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FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1923.

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

Price 3d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, SURREY.



The Recast Tenor (30 cwt.) at
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

New Ring of Ten opened May 14th, 1921.

BELLS, CARILLONS, CLOCKS.

THE BIRMINGHAM GATHERING.

With the gradual disappearance of the men who had the privilege of knowing Henry Johnson in the flesh, one might have looked for some falling off in the interest taken in the commemoration dinner, which is held every year in Birmingham, but the evidence of last Saturday's gathering goes to show that the event is tully maintaining not only its interest but also the spirit which prompted its institution. As a social function, of course, there is nothing in ringing circles which excels it. Birmingham itself is so centrally situated that it is accessible to all parts of the country, and year after year from the four corners almost of the land, ringers make the pilgrimage to share in the pleasures of the gathering, and to renew old friendships or to make new acquaintances. The spirit of fraternity which ringers boast so proudly of is seen fully revealed on these occasions; there is nothing cold and formal; the atmosphere of true brotherhood is uppermost.

This feature of the annual gathering, important and valuable as it is, does not, however, outweigh the other phase. Henry Johnson was the embodiment of all that was best in ringing: humility, unselfishness; an unwavering desire to seek the true advancement of the art; a kindly, genial soul, whose readiness to help others was an outstanding trait. Many great ringers there have been, but few can lay claim to all the characteristics and accomplishments which made the Birmingham veteran so much loved and respected, and placed him as well in the forefront of the Exercise. Every ringer who values the art for the art's sake, looks upon Henry Johnson not only as one of its most striking figures—a genius among pioneers—but one who stood for the maintenance of the best traditions of ringing. The opportunity that is thus provided every year of keeping alive the memory of this man, of reminding the present generation of all that his name stands for, and of holding up that name and reputation as a shining example to those who come new into art, is one which is of incalculable advantage to ringing, and ringers know and acknowledge this by the homage which they pay in attending the commemoration dinner.

The occasion provides no moment of melancholy thought, Henry Johnson himself would not have had it so; but it serves to direct attention to the brightest and best traditions of ringing, to stimulate ringers to unselfishness in the craft, and to seek always for improvement. Behind the feeling of pleasant comradeship which the commemoration inspires, one can sense the spirit which keeps green the memory of such a man, and we hope that year by year this feeling may grow as the numbers who claimed Henry Johnson as friend diminish.

BELLS! BELLS! BELLS!

Let the Music of the Bells celebrate Peace.

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are now prepared to execute orders for all kinds of Bells, singly or in rings. Their foundry is equipped with every modern appliance for the manufacture of Bells of any size, weight or note, all their Bells being moulded and cast on scientific principles; while their knowledge of the 'Chemistry of Metals' enables them to produce that fine quality of Tone so much desired by all lovers of Bell Music.

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AND BRASS FOUNDRY,
SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM.**

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TEN BELL PEALS.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5200 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

TOM TEBBUTT Treble	CHARLES W. BIRD 6
FRED WILFORD 2	WILLIAM ROGERS 7
BERTIE O. SODEN 3	JOHN T. HENSMAN 8
JOHN METHERELL 4	GEORGE FLAVELL 9
FRED HOPPER 5	*ANDERSON Y. TYLER... .. Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.
* First peal of Treble Ten.
Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS.

LONDON.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN, STEPNEY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in C.

SEPTIMUS RADFORD Treble	*WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 6
ERNEST WEATHERBY 2	JOHN H. B. HESSE 7
WILLIAM HEWITT 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 8
CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD ... 4	WALTER AYRE 9
FRANK I. HAIRS 5	ALFRED H. PULLING... .. Tenor

Composed by W. T. ELSON.
* First peal of Stedman Caters. The company take this opportunity of thanking Mr. H. Langdon for obtaining permission for the peal to be rung, also Mr. Nicholls, in having everything in readiness.
Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

AND THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

HENRY BOWER Treble	CHARLES R. WRIGHT 6
MISS KATHLEEN JACKSON ... 2	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS 7
SIDNEY BRIGGS 3	COLIN RYDER 8
THOMAS WILLIAM CHOWN ... 4	*LEONARD LITTLEWOOD 9
HAYDN THORPE 5	JOHN THORPE Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS.
* First peal on a working bell. First peal of Bob Royal by all except the ringers of the 3rd, 7th and tenor. First peal in the method as conductor. Rung in honour of the engagement of Miss Kathleen Jackson and Harold Walker, of Doncaster.
Conducted by J. THORPE.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SWINTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, 1923, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt.

GEORGE MORRIS Treble	JOHN BROCKBANK 5
THOMAS LINGARD 2	THOMAS HOWARD 6
DAVID CLARKE 3	CHARLES SEDDON 7
DANIEL HOWARD... .. 4	*WILLIAM COLLIER Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS HOWARD.

* First peal. This is the first peal on the bells since they were recast and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., Loughborough. All the ringers are of the local band with the exception of T. Lingard and C. Seddon, who come from Pendlebury.

JAS. E. GROVES,
CHURCH BELL 43, Malvern Road,
HANGER, Handsworth,
Birmingham.

All the latest improvements in Bell Hanging, Ball and Roller Bearings. Everything for Bells supplied.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, 1923, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.		Tenor 16½ cwt.	
JAMES GOODSELL	Treble	C. CREASEY	5
F. MORGAN	2	W. HOAD	6
T. BOOTH	3	E. MILLS	7
L. HOAD	4	G. MILLS	Tenor

Conducted by W. Hoad.

First peal as conductor and first attempt. First peal as conductor by a man born in the parish of Salehurst. All the ringers learnt to ring at the tower. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the treble, who has been a ringer at the tower for 35 years.

SILVERDALE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, 1923, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.	
WILLIAM FITCHFORD	Treble
*ALBERT E. ALDERSEA	2
FRED SMITH	3
GEORGE CRAWLEY	4
†THOMAS HURD	5
ALBERT CRAWLEY	6
CHARLES MORLEY	7
CHARLES H. PAGE	Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal on eight bells. This peal is the longest by the Association.

EAST MOLESEY, SURREY.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, 1923, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.	
*HERBERT A. HARDING	Treble
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE	2
WALTER EMMETT	3
FREDK. W. GOODFELLOW	4
JOHN HOWES	5
FREDERICK GODDARD	6
JOSEPH MILNER	7
ARTHUR HARDING	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

* First peal. Rung on Mr. F. Goddard's birthday.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, 1923, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SHIPWAY'S TEN-PART.		Tenor 14½ cwt.	
WALTER CHARMAN	Treble	JACK BRANCH	5
JOHN AKEHURST	2	WILLIAM STANFORD	6
JOHN WHITEHEAD	3	JOHN COOK	7
PETER CHARMAN	4	ALFRED CHARMAN	Tenor

Conducted by J. COOK.

FULBOURNE, CAMBS.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1923, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. VIGOR AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.	
CHARLES K. HALL	Treble
†CHARLES E. PATTEN	2
JOHN T. NEWINGTON	3
*JOHN W. B. GIDDENS	4
*ARTHUR G. KING	5
ARTHUR J. PAGE	6
GEORGE D. BRIDGE	7
BASIL D. BUTTRESS	Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by BASIL D. BUTTRESS.
* First peal. First of Major by all except the ringers of the 3rd, 2nd and tenor. * First peal of Major on tower bells. First peal of Major as conductor. First peal of Major on the bells by a local band and rung at the 2nd attempt.

SLATE PEAL TABLETS.—Free Estimates and Drawings, also photographs of designs, sent on receipt of full particulars of Peals to Jones, Brookside Cottage, Dunchurch Road, Rugby.

DISS, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH, ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH
ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1923, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr.	
WILLIAM IRELAND	Treble
FRANCIS S. WILSON	2
ERNEST F. POPPY	3
GEORGE ARCHER	4
ARTHUR W. LEEDER	5
TOM FORD	6
CLEMENT J. MORE	7
JOHN SOUTER	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by CLEMENT J. MORE.

This peal was specially rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. F. S. Wilson, and was his first peal of Double Norwich.

STANSTED, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1923, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.	
FREDERICK BIRD	Treble
WALTER PRIOR	2
THOMAS JORDAN	3
HENRY J. TUCKER	4
THOMAS J. WATTS	5
HENRY DEW	6
WILLIAM T. PRIOR	7
GEORGE JORDAN	Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by GEORGE JORDAN.

JESMOND, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 18½ cwt.	
JOSEPH ROWELL	Treble
JOSEPH S. KEEN	2
*HAROLD G. FRAMPION	3
*LESLIE BROADBELT	4
ALFRED F. HILLIER	5
ERNEST E. FERRY	6
†FRED BROADBELT	7
ALBERT M. HALL	Tenor

Conducted by E. E. FERRY.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method away from the tenor.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.	
WILLIAM E. LYDDIARD	Treble
GEORGE DURLING	2
*CHARLES F. KEEP	3
JOHN LYDDIARD	4
EDMUND MOUNTER	5
GEORGE HUXLEY	6
ISAAC EMERY	7
HENRY J. TINNAMS	Tenor

Conducted by ISAAC EMERY.

* First peal. Rung as a farewell to the Rev. C. C. Gosselin, Vicar, who is leaving St. Luke's for the living of Sundridge, Kent.

PENKRIDGE, STAFFS.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.	
*JOHN W. BASTONE	Treble
HERBERT BOOTH	2
†ALBERT G. HUNT	3
FRED BIRKS	4
JOHN PERRY	5
EDWARD F. MITCHELL	6
HERBERT KNIGHT	7
EDMUND WESTWOOD	Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Lady Hatherton, whose body was interred that day. * First attempt for a peal. † First peal in the method with a working bell.

Bell Ropes

MADE OF BEST ITALIAN HEMP.

➤ GREAT REDUCTIONS. ➤

Kindly write for Prices. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Estab. 1780.

