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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1927.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

There is no festival of the Church with which bells have long been and still are more closely identified than that of Christmas. Indeed their intimate association with Yuletide would seem to go back as far into the mists of the past as the history of rings of bells themselves, for there is a tradition that the original purpose of hanging bells in numbers was that they should be rung at the Christ Mass. However that may be, church bells have played their part in celebrating the Christmas festival in this land for many hundreds of years—centuries before change ringing was introduced. Their connection with this joyous season has been a favourite theme with poets, and bell shapes form the most popular decoration on Christmas cards. In every way the association of ideas blends Christmas and bells, and so our art plays a large part not only in the religious festival, but in the sentiments of the people.

Ringers, therefore, have an important duty to perform at this season; let them see to it that they perform the task worthily. Those who are in the habit of ringing Sunday by Sunday may not, perhaps, fully appreciate how, on the great festivals, they are responsible for interpreting the feelings of churchpeople. Familiarity with their calling may have blunted the sense with which some ringers discharge their obligation; they may even be tempted to think only of their own convenience, and to decide what ringing, if any, they shall do according to the vagaries of fancy at the moment. We have known such cases. Happily, however, they are not frequent, and ringers, as a whole, enter fully into the spirit of the occasion. But Christmas is more than a festival for church-folk. It is, so far as this country especially is concerned, a national festival, into the spirit of which the people enter in a way not shown at any other time. And the people want to hear the bells at Christmas as they do at no other time. An English Christmas without bells would be unthinkable—as well imagine it without the traditional plum pudding.

This year Christmas and Sunday coincide, and ringers ought everywhere to mark it by some additional ringing beyond that which usually precludes the ordinary Sunday services. There ought to be ringing on Saturday, for the Eve of the Festival, and a special period of ringing on Christmas Day itself. Probably this will have been arranged at many churches; we should like to see it generally carried out all over the country, for, to the public, Christmas bells convey a very special message. They stir the emotions, they awaken memories, and do as much to symbolise the spirit of the day as anything that can affect the feelings of the multitude. Thus we

(Continued on page 802.)

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ringers have a duty beyond the expression of our own feelings. We ring at Christmas for the delight of others. Let us do it well, remembering that the bells convey the age old message of 'Peace on earth; goodwill to men.'

'The time draws near the birth of Christ;

The moon is hid; the night is still;

The Christmas bells from hill to hill

Answer each other in the mist.'

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5002 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt.

HERBERT LANGDON Treble	HAROLD N. PITSTOW 7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 2	MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE 8
EDWIN F. PIKE 3	CHARLES S. BURDEN 9
WILLIAM P. GARRETT 4	FREDERICK J. TILLET 10
WILLIAM S. WHITEHEAD 5	JAMES BOLLOCK 11
JOSEPH S. HAWKINS 6	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by HERBERT LANGDON

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOOBURN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

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

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM E. TAYLOR Treble	WALTER ERNEST YATES 5
THOMAS S. GOODCHILD 2	*ERNEST W. ELDRIDGE 6
MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS 3	GEORGE MARTIN 7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 4	THOMAS J. FOWLER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE MARTIN.

* First peal of Stedman. The Rev. H. A. Ball, M.A., Rector, visited the belfry and kindly offered prayers before the start of the peal, and provided refreshments afterwards.

ARDLEIGH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

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

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

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

GEORGE W. MOSS Treble	*STANLEY G. DAVEY 5
*STANLEY G. MOSS 2	WILLIAM CHALK 6
HERBERT W. BACON 3	WILLIAM DENT 7
EDWARD A. LEGGETT 4	WILLIAM J. SCHOFIELD ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN COX.

Conducted by W. J. SCHOFIELD.

* First peal and first attempt. Great credit is due to both these ringers, S. G. Moss being only 16 years of age, for the way they rang. Ringers of 1st and 2nd from Mistley, 3rd and 5th from Ardleigh, 4th from Wormingford, 6th, 7th and 8th from St. Peter's, Colchester.

CODDENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM C. RUMSEY Treble	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 5
GEORGE BENNETT 2	ERNEST F. POPPY 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
WILLIAM J. GROOM 4	JOHN GOOCH Tenor

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

The peal was rung as a birthday compliment to the tenor ringer, and his brother ringers wish to tender their thanks for his kind hospitality after the peal. W. C. Rumsey has now completed the octave in seven towers, viz., Debenham, Framsdon, Helmingham, Framlingham, Worlingworth, Eye and Coddenham.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Day's Six-Part.

*RICHARD BLACKLEDGE ... Treble	*RALPH WORTHINGTON ... 5
GEORGE PINCOFF ... 2	*GEORGE BENNETT ... 6
*JACK KAY ... 3	PETER CROOK ... 7
*JAMES RICE ... 4	*JOSEPH McIVER ... Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal and first attempt. The ringers of the treble, 5th, 6th and tenor were elected members before starting for the peal. J. Rice hails from Tyldesley, the remainder are local.

SHIPLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

PRATT CORDINGLEY ... Treble	WILLIAM BARTON ... 5
*JOSEPH BROADLEY ... 2	*FRED HODGSON ... 6
THOMAS B. KENDALL ... 3	JOHN AMBLER ... 7
SAMUEL WARD ... 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

* First peal of Surprise. Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. H. Stanley Robinson, of Preston, formerly of Leeds, and to celebrate the anniversary of the wedding of Mr. P. J. Johnson.

CHEWTON MENDIP, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Sir A. P. Heywood's No. 1 (slightly transposed) Tenor 24 cwt.

RICHARD CLARK ... Treble	WALTER FARLEY ... 5
ALBERT E. STOWELL ... 2	WILLIAM A. CAVE ... 6
HENRY PRING ... 3	SAMUEL J. HECTOR ... 7
WILLIAM KNIGHT ... 4	WILLIAM R. BAXTER ... Tenor

Conducted by W. A. CAVE.

WARNEHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF COURT BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	*SIDNEY PAICE ... 5
JAMES BURDFIELD ... 2	JACK BRANCH ... 6
WILLIAM HOOKER ... 3	JOHN COOK ... 7
*WILLIAM WATTS ... 4	PETER CHARMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by W. CHARMAN.

* First peal in the method.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

DAN PHILLIPS ... Treble	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5
*ARTHUR ROLPH ... 2	*GEORGE PLAYLE ... 6
JOHN DALE ... 3	†THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 7
*JOHN SITCH ... 4	*ALBERT FRY ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. † Proposed a member of the Essex Association before starting. Rung as a compliment to John Dale on attaining his 63rd birthday.

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LISCARD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIRRAL BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 13, 1927, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5082 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb. in F.

*GEORGE WOOSNAM ... Treble	JOHN BREESE ... 5
DAVID HUGHES ... 2	JOHN HUGHES ... 6
†JOHN GREASLEY ... 3	FRANK WINSTANLEY ... 7
†HENRY MARTIN ... 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by JAMES C. E. SIMPSON

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal of Kent Major. † First peal of Major. This peal was rung to mark the jubilee of the consecration of the church, which took place on December 13th, 1877. All the band are Sunday service ringers at the church, with the exception of ringers of 3rd and 4th.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, December 15, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

*H. WILLIAM BLAKE ... Treble	†WILLIAM SIMMONDS ... 5
FRANCIS E. TAYLOR ... 2	VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 6
*WALTER G. BRIGHAM ... 3	HARRY MILES ... 7
JOHN R. CHAUNDY ... 4	WILLIAM STONE ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY MILES.

* First peal in any method. † First peal of Stedman. This was the first peal on the bells.

BIDDENDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

ALBERT RELFE ... Treble	BERTRAM LUCK ... 5
MRS. H. BAKER ... 2	HARRY BAKER ... 6
TOM SAUNDERS ... 3	ARTHUR H. SMITH ... 7
THOMAS E. SONE ... 4	FREDERICK S. MACEY ... Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN.

Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

Owing to 'engine trouble' and a late start, Mr. P. Hodgkin and Mr. C. H. Sone consented to stand out, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baker kindly filling the gap.

OXENHOPE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Five Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 8864 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*CLARENCE BLACKBURN ... Treble	JAMES INGHAM ... 5
ALBERT MARSHALL ... 2	*ARNOLD BLACKBURN ... 6
FRED HODGSON ... 3	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 7
ERNEST B. BETTS ... 4	WILLIAM HORAN ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN THORP.

Conducted by WILLIAM HORAN.

* First peal in the method. Longest length by all the band. First peal in the method on the bells. Longest length in the method by the association. The band wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, and Mr. E. G. Ayers for having all in readiness, and also for his hospitality after the peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK, DALSTON,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... Treble	JAMES E. DAVIS ... 5
GEORGE R. PYE ... 2	JAMES BENNETT ... 6
CHARLES T. COLES ... 3	JAMES GEORGE ... 7
WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ... 4	WILLIAM PYE ... Tenor

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

The above is the first peal on the bells, although they were placed in the tower in 1877. The Vicar (Rev. J. O. Vince) and Mrs. Vince are again cordially thanked for their hospitality after the peal.

SHOREHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.

JOHN T. RICKMAN Treble	WILLIAM HILLMAN 5
EDWARD C. MERRITT 2	FREDERICK W. CRIPPS 6
JACK N. CRIPPS 3	JOHN DEARLOVE 7
ALFRED W. GROVES 4	KEITH HART Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by KEITH HART.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE A. FLEMING Treble	ALBERT A. FLEMING 5
ROBERT H. BRUNDLE 2	GEORGE W. ABLITT 6
JAMES DURRANT 3	CHARLES PARKER 7
WILLIAM A. WOOD 4	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. A. FLEMING.

* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to C. Parker.

LONG STANTON, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Treble	FRED COOK 5
ERNEST G. HIBBINS 2	HERBERT FIELDS 6
MISS CATHERINE FIELDS 3	A. GEORGE RIVERS 7
GEORGE CRISP 4	*FRANK WARRINGTON Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST G. HIBBINS.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples.

MARSHFIELD, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

JOHN W. JONES Treble	JOHN PHILLIPS 5
TOM FORD 2	ERNEST COOMBS 6
SIDNEY DAWE 3	GEORGE LARGE 7
*GEORGE H. DAY 4	BERT WEAVER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE LARGE.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a birthday peal for the ringer of the tenor and for the conductor's youngest daughter.

SEDGLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 4 lb.

ALFRED ROWLEY Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 5
HAROLD V. COOPER 2	WILLIAM H. COOPER 6
THOMAS HENNING 3	BENJAMIN GODGH 7
JOHN LLOYD 4	ABRAHAM GREENFIELD Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.

Rung in honour of the Vicar, Rev. Dr. T. G. Swindell, who reached his 82nd birthday on the Tuesday previous. The ringers extend their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fullwood for their kind hospitality at the close of the peal.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES HUNT Treble	PERCY SPARKES 5
ALFRED J. WYATT 2	WILLIAM GIGG 6
*HARRY POCOCK 3	PERCY MERSON 7
WILLIAM H. COLES 4	EBENEZER FRIDDLE Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED J. WYATT.

* First peal on eight bells. First peal as conductor on eight bells.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

CHARLES E. PERKINS Treble	*WILLIAM BROWN 5
ROBERT MATTHEWS 2	*HECTOR G. BIRD 6
THOMAS J. SALTER 3	*JOSEPH H. COX 7
WILLIAM GIBBS 4	ALFRED HACKETT Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal of Plain Bob Major. T. J. Salter's 300th peal for this association.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

OKEFORD FITZPAINE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 7, 1927, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with ten different callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*CECIL RIDOUT Treble	*EDWIN RIDOUT 4
*PERCY SPENCER 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
*BEN RIDOUT 3	*SYDNEY GODDARD Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal and members of local band.

LITTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 2, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*SIDNEY T. WITHEV Treble	HERBERT BABER 4
*LEONARD PULLIN 2	HAROLD E. BLACKER 5
*REGINALD MIDDLE 3	†JOHN FORD Tenor

Conducted by H. E. BLACKER.

* First peal of Doubles. † First peal. First peal as conductor. L. Pullin was re-elected a member of the association before starting.

ELMORE, GLOUCESTER.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 4, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

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

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

Being ten six-scores of Grandsire and thirty-two of St. Dunstan's. Tenor 11 cwt.

IVOR WHITING Treble	ARTHUR GAZEY 4
GEORGE WASLEY 2	ALBERT MARTIN 5
WILLIAM WASLEY 3	JOHN WHITING Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT MARTIN.

Rung as a birthday peal to the ringers of treble and tenor.

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BAGLAN, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 5, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Catherine,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising four 120's of Bob Doubles and nineteen 240's of Grandsire Doubles (A. J. Pitman's arrangement).

*E. GEORGE BELLINGER ... Treble	ERNEST STITCH 4
*MISS LUCY THOMAS 2	†ALBERT J. PITMAN 5
*MRS E. G. BELLINGER 3	*ALBERT E. PITMAN Tenor

Conducted by A. J. PITMAN.

* First peal in two methods. † First peal of Doubles in two methods. ‡ 50th peal. Rung as a farewell to Mr. and Mr. E. G. Bellinger, who are leaving for London, the band wishing them success.

CLUTTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 9, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Augustine,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 13½ cwt.

ERNEST F. BROWN Treble	HERBERT BABER 4
LEONARD PULLIN 2	HAROLD E. BLACKER 5
JOHN OWEN 3	C. HENRY PARSONS Tenor

Conducted by H. E. BLACKER.

Arranged for ringers of 1st, 2nd and 4th, of Chewton Mendip, and rung as a birthday compliment to J. Owen, captain of the local band.

CHEDZOY, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

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

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

ERNEST HEAL Treble	LEONARD GIGG 4
BERTRAM T. JEANES 2	WILLIAM GIGG 5
OLIVER BENNETT 3	HENRY CHAPPEL Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM GIGG.

First peal by ringers of treble, 3rd and 4th, and first as conductor. Mr. Bertram T. Jeanes was re-elected a member prior to starting.

WALKERN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE LITTLE MUNDEN SOCIETY.)

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

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS Treble	ARTHUR PHILLIPS 4
SIDNEY CARTER 2	GEORGE H. CARTER 5
ARTHUR WOOLSTON 3	WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

This is the first peal upon the bells. A treble was added here two years ago by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

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

At the Bell Foundry Tower,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,160 of Oxford and 2,880 of Kent, called differently.

Tenor 6½ cwt.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	FREDERICK S. PRICE 4
E. HARRY STONELEY 2	PERCIVAL PRICE 5
FREDERICK J. MILNER 3	JAMES GEORGE Tenor

Conducted by E. HARRY STONELEY.

BIDDENHAM, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

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

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, London Scholars' Pleasure, College Exercise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent.

JOSEPH SHARP Treble	WILLIAM STOCK 4
WILLIAM SHARP 2	CHARLES W. CLARKE 5
HENRY W. GAYTON 3	HERBERT L. HARLOW Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

TYBERTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 6½ cwt.

ALBERT T. BREWER Treble	*EDWIN COLCOMBE 3
WILLIAM E. BREWER 2	JAMES P. HYETT 4
	HERBERT COLCOMBE Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal 'inside.' First peal on the bells.

DINTING, DERBYSHIRE.

THE GLOSSOP ASSOCIATION.

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

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent, called differently.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*T. RICHARDSON Treble	F. BOOTH 4
J. MARSDEN 2	J. LAWTON 5
E. T. MALKIN 3	A. LAWTON Tenor

Conducted by J. MARSDEN.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung with the bells muffled as a last mark of respect to the memory of Jesse Neal, a ringer and leader at this church for 36 years, who died December 1st, 1927, aged 54 years.

BANHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

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

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Plain Bob and two each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 13 cwt.

ERIC BENNETT Treble	WILFRED SAUNDERS 4
*ALBERT G. HARRISON 2	CHARLES F. GOODMAN 5
FRANK CLARK 3	WILLIAM STEGGALL Tenor

Conducted by W. STEGGALL.

* First peal and first attempt. The bells were rehung last February, and it is 14 years since the last peal was rung at Banham.

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

WILLIAM SIMPKIN Treble	FREDERICK BROWN 4
MISS ELIZABETH FOUKE 2	ALFRED MOULD 5
WILLIAM H. T. KING 3	JACK BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by J. BAILEY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

GREAT BARDFIELD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 720 Cambridge Surprise, two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, two of Woodbine Treble Bob, and two of Oxford Treble Bob.

ARTHUR PIPER Treble	FREDERICK SUCKLING... .. 4
FRANK HARRINGTON 2	ERNEST TOWNSEND 5
WILLIAM PIPER 3	JOSEPH JENNINGS... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM PIPER.

All are local ringers except the ringer of the 2nd, who comes from Stebbing. Rung to celebrate the 55th birthday of the ringer of the 4th, who has been a regular ringer at the above church for 40 years. First peal as conductor.

MARDEN, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 11, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being twelve 240's of Pitman's, four of Morris', and five of ordinary Grandsire. Tenor 16½ cwt.

*ROLAND F. W. KINSEY ... Treble	GEORGE J. PRICE 4
WILLIAM G. T. BARRETT... .. 2	JAMES P. HYETT 5
THOMAS W. ROWLEY, SEN. 3	HAROLD H. W. KINSEY ... Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal. Rung for evening service.

BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 12, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

MISS ELIZABETH ADDISON Treble	MRS. ANNIE BOWDEN 4
*FREDERICK LANGTREE 2	EDMUND THOMPSON 5
WILLIAM T. CLARK 3	JOHN P. BARKER Tenor

Conducted by EDMUND THOMPSON.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

RUSHALL, STAFFS.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Twelve different callings. Tenor 7½ cwt.

HERBERT KNIGHT Treble	JOHN PERRY 4
ROBERT PICKERING 2	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 5
JOHN C. ADAMS 3	EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

First peal of Stedman Doubles on the bells, first on tower bells by all the band and for the society. The band have all rung peals of Stedman from Doubles to Cinques.

NORTHCURCH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Oxford Bob and four of Plain Bob.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*OWEN BAYES Treble	†HENRY GOLDING 4
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 2	†JACK STOPP 5
HERBERT GATES 3	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor in more than one method. First peal of Minor on the bells.

HANDBELL PEAL.

SIRLE HEDINGHAM.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 14, 1927, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF L. WISEMAN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

*BERT COCK 1-2	OLAVE BROYD 3-4
LEWIS WISEMAN... .. 5-6	

Conducted by LEWIS WISEMAN.

* First peal in any method. Rung as a birthday compliment to the sixth daughter of the conductor.

DUDLEY & DISTRICT GUILD.

MEMORIAL TO MR. W. ROCK SMALL.

