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SOME THOUGHTS ON 'SPLICING.'

The peal records this week include another departure in 'splicing,' Bob Major and Stedman Triples having been joined together in one true five thousand. Since this form of introducing two methods into one peal was first practised there have been a variety of compositions of this character, largely from the fertile brain of Mr. A. J. Pitman, of Port Talbot. Various methods have been linked together more or less in half peals, and are interesting productions, although in this form they probably require more ingenuity in composition than in ringing. Nevertheless, they do add to the novelty of practice and come within the range of any company that can ring the two methods which are thus treated. As we have said before, however, what we should like to see composers direct their attention to and ringers their energies, are peals with a constant change from one method to the other. Such peals may be difficult to get, and, as between some methods, perhaps impossible, but there is no question as to which form really deserves the application of the term 'splicing.' So far as we recollect by far the best thing of this kind in Triples was the spliced Grandsire and Union, which was rung in South Wales, and in which the method was constantly changed according to which bell was in the hunt. In Major the best thing so far performed is the four Surprise methods, for which the Rev. H. Law James produced a composition, and in which there are 119 changes of method in the peal.

At present, however, it is six bell ringing which offers the widest scope for 'spliced' ringing. In Minor the whole scheme has been put upon a definite and established footing, but the lead which was given by the band at Norbury, Cheshire, does not seem to have been very generally followed, despite the existence of a text book which deals fully and explicitly with the principles and practice of this phase of ringing. Here and there are bands who have taken to this new style, and they find a greater interest in their ringing as a result. Why is it, then, that 'spliced' ringing is not more generally taken up? Is it the innate conservatism of the average ringer, or is it that he is, perhaps, a little lazy when it comes to applying himself to learning something new?

For that matter, why are there not more bands ringing Surprise Minor peals, instead of contenting themselves with seven methods of the simpler kind? Minor ringers have always had the pull over the men who confine their attention to the higher numbers, inasmuch as they have always had the opportunity of changing their method at least seven times in a peal, but the ambitious among the six bell men do not appear to be as plentiful as their num-

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bers would seem to justify. We are not for one moment belittling the performances of those bands who, from force of circumstances, have to content themselves with peals in the simpler methods, any more than we would decry the band who, perforce, have to content themselves with Grandsire Triples. But there are companies whose past records seem to warrant practice in higher methods, and who ought to be able to emulate in some degree the performances of the Cheshire band to which we have referred. In the same way there are eight-bell ringers about the country who seem very content to ring the simple stuff, when a little study and application would enable them to practise much more advanced methods. With the progress of the science, which has carried us now into the splicing of Surprise methods both on six and eight bells, the scope for ringers has been materially enlarged in the last few years, and we should like to see more bands taking advantage of it.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

HERBERT SHEMMING... .. Treble	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE 7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 2	HARRY R. ROPER 8
WILLIAM F. TILLET 3	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE 9
H. CHARLES GILLINGHAM 4	WILLIAM F. GARRETT... .. 10
GEORGE A. FLEMING 5	GEORGE E. SYMONDS 11
ALBERT A. FLEMING... .. 6	FREDERICK J. TILLET ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal of Surprise on an inside bell.

SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 40 cwt. in B.

JOHN HOLMAN Treble	HAYDN THORPE 7
COLIN HARRISON... .. 2	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS 8
EDWARD JENKINS... .. 3	MAURICE WILSON 9
JOHN WILKINSON 4	JOHN THORPE 10
TOM WILDE 5	JAMES H. RIDING 11
ARTHUR KNIGHTS... .. 6	* ERNEST COTSFORTH ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN THORPE.

* First peal on twelve bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.)

On Thursday, December 8, 1927, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6001 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

RAYMOND C. SEAGER (SS. Philip and Jacob) Treble
ALBERT E. STOWELL (St. Luke's, Brislington) 2
MRS. R. J. WILKINS (Clifton Parish Church) 3
ALBERT E. PARKER (St. Matthew's, Kingsdown)... .. 4
JACK CARMAN (St. Thomas') 5
WILLIAM A. CAVE (St. Stephen's) 6
WALTER FARLEY (St. Stephen's) 7
* JOHN G. JEFFERIES (Mangotsfield) 8
JOSEPH GOULD (Henbury) 9
† ERNEST A. ABRAHAM (St. Thomas') Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. A. CAVE.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal. Mr. Farley kindly filled a gap at the last moment.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

*JACK M. CRIPPS Treble	*REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 6
*C. ERNEST SMITH 2	FREDERICK W. CRIPPS ... 7
ALFRED J. BULL 3	KEITH HART 8
*CECIL NICE 4	JOHN DEARLOVE 9
*NELSON ELLIOTT 5	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by C. H. MARTIN.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal on ten bells.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
At St. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5094 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

GABRIEL G. LINDOFF, JUN. Treble	JOSEPH A. ATKINSON ... 6
THOMAS McMORRAN 2	WILLIAM H. WILSON ... 7
HARRY E. WILLS 3	P. C. & ROBERT F. S. MURPHY 8
GABRIEL LINDOFF 4	GEORGE F. WILMOT ... 9
ROBERT TAIL 5	HERBERT P. COLLINS ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Murphy, mother of the ringer of the 8th, on her attaining the ripe age of 94 years.

CARDIFF.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt.

*FRED HANNINGTON Treble	ALBERT J. PITMAN ... 6
GEORGE LARGE 2	JOHN PHILLIPS 7
ERNEST STITCH 3	EVAN COLES 8
JOHN W. JONES 4	ERNEST COOMBES ... 9
SIDNEY DAVE 5	SEYMOUR R. BARKER ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST COOMBES.

* First peal of Caters and first attempt. The ringer of the 8th was elected a member before starting.

WEST HAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

GEORGE HAYDEN Treble	JAMES E. DAVIS ... 6
GEORGE R. PYE 2	WILLIAM H. THROBALD ... 7
WILLIAM MILLER 3	EDWARD D. SMITH ... 8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 4	WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... 9
FRANK I. HAIRS 5	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by JOHN A. BURFORD.

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

EAST RETFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. SWITHIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 24½ cwt.

*WALTER WILSON Treble	*HARRY CARTER ... 6
CHARLES MCGUINNESS ... 2	*CUTHBERT T. H. BRADLEY 7
†JOHN T. BARTRAM 3	HAROLD MARCON ... 8
†EDWARD DALINGWATER ... 4	HARRY MORGAN ... 9
†JOSEPH DIXON 5	†TOM CLARK Tenor

Composed by J. COX.

Conducted by HARRY MORGAN.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal of Caters. First peal of Caters as conductor.

CHEWTON MENDIP, SOMERSET.—On December 1st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 52 mins.: W. R. Curtis 1, L. Pullin 2, H. Baber 3, A. Webber 4, H. Blacker (first attempt for a quarter-peal) 5, R. Middle 6, S. T. Withey (conductor) 7, A. Pearce 8.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr.

*WILLIAM H. FLETCHER ... Treble	JAMES BLACKMORE ... 5
CECIL C. MAYNE 2	RICHARD BUCKLAND ... 6
MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS ... 3	HARRY WINGROVE ... 7
WILLIAM HENLEY 4	*WILLIAM L. GUTTERIDGE ... Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by CECIL C. MAYNE.

* First in the method. Rung on the occasion of the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Bagley. Mr. Bagley has been a ringer at the above church for 45 years.

HEANOR, DERBYSHIRE.

THE EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.

F. COOK Treble	J. LORD 5
W. POYSER 2	W. A. PARSONS 6
C. J. JENNINGS 3	W. LANCASTER 7
W. H. BUXTON 4	*J. WATERS Tenor

Conducted by W. A. PARSONS.

* First peal.

HAGBOURNE, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 30, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLY'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 22 cwt.

ARTHUR W. COX Treble	WALTER V. WEBB ... 5
THOMAS EAST 2	FREDERICK H. ABBOTT ... 6
WILLIAM J. NAPPER 3	RICHARD G. KICE ... 7
ALFRED H. WEBB 4	WILLIAM A. GOODENOUGH ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS EAST.

Rung on the patronal festival. First peal on the bells since rehanging by Mears and Stainbank.

STREATHAM COMMON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF IMMANUEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS'

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN LEE Treble	JAMES BENNETT ... 5
MISS ELLEN E. HARDCASTLE 2	GEORGE H. CROSS ... 6
MISS FRED A. ORR 3	JOHN T. KENTISH ... 7
RONALD BULLEN 4	WALTER J. ANSCOMB ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

Rung after meeting short for Cambridge, Mr. W. J. Anscomb kindly taking the vacant rope.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... 5
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 2	HENRY SIMMONS ... 6
HERBERT A. HOLDEN ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... 7
*HERBERT E. ADDSLEY ... 4	WILLIAM BOND Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT E. ADDSLEY.

* 300th peal.

CHICHESTER.—At the Cathedral Campanile, on December 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 50 mins.: T. A. Doick 1, W. Falconer 2, W. Bolwell 3, H. J. Tucker (composer and conductor) 4, W. E. Ticehurst 5, E. R. Warner 6, J. H. Blake 7, G. Marshall 8.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ISAAC EMERY Treble	*EDWARD MOUNTER 5
OSCAR GILBY 2	GEORGE HUXLEY 6
CYRIL BRETT-SMITH 3	ROBERT BRETT-SMITH 7
THOMAS R. FLINT 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by R. BRETT SMITH.

* First peal in the method. It is 17 years since T. R. Flint rang his last peal.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 23 lb. in F.

HARRY W. MARTIN Treble	ERNEST MORRIS 5
*ALBAN DISNEY 2	NORMAN S. BAGWORTH 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 3	ERNEST F. PAYNE 7
*W. ARTHUR SKINNER 4	ROWLAND BARROW Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal of Major. The conductor's 60th peal this year.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 7, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD, NEWCASTLE,

A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

FRANK ROWSELL Treble	CHARLES H. PERRY 5
RICHARD EVANS 2	ALBERT J. PITMAN 6
JOHN W. JONES 3	DAVID R. JAMES 7
ERNEST STITCH 4	BERT WEAVER Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by CHARLES H. PERRY

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells and for the association, also the first peal in the method rung in Wales. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. John W. Jones, the highly esteemed hon. secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 7, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF SPLICED BOB MAJOR AND STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5055 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN 5
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 2	EDWARD J. BEER 6
JOHN BURLS 3	FREDERICK M. MITCHELL 7
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 4	GEORGE MORRARD Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

This peal contains 3,038 changes of Bob Major and 2,017 changes of Stedman Triples. The composition will appear later.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 8, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF IPSWICH SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

VINCENT TIPTON Treble	GEORGE DENT 5
HARRY SMALR 2	STANLEY CLARK 6
WILLIAM MORRIS 3	JOHN CORDELL 7
LEWIS A. CORDELL 4	WILLIAM WHEELER Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by G. DENT.