DAVID MAXON, Rope Works, Grantham.

TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL HALLOWS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIAM J. KEMP Treble	REUBEN SANDERS 5
ALBERT W. COLES 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 6
CHARLES T. COLES 3	HAROLD W. CLARK 7
GEORGE R. PYE 4	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.
First peal in the method on the bells.

SWANSCOMBE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 18½ cwt.

WILLIAM HARPER Treble	ARTHUR MORTON 5
HERBERT AUDSLEY 2	HERBERT HOLDEN 6
JOHN CHEESEMAM 3	FREDERICK CULLUM, JUN. ... 7
* EDWARD BROWN 4	JOHN MORTON Tenor

Conducted by JOHN CHEESEMAM.

* First peal of Triples 'inside.'

OLDBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 10½ cwt.

JESSE SCREEN Treble	WILLIAM FISHER 5
BENJAMIN GOUGH 2	ABRAHAM GREENFIELD ... 6
* ARTHUR LOACH 3	SAMUEL J. HUGHES 7
EDWARD REEVES 4	REUBEN HALL Tenor

Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.

* First peal in the method. Rung to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Caters rung by Mr. John Jaggar.

WHITWORTH, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

MATTHEW'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

TOM CLEGG Treble	JOHN GRIFFITHS 5
WILLIAM TOMLINSON 2	JAMES H. KERSHAW 6
SIMEON K. TAYLOR 3	* HERBERT SLACK 7
JAMES H. LEES 4	STEPHEN HODGKINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES H. KERSHAW.

* First peal.

ASHTAD, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

* GEORGE COOK Treble	* JOHN HOYLE 5
* JOHN BEAMS 2	* ALBERT DISERENS 6
* GEORGE MARRINER 3	* JOHN H. WHITE 7
ALFRED H. WINCH 4	ALBERT HARMAN Tenor

Composed by NATHAN PITSTOW. Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

* First peal in the method with a bob bell. † First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

BOILEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

RICHARD HOLDER Treble	THOMAS GASSON 5
HERBERT TOMSETT 2	ARTHUR ABSOLAM 6
WILLIAM PELLING 3	WILLIAM WATTS 7
FRANK BENNETT 4	* EDMUND J. DAVEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

* First peal of Major.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

ALFRED FALLON Treble	HERBERT WAKELAM 5
EDWARD F. MITCHELL 2	WILLIAM H. LAWLEY 6
HARRY M. HAWKSWOOD 3	JOHN PERRY 7
J. D. GEORGE HARRIS 4	JOHN WARRILOW Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PERRY.

First peal in the method as conductor.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, DERITEND,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 12 cwt.

MRS. R. J. WILKINS Treble	JAMES GEORGE 5
GEORGE F. GARRISON 2	WALTER FARLEY 6
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 3	GEORGE F. SWANN 7
JOHN W. JONES 4	ALBERT T. SCRIVENS Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

Arranged for the ringers of the treble, 4th and 6th, who hail from Bristol, Newport and Wells respectively.

HOGHTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOKS' VARIATION.

FRED CHAMBERS Treble	† JOHN BROWN 5
ARTHUR CHAMBERLAIN 2	JOHN WATSON 6
TOM STANCLIFFE 3	ARTHUR TOMLINSON 7
JOHN SANDERSON 4	* WILLIAM DRAPER Tenor

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal. † First peal in the method on an 'inside' bell. Ringers of the 5th and 8th belong to Houghton, the rest to Blackburn.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

FREDERICK LEES Treble	HARRY D. LISTER 5
ARTHUR SYMONDS 2	LAWRENCE POULSON 6
FREDERICK MORTLOCK 3	STEDMAN H. SYMONDS 7
KEITH WHITTELL 4	WILLIAM R. J. POULSON Tenor

Composed by B. FRANCIS. Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to M. Symonds, who was unable to take part in the peal. 4th and 5th men hail from Bildeston, Suffolk.

FOR THE WIDOW OF AN OLD RINGER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your issue a fortnight ago contained a notice of the death of an old Lancashire ringer, Mr. Tom Gibbons, of Barrow-in-Furness. May I, through your columns, call attention to the little book of reminiscences published by him a year or two before his death. I think a good many ringers would read them with interest, and as the price is only 6d., many may like in this way to help his widow. Copies may be obtained from Mrs. Gibbons, 87, Ferry Road, Barrow-in-Furness, for 6d. each, post free.—Yours truly,

H. J. ELSEE,

President, Lancashire Association.

Groombridge & Palmer, CHURCH BELL HANGERS.

Inquiries invited for new or repair work. Satisfaction guaranteed.

6, Vauxhall Road, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincs.

SCARBOROUGH, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN DIVISION.)

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. W. MOORHOUSE'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb.	
*ALBERT RUSTON... ..Treble	ARTHUR SEAGER 5
†WILLIAM H. BARKER 2	HARRY GIBSON 6
IRENE HORNER 3	JOHN R. BARTON... .. 7
HENRY FERGUSON 4	FRANK DAVISONTenor

Conducted by J. R. BARTON.

* First peal. † First peal in the method and on an 'inside' bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to H. Ferguson, Ringing Master of the Yorkshire Association (Northern Division). Treble and 2nd ringers were elected members of the Association previous to starting. Rung on the 38th anniversary of H. Ferguson's first peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KEMPSTON, BEDS.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1923, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's called differently. Tenor 18½ cwt.

*HAROLD G. BEARDTreble	*NORL WILES 4
*ALFRED DOLLIN... .. 2	HERBERT MORTIMER... .. 5
†LEONARD TURNER 3	PEARL INSKIPTenor

Conducted by P. INSKIP.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' First peal as conductor. First peal by a local company who are all Sunday service ringers.

WOLLASTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN BASSTreble	JOHN LLOYD... .. 4
ROBERT MATTHEWS 2	WALTER J. BRETHERTON ... 5
HARRY PRICE 3	JAMES GEORGETenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

First peal of Surprise on the bells, also the first Surprise Minor peal by all the band and by the Northern Branch of this Association.

BRINDLE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Woodbine and Oxford, and three 720's of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*HERBERT BLACKLEDGE ...Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER 4
FRED RIGBY 2	JOHN H. GARTSIDE 5
WILLIAM SHARPLES 3	WILLIAM FOWLERTenor

Conducted by W. SHARPLES.

* First peal.

UPCHURCH, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, College Single, Kent Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Oxford Single Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 13 cwt. in F sharp.

*ELIJAH J. BOAKESTreble	WILLIAM J. WALKER 4
CHARLEY MILLARD 2	CECIL C. BISHOP... .. 5
WILLIAM T. HYLAND 3	Q.M.-SGT. G. GILBERT, R.E. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT, R.E.

* First peal. Ringers of the treble, 3rd, 4th and 5th are of the local band.

WOODSTON, PETERBOROUGH.
THE PETERBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

CHARLES HOARETreble	MISS PHYLLIS HARE 4
HERBERT HOARE 2	MISS ANNIE PARKINS 5
*MISS KITTY MOORE 3	RUPERT RICHARDSONTenor

Conducted by MISS ANNIE PARKINS.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal as conductor and first attempt.

MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH, GLOUCESTER.
THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DAVID,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores in 10 different callings. Tenor 12½ cwt. in F.

ALBERT BOSWELLTreble	ERNEST WITHERS 4
HORACE TERRY 2	HENRY COLLEY 5
WALTER LARGE 3	CECIL LOCKE... ..Tenor

Conducted by W. LARGE.

MAXEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, viz., (1) Double and Single Bob, (2) Double and Single Oxford, (3) Double and Single Court, (4) St. Clement's, (5) Kent Treble Bob, (6) Oxford Treble Bob, (7) Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 12 cwt.

JOSEPH LONDONTreble	ARTHUR RIGGALL 4
ERNEST WRIGHT 2	WILLIAM TILLEY... .. 5
HORACE M. DAY 3	GEORGE H. WELLSTenor

Conducted by HORACE M. DAY.

First peal in ten methods by ringers of 2, 5 and 6. Rung on St. Matthias's Day.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT 90, BLACKMAN LANE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

JAMES R. KEMP 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8

Composed by BENJAMIN SHAW. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT 'ST. MICHAEL'S,' JOSEPH'S ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

MRS. A. C. HAZELDEN ... 1-2	A. C. HAZELDEN... .. 5-6
WILLIAM SHEPHERD 3-4	SEPTIMUS RADFORD 7-8

Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.
Umpire: MR. GEORGE PETTER.

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

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1923, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 size in B flat.

THOMAS RUSSAM 1-2	ALBERT WALKER 7-8
HERBERT LANGDON 3-4	ALBERT E. NORMAN 9-10
GEORGE F. SWANN 5-6	JOHN NEAL... .. 11-12

Composed by JAS. E. GROVES. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.
Referees: JAS. E. GROVES and ALBERT SCRIVENS.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1923, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
At the Royal Grammar School,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Original.

Size 18 in G.

WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 1—2	GEORGE W. STEERE ... 5—6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3—4	RAYMOND PHILPOTT ... 7—8

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Witness: MRS. PULLING.

Rung as a coming-of-age compliment to Mr. R. Ayres, of Peterborough.

COGGESHALL, ESSEX.

THE ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
At the Residence of Mr. E. W. Beckwith,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

FRANK CLAYDON ... 1—2	WILLIAM KEEBLE ... 5—6
ANDREW SHOFFLEBOOTHAM ... 3—4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS ... 7—8

Composed by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE. Conducted by WM. KEEBLE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to A. Saunders.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, Feb. 25, 1923, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,
At the Residence of F. J. Pitstow, 45, High Street,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*FREDERICK J. PITSTOW ... 1—2	WILFRID HOOTON ... 5—6
*ALFRED E. PITSTOW ... 3—4	*FREDERICK DENCH ... 7—8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILFRED HOOTON.

