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FRIDAY, JULY 26th, 1935.

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CENTRAL COUNCIL DEBATES.

Largely on account of one long speech that was made at the Central Council meeting at Shrewsbury, and that speech dealing with a subject which not everyone fully understood—we refer to the technical and not the personal side of the question—members of the Council have been inclined to speak of a great waste of time and, in some cases, to refer in similar terms to the whole meeting. With the latter suggestion we profoundly disagree, and we are equally at variance with those who look upon the discussion of technical subjects as 'boredom,' or who complain that they have been brought hundreds of miles to listen to 'twaddle.' It may be perfectly true that to occupy nearly forty minutes with one speech is making an unconscionable claim on the time and patience of the Council, and it would be well if something could be done, say, the imposition of a time limit, to prevent it happening in future, but technical subjects are undoubtedly matters for the Council to discuss. When they get beyond the comprehension of a member, or he has reached the stage of boredom, there is nothing to prevent him from doing as is done every day in the mother of Parliaments, going outside and finding some other relaxation, if only smoking his pipe, or, as, again, is done in Parliament, taking a nap. No one is compelled to sit through a discussion in which he has no interest or which he cannot follow. The doors are not locked to keep him from getting out.

What we dislike is to hear members publicly try to dismiss a subject as a waste of time and of no importance because they are not personally interested, or because they do not fully comprehend it. It may be true that only comparatively few can intelligently discuss it, but that is no reason why the impression should be created that it is of no interest or importance to the art of ringing, or to the Exercise. The Council chamber is the forum in which to discuss every phase of bellringing, and subjects like the contents of a book, for which the Council has to foot the bill and take the ultimate responsibility, or providing definitions for the future guidance of ringers, cannot be ruled out because certain aspects do not appeal to some of the members. The Council, however, has it in its own hands to direct its procedure, to limit the length of speeches, or provide the proper machinery for the introduction of amendments on technical matters.

The Shrewsbury meeting was but another instance of that 'crowding out' of the end of the agenda which has occurred from time to time. It once more illustrated the need for some overhaul of the procedure so that motions, of which due notice has been given, shall not be un-

(Continued on page 470.)

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necessarily rushed because an undue amount of time has been absorbed by the business preceding them. And here there is point in the suggestion made by a representative of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild that the Council should meet at an earlier hour than eleven o'clock. There is often a thinning out of the meeting towards the close by the departure of members who have to leave to get to their distant homes the same night. Now that the Standing Committee, who used not to meet until the same morning as the Council, have taken to tackling some of their business overnight, it ought to be possible for the Council to meet at least half an hour earlier. This would save, at any rate, some of the congestion at the end of the afternoon.

TEN BELL PEALS.

HERTFORD.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 20, 1935, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ALFRED J. HOUSE	Treble	GILBERT E. DEBENHAM ...	6
EDITH K. FLETCHER	2	HAROLD V. FROST	7
GEORGE GRAY	3	WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ...	8
GEORGE B. COLLINS	4	JOSEPH LADLEY	9
*STANLEY CARTER	5	†SIDNEY CADLE	Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by EDITH K. FLETCHER.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal on ten bells.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 20, 1935, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

EDWARD J. CHARMAN	Treble	KENNETH SNELLING	6
STANLEY E. ARMSTRONG	2	FRANK I. HAIRS	7
ALBERT DISERENS	3	WILFRED WILLIAMS	8
FREDERICK W. ROGERS	4	ALFRED T. GREENWOOD ...	9
JACK M. CRIPPS	5	OLIVER SIFFERTS	Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SALFORD.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 9, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SACRED TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT	Treble	WILFRED J. MOSS	5
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD	2	THOMAS B. WORSLEY	6
ALFRED BARNES	3	FREDERICK PAGE	7
STEPHEN L. PARRY	4	WILLIAM H. SHUKER	Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by FREDERICK PAGE.

Rung as a farewell to Mr. J. F. Smallwood and also the conductor, who were leaving the district to take up residence at Bath and Lancing, Sussex, respectively.

MARSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 17, 1935, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in B.

*KEITH CONSTABLE	Treble	*CLIFFORD BIRD	5
*MRS. HANBURY F. CARTER ...	2	ERNEST G. SHORTING	6
HANBURY F. CARTER	3	WALTER MILLER	7
NOLAN GOLDEN	4	WALTER C. MEDLER	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Oxford.

GORTON, MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 15, 1935, in Three Hours.

At Brookfield Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*JOSEPH REED Treble	JOHN FEARNHEAD 5
EDWARD F. MAWBY 2	ERNEST SEDDON 6
WILLIAM BRAMMER 3	CHARLES OLLIER 7
ARNOLD S. FEARNHEAD 4	FREDERICK PAGE Tenor

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by FREDERICK PAGE.
 * First peal in the method. Rung as a farewell to the conductor, who is leaving to take up residence in Sussex. Also an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. George Daniels, who has been a life-long worker for the church.

LEYTON, ESSEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 17, 1935, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

GEORGE HAYDEN Treble	CHARLES A. HUGHES 5
EDWARD G. TALBOT 2	JAMES G. A. PRIOR 6
THOMAS W. TAFFENDER 3	JOHN W. EUSTON 7
ERNEST FORBANK 4	EDWARD D. SMITH Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS WILFRED TAFFENDER.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. George Hayden.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 18, 1935, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes.

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt. in C sharp.

JOHN KENYON Treble	ARTHUR G. KING 5
JOHN G. W. HARWOOD 2	ALFRED G. MOY 6
ROBERT D. TOOLEY 3	EDWARD P. KETT 7
*WILLIAM BARBER 4	NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First attempt for a peal. Rung as a 65th birthday compliment to Robert D. Tooley. The composition contains the extent of the 6.4's, 6.5's, 4.6's, 5.6's, 7.4.6.8's and 7.5.6.8's, and is rung for the first time.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 18, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 6
*JOHN V. CROSS 3	FRANCIS A. SMITH 7
HENRY HODGETTS 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method. Rung to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. G. Montague-Hall, wife of the Rector of St. James', Bushey.

ORAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 19, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

At the Church of St. Paulinus,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... Treble	HERBERT E. ADDSLEY ... 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	HARRY HOVERD 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	EDWIN BARNETT 7
MISS MOLLIE REDPATH ... 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT.

The conductor's 400th peal.

HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, July 20, 1935, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

REGINALD CHANCE Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 5
GEORGE E. FEARN 2	C. HOWARD STANLEY 6
THOMAS HEMMING 3	SAMUEL GROVE 7
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... 4	FRANK E. HAYNES Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT

Rung on the occasion of the children's party and sports, organised in connection with this church.

PULHAM ST. MARY, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 20, 1935, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

ERNEST F. POPPY Treble	*WILLIAM FLATT 5
CHARLES BAKER 2	CHARLES LOOME 6
FREDERICK ROOPE 3	RUSSELL RICHES 7
STANLEY S. COPLING 4	ERNEST WHITING Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by ERNEST F. POPPY.