On Saturday, December 3rd, the quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at St. Martin's Parish Church, Tipton. The bells were placed at the disposal of the members during the afternoon until the Guild service at 4.30. At 4.15 there was a crowded audience in the belfry for a short dedication service. There were present the Vicar, who officiated, the Rev. W. R. Noel Naylor (assistant priest), the churchwardens, Mr. F. Fantom, Mr. A. Matty, Mr. A. Rowley (Ringing Master), the sons of the late Mr. W. Rock Small, and a number of ringers from the neighbouring churches.

The Vicar referred to the notable and noble record of the late Mr. William Rock Small as a ringer for 60 years, 40 of them being devoted to the service of Christ at Tipton Parish Church.

A tablet to his memory was then unveiled by one of the seven sons, who have already collectively given a stained-glass window to the church in memory of their father.

The memorial tablet records particulars of two peals, viz., the last peal in which the late Mr. W. R. Small took part, and the peal subsequently rung half-muffled to his memory.

The Vicar then dedicated the tablet to the glory of God, and closed with prayer and the Benediction.

A plain course of Stedman Triples (Mr. Small's favourite method) was afterwards rung by a band representing eight different towers in the Guild, viz., B. Gough (Coseley), P. Cottell (Tipton), H. Mason (Hagley), H. Sheppard (Dudley), A. Greenfield, conductor (Netherton), J. Screen (West Bromwich), H. Withers (Selly Oak), and B. Fullwood (Sedgley).

The usual Guild service followed in the church. The Vicar, in his address, spoke on three matters as mottoes for ringers: 'Do all to the glory of God,' 'with thy might,' and 'members one of another.'

After the service an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where a bounteous tea was in readiness, for which the churchwardens were responsible, and, needless to say, full justice was done to the good things provided, upwards of 60 members and friends sitting down at the tables.

The business meeting followed, at which the Vicar presided, supported by the churchwardens, Mr. Matty, Mr. H. Mason (vice-president), and the secretary (Mr. H. Sheppard). Apologies were received from Mr. Churchwarden Fantom, who was unable to stay to the meeting, also from Mr. S. J. Hughes, for the same cause, Mr. J. Goodman (Ringing Master), Mr. J. George and Mr. Herbert Knight, who were all unable to be present.

Business of a routine character having been disposed of, three new honorary and several ringing members were added to the roll, and it was proposed to hold the next meeting, which is the annual, at Dudley.

The quarterly peal is proposed to be attempted at Tipton.

At the close of the meeting Mr. Mason proposed that the best thanks of the Guild be given to the Vicar of Tipton (the Rev. G. R. Mortimore) for permission to hold the meeting at his church, for conducting the service, for his inspiring address, for the use of the tower and bells and schoolroom, and for his courteous conduct in the chair at the business meeting, also to his colleague, the Rev. W. R. N. Naylor, for his part in the service, and to the organist and choir boys for the musical part of the service, for which the members were very grateful to them. They also wished to thank Mr. A. Bowley (the Ringing Master) and his ringers for the trouble that they took in making the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

It is also desired to place on record hearty thanks to the churchwardens and Parochial Church Council for providing so bountiful a tea. Hearty thanks are also tendered to the ladies for preparing and serving the tea and for generally looking after the comfort of all present, also to all who had in any way assisted in making the meeting a most successful and happy one.

The Vicar, in his reply, said what a pleasure it had given him on behalf of himself and churchwardens and Parochial Church Council to welcome the Guild to Tipton. Mr. Churchwarden Matty also welcomed the members, and the Vicar then closed the meeting with prayer, after which the members again visited the belfry and kept the bells merrily going until the time came only too soon for each one to make tracks for home.

THE LATE MR. G. H. PHILLOTT.

Friends of the late Mr. G. H. Phillott (Cheltenham) will like to know that the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association is placing a tablet to his memory in St. Mary's Church ringing chamber. It is probable that it will be unveiled on Sunday, January 8th, about 2 p.m. A definite announcement will be made in next week's notice column.

RINGERS ENTERTAINED AT SHIPLAKE.**A GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION.**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, of the Old Vicarage, Shiplake, Oxon, celebrated their golden wedding on Sunday, December 4th, and a well-struck 600 odd of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of the event after morning prayer.

The ringers have continually received the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson since they came to Shiplake some 20 years ago. 'Often during the winter practice,' writes a correspondent, 'the bell-fry door is flung open. "Come on, boys; Mrs. Nicholson wishes you to have some refreshments. Good of you coming these winter nights to ring." The voice is Mr. Nicholson's; there is no hesitation; it is the word for the deed. "Bang, clash, stand," and soon we're off to the front hall or dining-room, where the very best these human hearts can provide is waiting for us.

On Thursday, December 8th, with the Vicar and choirmen, we were invited to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson in honour of their golden wedding. The delightful dining-room with its 24 guests provided heaps of room. From its windows one could muse for hours. Tennyson stayed many times at this home, and was married at the dear old church. No wonder the poet sang while at Shiplake, 'Ring out the old, ring in the new.' But we are guests to dinner—roast turkey, roast beef of old England, and every thought to satisfy our wants. In the plum pudding, silver coins had been inserted. After dinner, at the sincere wish of the Vicar, Mr. O. W. Porter, the leader of the ringers, proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, which he did in happy phrase, adding that under that roof not only those present, but many, many more had received from Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson that human touch of Christianity. Mr. Nicholson briefly responded, and then in the billiard room billiards and songs were continued until 11.30. Hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Nicholson, 'Auld Lang Syne,' and 'The King,' brought to a close one more of those happy evenings in which that touch of human kindness make the whole world kin.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have had six sons, one of whom made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. He is peacefully resting in the churchyard close by.

The ringers' present to Mrs. Nicholson was a gold bell brooch, suitably engraved, specially and excellently made by Mr. Stacey, of Minchhead.

SUFFOLK GUILD.**WHAT A VISIT TO STONHAM ASPAL DID.**

A quarterly meeting of the above Guild was held at Stonham Aspal on Saturday, December 3rd, and was attended by about twenty-five members, representing the towers of Debenham, Eye, Wetheringsett, Thornham Magna, Ipswich, Ufford, Otley, Helmingham and Stowmarket. The bells were set going soon after three o'clock, and ringing continued until five p.m., when an adjournment was made to the schoolroom for tea. The Rector, Rev. T. O. Wenacott, was present, and took the chair at the business meeting which followed. He extended a hearty welcome to the Guild, and took the opportunity of thanking them for the meeting held at Stonham Aspal during the summer of 1926, when the bad state of some of the bells was brought to his notice. As a result of this he called in the services of a bell hanger (Mr. A. Bowell, of Ipswich), who effected the necessary repairs. New ropes had also been supplied for the whole peal of ten, and they are now in fair ringing order. He (the Rector) emphasised the fact that but for the action of the Guild in bringing the matter to his notice the bells would have remained in the same state, he himself being entirely ignorant that anything was wrong with them.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for his welcome, and also for the use of the schoolroom, etc.

Mr. F. Warrington, of Long Stanton, Cambs, was confirmed as a non-resident life member of the Guild (following a bellfry election), and Hadleigh was selected for the next quarterly meeting to be held in January, followed by one at Fressingfield in the early spring.

This concluded the business, after which the members repaired to the tower and indulged in ringing ranging from rounds on the ten and Plain Bob Minor, Major and Royal for the learners, to Treble Bob Royal, Stedman Caters and Cambridge Surprise Royal for the more experienced hands.

The inhabitants of Stonham Aspal are to be congratulated on the fact that their fine old peal of ten is once again in a good state of repair, and it is to be hoped that this will arouse more local interest, so that change ringing may be established in the parish.

LONGEST LENGTH AT 73.

At Milnrow, Lancashire, on Tuesday, December 6th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 49 mins.: J. Fitton 1, G. Staff (conductor) 2, S. Dunn 3, C. Bennett 4, A. Ruckley 5, J. H. C. Massey 6. Tenor 20 cwt. Rung after meeting short for Major (owing to illness), as a 73rd birthday compliment to Mr. J. Fitton, who rang the treble. He has been a regular ringer at the above church for 53 years. Longest length of Minor by all except G. Staff.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

To all our readers we extend the warmest Christmas greetings, and we desire to thank the many correspondents who have sent us their good wishes.

Church bells were rung and an oak tree was planted in the churchyard at Hailsham (Sussex) to mark the rejection of the Prayer Book Measure.

A large attendance is expected at the inaugural meeting of the new Guildford Diocesan Guild on the last day of the year. An event of this description is, in these days, a rare occurrence, and visitors from neighbouring associations will be welcome. We are asked to say, however, that those who require tea must send a notification to the hon. secretary, whose address will be found in our notice columns.

In the peal of Kent Treble Bob rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on December 3rd, the ringer of the 7th was Albert Adams.

The Yorkshire Association's longest length of Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung on Saturday at Oxenhope, when John Thorp's 8,864 was achieved in 5 hrs. 48 mins.

The peal of Grandsire Caters at Cardiff on Saturday week (composed by Ernest Coombes) consisted of 5,093 changes and not 5,003 as published.

On December 30th, 1830, St. Michael's Society, Bishop's Stortford, rang at St. Michael's Church a peal of Grandsire Caters (6,156 changes) in 4 hrs. 5 mins. It was composed and conducted by Robert Tharby, and was the longest length rung upon the ten bells.

One of the earliest performances of Holt's Original, conducted by one of the ringers, was at Saffron Walden on Christmas Day, 1753. We are not certain if it had ever been done before, but such an achievement was a noteworthy one.