* First peal on handbells. This is the first peal on handbells in the town of Saffron Walden or by any one of its members during the whole of its existence. W. Hooton hails from Cambridge.

THE A. T. KING MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I wish gratefully to acknowledge the following further amounts received towards the fund for the above, and on behalf of my committee, thank the givers: Rev. Maitland Kelly, £1; Rev. W. H. Davies, 2s. 6d.; St. Giles-in-the-Fields ringers, 7s. 6d.; Messrs. A. R. Macdonald, 2s. 6d.; B. J. Walsom, 2s. 6d.; E. Lankester, 2s.; A. J. Neale, 2s.; Maurice Smith, 2s.; amount previously acknowledged, £26 13s.; total, £28 14s.

As my committee are desirous of putting the work in hand at an early date, I shall be glad to receive donations from intending subscribers as soon as possible. Again thanks to all, Yours faithfully,

C. T. COLES, Hon. Sec.

49, Wood-Street, E.17.

DEATH OF A PONTEFRAC TINGER.

By the death of Mr. B. Wackinson, in his 60th year, on Feb. 10th, the Pontefract ringers have lost another old comrade. He had been a ringer at All Saints' Church for about thirty years, and took part in several Yorkshire Association peals.

The interment took place on Feb. 15th at Pontefract Cemetery, a good number of his fellow ringers and also ringers of the Parish Church attending. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung upon the handbells at the graveside at the close of the committal service, and, in the evening, at All Saints' Church, with the bells muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire was rung by the following: A. Walker, junr., 1. W. Hawley 2. B. Moody 3. W. Pearson, senr., 4. W. Pearson, junr., 5. A. Walker, senr. (conductor), 6. J. Fryer 7. H. Walters 8.

SWINTON.—On Monday evening, Feb. 12th, at St. Peter's Church, a half-peal of Stedman Triples (2,520 changes), in 1 hr. and 34 mins.: W. Grundy 1. P. Grundy 2. W. Jones 3. D. Howard 4. J. Ridyard 5. T. Howard 6. J. H. Ridyard (conductor) 7. W. Collier 8. This is believed to be the longest length ever rung in this method on the bells. Also longest length for the ringers of 4th, 6th and 8th.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND, KENT.—On Tuesday evening, Feb. 13th, for practice, 720 London Surprise, in 25 mins.: Fred A. Mitchell 1. H. Argent 2. J. Burles 3. Fred M. Mitchell (conductor) 4. L. Beckett 5. G. Morrad 6. First 720 in the method on the bells and by all the band.

'BOOKING FEES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With regard to Mr. Broadley's notice of motion to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Yorkshire Association re a booking fee of threepence per member per peal for all peals rung under this association's title, I am pleased to see the proposition has come from a regular peal ringer; therefore it carries a little more weight than it otherwise might do. Doubtless, Mr. Broadley has the support of his fellow peal ringers in his district, or he must be a very brave man indeed to bring such a debatable matter up for decision.

Whilst personally agreeing with the motion in principle, I am afraid that the fee suggested is rather too much to be successful. Had the fee mentioned been one penny per member per peal, probably no one would object. I do not know whether Mr. Broadley has had any actual experience of his suggestion being put into operation, but I have in my mind that this method of producing revenue was instituted by one of our local district societies some years ago, and was not a success.

Turning to the last report issued by the Yorkshire Association, I find that during the year there were 68 peals rung on 6, 8 and 10 bells, which at threepence per member per peal would bring in a revenue of £6 15s., whilst there is shown a deficiency of £32 in the issue of reports; therefore, the motion, if carried, would not meet the deficit by even one quarter of the total amount.

In examining the committee's report therein, I notice they are urging more members to buy reports, and suggest that at least every tower should buy one copy for the company, to help the financial status of the association, adding that the only remedy is a greater sale, or to suspend the issue. Whilst admitting from a financial point of view this state of things is deplorable, I am certainly of opinion the remedy mentioned is not the only one to level matters up.

There are many points to consider before further taxing the worker, because where would any association be without its peal ringers? For an association to be successful you must have interest. To create interest you must have an object in view, and it is undeniable that the object of the great majority of change ringers is to become efficient peal ringers in as many methods as possible. Again, there is the continuous advent of beginners with the ambition of scoring peals, and these must be helped and encouraged, for this is where you build up the strength of your associations.

Just take into consideration for one moment that the peal ringer is the practical worker, for they put into execution the brain work of the composers, who exploit upon the genius of the method builder; therefore, to my mind, to tax the peal ringer to any extent is not the proper way to make profits meet losses, for without the practical execution the whole fruits of labour of the other workers mentioned would be lost, and the status of our noble art would eventually reach a very low ebb indeed.

Supposing the scheme is put into operation, will the association gain anything at the year's end? I am inclined to think that what they gain on the swings they will more than lose on the roundabouts.

When one considers the increased cost of living and travel, coupled with lower wages and bad trade (even if fortunate enough to be employed), I am afraid that if the fee is made too large, it will only create a strong camp of objectors, and less peal ringing.

Again referring to the report, I also notice that in spite of the loss on the reports, the past year's working has resulted in a net gain of £2 11s. 2d. Now this is where the peal ringer will argue as to where the loss to the association comes in, seeing it is not a profit-sharing business concern.

Whilst agreeing, as I have said, in principle, I do so only on the ground that the casual and non-peal ringers should not be compelled to pay more for their reports, because the regular peal ringers are sending up the cost; but looking at the matter broadly, and from a business point of view, there is more than the one remedy referred to, to put the matter on a proper footing without making more difficulties for the conductors, and causing dissension among the workers. Other methods should be tried, and the proposed scheme brought into operation as a last resource only.

Sheffield.

SIDNEY F. PALMER.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Bedford District was held at Turvey on Saturday, Feb. 24th. The Rector (the Rev. Guy Beech) presided, and members were present from Bedford, Kempston, Biddenham, Bromham, Olney, Dunstable, and the local company. A welcome visitor was Mr. J. R. Sharman, who is now living in Northants.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Houghton-Conquest, some time in April, and notice will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

Methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major. Some good practice was derived by some six bell ringers who rang their first touch of Major.

A SUNDAY MEETING.**HEREFORD GUILD'S SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.**

The Clifford District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at Eardisley on Sunday, Feb. 18th, when some 40 ringers assembled from the following towers: Almeley, Brodwardine, Burghill, Clifford, Eardisley, Kington, Letton, Peterchurch, Staunton-on-Wye, and Staunton-on-Arrow, the bells were raised shortly after 2.30 p.m., and kept going until 5 p.m., when the Rector (the Rev. S. H. Osborne) kindly invited the visitors to tea at the Rectory.

At the short business meeting which followed, the Rector took the chair, and gave the ringers a right hearty welcome, stating that as he suggested the meeting should be held on the Sunday he was very pleased to see so many present, as he understood it easily eclipsed any previous meeting held in the district. Peterchurch was chosen for the next meeting.—Four probationers from Eardisley were elected, and eight from Staunton-on-Wye.—The balance sheet, as adopted, showed an increased balance in hand.—Two Guild certificates were presented, and the secretary gave a short resume of the year's working, pointing out that fair progress in change ringing had been made, and that the balance in hand was made possible through the increase of hon. members from 8 to 14. The Guild was greatly indebted to these ladies and gentlemen, who thus showed their appreciation of the work the ringers were doing for the church. The secretary also said he was very pleased to be in a position to report that last year he had been successful in getting the ringers' subscriptions paid by the Parochial Church Council for each of the towers in the district.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given the Rector and Mrs. Osborne for their kind hospitality. — The Rector suitably replied, stating he had heard from the Bishop what a good work the ringers as a body were doing.

The tower was again visited, and 240 of Bob Minor rung for the evening service, at which the Guild's special form was used.—The Rector gave a very able address from part of verso 17, Acts xxvii., 'And they used helps.' After service the tower was again visited, and the bells kept going until after 9 p.m. During the afternoon and evening the following methods were rung: Grandsire Triples on handbells, Bob Minor, Grandsire, Plain Bob and College Single Doubles. This is the first meeting ever held by the Guild on a Sunday, and proved to be the best attended and most useful meeting yet held in the district.

THE PEAL AT HEADCORN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peal of Major at Headcorn, your correspondent appears to be very anxious to set at rest the qualms of conscience which he evidently thinks the members of the Ashford district are grievously suffering from over this peal. In the first place, he is waiting for a reply from the conductor of the peal, and from what I gather he can still wait. The conductor no doubt thinks the same as I do, that there was no reason at all to rush into print over the matter, but a private letter to the conductor himself would have no doubt resulted in a favourable reply. I take it that this concerns the band who rang in the peal, and no one else, and I know that seven out of the eight who rang in the peal are satisfied with it as a peal, and will record it in their own list, let others do what they will.

If your correspondent wishes for any further information on this matter let him put his name, so that we may know whether it is someone really concerned in the matter anxious for right, and not spite or a busybody in other men's matters.

CHARLES TRIBE,

Hon. Sec., Ashford District, Kent County Association.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.**A PEAL BOARD DEDICATED.**

A meeting of the above was held at Appledore on Saturday, Feb. 17th. The weather was very favourable, and resulted in a good attendance. Some good practice was had in the standard methods during the afternoon, and a peal tablet was unveiled by Mrs. H. Baker (the donor) to commemorate a peal of Grandsire Triples rung in that tower on October 21st last. It was the donor's first peal; Miss R. Thomas's first peal with a bob bell; also the first peal of Grandsire by Mr. R. E. Burgess and Mr. B. Baker.—The Vicar (the Rev. A. O. Scutt) read the dedicatory prayers, and afterwards congratulated the ladies and gentlemen on their achievement.

Tea was served at the Swan Hotel, the Vicar presiding. At the meeting which followed, the members accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Baker for the gift of the tablet, and wished her success in her future ringing career.