First peal in the method in the county, for the Essex Association and by all the band.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 8, 1927, in Three Hours,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

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

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

FRANK BLONDELL Treble	CHARLES J. FRAY 5
GEORGE PULLINGER 2	*FREDERICK G. COLE 6
HARRY BADGER 3	GEORGE WILLIAMS 7
D. CECIL WILLIAMS 4	OWEN H. GILES Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Double Norwich.

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM HENLEY Treble	FRANK BOREHAM 5
CECIL C. MAYNE 2	RICHARD BUCKLAND 6
MISS PHYLLIS MOSS 3	GEORGE MARTIN 7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 4	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE MARTIN.

The thanks of the Guild are due to the Vicar for kind permission to ring and to the steeplekeeper for belfry attention on arrival of the band. The 5th bell was cast by Carter at Reading, 1581, and is inscribed: 'Blessed be the name of the Lord.'

BISHOPSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb. in F.

*EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN. ... Treble	FREDERICK S. BAYLEY 5
GEORGE PULLINGER 2	*WILLIAM E. CHEATER 6
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 3	FRANK BLONDELL 7
*D. CECIL WILLIAMS 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First peal in the method. Also first peal of Bristol on the bells, and first by a resident band in the county. Rung at the third attempt. The band were afterwards kindly entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Pullinger.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*MRS. T. C. RYDER Treble	JOE GARTH 5
MISS EVA HOPKINS 2	*I. COLIN RYDER 6
*MISS NOEL CAWTHORNE ... 3	FREDERICK CARDWELL 7
†ARTHUR PASHLEY 4	FRED WATKINSON Tenor

Composed by G. CROSS.

Conducted by F. WATKINSON.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to the Lord Bishop of Sheffield. F. Cardwell has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal.

OVERSEAL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

*RONALD H. DOVE Treble	CHARLES SMITH 5
*JOSEPH W. COTTON 2	ERNEST W. BRADSMORE 6
HERBERT HURDMAN 3	JOHN HUGHES 7
GEORGE FREEBRY 4	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEO. FREEBRY.

* First peal of Major. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. W. Cotton, an esteemed member of the local company.

LONDON.—On Wednesday evening, November 30th, at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 44 mins.: T. Benney 1, E. G. Fenn 2, E. G. Garrard 3, Harry Dyas 4, C. F. Winney 5, Edgar G. Russell 6, J. S. Hawkins (conductor) 7, E. J. Sampson 8. Rung in honour of St. Andrew's Day.

BLACKBURN.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(CHURCHKIRK SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

SYDNEY BROWN Treble	ARTHUR INGHAM 5
JOHN BEATTIE 2	JAMES INGHAM 6
RICHARD BOLDERSTONE ... 3	JOHN HIRST 7
ARTHUR BROWN 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.
Rung as a birthday compliment to S. Brown.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ROBERT W. JENNISON, SEN. Treble	ALBERT PICKLES 5
THOMAS SENIOR 2	† ROBERT W. JENNISON, JUN. 6
VERNEY BAIRSTOW 3	JOE GREENWOOD 7
* ARTHUR BAIRSTOW 4	WILLIAM AMBLER Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WM. AMBLER.
* First peal inside. † First peal in the method.

BARTHOMLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BERTHOLINE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

* ERIC B. ALLMAN Treble	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 5
JOHN BRASSINGTON 2	† ARTHUR ALLMAN 6
FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY ... 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY 7
WALTER LONGMAN 4	ALBERT ASTBURY Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal of Triples. † 50th peal.

HALESOWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIX-PART, No. 2.

Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT HARRIS Treble	JOSEPH PIGOTT 5
ALBERT HACKETT 2	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 6
VICTOR WHITE 3	HECTOR BIRD 7
JOSEPH H. COX 4	WILLIAM BROWN Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH PIGOTT.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

WALTER STAPLES Treble	SYDNEY E. ANDREW 5
JOHN T. BROWN 2	CHARLES S. H. STILES ... 6
RICHARD SMITH 3	JOHN G. AMES 7
ARTHUR J. FAER 4	* LEONARD H. WRIGHT ... Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.
* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. T. Brown, captain of the above tower. The whole of the band are service ringers.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE & ST DUNSTAN'S DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

E. HAWKINS Treble	R. HAZELL 4
R. GUY 2	S. GREENWAY 5
T. MARTIN 3	F. GARDNER Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS MARTIN.

Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brinkworth on their diamond wedding day.

ORSTON, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double and Single Oxford, Double and Single Court, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

* ARTHUR W. WARD Treble	HARRY HAYNES 4
ALBERT B. COPPOCK 2	HARRY SQUIRES 5
REV C. J. STORTON 3	ARTHUR MACKEARS Tenor

Conducted by A. MACKEARS.

* First peal of Minor in seven methods. Rung to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the dedication of the bells by the Dean of Lincoln after rehanging and augmentation by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

CLIFTON REYNES, BUCKS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

JOSEPH SHARP Treble	AMOS SMART 4
HENRY W. GAYTON 2	WILLIAM STOCK 5
WM. SHARP 3	HENRY STAPLETON Tenor

Conducted by HENRY W. GAYTON.

MORTON, DERBYSHIRE.

EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, called differently. Tenor 4 cwt. 5 qr. 7 lb.

ERNEST DEAKEN Treble	* BERNARD WHEELER 4
WILLIAM SWAIN 2	THOMAS DENT 5
* JOHN MARRIOTT 3	FRED KNOWLES Tenor

Conducted by FRED KNOWLES.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

MARTLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 3, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, College Single, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14 cwt.

FRANK LAWRENCE Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD 4
CYRIL TANSSELL 2	SIDNEY T. HOLT 5
ROBERT G. KNOWLES 3	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

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MATHON, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

THOMAS PRATT	Treble	SIDNEY T. HOLT	4
GERALD FINCHER... ..	2	DAVID HORNE	5
WILLIAM RANFORD	3	GEORGE JORDAN	Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

PETERCHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eleven 240's of Pitman's and twenty ordinary six-scores.
Tenor 10 cwt.

*ALFRED PREECE... ..	Treble	HERBERT COLCOMBE... ..	4
†WILLIAM E. BREWER	2	JAMES P. HYETT	5
GEORGE J. PRICE	3	*HERBERT PIKES	Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' Rung for evening service.

BUCKLAND, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 6, 1927, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Kent Treble Bob, two 720's of Canterbury Pleasure, two 720's of Oxford Bob, and two 720's of Plain Bob.

JOSEPH WALLIS	Treble	*HARRY HOOPER	4
*JAMES JUDD... ..	2	FRANCIS J. SANDERS	5
ARTHUR HOLMAN	3	HUGH R. THORPE	Tenor

Conducted by HUGH R. THORPE.

* First peal in four methods. Quarterly peal for the branch. Also a birthday compliment for ringers of treble and tenor.

NORTH KILWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Clement,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 10 ordinary 120's, and eight each Morris' and Pitman's spliced 240's, each called differently.
Tenor 11½ cwt. (approx.).

RONALD RUSSELL	Treble	J. GEOFFREY GEARY	3
JOSEPH NORTON	2	A. NORMAN GEARY	4
ERNEST MORRIS	enor		

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

First peal on these bells, which are a 'minor' set—i.e., first five of six. The band were cordially welcomed by many 'locals' and the Rector, and entertained to tea and refreshments afterwards. The 106th Leicestershire tower for the conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 24, 1927, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
At 25, KIRKMANSHULME LANE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5095 CHANGES;

*HAROLD JACKSON	1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY	5-6
*FREDERICK PAGE	3-4	*ALFRED BARNES	7-8

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

* First peal. Witnesses: H. Chapman and T. Jones.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Monday, December 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
At 4, CRANMER ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

REV. A. H. BOUGHY (Trin.)	1-2	F. E. HAYNES (St. Cath's.)	5-6
C. W. WOOLLEY (Selwyn)	3-4	S. H. WOOD (Magd.)	7-8

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by S. H. WOOD.

The composition is a 24-part, with the 6th extent in 6th's place.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PRESENTATION TO MR. WALTER HUGHES.

A highly successful meeting of the Liverpool Branch was held at Garston on Saturday. Over fifty members were present.

The main feature of the meeting was the presentation of a canteen of cutlery to the late branch secretary, Mr. Walter Hughes, of Garston, who had held office for twenty-seven years.

Among those present were Archdeacon Howson, who presided, Canon Rowe, Vicar of Garston, Mr. W. H. Shuker, general secretary of the Lancashire Association, and Mr. R. F. Deal.

The Chairman, in a few well-chosen words, referred to the service the late branch secretary had rendered to the branch, and asked Mr. Hughes to come forward to receive this mark of appreciation and esteem from his brother ringers.

Canon Rowe and Mr. W. H. Shuker also spoke of the work done by Mr. Hughes.

Canon Rowe also extended a hearty welcome to the new branch secretary, and wished him success in his new office.

Mr. Hughes suitably acknowledged the gift.

It was pleasing to note that eight new members were elected.

There was a sad note introduced when the members stood in silence to pass a vote of condolence with Mr. H. Ludkin and his family in their recent bereavement.

Appreciation of the hearty welcome to Garston and the usual sumptuous tea was accorded with acclamation.

Canon Rowe, in responding, said how gratifying it was to him to meet the branch annually at Garston, and wished them continued prosperity.

BLACKBURN BRANCH SECRETARY RETIRES.

A meeting of the Blackburn Branch was held at Colne Parish Church on December 3rd, a good number of members being present from Colne, Nelson, Burnley, Blackburn, and Clitheroe, representing seven towers.

The main business was the election of a new secretary through the retirement of the veteran, Mr. J. Watson, after 21 years' service, on account of ill-health.