* Fiftieth peal. By ringing the above peal, the conductor has 'completed the circle' in this tower, making the ninth ring of eight circled to a peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 13, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising three 480's Little Bob, two 720's Oxford Single Bob, two 720's Double Oxford Bob and one 720 Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

*HARRY THELWELL Treble	HARRY W. HOWARD 4
*ARTHUR JERVIS 2	HARRY PARKER 5
RICHARD T. HOLDING 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

* First peal in four methods. Rung as a wedding compliment for the ringers of the 2nd and for the anniversary of the conductor's wedding.

SKENFRITH, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 13, 1935, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. Bridget,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 8 cwt.

ARTHUR A. REYNOLDS ... Treble	GEORGE L. CORNWALL ... 4
WILLIAM H. SYMONDS ... 2	FREDERIC E. J. REYNOLDS ... 5
JOHN J. WEBB 3	CHARLES L. SADLER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN J. WEBB.

EAST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 15, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

GEORGE E. FOSTER Treble	ANTHONY V. DENT 4
GEORGE E. PADGETT 2	*FREDERICK PICCARD 5
ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ... 3	J. FREDERICK MILNER Tenor

Conducted by J. F. MILNER.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Oxford by all. Rung to oblige the ringers of the 4th, on a visit to his native village, where he acquired the art 35 years ago.

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BUXTON, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 20, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob, all called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*JACK N. A. PUMFREY ... Treble	†HANBURY F. CARTER ... 4
WALTER C. MEDLER ... 2	ERIC DURRANT ... 5
†MRS. H. F. CARTER ... 3	WILLIAM C. DOFFIELD ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. DOFFIELD.

* First peal, aged 13. † First peal in three methods.

HONINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 21, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising an extent each of College Single, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Double Court, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. in A.

ERNEST G. SEORTING ... Treble	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 4
NOLAN GOLDEN ... 2	CECIL V. EBBESON ... 5
GEORGE T. BUNNING ... 3	JOHN A. GODFREY ... Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

A WEEK-END IN WILTSHIRE.

THE VAGARIES OF A BUS.

Following their usual practice, the St. John's, Leytonstone, Society made their 36th annual outing a week-end trip. Their headquarters were at the Elm Tree Hotel, Devizes, which they reached on a Friday evening. In good time next morning they left for a country tour, which included Urchfont, where they found a good peal of eight, which were rung to Grandsire, Stedman and Cambridge; Market Lavington, where the ringing included 720 Southwell; and Potterne, where 720 Durham was rung.

After lunch at headquarters, Westbury's fine bells claimed attention, and Bratton was visited and 720 York rung. Then came misfortune. The bus, after several frantic attempts to get a move on, finally broke down under the shadow of Westbury White Horse (not one of the White Horse's within the meaning of the Act). After a somewhat lengthy wait the services of a friendly lorry driver were enlisted, and the party were towed back to Westbury. Adjustments were made and the party eventually reached Warminster 90 minutes late. A consultation was held and it was decided to carry out the programme as arranged, except that short touches should be substituted for 720's. So, after tea and touches of Stedman and Double Norwich at Warminster, visits were paid to Heytesbury and Sutton Veney. It was found possible, however, to include a 720 of Norwich at the latter tower. On the way back to headquarters the bus again failed, but this time conveniently outside a wayside hostel, of which good use was made while waiting for a relief vehicle. Headquarters were reached eventually round about 11.15 p.m.

Before breakfast next morning 720 of 'Laminated' was attempted at St. Mary's Church, Devizes, but, through a shift course, failed to materialise. A good 720 of Cambridge was, however, rung for the early service. The visitors were at St. James' by 9 a.m. and rang 720 each of Cambridge and Beverley. Then they went on to St. John's to ring for morning service, and on this grand eight touches of Stedman, Cambridge, Grandsire and Double Norwich were brought round. Promptly at 1 p.m. they were off again, bound for Holt, a light six, on which a 720 of Beverley and a touch of London were rung. Here they were met by Mr. West, who piloted them to Melksham, another good eight, of which full use was made; Stedman, Grandsire, Double Norwich and a course of London Major, said to be the first on the bells, were brought home. After tea the last tower, Laycock, was visited. Here they found a fairly good six, but the 'go' was not quite what it might have been. The bells evidently need a little attention, but it was understood from the 'natives' that they had only just got these bells going again after 40 years' silence, and they deserve every praise for their efforts. Short touches of London, Cambridge and Kent were rung. Train was joined at Chippenham and London duly reached at 3.20 p.m.

The members of the party wish to thank most sincerely all those whose assistance made the outing a success.

FOR BEGINNERS.

'COMPOSING AS YOU GO.'

A correspondent has asked us to tell him—and others—how to make up touches as he goes. This is not quite a beginner's subject, but as he says it would be an encouragement to know how to do it, we will try to give some elementary hints.

First of all, the beginner has got to be able to 'read' the bells. He must be able to follow their coursing order, know what effect a bob will have and so on; and before he becomes really proficient, he will have to know quite a lot about what was once described as 'Mr. Q—the mystery man,' in other words, Q sets.

Our enquirer, thirsting for knowledge, did not say in what method he wanted to be able to 'compose as he goes,' but for everybody's benefit it must be, to begin with, in something simple, so let us talk about Plain Bob.

First of all you must know what a bob will do. Well, it transposes three bells. Called at the end of the course, 234 becomes 423; 423 becomes 342; and 342 becomes 234. Thus, you see, three bobs, if called in the same relative places, bring you back to where you started from, and you have a touch of three courses—336 of Major or 160 of Minor.

'Oh, yes,' you will say, 'I know that.' Well, it is on this you have to build up your touch. This one was produced by three bobs 'Home,' which form a complete Q set. A similar one can be obtained with three bobs 'Middle,' or three bobs 'Wrong.'

Knowing that, you can 'splice' all three of these touches together. Three bobs 'Wrong' bring the bells back into the plain course; you can then call them out of the plain course and back again with three bobs 'Middle' and repeat the process with three bobs 'Home.' Your extra three bobs do not add three courses; they add only two, because the first of the calls is in an existing course.

Now, if any block of three bobs called in this way bring you back to your starting point, it is obvious that they can be inserted at any point. Your three Middles can follow the first or the second of the Wrongs, as well as the third; and the Homes can come between either of the Middles. There are many ways in which you can 'mix them up,' but there is a snag. Unless you are very careful, if you do not call the three spliced-in bobs in three consecutive courses, you may find yourself in trouble and either get a false touch or one much longer than you bargained for.

Don't suppose for one moment that you can necessarily try it out successfully in the tower by merely having read these notes. Spend a little time experimenting with paper and pencil. Put down some short touch you know and then try and expand it by adding courses which are not already there in whole or in part. If you want something to start with, here is a familiar 560 of Bob Major. See how many touches you can get out of it simply by the addition of three Wrongs, three Middles or three Homes.

23456 W. H.

52436 —

35426 —

42356 —

34256 —

23456 —

NORTH SHIELDS RINGERS AT YORK.

