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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1927.

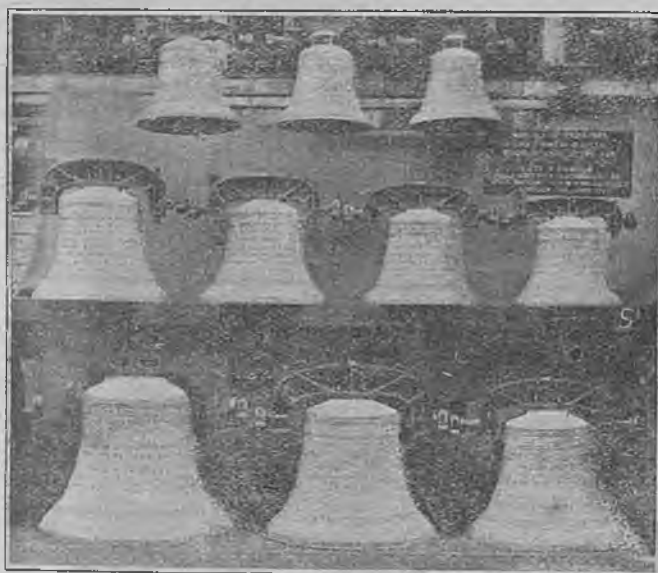
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BOW BELLS—A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

The silence of the famous ring at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, has caused these bells, better known by repute than probably any other peal in the world, to come into the limelight within the last few days. 'The Times' has commented on this silence, and informed the public that the expenditure of a sum of from £3,000 to £5,000 is necessary on the bells and tower. It declares that the immediate reason for the stopping of the bells is the development of a crack in the tenor, and goes on to say that now that restoration is inevitable, something on the grand scale is necessary. Whether there is any fracture in the upper part of the bell, as 'The Times' asserts, we are unable to say, but such a definite statement must have originated from somewhere, and ringers who know this grand old tenor will await with interest and no little concern the views of the experts, who will doubtless be called in to make an examination. What we do know is that ringing at Bow was stopped because of the bad 'go' of the tenor, caused by grit getting into the bearings, and it may be that the 'breakage' has grown as the news has spread.

As to the necessary restoration of the fabric, we, of course, know nothing. The ravages of London's atmosphere have doubtless made renovation imperative, and if the bells are to be rung the structure must be made secure. That the bells will be made ringable again without unnecessary delay goes without saying while Bow Church has a Rector like Canon Gordon Ponsonby. The point that will interest the Exercise most, however, is whether a patchwork job will be carried out to satisfy immediate requirements, or whether the church authorities will enter upon a comprehensive scheme, not only to rehang the bells entirely, but to put in hand other improvements in the tower which would make it at once a model of its kind and a common meeting centre for ringers. Such a proposal is not the dream of a visionary. We believe we are correct in saying that a scheme has been actually submitted to the authorities, who are not unfavourably disposed towards it, and if it could be carried out it might give the Exercise what it does not at present possess, something in the nature of metropolitan headquarters.

Bow bells have been open for the use of London ringing societies to a greater extent than any other peal—Southwark is the only other comparable tower—and if the scheme for the restoration of the bells at the Cheapside Church could be carried out in its entirety, Bow might be made something more to the Exercise than a happy hunting ground for peal ringers. So far as the restoration is concerned, everything depends on funds.

(Continued on page 34.)

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The parish itself could not undertake a £5,000 project, but Bow bells, with their traditions and their associations with the life of the city, should make an appeal to the ancient and wealthy guilds and corporations which should easily ensure the raising of any required sum. 'The Times' has 'opened the ball'; if the opportunity were seized a wave of interest might be created which would carry the proposals to a successful issue. What is wanted is a bold initiative, courage and effort, and we hope to see these displayed by those who will be responsible for seeing the thing through. It is a great opportunity.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 13, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ALFRED E. REEVES... .. Treble	HENRY PRING 6
REV. R. H. WHITFORD ... 2	JOHN A. BURFORD... .. 7
MRS. R. J. WILKINS ... 3	HARRY BENNETT 8
RICHARD CLARK 4	ERNEST MORRIS 9
CHARLES H. JENNINGS ... 5	URIAH BRAVEN Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALFRED E. REEVES.

* First peal. The conductor's 50th peal of Stedman Caters. The ringer of the 9th is from Leicester.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

J. FREDERICK MILNER ... Treble	EDWARD C. GOBEY 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	PERCIVAL PRICE 7
HARRY MORGAN 3	ERNEST MORRIS 8
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 9
E. HARRY STONELEY ... 5	FREDERICK S. PRICE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

J. F. Milner has now rung every bell in the tower to a peal.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

ERNEST MORRIS ... Treble	JOHN P. FIDLER 6
E. HARRY STONELEY ... 2	HARRY MORGAN 7
EDWARD C. GOBEY 3	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... 8
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 9
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 5	PERCIVAL PRICE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Royal in the method. † First peal of Royal and first attempt. First peal of Bob Royal on the bells. First peal of Royal as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MYTHOLMROYD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 1, 1927, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... Treble	ERNEST CUTSFORTH ... 5
WILLIAM H. SHUKER ... 2	FIRTH HOPWOOD 6
JAMES INGHAM 3	RONALD SQUIRES 7
THOMAS K. DRIVER ... 4	JOSEPH BROADLEY Tenor

Composed by J. J. BRIERLEY.

Conducted by J. BROADLEY.

Ringer of treble from Blackburn, 2nd from Manchester, 3rd local, 4th from Rochdale, 5th from Bolton, 6th and tenor from Bradford, 7th from Halifax.

BURGHILL, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

ARTHUR W. DAVIS ...	Treble	*ALEC J. TAYLOR ...	5
WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS ...	2	*WALTER TAYLOR ...	6
GEOFFREY W. TAYSON ...	3	CHARLES EDWARDS ...	7
THOMAS H. TAYSON ...	4	†GEORGE R. HANKS ...	Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES EDWARDS.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal on eight bells. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

WYE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ROMNEY MARSH & DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of SS. GREGORY AND MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 20½ cwt.

C. WALTER EVERETT ...	Treble	*CHARLES J. HEAD ...	5
HENRY C. CASTLE ...	2	ERNEST W. POWELL ...	6
PERCY PAGE ...	3	HARRY PARKES ...	7
CHARLES W. FRANKLIN ...	4	†JOHN PARSONS ...	Tenor

Conducted by HARRY PARKES.

* First peal away from tenor. † First peal of Stedman.

SHOREHAM-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

EDWARD C. MERRETT ...	Treble	FRANK BENNETT ...	5
*BERT CHALLEN ...	2	*HORACE WHITEHEAD ...	6
GEORGE H. SHUKER ...	3	HENRY STALHAM ...	7
ROBERT J. DAWES ...	4	JOHN DEARLOVE ...	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

* First peal in the method with an inside bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss M. G. Sears, daughter of Mr. Lionel Sears, upon her attaining her majority.

MELKSHAM, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in E flat.

JESSE FRANCIS ...	Treble	*WILLIAM BOLWELL ...	5
WILLIAM C. WEST ...	2	*SIDNEY WILTSHIRE ...	6
*EDWARD PERRY ...	3	SIDNEY HILLIER ...	7
*ERNEST J. TRUMAN ...	4	FRED LAMBETH ...	Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by FRED LAMBETH.

* First peal in the method. This peal was rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Winifred A. Legg, daughter of Mr. R. H. Legg, a member of the local band, and Mr. David Crook.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Saviour,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6162 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

*ERNEST H. BAGWORTH ...	Treble	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ...	5
J. SARSON NEEDHAM ...	2	JOSIAH MORRIS ...	6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ...	3	*NORMAN S. BAGWORTH ...	7
ERNEST W. TIDLER ...	4	ERNEST MORRIS ...	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First in the method, and first in the method on these bells. The band desire to thank Mr. J. S. Needham for getting permission for the peal and also taking part at the last minute, it being 17 years since he rang a peal.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS, LANCs.—At St. John's Church, on January 11th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,248 changes) in 50 mins.: H. Nelson (longest length) 1, E. Lawson 2, Adam Blogg 3, E. B. Coxhead 4, F. A. Bradley 5, A. Hartley 6, H. Lucas 7, Alfred Blogg (longest length as conductor) 8.

NORTHOWRAM, HALIFAX.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of St. Matthew,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

GEORGE BOTTOMLEY ...	Treble	JOE GREENWOOD ...	5
VERNEY BAIRSTOW ...	2	*SIDNEY JACKSON ...	6
ARTHUR BAIRSTOW ...	3	ALBERT JAGGER ...	7
ALBERT PICKLES ...	4	WILLIAM AMBLER ...	Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

* First peal.

TETTENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

*WILLIAM COOPER ...	Treble	SYDNEY ELTON ...	5
JOHN PERRY ...	2	ROBERT PICKERING ...	6
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ...	3	THOMAS J. ELTON ...	7
HERBERT KNIGHT ...	4	WILLIAM FISHER ...	Tenor

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON. Conducted by WILLIAM FISHER

* First peal of Cambridge Surprise. First Surprise peal on the bells.

RAINHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. in E.