There were four nominations for the position. A vote by ballot was taken, with the result that Mr. F. Hindle was elected.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. Watson for services rendered.

PRESTON BRANCH SOCIAL.

The seventh annual social in connection with the Preston Branch was held at Preston on Saturday, December 10th, when over 90 ringers and friends were present. The proceedings commenced with ringing during the afternoon, when the standard methods were indulged in. An adjournment was then made to the Parish Church Schools, where Mr. E. R. Martin, in introducing the Vicar of Preston (the Rev. Canon Morris) to the company, said he wished the relations between the visiting ringers and their clergy were all as cordial as between Canon Morris and the local ringers.

The Vicar, in reply, welcomed the company to Preston. The ringers, he said, did a good work for the church, and he thought a bond of sympathy existed between the clergy and ringers. He added that he thought it was not the time to make a speech, as it would be like putting something between the lion and his food.

After tea, a short whist drive took place, whilst some of the keener ringers went to have another pull on the bells. Afterwards, a splendid dance programme, interspersed with songs, was gone through. The singers were Miss Armstrong, Miss Heald, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Knowles. The accompanist was Miss Heald. The different items were well rendered, and were much appreciated by all present. Mr. S. Bleasdale acted as M.C.

During an interval in the programme, the whist prizes were presented to the lucky winners by the oldest ringer, Mr. R. Rigbye, of Eccleston, who, although eighty years old, is still an active service ringer, and during the evening vied with some of the younger people present in participating in the old-fashioned barn dance.

The writer left before the proceedings terminated, but would like, through the medium of 'The Ringing World,' to congratulate those who were responsible for the splendid arrangements made for the comfort and enjoyment of the visitors, and also to thank the artists for their services.

DEDDINGTON BELLS FUND.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION FORBIDDEN.

The following, we are informed, appeared in the issues of the 'Oxford Times' and 'Banbury Guardian' for December 2nd:—

'The organisers regretfully announce that the police have forbidden the draw for prizes in connection with the above fund. They are most grateful to subscribers for their support, and should any desire to have their contributions returned will they please send their numbered receipts, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to the Vicar, Deddington, before December 10th.'

28369. 8.

'CLAPPERLESS' PEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A great deal has been, and will continue to be, said with regard to the 'clapperless peal' at Canterbury. I have read your article of the 2nd inst., and think I voice the opinion of the majority when I say that the main factors are indisputable. It certainly seems strange that those who took part, in view of their standing, did not stop when they became aware of the fault of the bell. One peal more or less would have made but little difference to the records of the Kent County Association, and, in consideration of the opinions of most ringers, I think there is still the opportunity to withdraw the peal and save the reputations of the band and of the association, as I, for one, being a member of the K.C.A., should not like to think that its records may probably be viewed with suspicion by others.

And that brings me to a theory I have long contended—that the terms 'rang' or 'struck,' appertaining to touches and peals, are not wide enough to cover the range by which these extraordinary peals are achieved. From a mathematical point of view, it is my firm opinion that a peal was achieved, and that that fact can be proved by various means. Therefore, I consider that it may be worth while to use, say, such terms as 'acquired,' 'achieved,' or 'accomplished,' or even 'brought round.'

There is no doubt that the bells were in their true positions the whole time, so where does the objection arise? That they rang a peal is ridiculous; that they completed a peal is indisputable.—Yours faithfully,

KENTISH BOB.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Ely Archdeaconry was held at Willingham on Saturday, December 10th, about 34 ringers being present from Bourn, Chatteris, Dry Draiton, Fulbourn, Hemingford Abbots, Long Stanton, Over, Stapleford, Trumpington, Barley (Herts), and local band.

The service was taken by the Rector (the Rev. A. G. Hair), who gave an interesting address based on the words 'To the glory of God.'

Mr. A. G. Rivers, at the subsequent meeting, spoke supporting the remarks of the Rector, which had left much 'food for thought.'

During the day Surprise ringing was to the fore, London, Wells, York, Durham, Beverley and Cambridge being successful. Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Double Court were also rung, several visitors ringing their first courses in the method.

PEALS AT BODDELLWYDDAN.

In the record of the peal, rung at 'the Marble Church,' Boddellwyddan, Flintshire, on December 3rd, it was stated that it was believed to be the first peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells.

Mr. Francis E. Dawe writes to say that the first peal of Grandsire on the bells (which he conducted) was rung on May 31st, 1896. The other seven members of the band were Wrexham men. This was the third peal on the bells, the two previous having been Treble Bob rung by Liverpool bands.

A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S TRIPLES.

BY ALBERT J. PITMAN, PORT TALBOT.

234567 235476 Continued.

462375 . 2 .	762543 . 3 .	457326 . 5 .
754236 . 3 .	567324 . 5 .	574326 . 1 .
547236 . 1 .	675324 . 1 .	375642 . 5 .
245673 . 5 .	376452 . 5 .	753642 . 1 .
452673 . 1 .	473265 . 5 .	267453 . 4 .
274536 . 2 .	654327 . 3 .	672453 . 1 .
362457 . 3 .	276435 . 3 .	256734 . 2 .
623457 . 1 .	472563 . 5 .	562734 . 1 .
356274 . 2 .	724563 . 1 .	785423 . 5 .
253467 . 5 .	357624 . 4 .	657423 . 1 .
452736 . 5 .	573624 . 1 .	236745 . 3 .
P.L. 423567 . 1 .	465273 . 4 .	362745 . 1 .
Twice repeated, ending with Holt's Plain-lead Single, produces 235476	654273 . 1 .	P.L. 345276 . 2 .
	256347 . 5 .	Twice repeated, ending with Holt's Plain-lead Single, produces 263547 . 2 .
	352764 . 5 .	752463 . 4 .

First rung at Bridgend, Glamorgan, on December 7th, 1927, for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, conducted by Charles H. Perry.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER.—On Saturday, November 23th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 50 mins.: H. Gillett 1, J. Collett 2, S. Pethrick 3, W. Wright 4, B. Phillips 5, E. Pardon (conductor) 6, T. Banning 7, H. James 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples on the bells.—On Sunday, November 27th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: J. Collett 1, B. Phillips 2, H. Packer 3, W. Wright 4, F. Clements 5, H. Gillett 6, T. Banning (conductor) 7, C. Pratley 8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A correspondent writes: 'In the face of the recent controversy on extensions, "Bellitis" has enormous pluck in daring to differ from Shipway's extension of Double n Court Bob. One wonders what your pro Shipway correspondents will have to say on the matter.'

Will all ringers with the surname of Morris write to Mr. E. Morris, 24, Coventry Street, Leicester, with a view to fixing up a Morris peal?

The peal at Pinner, reported in last week's paper, did not mention, as it ought to have done, that the tenor man was born in the parish, almost upon the threshold of the back door of the church.

Mr. G. Alder's birthday peal attempt at Burnham was lost through the second clapper coming out of the bell, but he kept it up in the Five Bells afterwards, without losing his 'clapper.'

A company of fathers and sons is, we learn, to attempt a peal of Stedman Cinques at Shoreditch to-morrow. It will be made up, we understand, of Senior and Junior Matthews, Hibbert, Bevan, Tillet, Groombridge, and Barnett.

The peal at Spreyton, Devon, published in our issue of December 2nd, consisted of Grandsire Doubles, and not Minor, as printed.

Frederick M., and not Frederick A. Mitchell, was the ringer of the 4th in the peal of Oxford Treble Bob at Rainham on December 3rd. That comes of people having names so nearly alike.

A letter from Mr. Walter Charman this week makes a claim to the first peal of Oxford Bob Triples for Warnham tower. It was here, also, on December 17th, 1888, that the first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung.

That famous old ringer, William Banister, called the first peal in Exeter on December 18th, 1875. It was Grandsire Triples at St. Sidwell's.

On the ring of twelve bells, which fire long since destroyed, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, a peal of 6,334 Stedman Cinques was rung on December 20th, 1806.

Exactly fifty years ago next Thursday, the first peal for the Lancashire Association was rung. It was Grandsire Triples at Bolton, and we hope the jubilee will be fittingly celebrated.

A STRICKEN BROTHER.

AN APPEAL TO THE EXERCISE.

One of the greatest afflictions that can overtake a man has befallen a well-known contributor to our columns—'Ireneus Pistor,' who from time to time has enlivened our columns with humorous or caustic comment. 'Ireneus' has lost his sight! Some years ago one eye was irretrievably damaged by an accident, and since then the other has given him trouble. About nine months ago he was stricken with illness which has ended in blindness. This, following on a long period of short time in his employment, has left him in straitened circumstances.

The old traits are still there, despite the distressing nature of his trouble—a brave heart, a cheery spirit and a pride which revolts against making known his troubles to the world.

'Nemo' writes to us as follows:—

'No doubt you and other friends, too, along with myself have wondered what has become of our old friend 'Ireneus,' so I thought I would find his lair and rouse the old lion up. But no, Sir, I was not altogether successful. I found his lair and I found 'Ireneus,' but he was suffering under grievous affliction. After several years of short time at work, nine months ago he was again stricken with illness, which has left him in darkness, as he has lost the sight of the only eye he had left, having lost the other some years ago. He is now trying to exist upon the few shillings allowed from his sick fund with the loving assistance of his only child, a young girl. After doing what little I could to cheer him and his, it was with a sore heart that I left him, still having his "Ringing World" read to him.'

Cannot we, in the Exercise, do something to cheer the heart of this stricken brother? This is a season of giving, when with hearts full of goodwill we do our best to bring joy to those around us. A quick response would brighten the Christmas of this little family, whose breadwinner is bereft of the blessing of sight and is hard put to it. He gives twice who gives quickly.'

We should be pleased to forward and acknowledge any gifts if sent to this office and marked 'Ireneus.'

THE KENT ASSOCIATION'S HON. SECRETARY.

The Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, Minor Canon and Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral, who is well known as honorary secretary of the Kent County Association, is resigning the benefice of Stodmarsh, which he has held since 1915.

Mr. Helmore was ordained in 1875, and went to Hereford Cathedral. In 1877 he went to Stratford-on-Avon Parish Church as Precentor, and since 1878—that is, for the long period of 49 years—he has been associated with Canterbury Cathedral. During that time he has served under four Archbishops and four Deans. He had also served as Sunday evening lecturer at St. Mildred's Church, 1874-96, and as Chaplain of Canterbury Poor Law Institution 1882-1916. Stodmarsh, which has a population of 105, is in the gift of the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and the income of the benefice is £150 gross.

