



No. 846. Vol. XXII.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th, 1927.

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RINGING COMPETITIONS.

Prize ringing in the old days led to many abuses, and competitions, into which entered monetary consideration, have been one of the things which belfry reformers in the last fifty or sixty years have done their best to eliminate. If prize meetings of this description exist to-day we hear little or nothing of them, and such competitions as there are are carried on from higher motives. There is still, however, in some quarters a strong dislike to anything in the nature of the competitive spirit entering into ringing, and yet there is something to be said on the other side. Carried out in what, for want of a better term, we will call the spirit of pure amateurism, in which the only object is the production of the best ringing, we think there is something to commend such competitions as those held, for instance, by the Swansea and Brecon Guild or the Halifax Association. The desire at the bottom of these contests is to encourage the members to improve their ringing capabilities, and competition gives just that stimulus which is so often needed to induce men to rise above the multitude of their fellows. There is no doubt that the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, for example, raises the general standard of rowing at the universities, from the fact that every aspiring oarsman knows that to secure his 'blue' he must excel in the sport of his choice. Similarly choir competitions unquestionably raise the standard of singing in those churches whose choirs take part in the contests, and if the competitive spirit for the honour of being the best choir in a district is permissible, there can be little real objection to a like desire among those who ring the church bells. The only ground that we can see for real opposition to ringing contests, carried out with the sole intention of raising the quality of striking, seem to be that a church is not the place where competitions should be held. Choirs can, of course, meet for their contests in other buildings than churches, but the instruments of the ringers cannot be carted from place to place, and with one or two exceptions there are no bells where rival companies can pit their skill against each other, except in consecrated church towers. But, after all, is it any desecration for hands, imbued with the right spirit, to enter a tower and do their ringing with the knowledge that the best shall hold a trophy for a year? Is it any worse than a mixed lot of ringers taking their turns at the ropes and providing what is not an unusual feature, at meetings, several hours of bad or indifferent ringing, but without reward at the end? Encouraged on the right lines, we believe that ringing competitions would tend to improve the standard of service ringing.

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TEN BELL PEALS.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 28, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 27½ cwt.

HARRY HEAP Treble	ARTHUR RIDYARD 6
FRED CORRINGER 2	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD 7
BEN THORP 3	TOM WILDE 8
WILLIAM BROMMER 4	HERBERT DAVENPORT 9
SAM HOLT 5	FRED PAGE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by BEN THORP.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, May 28, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

HERBERT SHEPPARD Treble	EDWARD F. MITCHELL 5
*ALFRED E. BACON 2	†JAMES H. RAPER 7
ROBERT PICKERING 3	BENJAMIN GOUGH 8
HERBERT KNIGHT 4	†JOSEPH E. SYKES 9
JOHN GOODMAN 5	JOHN GOODMAN, JUN. Tenor

Composed by the late WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT.

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN, JUN.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters and first attempt. † First peal on ten bells. † 'Enuff Sed.' This peal was specially arranged for J. E. Sykes (Huddersfield), J. H. Roper (King's Lynn), and A. E. Bacon, who were elected life members of the Guild. The ringers of the 3rd, 4th and 6th belong to Wolverhampton, the 8th to Coseley, and the remainder to Dudley. R. Pickering was elected a performing member of the Guild.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 28, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

HARRY SEAR Treble	FRANK ROLLINS 6
*CYRIL D. NICHOLS 2	HARRY MARLOW 7
BERTIE O. SODEN 3	WALTER SEAR 8
FRED HOPPER 4	CHARLES W. CLARKE 9
CHARLES W. BIRD 5	WILLIAM ROGERS Tenor

Composed by the late J. CARTER. Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

GRANDEATHERS' PEAL.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 28½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. Treble	JAMES PARKER 6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS 2	FRANK BLUNDELL 7
ARTHUR J. WEALE 3	WILLIAM H. THEOBALD 8
RICHARD BEVAN 4	WILLIAM J. NODDS 9
JAMES HUNT 5	FRANK SMITH Tenor

Composed by the late J. CARTER. Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

JOHN H. WILKINS Treble	JAMES C. ADAMS 6
CHARLES T. COLES 2	FRED C. MAYNARD 7
HAROLD A. EDWARDS 3	JAMES BENNETT 8
ROBERT MAYNARD, SEN. 4	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 9
CHARLES A. HUGHES 5	WILLIAM MORLEY Tenor

Arranged by CHARLES W. ROBERTS and R. CONGREVE PRIDGON.

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

Rung in honour of the birthday of His Majesty King George.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORTH WINGFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 28, 1927, in Three Hours,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

THOMAS R. SHARMAN... ..Treble	WILLIAM H. T. KING ... 5
MISS DOROTHY TARLTON ... 2	JOHN P. TARLTON ... 6
FRED KNOWLES ... 3	*WILLIAM SWAIN ... 7
GEORGE FREEBREY ... 4	ALFRED MOULD... ..Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by GEORGE FREEBREY.

* First peal of Major in the method. Rung in honour of the sixtieth birthday of Her Majesty Queen Mary (May 26th).

DISS, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, May 30, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

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

Tenor 23 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb. in D.

*WILLIAM IRELANDTreble	WILLIAM STEGGALL ... 5
†NOLAN GOLDEN ... 2	JOHN SOUTER ... 6
ALPHEUS BERRY ... 3	CLEMENT J. MORE ... 7
ALBERT G. HARRISON ... 4	GEORGE ARCHERTenor

Composed by GEORGE CROSS. Conducted by C. J. MORE.

* One hundredth peal. † First peal in the method, also 25th peal.

SCUNTHORPE, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Northern Branch.)

On Thursday, June 2, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*MAURICE LINGS... ..Treble	†BRIAN BRAY ... 5
MRS. J. BRAY ... 2	†JACK BRAY ... 6
CHARLES H. BIRD ... 3	JACK ALMOND ... 7
GEORGE HOBBS ... 4	†BERNARD GILLATTTenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal, and proposed a member before starting. † First peal on eight bells. First peal of Triples as conductor.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, June 2, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*DAVID G. TAYLORTreble	ALFRED J. WYATT ... 5
†SIDNEY WYATT, JUN. ... 2	*PERCY MERSON ... 6
SIDNEY WYATT ... 3	*GEORGE COLES ... 7
WILLIAM H. COLES ... 4	STAFFORD H. GREENTenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by S. H. GREEN.

* First peal of Kent. † First peal of Treble Bob Major. This peal was arranged for Mr. S. H. Green. The conductor, from Southborough, Kent, was proposed a life member of the association before starting.

RAINHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret.

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

Tenor 22 cwt. in E.

ERNEST J. DOBBIETreble	WILLIAM J. WALKER ... 5
STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 2	FREDERICK W. ELLIOTT ... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
JOHN A. COLE ... 4	GEORGE GILBERTTenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING

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PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'

Tenor 13½ cwt.

MORRIS J. MORRISTreble	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH ... 5
CHARLES COTTRELL ... 2	WILLIAM DAVIES... .. 6
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3	GEORGE F. SWANN ... 7
RICHARD C. INGRAM ... 4	WILLIAM C. RHODESTenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

Rung to celebrate the marriage of Mr. Albert E. Norman, of the St. Martin's band, to Miss Beatrice Jackson, which took place at St. Martin's earlier in the day.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Bloomsbury.

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

ROBERT RICHARDSONTreble	JOHN T. KENTISH ... 5
GEORGE R. PYE ... 2	JAMES E. DAVIS... .. 6
*CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 3	WILLIAM PYE ... 7
EDWIN F. PIKE ... 4	*WALTER AYRETenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

* First peal in the method.

DORCHESTER, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Abbey Church.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

WILLIAM HUTTONTreble	E. GEOFFREY BENSON ... 5
WALTER F. JUDGE ... 2	JACK JUDGE ... 6
RICHARD J. R. CHAUNDRY... 3	FREDERICK W. WOODWARDS 7
RICHARD DAVIES ... 4	CHARLES SPICERTenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

The ringer of the 5th was elected a life member of the Guild previous to starting, and this was his first peal of Triples on tower bells.

DRAYTON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOKS' VARIATION.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOHN NOBESTreble	GORDON CAUDWELL ... 5
*MISS RUBY HAZEL ... 2	ALBERT E. LOCK ... 6
MRS. ALBERT E. LOCK ... 3	PERCY DYKE... .. 7
JACK HONEY ... 4	PERCY FLETCHER... ..Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT E. LOCK.

* First peal.

EDMONTON.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

GEORGE WILLIAMSTreble	JOSEPH W. PARKER ... 5
*ALICK CUTLER ... 2	*EDWARD H. KING ... 6
WALTER J. BOWDEN... 3	WILBY J. HAZELL ... 7
MISS EDITH K. PARKER ... 4	GEORGE W. FLETCHERTenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First peal in the method.

OLD WOKING, SURREY.—At St. Peter's Church, May 18th, 720 of Bob Minor was rung to welcome into the world the little son of the conductor, Mr. J. Brackley: F. Devoil (first 720) 1, H. Greenhill 2, Mrs. W. H. Edwards (first 720 inside) 3, F. Foot (first 720) 4, J. Brackley (conductor) 5, W. H. Edwards 6.

PLYMOUTH.—On Thursday, May 19th, at Stoke Damarel Church, Plymouth, 720 London Surprise Minor: E. W. Marsh 1, W. Wonnacott 2, Rev. E. S. Powell (first 720 in the method) 3, W. Rundle (conductor) 4, W. G. Hiscott 5, T. G. Myers 6.

KNEBWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, June 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
At the Church of SS. Mary and Thomas,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WALTER AYRE Treble	FRANK I. HAIRS 5
GEORGE R. PYE 2	JOHN T. KENTISH 6
ROBERT RICHARDSON 3	JAMES BENNETT 7
CHARLES T. COLES 4	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

BROXBORNE, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, June 6, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Augustine,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

WILBY J. HAZELL Treble	EDWARD H. KING 5
MISS EDITH K. PARKER 2	WALTER J. BOWDEN 6
*ALICK CUTLER 3	GEORGE WILLIAMS 7
JOSEPH W. PARKER 4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by MISS E. K. PARKER

* First peal in the method.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary, Willesden,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	GEORGE M. KILBY 5
WALTER AYRE 2	HARRY KILBY 6
WILLIAM PYE 3	*CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7
JAMES BENNETT 4	JAMES E. DAVIS Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

* First peal in the method.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

FRYERNING, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Viz., 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, New London Pleasure, Woodbine, Kent, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court and Double Oxford.