P.O. A. R. OCKWELL, R.N. <i>Treble</i>	THOMAS BEAUMONT	...	5
MISS BERTHA M. MILLS ... 2	WILLIAM J. WALKER	...	6
MRS. V. A. JARRETT, R.E. ... 3	ERNEST J. DOBBIE	...	7
SAM TAYLOR ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT	...	Tenor

Composed by JOHN THORPE. Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. C. Belsey, captain of the local band.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

HARRY BAKER ...	Treble	WILLIAM H. HOAD ...	5
MRS. H. BAKER ...	2	KENNETH PATTENDON ...	6
CHARLES TRIBE ...	3	WILLIAM WENBAN ...	7
CHARLES W. PLAYER ...	4	ALFRED J. BATTIN ...	Tenor

Conducted by W. WENBAN.

Mr. Hoad's 50th peal.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES

EDWARD ROBBINS ...	Treble	BERNARD DITCHER ...	5
JESSE J. MOBS ...	2	JOHN HOLMAN ...	6
GEORGE LRWIS ...	3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ...	7
CHARLES MASON ...	4	JOHN FLINT ...	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (No 44). Conducted by JOHN FLINT

BRENCHELEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

ROBERT T. LAMBERT ...	Treble	*GEORGE BURT ...	5
WILLIAM H. LAMBERT ...	2	FREDK. J. LAMBERT, JUN. ...	6
JOHN WHEADON ...	3	REGINALD E. LAMBERT ...	7
FREDK. J. LAMBERT, SEN. ...	4	ALBERT E. EDWARDS ...	Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by A. E. EDWARDS

* First peal on an inside bell on eight bells.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS ...	Treble	MARICE F. R. HIBBERT ...	5
*MISS ELSIE E. CHAPMAN ...	2	JOHN T. KENTISH ...	6
REDREN SANDERS ...	3	JAMES E. DAVIS ...	7
GEORGE R. PYE ...	4	WILLIAM PYE ...	Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to R. Sanders.

HANDSWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours.

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

GEORGE T. MITCHISON ...	Treble	GEORGE WALKER ...	5
WILLIAM H. BALL ...	2	MORRIS J. MORRIS ...	6
RICHARD C. INGRAM ...	3	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH ...	7
GEORGE F. SWANN ...	4	JOHN NEAL ...	Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by G. F. SWANN.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., presiding Ringing Master of the Guild.

ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.

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

Tenor 20 cwt. (approx.).

*PERCIVAL W. CAVE ...	Treble	JAMES MARTIN ...	5
*ERNEST JONES ...	2	ARTHUR LINTOTT ...	6
THOMAS HAMMOND ...	3	JOHN WILKINSON ...	7
GEORGE R. NEWTON ...	4	EDWARD CAUNCE ...	Tenor

Composed by W. WILLSON. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal in the method. Also first peal in the method on the bells.

WHALLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HARRY HARGREAVES ...	Treble	THOMAS HOYLE ...	5
JOHN BROWN ...	2	ARTHUR TOMLINSON ...	6
TOM CHAMBERS ...	3	FRED HINDLE ...	7
H. BERTRAM POTTS ...	4	JOSEPH A. TOMLINSON ...	Tenor

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

First peal in method on bells. First peal for ringers of 1st, 4th and 5th, who are regular ringers at above church.

KIRKBRITTON, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

J. BARRACLOUGH ...	Treble	H. ARMITAGE ...	5
H. RICHARDS ...	2	H. ROBERTS ...	6
T. SHAW ...	3	W. FRITH ...	7
A. ARMITAGE ...	4	J. E. CARTER ...	Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by J. E. CARTER.

The ringer of the treble is now in his 80th year, and is still a regular ringer and towerkeeper at Huddersfield Parish Church.

PENDLETON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Thomas.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

HARRY CHAPMAN ...	Treble	EDWARD JENKINS ...	5
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ...	2	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT ...	6
ALLAN F. BAILEY ...	3	TITUS BARLOW ...	7
TOM WILDE ...	4	PETER LAFLIN ...	Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by T. B. WORSLEY.

First peal of Superlative as conductor. Arranged and rung as a 30th anniversary peal for the first Surprise peal by the association. Superlative, rung in this tower, conducted by Mr. H. Chapman. It was also a 72nd birthday compliment to Mr. F. Smith, a former prominent member of the local company.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ERNEST H. SIMPSON ...	Treble	WILLIAM BARTON ...	5
HERBERT HAIGH ...	2	THOMAS B. KENDALL ...	6
CHARLES E. LAWSON ...	3	JOSEPH BROADLEY ...	7
HARRY DAVISON ...	4	HARRY FOSTER ...	Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

First peal in the method on the bells.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Aidan.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 15 cwt.

*FREDERICK ROBSON ...	Treble	*SIDNEY BREEZE ...	5
ERNEST BURNETT ...	2	JOSEPH W. PARKER ...	6
MICHAEL F. HARRISON ...	3	ROBERT L. PATTERSON ...	7
ROBERT WALKER ...	4	JOHN LOWERY ...	Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

* First peal of Stedman. First peal of Triples and quickest peal on the bells. Ringers of 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th belong to Sunderland, the rest of the band being local men.

GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

At the Church of St. George.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

*WILLIAM J. BEER ...	Treble	*FREDERICK A. MITCHELL ...	5
*STUART SANDFORD ...	2	JOHN BURLS ...	6
*HARRY ARGENT ...	3	*EDWARD J. BEER ...	7
*GEORGE MORRAD ...	4	FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ...	Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by EDWARD J. BEER.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. First peal as conductor. First peal in method on the bells.

MIDDLETON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*WILLIAM HARDMAN ...	Treble	GEORGE STAFF ...	5
WILLIAM H. SHUKER ...	2	FRANK FIELDEN ...	6
THOMAS K. DRIVER ...	3	ERNEST CUTSFORTH ...	7
FRED HODGSON ...	4	WILLIAM HORAN ...	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by WILLIAM HORAN.

* First peal in the method. First peal as conductor. Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. Cotterell, of Bradford, on his marriage to Miss O. L. Lumley.

WILLESDEN.—On December 24th, at St. Mary's, Willesden, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Kelby 1, J. A. Trollope 2, G. Kelby 3, W. Wilson (first quarter inside) 4, E. Lankester 5, H. Kelby 6, W. Hollier (conductor) 7, P. Norton 8.

SOUTH HACKNEY.—On Friday, December 31st, for watchnight service at the Church of St. John-at-Jerusalem, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 42 mins.: E. J. Jones 1, J. A. Hales 2, P. Smith 3, L. T. R. Wapshere 4, I. J. Atwater (conductor) 5, A. Riley 6, S. W. Wapshere 7, G. W. T. Briggs 8. With 4, 6, 8 covering.

EARLS COLNE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

SAMUEL WARNE Treble	FRANK CLAYDON 5
GEORGE W. MOSS 2	ARTHUR SAUNDERS 6
JAMES FLEURY 3	WILLIAM BURGESS 7
WILLIAM KEEBLE 4	WALTER ARNOLD Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WALTER ARNOLD.

First peal in the method as conductor without calling a bob in the method previously. Rung to celebrate the 91st birthday of Mr. R. Hunt, J.P., founder of the firm of Hunts, Ltd., of Earls Colne.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART, No. 6.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

FRANK LAWRENCE Treble	*JOHN J. JEFFERIES 5
WILLIAM NIBLETT 2	*WILLIAM LEWIS 6
JOSEPH LAWRENCE 3	CHARLES CAMM 7
ROBERT G. KNOWLES 4	ARTHUR GRIFFIN Tenor

Conducted by C. CAMM.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 11, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

FRANK RINGE Treble	ERNEST J. BUTTER 5
*ERNEST FURBANK 2	HARRY TURNER 6
GEORGE R. PYE 3	GEORGE MILES 7
ALFRED PYE 4	WILLIAM LEGGETT Tenor

Conducted by G. R. PYE.

* First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the Rev. Edward Lees, M.A., Vicar of Brentwood, who was interred in Brentwood Churchyard the same day.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

E. HARRY STONELEY Treble	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 5
HARRY MORGAN 2	PERCIVAL A. OLDBAM 6
JOHN P. FIDLER 3	THOMAS K. DEACON 7
JAMES GEORGE 4	CHARLES R. BELTON Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

This peal was specially arranged for Mr. James George of Birmingham.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13 cwt.

HAROLD B. DITCHBURN Treble	THOMAS W. DITCHBURN 5
JOHN J. LEIGHTON 2	JOSEPH W. PARKER 6
MICHAEL F. HARRISON 3	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 7
FRANK NAISBY 4	RICHARD LANGTON Tenor

Conducted by R. L. PATTERSON.

A farewell peal to Mr. Frank Naisby, of Cleveland, Ohio, a member of an old Sunderland ringing family, who has been on a short visit. He was welcomed by a peal of Double Norwich on December 22nd last year, but not having rung for over 17 years he did not take part. He is to be congratulated on the excellence of his ringing in this peal, after so little practice. The band includes six men who were fellow-ringers with Mr. Naisby before he left the country, the tenor ringer being nearly 74 years of age.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ALFRED ROWLEY Treble	BENJAMIN GOUGH 5
ROBERT PICKERING 2	WILLIAM A. COOPER 6
HERBERT KNIGHT 3	*CYRIL WINWOOD 7
ABRAHAM GREENFIELD 4	JAMES GEORGE Tenor

Composed by the late SAM THOMAS. Conducted by ALFRED ROWLEY

* First peal in the method. The conductor, who is a member of the local band, has now called a peal in this method from each of the above bells, each peal a different composition.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, December 18, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent and three 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt.