The next meeting was fixed for Stone-in-Oxney on Saturday, March 24th. The tower was afterwards again visited for more ringing, when the youngest member of the Guild (Master T. Player) showed excellent form in ringing the treble to his first touch of Bob Major.

JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,
LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE
LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

**Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570**

(12th year
of reign of
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Bellfounders and

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**32 & 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
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ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

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Recasting, Retuning and Rehangings.

HANDBELLS

In Sets of any number.

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The attempt for the long peal of Cambridge Surprise Major at Stoney Stanton on Saturday unfortunately came to grief after four hours' good ringing through two bells changing course at the first trip that came along. It is hoped to make another attempt soon after Easter.

But even the lost peal had its compensations. With four hours to wait until the motor returned for them, ringers and visitors proceeded to make merry, and succeeded so well that one visitor said he was glad they had lost the peal, as he had 'spent the best evening of his life.' Ringers can generally make the best of a bad job.

An attack on the Appleton record is to be made on Easter Monday. Evesham bells have been secured, and a peal of 22,000 Stedman Caters is to be attempted. Mr. William Fye is organising the band.

Evesham bells are a peal with tenor of 31 cwt. The tenor is by Mears (1821), and the others by Rudhall (1741). If this peal is successful both weight and length in any previous record will go by the board.

Mr. Ted Horrex, who was 85 on Wednesday, is the sole survivor of a band of College Youths, who on March 3rd, 1886, rang a peal of 8,448 Kent Treble Bob Major in 5 hrs. 14 mins., at Bethnal Green. Henry Haley was the conductor.

The same day of the year 1778 saw the ringing of 10,260 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham.

The first handbell peal of Bob Royal recorded by the College Youths was rung at Caius College, Cambridge, on March 2nd, 1897.

A peal of 7,392 Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung at Oldham on March 6th, 1832, and displaced the previous record of 7,200 rung at Birmingham in 1820.

The Bob Major record for Essex which, we believe, still stands, was made on March 7th, 1819, at Great Baddow, the length being 10,080.

March 8th marks the anniversary of one of the very earliest of great performances. A tablet in St. Peter Mancroft belfry, Norwich, records 'On March the 8th, 1737, was rung a peal of Grandsire Caters, which for excellency of its ringing, Harmonious changes, and ye number of them, was certainly superior to anything of its kind ever done in the World, and to Remove all doubt of the truth of the performance several ingenious Ringers were abroad the whole time with proper rules to prove the certainty of ye same. Thus was this great peal perfectly compleated to the entire satisfaction, surprise and amazement of thousands of hearers in the space of 8 hrs. 15 mins. The number of changes were 12,603 rung by 9 men of the company then belonging to the company. The tenor singly by a young ringer 8,000, then a second ringer rung her to the end of the peal.'

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

STOCKPORT BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch was held at Reddish on Saturday, Feb. 24th, and was well attended, about eighty members and friends sitting down to a splendid tea. At the service which preceded it the Rector officiated, assisted by the Rev. A. T. Beeston (branch hon. secretary). The Rector's address was on bells and their uses, and was much appreciated.

The Master of the Guild (Mr. H. Fairclough, of Stretton) was present, and presided over the business meeting. This was the first meeting of the branch he had attended, and he and his 'lightning' conductor were cordially received. He was supported by the branch chairman (Mr. J. H. Jackson, Disley).

The Hon. Secretary presented his report and balance sheet for the past year. The general position was unaltered, but there was much room for improvement in ringing activities. On the social side, things were very satisfactory, as was evidenced by the fact that at the five meetings held in 1922 the average attendance was 47.

All the retiring officers were re-elected and an assistant secretaryship instituted, Mr. J. P. Fidler (Norbury) being elected to this office. Five new members were elected, and Bowdon fixed as the place of the next meeting on a date to be notified later.

The question of the introduction of a small hooking fee for peals was discussed, and it was decided to ask the members of the other branches carefully to consider this question, as a means of raising some additional revenue towards the cost of the printing of the annual report.

An interesting matter brought forward, and one which appears to be gaining widespread popularity, especially from the social side, was the question of the introduction of a branch annual dinner. It received hearty support, and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

With regard to the subscription list for the Nantwich Bell Fund, this, it was stated, amounted to £2 10s. 6d., but as all the towers had not yet responded, the list still remains open.

The usual votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close, and the tower bells were again requisitioned and handbells brought into use.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

GREAT GATHERING OF RINGERS AT BIRMINGHAM.

With undiminished enthusiasm, the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner was held at Birmingham on Saturday. Always a popular event, alike for the opportunity it provides for a reunion of old friends, and for the atmosphere of good fellowship which is ever present, the gathering was larger than in many former years, no fewer than 150 sitting down at the Imperial Hotel. Ringers from the towers within a considerable radius took part in the proceedings, and visitors came from far and near, from as far away as Leeds and Sheffield in the North; Newport and Bristol and Gloucester in the West, Essex, North Wales, and, of course, London. The famous church in the Bull Ring was the centre of gravity in the afternoon, but there was also ringing at the Cathedral, and one band was successful in ringing a peal at Deritend. The company which gathered round the festive board in the evening was a very happy one, and the Rector of Birmingham (Canon E. Grose Hodge, M.A.) presided in an exceedingly genial manner. He was supported by Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., B.C.L., presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild; Messrs. J. J. Kendall and Fred W. Blake, churchwardens of St. Martin's; J. Bellis, churchwarden of Edgbaston; W. R. Heaton, Mr. A. Paddon Smith (hon. secretary of St. Martin's Guild) and Mrs. Paddon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking). Mr. Cyril Johnston (Croydon), Mr. Pryce Taylor (Loughborough), and Mr. A. A. Hughes (London). Among the visitors were Mr. P. J. Johnson (Leeds), hon. secretary Yorkshire Association; Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport), hon. secretary Llandaff and Monmouth Association; Mr. Moore (churchwarden, King's Norton), Mr. W. A. Cave and Mrs. Wilkins (Bristol), Messrs. J. Austin (Gloucester), W. Saunders and party (Coalbrookdale), T. J. Salter (Kidderminster), W. J. Nevard (Essex Association), W. J. Hazell (Royal Cumberland Youths), J. Carter, I. G. Shade, G. W. Fletcher, R. Marshall (London), S. W. Palmer (Sheffield), Miss E. K. Parker (hon. sec. Ladies' Guild), Mrs. J. E. Groves (hon. sec. Midland District of the Ladies' Guild), Mr. J. Johnson (son of Henry Johnson) and Mrs. Johnson, Messrs. W. Farley (Wells), Millward (Northampton), A. J. Hughes (Bangor), and many others. The officers of the St. Martin's Guild included Messrs. W. H. Godden, J. Carter, J. H. Shepherd, W. Kent and T. Russam (vice-presidents), Albert Walker (Deputy Ringing Master), C. Dickens (trustee), J. L. Wells and T. H. Reeves (trustees), etc. There were numerous ladies, many of them ringers, in the company, and the proceedings were very enjoyable.

After an excellent dinner, the toast of 'The King' was honoured and the Hon. Secretary announced that messages of apology had been received from Bishop Hamilton Baynes (Rector of St. Philip's), the Rector of Solihull, Mr. A. Parsons, of Old Hill (who was confined to bed), Mr. Rodway (late churchwarden of St. Philip's), and Mr. G. N. Ediss, an old friend of the Guild. The following telegram was also received. 'My warmest remembrances and hearty good wishes. Wish I could be with you. The Dean of Norwich.'

Mr. J. J. Kendall submitted the toast of 'Church and State.' That, being a gathering of ringers, he said, they would all acknowledge the connection between Church and State. As long as they had the State supporting the Church and the Church leading the State, they in England would never go wrong. He hoped the time would never come when the Church would be divorced from the State, for the State would certainly be the poorer if it were not for the support which it received from the Church (applause).

The Rector of Birmingham said they all knew the State had grown up round the Church. They did not mean the Church in any narrow sense, but the Church which was the whole people of God. The relation between the two was no new thing; it was not new at the Reformation. The Church had never been severed from it, and, as Mr. Gladstone eloquently said, if ever the State were torn from the Church it would leave the State a lacerated and bleeding mass. So, as they had accepted the toast, and as everyone there was loyal to the State and loyal to the Church, and felt it was best that things secular should be permeated with things sacred, he thought no other acknowledgment of the toast was necessary.

HENRY JOHNSON—THE MAN.

'The memory of the late Henry Johnson' was proposed by Mr. Thomas Russam, one of the nineteen persons present who knew the old gentleman in the flesh. Mr. Russam's speech was a most interesting one, showing from personal recollection the wonderful character of Henry Johnson. What Lord Chief Justice Coleridge was to the law, what Dr. Parry was to music, what Sir Oliver Lodge was to science; what Dr. Grace was to cricket, Henry Johnson, said the speaker, was to the great art of campanology (applause). It

was more than 35 years since he (Mr. Russam) first met Henry Johnson, and from that time until now it was impressed upon him what a wonderful old man he was, not as a ringer accumulating peals, but as a man with a great ambition. His sole ambition was to build up a great record of ringing and conduct at St. Martin's Church. That principle he was glad to say had been followed to the present day by successive generations of ringers connected with St. Martin's (applause). Henry Johnson was a man who, by his unflinching courtesy, gentleness, wisdom and uprightness, won for himself the personal affection of everyone with whom he came in contact. No one ever went to Henry Johnson with a request, however small, concerning bell ringing and came away empty handed; but, with all his gentleness of heart, woebetide the careless ringer (laughter). The old man would not say much, but what he did say was seldom forgotten. They at Aston who knew him when he came to reside there used to sit at his feet and gather wisdom from his words, and the merry times they had with him had left nothing but pleasant memories. He was just, fair and upright, but he had his vein of humour. Mr. Russam went on to illustrate these traits in Henry Johnson's character by two personal anecdotes. After the first dinner which they had in honour of the old man, at which Sir Arthur Heywood presided, he (the speaker) was on his way home when he saw the old man in the centre of the town. He spoke to Johnson, and they started away for home together. Standing in the road was a cab, and they stood and seriously discussed whether they could afford to hire it to drive them home. After bargaining with the driver, they got in and were driven to Aston, which they reached at the rate of about a mile an hour (laughter), and on arriving they discussed who should pay for the cab. Eventually they paid sixpence each (laughter). He mentioned this to show how Johnson was always ready to share and share alike. William Chattell, who was a ringer at St. Philip's, was a great friend of Henry Johnson. One day he went to the old man and said, 'Henry, I want a peal of Stedman Caters, of such a number and with such and such qualities.' 'Very well, you shall have it,' replied Mr. Johnson, and, of course, Chattell got what he asked for. Johnson found out where they were going to ring the peal, and when it was to be at Aston, and when the time arrived Chattell and his friends started off for the tower, which in those days could only be reached by walking. When they got near the tower, they heard the bells going. They got down to the church, and found Henry had stolen a march upon William. He had collected a band, gone to the church, locked himself in, and rang the peal (laughter).