LEWIS CAMP Treble	HARRY WRIGHT 4
GEORGE CAMP 2	EDWARD SITCH 5
CHARLES HARRINGTON 3	ARTHUR BRADLEY Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR BRADLEY.

First peal of Minor on the bells and by all except conductor. Rung by St. Mary's service ringers before evensong, as a farewell peal for Canon S. L. Brown, D.D., R.D., twelve years Rector of Fryerning, on his departure for Brentwood, Essex.

MERIDEN, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Friday, May 27, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores. Tenor 7 cwt.

THOMAS WILLIAM CHOWN Treble	ALFRED E. BACON 3
*WILLIAM MILLER 2	JAMES H. RAPER 4

JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WM. CHOWN.

* First peal of Doubles. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

UCKFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 1, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Cross,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings. Tenor 12 cwt.

*FREDERICK WELLER ... Treble	*GEORGE HILL 4
PERCY MARCHANT 2	JAMES A. HART 5
*ROBERT PLAYFORD 3	*CHARLES J. HART Tenor

Conducted by JAMES A. HART.

* First peal.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the Bell Foundry Campanile,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... Treble	ARTHUR H. BEAMISH 4
EPHRAIM RANDS 2	JAMES GEORGE 5
MISS D. EVA LEWIS 3	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. FREDERICK MILNER.

Rung after meeting short for Double Norwich, Mr. James Hutchby kindly standing out to reduce the band for Minor. It was a wedding peal to Mr. Albert E. Norman and Miss Beatrice Jackson, who were married at St. Martin's, Birmingham, the same day.

STEBBING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each of Double Court, Double Oxford, Woodbine, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

*LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... Treble	WALTER SMITH 4
*BASIL REDGWELL 2	ERNEST TOWNSEND 5
†FRANK E. HARRINGTON ... 3	†JOSEPH JENNINGS Tenor

Conducted by J. JENNINGS.

* First peal in seven methods. † First peal. † First peal as conductor in seven methods.

COPT OAK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Whit Sunday, June 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents. Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

RONALD H. DOVE ... Treble	S. WILFRED CHAPMAN 4
JOSEPH W. COTTON 2	ERNEST MORRIS 5
BERTRAM W. RANDS 3	NORMAN S. BAGWORTH ... Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN S. BAGWORTH.

Rung by the Vicar's special request on the occasion of the visit of the Lord Bishop of Leicester. Also a 'coming-of-age' peal for the treble ringer.

DEVIZES, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 extents, 10 different callings. Tenor 17½ cwt.

*R. SWIFT Treble	†G. E. ENGLAND 4
†W. A. SWIFT 2	†L. SWIFT 5
*E. G. SWIFT 3	*F. EDWARDS Tenor

Conducted by W. A. SWIFT.

* First peal. † First peal as conductor. † First peal inside.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 31, 1927, in One Hour and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At 396, MEANWOOD ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FRED HODGSON 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	H. STANLEY ROBINSON ... 7-8

Composed by YORKE GREEN. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

Umpire: MR. JOHN AMBLER.

Rung to speed the parting with the ringer of 7-8, who is leaving the district for Penwortham, Lancs, his brother ringers wishing him every success in his new enterprise.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Sunday, June 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

IN TRINITY COLLEGE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

F. E. HAYNES (St. Cath's) 1-2	S. H. WOOD (Magdalene) 5-6
C. W. WOOLLEY (Selwyn) 3-4	*N. M. ASHETON (Jesus) 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by S. H. WOOD.

* First peal.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Our learned shepherd, having first stated the number of changes to be had on different numbers of bells, proceeds to give a short discourse 'Of Peals.' The Musicalness of the Changes not being very intelligible to ordinary Ringers and the best many times Puzzled and at a loss to find them out, the more Judicious Professors concluded it necessary to cast Peals that so Musical Notes might the better strike the Fancy and lead them to a more feasible and easier to a true understanding in Ringing rendering it (for their Encouragement) the more taking and delightful for every Peal on Bells Tuned, to the Principals of Musick express the Notes for in a Peal of Six Bells. You have exactly the six Musical Notes, viz., La, Sol, Fa, Mi, Re, Ut. But to make them charming and harmonious they must be struck with skill and deliberation gradually striking or leading with the lowest Note and so rising up to the highest, and then down again to the lowest, causing the Fourth Bell to Hunt up to the Seventh; and then dog'd, unless prevented by the Treble and so any other of the number Seven, so that in the compleat number of Changes of the first striking there shall not be rung over twice the same. And in this doing you must have a Musical Ear, and a Steady Hand to observe the least Defect and mend it: to mend or reverse it by dodging or falling in course as the Bells hunt up or down by putting in between or taking place in a compleat Harmony.

I confess I am at a loss to follow much of this paragraph, and I suspect that our author was not quite such an authority on ringing as he would suggest. It was not like this that Fabian Stedman wrote. You have no doubt to pay close attention to what he says, and at times read him slowly and carefully; but if you do you can always be sure of what he means. Stedman was a first-class writer. Our learned shepherd, for all his brag, is in quite another class. And, perhaps, the chief difference between the two is the perpetual one—clear and exact writing necessitates clear and exact thinking, and the reason why so many men's writing is so difficult to follow is just because their thinking is neither clear nor exact.

The next thing our author deals with is Cross Peals. 'Having,' he says, 'already laid the Ground Work for plain peals to introduce the Learner, I now proceed to Cross Peals. These are so Termed because of their Intricacy or Cross method wherein divers Notes moving as it were at once Cross each other, some moving up and others down at the same time; and that the Learner may the easier find it out and comply with it let him observe that one Note carried (called) the Hunt is a Guide to the rest, making one constant motion and uniform throughout the Peal, differing from that of the other Notes through keeping a Continual Motion through the several Notes stricken, viz., From the leading to the striking behind and so thence to the Lead, which Motion up and down is reckoned the compleat Course, tho' some Peals on Five Bells as the Old Doubles, etc., consist only of single Courses, every single Course admitting 10 Changes; and twelve Courses are a compleat Peal; other Peals on Five Bells as the London Paradox, etc., consist of Double Courses 20 Changes going to every Course, and 6 Double Courses to the Peals; but on 6 Bells there are double and single Courses, viz., 12 Changes to

every Single Course as in Grandsire Bob, etc. The Change in which the Hunt leaves leading is properly the first Change in every Course and in Cross Peals all the Courses agree in three Respects (1) in the motion of the Hunt, (2) in the Motion of the remaining Notes, (3) in the making of the Changes which being exactly taken Notice of may serve as a certain Guide to the Rest some few Changes in each Peal Excepted.'

An example is then given in New Doubles, which, spite of its name, is one of the oldest methods that was ever practised. We have descriptions more or less muddled of Doubles and Singles on Four Bells, and 'the Peals called the Old Doubles and singles on Five Bells.' In this there is a curious direction that 'the Treble Moving down out of the Fifth Place, the bell that comes into it must Remain Silent till the Treble Hunts up to it again.' It looks as if each bell was set up in turn for eight changes, all the five being rung only when the treble was in fifth's place. If so, this was a rather interesting experiment to get more variety in five bell ringing, but probably was never more than a local experiment.

There is no mention of any similar thing in Stedman, nor, I think, in any other ringing book, and our author is so obscure that one cannot be quite sure what he does mean. Unfortunately, he gives no figures.

The extracts I have given are a fair sample of the book. As an explanation of ringing, even of ringing in the late seventeenth century, it is of no value, but it is a quaint and interesting survival from the early days of the Exercise.

LAVENHAM RINGER HONOURED.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. SYMONDS.

There was a happy gathering at the Cook Inn, the headquarters of the Lavenham ringers, on Saturday, May 28th, when a social evening was held in honour of Mr. A. Symonds, the change-ringing instructor, who has now completed fifty years' ringing at SS. Peter and Paul's Church. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. R. J. Poulson, and the vice-chairman was Mr. F. A. Turner. Mr. F. A. Poulson was steward. Mr. F. G. Symonds, of London, was also present. The programme commenced with a course of Grandsire Triples on the handbells by Messrs. F. A. Turner, M. T. Symonds, F. Leeks, F. F. Mortlock, and F. A. Poulson. Mr. K. Loveday rendered 'My Irish home, sweet home' as a vocal solo. Bow bells were heard 'as rung by the Ancient Society of Collogo Youths,' this being given from a Columbia gramophone record. Selections on a peal of sixteen handbells were cleverly rendered by Messrs. M. T. and S. H. Symonds, F. A. Turner and F. F. Mortlock, the items including 'Drink to me only,' 'Last Rose of Summer,' 'Blue Bells of Scotland,' etc.

Mr. F. A. Poulson submitted the toast of 'Absent Lavenham ringers,' while 'The SS. Peter and Paul's Society' was proposed by Mr. F. A. Turner, who coupled with it the name of Mr. Arthur Symonds, and congratulated him on ringing that afternoon a bell of nearly one ton in weight, despite his being in his 70th year.

The chairman then presented Mr. Symonds with a framed photograph of the present Lavenham company, adding that he hoped Mr. Symonds would be spared to add many more years to his ringing career.

Mr. Symonds, in reply, thanked the ringers for their kindness, and especially their loyalty to him. His teaching of upwards of fifty ringers had been a real labour of love to him.

The company then accorded Mr. Symonds musical honours, and the pleasant evening terminated with the 'linking of hands' and the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

Mr. Symonds' family has a long record in the ringing world; Mr. A. Symonds' father, grandfather, and four uncles were ringers before him. His three sons, two daughters, two grandsons and four cousins are also ringers.

MR. E. CUTSFORTH'S 100 PEALS.

Grandsire Doubles 1, Grandsire Triples 16, Grandsire Caters 1, Minor in three methods 2, Erin Triples 1, Stedman Triples 35, St. Clement Triples 1, Bob Major 4, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2 (including 17,824 record at Heptonstall), Kent Treble Bob Major 9, Double Norwich Major 12, Superlative Surprise Major 8 (including 11,232 record at Bolton), Cambridge Surprise Major 3, London Surprise Major 3, Bristol Surprise Major 1, Ipswich Surprise Major 1; total 100. Rung in 37 towers in four counties for five associations.

'LADS' AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

CHESTER RINGERS' VISIT TO LEICESTERSHIRE.