ERNEST RUNTER Treble	EDWARD KEMP 4
ISAAC T. POULTON 2	WM. E. PRAILL 5
*JOHN H. MYHILL 3	EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM Tenor

Conducted by E. P. BUCKINGHAM.

* First peal inside bell.

BISHOP'S HULL, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(TAUNTON DEANERY.)

On Friday, December 31, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*FRANK CAVILL Treble	*EDGAR ELSON 4
*HARRY POCOCK 2	PERCY MERSON 5
WILLIAM UNDERHILL 3	WILLIAM H. LLOYD Tenor

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

* First peal of Minor.

BARTHOMLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Friday, December 31, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BERTHOLINE.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 7 cwt.

ERIC B. ALLMAN Treble	JOHN MATTHEWS 4
*JOHN PARKER 2	GEORGE ADDISON 5
ARTHUR ALLMAN 3	JOHN BRASSINGTON Tenor

Conducted by J. BRASSINGTON.

* First peal with a bob bell. Rung on the front six.

YARDLEY HASTINGS, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 1, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 of Plain Bob and 30 of Grandsire.

PERCY AMOS Treble	JAMES MARR 4
*HARRY WOODING 2	THOMAS WISE 5
GEORGE PARKER 3	†HERBERT LACK Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WISE.

* First peal inside. † First peal. Rung after meeting short for Minor.

A DATE TOUCH.

At All Saints' Church, Wath-on-Dearne, on Saturday, January 15th, a date touch of 1,927 changes of Minor, in 1 hour 7 mins., consisting of 287 College Pleasure, 80 Original, 720 Arnold's Victory, 720 Kent and 120 Oxford: G. Lord 1, W. Ashworth 2, R. J. Ricketts 3, C. D. Potter 4, A. Gill 5, A. Panther (conductor) 6.

Specially arranged for C. D. Potter, who hails from Barnsley; the others are members of the local band.

ISHAM, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
(KETTERING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court, Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt. 1 qr.

WALTER T. WILSON	...Treble	MISS CECIL E. HEPBURN	4
*CYRIL D. NICHOLS...	... 2	FREDERICK J. TITE	... 5
MISS KITTY MOORE	... 3	ROBERT G. BLACK	...Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First peal in seven methods inside. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble and fifth.

SHIPBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

JIM BEACH...	...Treble	ARTHUR H. SMITH	... 4
*BERTRAM LOCK	... 2	ALBERT RULFE	... 5
GEORGE FULLER	... 3	HERBERT J. HAMMOND	...Tenor

Composed by the Rev. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by H. J. HAMMOND

* First peal on a working bell. The Vicar (the Rev. F. L. Schreiber) met the ringers after the peal, and congratulated them.

NEWPORT, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Three Hours.

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

WILLIAM T. PRIOR	...Treble	WALTER PRIOR	... 4
GEORGE JORDAN	... 2	THOMAS J. WATTS	... 5
THOMAS JORDAN	... 3	*WALTER AYRE	...Tenor

Composed by the Rev. E. BANKES JAMES. Conducted by W. AYRE.

* First peal of Surprise Minor. Rung for the feast of the Epiphany, and also as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd. First peal of Cambridge Minor by the band and first attempt. First peal on the bells, which have recently been overhauled by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. After the peal, the band were very kindly entertained to tea by the Vicar, the Rev. C. S. Cain.

GREAT GADDESSEN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings. Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

AUGUSTIN V. GOOD...	...Treble	BERNARD H. SWINSON	... 3
FRANCIS KIRK	... 2	CHARLES JEFFS	... 4
CHARLES W. ROBERTS	...Tenor		

Conducted by A. V. GOOD.

First peal in the method on the bells. First peal of Stedman Doubles by all, and believed to be the first for the association. First peal on the bells for 24 years. The ringer of the tenor, who was elected a member previous to starting, has now rung peals of Stedman from Doubles to Cinques.

HANDBELL PEAL.

EARLS COLNE, ESSEX.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, January 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

At the Residence of Mr. W. Arnold, Holt Street.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

LEWIS W. WIFFEN	... 1-2	WILLIAM KEEBLE	... 5-6
EDWARD P. DUFFIELD	... 3-4	JOHN R. DUFFIELD	... 7-8

Composed by EDGAR WIGHTMAN. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE
Referees: WALTER ARNOLD and JAMES FLEURY.

CARDIFF.—On Friday, December 31st, for the watchnight service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): J. Phillips 1, C. P. Heath 2, J. Davies 3, W. Richards 4, G. Large 5, E. Coombes 6, S. Dawe (conductor) 7, S. R. Barker 8.—Also to ring in the New Year, 504 in the same method.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH DISCUSSES IMPORTANT MATTERS.

The Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held its annual meeting at St. Paul's, Wokingham, on Saturday week. There was a large attendance. A helpful and inspiring service was held in the church, when the Rector, the Rev. H. M. Walter, officiated. Mr. G. Tanner was at the organ, and an appropriate and interesting address was given by the Rev. W. T. Stubbs, Rector of Easthampstead, from Psalm xcii. 10, 'Tell it out.' The preacher appreciated the value of the science and art of church bell ringing as a part of service for God, and instanced the love of English people generally for the church bells in a parish where he resided, in which non-campanologists as well as churchmen subscribed to the fund for renovation of the church bells. Should the time ever come, which God forbid, when the Christian religion should be forbidden in England, nothing would be so much regretted as the lost sound of the bells. The bells did remind us of our God and of our religion. It was a true instinct that in olden times led men to christen bells and to carve messages upon them. The message, remembered, brought back to memory their very tones. There was an appropriateness in the sound of the bell at certain special times in the celebration of the Holy Sacrament. The passing bell with its call to prayer to the faithful at the moment of a soul's departing was now almost a lost institution. Messages to the weary, the sick and the dying came from the bells. The ringers should be men of God.

Some 70 members were present at the service, which was much appreciated. The singing of the hymns, 'All people that on earth do dwell,' 'As with gladness men of old,' and 'O praise our God to-day,' was an inspiration to all.

Tea was next partaken of in the Parish Room. Mrs. Houlton ably catered, and was assisted by Mesdames Barry, Anslow, F. Heales, Misses Barry, Wolfe and Wakelam (2), Messrs. Barry, Houlton and Youldell.

LOSS OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

The business meeting followed, the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge (chairman) presiding. He was supported by the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (Master of the Guild), the Revs. R. H. Hart-Davis (President of the branch), H. M. Walter, P. H. Ditchfield, B. Long, J. A. Anderson, G. H. Francis, Mr. A. J. Wright (Guild treasurer), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Guild secretary) and Mr. F. Dentry (branch secretary).

The balance sheet showed £15 13s. 10d. in hand, a slight increase on the previous year. The amount of honorary subscriptions had slightly fallen.

The Hon. Secretary reported a very quiet year. The attendance at combined practices had not been good, but local ringing in the various towers had been regularly kept up. Membership had slightly increased to 185. The losses recently by death had been heavy among the honorary subscribers. Honoured names were the late secretary, the Rev. E. E. Broome, Mr. De Vitre, Mr. S. S. Melville, of Wokingham, for 28 years a regular subscriber. The late Mr. H. J. Roe, who died within a month of his 100th birthday had been an honorary member for 16 years. The Rev. A. G. Parham had left the deanery for another area. A new name was Mr. Robin Gray, of Wargrave. He hoped, by individual effort of members, to have a full honorary list by the end of the year. The report and balance sheet were unanimously adopted, and thirteen new members were then formally elected.

The Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge was unanimously re-elected chairman of the branch.

Mr. F. Dentry did not seek re-election, so Mr. W. J. Paice was elected unanimously as hon. secretary and treasurer of the branch.—Mr. Dentry was heartily thanked for his past services and regret expressed at his being obliged to discontinue.

The branch committee, comprised mainly of foremen of the towers, was then re-elected.

Combined practices.—This committee reported a lack of success with regard to combined practices. Some discussion ensued, Miss Walker, Mr. Moth, and others taking part.

The Master of the Guild suggested a vote be taken as to continuing these meetings, and eventually it was decided that they be dropped, so the committee was not reappointed.

A resolution adopting quarterly meetings for the branch was then carried, to be held successively at Twyford, Sandhurst and Waltham St. Lawrence.

Branch representatives on the Guild Committee were then elected, viz.: Messrs. J. Moth, J. White, J. Rance, F. Dentry and (ex-officio) W. J. Paice.

This concluded the business.

On the invitation of the chairman, Rev. R. H. Hart Davis, who is in his 85th year, spoke. He referred to the inauguration, in 1879, in the rural deanery of Sonning, of a ringing association by the Hurst, Wargrave, Binfield and two Wokingham churches, before the Guild was started in 1881. A letter was written by Mr. Hugh Sturges, and a paper read by himself in 1880. He was anxious to know of anyone present who had rung in that smaller association of ringers, as he was anxious for information.

No one present had, however, done so.

A Mr. Fuller, of Wargrave, was one he knew, continued the speaker. At any rate, there was ringing going on in those five towers before this branch started. That was a little bit of interesting English history.

A CONFERENCE SUGGESTED.