North Shields ringers visited York for their annual outing, and, thanks to Mr. A. E. Fearnley, of the Minster company, had a very interesting and pleasant day, although disappointed in not getting a ring on the Minster bells. However, the party were taken on to Escrick, where there is a beautiful ring of eight. Two touches of Stedman Triples were rung, but during a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major the tenor rope broke. After splicing the rope and a stroll round the village, the visitors returned to York, where they partook of tea, and then spent an hour in friendly billiard matches. After this they rambled down to the river, and 'boat racing' was indulged in. Returning to the city, refreshments and a fish supper brought the visit to a close. The visitors are very grateful to Mr. Fearnley for his kindness in showing them round the Minster, the city walls and other interesting parts of the city, and for taking them to Escrick. They also thank the Vicar of Escrick for the use of the bells.

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THE 'SPICED' RESOLUTIONS.

PRESENT POSITION UNSATISFACTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It would be idle pretence to say that the discussion on the 'Spiced' resolutions was satisfactory to the proposer and seconder. The lateness of the hour and the consequent shortness of time, as well as the obvious tiredness of many members of the Council, were all against a good debate. There can, however, be hardly any doubt that all who are willing to listen to a reasonable argument will agree that the present position is unsatisfactory. All peals of Triples, Major, etc., all 720's of Minor and six-scores of Doubles, rung in two or more methods, are classified as Spiced, quite irrespective of the merits of the performances. A band capable of ringing Double Norwich Major would find less difficulty in ringing a peal consisting of half a peal in this method and half a peal of Bob Major, with one change of method throughout, than it would in ringing a whole peal in the former method. Yet the same band might quite easily get completely tied up by a peal in these two methods with a change of method two or three times in every course, or at every lead end. (For the purpose of giving an example I am assuming that such a peal in these two methods is a possibility.) There is a great difference between peals spiced in half-peals, or on the lengthy block plan, and peals spiced in leads, such as the Law James' peal in four Surprise methods, and it is quite time that something was done to place the easier compositions, often much easier than peals in one of the methods alone, in a class by themselves. Indeed, after the admirable article in your issue of June 7th, it is surprising that any member of the Council could have objected, at any rate, to the principle of the resolutions.

What were the objections? There was the usual attack from Mr. Percy Johnson, who, when he is either not interested in a subject, or does not understand it, pours ridicule on it, without assisting anybody to find a solution. Then we had the objection from Mr. Hunt, who, because he does not like a certain class of Spiced peal, in which some of the bells, or perhaps all the bells, do not do all the work of a method, moved an amendment to exclude from the Spiced class nearly all the best performances yet accomplished on six, eight, ten and twelve bells. He is reported as having said that you do not ring a Major method unless you ring seven leads of it. Well, there are only five leads in any of the courses in the compositions of Double Norwich in the C.C. collection, Section III., pages 355-6-7-8, and these compositions have been rung probably hundreds of times. But perhaps Mr. Hunt did not mean what he said. He may imagine that if you ring five leads of a course two or more times you are getting over the difficulty, but you are not. In none of these peals of Double Norwich do the tenors ring more than five leads of the course. Besides these, and the peals of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and London Surprise referred to in your leading article this week, there are many more similar instances. There are numbers of peals of Grandsire Caters and Cinques with certain fixed bells not doing all the work; Stedman Caters with a certain bell never doing the slow work; Rutland Surprise Major with a lead missing for the tenors; and, lastly, the peal of Silchester Surprise Major rung not very long ago in Suffolk in *three lead courses*! Why, then, complain of the Spiced peals? They transgress no law of ringing that has not been transgressed before. If only one lead of a method is included, that method has been rung, as *all the work of the method is in the lead*, at any rate, so we are told in 'Rules and Decisions' of the Council.

When saying 'that a Spiced or Laminated(?) peal shall contain a full course of each method rung,' Mr. Hunt is putting up an impossible condition. The late Rev. H. Law James spent many years working on this subject before producing his masterpiece; whilst Mr. A. J. Pitman has given us some wonderful peals in from four to 16 Surprise Major methods. Neither of these gentlemen have been able to introduce full courses of all the methods. Indeed, with one exception, there are no full courses in any of the compositions in three or more Surprise methods which either of these gentlemen have composed—the one exception contains just two full courses of one method only.

Mr. Hunt referred to a composition by Mr. J. W. Parker as being the most perfect Spiced peal ever composed. The peal of Superlative and Cambridge composed by Mr. Parker and rung at Whitley Bay in 1924 did not contain a full course of either method throughout. As far as I am aware, only one peal of Surprise Major in more than one method has been composed with full courses. This was by Mr. Pitman, and it was rung at the Bell Foundry, Loughborough, in February, 1928, by the Midland Counties Association. It was, however, on the 'half and half' plan, with only one change of method in the peal. Even if this is not the only peal of Spiced Surprise Major containing the qualities so earnestly desired by Mr. Hunt, it is one of a very few, whereas there are scores of peals spiced in leads, much more popular, and much more difficult to ring.

Seeing that this amendment will, unless it is withdrawn, be down for discussion next year, it will be as well to see what its effect will be, should it be carried. It would rule out of the Spiced class all the peals of Spiced Royal and Maximus yet composed and/or rung; nearly all the peals of Spiced Surprise Major yet composed and/or

(Continued in next column.)

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A WELCOME TO MACHEN.

A quarterly meeting was held at Machen on Saturday last. The bells, a ring of eight, tenor about 14 cwt., were raised soon after 3 o'clock and rung in various methods. The service was conducted by the Rev. F. A. Oswell, M.A. (Vicar). Tea followed in the old Church Schoolroom, adjacent to the church.

The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, who extended a hearty and cordial welcome to the ringers.

Instructors' reports, restorations, augmentations, etc., were dealt with. The opening of the new ring of eight for Penarth is to take place at the end of September. That of the restored ring of eight at Cowbridge will follow soon after.

The representative to the Central Council meeting at Shrewsbury gave his report, for which he was thanked. The hon. secretary gave the report of the monthly meetings held and also a report of the ringing done for the King's Jubilee. Several new members were elected.

Chepstow was chosen for the next Monmouthshire quarterly meeting. The hon. secretary described the proposal to publish in book form the story of the ringing tour in Australia and New Zealand, and distributed the forms which can be used for ordering the book.

After the usual vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness and hospitality in providing tea and to the ladies who waited on the company, the ringers returned to the tower for more ringing. The Vicar, himself a ringer, took part in Grandsire and Stedman Triples. The meeting proved a most pleasant, enjoyable and successful one.

SPICED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not intend to carry on any controversy on the above. I want to explain what I mean by a full course. I do not mean that all bells shall do the work. Everyone knows that in any ordinary peal of Major, the tenors do not do the same work as the other five. My contention is that in *Major peals* 224 changes should be rung of any one method (these need not be continuous). My seconder, Mr. J. Parker, and I are both in agreement as to accepting Mr. Stephen Wood's proposition, and we believe it is the best for all.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

(Continued from previous column.)

ring; and all the finest performances of Minor. The 42 method peal rung at Disley on Feb. 9th last does not contain full courses of over half of the methods included. It would be most extraordinary if it did, seeing that there are only 42 courses in the peal, and the 42 methods would have to be *very* evenly divided to fit. And, of course, it would be impossible to include more than 42 methods in a 5,040 Minor, with this amendment passed into law, and still call it spiced. Yet Mr. A. J. Driver tells us that he has arranged 69 Treble Bob, Delight and Surprise methods in seven 720's. He really should not do it!

