

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 392. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1918.

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

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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 given 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. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK.

THE 'LEAD ENDS' DISCUSSION.

The discussion on the subject of 'Lead Ends' and the kindred matter of Legitimate Methods is far from exhausted, although up to the moment only the Rev. C. D. P. Davies and Mr. Trollope have taken part in it. The revival of the controversy—for it has been debated at length at other times and in other places—came about through the publication of Mr. Davies' pamphlet, which is directed at destroying the findings of the Legitimate Methods Committee, as accepted by the Council many years ago. To many present members of the Exercise the Legitimate Methods report is practically unknown, except in the one important particular that it is laid down that every 'legitimate' method—which, after all, only means every 'regular' method, for there is nothing at present either legal or illegal, in the ordinary sense of the term, about the construction of methods—must have Bob Major lead ends. The Committee's findings embodied in the report do not say why these are necessary, and the article by Mr. Trollope, which appears elsewhere in this issue, explains why the arguments, as well as the conclusions, were not forthcoming. The three persons upon whom the drafting of the report finally rested were unable to agree among themselves as to the best form of explanation, for they appear (or at least the Rev. H. Law James and Mr. Trollope appear) to have reached their conclusions by a different process of reasoning.

We have no recollection as to whether, or to what extent, this diversion of opinion was placed before the Council when that body was asked to adopt the report, but we have asked Mr. Trollope to now give the Exercise the reasons which guided him to the conclusion that the only legitimate lead ends were those which belong to Bob Major. In asking him to do this while he is actively engaged in the fighting line in France, with all the distractions by which thoughtful writing under such conditions is handicapped, and also without opportunity of reference to the mass of material which he has accumulated on the subject, is to ask him to undertake a task of unusual difficulty, for the subject is an involved one which requires the quietude of a study to be adequately dealt with. However, Mr. Trollope has kindly promised to do what he can, and the article this week, setting out what was done originally by the Committee, is the preliminary.

If Mr. Trollope is able to place his reasonings before the Exercise in a way that will put the Exercise in possession of such facts as will enable the members to form a considered judgment for themselves, he will have done a good service. At present, it must be admitted, the average ringer finds it difficult to follow a controversy, in which two experts take opposing views, without knowing, in the case of one at any rate, the basis upon which is built the conclusions that he supports.

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MODERN WORK.**

from Belfry 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 write 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.,
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BIRMINGHAM**

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SIX BELL PEAL.

HALSE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
On Sunday, September 15, 1918, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;

*A. C. HARVEY 1	F. POLE 4
*G. JONES 2	A. TOUT 5
*W. CLAPP 3	A. C. SMITH 6

Conducted by A. TOUT.

The ringers of 1st and 5th are from Milverton, 2nd and 6th from Chipstable, 3rd from Halse and the 4th from Fitzhead.

* First peal and first attempt.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Thursday, September 12, 1918, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
IN ST. MARTIN'S BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANCES;

Tenor 17 size in B flat.

JOSEPH PIGOTT 1-2	ALBERT WALKER 5-6
JAMES E. GROVES 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 7-8
MORRIS J. MORRIS 9-10	

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER. Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.
Referee: JAMES GEORGE.

THE LAST MAN GONE.

'Perhaps no belfry in Leicester,' says the Vicar, writing in the 'Parish Magazine' of St. John the Divine, Leicester, 'has shown more patriotic spirit than that of St. John's. When war broke out, one by one the ringers joined up. At the end of 1916, six of the men had gone overseas, four were left, and four young lady ringers. Still they joined up, and when Mr. F. Howe (who in addition to singing in the choir can handle a rope) went a month ago, only the skipper of the ship was left! On Wednesday, August 7th, Mr. W. Willson, steeple-keeper, answered the call and joined the Royal Air Force—and the last man had gone. The ship will not sink, however, for fortunately our lady ringers are all Mr. Willson's daughters who can ring, chime and play hymns when required.'

Mr. W. Willson, we may add, was '50 not out' while at Blandford Camp, Dorset. He is at present stationed at the Aerodrome, Tadcaster, Yorkshire.

PETERBOROUGH RINGERS AT CHATTERIS.