The Master of the Guild referred to the question of getting ringing recruits of the right kind. The number of ringers was getting smaller and smaller each year. He suggested a conference be arranged. The Master advocated care, sympathy and patience in teaching the young ringer, and the desirability of not overburdening with too much at once. Ringers must give time to their work to become efficient. Of course, there must be practice every week. It was not the decline in members but in the perseverance that led to success. So many young men were ringers for a year or two and then drifted away. It would be bad for the bell ringers in the future. People were gradually waking up to see that ringers did not come down from heaven, but were ordinary men, of flesh and blood. He spoke thus so as to get the recruit that was really wanted for that really splendid branch of church work.

Mr. A. J. Wright, Guild treasurer, said that state of affairs spoken of by the Master had not affected the financial position. The Midland Counties Association has claimed to be the largest and the best, but the Oxford Diocesan Guild beat them, both in money and in members. The Guild members and subscriptions kept up well. An increase of about 10 per cent. was expected as things were going. The branches held at present somewhere about £153 under their own control. He advocated a more general purchase of the Guild Reports, which had an increasing circulation. He regretted Mr. Dentry's resignation, and wished Mr. Paice every success.

Mr. Tom Hibbert deplored the lack of efficient recruits. Young men only put in a year or two. The teaching must be made interesting: the youngsters must not be allowed to slip away. He hoped they would all give extra support to their new secretary. He thanked the Rev. H. M. Walter, the organist, and helpers for their hospitality, and especially the Rev. W. T. Stubbs for his excellent discourse.

The Rev. H. M. Walter, responding, alluded to the association of the past with the revered father of the preacher (the late Dr. Stubbs, Bishop of Oxford). He was very struck with the splendid singing of those present at the afternoon service.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield thanked the chairman, and reminded ringers that their host should be given for the Sunday services.

Both the local towers with their peals of eight bells were placed at the disposal of the members.

GREAT BARDFIELD, ESSEX.—On New Year's Eve, at midnight, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 360 Woodbine Treble Bob: W. Richardson 1, F. Suckling 2, W. Piper 3, A. Piper 4, E. Townsend 5, J. Jennings (conductor) 6. In the evening, the company were entertained to supper by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Shead, and during the evening carols, etc., were rung on the handbells.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICERS.

The Southern District of the London County Association held their annual meeting at Lambeth last Saturday.

The tower was opened at 3.30, and ringing started with the standard methods. The belfry was soon filled with ringers, and at 5 p.m. an adjournment was made for tea, which was served at the Brew House, where about thirty sat down to a pleasant meal.

The business meeting was held afterwards, when Mr. H. Mance (the Master) took the chair.

The balance sheet showed a small balance on the right side.

Mr. H. Mance was re-elected chairman, a decision which met with the entire approbation of all, and Mr. Mance thanked the members for their confidence and reoccupied the chair.

Mr. C. F. Mitchell was re-elected secretary, and the offices of the treasurer and stewardship were accepted by Messrs. Mackrill and Essery respectively, while Messrs. Clark and Bayliss were elected committee men.

It was decided that the next meeting be held at St. Giles', Camberwell, when the bells, which are being rehung, are ready. This will be the first open meeting after dedication. Owing to the third Saturday in April falling in Holy Week, the meeting will be held on the second Saturday, the 9th, unless it is announced otherwise in these columns.

Only one new member was elected, viz., Mr. Ellingham.

A return was made to the church, where more ringing was done, but owing to a service a 'stop' had to be called at 7.30. Some thirty to forty members then adjourned for a very pleasant social.

The Hounslow ringers contributed handbell tunes, some sang songs and some rang changes on handbells, all of which were very much appreciated by the company.

The ringers wish to thank the Rector for the use of the bells, and also Mr. Hardy for making all the arrangements.

WEDDING BELLS.

At Great Staughton, Hunts, on Jan 10th, at the Church of St. Andrew, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Doubles in 47 mins.: G. Franklin 1, F. W. Lach 2, *E. Beaton 3, H. Bosworth 4, T. H. Townsend (conductor) 5, *J. Crisell 6. * First quarter-peal. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Smith, only daughter of Mr. T. Smith, who has been clerk at the above church for the past 30 years.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The revival of Surprise Royal ringing reached a stage of definite advancement when on January 21st, 1898, a 5,040 Cambridge was rung at Cheltenham. It was supposed at the time to be the first ever rung in the method, but afterwards the Wakefield peal of 1822 came to light.

The Sussex Association was established on January 24th, 1885, and two days later the first peal was rung by the Brighton branch at Cuckfield. Two of that band are still active members of the association, Messrs. C. Tyler and J. Jay, and we believe there is another survivor in Mr. George King, who emigrated to Canada many years ago, and who, we hope, is still 'in the land of the living.'

The first peal of Stedman Caters at Snow Hill, London, was rung by St. James' Society seventy years ago next Monday.

A peal of 10,080 Bob Major was rung at All Saints', Fulham, on January 28th, 1735. It occupied 6 hours 40 minutes, and was rung by the Fulham Youths.

January 27th is the anniversary of 10,386 Grandsire Caters rung in 6 hours 56 minutes at Kingston-on-Thames in the year 1803.

Mr. E. Barnett, sen., wishes to thank the many ringing friends who so kindly made enquiries or sent letters of sympathy during his recent illness. He specially values the resolution passed at a meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths and forwarded through Mr. Cockerill. He is now home again, and while recovery must necessarily be slow, he hopes soon to be able to resume his ringing activities.

Mr. S. H. Wightman, of 60a, Fairfield Road, Bromley, Kent, is compiling a list of the towers in this country containing rings of bells, which he hopes, when completed, to have printed. He will be glad if secretaries of bands will send him a postcard giving name of town or village, county, name of church, number of bells and practice nights.

THE INSURANCE OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Castle Cary branch of the Bath and Wells Association has recently brought forward a matter which may well be of great moment to the Exercise in general. It concerns the insurance of voluntary ringers. Paid ringers, it is presumed, are covered by the ordinary Employers' Liability Act, but the unfortunate fatality which occurred but a short time ago gives one to think. It may be that the breadwinner of the family meets with an accident in the ringing chamber or among the bells, with the result that he is incapacitated for a time, perhaps permanently.

Your readers may have some information on the subject.—Yours truly,

J. T. DYKE.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL BELLS TO BE RESTORED. WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY'S RECORD.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Foundry, have received the order to overhaul the peal of eight bells at Chester Cathedral.

This will make the twelfth cathedral in the country in which this old-established firm have carried out restoration work of some kind during the past eight years.

The peal of ten at Bromsgrove are being renovated by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who are putting up a new peal of eight at Cinderford, Gloucestershire, and are adding three bells to make a ring of six at Ockbrook, near Derby.

QUICK WORK.

On the Sunday before Christmas the clapper of the fourth bell at Kingston Magna (where the hon. secretary of the Salisbury Guild is Rector) 'struck work' and, according to the 'North Dorset Church Magazine,' Kingston was threatened with the prospect of not having its five bells for the Christmas Festival. By a felicitous inspiration someone thought of Mr. Samuel Braddick, engineer and 'time-expired' bellringer, who lives away down Station Road. To him the clapper was carted, and within 36 hours the old one had been forged into a new one and delivered with all fittings complete at Kingston Magna. The full peal was heard on Christmas Eve.

Such a hustle must be unusual, even for Dorset, and is an example which all leisurely bell foundries might ponder on.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MINCHINGHAMPTON, GLOS.—On Friday, January 14th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor in 27 mins.: F. Canter 1, E. Jefferies 2, F. Simmonds 3, F. Ponting (conductor) 4, H. Barratt 5, H. Newman 6. First 720 in the method by all except ringer of 5th.—Also for evening service, Sunday, January 16th, 720 of Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor: G. Packer 1, E. Jefferies 2, F. Simmonds 3, F. Ponting (conductor) 4, H. Barratt 5, H. Newman 6. First 720 by all in this method, and all are regular Sunday service ringers.

CHESTER.—On Mondays, December 6th, 13th and 20th, a quarter-peal of Bristol Surprise Major at St. Mary's-within-the-Wall: R. Sperring 1, J. Hayes 2, A. J. Hughes 3, G. R. Jones 4, J. Swindley 5, H. W. Wilde 6, J. Morgan 7, S. Jones, jun., 8. Conducted by R. Sperring. First quarter-peals for all in the method.

BIG RESTORATION SCHEME FOR BOW ?

FAMOUS TENOR SAID TO BE CRACKED.

Concern has been occasioned among ringers by the announcement in the 'Times' last week that the famous tenor at Bow Church, Cheapside, is broken. The announcement was contained in the following statement: 'The bells of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, can no longer be rung with safety and will have to remain silent until repair work has been carried out on the famous Wren tower in which they are housed, and on the bells themselves. This work will cost from £4,000 to £5,000, and other essential work to the interior of the church and to the organ will involve another £5,000.'

The immediate reason for stopping the bell-ringing is that the great tenor bell, which weighs 2½ tons, is cracked at the point where it is attached to the woodwork. This can only be remedied by recasting the bell, and at the same time attention will also have to be given to the frame on which the peal of ten (sic) bells is set. To continue ringing the bells would have been most dangerous, since it is stated that in addition to the defects in the bells and their frame, the tower itself has been found to rock slightly.