A peal in 14 methods (seven 720's) rung at Bigby, Lines, on February 14th, conducted by Mr. G. E. Foin, contained 24 changes of method in each 720: 168 changes in all. How is it possible for such a peal to contain full courses of any method? The 32 Surprise methods peal rung at Lamberhurst a few months ago, conducted by Mr. Relfe, with 71 changes of method, is another instance. Minor ringers, you must be careful, you go too fast!

I can assure Mr. Hunt that it took many people several weeks to get those resolutions into presentable shape, and he would indeed be a remarkable man who could frame an amendment in two minutes and find it perfect.

I have already referred to the Council's definition of a lead. 'Each lead shall reverse true to itself, and, together with the hunting and placemaking that connect it with the next lead, shall contain the whole working of the method.' I have italicised parts of this decision. The popular way of spicing Kent and Oxford Treble Bob is to ring Kent, with Oxford places spread over those rows when the treble is below 3-4, at certain leads only. This creates a lead which does not fit in with the above definition. It is not symmetrical, and it is, therefore, not a legitimate method. Further, the lead so treated does not contain all the working of either one or other method. Seeing that it is possible to get peals of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, Royal or Maximus, spiced at the *lead end*, the other types of peals should be placed in a class by themselves.

Mr. Stephen Wood's amendment has had the effect of postponing the matter until next year's meeting of the Council. In the meantime, conductors are asked, when sending in the reports of their peals, to give reference to the number of methods rung and the number of changes from one method to another. This may be a satisfactory way out, but to be so the information must be forthcoming. Short of that there is nothing for it but for the resolutions to be pressed on the Council for adoption and insertion in its 'Rules and Decisions.'

O. T. COLES.

DEATH OF THE REV. E. S. C. LOCK.

MASTER OF THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Friday, July 19th, the death occurred of Ernest Seppings Cardew Lock, M.A., R.D., priest. He had been the Vicar of West Pennard since 1918, and Master of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association since 1925.

As a parish priest he was loved by all sections of the community. When in April this year he underwent a major operation, his parishioners, whatever their creed, showed great anxiety for his welfare. He had then almost succeeded in raising some £1,700 for the repair of his church roof. This, in a village of 700 inhabitants, was a colossal undertaking, but it was typical of his character that he had sufficient faith bravely to face such a great task.

As a ringer, he was very much in earnest. His peals numbered but three, but this is no criterion of the lasting value of the work he did amongst ringers. His was the idea, which is now almost a tradition, that at the diocesan ringers' meetings the service touch should be rung by the best available band, thus illustrating his personal creed that nothing is too good or costly to give to God and no sacrifice too great.

As Master of the Association he endeared himself to all, and everyone loved him for himself, a Christian gentleman. Modest and retiring, he nevertheless kept a steady hand on the conduct of the Guild. He was an inspiration to the writer, who regularly took to him the little difficulties which arise in dealing with a large body of ringers. It was such an errand that took him to West Pennard on Saturday morning, to find the village overcast with gloom and the flag on the church at half-mast.

The interment took place at West Pennard on Monday last, where the church was packed to the doors. The officiating clergy were the Very Rev. Bishop de Salis, Canon J. M. Alcock (representing the Bishop of the diocese), the Rev. H. Hurn (Acting Rural Dean) and the Rev. H. Hughes. Many other clergy were present.

The ringers who attended were Mr. W. A. Cave (Central Council and Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association), Mr. J. T. Dyke (hon. secretary), Mr. D. G. Taylor (hon. auditor), Mr. P. Merson (hon. secretary, Taunton Branch), Mr. F. D. Rickards (hon. secretary, Glaston Branch), Mr. W. A. Osborn and Mr. E. J. Sanger (Cary Branch), Mr. J. Metcalfe (Frome Branch), Mr. W. Tiley and Mr. R. Roberts (Axbridge Branch), Mr. A. E. Coles (Bridgwater Branch), Mr. H. Trimm (Glastonbury), and the Rev. W. M. K. Warren (president of the Frome Branch), representing the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.

After the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells round the grave.

Later, on the tower bells, the whole pull and stand was rung 63 times, and many other ringers rang muffled touches during the rest of the day.

HOLBORN GUILD'S EXCURSION.

A VISIT TO OXFORD.

The annual outing of St. Andrew's, Holborn, Guild took place on Saturday, July 6th, when a party of 27 left Paddington by the 8.40 a.m. for Reading, where they were met by Messrs. G. Martin, E. S. Hawkins, J. C. Truss and Frank Boreham. After congratulating George on his Australian trip, the party proceeded by motor-coach to Dorchester Abbey, where ringing took place in various methods for an hour. Then, after a look round the interesting old building, the party made their way to Oxford, where lunch was partaken of at the Oval Cafe. The health of the president, the Rev. E. C. Bedford, M.A. (who, unfortunately, was unable to accompany the party), was proposed by Mr. W. R. Dennis, the Ringing Master, and was heartily received. After lunch Stedman, Double Norwich and Cambridge were rung at St. Giles' Church, and a visit made to Christ Church. Under the guidance of Messrs. H. Miles and W. G. C. Collett, the visitors were conducted over parts of the Cathedral, the ringing room and dining hall. Some also paid a visit to Big Tom, while others were seen trying to snap the fish in the pond. The journey was then resumed to Harwell, which was safely reached after a delightful ride through some gorgeous country. They were heartily welcomed by Mr. Hickman, and touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Double Norwich and Cambridge were rung. Tea on the lawn of the Chequers Inn was followed by a little handbell ringing, tunes being rung by Messrs. G. Martin, J. C. Truss and J. S. Hawkins. Then a splendid run over the Churn Downs brought the party to Caversham, where Mr. Harry Simmonds was awaiting them, and congratulated the party on their punctuality. Various methods were rung in which several of the Caversham ringers took part. Afterwards at The Griffin, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. R. Dennis, a smoking concert was held, songs being contributed by Messrs. Tom Berney, H. Alford, E. G. Penn, F. Freestone and H. Simmonds. Mr. A. A. Hughes contributed a Somerset story, and during the proceedings the healths of 'The Ringing Master' and 'The Secretary' were proposed and received with musical honours. A hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. Bert Cullum for making the visit to Caversham so enjoyable. Paddington was eventually safely reached at 11 p.m., everyone having enjoyed a very happy day.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

GRIMSBY AND GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICTS ENTERTAINED.