On Saturday last, five members of St. Mary's, Peterborough (F. Rollingson, G. Barker, W. Waldron, Kathleen Jutson, and J. J. Jutson), with T. Tebbutt (Northampton), Jessie Pulett (March), paid a visit to Chatteris, Cambs. The company were met at the church by members of the local band, Messrs. Abrams, Chreshlay, Miss Abrams, and Mr. Edwins. The bells, a musical ring of six, were soon going to a good touch of Kent Treble Bob. Subsequently, Oxford, Woodbine, Double Court and Plain Bob were rung, after which one of the local men suggested Stedman Doubles, saying they had tried for years, but the first 120 had yet to be rung on the bells. So followed several six-score of Stedman. The first on the bells was rung by Kathleen Jutson. A. Abrams, G. Barker, J. Pulett, T. Tebbutt and J. J. Jutson. The party had a very pleasant afternoon and evening, and were indebted to Mr. Abrams for the arrangements, including tea, etc. Credit is due to the local men for the manner in which the belfry is kept, it being well lighted and ventilated, with matted floor, a heating stove in the centre, and rush-bottomed chairs. The walls are covered with peal boards relating peals rung during the last fifteen years.

A ROUND OF VISITS.

The Milton-next-Gravesend band have paid the following visits to neighbouring towers:—

Cobham, on Sunday, July 21st, where they rang 720 Plain Bob for morning service.

Christ Church, Erith, on Sunday, July 28th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob (1280 changes) was rung for morning service. Mr. T. Groombridge, senr., and Mr. T. Groombridge, junr., assisted in this quarter-peal, which was conducted by the former.

Thorne.—On Sunday, August 21st, for morning service, 720 Grand-sire Minor and 720 Kent Treble Bob was brought round.

Higham.—On Sunday, Sept. 8th, for morning service, 720 Plain Bob and 720 Grand-sire Minor. At each of these places, with the exception of Christ Church, Erith, the church bells are now never rung, owing to the ringers being absent in the service of their country. The following took part in the visits: Fred. Hayes, H. Argent, G. Jones, G. Morrad, J. Avis, C. Waterman, George Hayes, H. Holden, Guy Ambrose, and Fred. Mitchell, R.A.F.

FALLEN IN THE WAR.

Official news has been received that Regt.-Sergt.-Major Tucker, of Caerphilly, and a member of the Llandaff Diocesan Association, was killed in France on Sunday, Sept. 8th.

He was a splendid type of a man, being of most genial disposition, and the sad news is deeply regretted by all his fellow ringers.

It will be remembered that his picture appeared in the 'Ringing World' of August 10th, 1917; at that time he had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

A SUNDAY'S VISIT TO NORFOLK TOWERS.

A BISHOP'S THANKS.

On Sunday, Sept. 8th, the Fakenham ringers (Norwich Diocesan Association) had a special ringing Sunday in their district. The party met at Fakenham Church at ten o'clock, and rang before morning service. A waggonette was then in readiness, and after a drive of seven miles reached South Creake Church, where the beautiful peal of five heavy bells were started, and touches were rung for an hour, followed by an inspection of the bells and frames which badly need overhauling. Great difficulty was found in handling the bells, the frame on inspection showing signs of shoring with crude trimmed timbers. Next the party journeyed to North Creake Church, a favourite tower with the ringers, but found that the bells had not been raised since they were last there. Two 720's were rung, and then the company made a further journey of seven miles, through a pleasant wooded district, to Wells-next-the-Sea, which was reached at 4.30 p.m. Ringing at once commenced for the evening service, which is held at six o'clock. The company were met by an old famed Norfolk ringer, of 40 years ago, James Skinner, one of the former St. Peter Mancroft ringers. He had done very little ringing in recent years, but he soon made his mind up for a touch of Grandsire Triples, which more than delighted him. Afterwards, other touches, including Bob Major, were rung. At the evening service the preacher was the Bishop of Thetford, who, in the course of his sermon, remarked on the skilful and scientific way the bells had been rung for service. He had listened to them as he approached the church, and said it was a treat to hear them rung, as most churches had lost all the ringers for war services.

The day was somewhat stormy, and, having ten miles to travel, the ringers, after service, started for home, which was reached at 9 p.m. Various touches of Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire and Plain Bob were rung during the day, being conducted by Mr. W. E. Bason, and the arrangements were made by Mr. C. S. Tuthill, captain of the Fakenham company. The members wish to thank the clergy and officers in charge for the use of the bells.

On the following Thursday a nice congratulatory letter was received by Mr. Tuthill from the Bishop of Thetford, who after service had heard of the trip. He said the ringers had done a hard day's work, and he could hardly imagine them getting the four churches in and travelling so far in so short a time.

THE LLANDAFF ASSOCIATION.

SUGGESTED MEMORIAL FOR THOSE FALLEN IN THE WAR.