This further trouble is very largely responsible for the big outlay which has now become necessary. The tower, 235ft. high, was shifted a few inches out of the perpendicular some years ago, when the first underground railway was constructed beneath it. It is now suffering, in much the same way as St. Paul's, from the vibrations of heavy and continuous road traffic, and, like the Houses of Parliament, from the corrosive effects of the London atmosphere.

We are unable to get any confirmation as to the tenor being cracked at the cannons. The reason why the bells are not being rung at the present is, we are informed, because one of the tenor gudgeons is 'scored' through grit having got into the bearing.

The present opportunity may, however, be taken to endeavour to carry out a comprehensive scheme of restoration both in the tower and church.

The article in the 'Times' quoted the vestry clerk of Bow as stating that the masonry in some parts is getting into a very dangerous condition, and it is not thought impossible by experts that pieces may fall into the street if repairs are not soon undertaken.

The interior of the church is also badly in need of restoration and redecoration. It has received no attention of this sort since 1907. Recently the plaster capsule of one of the pilasters crashed to the floor, and cracks have appeared in the south and west walls. The bells, as well as the church, have done good service at a comparatively small cost of maintenance. The tenor, with the six other bells then existing in the tower, was recast in 1762, and has given little trouble since.

There is no possibility of the parish being able to find the money necessary for this work. Up to 1875 it possessed very large trust funds, yielding an income of several thousands of pounds yearly. The bulk of those funds passed to the City of London Parochial Foundation in that year by Act of Parliament, which allotted only £130 a year to the church for repairs to the fabric. Recent attempts to get this allowance increased have been unsuccessful, and the Rector and churchwardens, having raised what they could in the parish, are about to make a wider appeal. This will be addressed to a great many interested bodies, including Holy Trinity Church, New York, which received a charter from William III. giving it the same facilities of conduct by a special vestry as were exercised by St. Mary-le-Bow, and which has had many relics from the London church at various times.

The silencing of 'the great bell of Bow' resulted in the appearance of an interesting leading article on 'Bells' in the 'Times' on Saturday.

MUFFLED BELLS.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12th, at Christ Church, Crewe, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 48 mins.: Wm. T. Holding 1, H. Edwards 2, Geo. Crawley 3, R. D. Langford 4, Hy. Overton 5, Wm. Edge 6, J. H. Riding (conductor) 7, E. J. Holloway 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mrs. Holding, widow of the late Mr. R. T. Holding, son, and mother of Messrs. R. T. and H. F. Holding, ringers at this tower. Rung by Sunday service ringers.

BEGINNERS' TOUCHES.

On Saturday, January 1st, at All Saints' Church, Hursley, Hants, 1,260 Grandsire Triples in 47 mins.: A. Warren 1, G. Pullinger 2, E. Wild 3, R. Hunt 4, H. Wilkinson 5, D. C. Williams (conductor) 6, G. Williams 7, A. Coward 8. This was the first quarter-peal by ringers of 1, 3 and 8. It was intended to start for a peal, but owing to the bad going of the 4th it was abandoned. This was rather surprising, as the bells were overhauled recently and rehung in ball bearings.

At Harwell, Berks, beginners have been scoring their first six-scores, and on January 12th 360 Grandsire Doubles were rung by: C. Hitchman 1, H. Palmer 2, W. Hitchman (conductor) 3, R. G. Rice 4, W. Corderoy 5, T. Mulford 6. Longest touch by 5th ringer inside and by the ringer of the 6th. Recently several six-scores by: C. Hitchman 1, W. Hitchman (conductor) 2, T. Bosley 3, R. G. Rice 4, W. Corderoy 5, T. Mulford 6, the first by ringers of 3, 5 and 6.

At a combined practice at Womersley, Surrey, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. R. Melville 1, N. V. Harding 2, C. Hazelden 3, G. Tomsett 4, E. S. Warner (first 720) 5, J. Goscher (conductor) 6.

VARIATIONS OF THURSTANS'.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to say that it is impossible for me to see eye to eye with Mr. Cave. Do not think that a variation claimed as mine has any influence on my opinion: it does not. Mr. Cave says this particular variation was called by Mr. Washbrook before I called it. That settles that. Ringing or publication, we take it, decides the issue, but those two variations are not the same. According to this new ruling, what becomes of any variation in anything? A variation is that which departs in some manner from an original, other than commencing from, say, the 10th course and finishing with the 9th, or reversing the same.

Mr. Cave tells us that the honour of composing this peal belongs to Mr. Washbrook. We are to understand that by connecting the four quarter-peals, the proof of which is known and is the property of someone else, you can claim the resultant 5,040, even if it has been done in a much better manner years previously. The argument may convince some of your readers; it will also please others, who will, no doubt, see how to claim variations as original. I claimed a variation, and a variation is all anyone can claim for either of Mr. Washbrook's peals, be the origin Hudson or Thurstans, a variation by the same rule that Mr. Washbrook's 12,896 of Cambridge is merely a variation of Mr. E. Hines' peal.—Yours truly,

F. H. DEXTER.

A WAY OUT.

Sir,—I have no wish to enter into any argument on this matter, but I think the best definition of the peals under discussion is to quote them as they appear in the Kent County Association report: No. 2993, 'Dexter's variation of Washbrook's'; No. 3049, 'Dexter's Variation of Brooks'.

This should satisfy all critics on either side, and I will adjust the M.C.A. peals likewise to this.

I can vouch for the statement that the late Mr. C. H. Fowler sent these figures to Mr. Washbrook, and received from him several peals in other methods, some of which were rung in and around Leicester. I had the honour to write up the late Mr. Fowler's peals, both before and after his decease.—Yours truly,

ERNEST MORRIS,

General. Hon. Secretary, M.C.A.

TRANSPPOSITIONS AND VARIATIONS.

Sir,—I beg to thank Mr. W. Cave for his very interesting exposition of reversing in last week's issue. I, for one, think if we had more from such able pens as Mr. Cave's it would do more to enlighten some of our budding composers. It is much more to the point at issue than some of the vulgar abuse that has appeared on this topic. It is no doubt highly amusing to some, but I would ask these writers how far does it take them, what progress do they make by abuse, either for themselves or for others? Cannot some of our 'young would-be composers' get to work, one take one method, one another, principally those generally rung, and work out all possible peals and all variations?

I am aware of Mr. John Carter's work on Double Norwich and Stedman Caters and Cinques, also of the recent masterly exposition of London by Mr. G. Lindoff. Now, why not tackle the other methods generally rung and produce all worth having?—Yours truly,

W. KEEBLE.

Mr. A. H. Pulling replies to Mr. Cave by referring him to the last paragraph of his own letter on page 795 of the issue of December 17th.

ST. PETER MANCROFT GUILD.

INTERESTING POSSESSIONS.

At the annual meeting of the St. Peter Mancroft Guild, Norwich, held at the Y.M.C.A. rooms, on Friday, January 14th, the officers were re-elected as follows: Mr. J. F. Duffield, Ringing Master; Mr. Geo. P. Burton, hon. treasurer; Mr. Geo. H. Claxton, hon. secretary. It was decided not to elect a deputy Ringing Master.

A great effort has been made of late to augment the depleted ranks of the Guild. During the last few years at least half a dozen capable ringers have left the city, or have otherwise unavoidably been prevented from assisting at Mancroft. Some young ringers are, happily, now approaching the Cater stage. The Guild is optimistic that, with the young bloods' advancement and the perseverance of the seniors, the difficulties which have prevailed for several years will be overcome.

An interesting piece of business was the acquiring of a collection containing letters written by Samuel Thurston and Hurry, leaflets bearing the figures of methods which were popular among the men of a hundred years ago, and many other things such as newspaper cuttings recording the deeds and 'differences of opinion' of bygone days.

A notebook in which Samuel Thurston recorded many of his peals, together with a photograph of his portrait which depicts him on the Mancroft tenor box, is already in the possession of the Guild.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.—On New Year's Day, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 50 mins.: C. Norris 1, P. Springham 2, C. Winsor 3, T. Beaumont 4, W. Haigh 5, T. Belsey 6, J. Haigh (conductor) 7, H. Haylor 8.

THE BRISTOL GUILDS' DINNER.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION'S BIRTHDAY.

The post-prandial proceedings at the gathering of the Bristol United Guilds on Saturday week was, as indicated in the report in these columns last week, of a very enjoyable nature. Interspersed in the varied musical programme were a number of toasts, the first of which was 'The King.'

The Chairman (Mr. H. J. Way) then expressed thanks to the registrar of the University for his kindness in permitting the visit to the University. It had been, he said, an instructive and interesting afternoon.

After the apologies for absence had been read by the hon. secretary (Mr. E. Guise), the Chairman gave some information about the Bristol United Guilds. The organisation was founded in 1921, the object being to arrange an annual dinner and thereby create that feeling of comradeship which was so necessary in connection with church work. That evening they had over 160 sitting down to dinner, and the officers of the Ringing Guilds must feel very satisfied with the results of their work. During the past year united practices had been arranged and fairly well attended, and a magnificent peal of handbells had been presented to the United Guilds by Mr. C. E. Cockey, son of the late Rev. H. A. Cockey, a past master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and the Bristol ringers were very proud to own such a handsome peal (applause). Their thanks were due to Mr. Came for the arrangements in connection with the transfer of the bells to the Guilds. That day, continued the Chairman, was the 49th anniversary of the formation of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and they were proud to have with them the present Master, Mr. Albert Wright. Next year, the jubilee meeting of the association would take place, and the arrangements for the festival had been left in the hands of the Bristol United Ringing Guilds, and he thought the Guilds would not be found wanting (applause). Proceeding, the Chairman proposed the toast of 'The Church.' They had had a service at St. Stephen's that afternoon. Some might think that they had tried to overdo their arrangements that day, but he thought they ought to use every opportunity to attend church and not to be content to say, 'I go once on Sundays, and that is sufficient.' If they cultivated this spirit, he was sure the clergy would reciprocate.