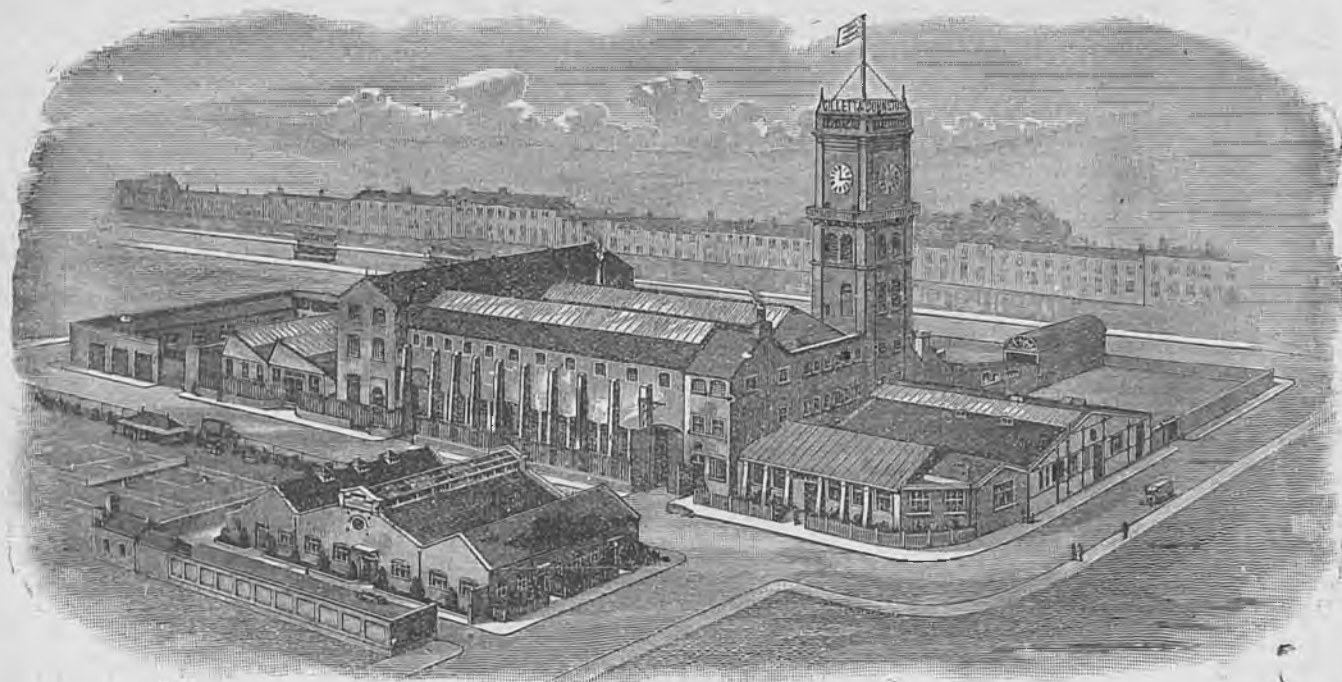
The toast was drunk in silence, and afterwards three leads of Treble Bob Fourteen were rung by T. Russam, A. Walker, P. Laffin, G. F. Swann, J. P. Smallwood, J. E. Groves and A. E. Norman. The touch was followed with intense interest, and its completion was the signal for prolonged applause.

A REVIEW.

Alderman Pritchett again proposed the toast of 'Continued prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild,' and following his usual custom gave a review of the year's doings. Referring first to the losses which had been sustained, he spoke of Sir Edward Malins, who for many years had joined them at those gatherings. They honoured him for the high position he held in his profession, and, knowing him so intimately, they loved him as a man. Then they had lost the late Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Mr. Cherry, who some 15 years ago presided at that dinner. He was a man of singularly amiable and simple character, and those ringers who had rung with him, felt he was one of themselves. When he occupied the distinguished position of Attorney-General for Ireland, he (Mr. Pritchett) visited him, and went with him into the tower of St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he took off his coat, turned up his sleeves and rang with him; and that was his constant custom as long as his health permitted. They deeply lamented his death. The late Mr. James Motts was for many years one of the country members of that Guild. His ringing reputation was known to all of them, for doubtless they had read the memoir which had appeared in 'The Ringing World.' He might, however, be specially mentioned that evening in connection with the record peal of London Surprise at King's Norton. He was the first of the band to go, but they trusted the other seven would be spared for many years to come. Proceeding, Alderman Pritchett said they missed several old friends that night, who were absent from various causes. Foremost among them was Mr. Rock Small, who so recently celebrated his 83rd birthday. Another old gentleman who was with them two years ago for the last time was Mr. Ted Horrex, of London, who would celebrate his 85th birthday on the 28th of the month. He suggested they should send him a letter of congratula-

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

ESTABLISHED 1844.



ROYAL EXCHANGE, 1921.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1921.

THE CROYDON BELL FOUNDRY

CARISBROOKE, 1921.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1921

tion, and tell him how much they would have liked to see him present that night (applause). The senior member of that Guild was also absent, Mr. John Buffery. He was the only survivor of a party of enthusiastic young ringers who visited him (the speaker) at Oxford 50 years ago. He believed he had told them before how much they enjoyed that huge pigeon pie with the claws sticking out of the top, and how John Buffery mistook some extra strong ale for soda water (laughter), and how the touch of Stedman at Magdalen College afterwards came hopelessly to grief (laughter). Alderman Pritchett went on to extend a hearty welcome to all the friends who were with them that night, and they specially welcomed, he said, the presence of so many ladies. They were glad to see most of the veterans, including Mr. Tom Russam, who was one of the senior members of the Guild, and only about ten years younger than himself (laughter). Mr. Kent, Mr. Godden, Mr. Miller, the three brothers Dickens, and Mr. Joseph Johnson, son of the old worthy whose memory they were met to honour that night. They hoped he would be with them on many more occasions (applause).

A NOTABLE PERFORMANCE.

They had, said Alderman Pritchett, to congratulate themselves that the Guild was continuing to prosper. He had received a report from Mr. Walker, which stated that 21 tower bell peals and 15 handbell peals had been rung during the year, which was about the average. There were some notable performances, but the most remarkable performance, not only of that Guild, but of any other Guild or change ringing society in the world, was the peal of Stedman Sextuples rung on mid-summer's day. The band who rang that peal was the same that had given them an exhibition of ringing on 14 bells that night, and they also had with them Mr. John Carter, who had come from Park Lane to be with them (laughter), who was the composer of the peal, and Mr. Kent who was the umpire. He had not included in those 36 peals which he had mentioned another peal rung on February 13th for the birthday of Mr. Russam and Mrs. Walker, which was chiefly remarkable from the fact that it was conducted by Mr. Albert Norman, who thus called his first peal of Stedman Cinques on tower bells before the age of 21 years (applause). They heartily congratulated him. Mr. Edgar Sheppard, another ringer of great promise, was mentioned in Mr. Walker's report. He was severely wounded in the war, and proudly wore the Military Medal (applause). A band met the other day at Solihull for a peal of Stedman Caters, but owing to illness they were unable to ring, and a peal on handbells was arranged at once. Mr. Sheppard rang his first peal on handbells in this method without any preliminary practice. He was a great credit to the Guild, and in years to come would no doubt be one of their leaders (applause). He could not conclude without expressing their and his acknowledgments to one or two men to whom they were especially indebted; to Mr. Albert Walker, their energetic, conscientious and painstaking Ringing Master, for all he had done in arranging peals and helping to manage the affairs of the Guild generally (hear, hear). They were specially indebted to him for the social evenings of the Guild which had been such a feature during the past year. For many years now, continued the speaker, he had been engaged in what was considered the hopeless task of improving the lily by painting it and gilding refined gold, and he did not propose to continue that attempt to enhance the reputation of Mr. Paddon Smith with ringers and the esteem in which they all held him by any more praise. All he would say was that he had never known a better organised series of dinners than those in connection with that Guild (applause). The organisation had been absolute perfection (applause). They would show their appreciation of what he had done by most heartily drinking his health (applause).