A quarterly meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Association was held at Llanbradach on Saturday last, and was very well attended. The bells were available all the afternoon and evening, full advantage being taken to use them, the methods rung including Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tea, very kindly provided by the local men, was served in the Parish Hall, fifty sitting down. The business meeting followed, presided over by the Vicar of the Parish (the Rev. Edwin Edwards), who at the outset remarked that one of the association members, Regimental-Sergt.-Major S. Tucker, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was killed in France on the preceding Sunday, and as a last tribute of respect he asked all to stand in silence for a few moments, which was accordingly done.

Instructors' reports were read, Mr. Cook, of Caerphilly, promising to continue instruction at Bedwas.

Mr. Walter Bossett, of Llanelly, was elected a new member, and the place for the next quarterly meeting of the Llandaff Archdeaconry was left over until the annual meeting, which is to be held at Llandaff on December 26th.—The next Monmouth Archdeaconry quarterly meeting will be held at Malherne, near Chepstow, on October 26th.

Mr. Frank Stephens, Llanbradach, gave notice that he would at the annual meeting move that something be done at the conclusion of the war by this association in the way of a memorial to those fallen in the war.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. W. Jones) and Mr. J. E. Sykes made an appeal to the members to increase the sale of 'The Ringing World' by taking more copies, and paid a tribute to the Editor for what, under great difficulties through his recent illness, he had done to present the paper to the ringing fraternity week by week without fail.

After the meeting, a band was formed by Mr. Cook to go to Caerphilly and ring the bells, muffled, as a last tribute to Sergt.-Major Tucker, he being one of the members of the Caerphilly band to start change ringing when the bells were installed there.

Prior to the meeting, six members of the All Saints' band, Newport, made a special call at Bedwas for the purpose of giving Mr. J. E. Sykes, of Huddersfield, his first pull on those bells. The meeting was a great success, and the best thanks are due to the local ringers at Llanbradach for their efforts.

WINCHESTER GUILD.

A combined practice meeting was held at Ottershaw on Saturday last, when, despite the somewhat inclement weather, there was a fairly good muster of ringers, including two ladies (Miss V. Shorter, of Otterlands, and Mrs. Shepherd, of Hersham). Ringing commenced at 5.30 p.m. on the excellent peal of six (tenor 16½ cwt.), and many touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, also Plain Bob and Treble Bob, were brought round. The local hand put in an appearance during the evening, and were rather pressed to see ladies ringing and the tenor being 'turned in.' They, however, had a pull, and it is hoped they will join the Guild. The ringing was much appreciated in the village, as the bells are not rung regularly.

ANOTHER TRIP TO SOMERSET VILLAGES.

The last of the summer cycling trips to Somerset villages was made in stormy weather, on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 8th. Heathfield was the first place to be visited, and here met Messrs. A. C. Harvey, A. Tout (Milverton), G. Jones (Chipstable), W. Sealey (Bishop's Lydeard), E. Lock (Heathfield), F. Sharland, and J. Barter (Oake). Heathfield has a nice light peal of five, which have been silent for more than twelve months, and the inhabitants were pleased to again hear their musical sounds. The next place was Hill Partridge, where is another peal of five, which also have been silent for some time. Only rounds could be attempted, as the cage, which has done service for probably 200 years, is in very bad condition. After fifteen minutes' run, Bradford-on-Tone was reached. Here is a peal of six (tenor about 20 cwt.), hung in an iron frame, which were soon set going to Grandsire Doubles, and the sweet mellow tones of the back five were greatly enjoyed. The treble has been added in recent years, and its tone is sharp and piercing, and contrasts badly with the other five. In fact, it is a bad splice, and in the opinion of the visitors spoils the peal. Two miles further on is West Buckland, with another peal of six, but lighter than Bradford, and not so good in tone. After half an hour's ringing here, a start was made for Wellington to ring for evening service. At this church the party was met by the local men, and the peal of eight (tenor 22 cwt.) were kept going until service time. Owing to the wet weather only about half of those expected turned up.

WILLENHALL RINGER'S CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY.

Pte. Frank Ward, of the R.A.M.C., a ringer of St. Giles', Willenhall, Staffs., has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry in tending the wounded during the night of July 20th. When the award was announced his Colonel summoned him to his presence, and congratulated him upon having added to the laurels of the R.A.M.C. On two previous occasions Pte. Ward had been commended for his conduct, one being on March 21st, when a French General (General de Laquiere) wrote to his C.O. praising him for his daring during an air raid. 'He exhibited the greatest courage,' says the French General, 'and showed wonderful activity, searching the smoking debris with extreme devotedness under fire, and withdrawing the wounded and bearing them to the hospital.'