Boxing Day is a day full of anniversaries in connection with ringing, and some memorable performances have been put up on this holiday, which ringers have seized upon as being suitable for long lengths.

Nearly a hundred years ago, namely, in 1831, 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at Elland. This Boxing Day performance occupied 8 hrs. 43 mins.

Two Superlative Surprise records were put up on Boxing Day—9,312 was rung at Crawley, Sussex, in 1894, and in 1910 9,728 at Clent, Worcestershire.

Among other long lengths on Boxing Day have been the celebrated 'five ones' (11,111) Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, in 1901, 10,176 Kent Treble Bob Major at South Wigston in 1901; 10,080 Bob Major at Helmingham in 1895; and 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Walthamstow in 1923.

A band of College Youths, on December 26th, 1782, which happened to be Sunday, rang, 'the whole peal of 5,040 London Union Trebbles in 3 hrs. 20 mins., being the first peal in that method,' at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. The peal was 'composed and called by Mr. J. Plegis.'

One of the best of many good performances by Squire Leonard Proctor and his Benington band, of which there is now only one survivor, was the 6,048 of London Surprise Major on Boxing Day, 1871. It was rung by a band of village residents, and was 'the greatest scientific performance ever achieved in change ringing.'

An illustration of how some of our methods came by their names is to be found in a peal, the anniversary of which occurs on Monday. On December 27th, 1718, the Union Scholars rang 5,120 Union Bob (now known as Oxford Treble Bob) at St. Dunstan's, City. This is one of the few early peals of which the composition remains to us.

December 27th is the anniversary of the 17,104 Double Norwich Major at South Wigston in 1904, and the 10,176 Double Oxford Bob Major at Brierley Hill in 1909.

The first 'John' peal was rung at St. John-the-Baptist's Church, Hagley, on December 27th, 1902—John Holt's Original, reversed by John Carter and conducted by John Jaggard.

In the report of the peal at Dublin on December 10th, the initials before the name of Mr. R. F. S. Murphy were contracted to P.C., which will probably have conveyed an entirely erroneous impression. Mr. Murphy is a Peace Commissioner. The name of the ringer of the 5th should have been given as Tait, not Tail.

PORCELAIN BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I will first of all do myself the honour of wishing you and yours a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year. I have often heard ringers refer to this or the other peal of bells as 'old pots,' but never really knew how near the truth this saying was until I came across the enclosed copy of the Copenhagen 'Evening News' of date November 21st. It records that the world-renowned porcelain factory at Meissen, in Germany, is engaged in making a carillon of 40 bells for the Meissen Parish Church. 'Kirkeklokker of Porcelæn!' But Mears, Johnston and Taylors need not file their petitions till we hear the new products. What about the lads and lasses hanging up mother's pudding bowls after Christmas dinner and trying 'em out?—Yours sincerely,

UNCLE JOE E. SYKES.

A BEGINNER'S THEORY.

BY 'MINORMANIA.'

This is the nineteenth 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.

In last week's article we saw the effect of a place, made in 2nd's or 7th's in the plain principle.

Now cause BOTH ACTIONS to take place in your principle—7th's place by the 3 when the treble is behind, AND ALSO 2nd's place by the 5 when the treble leads, bearing in mind that when the 3 makes the 7th's place the 5 immediately becomes the bell which is 'before' the treble. You will now have DOUBLED the Bob Major action and have caused the treble to 'move up two,' thus producing as your FIRST lead-end 15738264, which is the SECOND lead-end of Bob Major. We name this Double Bob Major, again for a very obvious reason.

Now transfer this 'action' to any place WITHIN the rows of the principle. Let the bell which is 'before' the treble make ANY INTERNAL PLACE, cross the treble's path, and make another place immediately, and then hunt after the treble. The 3 is the bell which does this in each example. Plain hunt the bells from the last row given in each example (first 4 and then 3 pairs), and the lead-ends will be 13527486. Notice that not more than two places are made in any row, and in each case similar action to that which is given above has taken place:—

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
12345678	12345678	12345678	12345678	12345678
21354768	21436587	21436587	21436587	21436587
23145678	24135678	24163857	24163857	24163857
23416587	42316587	42618375	42618375	42618375
24361857	24361857	46231857	46231357	46231735
		42638175	64823175	64827135
		46283715	46283715	68472315
				64827351
				68472531

Examples 1, 3 and 5 are included merely to emphasise the action of changing the two bells in the coursing order, and are useless in this form, but examples 2 and 4 are quite workable as they stand. When we fully realise that these 'places' can be made in the lower half of the principle—that is to say, when the treble is hunting down (or from the back to the front of the rows)—we shall know that we can easily produce a method that will be equal to six times the transposition of Bob Major. Bear in mind, if the places are made when the treble is hunting down, that they will APPEAR TO BE the reverse of the examples given. For instance, in the lower half of the lead the action which is relative to the second example will cause the '3' to make 'third's cross and fourth's,' instead of 'fourth's cross and third's,' as in example No. 2, because she makes first her place 'before' the treble crosses, and then makes her place 'after.' Similarly with the others.

Then, taking examples 2 and 4 only (being the straightforward ones), we can have one of them in a lead, or both of them; either of the similar ones in the lower half of the lead, or both; three of them in the same lead, or the whole four. Any of these combinations with 7th's place when the treble is behind ALSO; any of them with 2nd's place when the treble leads, or with BOTH of the latter. A modification of example No. 3 may be brought in amongst all of these, so that we can see that we have enough material to practise upon.

Each action will move the treble 'up one' in the coursing order, and each one will cause rounds to be transposed by 13527486—so many times to produce the lead-end, the times being governed by the number of the actions that are crowded into the one lead.

It might occur to the reader to write out a lead of the method which he constructs, and to look therein for the bells to appear AT LEAD in their proper coursing order; he will be disappointed. 'Coursing order' was explained in this manner, being the simplest form of bringing it to the notice. Coursing order is really the preservation in the rows of the coursing positions that are held by the coursing pairs at the lead-heads (which we have already studied), and which WOULD cause the bells to appear at the lead or out behind, if they were allowed to PLAIN HUNT as from the row under consideration. As explained, the coursing order gets broken within the leads, but is put right again as soon as convenient, and certainly before the lead-end.

Examine the rows of your principle, one by one. 'Pick up' the even-place bells and work backwards upon the odd-place ones, as you have done before. You will find that the coursing order is preserved and reversed in alternate rows throughout. Take any row and commence to plain hunt the bells therefrom; they will appear at the leading position in proper coursing order, or the reverse of coursing order, according to which of the alternate rows you use as the base. In another way—in one row you will pick up the even-place bells and work backwards upon the odd, to obtain your coursing order (the usual way), while in another row you will pick up the ODD and work back upon the EVEN, to obtain your proper coursing order (the reverse of the usual).

Now try with your rows in the Reverse and Double Bob methods, and see that your coursing order positions are preserved, in spite of

the fact that the bells do not appear at lead in the proper sequence. Some methods will absolutely disturb the coursing order in the rows, but it is put right again sooner or later within the lead.

It must not be supposed that a combination of these 'actions' will of necessity give a desirable method, but it will give a method of some sort, true or otherwise, which will preserve the coursing order of the bells. After the method is constructed on these lines, it may be necessary to introduce various structural alterations to improve it, to avoid possibility of repetition rows, or what not?

These 'actions' have affected the coursing order only so far as the treble and her course-bell are concerned. In order words, they have literally reversed a COURSING PAIR in the coursing order, and we may assume that similar action being applied to ANY TWO BELLS will have the same effect upon the coursing order. This means that each bell so reversed will not take more than ONE STEP forwards or backwards in the coursing order in its exchange of places therein. Other actions will not confine themselves to this effect, as we shall see, and bells other than those of coursing pairs will be made to exchange coursing order positions.

The foregoing actions might be known here as 'plain actions,' and we will now examine the 'singled' action—that is to say, the action of the two bells which 'make the single.' We already know that the bells which make these two extra places will each take the other's place in the coursing order, and we will now look for the cause.

Turn the plain lead of Bob Major into a singled lead by making 2nd's, 3rd's and 4th's places when the treble leads, as you have done before; continue the following leads for a few rows in each, and compare the singled lead with the plain. Ignore the exchange of '13' in the lead-end rows, as we know all about this action; concentrate upon the bells which make the single:—

Plain Lead.	Singled Lead.	Coursing Order.
3 5 1 7 - 2 8 4 6	3 5 1 7 - 2 8 4 6	In Principle-2-4687-5312
. . 5 2 - 5 2 -	
1 . 2 5 - 4 7 6 8	1 . 2 5 - 4 7 6 8	In the P.Lead-32-4687-5182
1 . 5 2 -	1 . 2 5 -	
. . 2 5 - 4 7 6 8	. . 5 2 - 4 7 6 8	In the S.Ld.-35-4687-2135
. 2 . . - 5 5 . . - 2 . . .	

The coursing order of the principle is included to show that the usual action of the '13' pair has taken place in both of the plain and singled leads. Notice in the rows that the '25' are in reverse positions when comparing the singled lead with the plain; also that they have exchanged places in the coursing order, and, not being a coursing pair, they have taken more than one step forwards or backwards to make the exchange, thus COMPLETELY altering the order of the bells other than the treble. We see that '4768' are undisturbed in the rows and in the coursing order.