Six 'lads' of the Chester Diocesan Guild, Messrs. H. W. Wilde, J. Morgan, G. Jones, A. E. Richards, W. Thomas and J. W. Clarke, went to Loughborough for a week-end among the bells. Five of the company viewed the countryside in state from an Austin 'Twelve,' while the other one viewed the dust they made from the saddle of a Rudge motor-cycle. Speeding along at about 90 miles per hour (more or less), they viewed the ever-changing scenery—meadows and woods, villages and wireless aerials, petrol pumps, and inns sped by in their turn. Some may doubt that all these delightful scenes were passed by, but in spite of the pathetic appeals—written in large letters—of the petrol pumps to 'fill up your tank,' and the equally pathetic, but unwritten, appeals of the inns to do the same thing, no tank received any attention until much later in the day. A halt was made at Uttoxeter, where a course of ham and tongue was called and quickly brought round. On reaching Derby just before 7 p.m., the aforementioned 90 miles per hour had to be somewhat modified, as one or two policemen, with bobs 'before,' put the whole band into the 'slow.' However, Loughborough was reached about 7.30, and after coursing round the town for nearly half an hour, the hiding-place of the Bell Foundry was at last discovered. Here the party was met by Mr. J. P. Fidler, who, pausing only to tap Mr. Richards a few rounds on Farndon bells, led the way to Stamford, where Mr. Reader joined in, and the delightful ring of eight were soon ringing out the tune of Kent. This was followed by touches of Grandsire, Stedman, and Double Norwich. By 9.30 p.m., a jolly company were settled at the Great Central Hotel, Loughborough, the headquarters for the week-end, and a long-felt want was put right by a few courses of that very old method, 'What's yours?' And so to bed.

Some were up early next morning—and some were not. However, after doing full justice to the excellent breakfast fare provided, and visiting some of the important sights of the town, including the Post Office and Woolworth's, the Bell Foundry was reached about 10 a.m. Here, by the kindness of Messrs. John Taylor and Co., a delightfully interesting morning was spent in watching the progress of the many and varied jobs the firm has on hand. The bells of Farndon Church, Cheshire, which are at present at the foundry for tuning, were again 'lapped' by Mr. Fidler for the edification of Mr. Richards, himself a Farndonian. Mr. Jones, not to be outdone by Mr. Fidler, took up the hammer and tapped the tune, 'Now the day is over.' Perhaps the tune was a little inappropriate for the time of the day, but ringers, like sailors, don't care!

Passing through the various departments, the carillons for Shanghai and America were seen in course of construction, and 'Great Peter,' the giant of 12½ tons for York Minster, was seen on the tuning machine. On reaching the foundry carillon, Mr. Richards, as an organist, was asked to render an item, but as he had unfortunately forgotten his music he was unable to oblige. Before leaving, the fascinating little ring in the campanile was 'sampled,' touches in several methods being rung on both the front and back six.

After lunch, the campanile was again visited, and a peal of Minor in four methods was rung in 2 hrs. 27 mins. This was the first peal for the Chester Diocesan Guild in Leicestershire. Mr. W. Thomas, who rang the treble, felt that his three weeks of hard training to be 'in form' for the task had not been in vain!

Some few minutes were spent in listening to the peal of Royal which was in progress at the Parish Church, before Mr. Fidler piloted the party to Kegworth, where there was a ringers' meeting in progress. On the fine old ring of six, some enjoyable touches were brought round, including Cambridge and Spliced Treble Bob. The Rector welcomed the visitors at tea, and a pleasant few minutes were spent in a friendly chat.

Mr. Fidler had arranged for the bells of Disworth, a new ring of six, to be available in the evening, and, as Mr. Sutton and four lady ringers decided to join in, some little skill in packing was required to get everybody into two cars. However, with a little squeezing it was managed, and the quaint old-world village of Disworth was soon reached. Touches of Double Bob, Woodbine, Spliced Treble Bob, Cambridge and Plain Bob were rung. Before leaving, the Rector was good enough to show the visitors some of the interesting sights of the village, including, with the kind permission of the tenants, the interior of a beautiful old thatched house.

The packing process had then to be repeated, and, in spite of the difficulty the drivers had to get to the controls, Loughborough was safely reached about 9.30 p.m.

Mr. Fidler took charge again quite early on Sunday morning, and introduced the 'lads' to the band at the Parish Church. The opportunity to join in the ringing on this fine-toned ring of ten was greatly appreciated.

After dinner, preparations were made, rather reluctantly, for the return journey. Bags were tied on, carburettors flooded, and Mr. Fidler waved farewell to his fellow-countrymen.

The first stop was made at Trowell, where the band was welcomed by the Rev. C. M. V. Hickey, who has recently moved there from Christleton, Chester. A touch of Spliced Treble Bob was rung before tea, very generously provided by Mr. Towleson. It was strange that Mr. Hickey should leave a parish where the bells are much out of tune and arrive in another where the same state of things exists.

The clerk of the weather, who had so far been exceedingly kind, at this point decided to make a change, and by the time Uttoxeter was reached rain was falling steadily. The acquaintance of the Uttoxeter Parish Church ringers was made, and half an hour's ringing enjoyed before pushing on towards home. The five gentlemen in the car smoked in peace under the shelter of the hood, but the motor-cyclist received a free bath.

The company would like to take this opportunity of expressing their grateful thanks to all those who helped to make the week-end the success it was, and especially to Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. for the privilege of viewing the foundry and for the use of the bells, and to Mr. J. P. Fidler, whose unsparring efforts did so much towards the making of an ideal week-end.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LAMBERT.

WELL-KNOWN BOLSOVER RINGER'S LONG CAREER.

Ringers in the Midlands will regret to hear of the death of Mr. William Lambert, of Bolsover, who passed away at the age of 71 years on Tuesday, May 31st, after a short illness. Mr. Lambert rang his last peal, one of Superlative, on March 12th this year, and only rang once after that date for Sunday service.

Coming to Bolsover in 1902 from South Yorkshire, Mr. Lambert has been one of the mainstays in the Bolsover band during the whole of the 25 years. Besides being most regular in his attendance for Sunday service ringing, he had also taken part in many of the notable peals rung in the district. He took part in the first peals of Yorkshire and Peterborough Surprise ever rung, the first peals of Norfolk, Pudsey, Rutland, Cambridge Royal, Double Norwich Caters, and Royal, the first of Bristol and London Major by the Sheffield District Society.

In his day, the late Mr. Lambert was a really good handbell ringer, having rung peals of Double Norwich, New Cambridge and Superlative.

Commencing to ring at the early age of 10, Mr. Lambert could lay claim to having been a ringer for 61 years.

He was borne to his last resting-place in the Parish Churchyard on Saturday last by his fellow ringers, others attending from Chesterfield, Sheffield Cathedral, Rotherham, Ecclesfield, Staveley, Eckington, Mansfield, Killamarsh, and North Wingfield to pay their last tribute to so worthy an example in the Exercise.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Jesse Moss, Arthur Craven, Arthur Knights, and George Lewis. Owing to illness near the church, only one course of Treble Bob could be rung with half-muffled clappers. The bells were again rung half-muffled for service on Sunday.

Wreaths were sent from the Sheffield District Society and the local company.

Mr. Lambert had rung 353 peals, made up as follows: Bob Minor, on handbells 1; Treble Bob Minor, tower bells 28, handbells 1; Surprise Minor, 6; Kent Treble Bob Major, 35, on handbells 4; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 25, on handbells 1; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 10, on handbells 2; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 5; Grandsire Triples, 2; Grandsire Caters, 7; Bob Major, 14, on handbells 4; Bob Royal, 5, on handbells 1; Double Norwich Major, 53, on handbells 1; Double Norwich Caters, 1; Double Norwich Royal, 3; Stedman Triples, 5; Stedman Caters, 10; Stedman Cinques, 1; Spliced Treble Bob Royal, 1; Superlative Surprise Major, 54, on handbells 3; Yorkshire Surprise Major, 16; Peterborough Surprise Major, 2; Cambridge Surprise Major, 3; Cambridge Surprise Royal, 1; New Cambridge Surprise Major, 13, on handbells 1; London Surprise Major, 14; Bristol Surprise Major, 1; Norfolk Surprise, 14; Rutland Surprise, 2; Pudsey Surprise, 2; Forward Royal, 1; total, 334, on handbells 19.

EIGHTY YEARS A RINGER.

MR. G. SLINGSBY'S LONG CONNECTION WITH ALDINGTON CHURCH.

The monthly meeting of the Romney Marsh Guild was held at Aldington on May 28th, by kind invitation of the Rector, the Rev. G. S. Long, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mr. G. Slingsby, who has been a ringer at the church for 80 years. The bells were raised soon after 3 p.m., and a 120 of Bob Minor was rung, Mr. Slingsby ringing the treble, followed by a good 720 of Kent Treble Bob: F. Good 1, J. Garrett 2, G. Swaffer 3, C. W. Everett 4, H. C. Castle 5, E. Powell (conductor) 6. First 720 by ringers of 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Tea was provided at the Rectory, and was followed by the business meeting, when it was decided to hold the next meeting at New Romney on June 11th and the outing on July 16th.

Mr. Slingsby has been presented by the Rector with a small model of the Aldington treble as a memento of his long connection with the church and bells.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

At Barnes, on June 3rd, in honour of H.M. the King's birthday, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Belcher 1, H. Barrett 2, H. Cook 3, H. Dyas 4, C. Hunt 5, F. Skevington (conductor) 6, G. C. Rice 7, P. Stratton 8.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**RESIGNATION OF YORKTOWN DISTRICT SECRETARY.**

A meeting of the Yorktown District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild was held at Farnborough on Saturday, May 28th, when members were present from Chertsey, Weybridge, Hawley, Farnham, Bagshot, Yorktown, Pirbright, and the local band. Ringing during the afternoon on the five bells included Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Doubles. The service was taken by the Rev. Canon Chalacombe, who also kindly provided tea on the Vicarage lawn. Canon Chalacombe presided at the meeting, supported by the Rev. Ellswood, of Hawley.

Mr. Nye gave a brief account of the business transacted at the committee meeting of the proposed Guildford Diocesan Guild held the previous Saturday.

It was proposed to give £1 to Mr. B. Hawkins, of Hawley, for instruction given to the Yorktown band.

It was with great regret that the meeting was asked to accept Mr. J. B. Hessey's resignation as hon. secretary on the ground of ill-health. The Chairman asked Mr. S. G. Armstrong (the Ringing Master) to convey his and all the members' wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mr. H. J. Chaffey was elected to carry on the secretary's duties to finish the year, and Mr. Armstrong offered to help with the work.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman for his kindness in providing the tea, officiating at the service and presiding at the meeting.

Afterwards, Canon Chalacombe invited the 17 members present to a game of bowls on the lawn, and after a pleasant game more refreshments were served, and time came all too soon for the 'trek' home at the close of one of the most pleasant meetings.