Pte. F. Ward belongs to the North Midland Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. He is a member of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, and was one of the most promising of the younger members of the band, at St. Giles', Willenhall, where he has rung several peals of Grandsire Triples, and was making good progress with Stedman, when, at the outbreak of war, he was mobilised, as were many more ringers who were connected with the Territorial Force.

Writing in the 'Parish Magazine,' the Vicar says: 'Frank is one of the best known among the younger members of our congregation. He was educated at St. Giles' Day and Sunday Schools, and is now one of our bell ringers and a regular communicant. We are proud that one of our boys has conducted himself with such chivalry and courage in the midst of peril, and offer our heartiest congratulations to him and his family on the distinction that has been awarded him.'

The following members of St. Giles' band have joined H.M. Forces: David Appleby, R.A.M.C.; Frank Ward, R.A.M.C.; Fred. J. Ward, R.A.M.C.; S. H. Coley, Second Air-Mechanic, R.A.F.; E. Coley, South Staffords, missing; Ralph Baker, R.E., missing; Albert Ward, R.E., Railway Section; C. Davis, Employment (Artisan) Company; C. Beech, T.G.A.; H. Taylor, South Staffords; S. Evans, R.A.M.C.

DOVE LEYS TO BE SOLD.

Dove Leys, one of the charming residences of the late Sir Arthur Heywood, is to be sold, according to a daily paper. The delightful property, now in the hands of Sir Arthur's heir, Colonel Sir Percival Heywood, is beautifully situated on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire borders, with fine mansion and park lands adjoining the River Dove. A Staffordshire yeoman, who has served with distinction lately and gained the D.S.O., Sir Percival is the fourth holder of the title conferred on the Manchester banker and M.P. who led the Reform agitation in Lancashire, and succeeded the year before last on the death of his father, Sir Arthur Heywood, of Duffield Bank, Derby, and Dove Leys. The late baronet, the paragraph adds, was greatly interested in the application of light railways to agriculture, and had a model railway in the grounds at Duffield Bank.

Many ringers made the acquaintance of this railway.

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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.

THE METHOD REPORT.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

It is not possible to draw any distinction between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' methods.

It is not possible to draw any sharp and definite line between good and bad methods.

It is not possible, even, to set up any absolute standard by which a method may be tested.

These are the conclusions to which I have come after some years very close study of the matter. Perhaps this may seem to some a denial of the Method Report and what it stands for, and a reversal of what I have been saying for a long time past. It is not so. It is merely a development, not a contradiction. It does not mean the denial of the Method Report, but an explanation and readjustment.

Some people, who ought to know better, seem to have the idea that the Method Committee is an irresponsible set of men who first of all invented some fads and then tried to foist them on the Exercise, in order to dictate to ringers what they should practise and what they should not, and incidentally to deprive them of many beautiful and excellent methods. There is not a shadow of truth in all this. The best way to disprove the charge is to tell briefly what really did happen.

About twenty years or so ago there was a good deal of interest taken in the Exercise in method construction, and many new methods were published in the 'Bell News,' and elsewhere. In the opinion of Sir Arthur Heywood and the Rev. Earle Bulwer these methods were not up to the standard they should have been. Some were lopsided; some would not produce good music; some would not produce enough true rows; some were old methods altered and spoilt; most of them showed that the laws of method construction were insufficiently understood. So these two gentlemen determined to bring the matter before the Council. Mr. Bulwer introduced it and made some suggestions for a definite standard of what a legitimate method should be. In the event a committee was appointed. It consisted of Messrs. Carter, Craven, Dains, Law James and myself.

Anyone who has any experience of committee work knows that usually some members take more interest and do more work than others. I was so in this case. Mr. Craven retired quite early. Mr. Carter, though he signed the report, was never very much in sympathy with his colleagues, and he, too, resigned. Mr. Dains remained a member till his death, and I used to spend hours discussing the matter with him; but I do not think I do him any injustice when I say that his knowledge and experience, great as they were, were hardly such as fitted him for this particular task; and his contribution to the actual report was small. The bulk of the work was done by Mr. James and myself, assisted by Mr. Bulwer, who, as secretary of the Council, was ex-officio a member of the committee.