Now observe the action in the rows. The '25' are hunting towards each other, or in opposite directions, and the 'dodge' that they perform in the plain lead allows them to pursue their hunts in the SAME DIRECTIONS afterwards, but when they make the two places at the single they are COMPELLED by the method, or the system of changing the pairs, to pursue their hunts in the OPPOSITE directions to which they were going.

Now turn your Reverse Bob Major into a singled lead, bearing in mind that, in an 'eight's-place' method, the single is made by making 6th's, 7th's and 8th's places when the treble leads, and we shall find that similar action takes place with the two bells that make the 'single places.' Here we shall find that the reversing of the two bells is more plainly shown, because there is no 'dodge' at the plain lead-end, '13' already having made their exchange when the treble was behind. We shall realise that if we made the single in the 3/4 places instead of the 6/7 places in this 'eight's-place' method, we should automatically produce a singled lead of Double Bob Major. In one case we make FIRST'S, SECOND'S, and two extra places, thus reversing the treble and another in addition to the bells making the single; and in the other case make FIRST'S, two extra, AND EIGHTH'S places, and, as we know, 'first's and eighth's' do not affect the coursing order.

We assume, then, that ANY TWO BELLS which perform a 'singled action' in a lead will each take the place of the other in the coursing order.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I draw attention to a slight error in the second column of the article of 16th inst. In line 11, the '4' is omitted from the lead-end, which should read: 1573264.

This is the only occasion where the type has materially differed from the MS. unnecessarily, and your readers will agree that, in a series of this length, this is 'good going.'—Yours sincerely,

MINORMANIA.

MUFFLED BELLS.

At St. John's Church, Chipping Barnet, on Friday, December 16th, in 49 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandioso Triples (1,260 changes) by: W. Tarring 1, H. J. Eldred 2, G. Herbert 3, R. Roffley 4, W. Soer 5, F. A. Milne 6, N. A. Tomlinson 7, W. Langley 8. Rung as a token of sympathy and respect to Mr. J. Sumpter, captain of the Barnet Guild for many years, whose wife was interred on that date.

BELLS, THEIR TONES AND TUNING. AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

BY E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Though the question of bell tones and their production, and, of course, incidentally, bell tuning, must always have given food for reflection to bellfounders and lovers of bell music, we have no available material upon which to found a connected history showing, before comparatively recent years, the development of bell tones. On the other hand, in regard to the bell itself, though its origin lies beyond historic time, we have ample material to do it justice, and, indeed, many excellent works have been produced dealing with its early history and also its modern use, particularly so in regard to change ringing in England and to the carillon in Belgium. It is to such works one would refer a reader who is desirous of studying the subject more deeply regarding the bell and its uses. Upon turning to the question of its tones—the particular subject of this work—there is, as stated above, little to guide us, except what can be unravelled from the history of campanology or deduced from the metal, weights, and sizes of surviving bells.

Turning for a moment to the side of general history, for from it that of bell tones must evolve, we know that bells have been cast or forged from pre-historic times, and that throughout the Christian era they have approximated to their present shapes, and, indeed, very closely so for the past 500 years.

We can well surmise from man's efforts in other directions that this almost perfect result is due to countless attempts at improvement. It is the old tale of 'trial and error' resulting in ultimate achievement. The scientist to-day does not appear able to improve much upon this result; indeed, one recently admitted that there was yet much to learn about bells.* From time to time the scientist, after years of thought, deduces some great truth or establishes an invention, only to find that he is confirming the rule based upon 'trial and error' long used by the mechanic or craftsman. It will probably be found also that the bell is a case in point.

The above is somewhat discursive, and in the same style we may suggest that the unexpected tone of our first bell came from the accidentally struck piece of pottery or even glass, ages before bronze took similar shape, when louder and more sonorous tones were born. This period antedates that of the earliest written histories. In the Bible cymbals both large and small are referred to, but though these cymbals were probably of definite note and pitch, music itself in those days was in its infancy, and we must pass forward over many centuries.

In early medieval days in Europe the arts of casting and of music may be said to have not, for bells in series and of several tons in weight appear to have been cast in England, and certainly so upon the Continent.†

In England (later to become the 'Ringing Isle') we read of Croyland possessing the first known 'ring' of bells (afterwards destroyed by fire in A.D. 1091); these are described as producing such exquisite harmony as to be unsurpassed by any peal in England. It should be observed this famous peal was one of seven bells; the treble was thus probably an octave of the tenor (said to have been exceptionally fine in tone), and being only seven and so musical the bells probably were in one of the several minor scales anciently used of seven tones. These were termed pentatonic, appearing thus in the key of C: E, F, G, A, B, D, E.‡ It should also be noticed that in A.D. 1050, there were large bells in SS. Mary and Peter's Abbey, Exeter, also seven in number, and probably in the same sequence. We have, however, no information either as to weights or notes; indeed, the latter is not to be expected: but at Ely in 1345 we read that there was a 'ring' of four bells which were of 37, 27, 21 and 18 cwt., and their notes can be approximately computed as being C.D.E.F. It is important to observe that the old minor-third, E.G., has been replaced by the new major-third, C.E., showing that bells were no exception to the gradual change in musical taste which occurred throughout Europe from the 14th to the 16th centuries, culminating in the general adoption of our present major scale as fixed by the great Bach. There are other cases which seem to show the same, thus of Croyland's later bells (probably a near copy of the former ones) we read that Abbot Lytlington (1427-63) caused some of the bells to be recast, so that they 'might be brought to a state of more perfect harmony,' converting, perhaps, a ring of seven bells in minor, to one of six in major, the E.A. and B. being recast a semitone lower (on the previous assumption). In Lytlington's time also was presented to King's College, Cambridge, a peal of five heavy bells of 46, 32, 21, 15 and 11 cwt., so their notes approximately may have been C.D.E.F.G. (the tenor a little heavy, and the trebles a little light), and so again conforming to the then new mode.

Of the many thousands of bells here in England in medieval times, only a few hundred remain, many having disappeared quite in recent years: enough, however, is known of them for us to be able to fix the character of their general tone. It is clear that they were on the same lines as those governing most continental bells—i.e., having the octave hum-note and with it the minor-third as chief harmonic, and known to-day, for reason given later, as 'Simpson.' These medieval bells

were undoubtedly sonorous, and had for some obscure reason a certain quality of tone which cannot be matched to-day.§ The bellfounders were now masters of their craft, and we have also reached (historically) Tudor times, when men's minds were alert for the best, and the Arts had reached a high standard. And yet at this time the medieval bell not only culminated but passed in England. Let us seek a reason.

These Tudor times were truly pregnant with great events. The Renaissance and the Reformation (those two great waves) struck us almost at the same time. Printing and America were both new, and the Armada was now to be miraculously defeated. Along these stirring times, the art of change ringing, as we know it, was born, for with the closing of the 16th century there matured this great change in bell-ringing in England. The change had been gradual, for, despite some opinions to the contrary, the writer is convinced that what we know as 'call changes' had at this time been in use for possibly two hundred years, and that certain elements of what we now term change ringing were also then commonly practised.||

It is to be noticed that changes in the use of an object are likely to affect it—cause and effect, our Simpsonian friends say; and it has been widely suggested by them that with this advance in the art the bellfounders shortened their bells to make them handier in ringing. Shorten them they undoubtedly did, and most deliberately, just as they largely altered the character of their notes. We should still remember, however, that these men were alert master craftsmen with an age-long tradition behind them, and, again, that the English of the time were considered famous for their musical gifts, just as we know them to-day as having been gifted in poetry, and to a less extent in painting and architecture. Also that amongst so musical a people with unspoiled ears, that of the bellfounder would be at least as acute, and probably more so than that of his successor to-day.

Let us see, then, what it was that such bell-founders did. They raised the hum-note a semitone (nearly), and raised the minor-third overtone a semitone. To do this it was necessary to increase the hollow of the waist curve by making the bell a little less in height and a little more in width than before. As was only to be expected, this gave the bell an entirely new quality of tone, one that could not be obtained with the medieval one.

Let us also consider why this alteration was made. We must bear in mind that throughout England were many heavy peals of five and six bells, and that by their weight, and probably by the method of ringing, the time interval between the several notes would be considerable (like modern bells when 'widely struck'). Also that owing to the rise of change ringing, the old slow ringing peals were being replaced by 'rings' of 8, 10, and, later, of 12 bells, thus involving the use of smaller and lighter bells, moving quickly and 'striking closer.' Obviously something crisper was wanted, and partaking more of the character of what in music is known as 'staccato.' The rolling volume of the undertones of the old bells was no longer a desideratum; in reality their own 'legato' character (to borrow from music again) was against them. There is, indeed, only one reasonable conclusion to which we can come, as to the why and wherefore of this great change. It was undoubtedly made with this definite idea of giving greater brilliance and crispness to the tap-tones, and obtaining a more liquid and melodious quality to the bell-tone as a whole. It is as unreasonable, on the other hand, to assume that such master men, with such musical gifts, would have sacrificed the older class of bell if they knew it to be superior in musical qualities, merely to gratify the ringers' alleged plea of 'give us any bell, so long as she goes well.' The writer feels sure that, so far, the Simpsonians' suggestion falls to the ground.

Thus over three hundred years ago our English bellfounders set up another scale and a new standard—a most interesting fact and one not generally recognised even amongst ringers. What they actually thought about it we shall never know. They have always been reticent, and, like many craftsmen, seem to have relied upon oral tradition rather than written rules; perhaps some of them were conservative and loath to march with the times; but they all alike have left no records save their bells. It is so with the only existing foundry which goes back to Tudor times; and there is neither record nor tradition extant to enable any other conclusion but that above stated, to be upheld. They never even gave their new system of tuning a name, and for want of a better the writer has referred to it, both previously and here, as the 'old standard.'