MUNIFICENT GIFT TO BRAINTREE AND BOCKING.

On Saturday, May 28th, at St. Mary's Church, Bocking, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: G. Wiffen 1, L. Wiseman 2, W. J. Nevard 3, W. Arnold 4, F. Claydon 5, W. Keeble (conductor) 6, A. Saunders 7, L. W. Wiffen 8. Rung on the occasion of the opening of a recreation ground for Baintree and Bocking, presented and endowed by Mr. William Julien Courtauld, J.P., C.C., at the cost of £20,000. The same gentleman has recently built for the district a cottage hospital costing £30,000, and his latest gift is a town hall for Baintree, now in course of construction, the contract price of which is over £40,000. The town hall will be surmounted by a tower containing clock and Westminster chimes. The heaviest bell is to weigh 39 cwt. The work of erecting the clock and chimes has been entrusted to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, who have also in hand the re-hanging in an iron frame the ring of six at Stisted, an adjoining village.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**NORTH DORSET BRANCH.**

A quarterly meeting of the North Dorset Branch was held at Bourton, on Saturday, May 28th. In the absence of the Vicar, who was away in Cheshire for the baptism of his grandchild, the Guild service was read by the Master, Rev. R. H. Gundry, and a stimulating address was given by the branch secretary, Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe. The churchwardens were in attendance, and the singing, which was of remarkably hearty character, was accompanied with marked ability by Mr. W. Hosmer, the organist, who is himself a ringer.

Ample justice was done to tea in the Vicarage Room, and during the course of the proceedings a telegram was read from the Vicar, wishing those present a happy time.

At the subsequent business meeting it was decided to continue monthly practices during the summer, except in July.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens, the local ringers, the organist and the preacher.—Mr. W. Hosmer briefly replied, and extended a cordial welcome to the visiting ringers.

Some sixty ringers were present from all parts of the county. The towers of Mere, Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna were available, besides the tuneful ring of six at Bourton. Good practice was obtained in Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Minor, Double Court, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and several beginners were successfully piloted through their first Plain Course or six-score.

A NEW COUNTY BORDER ASSOCIATION.**FORMATION OF EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**

A meeting was held at Placelands, East Grinstead, on Saturday last, when a new society, to be called the 'East Grinstead and District Guild of Bell Ringers,' was formed. Its main object is to encourage the art of bell ringing by giving opportunity for learning new methods, by helping struggling bands and by bringing the skilled and unskilled ringers together for practices. The Guild will in no way interfere with the existing county associations; in fact, it should help them, as its members should be able to go to the county meetings, feeling more confidence, having improved their ringing 'at home,' so to speak.

The following towers sent delegates to the meeting: Penshurst, Oxted, Coleman's Hatch, Chiddingstone, Cowden, Turner's Hill, Balcombe, Crawley, Hartfield, Cuckfield and East Grinstead.

Mr. Oliver Sippetts (Crawley) was unanimously elected Master of the new Guild.—Any ringers in the neighbourhood are welcome to join the Guild, the hon. secretary of which is Mr. G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, East Grinstead.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY'S MEETING IN LONDON.

The annual meeting of the Central Council was held in London on Tuesday, the business proceedings taking place in the Conference Chamber of the Mansion House, by the courtesy of the Lord Mayor. This was the first session of the thirteenth Council, and the affiliated Associations and Guilds were represented as follows:—

Ancient Society of College Youths: Messrs. W. T. Cockerill, T. Faulkner and A. A. Hughes.
Bath and Wells: Mr. J. Hunt.
Belfordshire: Rev. Canon W. W. C. Baker and Mr. A. E. Sharman.
Cambridge University Guild: Mr. E. M. Atkins.
Chester Diocesan Guild: Rev. C. A. Clements, Messrs. E. W. Elwell, R. Sperring and R. D. Langford.
Devonshire: Rev. E. S. Powell, Messrs. E. W. Marsh and F. J. Davey.
Doncaster and District: Mr. H. Walker.
Dudley and District: Mr. S. J. Hughes.
Durham and Newcastle: Mr. W. Story.
Ely Diocesan: Mr. R. Dennis.
Essex: Messrs. C. H. Howard, G. R. Pye, E. J. Butler and W. J. Nevard.
Gloucester and Bristol: Messrs. W. A. Cave and F. Guise.
Hertford County: Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake and Mr. W. Ayre.
Kent: Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, Messrs. E. Barnett, J. H. Cheesman and T. Groombridge.
Ladies' Guild: Miss E. K. Parker, Messrs. W. H. Shaker and P. Crook.
Lancashire: Rev. Canon Elsee and Mr. W. H. Shaker.
Lincoln Diocesan: Rev. H. Law James, Rev. H. T. Parry and Mr. R. Richardson.
Mandaff and Monmouth Diocesan: Messrs. J. W. Jones and W. Bolton.
London County: Messrs. T. H. Taffender and A. D. Barker.
Middlesex: Messrs. F. A. Milne, C. T. Coles and W. H. Hollier.
Midland Counties: Messrs. W. Willson and F. Bailey.
Norfolk: Mr. A. L. Coleman.
Oxford Diocesan: Rev. Canon Coleridge, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Messrs. F. Hoggood and J. Evans.
Peterborough Diocesan: Messrs. F. Milford, R. G. Black, T. Tebbutt and F. Hopper.
St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham: Mr. A. Paddon Smith.
Salisbury Diocesan: Rev. F. L. Edwards, Messrs. S. Hillier and T. Harvey Beams.
Sherwood Youths: Mr. A. Coppock.
Stafford Archdeaconry: Messrs. H. Knight and T. J. Elton.
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths: Messrs. J. D. Matthews, J. Parker and F. Smith.
Suffolk: Rev. H. Drake, C. Mee and C. J. Sedgley.
Surrey: Messrs. J. D. Drewett and C. Dean.
Sussex: Mr. J. T. Rickman.
Swansea and Brecon Diocesan: Mr. A. J. Pitman.
Truro Diocesan: Mr. W. H. Southard.
Warwickshire: Messrs. H. Argyle and F. W. Perrens.
Winchester Diocesan: Messrs. G. Williams, H. Barton and A. H. Pulling.
Worcestershire: Messrs. C. A. Binyon, R. G. Knowles and T. J. Salter.
Yorkshire: Messrs. P. J. Johnson and J. Cotterell.

The following honorary members also attended: Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Rev. E. W. Carpenter, Rev. A. T. Beeston, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. J. A. Trollope, J. George, H. Wilde, J. S. Pritchett, J. W. Parker, J. Griffin and E. A. Young, hon. treasurer and secretary.

The gathering was the largest on record, and as soon as the members had taken their places the proceedings opened with prayer, and the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Rowland Blades) welcomed the Council to the City.

On behalf of the Bishop of London, Archdeacon Holmes also welcomed the Council.

The President (Rev. Canon Coleridge), the hon. treasurer and secretary (Mr. E. A. Young), and the hon. librarian (Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn) were re-elected by acclamation.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Edwards, Mr. T. Metcalfe, Alderman R. B. Chambers, Mr. Pryce Taylor (who cabled from New York), Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, Messrs. H. Chapman, W. Haigh, G. Chester, Rev. A. H. F. Boughay, Messrs. C. E. Borrett, E. H. Lewis and Cyril Johnston (the last named also being in New York).

Acknowledgments from relatives of deceased members had been received, in reply to letters of condolence sent by the secretary, from Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Papillon and Mrs. Matthews.

The balance sheet, the abstract of which was published in 'The Ringing World' last week, was presented and passed, the Secretary announcing that during the year no less than five new associations had come in, viz., Barnsley and District (one member), Doncaster and District (one), Sherwood Youths (one), Truro Diocesan Guild (one), and East Derbyshire (two).

The report of the hon. librarian, showing a sale of 150 of the new Major and Cater Methods, and about the same number of the other publications as in previous years, was adopted.

At the suggestion of the librarian, a committee was formed to go through certain papers and books in his keeping to see if they were worth preserving.

It was also decided to revise and reprint the 'Rules for a local company,' and the following committee was appointed for the purpose: Canon Elsee, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Mr. E. W. Elwell and Mr. H. W. Wilde.

The following hon. members retired by rotation: Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Messrs. J. S. Pritchett, J. A. Trollope, J. H. B. Hesse, J. Griffin and E. A. Young, and they were re-elected. The Rev. A. T. Beeston, Mr. Cyril Johnston and Mr. J. S. Goldsmith were also elected hon. members to fill vacancies which had occurred.

The Standing Committee was elected as follows: The president, Canon Elsee, Revs. C. W. O. Jenkyn, H. Law James, and C. D. P. Davies, Messrs. W. T. Cockerill, J. Griffin, E. A. Young, J. S. Pritchett, A. A. Hughes, C. F. Johnston, Pryce Taylor, W. A. Cave, C. T. Coles, J. D. Matthews, A. Paddon Smith and the Rev. A. T. Beeston.

The Peal Collection Committee reported that the collection of Treble Bob compositions was proceeding, and it was hoped to have the additions typed by the next meeting. The committee was reappointed as follows: Revs. H. S. T. Richardson and E. S. Powell, Messrs. J. A. Trollope, H. W. Wilde, J. W. Parker and Miss E. K. Parker.

The Rev. F. L. Edwards presented the report of the Literature and Press Committee, whose principal work during the year had been to collaborate with the secretary in revising 'Rules and Decisions.' The report was adopted, and the following members were elected: Revs. A. T. Beeston and F. L. Edwards, Messrs. G. P. Burton, W. Willson, A. Paddon Smith and J. S. Goldsmith.

The Methods Committee, Rev. H. Law James, Messrs. E. H. Lewis and J. A. Trollope, were re-elected with the addition of the Rev. E. S. Powell, and authority given to the committee to re-issue the 'Collection of Minor Methods' after revision.

The report of the Peals Analysis Committee, as already printed in 'The Ringing World,' was adopted, and the committee re-elected as follows: The Rev. A. T. Beeston, Messrs. J. W. Parker and G. Williams and Miss E. K. Parker, with thanks for the great work they had again done.

Reports of the Towers and Belfries Committee were made by Major Hesse and Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, and a letter was received on the subject from Mr. E. H. Lewis. Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Messrs. E. A. Young and J. H. B. Hesse were re-elected.

The Records Committee report was presented by the Rev. A. T. Beeston and adopted, and the members re-elected, viz.: Revs. A. T. Beeston, H. Law James and Mr. T. H. Beams.

The Nomenclature Committee, Rev. H. Drake, Messrs. G. P. Burton, A. D. Barker, T. H. Beams and A. L. Coleman, reported through Mr. Drake that in view of the resolution carried at the last meeting the committee had been unable to do anything during the past year.