It so happened, for reasons of which neither need be ashamed, that from the first there was a keen rivalry between Mr. James and myself, so that anything I said was sure to be criticised mercilessly by him, and what he said was equally severely tested by me. As a result it seemed for a long time that no agreement was possible. More than one draft report was circulated and rejected. Mr. Bulwer suggested that we should present a majority report and leave Mr. James out. Fortunately we did not do this. At last, after a long controversy, partly private and partly public, in which several outsiders took part, I drew up a statement of the results which I thought we had agreed on and published it in the form of a letter to the 'Bell News.' Mr. Bulwer wrote to me saying he could accept it as it stood, and suggested that it should be circulated as a draft report. I slightly reworded it, added a few explanatory notes, and sent it to Mr. James. He still preferred his own version, but decided to give way, provided that the definitions of 'plain lead,' 'bob lead' and 'single lead' were added. I did not, and do not, like these definitions, not because I denied or could deny the truth Mr. James wanted to express; but because I did not think them necessary, and I felt sure they would lead to misunderstanding—as the event has actually proved. However, as he had met me half-way, I could hardly do other than go the rest. The other members made no difficulty about signing; and at last, after five years, the report was presented.

I do not want to shelter myself behind a dead man's reputation, but I may point out that it was entirely due to Mr. Bulwer's suggestion that the report consists of this particular statement; and that when Mr. Davies attacks the honesty and abilities of the committee, he is not only attacking us, who are alive, but one who is dead and who had one of the finest intellects and the largest knowledge that was ever engaged in the science of ringing.

What I have said will effectually dispose of the charge that there was any underhanded conspiracy to foist a fad on the Exercise. We could hardly agree to the truth; we were not in the least likely to agree to any sham. It also explains why the report states conclusions and does not give proofs and explanations. It is simply the truth that we had reached the same result by such different roads that no agreement was possible upon proofs; and also that we did not know enough at that time to give an explanation which would have done any real good. One other point. Though there never was any intention or attempt to dictate to ringers what they shall ring, yet the Report does say definitely that such and such classes of methods are not legitimate and, by implication, not fit to ring. The explanation is easy. The Council definitely told us to go and draw up a statement of what

a legitimate method is. We did what we were told to do. If there is any dictation that is the Council's fault, not ours. And indeed all those people who cry out upon us for 'narrowing the range of composition,' depriving the Exercise of many beautiful and perfect methods,' and so forth, have done the same thing themselves.

Every standard you set up must in some way or other restrict composition. All our critics have their own standards, and their real quarrel with us is that we did not adopt those particular standards. Mr. Davies, for instance, who wastes so much sham indignation about the wrong we have done the Exercise, does himself the same thing. The only difference is that our standard is a reasonable and a good one, while his is an unreasonable and thoroughly bad one. Fortunately this statement can be tested in a quite efficient way. I do not make assertions and reach conclusions in this matter without first putting them to a searching test. I made a list of all the methods in which peals have been rung since ringing was. I may have missed one or two but not more. I divided them into three groups. The first group contains the ten standard methods. The second, those methods which although not standard have still been rung at different times in different places by different bands. The third, those methods which have been practised by one band only.

Alongside these I marked whether the method were legitimate or not, according to the Report, and also according to some other standards put forward by Mr. Davies and other men. I took those methods in which peals had been rung because that seemed the fairest way of getting at those methods which the Exercise, as a whole, had throughout its history found useful. If I had taken all the methods as yet worked out, the number would have been enormously increased, and would have consisted mainly of methods written out by Mr. James and myself assuredly within the limits of the Method Report standard. The evidence is strongest from the first group, less but still important from the second group, and practically negligible from the third group.

The result of this test is surprising and entirely vindicates the Method Report. According to it, all the ten standard methods are legitimate, but Mr. Davies rules out as illegitimate no fewer than four. (This is the man who charges the committee of trying to deprive the Exercise of many beautiful and perfect methods.) In the second group all the standards condemn such things as Rob Triples and Grandsire Major, but while the report rules out Canterbury Pleasure and Union Triples, Mr. Davies bans Forward, Albion, New Cumberland, Gloucester Surprise (one version), New Cambridge, and others. Mr. Davies leads his readers to suppose that the report condemns Stedman. There is not a word of truth in that. Whether Mr. James' ideas of that method are right or wrong, they were expressed subsequently to the publication of the report, and are not to be found there either directly or by implication. So much for the charge that the Report deprives the Exercise of any method of real value.