A joint meeting of the Grimsby and Gainsborough Districts was held at Bigby in ideal weather. The Gainsborough District were not largely represented, the majority from this area being from Gainsborough itself. Grimsby District was represented by members from Barrow-on-Humber, Burton-on-Stather, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Waltham, Thornton Curtis and the local members, Mr. F. S. W. Butler (hon. general secretary of the branch) and Mr. and Mrs. W. Bramwell, of Cleethorpes, were among those present. The service was conducted by the president (the Ven. Archdeacon Parry), who gave an interesting address. Mr. H. Rushby presided at the organ. An interesting feature of the service was a solo, 'My Task,' sung by Mr. W. Bramwell. A splendid tea was provided in the school by Archdeacon and Mrs. Parry, about 35 sitting down. The Lincolnshire ham was the 'star turn' on the menu.

The President kindly presided over the meetings of both districts. One new member, Mr. G. E. Poole, of Ulceby, was elected. The collection for the district bell fund amounted to 14s.

The President was asked to give a short account of the doings of the Central Council meeting held at Shrewsbury, which he had attended. Incidentally the president knows something about spliced methods, as he told the meeting he once rang a touch of 'spliced' five miles from Shrewsbury, and carried the bell away with him. He did not say whether it was the tenor or treble, but very soon it was discovered to be the 'treble belle,' who was sitting by his side.

Mr. F. S. Butler moved a hearty vote of thanks to the president for his hospitality and for conducting the service, to all those who had made arrangements, to the ladies for catering, to the local ringers, to Mr. Bramwell for his excellent rendering of the solo, and to Mr. Rushby for presiding at the organ.—The President, replying, said he did not know they had such talent amongst them until he heard Mr. Bramwell that afternoon. Afterwards handbells were brought into use; some adjourned to the tower and others to the Rectory grounds, kindly thrown open to them by the president.

A very pleasant meeting was held by the Grimsby District at Thornton Curtis in beautiful weather on Saturday, July 20th. The bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, and, in addition, bowls, clock golf and hoop-la were available. The Venerable (the Rev. J. H. Park) and Mrs. Park are great friends of ringers and always do their utmost for the comfort of them. The service was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an interesting address and a hearty welcome. Mr. H. Rushby kindly presided at the organ, Mr. Warrington also attending in case Mr. Rushby was absent. A party of 35 afterwards sat down to a very enjoyable tea provided by the Rev. and Mrs. Park.

The business meeting took place on the lawn, the Rev. J. H. Park presiding. The towers represented were Barrow-on-Humber, Barton-on-Humber, Bigby, Burton-on-Stather, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Waltham, Killingholme and the local members. The collection for the district bell fund amounted to 12s. 8d.

Replying to the comprehensive vote of thanks, the Vicar said it gave him great pleasure to have them at Thornton Curtis, as he knew the great work ringers were doing and the sacrifice they made to ring in their various towers. He especially thanked Mr. G. Atkinson, the local captain, for his work and friendship while he has been at Thornton Curtis.

Members then indulged in handbell ringing and games, and the tower bells were well utilised. It was another pleasant meeting.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

LINGFIELD 'JOINS UP.'

A most successful meeting of the Southern District of the Surrey Association was held at Lingfield, where the peal was recently augmented from five to eight. The bells are a delight to the ear and a pleasure to pull. The Rector (the Rev. J. A. Owen) took the service and preached a delightfully short sermon lasting under ten minutes. Would that certain other parsons did the same! About 32 sat down to tea, but one wishes that a larger percentage of the company had been resident Southern District members. Some well-known faces were conspicuous by their absence. The company was graced by four expert lady ringers. Was one of them the elusive Kate? These ladies came from such divergent places that one wonders if Southern District ringers are extraordinarily attractive.

After tea the business meeting was held, at which the Rev. J. A. Owen took the chair. All the Lingfield band were elected members of the association—12 of them, some of whom are youngsters, and, judging by their ringing of rounds earlier in the afternoon, good promising material. While some visiting ringers on their outing were ringing, Mr. Kippin entertained the meeting with some amusing Central Councilarities.

Most of the Southern District towers were represented, together with one or two from the North-Western District, with a few ringers from Sussex and Kent towers as well. The ringing, which was of a very high standard, ranged from rounds for the beginners up to London Surprise for the expert. The proceedings then terminated with the bells being magnificently lowered in peal at the hour of nine.

A ROUND OF SIX-BELL TOWERS.**SURREY RINGERS AMALGAMATE FOR AN OUTING.**

Once again the ringers of the sleepy little villages of Merstham, Buckland and Charlwood amalgamated for the very excellent purpose of having another of the good old 'busman's' holidays so much beloved of the ringing fraternity. Early one morning they visited Albury to sample the newly-recast six bells. These having been tried and pronounced 'O.K.' the ringers made for Bramley, where they both rang and refreshed themselves. Then on to Puttenham via Guildford, where a Charlwood ringer recounted how one night he fell off a high wall while he was supposed to be on police patrol. We have only his word for it that he had not visited the local hostelry. Puttenham is a charming village lying neath the Hog's Back with an equally pretty church, containing six bells. These were set merrily going to all sorts of things (some of which are not to be found in any text book on ringing). But never mind. Afterwards a dinner to delight the eye and stomach of any self-respecting ringer was ready at the Jolly Farmer. This disposed of, followed by hand-bells, a smoke and rest, the coach was headed to Frensham. These bells (6) were much admired, as was the fine weatherworn tower. Between Frensham and Milland was enjoyed some of the most glorious scenery of the day. First wild lonely heatherlands gradually changing to simply glorious banks and banks of rhododendrons. After searching the trees, Milland Church was at last found, and Mr. Watts gave the visitors a very warm welcome. The bells were so much admired by one visitor that he tried hard to hang himself on them, and nearly succeeded, too, as well as 'doing in' the writer at the same time. In the churchyard is a very small church (the original church for Milland, one supposes), complete with one bell in a turret, which, of course, the less responsible members of the party had to jingle-jangle, to the annoyance of the bird inhabitants. Mine host of the Black Fox then set the visitors a plain course of a substantial tea, which was brought round without so much as a trip. Then on through some more lovely country via Cowdray Park to the village of Wisborough Green, whose beautiful bells were soon set going to some really 'good stuff.' Indeed, it was the best ringing of the day. After the ringing the much worried organiser spent an anxious half-hour chasing thirsty ringers between two bars, then into the coach. The journey was then resumed to Horsham, the only eight-bell tower visited during the day. The ringing, on the whole, was of a pretty good standard, and ranged from Grandsire Doubles and Triples to Plain Bob, Oxford Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and College Exercise, Violet Treble Bob, Carlisle Surprise and Cambridge Surprise. The conducting was shared by Messrs. Ellis, Thorpe, Edwards, Killick and Wells. Everybody seemed to have a perfectly enjoyable day.

AMONG NORFOLK BELLS.

After the hectic week from the 2nd to the 6th July, celebrating the Jubilee of their Majesties the King and Queen and the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the town as a borough with a grand carnival, which was an unqualified success, the members of St. Margaret's Society, Lowestoft, recuperating from the exertions entailed by the aforesaid carnival, took advantage of the splendid weather and had their annual outing on Thursday, July 11th. Owing to business circumstances, this has to be a half-day affair, so at 2 p.m. the party, consisting of 14 members, left 'the land of the rising sun' for a run into Norfolk.