(To be continued.)

§The writer, who is here partly quoting Grimthorpe, has not heard the great Bell at Bristol so highly appraised in certain quarters.

See an article by the writer in the 'Ringing World,' January, 1926.

¶ Bell tones and how to observe them.' (See 'Ringing World,' 1925.)

LONDON.—At St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday, December 18th, for evensong, a quarter-peal (1,263 changes) of Stedman Caters: Miss E. E. Chapman 1, W. H. Hewett (conductor) 2, J. E. Davis 3, H. Ellis 4, Mrs. F. Hairs 5, C. W. Grimwood 6, R. Bullen 7, C. W. Roberts 8, R. Sanders 9, E. G. Garrad 10.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—On Sunday, December 4th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1,280 changes) in 54 mins.: H. Else 1, E. W. Day 2, A. Symonds 3, T. Scott 4, G. Wolfe 5, H. E. Day 6, L. Fidler 7, Geo. T. Croft (conductor) 8.

*Miller, 'Quality of Musical Sounds.'

†In China and the East heavy Bells are said to have been in use in the Third Century. B.C.

‡N.B.—Key C is assumed throughout.

'IRENÆUS PISTOR.'

A READY RESPONSE TO OUR APPEAL.

'Thank God I can still see. I therefore enclose £1 ls. as a thank-offering for poor Irenæus.'

Thus an anonymous donor to the fund to assist 'Irenæus Pistor,' who, as recorded in our last issue, is stricken with blindness and is now in straitened circumstances, having to eke out an existence on a small sick benefit allowance and the earnings of a young, devoted daughter.

Many a reader of this journal has enjoyed a laugh at the humour of 'Irenæus,' and appreciated his trenchant criticisms. Now they can do something in return for one who is suffering from the greatest affliction which can befall a human being.

Christmas is a time of cheerful giving, and nothing adds to one's own pleasure so much as the knowledge of help given to a brother in distress.

We appeal to our readers to make a generous response in this deserving case, for the help is badly needed.

The following donations to the fund are acknowledged by the Editor with grateful thanks:—

	£	s.	d.
'The Ringing World'	1	1	0
Anonymous	1	1	0
J. Bennett, London	2	6	
W. A. Cave, Bristol	2	6	
F. W. Rogers, Portsmouth	7	6	
J. Fitzjohn, Great Grimsby	2	6	
Anonymous	10	0	
H. Chapman, Manchester	2	6	
G. W. Moss, Manningtree	2	0	
A. H. Pulling, Guildford	2	6	
A. Ringer, 'Cantab'	2	6	
E. K. K.	10	0	
Anon.	5	0	
Anonymous	10	0	
H. W. Wilde, Chester	2	6	
F. Boreham, High Wycombe	5	0	
'Temple Bar'	1	1	0
E. Alex Young, London	1	1	0
Collected in Shoreditch Belfry	10	0	
S. Proctor, Grantham	5	0	
A. Wadeley, Morecambe	5	0	
W. W. Willson, Leicester	2	2	0
'Waldron'	2	6	
Anonymous	2	6	
C. J. T.	2	0	
J. E. Bird, Waltham Abbey	3	0	
O. G. Howe, Ramsey	5	0	
W. B. Cartwright, Selly Oak	2	6	
R. and Mrs. R. Richardson, Surfleet	10	0	
St. Mary's, Portsmouth, ringers	7	6	
Fryerning, Essex, company	4	0	
'Guildford'	1	0	0
'A Sympathiser'	2	0	
St. Nicholas' bellringers, Sevenoaks	10	0	
Holy Trinity Cathedral ringers, Guildford	5	0	
H. Badger, North Stoneham	2	0	
J. Faithfull, Southampton	2	0	
F. Cole, Southampton	2	0	
C. Cole, Southampton	1	0	
P. W. Norton, Sudbury, Middlesex	2	6	
R. Evans, Knighton, Rads	2	6	
'W. G. H.,' Plymouth	2	0	
Arthur Hague, Blackpool	10	0	
St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent	10	0	
R. J. Dawe, Lewes	2	6	
'Rufus,' an old ringer	5	0	
St. Nicholas' ringers, Liverpool	1	0	0
Anonymous, Woking	10	0	
Collected at the memorial meeting at Loughborough (per J. Saddington)	2	16	0
Ringers of St. John-the-Baptist's, Erith	8	0	
W. Pickworth, Southgate	5	0	
G. Gilbert, Slough	2	6	
Ringers of St. Alkmund's, Duffield	13	0	
Ringers of Beverley Minster	6	0	
Dr. J. Symonds, Penzance	1	0	0
G. A. Black, Woodford Green	2	0	0

Total £25 11 0

It will be noticed from the above list of subscriptions received that several contributions come collectively from bands. What a magnificent thing it would be if in every tower on Christmas Day a collection for this fund could be made. We hope that this course may be followed wherever possible, although that will not prevent those who desire to do so sending their individual contributions.

The spirit of the givers, as well as the gifts themselves, will, we are certain, do much to lighten the burden of 'Irenæus' and of his wife

(Continued in next column.)

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THE OLDEST MEMBER.

At the dinner on November 5th it was stated that presumably Mr. Harry Henden, of Orange, New South Wales, is the senior member.

Since that date the name book has been consulted, and it is found that Mr. Joseph Barrackough, of Chicago, was elected in 1862; Dr. Amherst P. Tyssen, of Oxford, in 1863; Harry R. Trelawny, Esq., of Tavistock, and the Rev. Maitland Kelly in 1864.

THE PEAL (?) AT CANTERBURY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am sure it would be a fine Christmas message to the majority of the Exercise if the conductor and band would, as they really should, abandon all claim to the so-called peal at Canterbury.

Who amongst ringers of any experience at all cannot recall similar instances of 'hard lines'? Only recently, I had called all the bobs in a peal of Stedman Triples. 7-5 were together in 4-5 when the tenor cast her rope, but kept swinging. Result, no peal. And quite right, too; peals are cheap enough these days.—Yours faithfully,

W. A. CAVE.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

NEW RULES WANTED.

A very successful meeting of the Southern District of the Surrey Association was held at Betchworth on Saturday, December 10th.

Ringings commenced at 3.30 p.m., and at the service an address was given by the Vicar, the Rev. E. H. Kennedy. Tea was partaken of at the Red Lion, and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Vicar.

A vote of condolence to the relations of the late Mr. Henry Ewins was carried, the members standing in silence for a few moments.

Two ringing members were elected, and the Vicar was elected an honorary member.

The General Secretary reported that the quarterly peal had been successful (a peal of Minor at Buckland, conducted by Mr. H. R. Thorpe). It was decided that Mr. G. F. Hoad should conduct the next one, which was to be Grandsire Triples at Betchworth.

Horley was selected for the next meeting, where the restoration of the bells by Messrs. G. F. Mears and Stainbank is nearing completion.

Mr. A. J. Bull, Jesmond, Queen's Road, Horley, was elected hon. district secretary pro tem., to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden death of Mr. Ewins.

On the proposition of Mr. A. J. Bull, and seconded by Mr. G. F. Hoad, the following resolution was carried, viz., 'That this meeting is of opinion that the present rules are not satisfactory or sufficient, and the secretary be so informed, requesting him to call a committee to consider a new set of rules, to submit to the members at the next annual general meeting.'

A vote of thanks to those who helped to make the meeting a success was carried.

Twenty-eight members were present at the meeting. All the standard methods, including Cambridge Surprise, were rung.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.

The annual meeting of the North Western Division was held at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, December 3rd. The attendance was not quite so good as in previous years, but this might have been due to the foggy nature of the weather. The bells were rung during the afternoon, and a service held in the church at 4.45 p.m., at which a collection was taken in aid of the bells restoration fund. This amounted to 8s. 6d.

Tea was served at 5.30 p.m., after which the business meeting opened with Mr. H. Dew, the District Master, in the chair. Letters were read from Mr. C. H. Howard and Mr. F. J. Pilstow stating their inability to be present.

Mr. H. Dew was again re-elected District Master, and Mr. C. Beeson re-elected district secretary.

Harlow Common was decided upon for the next meeting place.

A letter was read from Mr. F. Warrington, of the Ely Diocesan Association, suggesting that a joint meeting with them be held in the coming year.—This was discussed, and eventually left to the secretary to make arrangements with Mr. Warrington.

Saffron Walden was suggested for the meeting.—Votes of thanks were then accorded to the clergy, the organist and to Mr. W. Tarling who had arranged the meeting.

(Continued from previous column.)

and daughter, who have been struggling silently against adversity. On Monday we were able to send a first remittance of £10, and on Wednesday a further sum was despatched.

Mr. William Willson writes: 'It was with great regret I read of the terrible affliction of our friend. Enclosed please see cheque to help him at this season of Goodwill to Men, and may the fund grow quickly. An ounce of sympathy for the living is worth more than a ton of floral tributes for the dead.'

We commend this sentiment to all our readers.

THE EXTENSION OF METHODS.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

I wonder if any of my readers think I have been contradicting myself! At the outset I said that this is a question of mathematical law, not to be settled by anyone who has not the necessary qualifications, and not without much patience and study. And, later, I insisted that the final judge is the Exercise, which consists of practical ringers, and not any body of experts, however eminent. There is no real contradiction. The question is a practical one, and practical ringers in the mass, by virtue of their practical experience, are fully qualified to judge. But the causes and reasons are decided by mathematical law.