After a long and animated discussion as to the reappointment of the committee, it was resolved to thank the committee for their services, and that the committee be dissolved.

The revised copy of the Council's 'Rules and Decisions' was presented by the hon. secretary, and instructions given for printing a second edition of 300 copies.

On the motion of Mr. T. H. Taffender, seconded by Mr. A. D. Barker, the following resolution was passed: 'That the Council approach the British Broadcasting Company with a view to the broadcasting during the evening programmes of a series of instructional talks on change ringing, with handbell demonstrations.'

A committee was appointed to give effect to the resolution, consisting of Messrs. Taffender, Cockerill, Hughes, Matthews and Young.

A resolution was moved by Mr. G. Williams, and seconded by Mr. A. H. Pulling, to amend the rules of the Council in order that the agenda might be published twelve weeks instead of two weeks before the Council meeting, the proposed change involving as a consequence the sending of notices of motion three months instead of three weeks before the meeting.

The motion was carried by a large majority.

The Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn proposed 'That the Council shall issue, at a small charge, peal diplomas for the encouragement of young ringers.'

After discussion, in view of the diversity of opinion prevailing, it was decided to postpone the matter for a year, to enable representatives to consult their associations.

In accordance with notice, the Rev. H. Law James proposed, and Mr. R. Richardson formally seconded, 'That since William Shipway extended Superlative Surprise Major to Royal, and the first peal of Royal was rung at Wakefield in 1826, the Council cannot accept any extension to Maximus which does not agree with the Major and the Royal.'

This led to a lengthy debate, in which wide divergence of view was revealed among the 'experts,' and eventually an amendment was carried to the effect that in view of this disagreement no good purpose would be served by coming to a definite decision on the subject.

On the proposition of Mr. J. A. Trollope, seconded by Mr. A. A. Hughes, it was resolved: 'That a committee be appointed to report

to the Council on the legal relationship between (a) bells, (b) ringers and (c) ringing respectively on the one hand, and (d) the incumbent, (e) the churchwardens and (f) the parochial councils respectively on the other hand, and any other legal matters affecting the Exercise. And, further, to consider the advisability of issuing a statement on these matters for the guidance of ringers and other persons affected.

The committee of lawyers was appointed, consisting of Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Mr. F. A. Milne and Mr. E. W. Elwell, to carry out the task.

The Standing Committee recommended Hereford as the place of next year's meeting. Mr. W. A. Cave proposed Bristol, in view of the Diocesan Association's jubilee festival next Whitsun; and the Rev. E. S. Powell suggested Plymouth. On being put to the vote, Hereford was selected.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Archdeacon Holmes, also to Sir Frank Dyson, the astronomer, who on Sunday afternoon personally conducted a party round Greenwich Observatory, and to the president of the Council.

Social gatherings in connection with the Council were held at the Coffee Pot on Monday evening and at the Bedford Head on Tuesday evening, while St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Clement Danes' bells were utilised after the meeting.

WEDDING BELLS.

The wedding of Mr. Edmund J. Hobbs, the well-known and greatly respected ringer of Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire, to Miss Rose A. Wright, took place at the Parish Church, Husborne Crawley, on June 1st. The bride was given away by Mr. C. Matthews, a member of the Woburn company, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. Rust, a former secretary of the Beds Association.

As the happy pair left the church, the bells were fired and rung to a touch of Minor by the Woburn company, who were all present. In the evening, the Husborne Crawley company intended to go for a peal, but owing to the indisposition of the ringer of the 3rd a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260) was substituted: Albert Fleet, sen. 1, Albert Fleet, jun., 2, Cyril Sinfeld 3, William Peacock 4, Harry Fleet 5, Horace H. Smith (conductor) 6.

On the previous Monday the Woburn company presented Mr. E. J. Hobbs with a beautiful clock as a mark of their great esteem.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NEW CANTERBURY DISTRICT SECRETARY.

At a by-meeting of the Canterbury District, held at Chartham, on Saturday, May 28th, the difficulty of finding a district secretary was overcome by a proposition, made by the chairman (Rev. Canon F. J. O. Helmore) that Mr. Percy W. Smith, of Littlebourne, Canterbury, should be elected to the office. This was duly seconded and carried by the meeting.

Before tea, which was held at the Railway Tavern Hotel, Chartham, numerous touches were rung on the six bells, including the following methods: Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Stedman and Grandsire. Cambridge Surprise was also attempted, but the result would not merit its being called successful!

The following towers were represented at the meeting: Canterbury, Wingham, Wye, St. Nicholas', Wickham, Folkestone, Braybourne, Littlebourne and Sturry.

A NEW LEICESTER VICAR.

The induction of the Rev. H. Hurst, the new Vicar of St. Margaret's, Leicester, took place on June 3rd, and a special touch of Grandsire Caters was rung for the service by G. Humphries 1, G. S. Morris 2, A. Ballard 3, E. Whitehead 4, R. Barrow 5, E. Bagworth 6, A. Disney 7, N. S. Bagworth 8, E. Morris (conductor) 9, R. Grant 10. On June 4th an attempt for 5,016 Grandsire Cinques was unfortunately lost after 1½ hours' excellent ringing, owing to tenor clapper breaking: G. Humphries 1, E. Whitehead 2, E. Morris (composer and conductor) 3, J. Morris 4, A. Disney 5, R. Barrow 6, E. Bartram 7, A. Cattell 8, R. H. Bartram 9, G. S. Morris 10, J. E. Sykes 11, J. Grant 12.

A GRANDFATHERS' PEAL.

The grandfathers of the Royal Cumberland Youths met at Shore-ditch on Saturday, and rang a peal of Stedman Caters—it would have been more appropriate had it been Grandsire—and it was probably the first time such a peal has been rung. It was intended to ring Cinques, but the illness of one of the band at the eleventh hour caused the substitution of Caters.

The idea of this peal was conceived with the view of marking the 80th birthday of the 'father' of the Cumberland, Mr. Ben Foskett, in November last, when it was lost. The band, nevertheless, wish to convey to him their best wishes for many more birthdays. The average age of the company is over 59 years, and their average of membership of the society over 31 years.

BARTHOMLEY, CHESHIRE.—On Sunday, April 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: Eric Allman (first quarter) 1, G. Addison 2, J. Bradshaw 3, R. Sherratt 4, A. Allman 5, J. Parker 6, J. Brassington (first quarter as conductor) 7, A. Asbury 8.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

BECCLES.—At St. Michael's Church, on May 29th, for evening service, 1,040 Kent Treble Bob Royal: F. Borrett 1, G. Howlett 2, C. Parnell 3, J. Eldridge 4, G. Gower 5, C. Clarke 6, R. Riches 7, F. Sayer 8, W. Barrett 9, E. Goate 10. First touch on ten by ringers of 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th.

WESTON, BATH.—On May 29th, at All Saints' Church, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: *Celeia Woodburn 1, Miss N. G. Williams 2, R. Cousins 3, *F. Merrett 4, G. Cross 5, *W. H. Crocker (conductor) 6. *Longest touch in the method.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, May 22nd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 40 mins.: G. Saunders 1, W. Webb 2, F. Tubb 3, F. Cherritt 4, S. Childs 5, F. Barker (conductor) 6.

TWICKENHAM.—On Sunday evening, May 22nd, for service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss K. Bradford 1, F. E. Hawthorne 2, H. Belcher 3, G. Bradford (first quarter-peal with an inside bell) 4, E. A. Morris 5, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, E. V. Beadle 8.

BRINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, May 22nd, for morning service, 1,260 Kent Treble Minor in 50 mins.: A. Robinson 1, E. Sibley 2, W. H. Anstin 3, W. R. Parker 4, J. C. Dean 5, W. J. Dove (conductor) 6.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, May 22nd, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,264 Bob Major: W. E. G. Hewson 1, Miss E. E. Hardcastle 2, Miss B. M. Mills 3, E. E. Bish 4, J. W. Chapman 5, T. W. Welbourne (first quarter-peal in the method) 6, J. L. Watkins 7, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 8.

WEST EALING.—On Sunday, May 22nd, for morning service at St. Stephen's Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 46 mins.: O. Edwards 1, J. H. Hummsett 2, P. Clarke 3, R. Thompson (conductor) 4, H. Belcher 5, W. H. Hollier 6, E. Harris 7, A. Fulwell 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Edwards, wife of the ringer of the treble.

FULHAM.—At All Saints' Church, for Sunday evening service, May 15th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,263 changes) in 50 mins.: H. M. Page 1, H. Ellis 2, H. A. Folkard 3, H. Belcher 4, F. Norris 5, D. Stevens 6, H. Stevens 7, C. W. R. Grimwood 8, J. W. Driver (conductor) 9, A. Harung 10.

RYDE, I.O.W.—On Sunday, May 15th, for evensong, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), taken from Holt's Original, in 49 mins.: A. White 1, A. Brading 2, J. Tauson 3, R. J. Snow 4, P. Long 5, H. Barton (conductor) 6, A. R. Ward 7, T. Kemp 8.

LONDON.—On Sunday, May 15th, for evening service at St. Giles', Camberwell, S.E., 1,400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: W. Berry 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, S. E. Moye 3, A. N. Hardy 4, T. W. Taffender 5, J. Milner 6, R. Bullen 7, G. A. Card 8, A. F. Harris 9, J. R. Gammon 10.

BOSBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday evening, May 15th, for divine service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: J. Nelson 1, W. Nutt 2, F. Foster 3, J. Foster 4, F. Price (conductor) 5, A. Davis 6. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1st, 2nd and 6th. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar, Rev. H. E. Grindley, who is resigning the living through ill-health.

WILLENHALL.—On Sunday, May 15th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: I. Evans 1, E. Hartin 2, S. H. Coley 3, E. Trubshaw 4, C. Law 5, C. Wallater 6, B. H. Pountney (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, A. Reed 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Sunday evening, May 15th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples on the occasion of the Bishop of St. Albans preaching at the evening service: H. Dix 1, C. Leman 2, E. Bowley 3, W. Hodgetts 4, T. Norris 5, H. Hodgetts 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7, A. W. Dix 8.