A BEGINNER'S THEORY.

BY 'MINORMANIA.'

METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

A 'method,' in the practical sense of the term, is a collection of rows which are produced by the **SYSTEMATIC** changing of pairs. Actually, the system which is used is the method; a different method means a different system of changing the pairs.

A bell which does not make one of a changing pair is forced to retain the same position in the row, or to 'make places'; certain bells **NOT** being changed cause certain places to be made. Alternatively, bells making certain places cause certain particular pairs to change. Therefore, the changing of pairs and the making of places are synonymous, and for the sake of ease we refer to the places in the rows, rather than to the pairs which change. 'First's and second's' (places) signifies that only the last three pairs (in Major) will change. 'First's and eighth's' means that only the three 'inside' pairs will change.

For the purpose of this article we call first's and eighth's in Major 'places,' but strictly they are not places in the sense that 2nd's and 4th's are places. The former are made because the bell that makes them can go no further in the direction in which it is hunting, and has to turn about. In themselves they have no effect on the coursing order, as 'interior' places have. But for convenience we will call them 'places.'

In dealing with an **EVEN NUMBER** of bells, it is impossible for one place alone to be made in a row; one place being made will cause at least one other. Certain of the places will cause another place to be made in a **DEFINITE POSITION**. For instance, when speaking of '2nd's place' being made, first's place also is understood, because the bell in the first position can do nothing else. Similarly, if 7th's place is made, 8th's place also is understood.

For the moment, we will accept as a fact that it is undesirable that more than two places be made in any one row, other than in a 'call row.' Then 3rd's place being made, it is understood that the bells in the 1/2 places will change to avoid this. Similarly, with the bells in the 7/8 places, if '6th's place' is made. Also, it is usual to change the pairs immediately next the place which is made, leaving the unavoidable place to be made by the bell which **CANNOT CHANGE**—either 1st's or 8th's places, as the case may be, unless otherwise stated.

The most elementary of 'systems' is the changing of **EVERY PAIR** each time, which, of course, will produce two rows only—12345678 and 21436587.

The next system is the one which changes first four, and then three pairs; in other words, which alternately makes no place, and '1st's and 8th's.' This produces our 'plain hunting course' of 16 rows, and is called the 'Plain Hunt Principle'—'principle' because **EVERY BELL** does the same work in the course; 'plain hunt' because this work is a straightforward path from the lead to behind, and vice versa. Notice therein, that no row contains more than two places.

If we make a new method by altering our principle at one row only, transferring the places to 1st's and 2nd's when the treble leads, we find that our new system will produce seven leads of 16 rows each, being 112 rows to the course. This we name Plain Bob Major, and the lead-end produced is 13527486 (instead of 12345678 in the principle).

We have steadfastly ignored the treble in our 'coursing order,' in the endeavour to point attention to the coursing pairs, but we will now examine the position it holds in the coursing order of our principle. The bells actually appear at the leading position in this order: 24687531-24, etc., and we agree that this will be repeated so long as we do not alter our system. Then, in the principle, the treble is between the '32' coursing pair. Immediately we disturb the plain hunting of the bells by transferring the places when the treble leads, the coursing order in the following lead becomes 32468751-32, etc., the treble having 'moved up one,' now being between the 53 coursing pair; and, every lead being a replica of the first, in each succeeding lead of this method the same thing will occur—the treble 'moving up one' and the remaining bells preserving the same order:—

Lead No: Coursing Order:—

1. 246875312
2. 324687513
3. 532468715
4. 753246817

etc., etc.

The proper way to view this 'moving up' is, that the treble **EXCHANGES PLACES** in the coursing order with the bell that is **COURSING BEFORE** it, in every successive lead of the plain course until it reaches its original position at the end.

We have already found one very good reason why the coursing order should be maintained as much as possible; also, we know that if the **EXACT** coursing order of the principle is preserved we can only produce 16 rows. So we produce a new system (or method) which is based upon the other, and which has the effect of moving the treble **SYSTEMATICALLY** through the seven possible places in the coursing order, thus producing the seven different leads without disturbing the coursing order of the remaining bells.

We can now produce only 112 rows, and are compelled to **EXTEND** our method by the introduction of calls, which, as we have already found, disturb the coursing order of the other bells and introduce fresh leads. Once the call is made, we revert to the steady progression of the treble through the seven places of the new coursing order.

When the treble changes places with the bell which is coursing before her, the rounds lead-head is transposed into 13527486 at the lead-

end. Therefore, each time the coursing order is altered in this way, the lead-head will be transposed by 13527486; in fact, this is how we produce the lead-ends of Bob Major—by using the first lead-end as the transposition row.

Then we may assume, within limits, if a method produces 13527486 as its first lead-end, that similar action has taken place **WITHIN** that lead.

Now each of the seven plain course lead-ends of Bob Major is a transposition of the previous one by 13527486. It follows that each successive one is 'so many times' removed from rounds **BY THIS TRANSPOSITION**. In other words, the second lead-end 1573826, actually, is rounds transposed by 13527486 **TWICE**; the fifth lead-end 16482735 is rounds transposed by 13527486 **FIVE TIMES**; and so on.

Presumably, therefore, a method which produces 15738264 as its **FIRST** lead-end has, within its first lead, **DOUBLE THE ACTION** that takes place in the first lead of Bob Major, and when we use the first lead-end (15738264) for the transposition row, in producing the lead-ends in the plain course of this method, we really transpose each one by 13527486 **TWICE** to produce the lead-end **NEXT FOLLOWING**.

In another way, **ONE** lead of this method is equal (in transposition) to **TWO** leads of Bob Major. Similarly, a method which has 16482735 for its first lead-end is equal to **FIVE LEADS** of Bob Major transposition. Then, in the latter case, for instance, we should assume that the treble has 'moved up' five places in the coursing order in the one lead of this method.

Then every plain course lead-end of **ANY** 'regular' method is really the transposition of rounds by 13527486 'so many times,' bearing in mind that it might be possible for rounds to be transposed by 13527486 **EIGHT TIMES**, which would bring us back to 13527486 again, etc., etc.

With the foregoing firmly in mind, we can turn attention to the **CAUSE** of the treble's exchange of places in the coursing order. First notice, in the principle, that 1st's and 8th's places in the rows do not disturb the coursing order in any way. Then observe the bell which is **COURSING BEFORE** the treble (the 3). She is always preceding the treble, whether travelling from the front to the back of the rows, or vice versa; she always gets there first. Examine the action which takes place when she crosses the treble's path at 86745231. She makes a place (8th's), crosses the path, and immediately hunts **AWAY FROM** the treble, or 'before' the treble, which courses **AFTER** her. This happens throughout the system, and, all bells doing the same work, the other coursing pairs are acting similarly.

In our new method we cause 2nd's place to be made (when the treble leads) by the bell which is coursing before her. The 3 makes a place (1st's) and crosses the treble's path as usual, and then, instead of hunting away, she makes **ANOTHER PLACE IMMEDIATELY**, which causes her to become the bell that is now coursing **AFTER** the treble, having taken the place in the row that would have been occupied by the 2 in the ordinary way, and the 2 was coursing after the treble. Thus are '31' reversed in the coursing order while the other bells retain the same relationship. Notice that the 'dodge' performed by '254768' here does not disturb their ultimate positions in the row, and that '13' has become '31':—

135254768

130000000

31254768

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

etc.

Then the action is: The bell 'before' the treble makes a place, crosses the treble's path, makes another place immediately, and hunts **AFTER** the treble, producing 13527486 as the lead-end.

Now, instead of doing this when the treble leads, transfer this action to the two rows when she is behind, by causing the 3 to make 7th's place there, taking care to make not more than the usual two places in the row, after which carry on with the principle (first 4, and then 3 pairs):—

We produce 13527486 as the lead-end, and action similar to that of the Bob Major has taken place. The bell before the treble (the 3) makes a place (8th's), crosses the path and makes another place immediately (7th's), and then, theoretically, hunts after the treble by recrossing her path, which the bell that is coursing after her would do in the ordinary way. This method is called **Reverse Bob Major**—'reverse' for a very obvious reason.

This is the eighteenth of the series of articles which have been specially written for beginners by 'Minormania,' to explain to them the theory of change ringing. These articles are not merely for perusal. If they are to serve the purpose for which they are intended they must be studied.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL.

Mr. W. A. Cave (Bristol) writes: 'On September 9th you published five peals of Cambridge Surprise Royal by Mr. G. E. Symonds. I wish to point out that No. 2 was composed many years ago by Mr. John Carter. I had it by me for some years, but did not call it until February 11th, 1926, and it will be found in the Gloucester and Bristol Report.'

KIMPTON, HERTS.—On Thursday, September 29th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: G. Cain 1, A. Gillings (conductor) 2, D. Luck 3, J. Wells 4, H. Fellows 5, T. Cann 6. Rung at the close of the harvest service. First 720 by ringer of the treble, who is 14 years of age.

THE EXTENSION OF METHODS.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In his letter of a few weeks ago, Mr. Law James tells us that 'the first thing to do is to lay aside all theories and to study facts.' In the sense in which I believe he meant it, this is sound and necessary advice, and I should like to expand and explain his meaning.

We all of us (all of us, that is, who have experience as practical ringers) know quite well what we mean by a true extension, so far as actual ringing is concerned. We know definitely and beyond all question of contradiction that Bob Major is the correct extension of Bob Minor, Kent Major of Kent Minor, Duffield Royal of Duffield Major, and so on. And when we talk of an extension of any method we do quite definitely mean that so far as practical ringing is concerned it must be related to its original as these are. And this view is a thoroughly sound one. It has behind it not only the actual experience of the individual ringer, but also the inherited experience of the whole Exercise for more than two centuries. During that time there has grown up an instinct on this question among ringers, and the one final test is that this instinct must be satisfied. The Exercise itself, consisting of practical ringers who ring, is the final judge, not any body of 'experts,' however eminent, who only, or mainly, theorise. Mr. J. W. Parker, at the Central Council, was using a sound argument when he said that if Shipway's Superlative Royal is really a true extension of Superlative Major, we should not have had to wait for a hundred years for the second peal of it to be rung—except that he forgot that it takes time for the Exercise to assimilate these higher methods. It took about a hundred years before the Exercise was ready for Cambridge Royal, but, when it was ready, it at once accepted it as the correct extension of Cambridge Major. In the same way, if Shipway's Royal is really Superlative, the Exercise will in due course adopt it. And if not, not.