But I never looked on the Report as the final goal. It was a milestone on the way; a great advance on what had gone before. The committee's real task was to first understand and then explain the laws on which methods are founded, and that task I have kept before me for now twenty years. After the Method Report was presented, the committee took other work in hand. The classification report was drawn up and presented; the six-bell methods worked out and published; and the eight-bell methods largely worked out. Mr. James did practically the whole of this. I was at that time working hard at the Treble Bob peal collection, but I shortly returned to the original problem. There arose the Stedman controversy on which, as usual, I found myself in opposition to Mr. James. Then the question of how properly to extend a method. And arising out of these many other problems about such things as coursing order, principles, bobs, and others. My plan of working was first to collect facts and examine methods, and then to construct a theory which I thought would cover and explain them. When I had tested it I wrote it out and sent it either to Mr. James or another person for criticism. This criticism led to further statements, and so I gradually got a very large mass of evidence and opinion on the many points that arose. I also wrote a long analysis of Surprise Methods for Mr. William Snowden, and had the benefit of his criticism and help.

All this work was mainly tentative, but as I got further I began to see clearer, and at last I reached that point where I not only knew, but I knew that I knew. I then dropped working by theories and correspondence, and took in hand the task of constructing the science of change ringing as an abstract science from the very beginning.

The task is not so easy as it seems. I had got a mass of facts and opinions. Their main value was to show how little real proof there is behind most of the statements so confidently made. How theories, so good and fair to look on, at first break up when subjected to real tests! I had got plenty of facts; plenty of experience; plenty of opinions, my own and others. My first job was to take the whole lot and drop it overboard. That is the hardest thing of all to do. But it had to be done. All these facts and opinions will come in very useful later on. Now I had got to start with a perfectly open mind. I had to be willing, in fact, to learn.

I had to find, first of all, the very simplest things without which ringing does not exist. These I call the irreducible minima, or the fundamentals, and these alone I was entitled to assume as proved. I then took the simple axiom or ordinary abstract science, and with their aid constructed the science of ringing by pure abstract logical reasoning.

The result was that, broadly speaking, the Method Report was fully justified. But it also appears clearly that a recasting of its wording is necessary, and the time has about come when that can be done.

In the Field, September 8th, 1918.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Nine-tenths of Mr. Trollope's letter in your issue of September 13th (p. 292) are occupied with matter that is a virtual repetition of what has already been said by me in 'Lead Ends.' Not till his last paragraph does he reach his own lines. It is in this that there occur words to which I wish to draw special attention. They are these—'For a very few simple reasons which I will not enter into here.' This is Mr. Trollope all over. I challenge him to give these reasons, and I challenge him to give them at once in plain black and white. It is quite Mr. Trollope's usual course to imply reasons without giving them, then to write reams of parenthetical, if not of irrelevant, matter, and then with an air of superior wisdom to dub as 'ignorant' anyone who presumes to call his conclusions into question. I ask your readers to keep a careful look-out for these reasons. I hope that I may be wrong, but I much doubt if they will be forthcoming.

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL.

In spite of a very wet day, the meeting of the Sheffield District Society at the Cathedral on Saturday, proved an attractive one, some 50 ringers attending from Barnsley, Beighton, Chesterfield, Handsworth, Ilkeston, Killamarsh, Market Drayton, North Wingfield, Norton, Rammoor, Rotherham, Worksop, and Sheffield Cathedral, the Rev. W. P. Wright (Vicar of St. Silas) and the Rev. J. R. Lee Nichols (Vicar of Rammoor) also taking part in the ringing. The bells were raised about 3.30, and continued in use until past seven o'clock, with touches of Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire and Stedman, from Triples up to Cinques, with varying success, the weight of metal and (to some of the visitors) the long draught of rope being a little difficulty which wants practice to overcome.

The Vicar of Sheffield (the Ven. Archdeacon H. Gresford Jones) paid a visit to the tower and said he was pleased to see so many visitors, who were enthusiastic enough to come there and help 'carry on' in these difficult times, especially considering the weather conditions and travelling facilities. He also expressed the hope, now that the outlook was so much brighter, that we should soon see better times and peaceful days.

The President (Mr. J. P. Tarlton) presided over a brief business meeting, when the agenda was quickly disposed of.

After the big bells were done with, the handbells were requisitioned, and some of the rust rubbed off, but a good deal of practice will be required before getting back to the pre-war standard. Then 'Good-night,' and a long one was said, for the Society does not meet again until next March. However, there was much in the meeting that was encouraging to those who are left at home to keep 'carrying on.'