Ringing is a practical art, but it is controlled by a mathematical science. The causes which influence ringers to recognise a true extension go back to the fundamental nature of ringing. If we consider what ringing really is, we shall have gone a long way towards finding the key to the solution of our problem. The beginning of ringing was natural and spontaneous; it was in no sense the invention of one man or one band. Exactly when it began we do not know; but by the middle of the sixteenth century it was practised in many parts of England. And the beginning of ringing was not among educated or particularly intelligent men. It sprang up among the common people of widely-scattered towns and villages. Such people, as a rule, could neither read nor write, and means of personal communication between places separated by more than the shortest distances were so scanty as to be practically non-existent.

In these days of railway trains, cycles, and motors, of daily, almost hourly, posts, of associations and guilds, of frequent meetings and combined practices, with a weekly newspaper, with a Central Council, when ringers over all parts of the country can look on each other as personal acquaintances and friends, when the Exercise is really a unity—in these days it is rather difficult to grasp the idea of an Exercise consisting of independent and isolated unity, where each tower or, perhaps, group of towers, had to learn and develop its ringing by its own abilities and without any aid from outside.

It was, however, in such an Exercise that ringing began. And the remarkable fact is that, begun in this fashion, it was always the same thing. From small beginnings development started, here more rapidly, there slower; but the developments were always in the same direction. Not only so, but, great as has been the development of the past three centuries, ringing has always remained essentially the same thing. The men of two hundred years ago could, if they revisited this earth, walk into our towers and take a rope in Plain Bob, Stedman, Grandfire or Treble Bob, without noticing any difference. Even the men of a century earlier would not have much difficulty in adapting themselves to modern conditions.

Now all this points irresistibly to the conclusion that there must be one simple, strong, and obvious idea at the base of ringing, which could thus create and develop it in one straight fixed path. Simple and obvious, to appeal unconsciously to ordinary unlettered men; strong enough to override all other ideas and be proof against all changes of time and different men's fancies; alive enough to develop ringing from small beginnings to a complete art. Such an idea must have its foundations in some great principle of natural law, and by studying it we are most likely to find the solution we are seeking.

Originally ringing was what it still is in France and other countries—the more or less promiscuous sounding of bells without much regard for either time or tune. From this it developed into a kind of sport, the attraction of the sport consisting in the strength and skill required to ring bells 'up' with faulty and imperfect hangings. This naturally produced round ringing. Then there came a time when, in different parts of the country, men said to each other, in so many words, 'Let us have some variety. Change places with me.' And directly that was said, change ringing, with all its possibilities and all its limitations, was born. The idea is the idea of movement of the bells, and from that springs logically and inevitably everything there is in ringing. For directly you have got this idea of movement, you bring into play certain mathematical laws which take charge, and, whether you will or no, direct which way development must take place.

I would strongly advise people to study what Stedman has to say about early ringing and how clear it is that this idea did actually, as a matter of historical fact, and not merely of reasonable conjecture, create and develop ringing. Then think out things and see how it accounts for practically everything we have in ringing. Why, for instance, should not a bell which has struck at one row in second's strike the next in fourth's? It is not because at some time or other ringers drew up some 'rules for the game.' It is simply because it is contrary to the idea of movement for anything to pass from one position to another except by a connected path.

And now, having got this idea of movement as the essential thing in ringing, we can begin to see what is the cause of that instinct which makes a practical ringer say, 'I know quite well that Bob Major is an extension of Bob Minor, and Double Norwich Caters of Double Norwich Major, though I may not be able to argue about it.'

We all of us know, for practical purposes, what the extension of movement is. It is simply going on in the same direction for a longer space. To hunt from behind to before in Major is the extension of hunting from behind to before in Minor. But if you add twists and

turns, that is not extension but adding something fresh. And so, if we were concerned solely with the movement of one bell only, the problem of extension would be a simple one. As it is, we have to extend the movement of all the bells, and they must be all alike and all fit one into another. How that can be done, and how that can not be done will appear when we study the mathematical laws which can control the movement.

SHIPWAY AND SUPERLATIVE.

DOES MR. TROLLOPE'S THEORY BREAK DOWN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Those of your readers who study the art in anything more than the purely practical side of ringing must have had their interest in method extension renewed by the articles now appearing from Mr. J. A. Trollope and the Rev. H. Law James. Personally, I am following them with a lively anticipation, because I now hope to get a reply to the questions which I addressed to the latter through your columns on August 12th and September 9th.

Mr. Trollope, in his article last week, pins a good deal of faith to Shipway's theories, and, without actually committing himself, obviously means us to understand that in retaining in Superlative Royal third's and sixth's places at the second change (as in the Major), Shipway was right, if we accept (as everyone does) that in Oxford Treble Bob Major we must retain 3rd's and 4th's as in the Minor.

It is the principle which Mr. Law James adopts, at the second change, in his extension of Shipway's Royal to Maximus. But if that is sound reasoning, why did Shipway at the 4th change in the Royal make 6th's place, instead of 4th's as in the Major; and why do both Shipway and Mr. James make 8th's place in the Royal and Maximus respectively, at the 8th change, when in the Major 6th's place is made? I use the terms '2nd,' '4th,' and '8th' change, because Mr. Trollope speaks of the second change. But in these days of lead-heads instead of lead-ends, should it not have been the third change and the others, correspondingly, the 5th and 9th.

Mr. Trollope asks us to test theories and see for ourselves. Under the above applied test, Mr. Trollope's suggested theory apparently breaks down entirely, unless you are going to have one test for one row, and a different test for another row.

Would it not be somewhere near the fact if we said that what Shipway did was, when he found Superlative Major would not extend to Royal with the symmetry of some of the other methods, just to juggle with the figures to get the nearest thing he could on ten bells, and, having got something with a certain amount of similarity to the Major, called it 'Superlative Surprise Royal'? Shipway may never have seen Superlative extended to twelve bells; if he did I do not think there is any present evidence of it. But had he seen the method run at Ipswich I feel quite certain he would have had no hesitation in calling it Superlative without any qualification or equivocation.

Shipway doubtless knew a good deal about methods—as much as any man in his day—but I doubt if he approached method extension with anything but some broad general ideas. Personally, I have not the slightest doubt that he constructed his Superlative Royal in precisely the same way that Mr. Law James constructed it in your issue of December 24th, 1926, when he went from change to change, trying each possible row to see which, in the end, would give him a workable method most nearly approximating to the Major and producing the correct lead-end (in these days, had he been living, he would, of course, have looked for the lead-head). Shipway did his best, but why try to attribute to him a knowledge which he probably did not possess, and an experience which needed nearly another century to mature?—Yours faithfully,

A PLAIN RINGER.

TETTENHALL RECORDS.

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF PEAL BOARDS.

Three peal boards and a memorial tablet were unveiled by Mrs. Goode and dedicated by the Vicar (Rev. W. Goode) at Tettenhall, Staffordshire, on Saturday, December 10th.

There was a bright and pleasant service, at which the Vicar gave a very inspiring address on the use of bells in the service of God. After the service, about 45 ringers and friends met for tea in the Parish Hall, and were welcomed by the Vicar's warden, Major Foster, who said how pleased he was to see so many interested in the bells of Tettenhall. After tea, ringing was indulged in in various methods from Grandfire to London Surprise, and a pleasant evening was passed.

The first peal on the bells is recorded, this being Bob Minor, when there were six bells in the tower in 1809, and the first of Grandfire Triples when they were augmented to eight in 1911, on one of the boards. Another board records the first peal of Grandfire Triples, the first of Stedman Triples, and the first of Bob Major after the bells were recast and rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1923. The third board records a peal of Grandfire Triples by all ex-Service men, familiarly known as the 'Soldiers' Jolly.' Last, but not least, is a memorial tablet to the memory of Mr. Benjamin Dalton, who rendered faithful service as a ringer for well over 30 years, and this will have the place of honour in the belfry.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**A RECORD BRANCH MEETING.**

The North Dorset Branch, which was formed only three years ago, scored what was probably a record in attendance at branch meetings, when 103 members were present at Sherborne for the annual meeting held on Saturday, December 10th. Full advantage was taken of the opportunity to ring on the grand old peal in the abbey tower, with its 46 cwt. tenor, the gift of Cardinal Wolsey. The Guild office was conducted by the Vicar (Canon S. H. Wingfield Digby), who also delivered a very earnest and impressive address. The service was fully choral, and a carol was sung by the choir. The Master of the Guild, Rev. R. H. Gundry, read the lesson and gave the Blessing.

Tea was provided for the large gathering in the Church Lads' Brigade Hall, and the business meeting followed.

The hon. secretary, Rev. R. E. P. Gorrings, presented a balance sheet showing a very satisfactory state of affairs, and he created general amusement by stating that every tower in the branch had paid its subscription except Shroton, where the Master of the Guild is Rector.

'I have it here in my pocket!' exclaimed Mr. Gundry, and while the company enjoyed a good laugh, the missing subscription was duly handed over.

Mr. Gundry was re-elected chairman of the branch, and Mr. Gorrings secretary, with the Rev. A. Nedham as assistant secretary. Mr. Gorrings appealed to belfry correspondents to lighten the secretarial work by a prompt reply to the annual request for members' names and subscriptions. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Blandford.