But we must realise that the capacity of the practical ringer to judge on this matter, this instinct, as I have called it, depends entirely on his actual and inherited experience. It does not depend a little bit on any conscious reasons or any definite thinking which he has done for himself. On the contrary, directly he begins to think about it and to try and find reasons, he is sure to go wrong, or at any rate to see but a small part of the question. It is a paradox, but it is perfectly true, that if a band of competent Surprise ringers, who had not previously concerned themselves with questions of extensions, were to practice Shipway's Royal, they could give an approximately correct answer to the question, 'Is it Superlative?' But directly they began to think, and to try and find reasons, they would certainly go wrong. And the reason is that though this instinct is real and in its sphere definite, it is far too elusive to be put down readily into words. Men turn to the figures to find their reasons, and they are immediately faced with a number of details. One or more of these attracts them, and is given an importance not really warranted. The temptation is to force everything to agree with the ideas thus suggested. These are the 'theories' against which Mr. James warns us.

But there is a way in which we may form theories and use them to find out the truth. It is not a method of working which I personally think is the best in this matter, but I am not writing to express my own views so much as to try and help others to think out things for themselves. And this method of working will suit some men and runy do good.

For more than two hundred years the Exercise has been ringing and extending methods. During that time there has been evolved a number of extensions of methods which perfectly satisfy all requirements. These extensions are universally recognised, and they constitute a standard for all possible extensions. There is not a large number of them. They differ in many ways one from another: some are simple, some are complex. But in every case the extensions appeal to the ringer in the same way. We know, as I have already said, beyond all fear of contradiction, that Bob Major is the correct extension of Bob Minor, and for exactly the same reason we know that Cambridge Royal is the correct extension of Cambridge Major. Well then, let us try and find out what that reason is. Let us take all these methods, examine and study them thoroughly, and, having done so, let us see by experiment if we can find a theory which will perfectly cover all the ground. Having got that theory then (and this is the most important thing of all), test it thoroughly. Do not seek for reasons to support it; they will come readily enough. Seek for anything which will upset it.

I will illustrate what I mean by an example. You may be tempted to lay down as a general law that, if the original is a double method, then any extension of it must be double also. I suppose most people would on first thoughts take this as almost obvious. I suppose that everybody who has tried to extend Superlative to Royal or Maximus has at the outset ruled out any extensions which were not double. Now it is extremely probable that any true extension of Superlative will be double. But supposing you could get an extension not double which in other respects satisfied your requirements, would that be a true extension? Most of our 'experts' would, I fancy, answer 'No.' But here comes the value of testing from a knowledge of all the accepted extensions. Duffield Major is perfectly double. Duffield Royal is not. But Duffield Royal, by the consent of the Exercise, is a true extension. Therefore it is a fallacy to say that because the original is double the extension must be so also.

Or, to take another instance. Some time ago (I forget exactly when and where) a theory was put forth dealing with the position of places. It was pointed out that in the second change of Superlative you have two places made—third's and sixth's. Now third's is third's from the front and sixth's is third's from the back, therefore there is a certain symmetrical relation between these two places. Hence it was argued that in Superlative Royal this relation must be preserved, and the places must be third's and eighth's. Shipway makes third's and sixth's (as in the Major), and therefore his extension was condemned. Is there any truth in this theory? Test it and see. Turn to Oxford Treble Bob Minor. In the second change you have two places made—third's and fourth's. Third's is third's from the front, fourth's is third's from behind. Hence, if this theory be sound, the Major should have third's and sixth's made, which any practical ringer can see is absurd.

One more example. Shipway gave implicitly, if not explicitly, a general rule that the nine bell extension of any eight-bell method (treble a plain hunt) can be had by adding a bell in the hunt, and that the extension so got is fully entitled to be considered the same method and to have the same name as the original. Test the theory and see if it is sound. There are over eight hundred plain Major methods in the Central Council's complete collection. If these are not immediately available, there are sixty-six in the published collection. You will find there is not one to which this rule does not apply. If you can, ring the Cater variations and see if they are the same method as the Major. If you cannot, draw out a skeleton course. You will find that Shipway is abundantly justified, and, since this theory stands the one vital test, you can put aside as irrelevant any objections that can be raised.

COURT METHODS.

STRUCTURE AND EXTENSION.

The structure of all Court methods is contained in the three following four-and-twenties:—

1234	4321	1234
2134	4312	2134
2314	4132	2314
3241	1423	2341
3421	1243	2431
4312	2134	2413
4132	2314	2143
1432	2341	1243

These three can all be extended either by adding a bell in the hunt or a bell in the work, all the way up to Maximus and beyond. We can get three five-bell methods with a bell in the hunt, and three more with four working bells.

1342	2431	1423
The double method bell added in the hunt.		
12345		

The single method, adding a bell in the work.

12345	12345
21435	21354
24135	23145
42315	32415
43251	34251
43521	43521
45312	45312
45132	54132
41523	51432
14253	15342
12453	

13524

Single and Double Court Bob Minor appeared in the 'Campanologia' in 1677. The figures are so well known that there is no need to print them here, but the three following variations are important:—

Single.	Double.	Double Norwich.
123456	123456	123456
213546	213546	213546
231456	231456	231456
324165	234165	234156
342615	243615	243516
436251	426351	234561
463521	462531	
645312	645213	243651
654132	654123	etc.
561432	651432	
516342	615342	
153624	165432	

135264	156342
etc.	etc.

Now Minimus, Doubles, and these three variations are of no practical value in the tower, but they are all useful in extending Court methods.

Take the 'Collection of Major Methods' published by the Central Council, and you will find Nos. 4, 8, and 12 all come from Double Court Minor, Nos. 19, 31 and 35 from Single Court, No. 23 comes from Double and Single Court, and all the pure Major methods in the book come from Plain, Reverse and Double Bob, Single, Reverse and Double Court Minimus, and most of the mixed methods from these with the three variations of the Minor which I have given.

(Continued on next page.)

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch took place at Prestbury on Saturday, December 3rd. Owing to serious illness adjoining the tower the bells could not be rung, to the great disappointment of the large number present, not a few hoping to get their first pull on a peal of eight. However, the Vicar (the Rev. Baghot de la Bere) had a huge fire in the Church Room, where handbell ringing was indulged in until service time. The service held in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the association Master (Rev. C. D. P. Davies) reading the lesson. After service, all adjourned to the Church Room, where they were the guests of the Vicar to a substantial and well served tea.

Owing to the Vicar having to take evensong, the Master was voted to the chair, and had the support of some 50 members from the following towers: Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Swindon, Dumbleton, Alderton, Elkstone, Winchcombe, Twenning, Kemerton, Badgeworth, Witcombe and Prestbury.

The Secretary said he received valuable assistance from all members, especially G. H. Walters (Prestbury), F. Nurden (Dumbleton), and W. Oakley (Badgeworth).

A letter regretting absence was received from the esteemed chairman of the district (Rev. A. D. Pennington).

The following new members were elected: Mr. G. A. Nock (Elkstone), hon. member, Messrs. W. Grubb (Winchcombe), G. W. Kilminster, T. Davies, T. W. Parsons, R. Townsend, T. Parsons (Badgeworth), R. Lloyd and F. Beecham (Swindon). The following officers were elected for 1928: Chairman, Rev. A. D. Pennington (Alderton); representative, G. H. Walters (Prestbury); hon. secretary, W. Yeend (Swindon).

St. Mark's (Cheltenham) was selected for the next meeting (in March). The chairman and secretary urged all to do their best to attend the jubilee meeting at Bristol on Whit Monday. Mr. Hale suggested that a charabanc party be arranged, and this was agreed to, and a small committee formed.

The Chairman proposed, and Mr. W. Devereux seconded, a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for all that he had done to make the meeting so successful, despite the silent bells.—This was acknowledged by the Vicar, who said how pleased he was to have the association in his parish once again.—This concluded a very happy meeting.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Christchurch District was held at Christchurch, Hants, on Saturday, December 3rd, and was attended by about 50 members, those present including Rev. W. H. Gay (Christchurch), Rev. Larner (Milford), Mr. G. Preston (district secretary), Mr. G. Williams (Master), Mr. G. Pullinger (general secretary), and members from Bournemouth, Brockenhurst, Christchurch, Lymington, Lyndhurst, Milford-on-Sea, Ringwood, Sopley, Poole, Fareham and North Stoneham, and a visitor from Luton, Beds.

At the business meeting, which was presided over by Mr. E. E. Elliott, the retiring officers were re-elected, and it was decided to hold district meetings at Bournemouth, Lymington, Fordingbridge and Christchurch.

The Master gave a report of the special general meeting which was held at Southampton on October 22nd last.

The bells at the Priory Church were available for ringing during the afternoon and evening, the methods practised ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Kent Treble Bob Royal.

(Continued from previous page.)

Finally, take Double Court Minimus, which we have seen, and extend it step by step up to Maximus, ignoring all extensions from six bells upwards which cause a bell to strike more than two blows behind; we have seen Doubles and Minor.

In Major, the 3rd can make 4th's and 3rd's or 6th's and 5th's, and also the 3rd can make 4th's and 3rd's, and the 5th 6th's and 5th's (this is Double Norwich)—three methods.

In Royal, the 3rd can make 4th's and 3rd's, 6th's and 5th's (this is Double Court), or 8th's and 7th's. The 3rd can make 4th's and 3rd's, and the 5th can make 6th's and 5th's or 8th's and 7th's (this is Double Norwich). Or the 3rd can make 6th's and 5th's, and the 5th 8th's and 7th's. Or the 3rd can make 4th's and 3rd's, the 5th 6th's and 5th's, and the 7th 8th's and 7th's—seven methods.

In Maximus, in the same way the 3rd can make her places in 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, or 9-0. The 3rd in 3-4 and the 5th in 5-6, 7-8, or 9-0. (The last of these is Double Norwich.)