The 'patriarch' of the society (Young Woodley) had mapped out the route, and in one of Messrs. P. W. Watson and Son's coastal coaches the party set out for Redenhall, via Beccles and Flinton Park Avenue, Bungay, and, on arriving at St. Mary's Church, were met by Mr. J. Davey, the sexton. Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob were rung. During the ringing, the six who were not ringing were duly initiated by Mr. Davey into the mysteries of 'water divining' and how to locate 'gold.' The venue next was Pulham, and, on arriving at St. Mary Magdalen Church, they were met by Mr. E. Whiting. Touches of Bob Major were rung, conducted by A. Coleman, and a 536 of Kent Treble Bob, by E. Whiting. The company then adjourned for tea, which was partaken of at the King's Head Hotel, the host of which is a well-known ringer, viz., Mr. O. P. Brice (once well known at St. Stephen's, Westminster). 'Boniface' was, however, absent on business, but he had an excellent substitute in Miss Brice, and a splendid tea was partaken of by the visitors, including Mr. E. Whiting. A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Brice for her catering. The visitors then departed for Saxlingham Nethergate, where they were met by Mr. W. L. Duffield and Mr. G. Poyntz. So on this pretty little peal (tenor 8 cwt.) touches of Bob Major, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob were attempted. While the touches of Bob Major were successful, the Treble Bob methods were a little too much for some of the visitors owing to lack of practice. At 9 p.m. a move was made for home, via Dickleburgh and Scole, and on to Harleston, where at the Magpie Hotel light refreshments were partaken of. Lowestoft was reached at 11.55 p.m. after a most enjoyable outing.

The members of the society wish to thank the various incumbents for granting permission for ringing, also Messrs. J. Davey, E. Whiting, W. L. Duffield and G. Poyntz for meeting them. A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Rector of Lowestoft (Canon H. J. Enraght), Mr. J. Woodger and Mr. Alan Watson for their kindness, which enabled the society to carry out such an enjoyable excursion. Possibly the clerk of the weather ought to have been included, as it was a glorious day.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Have you ordered your copy of 'A Great Adventure'—the story of the Australian and New Zealand ringing tour? If not, do not put it off any longer, or you may be too late. You will find further particulars in another column.

We do not remember seeing 480's of Little Bob rung in a peal of Minor before, but three of these 'extents'—480 is all that can be got of Little Bob on six bells—were included in a performance at Wistaston.

We hesitate to think that this brings the performance within the present definition of a peal of Minor, because the peal did not include at least seven true 720's.

The report is published as sent to us, but its legitimacy as a peal should be decided before it is included in the Council's analysis. If it does not comply with the Council's definition it will not be sufficient for the Analysis Committee to say they have included it because it was published as a peal.

If three 480's of Little Bob are to be admitted in a peal without the production of the missing changes when the treble is in 5-6, or sufficient complete 720's to bring it within the category of a peal, there would be nothing to prevent a reversion to the old idea of ringing fourteen 360's or twenty-one 240's, and, of course, 10½ 480's of Little Bob, in which the extent of the changes on six bells would never be rung.

The ring of eight of Temple Church, Bristol, regarding the silence of which comments were made at the Bristol United Guild's annual dinner in January, are being rehung by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough. The Temple Church has a leaning tower.

Some people make a hobby of ringing all the bells in a tower to a peal, if they visit the same places often enough. Mr. E. F. Poppy, of Eye, has just completed another—making his ninth.

The peal rung at Freiston, Lincs, reported in our issue of July 19th, should have been credited to the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

'An early application will save a lifetime of regrets,' says the notice in another column announcing that tickets are now available for the annual dinner of the Lancashire Association, which is to be held at Wigan on October 28th.

The eight bells at Wigan Parish Church are to be restored and provision made for the addition of two trebles. A new steel frame for ten is to be erected, and the old bells, the front seven of which were cast by Rudhall in 1713, are to be tuned. Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. have the work in hand.

Mr. Warren Sturgis, of Boston, U.S.A., son of Mr. F. Warren Sturgis, of Groton School, U.S.A., is now in England with the Yale and Harvard Universities' athletic team, of which he is manager, and which had such a thrilling encounter with Oxford and Cambridge Universities on Saturday.

On Monday, Mr. Sturgis took part in a College Youths' peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells, when Mr. Challis Winney called Holt's Original. Mr. Sturgis is, we believe, only about the fourth American to ring a peal in this country, the others, as far as we recollect, being the late Dr. A. H. Nichols and his daughter, Mrs. Shurtleff, and Mr. Sturgis' father.

Although the appeal for the fund for the restoration and augmentation of the bells of Shaftford, near Guildford, was issued only about a month ago, it has reached nearly £200. The Shaftford ringers have undertaken to pay for the recasting of one of the bells, and will be glad to receive donations, which should be sent to Mr. L. Hunter, Bradstone Brook Cottage, Shaftford, near Guildford.

'Bellringers' Sermons' will be preached at Coalbrookdale, Salop, on Sunday, and in the afternoon there is to be a musical service. The offertories will be given to the bellringers, who receive no other remuneration for their services.

The peal at Northop, Wales, published in our last issue, was the first peal of Surprise by F. Hartman only. It was the first of New Cambridge by J. Griffiths and J. W. Clark.

J. D. MATTHEWS MEMORIAL.

FINAL LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged, £5 18s. 6d.; Messrs. Hibbert, 2s. 6d.; ringers of St. Margaret's, Westminster, 10s.; total £6 11s. This fund is now closed, and the officers of the society desire to thank all those who have subscribed to the fund.

CANON RIDOUT'S VISIT.

Canon Ridout, of Johannesburg, who is home on holiday, had his longest touch for six years when he took part in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at All Saints' Church, Benilton, on July 21st: R. Foreman (first quarter away from the tenor) 1, F. Randall 2, G. Rayner 3, Canon G. H. Ridout 4, W. C. Smith (conductor) 5, H. Smerdon 6, H. Good 7, the Rev. O. F. T. Willis (first quarter-peal) 8. This musical 'quarter' is Canon Ridout's composition, and is a simple six-part by calling the 5th W., M., In and Out 2, H., W. and M.; with a single at the end of the 3rd and 8th part. The Rev. C. Willis came to Benilton in June as the assistant priest.