THE CHURCH'S POETS.

Canon H. B. Freeman (of Bristol Cathedral), who was the guest of the evening, responded. He was proud, he said, to be with the United Guilds on that occasion. Like a good many parsons, he had had a great deal to do with church bells. For 25 years he was Vicar of Burton-on-Trent, where he not only had one of the mellowest peals of bells in Staffordshire, but a very hearty company of ringers, one at least of whom had been in the service of the church for 40 years. They were very proud of their bells, and a firm connected with Burton, of whom some of them may have heard, named Bass (laughter) were so good as to have the peal retuned, rebung and reframed about twenty years ago. Those bells still had a set of melodious chimings, which played at various periods of the day, the tunes being varied with the days of the week, and one of the tunes was 'One evening when I lost my way,' played on Saturday nights (laughter). Continuing, the Canon said their favoured art of campanology represented the poetry of religion, the poetry of the Church, and the ringers should be among the Church's poets. He read with sorrow recently that the Bolsheviks had shipped from Russia a cargo of two hundred tons of broken bell metal from their churches. It seemed to him that in that cargo was carted away a good deal of the soul of Russia, the salvation of Russia and the religion of Russia. The speaker reminded his hearers that many of the great poets had found a theme in the bells, and he asked the ringers to remember that their work was the work of poets. He was glad to hear their chairman say he hoped that occasions like that one would be utilised to strengthen the co-operation between parsons and ringers. The ringers were doing a great work, and he was sure that they were not content with calling others to the banquet but were willing to enter the sacred walls after they had done their duty in the belfry and enjoy the spiritual riches for themselves. They, with the clergy, were co-operating in what was, after all, the grandest, greatest and most beautiful work in the world (applause).

THE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Mr. F. E. Dawe submitted the toast of 'The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.' He said gatherings such as that had grown considerably in number during the last few years, and the good that they did could not be overestimated. For one thing, they provided an opportunity of bringing together the authorities and the ringers, and enabled a proper mutual understanding to be reached between them. As they had been reminded, that was the 49th birthday of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and judging by the gathering around him it was a singularly healthy and vigorous child for its age. He was the first life member to call a peal for the association. It was peal No. 7, and was rung at Tewkesbury Abbey. The association had now rung something like 1,500 peals, which indicated the continuous advances which had been made, and that they were still 'going strong.' In those early days the moving spirits of the Gloucester and Bristol Association were among those who formed the backbone of the ringing Exercise—they were men who paid every regard first of all to their striking, and would take more pains with a touch of Grandsire Triples than some people in these days would with a

peal of 'Double Timbuctoo' (laughter). Continuing, the speaker said that of the peals which he had rung in Gloucestershire the one of which he was most proud was a peal of Stedman Triples at Gloucester Cathedral. It took him fifteen years to get permission. When at last he succeeded, the Dean and Chapter would not allow any artificial light to be used in the tower, and the band therefore had to ring in white shirts so that their arms could be seen going up and down in the dim light. Under the circumstances it was one of the finest peals he had ever taken part in. Proceeding, Mr. Dawe congratulated the Bristol Guilds on selecting one of their own number to act as chairman on that occasion, and uttered a word of warning to peal ringers to use tact and foresight, so that through overdoing it they did not lose their towers for peal-ringing.

Mr. Albert Wright (Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association) responded. He said he remembered the formation of the association. It originated from a meeting held at Bisley Vicarage, but the actual meeting to found the association was held in Gloucester 49 years ago that day. It started to secure belfry reform and the promotion of change ringing. Belfry reform was accomplished (hear, hear). The state of the towers to-day was far different to what it was when he began ringing. It began with their associations, and the clergy had to thank them for it; they certainly did not do it themselves. Indeed, it was through the negligence of the clergy that the belfries got into the state they did. Referring to the subject of the afternoon conference, Mr. Wright said they were always getting new ringers at Painswick, but what he would like to know was how to retain them. Young ringers in these days did not like to be told, and when anyone spoke a little sharply to them, as was sometimes necessary, they took offence, and not only left the band themselves but often took two or three other youngsters with them. In Painswick they had twelve bells and a population of twelve hundred people, and it was very difficult to maintain a band. It was the same in many other places all over the country. He added, in conclusion, that he hoped the association would go on and continue to prosper in the future.

NO DANGER FROM CARILLONS.

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. J. G. Jefferies) gave the toast of 'Kindred Guilds and Associations,' remarking that they had with them representatives of a great many of the leading societies, and they greatly appreciated their presence.

Mr. Cyril Johnston (Croydon), who first responded, thanked the Bristol Guilds for the cordial reception extended to the visitors, who were very delighted to be there to celebrate the 49th birthday of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and to wish that society 'many happy returns of the day.' They had discussed that afternoon the problem of keeping up the supply of ringers. In England, it was, however, fairly easy to get a good muster of ringers for a special occasion, and he could not help comparing it with an experience which he had in America when Mr. Newton, of Boston, and formerly of Manchester, made frantic efforts to get together a band to meet him (the speaker), and the pathetic joy of those five other men when it was found that they mustered a company to ring Kent Treble Bob. They had got a fine bell in Bristol, continued Mr. Johnston, and that afternoon he had seen three or four hefty ringers pulling it. He had made a mental note about them, because he wondered whether he would be able to get their help in ringing a twenty-ton bell, which later on would be put into a frame and swung at the Croydon foundry. He would be glad of their assistance (laughter). Referring to a recent letter in 'The Ringing World' with regard to carillons, and suggesting that the erection of a carillon in Bond Street was the beginning of a 'peaceful penetration' which would eventually oust the old English form of bell ringing, he (Mr. Johnston) assured them there was no danger of this.

Mr. Albert Walker (Birmingham) also replied, and congratulated the Bristol Guilds upon their enterprise. They were a very 'live' body, and kindred associations watched their activities with interest. At the College Youths' dinner last November he made a suggestion that good might be gained by holding, on such occasions, an informal conference to discuss matters of interest to ringers. The Bristol Guilds had given a very welcome lead in this matter, and the experiment had been an interesting one, and one from which he hoped good would come. Visiting ringers, Mr. Walker added, had spent a most delightful evening, and he thanked the Bristol Guilds for their welcome. He hoped that many of those present would attend the Henry Johnson dinner at Birmingham on February 19th, and he assured them that every effort would be made to give them an equally warm welcome.

Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport) proposed 'The Ringing World,' pointing out how important the paper was to the Exercise, and urging its support by every ringer.—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor, briefly acknowledged the toast.

Mr. C. D. Heginbotham gave 'The Artistes,' and warmly thanked them for the excellent musical entertainment which they had given, especially mentioning the services rendered by Mr. Emery in organising the programme.

Mr. C. Read replied, and the enjoyable proceedings terminated with 'Auld Lang Syne.'

GOSPEL OAK.—At St. Martin's Church, on Thursday, January 6th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Harwin 1, R. Newman 2, W. Norton 3, E. Young 4, E. Bonfield (conductor) 5, R. Bayan 6.—Also 120 Grandsire Doubles with F. Bonfield 5rd.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE.

BY W. TAYLOR.

(Concluded.)

Let us now turn to Shipway's Royal.

Look first for the 124 cycle: 4 makes a bob shunt at the go-off and passes over 2 and 1 in C.O. 5 then court shunts with 4, the shunt is immediately neutralised by 4 court shunting with 3, just as if the 4th was trying to take up the work of the 5th. This is exactly what has happened, because the place made by the 3rd at the first cross section has caused the 4th and 5th to exchange duty. They are restored to their original duties by the 2nd making the corresponding place at the 4th cross section. A very ingenious artifice, but not Superlative. It is no argument to say that the method will not come without it. Why not recognise that, because it has to be used, Superlative Royal is not possible on these lines? The diagram is so faulty that the great majority of the Exercise reject it, and, I suppose, always will.

The question then arises, Is there a Superlative Royal?

The following three methods, given by the positions of the whole pulls in the half-lead, are the nearest possible approaches:

A.	B.	C.
36	38	58
1456	1478	1678
50	70	70
38	38	30
1470	1470	1470
38	38	18
16	14	14
5670	3470	2340
58	38	36

From the ringing point of view, all have the serious blemish of 4 places being made at the 1st and 4th cross sections, two of which are adjoining places. If I were to argue that the method would not come without them, I fancy the Rev. H. Law James would be one of the first to correct me. A and B have the three step cycles, but find it necessary to add pairs of neutralising court shunts on account of the adjoining places bringing the number of steps up to five in some of the cycles. The diagram of B is most nearly like the Major. Odd place becomes 8th and 7th instead of dodge 8th's dodge, and correspondingly in 3-4. B is the nearest possible approach to Superlative Royal, but as we have been so frequently told that the nearest possible is not good enough, it must be admitted that Superlative Surprise Royal does not exist. It will be of advantage to the student to examine B again after dealing with Maximus. C has the three step cycles in a very imperfect state. It is only given because it must be considered in a complete analysis.