The 3rd in 5-6, and the 5th in 7-8 or 9-0.

The 3rd in 3-4, the 5th in 5-6, and the 7th in 7-8 or 9-0.

The 3rd in 3-4, the 5th in 7-8, and the 7th in 9-0.

Finally, 3, 5, 7 and 9 can all make places—thirteen methods.

This makes twenty-four extensions from the four-and-twenty on four bells, all of which are practical methods, and all of which are of equal value as extensions.

Surely this shows how futile it is to say that Double Norwich Royal and Maximus are not Double Norwich. They received that name a hundred years ago, and other extensions must have other names.

Now look at the Maximus with places in 5-6 and 7-8. It is much more like the Major from a practical point of view than Double Norwich Maximus. It is quite as much, and no more, an extension of the Major. It is well worth ringing, but it must have another name.

Finally, we can get Triples from Minor, Caters from Major, and Cinques from Royal by adding a bell in hunt. H. LAW JAMES.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

A SILVER CUP FOR COMPETITION.

The last meeting of the year was held at Sutton-on-Trent on Saturday last, where one of the most beautiful peals of six bells is installed in the tower of All Saints' Church. They are tuned on Taylor's latest harmonic principle, and their sweetness and purity of tone is the admiration of all ringers. A good attendance was naturally expected at this meeting, but only 20 turned up, the inclement weather of the early morning, perhaps, having something to do with it. The ringers hailed from Newark, Southwell Cathedral, Warsop, Worksop, Ordsall, Barlborough, East Retford and Shireoaks, and there was also a good number of the local company, including the Misses Burchnell.

The following methods were rung during the afternoon and evening: Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent, Violet, Duke of York, Double Oxford Bob, Oxford Bob, Stedman, and Cambridge Surprise. A good course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Messrs. H. Revill, Rev. R. F. Wilkinson and two ringers from Southwell.

The association's silver cup, presented by Mr. Arthur Rawford, of Rampton, adorned the tea table. It was given in memory of his late father by Charles Rawford, of East Markham, who was a ringer and member of the association for 36 years.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. Haigh) moved that the best thanks of the association be accorded to Mr. Arthur Crawford, of Rampton, for presenting the cup, and said he was sorry overpressure of business prevented his attendance at the meeting.—This was carried with acclamation.

The cup will be competed for next year, and will be held for twelve months by the winners. Probably the best regular attendance for Sunday service ringing, combined with the smallest number of faults in a test piece for ringing, will decide its destination for the year.

Tea was provided in the Church Institute by Mrs. Scott and others, and the general meeting followed.

A discussion took place on 'open' and 'closed' leads, in which the general secretary, Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Mr. F. Hargreaves and Mr. P. Hibbard took part, and it is hoped some good may result therefrom.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar of Sutton for the use of the bells and Church Institute and for presiding over the tea and meeting, also to the ladies for providing such an excellent tea.—The Rev. B. M. Hawes briefly responded.

Further ringing was indulged in up to 9 p.m.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

A meeting was held at Horbury on Saturday. Although the weather was damp, dull and dispiriting, members attended from Sandal, Shelley, Felkirk, Royston, Wath, Barnsley, Arncliffe, and a good muster of the local company. There was also a very welcome mixture of kindred spirits from neighbouring towns who are not in the association, but all agreed to be ringers first and members after.

Tea was served in a local cafe, about 30 sitting down to attractive fare.

The business meeting was gone through at the tea table, the president being in the chair.

The secretary was asked to make the possible arrangements at the coming annual meeting at headquarters, Barnsley, regarding service in church, the business meeting, etc., also to give notice of committee meeting—all on Saturday, January 14th, 1928.

The bells were freely rung, both before and after tea, in standard methods. Taking the meeting as a whole, it was interesting and much enjoyed by all.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Bradford on Saturday, December 3rd, when over sixty members were present from Lightcliffe, Pudsey, Keighley, Denholme, Shipley, Guiseley, Arncliffe, Bingley, Idle, Earlsheaton, Calverley, Silsden, Kibburton, Huddersfield, Almondbury, Sowerby, Headingley, Far Headingley, Leeds, Queensbury, Liversedge, Rothwell, Drighlington, Horbury, Ilkley, and the local company. The peal of ten bells at the cathedral and the peal of eight at St. John's were rung during the afternoon.

Tea was served in the Captain Street Schools at five o'clock, and the business meeting was held immediately after, Mr. J. Cotterell being in the chair.

Four new members were elected, viz., B. Kendall, L. W. Parry (Ilkley), J. Windle (Denholme), and J. Waterhouse (Pudsey).

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held at Earlsheaton. Votes of thanks were accorded to the respective Vicars and churchwardens for the use of the bells, to the ladies for presiding at the tea tables, and to the local company for the arrangements made. Mr. H. Bland suitably replied, and the meeting then terminated.

The towers were again visited, and further ringing took place.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, December 11th, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,264 Bob Major: W. E. G. Hewson 1, Miss F. E. Orr 2, Miss E. E. Harcastle 3, E. E. Bish 4, C. W. Roberts 5, T. W. Welbourne 6, J. L. Watkins 7, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 8.

CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, December 11th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major in 44 mins.: A. Starley 1, F. R. Hounsell 2, G. Apps 3, T. Mitchell 4, J. Feist 5, A. Absalom 6, G. Wood 7, E. Davey (conductor) 8.

A BELLFOUNDER'S BILL OF THE YEAR 1510.

In the year 1510, when Henry VIII. was king, the wardens of the Church of St. Mary-at-Hill, near London Bridge, decided to put the bells of their church in order. To do this, says 'The Foundry Journal,' they called in no less than three bellfounders, Mr. William Smyth, Mr. Bullesdon and Mr. Coulverton.

The first thing to be done seems to have been to have a supper and consultation at a Mr. Sidborough's, who probably kept the Salutation Inn. At the meal, the food consisted of a shoulder of mutton, six rabbits and five chickens, with bread, ale, wine and beer. The bill for all this amounted to 4s. 2d. In spite of all these delicacies, the parties do not appear to have parted amicably, for the next stage of the business is the arrest of Mr. Smyth, and an action at law against him, which seems, however, to have been dropped.

The next difficulty to be disposed of, was to discover whether Mr. Smyth's bell was tuneable or not, and to decide this, four of the parishioners, with the clerks of a neighbouring church, were invited to meet and to give their opinion. Wine and pears were provided to fortify them for their task. Apparently their report was in favour of Mr. Smyth, for his bell was found to be wholly satisfactory, and despite the late action taken against him a 'skryvener' or professional writer was called in to make an indenture between Mr. Smyth and the wardens for the furnishing of new bells. On this occasion wine was forthcoming, probably to celebrate the readmission of Mr. Smyth to the parochial fold.

The entry in the wardens' books reads:—

'Paid to the skryvener for making of the Indentures betwixt William Smyth bellfounder and the parish.'

At the same time a Mr. Reve was summoned from the neighbourhood of Ludgate Hill. He had 'brekefast' provided for him, for he had come to hear 'if the 4th bell was in tune or not.'

Below are given the items of the bellfounder's account. It will be noticed that the founder does not charge for each bell, but for the metal of which it is made. This was a common custom: for instance, in 1487 a Mr. Nele, for casting a number of gutters, was paid for each hundredweight cast.

The Gods penny mentioned is the penny paid as earnest money to settle or establish the bargain made.

[The Bill.]

for brede and drynk to hym that strake the belles ...	iid.
strekyng [that is lowering] of the iij belles to the grounde ...	iis.
for a C of smale Ropis for to streke the belles ...	xs.
for Drynke to the porters that holpe to stryke the belles for the Cariage of iiij belles to the townders ...	iis.
for to vi porters to helpe them on the slede ...	vi.
for xl. lb. rope for the belles, at id. quarter the lb. Summa ...	iiiiis. iid.
for wyne, at The Salutation, (Inn) at the bargeyne making for the frame of the belles ...	viid.
for the oblygacion (or indenture) making, for that bargeyne ...	iiiiid.
for the goddis peny in honde ...	xls.
to the Carpenter for his full bargayne ...	vii.
to William Smyth, fownder, for a waynskot ...	xliiid.
for sawyng of that waynskot for the bell whelis ...	vid.
for Naylys for whelis of the belles ...	id.
for iiii square bolsters of Iron for the grete belles, weyng vi lb. and di. ...	xliiid.
for Mendyng of xii kayes for the belles ...	iid.
for making for boltes of Iron for your sowith bell ...	xd.
for iiii bokylles for the bawdrykes of the belles ...	viuid.
for dressing of v stayes for the bell whelis ...	xd.
for kays for the stapulles of a bell ...	id.
for i c grete Naylys for the belles ...	xd.
for xii wegis of Iron for the gogsons of the belles ...	vid.
for the dressing of the harnes for the belles ...	vid.
for a bawdryke for the first bell, and for mendyng of the olde bawdrykes ...	xliidob.
to William Smyth, fownder, for iC di. xvi lb. of newe metall to the iiiiith bell, the c xxvii. viiid. Summa ...	xliiis. viiid.
to William Smyth, fownder, for making the scripture about the bell ...	xliis. iiiiid.
for mendyng and garnysshyng of iiii bell clapers ...	vs. xd.
to Coulverton, Bellfounder, for ii C xliii lb. of Newe metall for the grete bell after xxviiis. the C. Summa ...	lixs. vid.
to Bullisdon, in Bates howse, in the presens of Mr. Smart for the Rest of the grete bell, in money ...	xxixs. iiiiid.
for mendyng and garnysshing of the grete bell claper ...	iis. iiiiid.
for ii New Bawdrykes for the belles ...	xliid.
for Drynke at the hanyng vpp of the belles ...	id.

SILVER WEDDING.

The ringers of St. Michael's Church, Stone, Staffs, rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, on September 27th, as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. E. Baker on celebrating their silver wedding. Mr. Baker has been a bellringer 13 years, and a chorister 33 years. H. Hodson 1, H. Buckley 2, J. Moulson 3, W. Buckley 4, C. Templeton 5, J. Head 6, A. Rooley (conductor) 7, E. Baker 8.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED.