The toast was drunk with musical honours, and Mr. Smith was received with loud applause on rising to respond. He did not know, he said, exactly how Jacob felt when he was deceiving his father and accepting the blessing that was intended for Esau; but he certainly felt in somewhat of an invidious position, because owing to business having called him out of the country he had had to leave a lot of the organisation and work connected with that gathering to Mr. Walker, but he could assure them it was a sufficient payment to them both to look round and see everyone so obviously happy and enjoying themselves. Mr. Smith then announced that in that room, only a few hours before, a further honour in Freemasonry had been conferred upon their Presiding Ringing Master (Alderman Pritchett), who was installed as the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire in the Royal Order of Scotland, a Masonic Order founded to commemorate the memory of Robert Bruce. The ceremony was performed by the Rt. Honourable the Earl of Kintore, the Sovereign of the Order. Alderman Pritchett, continued the speaker, had been lifted from one step to another in the craft, until there could be hardly any higher steps to mount, and they congratulated him upon the latest honour which had been accorded to him. It was a unique thing that they as ringers should have met

in the same room within a few hours, and as they had got Alderman Pritchett with them he was going to propose a hearty vote of congratulation to him in an informal manner, which he asked them to carry by saying 'Aye' in no uncertain manner.

The motion was carried with a roar that almost shook the roof and testified in a remarkable way to the personal esteem in which the presiding Ringing Master is held by the Guild.

(To be continued.)

'MUTILATED BELLS.' CONSISTORY COURT INQUIRY.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester held a formal inquiry in the Parish Church of Chalk, near Gravesend, on Saturday, Feb. 10th, into the manner in which a faculty for re-hanging the three ancient bells had been carried out. It was alleged, says the 'Church Times,' that the bells had been injured and mutilated through the Vicar neglecting to comply with the terms of the faculty, which made it a condition that the work should be done under the instructions of an architect.

Evidence was given to show that of the three bells, one was cast by a founder who was probably Thomas de Weston, about 1348, and that the other two were by John Wilner of Borden, in 1634, that they were of great archaeological value and interest, but that the canons had been cut off when they were rehung. It was shown that every effort had been made first by the Registrar and then by the architect to impress on the Vicar the importance of not allowing the removal of the canons; but while the work was in progress the founder, Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, claimed that it was necessary to remove the canons on account of the nature of the new headstocks he had prepared. The Vicar neglected to call in the architect to inquire into the matter, with the result that the canons were removed. The founder claimed that the removal of the canons was a common practice, that it made the bells easier to ring, that it was sometimes necessary if the canons were broken, and that he had done it in numerous other churches in Kent. He admitted that it was not necessary to remove the canons to quarter-turn a bell, and that if he had been instructed at first not to do so, he would have prepared headstocks accordingly.

The learned Chancellor found that the provisions of the faculty had not been carried out, and that the Vicar had not had the work done under the advice of the architect, but had allowed the bells to be mutilated in direct opposition to his advice. He impressed on the clergy and Parochial Church Councils not only the necessity of loyally carrying out the provisions of faculties, but also the importance of making full use of the system of Advisory Committees recently set up. The committees included men of expert knowledge, who gave their advice to parishes free of charge, and the clergy and all concerned should avail themselves of these advantages. He said that those who refused to be guided by the committees, and who ignored the conditions laid down in faculties, played into the hands of those who wished our churches to be taken over by the State. If the ecclesiastical courts were ignored it would be said that the Church was powerless to safeguard her own buildings and the treasures they contained. If the Diocesan Advisory Committee said the advice of a particular person should be sought, it should be sought; and if that advice were included in a faculty, it would have to be followed. What the Vicar had done in this case amounted to contempt of Court, and might lead to the consideration of coercive measures. He trusted the clergy and Parochial Church Councils would loyally support the system as at present administered.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. AXBRIDGE DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch was held at Blagdon, near Bristol, on Saturday, Feb. 17th, and was very successful. Thirty-four members were present, representing Banwell, Burnham, Blagdon, Chewton-Mendip, Churchill, Rowbarrow, Winscombe, Worle, Wedmore, Weston-super-Mare, and Kewstoke. A service was conducted by the Rev. T. H. Richards, who also gave an address. Tea and meeting followed at the Parish Hall. The business meeting was presided over by the president of the branch (the Rev. J. H. H. Doorbar), supported by the Rector of Blagdon (Prebendary G. M. Lambrick). Eleven new members were elected, and Churchill was selected for the next meeting.

The secretary presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance of £8 18s. 8d. Prebendary G. M. Lambrick was elected president, and the Rev. G. E. F. Molineux, vice-president for the ensuing year.

Mr. G. Chamberlain was re-elected hon. secretary and representative on the general committee. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, to the Rev. T. H. Richards, and to Mr. Westbrook, the organist.

There was ringing during the afternoon and evening.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

SOUTHWELL, NOTTS.—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, Feb. 25th, for parish evensong, and to commemorate the Sir Christopher Wren Bicentenary, 720 Stedman Doubles, with 7, 6, 8 covering, by the following band: G. E. Padgett (conductor) 1, H. F. Clulow 2, J. F. Milner 3, F. Pickard 4, E. Foster 5, A. E. King 6, G. W. Collinson 7, W. D. Shorthose 8. Longest touch in the method. It is interesting to note that the Bishop of Southwell was first cousin to the last of the Wren family, and is the possessor of all Sir Christopher's valuable belongings.

BARNES.—At St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 47 mins.: J. Willmott 1, H. Barrett 2, W. H. Stevens 3, M. Jacobs 4, H. Cook 5, R. Mackrill 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, T. Bullen 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Rev. B. M. Kilson, Rector of the above church.

KENSINGTON.—On Sunday, Feb. 25th, for evening service, at St. Mary Abbots, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,277 changes): C. W. Roberts 1, W. E. Garrard 2, R. D. G. Brown (first quarter in method) 3, A. V. Selby 4, G. W. Frayne 5, A. B. Bennett 6, P. L. Miles 7, R. Congrieve-Pridgeon (conductor) 8, H. G. Miles 9, F. J. Redknapp 10.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, Feb. 25th, for morning service, at the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Smith (first quarter) 1, Miss G. Baker (first quarter inside) 2, Miss D. G. Feltham 3, Miss P. Moss 4, S. Honor 5, J. J. Pratt (conductor) 6, W. Honor 7, F. Smith 8.

GIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, Feb. 18th, for morning service, at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): H. Lewis 1, W. G. Cook 2, F. J. Lewis 3, H. C. Bond 4, J. Butler 5, J. Hope (first as conductor) 6, G. W. Hastings (first quarter-peal of Triples) 7, W. H. Hayward 8. Messrs. Hope and Hastings hail from Fairford.

PETERBOROUGH.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, Feb. 18th, for evensong, 720 Bob Minor: G. Williamsou (first 720) 1, E. Tilley 2, Miss A. Dale 3, W. Smith (Whittlesea, Cambs) 4, J. Judson (conductor) 5, W. Waldren 6.

BEESTON, NOTTS.—On Sunday, Feb. 18th, 576 London Surprise Major: W. Clifford, junr., 1, A. Coppock (conductor) 2, W. Clifford, senr., 3, A. B. Moss 4, J. C. Dicken 5, A. Lowe 6, W. A. Jones 7, P. Price 8; and quarter-peal in the same method by W. Clifford, junr., 1, A. Coppock (composer and conductor) 2, W. A. Jones 3, J. Bailey (first in the method) 4, J. C. Dicken 5, F. S. Price 6, F. Blood 7, P. Price 8.

LONDON. At St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, for Sunday evening service, on Feb. 18th, eight courses Stepney Caters: A. Hardy 1, Miss K. Smith 2, J. D. Matthews (conductor) 3, F. Newman 4, G. Card 5, L. W. Goodwin 6, R. Bevan 7, F. Smith 8, C. Matthews 9, J. W. Cornford 10.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—At St. Peter's, Collegiate Church, on Sunday, Feb. 18th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 49 mins.: J. Williams 1, H. A. Farlow 2, H. Knight (conductor) 3, J. D. G. Harris 4, D. P. Mitchell 5, H. M. Hawkwood 6, W. H. Lawley 7, G. Langley (longest length) 8.

LEWISHAM, KENT.—On Sunday, February 18th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: S. Goodwin (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss N. Nye 2, C. H. Walker 3, R. Morgan 4, H. Warnett, senr., 5, H. Warnett, junr., 6, W. W. Fox (conductor) 7, H. G. Goodwin 8.—For evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 41 mins.: C. Roseveare 1, C. H. Walker 2, S. Goodwin (first quarter-peal with a bob bell) 3, G. R. Simmonds 4, J. Hurrell 5, H. Warnett, junr. (conductor) 6, H. Warnett, senr., 7, H. G. Goodwin 8.

MIDSOMER NORTON.—On Sunday, Feb. 18th, in 42 mins., 1,260 Grandsire Triples (composed by the late A. P. Wakley): E. Chivers 1, W. Millbourne 2, G. Griffin 3, I. B. Holmyard 4, F. Chivers 5, J. Hambleton 6, J. T. Dyke (conductor) 7, T. Griffin 8. Rung on the fourth anniversary of the composer's death.

SHIPLEY, YORKS.—For morning service, on Sunday, Feb. 11th, 360 of Oxford, 360 of Violet Treble Bob Minor: H. Hutley 1, E. H. Simpson 2, F. Seagar 3, H. Haigh 4, T. B. Kendall 5, H. Stott (conductor) 6, J. Joyce 7 (covering).—For evening service, 840 Grandsire Triples: T. Wilcock 1, T. B. Kendall 2, H. Haigh 3, F. Seagar 4, H. Stott 5, J. Joyce 6, E. H. Simpson (conductor) 7, H. Hutley 8. Also a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,280 changes): T. Wilcock (first quarter-peal) 1, T. B. Kendall (conductor) 2, F. Davison 3, E. H. Simpson 4, H. Davison 5, J. Joyce 6, H. Stott 7, H. Foster 8. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to F. Seagar and J. Joyce.

CHERTSEY.—On Sunday, Feb. 11th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Wood 1, G. Warrinton 2, Miss L. Stevens 3, R. Franklin 4, E. C. Gosling (conductor) 5, A. Cross 6, J. B. Hessey 7, H. R. Stevens 8. The ringers of 1, 4, 5, 6 are boy scouts from Old Windsor. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss L. Stevens.