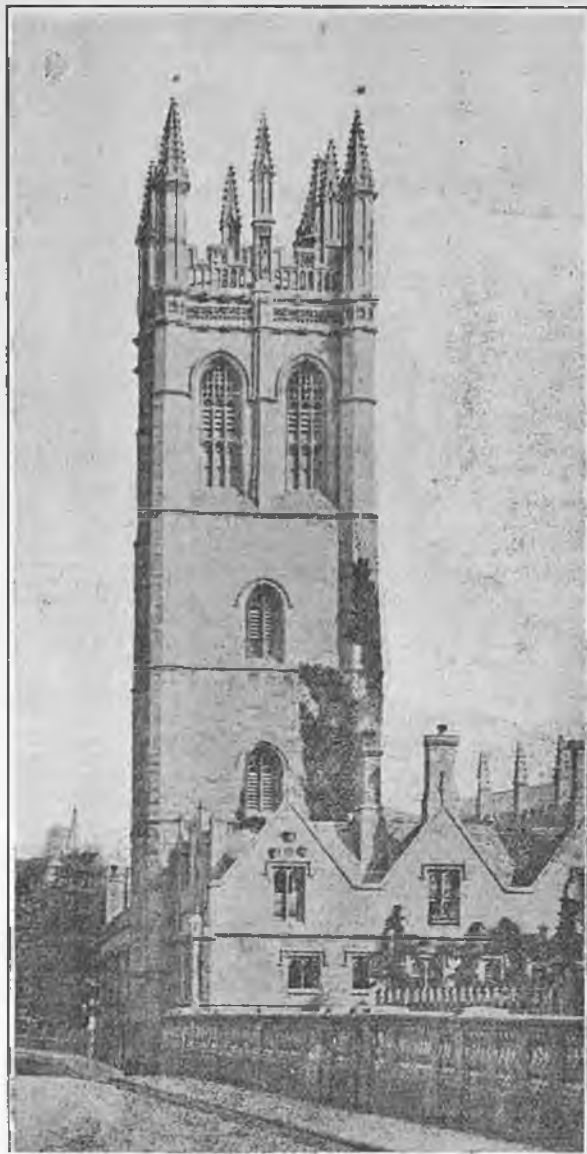
OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

Striking Sermon by Rev. R. Howes.

One of the outstanding features of the Oxford Diocesan Guild's summer festival at Oxford on Saturday was a striking sermon by the Rev. R. Howes, author of the text book on ringing—'Village Bells.' The service in Christ Church Cathedral was conducted by the Master of the Guild (the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge), and Dr. Armstrong was at the organ.

The Rev. R. Howes, who has just come to the living of Beenham, in the diocese, took for his text, 'Do all to the glory of God'



MAGDALEN TOWER, OXFORD,

where members of the Oxford Guild were privileged to ring on Saturday.

(1. Cor., x., 31). He said: I feel so intensely sorry for bellringers when, in sermons expressly preached to them, this text is quoted without explanation. I feel almost as sorry as when I hear that well-known piece of good advice given, that those who call others to church should hear the call themselves. Sermons of that sort are all very well for churchwardens and parochial church councillors, whose attendance at church services is far below the standard of the average bellringer. It is so easy to quote this text and to speak of the glory of God, but although we use the word 'glory' so often, it is a most difficult word to explain. I will straight away give a definition of the word 'glory' which will fit most of the places in the

Bible where it is used. Glory means the acknowledgment of the wisdom of God. So when we read, 'The heavens declare the glory of God,' it means that the heavenly bodies, by their movements, acknowledge the wisdom of God Who ordered their courses. A flower as it opens acknowledges the wisdom of Him 'Who paints the way-side lily.'

In several places in the Bible, a man who has done wrong is told to give glory to God. That means that he must acknowledge the wisdom of God's laws. When we say, 'Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Spirit,' we acknowledge the wisdom which created, redeemed and sanctifies man. We come to the passage in 1. Corinthians which leads up to the text I have taken. St. Paul is talking of eating and drinking to the glory of God. I can only explain that to myself as the acknowledgment of the wisdom of God in providing man with food both suitable and abundant. And in days when we study food values and vitamins it is easier to acknowledge the wisdom of God in the things He has provided for man's use.

Now we come to the more difficult point. How can a bellringer in the exercise of this art be said to ring for the glory of God? Ringing is really the application of mathematical rules to the eight tones of the musical octave. Can you acknowledge the wisdom of God when you are applying these? Can you do this when you are dodging 6-7 down in Stedman Triples and a bob is called? All I know is that I can't do it. It is as much as I can do, and generally more than I can do, to get right way into the sixes.

CONTEMPLATION AFTER RINGING.

Leave that, and let us go back. Let us consider a (fortunately) rare type of ringer who cannot in any way be said to ring to the glory of God. Where a man, outside the belfry, does not hold the Christian faith and does not lead the Christian life. He may be able to ring London Surprise, but he is not fit for membership in a Diocesan Guild. Could such a man ring the bells on Easter morning, when he neither believes in Christ's Resurrection, nor does he mean to live as one who is risen with Christ?

But when the practice is over and a ringer goes home and smokes his pipe and has a drink—yes, I repeat 'has a drink' (for I know no thirstier recreation than ringing, and we must not be too hard on the old-time ringer, before Diocesan Guilds made ringing into a form of church work, and we must forgive that person who gave that quaint old beer jug to Beccles Church)—I say, when a ringer goes home he has time to think over the wonders of the essentially English art of change ringing. Then he can acknowledge the wisdom of God in giving to men the power to apply mathematics to the notes of the musical octave.

Then again there is some truth in this new American religion which is called 'Humanism.' Putting it briefly, it teaches that man is an end in himself, and man's only interest is to develop himself, and 'because right is right, to follow right,' with no reference whatever to God. But to my mind there is such a thing as *Christian Humanism*, which seeks for the development of the human race in accordance with the will of God. I find this Christian Humanism in those words of St. Paul, 'till we come to the perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.' Anything which develops man's talents, which are implanted by God, must be to the glory of God, if by so doing we acknowledge the wisdom of God in giving us these talents. Our art should rank with the other fine arts of music and painting and poetry. And if we choose to believe that God delights to see a well-painted picture, there is no reason why we should not believe that God delights to hear a well-struck peal.

The collection, on behalf of the restoration fund, amounted to £5.

THE GUILD'S ACTIVITIES.

The business meeting was held in the Chapter House, under the presidency of the Master (the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge), who was supported by the Deputy Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg), Mr. A. J. Wright (hon. treasurer) and Mr. R. T. Hibbert (general secretary). There was a large and representative attendance of members, although the numbers were not so great as in some previous years.

In his annual report the Master said that, owing to physical disability and over-employment on most Saturdays of the year, he had not been able to visit towers or branch meetings, but his interest in the wellbeing of the Guild had never flagged, either last year or for the preceding 53 years. He heard and read with deep satisfaction the reports which came to him of the doings of the branches or the ringing of peals. In his enforced absence he was deeply grateful to the Deputy Master, the secretary and treasurer for all that they had done in visiting branches and towers and for their willing endeavours for the wellbeing of the Guild. The year 1934, the report continued, would ever be memorable for the determination of the members to ensure that the work of the late Master should be commemorated in a manner specially dear to himself. The memorial in the Cathedral Cloisters and the enlargement of the chapel at Queen Anne's School, of which he was chaplain, were visible tokens of this. The special service in the chapel to which the Guild was invited was greatly appreciated by the large numbers who gathered to see the memorial and worship in it. They would be pleased to know that the whole cost was obtained before Christmas.

The Deputy Master's report said his first full year of office had been an interesting and happy one. He had attended 13 annual branch meetings, two quarterly and five monthly practice meetings.