In Maximus, our choice must lie between the first three, A, B, C, of the following methods. D corresponds in some measure to C of Royal. It is shown because of exceptional and unique features.

A.	B.	C.	D.
36	38	30	58
14	14	14	16
56	70	56	70
38	30	36	30
1476	1496	1470	1496
30	30	58	16
1696	1496	3696	1496
50	30	70	30
18	16	18	16
96	96	96	70
70	50	30	58

The order of crossing the treble is the same in both A and B, so we may produce two extra (though not double) methods by working as A above the treble and as B below the treble in the first half-lead, also vice versa.

A is the Rev. H. Law James' extension. C is that given in 'The Ringing World' of November 5th, 1926. In A, the three step cycle only works in the case of 468 and 579, which are inversions of one another. In all other cases, namely, in the cases of 124, 246, 357, and 135, two additional steps are added. The added steps are a pair of mutually neutralising court shunts, which operate on 2 and 4 below the treble, and on the corresponding pair 3 and 5 above the treble. It is as if we increase the area of a rectangle by adding to its length only. A similar state of affairs exists in Method B, the additional steps being court shunts operating on 46 and 57. In method C there is nothing but the three step cycle; these will be found acting on 124, 246, 460, 801 and inversions on 135, 357, 579, 967. The cycles on 246 and 460 are continuous, as are those on 357, 579. There are also three step cycles of the same sort on 5 bells, in which the three bells of the cycles 357 and 246 act as one bell, performing their own cycle at the same time as they are operating in the larger cycle. The bob shunt is on 5 bells, because of the three acting as one. One of the court shunts is made by the bob bell passing over the three acting as one, whilst the other court shunt is made by the bob bell and the remaining bell. The large cycles are four in number, and occur on 1(246)8, (246)80, 1(357)9 and (357)9e, the three bells acting as one being bracketed. The extension runs to any number of bells divisible by four. The cycle on (357)9e is shown for example:

... 3. 5. 7. 9. e.	C.O.
... 3. 5. 7. 9. e	— e9753
... 3. 5. 7. 9. e	
... 3. 5. 9. 7. e	
... 3. 5. 7. 9. e	
... 3. 5. 9. 7. e	
... 3. 9. 5. 7. e	
... 9. 3. 5. 7. e	
... 9. 3. 5. 7. e	(a) e753
... 9. 5. 3. 7. e	— 56739
... 9. 3. 5. 7. e	— 56739
... 9. 3. 5. 7. e	95e73
... 9. 5. 3. 7. e	
... 9. 5. 3. 7. e	— 9e735
... 9. 5. 3. 7. e	— 573
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	e9573
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	(b) e9753
... e. 9. 5. 7. 3	

g makes a Court shunt over (753) dodging with 7 and 3.

(a) The 357 and 579 cycles commence here.

g makes a 5-bell Bob shunt passing over (357) and e.

g makes a Court shunt with e (no dodge).

(b) The 357 and 579 cycles end here.

Not only in the construction of method C, which contains nothing but the three step cycles, exactly corresponding to Major, but its diagram also resembles Major so much that anyone conversant with Superlative Major and Cambridge Maximus can learn it thoroughly in less than five minutes. The odd place is always in 90 and 34. The rule of when dodging to places make odd place last, holds good both for far and near places. The two five-step variations should be called 'Superlative Surprise Maximus, Variation A or B,' if ever they are rung. Suitable names may be substituted for A and B. The trio of Superlative Maximus is a feat well worthy of any band's effort to attain. Who will be the first to accomplish it?

Finally, a word about method D. It falls just short of the magic Surprise class, but it is the most remarkable and interesting of all methods up to Maximus. It is a double method which has the bells in plain C.O. at the quarter-lead, and the only one possible, the middle four changes of the half-lead being as in Plain Bob. This result is attained by means of two pairs of bells court shunting, each pair being neutralised by a second court shunt in the quarter-lead. The two pairs are 68 and 57. It is the most simply constructed Treble Bob method possible.

It will be no mean feat to ring it, and will be found to be quite musical. The bells are kept in their coursing order better than in Cambridge. Its name might well be 'Supreme Treble Bob Maximus.'

I have not by any means exhausted the subject. There is plenty of room for research on the same lines, and even the most expert will find the ground traversed exceedingly interesting and fruitful. The principles are quite general in application. If they appear to fail in any method it will be because the student has not completely understood them.

In conclusion, I would just like to refer to Q-sets. What is termed a plain Q-set is one in which a bell court shunts with all the other bells in order. It acts in quite a different way to a bobbed Q-set. The latter always operates on the same set of bells at each step, whilst the former introduces a fresh bell at each step. Both Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob are founded on a plain Q-set, one member of which is missing. It is the absent member which fixes the lead end at 1426 . . . n.

All through the preceding I have constantly called the 'extreme' a court shunt for the sake of simplicity, although, strictly speaking, an extreme, with its adjoining places, cannot properly be called a 'court' shunt. The difficulty can be got over by substituting another word in place of 'court,' for instance, 'dual' or 'double.'

W. TAYLOR.

Tower House, Penwortham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A most successful meeting of the South and West District was held at Chiswick on Saturday. Ringing commenced at 3.30, and methods from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise were rung before service, which was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Sangster, in the absence of the Vicar, who was confined to his bed. Tea and business meeting followed in the Parish Hall, with Rev. C. H. Sangster presiding. Over 40 sat down to an excellent tea, ably served by Mr. A. Thurley, one of the local ringers.

Afterwards, routine business was transacted, and thanks accorded to the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Sangster, the organist, the host and his assistants. Five new members were elected, and handbell ringing was indulged in. The tower was then again visited, and standard methods practised. The first meeting of the year was a great success, the number increasing to 50 during the evening.

NOTES BY THE WAY. By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

We know now more about change ringing in the seventeenth century than Shipway did, and it is impossible that the art could have advanced so much by 1557, as the quotation from Mr. Lukis last week might suggest. In that year the Puritan party were in full power, the monarchy and the Church were abolished, and though it is evident that ringing was still going on, it was not till the Restoration in 1660, when Church and King came again into their own, that the great advance in ringing, of which Stedman speaks, took place.

Still there is no reason to doubt that the College Youths did visit Cambridge in 1657. Stedman was then at the beginning of his work of improving ringing methods. No doubt he did give the Londoners improved 'peals,' which they rang, then at St. Benet's, and afterwards when they got home. In later years further advance made all Stedman's methods except his Principle obsolete. People then, as often now, imagined that it was the only thing that Stedman ever did. And so, when they heard their predecessors talk about visiting Cambridge and ringing Stedman's methods, they naturally imagined that it was the Principle which was rung.

We should like to know what has become of the records which Mr. Lukis says he possessed of ringing in Oxford, extending over one hundred and twenty years. It is quite likely they still exist, and some day will come to light. Fortunately we have a vivid account of many of these peals set down by the eighteenth century diarist, Mr. Richard Hearne. The ringers were not, as we might think from Mr. Lukis's references to Andrew Wood, undergraduates or members of the University. They were town tradesmen for the most part, or men employed in various ways in the colleges. Mr. Lukis gives a quotation from the 'Life of Andrew Wood,' which refers to his connection with Merton bells. 'He and his mother and two brothers, Robert and Christopher, gave £5 to Merton College in 1656, towards casting their five bells into eight.' These five were ancient bells, and were put in the tower when it was built in 1421. The tenor was supposed to be the best bell in England, and 'every one,' Anthony Wood says, 'was against the altering it, and were for a treble being put to make six, and old Sergeant Charles Holloway, who was a covetous man, offered money to save it, but by the knavery of Thom. Jones, the Subwarden (the Warden being absent) and Michael Darby, the Bell-founder, they were made eight. John Wilson, Doc. Mus., had a fee from the College to take order about their tuning.'

'May 14th, 1657, all the eight bells of Merton Coll. did begin to ring, and he heard them very well at his approach to Oxon in the evening, after he had taken his rambles all that day about the country to collect monuments. The bells did not at all please the curious and critical hearer. However, he plucked at them often with some of his fellow collegians for recreation sake. They were all afterwards recast.'

This recasting was done in 1680 by Christopher Hodson. Michael Darbie, mentioned above, was the East Anglian bellfounder to whom I referred in these notes some months ago. He wandered all over the country, setting up his furnace and recasting bells on the spot. His work is said to be invariably bad.

Oxford was one of the towns where ringing flourished from the earliest times, and though it never produced

a man like Fabian Stedman, as Cambridge did, it must have had some men well versed in method composition as then understood.

The Exercise owes to Oxford two excellent methods—Oxford Bob (since Shipway's time called Double Oxford Bob) and Oxford Treble Bob. I do not think that there is any actually direct evidence of either being rung in the city. We have only the names to go on, but it is pretty sure that both were practised there on six bells in the concluding years of the seventeenth century, and that they were extended to eight bells elsewhere and later. Oxford Treble Bob apparently was not known in London in 1700, but eighteen years later the Union Scholars rang the first peal of Major at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East.