HAMMERSMITH.—At St. Paul's Church, on Sunday, Feb. 18th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, W. Stevens 2, H. Barrett 3, H. Cook 4, C. Hunt 5, R. Mackrill 6, F. Skerington (conductor) 7, J. Willmott 8.

DARLINGTON.—At Holy Trinity Church, on Feb. 11th, for evensong, 576 London Surprise Minor: C. S. Burden 1, G. W. Park 2, W. Cook 3, W. N. Park 4, W. H. Porter 5, Chas. Todd (conductor) 6.—For evensong, on Sunday, Feb. 25th, 720 London Surprise Minor: C. S. Burden 1, F. Cook 2, W. Cook 3, W. N. Park 4, W. H. Porter 5, G. W. Park (conductor) 6.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**HEREFORD DISTRICT GROWING.**

The annual meeting of the Hereford district was held at Hereford, and was well attended, some 80 ringers being present from the three city towers, and Burghill, Madley, Hampton Bishop, Allensmore, Stoke Edith, Bodenham, Wellington, Holm Lacy, Fawnhope, Lugwardine, Tarrington, Bridstow, Ross, Llanelly, Clifford, Sutton Holmer.

St. Nicholas' and All Saints' bells were available during the afternoon, and the Cathedral in the evening, some well-struck touches being brought round in Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble and Stedman. Service was held at All Saints' Church, the preacher being the Rev. H. M. Fowler, of Holy Trinity, who gave an excellent address. The Guild's form of service was used, upwards of 70 ringers were present. A company of 81 assembled at the Spread Eagle Hotel for tea, the general secretary of the Guild (the Rev. G. W. Turner) presiding, supported by the Rev. H. M. Fowler, the Rev. A. Middleton, the Rev. F. Dent and the Rev. F. R. Wilkinson (Mansfield). Immediately after tea the Dean looked in for a few minutes, and expressed his thanks and appreciation for all the ringers had done, and for the good work the Guild was doing. He was, he said, delighted to see so many young men present and taking such an active part in the life of the church, and hoped to meet all of them again that evening when they assembled in the Cathedral tower at 7 o'clock.

The Secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for his presence, also for what he had done in the past year to improve the conditions of the Cathedral belfry. Ringers, not only in the Hereford district, but in the whole of the diocese, now looked upon the Dean as a true friend (applause).

The Secretary (Mr. C. Edwards) presented the balance sheet, which showed that they now had 28 honorary members, 101 ringing members, and 21 probationers in the district. The total receipts were £19, and after handing to the general secretary one-half of receipts, £9 10s., a balance of £3 1s. 10d. was left in hand. The secretary was re-elected, with Mr. A. Gwynne assistant secretary.

The question of District Ringing Master was brought up, when the secretary pointed out that Mr. W. H. Williams really had not got the time to spare to do what was required of him. He (the secretary) pointed out that, as he had to act as secretary for the district and also Ringing Master for the whole of the Guild, the time had come when others must do more to help, as in their own district more towers were joining the Guild, and must have assistance. He moved that Mr. Walter Taylor (Lugwardine) be appointed District Ringing Master, and Mr. Ivor Probert (Burghill) be assistant. These appointments were made, amid applause, and 27 new members were then elected, including two honorary members. The majority of the ringers afterwards made their way to the Cathedral belfry, where they were welcomed by the Dean. Some excellent touches of Caters and Bob Major were brought round. The meeting, the largest and most successful held in the district, showed that great strides are being made by the Guild.

LATE NOTICES.

DEDICATION.—The bells at Bowdon Church, Cheshire, recast and augmented to eight by Gillett and Johnston, will be dedicated by the Bishop of Chester on Monday, March 5th, at 7 p.m.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Braughing on March 10th, when the bells will be available from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at 1/- per head at the Brown Bear. Business meeting after. All ringing friends will be welcome.—W. H. Lawrence, Little Munden.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Guilsborough District.—A monthly meeting will be held at Creaton on Saturday, March 10th. Usual arrangement. Those requiring tea please notify me by the 8th.—W. Bott, Dist. Hon. Sec.

THE TUNING OF CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the recent letters which have appeared in your columns, I venture to suggest that the points at issue have not been set forth with sufficient clarity. It is quite true that the preference for one system or the other is a matter of personal taste. Both systems have points in their favour, but the mistake has been in the matter of comparisons. It is useless to compare a poor ring of bells on the old lines with a modern ring tuned on the more recent system. Most of the old peals were tuned, either by hand chipping, or by now obsolete machines, which only permitted the tuning of practically one note in a bell, namely, the main tone. There are many old rings of bells in the country, where adjustment of the harmonics to the lines the bells were originally cast for, would convert them into perfectly musical rings. There are also many old rings, which have been cast so near to correctness in tune one with another, that the slight adjustment necessary to the main tones has not affected the harmonics, and the result has been a very fine peal of bells. On the other hand, many old bells have been cast where the main note has been considerably out of tune with what has been required, and the tuning having been restricted to this main tone only, has thrown the harmonics out of their original proportion. Fortunately, modern machinery can overcome this difficulty, and this is a point which has been overlooked.

I hold no brief for either one system or the other, for as I have stated above, preference is purely a matter of personal taste, but in all fairness, the matter needs properly explaining.

Practice and theory do not always agree, and for all the seemingly theoretical correctness of the Simpson principle, there are many rings of bells in the country on the old lines which have not yet been surpassed.

One thing is certain, harmonics in any instrument should always be subdued as much as possible, and not accentuated, and the aim of the bell founder should be to produce bells in which the tones are so blended as to produce a pleasing musical result, in which harmonics or overtones cause no annoyance or displeasing effect. This we know, from experience, has been achieved by old founders.

It appears to me that Simpson-tuned bells sound to the best advantage singly, or in sets of bells erected for tune playing only, where the time is much slower, but not to rings of bells hung for change ringing, where the notes follow in such quick succession, that the too dominant harmonics run into each other and apparently create the medley of sound which is so perplexing to many.

Another point to be remembered, in quoting musical persons as authorities, is, that being a judge of tone, and being of musical ability, are two very different things. Many a good organist or pianist is no judge of quality of tone. Further, church bells cannot be judged in the same light as the general musical instrument. They are two entirely different propositions.

In conclusion, I think it cannot be too strongly pointed out, that complete rings of bells should not be recast simply to obtain a more recent system of tuning.—Yours faithfully,

A. PADDON SMITH.

THE ULTIMATE JUDGES.

Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. Barnett for his very courteous reply to my letter of Feb. 9th, and fear I am not sufficiently advanced in metallurgy to be able to discuss the longevity of metal which has had its 'skin' broken. He is greatly in error, however, when he speaks of 'talking over an unmusical incumbent,' etc., for it is the very musical who most appreciate the properly tuned bell.

It is, perhaps, well that 'A Flat Seventh' veils himself under a 'Nom-de-plume.' His letter is rather rude, and very ridiculous. 'The whole question resolves itself into one of likes and dislikes,' he says. Well, 'de gustibus non disputandum,' but surely the ultimate judges of the very best bells will not be ringers as a body, nor even 'A Flat Seventh' (nor my humble self), but those who have to listen to them; and of these, musicians (pace Mr. Lewis who certainly built organs on the five-toned principle, and couldn't have done otherwise had he tried!) are nearly all in agreement with the assertion that when the harmonics of a bell are all in perfect tune the resultant sound is infinitely preferable to one in which any or all are out of tune.

His quotation from the 'Sunday Times' is singularly unfortunate. 'Simpson-tuned peals consist of a succession of octaves and fifths in harmonics, which, as every young student of music knows, is against the first laws of harmony.' I am glad of that phrase 'every young student,' because only a very, very young student could have made such an elementary mistake as to confuse the consecution of octaves and fifths in natural harmonics (which are present in any and every given note, either of voice or instrument) with the consecution of

octaves and fifths of principal notes when sounded together in two or more parts.

'Just imagine tuning an organ, pianoforte, or any other musical instrument upon the Simpson principle.' Has 'A Flat Seventh' ever heard one that was not? It would be the eighth wonder of the world!—Yours, etc.,
St. Thomas', Hove.

CECIL H. CLARKE.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BISHOP AND DEAN OF DURHAM ELECTED HON. MEMBERS.

The pre-Lent meeting was held at Newburn on Saturday, Feb. 10th, in adverse weather circumstances, for it was a very wet, cold day. Two weddings and a funeral in the afternoon were not encouraging, from a ringer's point of view, and very little ringing could be indulged in before tea, which was served by Host and Hostess J. Brown at the Newburn Hotel. The President (Mr. Story) occupied the chair, and was supported by the Rev. A. W. Lister, Mr. J. W. Parker, the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer, and others. The following towers were represented: Tanfield, Winton, St. Ignatius, Sunderland; Newburn, the Cathedral, Newcastle; St. John, Newcastle, and St. George's, Jesmond.

The President, in proposing the toast of 'The King,' remarked that it was the first opportunity he had of doing so since his Majesty had become a grandfather, and wished Princess Mary and her infant son health and happiness.

Five new honorary members were elected, viz., the Bishop of Durham, the Dean of Durham, the Rector of Hexham, the Vicar of St. Oswald's, Durham, and the Vicar of Binfieldside and two life members.

It was stated that the ringers' memorial tablet was well on the way toward completion, and it was decided to have the unveiling ceremony on the first or second Saturday after Easter, whichever date suited the Newcastle authorities. Due notice will be given.

The treasurer made a very encouraging statement, to the effect that he had £29 odd in hand, but he still wanted more, as the printing of the new report would swallow that and more.

The Hon. Secretary called the attention of all conductors to rule 17. So far only two conductors have taken any notice of it, but unless they do so it will be impossible to keep the peals and their compositions up to date. The omission also puts much unnecessary work on the secretary.