The annual meeting of the Southern District was held at Gorseinon on December 3rd, when about 30 ringers attended from Aberavon, Baglan, Cadroxton, Morriston, Swansea, Sketty, Llanelly, Llanstephen, and the local band. A short service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. W. J. Thomas), assisted by his curate. A tea was provided by the Vicar at the Church Hall, and was enjoyed by all.

At the business meeting, the Vicar presiding, Mr. E. Stitch was re-elected hon. district secretary, and Mr. G. W. Hollis was elected auditor.

Sketty was chosen for the next quarterly meeting.

The meeting confirmed the election of the following non-resident life members: Messrs. G. Williams, J. H. R. Freaborn, A. E. Sharman, H. Barton, J. H. Riding, E. Jenkins, W. J. Nevard, and G. Martin, and the best thanks of the Guild were voted to them for ringing the four 'firsts in the method' for the Guild.

The chairman then presented to the captains of the towers present the Guild's certificate. He congratulated all on the good work being done, and wished success to the Guild.

The best thanks of the Guild were given to Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, for his kindness in giving the design of certificate to the Guild.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for taking the service, the use of the bells, for the tea, and for kindly presiding at meeting, to the organist, and to all the ladies who so kindly helped at the tea table.

The Vicar proposed a vote of condolence with the widow of the late Mr. A. Hatton, a life member of the Guild.—This was carried by the members standing in silence for a few moments.

The bells were made good use of, both before and after the meeting.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of North Bucks Branch was held at Buckingham on Saturday, December 3rd, when a representative gathering attended, there being about 40 members present, representing the following towers: Bletchley, Bradwell, East Claydon, Emberton, Fenny Stratford, Maids Moreton, Newport Pagnell, Padbury, Stony Stratford and the local ringers, also visitors from Northamptonshire representing Peterborough Diocesan Guild and Towcester and District Guild. Ringing took place during the afternoon, and a short service was held, the Guild form being used, the Rev. C. C. Naters, Vicar of Buckingham, officiating. After service, a good tea was served, much to the appreciation of all.

The Master, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, unexpectedly turned up during the afternoon, and stayed as long as possible, but had to leave before tea was over owing to a long journey in front of him.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Sear) thought it was an opportune time to ask the Master to say a few words on the subject of peal diplomas for young ringers before such a good gathering, and this he did before leaving.

After tea was over, the Secretary stated that he had no special business to bring before the meeting, but after having heard what the Master had said about 'peal diplomas,' he thought that it would be a good thing if the members would vote either for or against, seeing that there was a good representation of the branch, and they would not get a better opportunity to arrive at some definite decision. On being put to the vote, the proposal was carried.

Further discussions took place on branch work generally for the benefit of all, and proposals made which may mature a little later on. This brought a happy meeting to a close, thanks being given by the secretary to those responsible for making all arrangements.

Further ringing then took place, the methods ranging from Grand-sire and Stedman Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

OXFORD BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Re the peal of Oxford Bob Major at Tring, on looking through our records I find that what was supposed to be the first peal in the method was rung by the Warnham Branch of the Sussex County Association on the bells of the Parish Church on January 10th, 1889, conducted by H. H. Chandler.—Yours faithfully,

WAL. CHARMAN.

Warnham.

MR. E. STITCH'S 50 PEALS.

Doubles 2 (conducted 2), Doubles in two methods 1, Grandsire Triples 23 (conducted 3), Grandsire Caters 5, Bob Minor 4, Bob Triples 1, Bob Major 5 (conducted 1), Stedman Triples 3, London Bob Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Minor 2, Kent Treble Major 1, Spliced Bob Major and Grandsire Triples 1, Spliced Bob Major and Oxford Bob Triples 1; total 50. Rung for three associations, in 16 towers, six counties, with 84 ringers.

LITTLE MUNDEN.—On Sunday, December 11th, for morning service. 720 Oxford Delight: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, A. Woolston 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter (conductor) 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.—For evening service, 720 Duke of York: W. Williams 1, S. Carter (conductor) 2, W. S. Lawrence 3, G. H. Carter 4, A. Phillips 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

BIDSTON, CHESHIRE.—At St. Oswald's Church, on December 11th, for morning service, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, by the local band: R. G. Edwards 1, J. Owens 2, J. F. Smith 3, W. J. Jones 4, G. R. Edwards (conductor) 5, S. Wood 6.—For evening service, a 720 Kent Treble Bob by the local band: G. R. Edwards 1, J. F. Smith 2, W. J. Jones (conductor) 3, J. Owens 4, R. G. Edwards 5, S. Wood 6. First 720 as conductor.

RICKMANSWORTH.—At the Parish Church, for evensong, on Sunday, December 11th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: W. Croseley (first quarter-bell of Stedman) 1, F. W. Elliott 2, J. E. Jones 3, W. Millett 4, G. Foster 5, E. Hookham 6, J. H. R. Freeborn (conductor) 7, T. Gander 8.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On Sunday evening, December 11th, for Confirmation service, taken by the Bishop of Buckingham, at St. Mary's Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans'), in 50 mins.: E. T. Hooper 1, *E. Hudson 2, H. Albrow 3, W. H. Fussell 4, G. T. Leader 5, A. Bateman 6, W. Henley (conductor) 7, *F. W. Gallop 8. * First quarter-peal of Stedman.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday evening, December 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins.: R. Colyer 1, C. Lord 2, G. M. Kilby 3, T. Collins 4, H. Pendry 5, J. C. Jackson 6, H. Kilby (conductor) 7, T. Humphreys 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th and tenor, who began ringing in February last, with Messrs. G. M. and H. Kilby as instructors.

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX.—On Sunday, December 11th, at All Saints' Church, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Nan White (first 720) 1, E. Runter 2, J. H. Myhill 3, E. Kemp 4, W. Prail 5, E. P. Buckingham (conductor) 6.—On December 9th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Nan White 1, H. Devenish 2, E. Runter 3, W. Windley 4, E. Kemp 5, E. P. Buckingham (conductor) 6.

WITHAM, ESSEX.—On Sunday, December 11th, for morning service, 720 Cambridge Surprise: P. Ashcroft 1, W. Butler 2, V. Glass (first 720 inside) 3, A. Evers 4, W. S. Butler 5, E. Bright (conductor) 6. Also 288 Woodbine Treble Bob.—For evening service, 720 Double Court: V. Glass 1, W. Mellin 2, W. Butler 3, A. Evers 4, P. Ashcroft 5, E. Bright (conductor) 6. Also 288 Oxford Treble Bob.

SWINDON.—At St. Mark's, on Sunday, December 11th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: N. Allnatt 1, T. Ricketts 2, A. Heath 3, J. Roberts 4, J. Penny 5, G. Lawrence 6, S. Hopper (conductor) 7, F. Weston 8. First quarter of Triples for treble and tenor, also first quarter as conductor. All are Sunday service ringers and belong to St. Mark's band.

HOUNSLOW.—On Sunday, December 11th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor with tenor covering: H. Gash 1, W. F. Ellingham 2, J. Kent 3, L. Mannering 4, C. J. Tricker 5, F. E. Hawthorne (first 720 of Minor as conductor) 6, C. Gash 8.

PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.—On Sunday evening, December 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. E. Holden (first quarter-peal) 1, A. V. Corden 2, S. H. Picton 3, W. Harwood 4, H. C. Greenfield 5, P. H. Doick 6, A. C. Greenfield (conductor) 7, H. J. Doick 8.

WANDSWORTH.—At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, December 4th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 44 mins.: L. Attwater 1, H. Barrett 2, A. Outmore 3, T. Holloway 4, H. Cook 5, R. Mackrill 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, T. Hendy 8.

GOLDHANGER, ESSEX.—On Sunday, December 4th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Minor in 40 mins., consisting of 360 College Exercise, 720 Kent Treble Bob, and 180 Plain Bob: S. J. White 1, B. C. Mann 2, E. Runter 3, J. D. Buckingham 4, C. J. Mann 5, E. P. Buckingham (conductor) 6.

PENDLETON.—On Sunday, November 27th, at St. Thomas' Church, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: R. Johnson (first 720) 1, S. Greenhalgh 2, T. Jones 3, A. F. Bailey 4, P. Ladin 5, H. Greenhalgh (first 720 as conductor) 6.

STAINES.—At St. Peter's Church, for matins, on November 13th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 48 mins.: J. Brants (first quarter-peal) 1, W. C. Parker 2, A. Worsfold 3, G. Walmesly 4, A. Hiscock 5, F. Goater (conductor) 6, J. Phillips 7, F. Smith 8.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.—At St. Michael's Church, on Sunday, October 16th, for harvest festival evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 mins.: L. Towers 1, C. H. Briggs 2, A. Ballard, jun., 3, C. H. Webb 4, T. Atkins 5, G. Newton (conductor) 6, F. E. E. Pickering 7, T. Barwell 8.

ROSS, HEREFORDSHIRE.—For harvest festival service, on October 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: E. Richards 1, A. T. Poulton 2, T. Napper 3, W. Colwell 4, R. E. Summers 5, W. T. Poston (conductor) 6, W. Poston 7, J. J. Webb 8.

GLEMSFORD.—On Sunday, October 2nd, for matins, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: E. W. Ambrose 1, P. L. Johnson 2, R. V. Johnson 3, J. Sparham 4, C. Watson 5, T. E. Slater (conductor) 6.—For evensong, 720 Plain Bob: E. W. Ambrose 1, H. List 2, P. L. Johnson 3, R. V. Johnson 4, C. A. J. Sparham 5, T. E. Slater (conductor) 6.

SHIPLEY, YORK.—On Sunday, October 2nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major in 48 mins.: *T. Wilcock 1, T. B. Kendall 2, F. Seager 3, T. A. King 4, *Mrs. Seager 5, H. Haigh 6, H. Stott 7, E. H. Simpson (conductor) 8. * First in method. This is the first quarter-peal in method by an all Shipley company.

DEPTFORD.—At St. Nicholas', on Sunday, October 2nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins.: J. Harding (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss Jessie Colegate 2, W. Merrill 3, E. E. Richards 4, *C. Elliott 5, *C. Ridgway (first quarter-peal) 6, G. H. Daynes (conductor) 7, *E. Parsons (first quarter-peal) 8. * P.C.'s of 'R' Division Metropolitan Police. Mr. Ridgway hails from St. Lawrence Abbots, Langley, Herts, and this is his first attempt on eight bells.

LEITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On October 2nd, for morning service, 720 Oxford Delight: W. Williams 1, S. Carter (conductor) 2, W. S. Lawrence 3, A. Woolston 4, G. H. Carter 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.—For evening service, 720 Plain Bob: W. H. Lawrence 1 and 2, W. S. Lawrence 3, A. Phillips 4, S. Carter 5, G. H. Carter (conductor) 6.—On October 9th, for morning service, 720 Cambridge Surprise: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, A. Woolston 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter (conductor) 5, W. H. Lawrence 6.—For evening service, 720 Duke of York: W. Williams 1, S. Carter 2, S. Head 3, A. Phillips 4, G. H. Carter 5, W. H. Lawrence (conductor) 6.

AMBLESIDE, WESTMORLAND.—On Sunday, October 2nd, at St. Mary's Church, for harvest festival evening service, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Bob Major in 55 mins.: W. Robinson, jun., 1, Miss E. M. Stuart 2, W. Nevinston 3, E. Jennings 4, F. Woodend 5, T. F. Hewerton 6, T. B. Newton 7, W. Robinson, sen. (conductor) 8.

HEADINGTON.—On Sunday, October 2nd, at St. Andrew's Church, for harvest festival, in the evening, 720 Grandsire Doubles: *R. Cattle 1, H. Tolley 2, *W. F. Bock 3, *F. Cooper 4, F. Beckett (conductor) 5, *J. H. Berry 6. * First attempt for 720. Great credit is due to these four ringers.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On Sunday, September 25th, at St. Iltyd's Church, Newcastle, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: W. Evans 1, R. Evans 2, B. J. Toby 3, C. H. Perry (conductor) 4, J. Evans 5, A. W. Wright 6, D. R. James 7, W. James 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to D. R. James.—On Sunday, October 2nd, for harvest festival service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: W. Evans 1, R. Evans 2, B. J. Toby 3, J. Evans 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. W. Wright 6, D. R. James 7, W. James 8.—On Sunday, November 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 55 mins.: W. Evans 1, J. Evans 2, B. J. Toby 3, R. Evans 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. W. Wright 6, D. R. James 7, W. James 8. Rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

LINTON, KENT.—On Sunday, September 25th, for morning service at the Church of St. Nicholas, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 46 mins. (Carter's odd and even Bob): T. E. Sone 1, Mrs. Baker 2, R. J. Davis 3, C. H. Sone 4, F. Bennett 5, H. Baker 6, L. Head (conductor) 7, H. Tolhurst 8.

ARKSEY, DONCASTER.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, September 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): F. Garner 1, G. Clarke 2, J. McCluskey (conductor) 3, C. F. Otter 4, H. Arrand 5, E. Arrand 6, E. Cooper 7, T. Revil 8. Rung as a compliment to the ringer of 4th, on his 21st birthday, and to the ringer of the 7th on his 24th birthday.

LEWISHAM.—At St. Mary's Church, September 25th, for evening service, a quarter peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): C. H. Walker 1, H. James 2, W. W. Fox 3, H. Warnett, jun., 4, C. Moulton (first quarter-peal of Major) 5, E. Mounter 6, J. Dafters 7, H. Warnett (conductor) 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, September 25th, for evensong at the pro-Cathedral of St. Thomas of Canterbury, 1,260 Grandsire Triples in 50 mins.: J. H. Blake 1, C. Shepherd (first quarter inside) 2, Mrs. F. A. Burnett 3, J. H. Cassidy 4, F. A. Burnett 5, P. Giles 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, H. L. Aitken 8. All are members of the Winchester Guild except ringer of the treble, who hails from Chichester.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, September 25th, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples by: C. W. Roberts 1, Miss F. E. Orr 2, J. W. Chapman 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, G. H. Cross 6, J. L. Watkins (conductor) 7, W. E. G. Hewson 8.

LONDON.—On Sunday, September 18th, for evening service at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, a quarter-peal of Stedman Cinques: Wilson Rushton 1, E. G. Symonds 2, W. H. L. Buckingham 3, E. F. Pike 4, H. Langdon (conductor) 5, G. N. Price 6, E. Brett 7, W. G. Whitehead 8, A. Harris 9, F. E. Collins 10, G. Rice 11, J. Bullock 12.

BLADON, OXON.—On harvest festival Sunday, after evening service, a 720 Bob Minor: W. H. Thorne 1, F. Tuffrey 2, J. Judge 3, C. Bennett 4, J. Franklin 5, W. F. Judge (conductor) 6. All the above are Sunday service ringers at Kidlington, and this was the first 720 by all except ringers of 3rd and tenor.

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NOTICES.

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

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

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which enables members who have not attended 20 times in the previous year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at *St. Paul's Cathedral on Dec. 27th, Southwark Cathedral on Dec. 29th, St. Magnus' on the 22nd. All at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

OPENING OF NEW BELLS (10), Dalton-in-Furness Parish Church, Friday, Dec. 16th, 7.30 p.m. Dedication by the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness. Preacher, Rev. Canon Bell, York Minster.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A combined practice will be held in conjunction with a committee meeting at Mitcham on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at Parish Church 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30.—Chas. H. Kippin, Winchester, Guy Road, Beddington, Croydon.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A business meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Tower open from 4 to 8. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Business after. Everyone welcomed.—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Phene Street, S.W.3.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Wye on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—C. W. Franklyn, Hon. Sec., 18, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Manchester Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting 7 o'clock.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northamptonshire District.—A meeting will be held at Isham (6) on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Ringing from 2.30. Service 4.15, followed by tea.—S. Thursfield, Hon. Sec., Cranford Rectory, Kettering.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting of the Bristol branch of the above association will be held at Brislington on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Bells open at 3 p.m.—P. C. Williams, Branch Hon. Sec. pro tem., 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—A practice for Bristol will be held at the Parish Church on Saturday, December 17th. Bells available 6.30 to 9 p.m.—Cecil C. Mayne, Beaconsfield.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The next meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec., 18, Royston Avenue, Doncaster.

LOUGHBOROUGH PARISH CHURCH.—Dedication on Saturday, Dec. 17th, of a memorial plaque of the late Mr. John W. Taylor, sen., erected in the tower by his son, Mr. E. Denison Taylor. All visiting ringers welcome. Ringing will take place on the peal of ten bells of All Saints' Parish Church, and also on the Bell Foundry peal of ten. The Bell Foundry will be open to visitors. All welcome.

WHADDON, Near BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—The peal of six (recast by Gillett and Johnston) will be dedicated by the Bishop of Buckingham on Monday, Dec. 19th, at 6.30 p.m. There will be ringing after the service, at which all ringers will be welcomed.—E. A. Selby Lowndes, Vicar.

AN INVITATION.—A peal in a method of distinction is wanted at the Derby Cathedral on Boxing Day, 1927, and experienced ringers who must be good strikers are invited to attempt a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal on the Cathedral bells. The first ten names received will be given preference. Any ringer wishing to conduct same please mention. Time of starting arranged later. Sunday Service ringing 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Practice night Monday, 7.30 p.m. prompt to 9 p.m. Learners invited. Ringers and friends welcome.—James Pagett, 107, Abbey Street, Derby.

ILLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Newport (Mon.) on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th. Bells available from mid-day. Service in All Saints' Church at 4 o'clock. Tea and business meeting to follow in All Saints' Mission House. The bells of St. Woolos' Church also available from mid-day until 3 o'clock and after the meeting.—John W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Barrack Road, Newport, Mon.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Inaugural Meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Dec. 31st : 3 p.m., meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Hall (Inaugural Address by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese); 4.20, Special Service in Holy Trinity Cathedral (sermon by the Lord Bishop); 5.30, tea (1s. each) in St. Saviour's Church Hall, Onslow Street. Ringing in the evening. All ringers residing in the diocese are earnestly requested to attend, and visitors are cordially invited. All those who require tea must notify me by Tuesday, Dec. 26th.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec. pro tem., 63, Commercial Road, Woking.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Bexhill on Saturday, Jan. 7th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea will be provided at 5 o'clock, through the kindness of the Rector and churchwardens. Business meeting to follow. A good attendance is earnestly desired. Half-rail fare (maximum 1s.) to members.—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Dis. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

PUBLICATIONS.

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

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CHORISTER FOR 75 YEARS.

At St. Andrew's Church, Folkingham, Lincs, on Advent Sunday, for evensong, 720 Grandsire Doubles in 27 mins.: Mrs. P. Humphrey (first 720) 1, A. King 2, L. Pell 3, C. T. H. Bradley (conductor) 4, J. Musson 5, G. Rouse 6. This 720 was attempted for matins with bells half-muffled as a last token of esteem and respect to the late Mr. William Hammer, but unfortunately came to grief. Mr. Hammer was 84 years of age, and a lifelong resident in the parish. He was a faithful member of the Folkingham Church choir for over 75 years. His remains were interred the afternoon previous.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

STAMFORD, Lincs.—At All Saints' Church, on December 6th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: F. Lipscombe 1, J. R. Nichols 2, J. H. Bluff (conductor) 3, P. Baldock 4, Jas. Bluff 5, S. Brittain 6. Longest recorded length on these bells, and first quarter-peal by all the band.

EGHAM, Surrey.—On December 1st, at St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, the first quarter ever rung in Egham by a local band: A. Coates 1, E. Burley 2, J. Beeby 3, A. Hiscock 4, W. Peck 5, E. Goater (conductor) 6, W. Worsfold 7, W. Perry 8.

TAMWORTH.—At St. Edith's Church, on Tuesday, November 29th, for Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes, Thurstans'), in 46 mins.: C. Chapman 1, H. J. Dakin (first quarter inside) 2, G. Chaplin (conductor) 3, R. P. Brindley 4, A. J. Marks 5, A. Chaplin 6, J. Pratt 7, A. Cooper (first quarter) 8.

FRYERNING.—At St. Mary's Church, on November 23rd, 720 St. Clement's Bob; on November 30th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure; on Sunday, December 4th, before matins 720 York Surprise, before evensong 720 London Surprise and 360 Cambridge Surprise: F. Wright, L. Camp, E. Sitch, C. Harrington, H. Wright, G. Camp, A. Bradley (conductor). First of St. Clement's and Canterbury Pleasure by the company.

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