BRENTWOOD.—On Sunday, May 8th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins.: J. Peters 1, A. Rainbird 2, H. Turner 3, R. Heazel 4, E. Furbank 5, F. G. Ringe (conductor) 6, W. Leggett 7, A. Pryke 8.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, May 8th, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples, by: Miss E. E. Hardcastle 1, J. W. Chapman 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, E. E. Bish 4, E. F. Pike 5, J. L. Watkins 6, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 7, S. Gardner 8.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On May 8th, for matins and also as a birthday compliment to Mr. S. T. Goodchild, 1,174 Stedman Cinques: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, G. Twitchen 2, R. Coles 3, G. Hinton 4, G. White 5, E. R. Coles 6, E. Markman 7, J. W. Wilkins 8, F. Boxell 9, C. E. Smith 10, S. T. Goodchild 11, A. E. Butler 12.

SPROTBOROUGH.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, May 8th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor and 240 Oxford Treble Bob: H. Harding 1, E. Short 2, W. H. Metcalfe 3, W. Athron 4, W. Dent 5, E. Stacey (conductor) 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of sympathy and respect for Mrs. Smith, who died in Switzerland on Sunday, May 1st. Mrs. Smith was the wife of the Rev. Sydney E. Smith, former Rector of Sprotborough, who accepted an appointment in Switzerland four years ago.

PENISTONE.—On Sunday, May 8th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 46 mins., for evening service: H. Roebuck 1, J. Tinker 2, F. Barraclough 3, N. Brownhill 4, A. Champion 5, H. Sykes 6.

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The last annual meeting of the Winchester Guild as at present constituted is to be held on July 2nd at Guildford. The Southern Railway Company have consented to issue day return tickets at single fares on production of a voucher. Early application for these vouchers should be made to the general hon. secretary.

The first twelve-bell peal in Birmingham was rung on June 3rd, 1773. This was a 5,324 of Grandsire Cinques.

The opening of the bells at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, took place on June 4th, 1814. It was on June 4th, 1762, that the new peal of ten bells at Bow, Cheapside, by Lester and Pack, were rung for the first time.

Next Monday is the anniversary of the 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob, rung at Debenham in 10 hrs. 32 mins. in 1892.

The first peal in America was rung at Christ Church, Philadelphia, where Henry Haley called Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples on June 9th, 1850. The tenorman was changed during the course of the peal, R. Dodd, a man with only one leg, ringing for the first 2½ hours, the peal being then finished by J. Davey.

Harold Kest, one of the young ringers at Bolsover, who commenced to pull a bell in October, 1925, has now rung eight peals in the following methods: Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise, two peals of Superlative Surprise, New Cambridge Surprise, Yorkshire Surprise and Norfolk Surprise. All were rung at the first attempt without any practice except Bob Major and Cambridge. He is 16 years of age, and his performances must, we think, constitute a record.

A RINGERS' GUIDE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I ask you to insert a final appeal for the particulars for my handbook on the rings of bells?

A number of secretaries have sent me the required information, and have stated that they have other information they could give me if I would like it.

I should be glad of every bit they could send; it will all help to make the book useful. It would take a long time for me to write in person to all those who have so kindly written, so I want to thank them all through the medium of 'The Ringing World.'

The required information is place, county, name of church, number of bells, weight of tenor, and practice night.—Yours truly,
60a, Fairfield Road,
Bromley, Kent.

SIDNEY H. WIGHTMAN.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

An excellent meeting was held at Tring on May 21st, members and friends attending from Berkhamsted, Linslade, Bletchley, Hemel Hempstead, Apsley, King's Langley, Bushey, London and the local tower. Good practice was obtained from rounds to Double Norwich, both before and after tea.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, and an excellent address given by the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake. Tea followed in the Co-operative Hall, presided over by the Vicar, who had invited the ringers to be his guests. The president of the association (Mr. F. Smith, of Bushey) also honoured the meeting with his presence.

After a sumptuous tea had been put 'out of course,' the Vicar was unanimously voted to the chair, and was elected an honorary member of the association.

Redbourn (six bells) was chosen for the next meeting, to be held at the end of June. A practice meeting was fixed for Apsley, on June 1st.

Very hearty votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells and his generosity, to the organist for her services, the preacher for the real 'ringers' address, and the president for his presence.

A course of Grandsire Caters 'in hand' being completed, the ringers returned to the tower to finish off the best meeting Tring has had for a very long time.

W. A.

MR. E. C. GOBEY'S 200 PEALS.

Minor: 1 method 7, conducted 6; 2 methods 5, conducted 3; 3 methods 5, conducted 5; 4 methods 2, conducted 2; 5 methods 2, conducted 2; 7 methods 10, conducted 10; 10 methods 1, conducted 1.

Triples: Grandsire 13, conducted 10; Stedman 25, conducted 7.

Major: Plain Bob 8, conducted 4; Kent Treble Bob 35, conducted 20; Oxford Treble Bob 3; Double Norwich 14, conducted 1; Duffield 4; Spliced Treble Bob 15, conducted 13; Little Bob 1; Spliced Plain Bob and Canterbury 1; Cambridge Surprise 7; New Cambridge 1; Superlative 9; Real Superlative 1; London 1; Bristol 1.

Caters: Grandsire 2; Stedman 13, conducted 1; Spliced Grandsire and Stedman 1.

Royal: Plain Bob 2; Kent Treble Bob 9, conducted 5; Spliced Treble Bob 2, conducted 1; total 200, conducted 91, including a 9,120 of Spliced Treble Bob.

BELLS RESTORED AT ST. MARY'S, EALING.**ARCHDEACON'S ANSWER TO CRITICS.**

'To those who would say it was waste of time and hard-earned money to provide church bells, and that it were better to sell them and divert the money to some worthier purpose, he would reply, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by the more spiritual and elevating, softening, and ennobling elements that enter into his life." For one man or woman to whom the sound of bells is disturbing, there are ninety-nine to whom they appeal with a sense of gladness, pathos, peace, and solemnity.'

This was the answer to those who criticise the spending of money on church bells given by the Archdeacon of Middlesex on Sunday week, in a sermon which he delivered after dedicating the recast bells at St. Mary's Church, Ealing.

He preached from the text, 'To what purpose is this waste?' This cry of the disciples when applied to many things in life, he said, was very plausible, but mischievous. Each had his own gifts, and it was shameful if any became so infatuated with his own ideals that he could not conceive of any task or aim in life that was of the least importance except his own. There were many who would do well to remember that the very best work done in this world seldom had any visible, tangible, or immediate result, and that the influence of beauty, whether it be beautiful art, beautiful music, beautiful literature, or the chiming of beautiful bells, was an unseen and subtle influence, infinite and imponderable. The poet, musician, and artist had a noble part to play in this world: it was theirs to instruct, to elevate, to soothe, and humanise. It may be said that the bell is a singularly sympathetic instrument. You may have realised this, as I did on visiting a famous foundry wherein, as one spoke, bell after bell caught up some little tone of one's voice that harmonised and broke the silence with faintly sweet vibration. This vocal sympathy extends to every department of our life and experience. For any one who has a spark of historic sensibility, the sound of bells cannot but recall the distant past. Bells, indeed, are the sole audible witness of those remote Middle Ages that first used them as we use them now, and the old English from whom we have descended and to whom we owe so much. Bells, again, for many of us, are eloquent of home memories, especially when we are away from home: of happy years of childhood in some remote town or village in a distant shire. They help us to celebrate great national events as perhaps no other vocal agent can; they sound the hope of every new-born year, the joy of the marriage feast, the desolation and yet the hopefulness of the hour of death. And for multitudes who seldom or never enter a place of worship, the daily or weekly call to prayer that echoes from the innumerable spires and towers of our great cities brings its messages of gentle reproof and serious reminder of higher things. The Passing Bell, the Curfew, the Sanctus, the Angelus—what varied associations are not awakened in every mind by these familiar names? For bells are surely in the truest sense religious things in a pre-eminent degree, and it is as such that they should ever be used. Faber has not hesitated to give them this divinely symbolism of all when he says, in the well-known hymn:

'Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,
The voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea.'

I would ask you, concluded the preacher, to remember at all times this sacred meaning of bells, and to find in the pealing and the chiming of them something of that sense of self-consecration which should belong to all we do for the service of man and for the worship of God.

The dedication service will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be present. After a shortened evensong, the choir rendered the anthem, 'Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky' (part of Tennyson's 'In Memoriam'). The hymn, 'Immortal, invisible God only wise,' was sung while the choir was proceeding to the west end of church, where Archdeacon Bevan dedicated the bells, after which they were rung for two minutes. At the close of the service, Julia Ward Howe's battle song, 'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,' was sung, and after the blessing the bells pealed forth to touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

For a number of years it was known that something must be done to the bells at St. Mary's. The 'go' had become very bad, and a crack developed in the tower. It was decided last year to call in experts, and they were firmly of the opinion the bells should not be further rung until restoration had taken place. The old frame had done service for about 80 years, and although it had been strengthened from time to time, it was felt that to make a good job of it the whole frame must come out and an entirely new one put in. In the meantime, the repairs and strengthening of the tower were put in hand under the able supervision of Mr. Bradley, one of the churchwardens.

Messrs. Taylor and Co. were entrusted with the work of retuning and rehanging the bells. The whole massive cast-iron frame and fittings are of the very latest modern type, and are carried on 15in. girders built firmly into the walls of the tower. The bells are hung on ball bearings.

On Saturday, June 4th, members of the Central Council in London for the annual meeting were invited, with all ringing friends, to try the bells from 6 till 9 o'clock, and between 50 and 60 availed themselves of the opportunity. All were loud in their praise of the easy

going and great improvement in tone which has been effected. St. Mary's ringers were congratulated again and again upon being in possession of such a fine ring.

Mr. Fidler, representing the founders, came specially down from Loughborough for the occasion. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Messrs. Dick Lane and G. Smith in charge of the work, which was a most difficult undertaking. Owing to the position of the tower, the bells, framework and girders had to be taken into the body of the church and special scaffolding erected to take it all over the gallery to a position under the tower. In addition, owing to complaints from near residents (the tower overshadows a large number of houses), the louvres have been boarded up, so that it is hoped that in future there will be less grumbling than formerly. Although peals will be restricted, there will be plenty of ringing. For years St. Mary's company have regularly rung for service from 10 till 11 a.m., and 5.30 till 6.30. There is also a practice night once a week from 7.30 till 9 p.m., and visitors are always welcome.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My attention having been drawn to the letter of Mr. Richard Caldicott in your issue of May 27th, re Coventry Cathedral bells, I feel that it is due to your readers that certain erroneous impressions which it creates should be corrected.

Mr. Caldicott states that 'we are left with a set of chimes instead of the magnificent peal of bells now irretrievably lost.' Now, our Cathedral tower not being strong enough to withstand the strain set up by a peal of bells rung in the English manner, it is impossible to have them thus hung, but the present peal, which consists of the original ten bells recast, with two additional ones, making 12 in all, has been cast on the five-tone principle in ringing sizes, with the holes drilled ready to receive the bolts for the attachment of the headstocks necessary for ringing purposes, should a suitable campanile at any subsequent period be built.