The second certificate for Sunday Service ringing for six-bell towers was presented to Mr. H. B. Taylor, secretary of the Newburn band.

—The Rev. A. W. Lister, in a few well-chosen words, congratulated them upon their success.—Mr. Taylor, in returning thanks, said he was afraid they would not win it again, as one of their members had left the district, and another had been injured in the mine.

Representatives from other winning towers were not present.

The meeting expressed condolence with Mr. J. W. Park, the energetic vice-president for the eastern district, who is laid up with an injured foot, and wished him a speedy recovery.

A touch of Grandsire on handbells, a vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens for the use of the bells, and to the Vicar for offering to make arrangements for the tea (which offer unfortunately came after arrangements had already been made), brought the meeting to a close, and an adjournment was made to the tower for more ringing.

EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING.

A very successful meeting of the Eastern District was held at Gateshead on Saturday, Feb. 24th, about 50 members attending from South Shields, Jarrow, Newcastle, Sunderland, Houghton-le-Spring, etc.

Several members had their first pull on the fine ring of twelve at Newcastle Cathedral during the afternoon, and the bells of St. Mary's, Gateshead, were kept going until late.

Tea was held in an historic room called 'The Anchorage,' near to the church. Messrs. Stuart and Kell, of the Gateshead band, had made excellent arrangements, and a very happy time was spent over the teacups.

A short meeting was afterwards held, presided over by Canon Stephenson, supported by Mr. W. Story (president), Mr. R. Parkinson (vice-president), Mr. E. E. Ferry (association secretary), Mr. A. M. Hall (treasurer), and others.

Mr. J. W. Parker proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and the Vicar of Newcastle for the use of their bells, and to Messrs. Stuart and Kell and the ladies who had kindly assisted with the tea; and this was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Story announced that the Ringers' War Memorial Tablet in Newcastle Cathedral would be unveiled on Saturday, April 7th.—It was decided to hold the next district meeting at Houghton-le-Spring on April 14th.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch. —The next Branch meeting will be held at St. Thomas', Helmsshore, on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A monthly meeting of this branch will be held at Barwell on Saturday, Mar. 3rd. Bells available from 4 p.m. All ringers welcome. — F. Cotton, Local Hon. Sec., Hinckley.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wickham on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available 2.30; also Shedfield Bells (6) 2.30. Tea at Wickham 5 o'clock.—E. J. Harding, 76, Carnarvon Road, Portsmouth.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wotton-under-Edge Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.—W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Sec., Ham, Berkeley, Glos.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION. — Northampton District.—A special meeting will be held at Harlestone on Saturday, March 3rd. Usual arrangements.—S. J. Lawrence, 60, Harlestone Rd., Northampton.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Chesterfield on March 3rd. Ringing 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Ten bells. Meat tea at 5 p.m. in Blackshaw's Restaurant, 1s. 3d. each. Committee will meet in the Vestry at 6.30 p.m.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — The quarterly meeting will be held at Bocking on March 3rd. Bells 2 p.m. Service, with address, 4 p.m. Meat tea, 1s. 6d. per head, at the Black Boy, followed by business meeting. Subscriptions for 1923 are now due.—Bert Redgwell, Hudson's Hill, Wethersfield, near Braintree.

OXFORD GUILD.—Sonning Branch.—A combined practice will be held at Hurst on Saturday, March 3rd, from 6 till 9 p.m.—Joseph White.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practices, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. St. Clement Danes, March 5th and 19th. Bishopsgate, March 12th. 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10 a.m., St. Clement Danes.—A. D. Barker, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stoke Green, Nr. Slough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at *St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, on March 6th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 8th; St. Magnus, Lower Thames Street, on the 15th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 20th; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and District Branch.—Quarterly meeting, All Saints', Oxford, March 8th. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Room, 4.45. Meeting after tea.—W. Harris, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting at St. George-in-the-East on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea will be arranged for all who advise me by March 7th. A good attendance is desired.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E. 17.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30, followed by tea. It is important that all those expecting to be present at the tea should let me know by Monday, March 5th.—Edith Smith, Sec., 23, Somerset Street, Kingsdown, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Barrow-in-Furness, on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m.—W. T. Clark, Branch Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Widnes on Saturday, March 10th. Bells ready at 3. Service 5.30. Tea at 6. Farnworth tower will be open at 7. Members intending being present please send word to Sec.—Walter Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Preston (bells 6), on Saturday, March 10th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting 5.30.—W. Taylor, Branch Sec., Tower House, Penwortham.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division. —The Annual meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 17th. Bells ready at 3. Service at 5. Tea (1/- each) at 5.30 to those who notify Mr. C. Haynes, 439, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, by Wednesday, the 14th. The Association's Annual Report, price 2/-, will be on sale at this meeting.—F. Clark, 18, Royston Avenue, Bentley Road, Doncaster.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, March 17th, from 3.15 p.m. Will arrange tea at a small cost. Welcome to all.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W. 4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. — The annual meeting will be held at York, on Saturday, March 17th. The Minster bells (12) available from 2.30 to 4 and 6.30 to 8.30; also the rings of 6 at SS. Philip and James, Clifton, and St. Mary the Younger, Bishophill, from 2 to 8.30. Choral Evensong in the Minster at 4. Tea at 5.15 in the Ebor Rooms, Coney Street, to those who notify Mr. G. Horner, 16, Clifton Green, York, by first post, Tuesday, March 13th. Business meeting immediately after in the St. Michael-le-Belfry Schoolroom, Stonegate. For further particulars see circular.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dist. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The annual meeting will be held at Derby on Easter Monday, April 2nd. The bells at All Saints', St. Alkmund's, St. Peter's and St. Luke's will be available for ringing from 10 a.m. to 3.45 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Certificate Sub-Committee will meet at 2.45, and the

Ordinary Committee at 3.15 in St. Alkmund's Institute. There will be a service at All Saints' Church at 4 o'clock. Preacher, the Ven. Archdeacon of Derby. Collection for the Bell Repair Fund. Tea will be at 4.45 in the Assembly Rooms, Market Place, and the general meeting will follow immediately after tea. The charge for tea will be 2s. per head, and I am asked to give particular notice that all requiring same should give notice to the Derby hon. sec., Mr. A. Braines, 1, Clarence Row, Mansfield Street, Derby, not later than Wednesday, March 28th. A smoking concert has been arranged to commence at 8 o'clock in the Assembly Rooms. Nominations for general officers should reach me one month before the meeting.—A. Coningsby Wright, Hon. Sec., Strathallan, Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

PUBLICATIONS.

'AMONG THE BELLS.'—THE RINGING CAREER OF LATE REV. F. E. ROBINSON, M.A., Vicar of Drayton, Berks, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Part I. to XX. may be had singly at 6d. net. Unbound numbers I. to XX. complete, 8s. 6d. Or the whole work bound in cloth for 10s. 6d. net. From MRS. ROBINSON, Fair Home, Wokingham.

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VETERAN TEWKESBURY RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred on January 21st of Mr. Josiah Wathen, of Tewkesbury, who passed away at the age of 77 years. For over 40 years he was manager and chief engineer at Tewkesbury Waterworks, a position he relinquished in 1912.

Mr. Wathen began his ringing in Worcester about 1865, and for something like 50 years was a ringer at Tewkesbury Abbey. With the Rev. C. D. P. Davies he started a change ringing band at the Abbey, which developed into one of the best Stedman companies in Gloucestershire. He conducted his first peal in 1877. He was for many years Master of the Tewkesbury Society, and he also called, on the Abbey bells, the first 1,008 Double Norwich Major in the county.

Muffled ringing took place at the Abbey in memory of the deceased, and a muffled peal was also attempted at St. Giles' Church, Willenhall, Staffs.

ILSINGTON BELLS.

The bells at St. Michael's Church, Ilsington, Devon, have been hung on modern fittings with patent adjustable bearings, and put in perfect ringing order by Messrs. Wm. Aggett and Sons, of Chagford.

The bells were tested on Monday week, by numerous ringers, who were highly pleased with the excellent 'go,' and with the improvements so well carried out.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.—Chester Diocesan Guild.—On Tuesday, Dec. 26th, at the Parish Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, and 720 Bob Minor: R. Sperring (conductor) 1, J. H. Riding 2, G. H. Jones 3, H. F. Holding 4, H. Overton 5, S. Jones, junr., 6.

BOSBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Wednesday, January 31st, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Foster 1, F. Stinton 2, F. Foster 3, A. Morris 4, E. W. Turner (conductor) 5, E. Spencer 6. First 720 in method by 1, 2 and 6. First with a bob bell by 3. First 720 in method on the bells by a local band. Also rung as a farewell touch to Mr. Morris on his leaving the parish.

UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.—At St. Margaret's Church, on Thursday, Feb. 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss G. Baker 1, J. J. Pratt 2, P. Jones 3, Miss P. Moss 4, L. B. Potter 5, E. Hancox (conductor) 6, R. Carter 7, H. Chandler 8.—On Thursday, Jan. 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss P. Moss (first quarter) 1, Miss D. Feltham 2, G. Gutteridge 3, J. J. Pratt (conductor) 4, E. Hancox 5, H. Chandler 6, W. Honor 7, J. Childs 8.

LEE, KENT.—At St. Margaret's Church, on Feb. 20th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: *A. Hole 1, W. G. Pinnigar (conductor) 2, W. Woods 3, H. James 4, *J. Lawson 5, C. Moulton 6,

H. Brasher 7, C. Pinnigar 8. * First quarter-peal; also first as conductor.

WALLINGFORD, BERKS.—On Monday, Feb. 12th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 43 mins.: Mrs. A. E. Lock 1 *F. Naish 2, *E. V. Naish 3, E. Humphrey 4, W. S. Holfield 5, A. E. Lock (conductor) 6, G. Caudwell 7, F. W. Woodward 8. * First quarter.

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