Grandsire Caters was the method generally practised in Oxford in the eighteenth century, and to the account of the peals rung in it I will come later.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

CHURCHKIRK, LANCASHIRE.—For evening service on Sunday, January 16th, 1,280 Bob Major in 45 mins.: W. Aaron 1, A. Ingham 2, A. Lord 3, A. Yates 4, J. Parr 5, F. Read 6, J. Hirst 7, L. J. Williams (conductor) 8. Longest length on eight for ringers of treble and 5th, also on the bells.

WISTASTON.—On January 16th, for morning service, a 720 of Bob Minor: F. N. Crawley 1, H. G. Smith 2, H. Parker 3, C. Sandlands (first 720) 4, A. Crawley 5, A. W. Hall (conductor) 6.

ARMLEY, LEEDS.—On Sunday, January 16th, at Christ Church, for evening dedication festival service, 768 Kent Treble Bob Major: A. Coldrick 1, J. Hey 2, H. Lofthouse 3, A. Fieldhouse 4, E. Grinwood 5, Miss E. Lawrence 6, J. Thackray (conductor) 7, G. Moorhouse 8. First 768 by ringers of the 5th and 6th.

ROTHERFIELD.—On Sunday, January 16th, at St. Deny's Church, for evening service, and also to commemorate the anniversary of the weddings of the tenor and fifth ringers, and as a birthday quarter for the conductor, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: T. Holder 1, C. Harmer 2, E. Bishop, jun., 3, S. Russel 4, E. Bishop, sen., 5, C. Brasier (conductor) 6, H. Hammond 7, F. Hammond 8. First quarter in the method by the band.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Sunday, January 9th, for morning service, 720 Bob: W. S. Lawrence 1, S. Carter 2, A. Woolston 3, W. Williams 4, G. H. Carter (conductor) 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.—For evening service, 720 New London Pleasure: W. Williams 1, S. Carter (conductor) 2, A. Woolston 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.

PULBOROUGH.—On Sunday, January 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. R. Pink 1, S. C. Greenfield 2, S. Picketon 3, W. J. Harwood 4, H. C. Greenfield 5, A. C. Greenfield 6, P. H. Doick (conductor) 7, Jack Beacher 8.

TWICKENHAM.—On Sunday, January 9th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: G. Bradford 1, R. G. Hsley 2, J. R. Churchill 3, R. Thompson 4, *E. Morris 5, A. Harding 6, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 7, *J. Lovill 8. * First quarter-peal.

DUFFIELD.—On Sunday, January 2nd, a quarter-peal of Duffield Major was rung at St. Alkmund's Church: H. Lettis 1, W. Bates 2, R. H. Boulton 3, Miss E. Foulk 4, H. Hill 5, P. Dudley 6, G. Warrington (conductor) 7, S. Dawson 8.

MAIDSTONE.—On Sunday, January 2nd, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: A. E. Gasson 1, G. Pound 2, L. Head 3, F. Leeson (conductor) 4, A. W. Amos 5, W. J. Amos 6, L. Mannering 7, C. Dunn 8.

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NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not attended twenty times in the past year to vote on financial matters, should be paid before February 28th. Meeting for practice at St. Paul's Cathedral on Jan. 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frod-ingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches. — A joint meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' (12 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells ready at 3. Tea and meeting at 5. Service 6. Members intending being present please send word to secretaries, J. Grounds, 8, School Lane, Standish; Walter Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at Brixham. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. (recently rehung). Service 4 p.m., tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—H. J. Hole, Hon. Sec., 'Tauntonia,' Church Street, Paignton.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing will commence at 4 o'clock. Meeting at 6 o'clock.—J. Sparrow, Hon. Sec., 84, Meadvale Road, East Croydon.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Darlaston on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells available from 3. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Rev. J. W. Auguy.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at the Parish Church, St. Annes-on-Sea. Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 6 p.m.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at Grantham on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service in the church at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—S. Procter, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch. — The next ringing practice has been arranged at Bray (6 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The third general quarterly meeting will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells of All Saints' (10) and the Bell Foundry (10) open from 2 p.m. Committee meeting 4.15. Meat tea (1s. 6d. per head) 5 o'clock, followed by general meeting; all in the Fearon Hall. The War Memorial carillon (45 bells) will be played by special request from 6.30 to 7.30.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weedon (6) on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Usual arrangements. Subscriptions now due.—W. C. Moore, Braimston Road, Daventry.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Peterborough Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at West Deeping on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service at 5, tea and meeting in the Schoolroom at 5.30. Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1927 are now due. Any outstanding for 1926 should be paid without delay.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Divine service 4 p.m. Tea and business at 5 p.m.—I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Shrewsbury on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing at St. Mary's (10) from 3 to 4 p.m. Meeting in St. Chad's Vestry 4.30. The service will be held in St. Aidan's Chapel 5.20, when there will be an address by the Rev. C. E. Jarman. Tea in St. Chad's Institute 6 o'clock (1s. each). Ringing at St. Chad's (12) after tea. — Rev. F. Tennison, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury, or E. V. Rodenhurst, Kenstone, Hodnet, Joint Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Farnham on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome.—H. F. Mills, 1, Lower South View, Farnham, Surrey.

ST. CLEMENT'S YOUTHS. — St. Clement Danes', Strand, W.C.—Annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26th, immediately after practice. Ringing every Sunday at 10 a.m. Practice every Wednesday 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Combined practice with Ladies' Guild Feb. 9th.—F. W. H. Sergison, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Sibsey on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) available from 2. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Business meeting, including election of officers, immediately after tea. All subscriptions for year 1926 should be paid before this meeting.—John Phillips, Hon. Sec., The School House, Butterwick, near Boston, Lincs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Dartford (not Crayford) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar, and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided only for those who notify me of their intended attendance before the last post Monday, Jan. 24th. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Presteigne District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (6) available 4 to 9. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea free to all who notify me by Tuesday, Jan. 25th.—Jabez Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Near Pembridge.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Central District. — The meeting arranged for Streatham on Jan. 29th will not be held there, but will take place in conjunction with the annual general meeting at Leatherhead on the same date, particulars of which will be published by the general secretary.—A. J. Trappitt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Mellows Road, Wallington.

NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (Established 1672).—William Doubleday Crofts Memorial Dinner.—The fifth memorial dinner to the above celebrated Nottingham ringer (1742 to 1809) will be held at the Welbeck Hotel, Milton Street, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, at 6 p.m. Tickets 4s. each, to be obtained from the hon. secretary up to Jan. 29th first post. Ringing at St. Mary's Tower (10 bells) from 2.30 to 5.45. All visitors will receive a very hearty welcome on this occasion.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec., 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Earl's Barton on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. As the report and balance sheet will then be presented, it is hoped as many as possible will attend. Will those who hope to be present for tea please notify me by Wednesday, Jan. 26th?—F. Barber, Branch Sec., School House, Gordon Road, Wellingborough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Divine service at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available after the long peal.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY will hold their quarterly meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Stalybridge, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m., and the meeting to be held at 6.30 p.m. prompt.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Miles Platting, Manchester, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Service at 4.30, preacher, Canon Elsee. Tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Applications for tea should be sent to Miss Shaker, 103, Bank Street, Clayton, Manchester, by Jan. 27th. Church about six minutes' tram ride from centre of city.—Molly Davenport, Hon. Sec., Broomfield, Dore, near Sheffield.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Sleaford District.—The annual meeting will be held at Sleaford on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service in the church, followed by tea and meeting. Those requiring tea please notify me by Jan. 25th.—Reginald Scott, Westlea House, Sleaford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8), also Temple (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those intending to be present kindly notify by the 27th inst.?—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 10, Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Central Division.—A meeting will be held at Keymer (Hassocks Station) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4. Tea 4.30 at 'The Greyhound,' 1s. Half rail fare (maximum 1s.). Those who intend to be present please notify the undersigned not later than Wednesday previous to meeting.—A. D. Stone, Hon. Div. Sec., 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells ready early. Short service at 5 p.m. Tea will be provided for those who notify me before Jan. 27th.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Sittingbourne on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3. Association service at 5. Tea at Cremer's Restaurant after service. Will all who intend being present please notify me by first post Wednesday next, the 26th inst.? Subscriptions for 1927 are due, and can be paid at the meeting. All ringers invited.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at the Institute, Leatherhead, following tea at 6 o'clock on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m.—Chas. Dean, Hon. Sec., 59, Wellesley Road, Croydon.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Collingtree on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (5) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will all those who require tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 25th?—T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at Hatfield on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—Wm. Nash, Dis. Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Room, North Street, after service, followed by business meeting. Members requiring tea must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, Feb. 1st. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the meeting or sent to the district secretary.—W. Latter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be at St. Mary's, Taunton, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1s. each) and meeting in the Church Room after. Wilton (6) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the business meeting. Those who require tea please notify by Wednesday, Feb. 2nd.—P. Merson, Bishop's Hull.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 39th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, at 6 o'clock prompt, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. Every full member should be clear on the books not later than Saturday, Feb. 12th. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30. Bishop Ryder's (8) 3 to 4.30 p.m. An informal conference is being arranged (details later). Early application for tickets should be made to Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5. Tea at 5.45 in the Church Hall. Those requiring tea, which will be supplied by the Vicar and churchwardens, must let me know by Feb. 1st.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., W.4.

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