The antithesis drawn by Mr. Caldicott between the former peal and the present chimes is therefore entirely erroneous. The bells are not a mere set of chimes, but a ringing peal, ready at any time for the addition of the wheels and headstocks. I would also point out that Mr. Caldicott appears to draw no distinction between volume and quality in relation to the tone of bells.

Any comparison between the volume of sound produced by ringing and by chiming is entirely misleading, and this is obviously the comparison to which Mr. Caldicott refers; but the beautiful mellow quality of tones of the present peal is universally acclaimed as immeasurably superior to that of the former one, and this opinion is endorsed even by those who at first were strongly opposed to the scheme of recasting. How glorious, therefore, would be the combination of lovely mellowness of tone with majestic volume of sound produced by this peal, if at any time it could be hung for ringing!—Yours faithfully,

W. H. BRAZIL, M.D.

The Quadrant, Coventry.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District was held at Horsmonden on May 28th, and, considering the somewhat remote position of the church, was well attended. Upwards of 20 members attended from Lamberhurst, Penshurst, Frittenden, Plaxtol, and Tunbridge Wells. Service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. H. Smith-Marriott), and this was followed by the business meeting in the schoolroom, the Rector presiding. Five new members of Hawkhurst band, two of Marden, and one of the local band, were elected.

In replying to a vote of thanks for the use of the bells, for conducting the service, etc., the Rector expressed his pleasure at meeting the members. He had been told by their district secretary that it was thirteen years ago that they met there, and he was very glad to see so many members present. He was sorry that, owing to the distance from the village to the church, they had been unable to provide a tea, but he did not like the idea of the members going away without some refreshment, and he therefore asked their district secretary to see that they had some, and he would be pleased to defray the cost.

This concluded the business, and the members adjourned to the tower, where touches of Minor from Plain Bob to London were rung.

The bells have recently been rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and the 'go' of them is excellent.

A very successful meeting of the Ashford District was held at Rolvenden on May 21st. Ringing commenced at three o'clock, and service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. G. Andrews. The organist, Mr. Ward, also kindly accompanied the singing. Tea was partaken of at the Bull Hotel, where 30 members and friends representing four different districts sat down.

Mr. F. White presided at tea and the business meeting, at which Brabourne was selected for the next meeting in June.

Mr. Tribe welcomed the visitors, and the tower was afterwards visited till about 9 p.m.

This was a record meeting for the district, and eight methods were rung.

Thanks were accorded to the Vicar and all who made the meeting such a success.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association was held at Brighton on Saturday, May 28th. The towers of St. Peter's and St. Nicholas' Churches were open for ringing from 2 till 3.30 and at 3.45. There was a good attendance at a special service in the Parish Church (St. Peter's), an able address being given by the Vicar of Brighton (Canon F. C. N. Hicks, D.D.) on the text, 'That ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.' Afterwards, between 70 and 80 assembled at St. Nicholas' Hall, where an excellent tea had been prepared, and was much enjoyed by all, the Vicar of Brighton presiding.

At the business meeting which followed, the Vicar was nominated to the chair, and was supported by Mr. J. T. Rickman (Master) and Mr. F. B. Tompkins (vice-president).

The following new members were elected: The Vicar of Brighton (Canon F. C. N. Hicks, D.D.), vice-president; Messrs. D. Streete, T. Fieldwick, F. Pollard (Turner's Hill), H. Bissenden and C. Payne (Christ Church, Blacklands), H. Colley (Heene), and F. Pocock (Battle).

The report, which has already been published in these columns, and balance sheet were adopted, the sound position of the association's funds being greatly appreciated, there being £107 12s. 3d. in hand on general account, £50 in reserve fund, and £62 1s. 6d. in benevolent account.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected, also the following: Master, Mr. J. T. Rickman; hon. treasurer, Mr. Ellman Brown; hon. general secretary, Mr. A. D. Stone; hon. peal secretary, Mr. F. Bennett; hon. auditors, Messrs. W. C. Hart and R. J. Dawe.

The meeting decided to invest a further £50 in War Loan Stock.

The motion to discontinue the analysis of peals rung and points per tower was carried, thus eliminating the competition for the challenge bell. The rules will be altered accordingly.

The Master (Mr. J. T. Rickman) was re-elected to represent the association on the Central Council.

Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne were mentioned for the annual general meeting in 1927, the voting result in favour of Brighton.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Brighton for the use of the bells, the service at St. Peter's, and his very helpful address was enthusiastically passed; and, on the motion of the Master, this was extended to the Vicar of St. Nicholas' for allowing the use of his bells and St. Nicholas' Hall for the tea and meeting.

Ringling was again resumed and continued until close on 9 o'clock.

The following towers were represented: Angmering, Battle, Bolney, Brighton (St. Peter's and St. Nicholas'), Burgess Hill, Chichester, Christ Church (Blacklands), Chiddingly, Eastbourne (St. Saviour's), East Grinstead, Heene, Heathfield, Keymer, Lower Beeding, Lindfield, Seaford, Shoreham, Slinfold, Turner's Hill, Uckfield, Warnham, West Grinstead; also non-resident members.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN DISTRICT AT WALTHAM ABBEY.

The inclemency of the weather was no doubt partly to blame for the somewhat small attendance at the meeting of the Northern District of the London County Association at Waltham Abbey, on Saturday, May 21st, but those members who braved the weather were well rewarded. Proceedings opened with a touch of Stedman Triples, followed by Kent Treble Bob Major, but Double Norwich failed to materialise. More members having arrived, Stedman Caters was the order. At the Cock Hotel an excellent tea was successfully 'turned in' by all present. At the subsequent business meeting, the District Master (Mr. L. Gray) was in the chair, and three new members were proposed, but owing to some complication in the rules of the association their elections were held over.

The meeting closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Clergy for so kindly giving permission to ring, and to the local ringers who arranged the meeting.

The company then dispersed, some to look around the town, others to enjoy the 'supreme delights of Ye Olde English Fayre,' while a few enthusiasts climbed the steps to the top of the tower to enjoy the excellent view. At 6.30 the bells were again set going, and touches in most of the standards were brought round.

Between 25 and 30 members attended the meeting, and it was a great pity that a 'Cinques' band could not be mustered.

SURPRISE RINGING AT NORTON, STAFFS.

On Sunday, May 22nd, for matins, 720 Chester Surprise: O. Williams 1, C. S. Ryles 2, W. C. Lawrence (conductor) 3, W. Corfield 4, F. Triner 5, J. E. Wheeldon 6.—On Monday, May 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise: J. Mountford 1, C. S. Ryles 2, H. Wibberley 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, F. Triner (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.—Also 720 Chester Surprise: O. Williams 1, C. S. Ryles 2, W. C. Lawrence (conductor) 3, F. Triner 4, J. E. Wheeldon 5, J. Walley 6.—On Thursday, May 26th, for evensong, on Ascension Day, 240 each of London and Wells and 360 of Cambridge: W. Corfield 1, C. S. Ryles 2, F. Triner 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, J. E. Wheeldon (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

BARNES.—On Whit Sunday, June 5th, for evening service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: M. Jacobs 1, H. Barrett 2, R. Mackrill 3, W. C. Stacey 4, H. Cook 5, C. Hunt 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, F. Hendy 8.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On Sunday, June 5th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 44 mins.: R. Worthy 1, W. Ellerington 2, Miss L. Lancaster 3, J. Hill 4, J. W. Passman 5, T. Metcalfe 6, T. Lancaster (conductor) 7, S. Yates 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of 2nd and 6th.

BROUGHTON ASTLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.—For evensong, on Whit Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): J. Brunt 1, C. H. Webb 2, F. Bodycote 3, A. Bodycote 4, H. Bird (conductor) 5. Arranged for C. H. Webb, of Croft.

UTTOXETER, STAFFS.—At the Church of St. Mary, on Whit Sunday, June 5th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes, Thurstans) in 47 mins.: F. Oliver 1, E. Roberts 2, G. Elliott 3, F. Richardson 4, G. Lewis 5, G. Burrows 6, C. Smith (conductor) 7, E. Green 8.

LONDON.—At the Church of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, for evensong on Whit Sunday, June 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: S. O. Bone 1, J. F. Parrott 2, J. H. Parrott 3, H. Hills 4, R. C. H. Steel 5, J. Martin 6, F. Smith (conductor) 7, H. C. Taylor 8.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Whit Sunday, June 5th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 53 mins.: E. Jones 1, W. E. Oakley 2, H. G. Milton (first quarter of Stedman) 3, S. E. Edwards 4, G. Seamon 5, W. J. Norris 6, F. Edwards (conductor) 7, E. M. Elliott 8.

HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.—On Whit Sunday, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, being ten and a half different callings, in 42 mins.: H. Gash 1, C. J. Tricker, jun., 2, J. Kent 3, W. F. Ellingham 4, C. J. Tricker (conductor) 5, C. Gash 6.

BRENTWOOD.—At the Church of St. Thomas the Martyr, for matins, on Whit Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 53 mins.: *C. Pryke 1, J. C. Furlong 2, J. W. Leggett 3, A. Rainbird 4, *A. Pryke 5, E. W. Furbank 6, H. Turner (conductor) 7, G. Miles 8. * First quarter-peal.

CHICHESTER, SUSSEX.—On Whit Sunday, June 5th, for morning service, at the Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 50 mins.: G. Marshall 1, W. Falconer 2, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 3, F. B. Tompkins 4, W. E. Ticehurst 5, J. B. Blake 6, M. R. Heffer 7, C. Smithers 8.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Sunday, May 29th, for morning service, 720 New London Pleasure: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, A. Woolston 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter 5, W. H. Lawrence (conductor) 6.—For evening service, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, S. Head 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter (conductor) 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.

COBHAM.—On Sunday, May 29th, at St. Andrews' Church, after a Confirmation service, 720 Bob Minor in 22 mins.: A. Roberts 1, W. James 2, G. Shotton 3, E. Matthews 4, W. W. Thorne 5, W. Hobden (conductor) 6.

GLOUCESTER.—On Sunday, May 29th, for evening service, at St. Lawrence's Church, Barnwood, in 44 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: T. Hawkes 1, J. Trappitt, jun. (Croydon) 2, G. Condie 3, J. Gillett 4, W. H. Harris 5, J. Austen 6, A. A. Waite (conductor) 7, A. Smith 8. Rung to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the conductor's wedding day.

HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, May 29th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: H. Gash 1, W. F. Ellingham 2, S. Stilwell 3, F. E. Hawthorne 4, L. Mannering 5, C. J. Tricker (conductor) 6, C. Gash tenor (covering). Rung after meeting short for Triples. First quarter-peal in the method by ringers of the treble, 2nd and 4th.

LODDON, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, May 29th, at the Parish Church, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 47 mins.: F. A. Finch (conductor) 1, R. A. Warman 2, S. W. Copling 3, Miss V. Beckett 4, T. Beckett 5, C. F. Sayer 6, H. W. Barrett 7, F. H. Davey 8. First quarter in the method by ringers of 3rd and 4th.

SWANMORE, HANTS.—On Sunday, May 29th, for evening service, 720 of Grandsire Minor, with 34 Bobs and two Singles: W. Allen 1, W. Linter 2, A. Millard 3, E. Jacobs, sen., 4, H. Ainsley 5, R. Linter (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by all except A. Millard and W. Linter.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—On Sunday, May 22nd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: S. H. Green 1, W. Larter (conductor) 2, W. Collison 3, Miss D. E. Orlebar 4, D. Findlay 5, A. Richardson 6, H. Markwell 7, E. Mays 8. The hand welcomed Miss Orlebar, who has just returned from a six months' tour abroad.

NOTICE.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—A quarterly meeting is to be held at Swanage on Saturday, June 11th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Ven. H. G. Izard. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

NOTICES.

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

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on June 30th, St. Magnus' on the 23rd, *'The Coffee Pot,' Warwick Lane, on the 14th (8 p.m.), Southwark Cathedral on the 21st, *St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 28th, at 7.30 p.m. * Business meeting. William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Quarterly Meeting, Ipswich District.—A meeting will be held at Sproughton on Saturday, June 11th. Bells at Bramford (6) also available during the afternoon and evening. Tea, 9d., at 4.45. Every ringer welcomed. — G. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., 28, Chevallier Road, Ipswich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District. — A meeting will be held at St. John's, Redhill, on Saturday, June 11th. 8 Bells. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5.15 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. — H. F. Ewins, Hon. Sec., 27, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Brindle Parish Church on Saturday, June 11th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. — Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. — The next ringing meeting will be held at Clitheroe on Saturday, June 11th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—J. Watson, 48, Palmer Street, Blackburn.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A quarterly meeting will be held at All Saints', Sedgley, on Saturday, June 11th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30. A tea will be provided, for which a small charge may be made.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Next meeting at Kimpton on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at the Vicarage by the Vicar (the Rev. A. T. Whyte Venables). Will all who can please attend this meeting?—W. Nash, North Mymms, Hatfield.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A district meeting will be held at Stapleford on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Church 7 minutes from Shelford Station. Short service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5. 'Minglepen' gardens, near the church, will be open to any ringers and friends, by kind permission of Mrs. Goldsmith-Martin. A hearty invitation is extended to all.—F. Warrington, Long Stanton, Cambs.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Wentworth on Saturday, June 11th. Bells ready at 2 p.m. — A. Panther, Sec. (pro tem.), 25, Sandymount Road, Wath-on-Dearne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool and Wigan Branches.—A service will be held at the Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday, June 11th. Service 5 p.m. Tea 6.30. St. Luke's bells will be open for ringing from 3 to 4.30. Tea 1s. each. Members intending being present please send word to Archdeacon Howson, 3, Gambrian Terrace, Liverpool. Business for meeting: Election of branch sec.—Walter Hughes.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Western District. — The next meeting will be held at Merrow on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. — Miss N. E. Shorter, Hon. Sec., Ferndene, 15, Russell Road, Walton-on-Thames.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting of this district will be at Lutterworth on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers are cordially invited, a good meeting being hoped for. — W. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A mid-week practice meeting will be held at Finchley on Thursday, June 16th. Bells available from 7 to 9 p.m. All ringers welcomed. Next Saturday meeting at Harrow Weald, July 9th.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Bourne on Saturday, June 18th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service in the church at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Those requiring tea please notify me by June 14th. — S. Proctor, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — South District.—A business meeting will be held on June 18th at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Tower open from 4 to 8. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Business after. Will those coming to tea please let me know before the 15th?—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Phene Street, Chelsea.

DEVON GUILD.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cadeleigh on Saturday, June 18th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea, 1s. each, 5.15. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me by Tuesday, June 14th?—M. Hanson, Hon. Sec., 2, The Avenue, Tiverton.

LAVENHAM.—The annual ringing of Lavenham bells will be held on Saturday, June 18th. Bells ready 2 p.m. All are welcome.—A. Symonds.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division. — The annual joint meeting of the Barnsley and District, the Doncaster and District, the Sheffield District and the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Conisborough on Saturday, June 18th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m., at 1s. 3d. each. Please send names to Mr. M. C. Fowler, 26, Northcliffe Road, Conisborough, near Doncaster, by Thursday, the 16th.—F. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 18, Royston Avenue, Doncaster.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting of the Guild will be held at Fillongley on Saturday, June 18th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m.—J. A. Fenton, Gen. Hon. Sec., 42, Bennett Street, Rugby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. George's, Tyldesley, on Saturday, June 18th. Bells available 4 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Coaley on Saturday, June 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m., tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome; kindly notify early.—H. G. Phillips, Branch Hon. Sec., Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Walton on Saturday, June 18th, bells (5) will be open from 3 o'clock onwards. Tea is being arranged in the Rectory grounds by kind permission of the Rev. B. M. Bird. Will those requiring tea please notify me by the 16th? A hearty invitation is given to all ringers and friends.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Rose Dene, Swing Bridge Road, Loughborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Kirkham on Saturday, June 18th. Bells ready 3 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m.—C. Sharples, Branch Secretary, 10, Warbreek Road, Blackpool.

NORFOLK GUILD.—A district meeting will be held at North Elmham on Saturday, June 18th. Tower open 2.30.—W. J. Howson, Dis. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Hunts District will be held at Great Staughton on June 18th. Service in Church 4.30. Tea followed by business meeting at the 'Robin Hood' 4.30. All ringers welcome. Those wishing for tea please notify by June 14th to Rev. H. B. Woolley, Long Stanton Vicarage, Cambs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Chaddesley Corbett on Saturday, June 18th. Bells will be available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30. All those requiring tea must notify me by June 14th latest. Charge, 1s. per head.—A. J. Skelding, Branch Sec., 7, Cecil Street, Stourbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Sunbury-on-Thames on Saturday, June 18th. Bells ready at 3.15. The usual tea arrangements will be made. All ringers and friends welcome. And Ruislip July 9th.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bugbrooke on Saturday, June 18th. Bells (5), 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will all those who want tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, June 14th.—T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at Brabourne on Saturday, June 25th. Tower open 2.30. Service at 4.45, followed by tea, at the invitation of the Vicar (Rev. S. K. Lockyer) and friends. Business meeting after. A good gathering at this annual event is hoped for.—A. C. Kay, Dis. Sec., 6, Sturges Road, Ashford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Brightling on Saturday, June 25th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at the Parish Recreation Hall at 5.30, through the kindness of the Rector (the Rev. E. A. W. Haviland). Business meeting to follow. Half fares (maximum 1s.) allowed to members.—G. W. Stokes, 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lichfield on Saturday, June 25th. Bells available: Cathedral (10) 3 to 3.45 and 6.15 to 7; St. Mary's (8) and St. Michael's (6) from 3.0. Tea and general meeting at Lloyd's Restaurant at 5.0. Tea will be 1/- to fully paid-up members, to others 1/6. Please send word by the 21st inst.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—First general quarterly meeting will be held at Earl Shilton on Saturday, June 25th. Red Buses (cheap return fares) every $\frac{1}{4}$ hour from Newark, Leicester and Bond Gate, Nuneaton, also many local buses. Bells (8) also Barwell adjoining (8) will be available from 2 p.m. A short service will be held at Earl Shilton 4.30. Tea at 5 at moderate charge to those who notify Rev. E. Pillifant, the Vicarage, not later than Thursday, 23rd. Committee meet at 3.30; general meeting follows tea. A good representative attendance is hoped for.—E. Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec. 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Ash on Saturday, June 25th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Members wishing to be present will kindly send post card to me before Wednesday, June 22nd.—P. W. Smith, Dis. Sec., Fairview, Littlebourne.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Twyford, Berks, on Saturday, June 25th. Bells (8) at 3. Short Service 4.30. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar, at 5. Guild reports obtainable. All ringers welcome. Kindly let me know number for tea by Tuesday, June 21st.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec. and Treas., 'Merrel,' California, Wokingham.

NORFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held at Loddon, on Saturday afternoon, June 25th. Bells (8) will be available. Tea will be arranged followed by business meeting; full particulars next week.—Arthur L. Coleman, Secretary, High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, July 2nd. In connection with this the Southern Railway have agreed to issue return tickets at single fare, by any train, available for that day only. Those requiring the necessary signed voucher, which must be handed to the booking clerk when applying for the cheap tickets, should apply to me without delay. Please make this as widely known as possible.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

YORKSHIRE AND LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.—A joint meeting of the above Associations will be held on Saturday, July 9th, at Halifax. The following rings of bells will be available, Halifax Parish (12). All Souls (8), Northowram (8), Queensbury (8). Tea will be provided at a charge of 1/6 per head and applications for same must reach Mr. F. Salmons, 8, Salisbury Place, Akroydon, Halifax, not later than first post Tuesday, July 5th.—W. H. Shuker and P. J. Johnson, Hon. Joint Secs.

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OVER, CAMBS.—On Monday, May 15th, 720 London Surprise: G. Robinson 1, F. C. Ginn 2, B. Wayman 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, May 29th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob: H. Robinson 1, A. W. T. Ginn 2, B. Wayman 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6. An attempt was made for Plain Bob at Swansey for evensong, but, owing to the bad go of the fifth, the bells were run round at 360.

UPTON, OVERCHURCH.—At St. Mary's Church on June 4th, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,440 changes) in 48 mins.: W. Jones 1, J. Smith 2, R. G. Edwards (conductor) 3, R. Hazelhurst 4, G. R. Edwards 5.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS.—On Ascension Day, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples, from Thurstans: R. Foddy 1, T. Roberts 2, F. Case 3, T. Read 4, L. Smith 5, G. Cooper 6, J. Green (conductor) 7, G. Foddy 8.—On Sunday, May 29th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples, by the late J. Carter, the band standing in the same order as before. T. Read and G. Foddy, longest lengths of Stedman.

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