4 p.m.; tenor 27cwt. The Branch Committeemen are asked to make this known to all members.—The Annual Committee Meeting of the Diocesan Guild takes place at Oxford on Saturday, July 20th.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Association will be held at St. Phillip and St. Jacob's (Bristol) Parish Hall on Saturday, July 27th. Business: Presentation of accounts and report and election of officers. Bells available at St. Phillip's Church at 2 o'clock; Service at 3.30, to be followed by business meeting and tea. Several other towers will be available for ringing. Will Branch Secretaries kindly notify me on or before July 20th how many of their members expect to be present?—F. K. Howell, Hon. Treasurer, Gloucester Road, Thornbury, Glos.

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