S. T.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BLAKENHALL.

A quarterly meeting of the above Guild was held at Blakenhall (Staffs), on Saturday, Sept. 7th, when a good number of members attended from Bradley, Bilston, Blakenhall, Coseley, Dudley, Tipton, Old Hill, Smethwick, Wolverhampton, Wollaston, etc. The bells (8) were at the disposal of the ringers from three o'clock, and the Guild service was said in church at five p.m., conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. Berridge), who also gave a very interesting address. At the close of the service, an adjournment was made to the Schoolroom, where a bountiful tea was awaiting those present.

The business meeting followed, presided over by the Vicar, who gave the members a hearty welcome to his church. He was supported by the Ringing Master (Mr. H. Mason). Several new members were elected, including, as an honorary member, the Vicar, who thanked the meeting for the honour conferred on him.

The Ringing Master made special reference to the band who rang the peal of Stedman Triples at Chaddesley Corbett a week previously, and they were heartily congratulated on their performance.

The next quarterly meeting was proposed to be held at Smethwick Old Church, on November 30th.

At the close of the meeting, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Mason, and seconded by Mr. W. R. Small, to the Vicar for conducting the service in church and presiding at the meeting, for the use of the schoolroom, tower and bells; to the donors of the tea, to the ladies who so kindly undertook to prepare and serve the tea, and looked after the comfort of those present. The members also wish to thank sincerely Mr. Bradney, Mr. D. Jones and Mr. Dawkes for their great kindness in making the necessary arrangements for so successful a meeting.

A verse of the National Anthem brought another successful gathering to a close.

OXTON, BIRKENHEAD.—On Sunday, June 30th, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major: H. Samuel 1. W. Battle 2. H. Luckin (conductor) 3. J. Owens 4. W. Hughes 5. J. Evans 6. S. Barnes 7. J. Turner 8.

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—(Estab. 1637.)—A meeting will be held at the 'Coffee Pot,' Warwick Lane, E.C., on Sept. 24th for general business.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Annual district meeting will be held at Sittingbourne on Saturday, Sept. 21st.—E. A. G. Allen, Hon. District Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—An interim meeting of the above will be held at Mersham on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Ringing (8 bells) to commence at 3 o'clock. All ringing friends will be heartily welcomed.—C. Tribe, Hon. District Sec., British School Villas, Tenterden.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Croydon (by kind permission of the Rev. A. T. Reeve) on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Bells available from 3 to 7.15 p.m.; service 5.30; tea and business meeting 7.30, at the Wilton Carriage Works (Mr. H. E. Wills). All ringers welcome.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. (*pro tem.*), 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Easton-in-Gordano on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Bells available at 3 o'clock; Divine service at 4.30; tea in the Schoolroom at 5.30, business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Clent on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Bells available from 3 o'clock; service in the Church at 5; business meeting in the Schools after the service. Election of officers takes place at this meeting. Tea, at 1/2 per head, can be provided for all those who will let me know on or before Wednesday, Sept. 18th.—E. J. Dowler, Branch Sec., 11, St. Edward's Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

LADIES' GUILD.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Isham, near Kettering, on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Ringing from 3 o'clock; short service at 5, followed by tea. Will all who intend being present kindly communicate with Mr. Walter Wilson, The Pines, Isham?—Edith K. Parker, Hon. Sec., 40, Rockmount Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.19.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Rochdale on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Further particulars by circular.—W. H. Shaker, 106, Bank Street, Clayton, Manchester, and J. H. Banks, 462, Helmsore Road, Helmsore, Hon. Secs.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—Combined practice meetings have been arranged as follows:—Yateley, Sept. 21st, 5.30 p.m.; Walton-on-Thames, Sept. 28th, 5.30 p.m.; Yorktown, October 19th, 4 p.m. The quarterly meeting will be held at Horsell (Woking) on October 5th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea (no sugar) will be served in the Parish Room at 5.30 p.m., but any eatables required must be brought. All ringers will be welcomed at these meetings.—F. J. Sheppard, District Sec. (*pro tem.*), 1, West Carr's Lane, Hersham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Bells available from 2 p.m.; tea (1/6 each) 5 p.m., at Radford's Café, Bath Street, followed by general meeting in the Parish Room, North Street. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. W. Beads-moore, 1, Avenue Road, not later than Sept. 25th?—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society), Estab. 1824.—A by-meeting will be held at the Church of All Saints, Fulham, on Saturday, Sept. 28th, commencing at 4 p.m.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Quarterly meeting at St. Giles', Cripplegate, Saturday, September 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. till dusk; meeting at headquarters afterwards.—James Parker, Hon. Sec. (*pro tem.*).