Several touches of Grandsire and Stedman were brought round on the abbey bells. The five-bell towers of Lillington, Bishop's Caundle and Lydlinch were also open for ringing. Of this last, William Barnes, the Dorset poet, wrote long ago:

'Lydlinch bells be good vor zound,'

and the mellow tone of the five old bells proved the poet's words to be fully justified. Visiting ringers also concluded that the men of Lydlinch must be veritable 'sons of Anak,' for the sallies of the bell-ropes scarcely came within seven feet of the floor! The following variant of a familiar theme is displayed on a board in the belfry, and is of special interest as being dated and issued with the authority of the churchwardens:—

'Put off your hats and belts and spurs,
And when you ring make no demurs.
Sound out the bells well, if you can:
Silence is best for every man.
But if a bell you overthrow,
Sixpence unto the clerk you owe.

'John Hopkins and John Young, churchwardens, 1746.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern Division was held at Doncaster on Saturday, December 17th, when members were present from Conisborough, Tickhill, Wortley, Thorne, Arksey, Barnsley, Ecclesfield, St. Marie's, Sheffield, Sproborough and Worksop. A short business meeting was held in the ringing chamber, Mr. G. Halksworth (Ringing Master) being in the chair. Three new members were elected, viz., Messrs. A. Pashley (Treeton), G. Howe (Tickhill) and C. Holmes (Doncaster).

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the division at Tickhill on March 17th.

Votes of thanks to the Archdeacon of Doncaster and the churchwardens for the use of the bells, and to the local company, were passed.

The methods rung during the day included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Little Bob and Forward Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Cambridge Surprise Major, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District was held at Beverley on Saturday, December 10th, when representatives were present from Hemingbrough, Hull, Kirkella, Market Weighton, Selby, Wortley, and the local towers.

A short service was held in the choir of the Minster, the address being given by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Rigg, D.D. In the unavoidable absence of the Minster organist, the accompaniment to the hymns was played by one of the association's members, Mr. A. H. Fox, who is organist of Kirkella.

Tea was afterwards served in the Minster Parish Room, in which some 28 members participated.

The business meeting followed, the chair being occupied by the Vicar, in the absence of the vice-president, Mr. F. Cryer, Selby. It was agreed that the annual meeting be held at Gole in March, 1928.

On the motion of Mr. J. H. Howell (Hull), a unanimous hearty vote of thanks was recorded the Vicar for the use of the fine peal of 10 bells, the service and address, also to the ladies for serving tea, and to Mr. W. Gibson for the efficient arrangements. The Vicar briefly replied, and this closed another small but happy and enjoyable meeting.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

HOUNSLOW.—On Sunday, December 18th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins.: W. F. Ellingham 1, S. Stilwell 2, C. J. Tricker 3, J. Kent 4, F. E. Hawthorne 5, J. Milner 6, L. Mantering (conductor) 7, C. Gash 8.

BURTON LATIMER.—On Sunday, December 18th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major (1,280 changes) in 47 mins.: H. M. Saddington (first quarter-peal) 1, J. Saddington 2, H. Meadows 3, H. Baxter 4, F. Payne (first quarter in the method) 5, J. W. Lines (first quarter in the method) 6, B. J. Saddington 7, G. Lines (conductor) 8. All belong to the local band except the ringer of the 4th.

GRIMSBY.—On Sunday, December 11th, for evensong, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 46 mins.: H. Mingay 1, F. Overton 2, S. Bromfield 3, J. E. Kennington 4, L. B. Budd 5, *A. Swain 6, C. W. Taylor (first quarter-peal in the method as conductor) 7, *R. Sutton 8. *First quarter in the method.

ILKLEY.—At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, December 11th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: R. Kendall 1, T. Grange 2, E. H. Rayner 3, J. Bazeley 4, H. Crawshaw 5, M. Crawshaw 6, T. W. Crawshaw (conductor) 7, L. Parry 8.

HESTON.—For morning service, Sunday, December 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins.: A. Lewis 1, W. Godfrey (first quarter-peal on an inside bell) 2, H. Chandler 3, C. Bird 4, C. I. Edwards 5, W. A. Lewis 6, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 7, F. Humphries 8.

STAFFORD.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, December 11th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. F. Evans 1, J. Warrilow 2, A. E. Garbett 3, W. L. Roden 4, P. T. Hayles 5, R. J. Warrilow 6, J. J. Taylor (conductor) 7, G. F. W. White 8. First quarter-peal by treble and tenor ringers.

SOUTHAMPTON.—At St. Mary's Church, for special ordination service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): Ray Curtis 1, O. Gollop 2, H. Payne 3, J. Faithfull 4, F. Mursell 5, A. Newman 6, F. Cole (conductor) 7, H. Nash 8.

'OPEN' VERSUS 'CLOSED' LEADS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On reading the report of the meeting held at Sutton-on-Trent, in the issue of 'The Ringing World' of December 16th, I notice that a discussion took place on 'open' or 'closed' leads, in which three gentlemen took part, and it states it was hoped some good may result from it. No doubt many besides myself are wondering whether the debate ended in favour of the open lead or no lead at all.

I have noticed myself that much better striking is given with an open lead on six bells than with a closed one. Most of the bad striking in change ringing, in my humble opinion, is due to bad leading, and I hope our Notts friends will decide in favour of the open lead at handstroke.—Yours truly,

INTERESTED.

FAIRFORD BELLS RECAST.

Another fine peal of eight bells in E natural was rededicated on Saturday, December 10th, at St. Mary's Church, Fairford, Glos. The work of recasting and hanging with new fittings and ball bearings has been successfully carried out by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

After the rededication, which was conducted by the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, the bells were raised in peal, and two courses of Grandsire Triples were rung by the local band: G. Law 1, O. G. Farmer 2, B. Gury 3, G. J. Winter 4, H. A. Cock 5, J. Hope (conductor) 6, J. Smith 7, E. Gardener 8.

After the service, ringing in the following methods was much enjoyed: Bob Major, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Doubles, everyone being satisfied with the 'go' and tone of the bells.

The following towers were represented: Cirencester, Northleach, Down Ampney, Maisey Hampton, South Cerney, Stroud, Coln St. Aldwyns, Minchinhampton, Faringdon, Burford, Wootton Bassett, Swindon, Bampton, Witney, Lechlade, Aldbourne, Oxford and Stratton, St. Margaret's. The members were pleased to have the company of the Association Master (the Rev. C. D. P. Davies), also Mr. J. P. Fidler, Messrs. John Taylor and Co.'s representative. Tea was kindly provided at the Home Cafe by the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. C. S. Jones) for all ringers, and over 50 were present.

EXETER.—On Wednesday, December 14th, for Confirmation service by the Rev. the Bishop of Crediton, at the Parish Church of St. David, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins. by the following members of St. David's Society: S. J. Hopkins 1, F. J. Davey 2, F. Gardner 3, C. Carter 4, J. Oke 5, G. Luxton 6, W. Lethbridge (conductor) 7, W. Bewes 8.

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.

LLANDAFF 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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next quarterly meeting for ringing only will take place at the Parish Church, Kendal, on Monday, Dec. 26th. Bells (10) available at 1 p.m.—W. T. Clark, Branch Sec., Broughton-in-Furness.

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. This invitation closes first post December 24th. 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.

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.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Annual meeting at Metherringham (8) Saturday, Jan. 7th, Tower open 2 p.m. Notification for tea to Harold Marcon, Dis. Sec., 269, Wragby Road, Lincoln.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly business meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 2nd, at 8.15, which members are urged to attend. Ringing meetings for January: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 1st, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 2nd, at 6.30 (followed by business meeting), and the 16th and 30th, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 24th, at 8. The annual meeting is fixed for Saturday, February 11th. Please reserve date now.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A ringing meeting of the above branch will be held at Burnley Parish Church on Jan. 7th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Will all ringers concerned please note the new secretary's address?—F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Ossett on Jan. 7th, and not Dec. 31st, as proposed at the last meeting.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting of the district for the election of officers for 1928 will be held at the Cathedral, Derby, on Monday, January 8th. Bells (10) available 7 o'clock. All ringers in the district are earnestly requested to attend, and visitors are cordially invited.—Chas. Draper, Local Secretary.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, Jan. 14th. Tea arranged as usual. Ringing from 3 p.m.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Saturday, Jan. 14th. Bells available 3.45. Tea at 6 p.m., meeting at 7. Those requiring tea, please send a card by the 11th.—J. Sparrow, 84, Meadvale Road, Woodside, Croydon.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILD'S Seventh Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21st, 6 p.m., Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol. Tickets 5s. 6d. each. The Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Malmesbury will be present. Reception St. Thomas' Church Room 4.15.—Edgar Guise, 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Will all friends (and enemies if I have any) please note that my address is now c/o 5, Park Street, Slough, Bucks.—George Gilbert.

GREETINGS

To Members of the MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD and ringing friends near and far. Please accept our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. — R. E. Holloway, Ringing Master; Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., South and West District.

WORCESTER ALL SAINTS' YOUTHS send Christmas greetings to the ringers of St. Mary's, Bridgnorth, Coalbrookdale, Ludlow and Leominster, also Ross, Bridstow, Monmouth, Chepstow, Lydney and Newnham-on-Severn, with happy memories of the hearty welcome given us on the occasion of our annual outings of 1926 and 1927. May we meet again. — R. G. Knowles, Sec., Madresfield, Malvern.

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