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Harpenden on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Nash, Hon. District Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Kings-winch on Saturday, September 28th. Bells available at 3 o'clock; short service in Church, with an address, at 5.15; tea (if possible) 1/-, in the Parish Room at 6, those intending to be present please notify me not later than the 24th inst. Reports will be ready for distribution. Motor 'bus leaves Wolverhampton High Level Station at 2 and 3 o'clock.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Leigh Parish Church on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Bells from 4 to 8; meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Sec., 507, Wigan Road, Bolton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting will be held at Hunslet on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Bells from 2.30 p.m.; business meeting in the Parish Hall at 7 p.m.—W. Gage, Hon. Sec., 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting of the above District will be held at Pontefract on Saturday, Sept. 28th. By kind permission, the bells at St. Giles' and at All Saints' Churches will be available for ringing from 1 to 7 p.m. Tea will be provided for those only who give notice to Mr. A. Walker, 7, Southfield Avenue, Pontefract, not later than Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 1/10 per head.—W. Hinton, District Sec., 5, Volta Street, Selby.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Wellingborough District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Doddington on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Bells (5) available at 3 o'clock; tea at 5 o'clock; meeting to follow.—W. Perkins, District Sec., 6, Addington Road, Irthlingborough.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Glastonbury on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Service in the Parish Church at 4 p.m.; meeting to follow in the Vestry. Tea at Barrett Bros., High Street, at 6.30 p.m. The bells at St. John's (8) and St. Benedictus (6) available during the afternoon and evening.—E. E. Burgiss, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.— Guildford District.—Next meeting will be held at Ashted on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Eight bells, available from 3 p.m. Service at 5.30. Tea at 6; 9d. to members, 1/6 to visitors.—J. J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—(Estab. 1755.)—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Cathedral (St. Philip's) Saturday, October 5th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Through the generosity of Dr. Malins, tea will be provided for those only who advise me *not later than October 2nd* of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, October 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock till dusk; business meeting at 6. Subscriptions for 1918-19 are now due.—S. K. Driver, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The next meeting of this District will be held at Speldhurst on Saturday, October 5th. Tower open at 4; service at 5. Half travelling expenses up to, but not exceeding, 2/- each will be paid to members attending. All members intending to be present are requested to notify the District Sec. not later than Tuesday, October 1st.—W. Salter, Hon. District Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The address of Mr. A. L. Coleman, the new Hon. Sec. of the Norwich Diocesan Association, is High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

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.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. H. A. COCKEY

The Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, having started a fund to help forward the above memorial, appeals to all ringers for voluntary subscriptions, which should be forwarded to Mr. F. K. Howell, Hon. Treasurer, Thornbury, Glos.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.—At St. Thomas' Parish Church, on Thursday, May 16th, 1918, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins.: J. Simmonds 1, W. Chambers 2, Gnr. S. Harrison, R.G.A., Bolderstone (first quarter-peal in the method), 3, W. Scott 4, H. Phillips 5, W. Johnson 6, W. Upton (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, J. Leal 8.—On Sunday, August 25th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 49 mins.: J. Simmonds 1, W. Chambers 2, Gnr. J. Burles (Milton-next-Gravesend) 3, W. Upton 4, A. Callaway 5, W. Johnson 6, H. Jennings (conductor) 7, J. Leal 8.

ESSEX.—Stebbing Branch.—On Saturday, June 29th, being the occasion of the silver wedding of the Vicar of the parish, the Rev. W. W. Judges, and Mrs. Judges, a 720 of Oxford Treble and 720 of Double Court were rung on the bells of St. Mary's Church in the afternoon. At 5 p.m. the ringers and their wives, with the churchwardens, sidesmen and their wives and several other friends, were kindly entertained to tea in the Vicarage grounds. After tea the company strolled round the spacious garden, which was full of excellent produce. After this the ringers returned again to the tower, and rang a well-struck 720 of Double Oxford. Those who took part were as follows (conducted by E. Claydon and A. Shufflebotham): Messrs. A. Barker, J. T. Barker, H. P. Emery, E. Hynds and E. Claydon, of the local company, Messrs. A. Shufflebotham, Braintree, and H. Redgewell, Rayne, very kindly coming over to assist the local company for the event before the party left the Vicarage.—Mr. H. Ruffel, the Vicar's warden, thanked the Vicar and Mr. Judges for their kindness in asking them to tea on the occasion of their silver wedding, and wished them every happiness in the years that were to come.

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Guildford, and Published by The ROLLS HOUSE PUBLISHING CO.,
LTD., Bream's Buildings London, E.C.