He had inspected and given advice at Great Marlow and Milton Keynes, at both of which towers restoration work had since been carried out.

The secretary reported that he had again attended the annual meetings of all the 15 branches and had found things progressing favourably. Sunday service ringing, which, after all, was the great thing, was well maintained, and quarterly meetings and combined practices were very well attended. He had inspected finished restoration work at Padworth, Yarnton and Rousham, and had inspected and advised certain work to be done at St. Helen's, Abingdon. The ring of six at Mapledurham had been put right. The number of peals rung had again fallen, but first peals for young ringers and first peals as conductors had been fairly frequent. Several new methods had also been rung. He should say that one of the outstanding features of the year had been the two or three peals rung by the 13 and 14 years old 'men' of Burnham tower. The secretary's report added that he wished they could do something to help the tower foremen to get their subscriptions paid to their branch secretaries early in each year. One halfpenny per week was not much to quibble about, and to see so many names 'starred' was a real grief to him. Membership increased very slowly, but they stood at the end of 1934 with 238 hon. members, 1,979 ringing members, 430 non-resident life members and 232 towers in union. He hoped they would all do their best to prevent any 'slipping back.'

GROWTH OF FUNDS.

The hon. treasurer presented a very satisfactory report. The statement of accounts showed a balance of £241 ls. 8d., as compared with £134 11s. 7d. the previous year. The amount received from the branches was £98 2s. 3d., an increase of £5 0s. 3d. Four applications were received for restoration grants, and in each case a sum of five guineas was granted. There had been considerable improvement in the promptness with which the branches had paid over their contributions. The report concluded with thanks to the auditors (Messrs. Francis and Son), who had undertaken the task for the past 36 years without making any charge for their services.

The reports were adopted and the officers re-elected: Master, Canon G. F. Coleridge; Deputy Master, the Rev. O. E. Wigg; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. J. Wright; general secretary, Mr. R. T. Hibbert.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert proposed the reappointment of twelve elected members of the committee: Messrs. J. Evans, G. Caudwell, G. Holifield, W. Hibbert, sen., G. Martin, Miss V. Robinson, Messrs. R. White, A. D. Cullum, H. Scar, J. W. Wilkins, Miss S. Davis and Mr. W. F. Judge. He said 'they turn up when necessary and do all they are asked to do,' and added, amid laughter, 'and that is nothing.'

Mr. A. D. Cullum, who seconded, said the election of these twelve members came up every year, but they were never called together. They were simply a nonentity. He often wondered whether they ought to be there at all. They were a committee on paper, but if they were not wanted it was time they saved the expense of printing the names.

It was explained by the Master that these twelve members were only part of the committee of the Guild, which was formed of the officers, these twelve elected members of the Guild, and the members elected by the branches. Originally they were the only elected members, but since the branches were formed the committee had been very much enlarged. Whenever a committee meeting was held these twelve members were called together with the rest.—The members were re-elected.

The following were elected after a vote to represent the Guild on the Central Council for the next three years: Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. A. E. Lock, Mr. R. A. Post and Mr. A. D. Barker.

A GRACEFUL ACT.

The secretary, in proposing the confirmation of 146 new members elected during the year, said he wanted to refer to 'the same old thing.' They elected 140 or 150 members every year, but the Guild did not grow to anything like the same extent.

Mr. W. J. Paice said he thought one reason was that they lost the membership of old ringers, who, when they ceased ringing, dropped out of the Guild. He did not suggest that this accounted for all the losses, but it was a pity they could not keep these old members.

The Secretary: It is a far greater pity when young ringers become proficient they become apathetic.

Mr. R. A. Post said he thought the Guild made it too easy for ringers to get into it. In many cases as soon as a learner could handle a bell he was elected a member without waiting to see, when he got to the drudgery of learning change ringing, if he would keep up his interest. When they found it was hard work many dropped out. Before they were put in they should be something of change ringers and not elected just because they could handle a bell.

Mr. Trollope suggested they should put something in the rules providing that those who joined should stick to it, and that if they did not intend to stick to it they should not join.

Among the elections confirmed was that of Mr. J. A. Kearns, a ringer of Darling Point, Sydney, who rang in the last peal of the Australian tour. Mr. J. S. Goldsmith referred to the circumstances of Mr. Kearns' election. Mr. Fussell desired to ring the peal for the Oxford Guild as well as the St. Mark's, Darling Point, Society, of which all the visitors had been freely admitted as honorary mem-

bers. The band was short of a man, and Mr. Kearns, although he had no interest in the Oxford Guild, and little likelihood of ever participating again in any of its activities, agreed to become a member. He (Mr. Goldsmith) suggested that under these circumstances it would be a graceful and courteous act on the part of the Guild if they remitted Mr. Kearns' subscription and made him an honorary life non-resident member.

The Master said any such action was not provided for in the rules, but it would be a very graceful act.

The suggestion, on being put to the meeting, met with unanimous approval.

It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held at Oxford, an amendment to hold it at Reading being defeated.

ALTERATIONS OF RULES.

Various alterations of rules then came up for consideration on the recommendation of the committee.

The first was a motion to include 'a Deputy Master' among the list of officers forming the government of the Guild and elected annually under Rule 4. This was introduced to cover the appointment of a Deputy Master, which office had existed for the past two years.

An irrelevant discussion on the question of the payment of railway fares (under the same rule) to the twelve elected members of the committee when attending committee meetings was raised by Mr. A. D. Cullum, who wanted this extended to all the members of the committee.

After various amendments had been moved and points of order raised, the committee's recommendation was carried, and it was understood that Mr. Cullum's point would be considered by the committee.

An addition was made to Rule 6 enabling a member of the Guild who left the diocese to become a non-resident life member without further payment if such member, after the first complete year of membership, had already paid into the funds of the Guild a sum equal to a life composition.

An amendment was also made to Rule 8 relating to the provisional election of members before attempting a peal, to bring it into conformity with present practice.

A grant of two guineas towards the restoration of the bells at Theale was agreed to.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Master made a report on the proceedings of the Central Council at the meeting at Shrewsbury. He referred specially to old peal boards, of which the Council had set up a committee to collect a record. He thought there must be some in the college towers of Oxford as well as in other churches, and asked for the co-operation of ringers in the work. He also emphasised the need of those who were responsible for peal reports in the ringing Press seeing that all essential information, such as first peals by ringers and first peals in the method, should be indicated. Incidentally, Canon Coleridge said that a great deal of time was, he thought, wasted at the Council meeting—for reasons which he need not give. He also referred to the reception of the Australian tourists by the Council and the telegram received from the King in reply to the Council's message of congratulation upon His Majesty's Silver Jubilee. Canon Coleridge concluded by remarking that the Council did a tremendous work for the good of the Exercise, and this was especially so in the provincial centres that it visited.

The General Secretary, referring to the record of old peal boards, said there was a beautiful board in St. Mary's tower, Reading, recording a great failure. Eight Reading Youths in 1740 started for 10,080 of Boh Major, and, after ringing 8,896 changes in 5 hours 59 minutes, the 3rd rope broke, but the ringing was so good that on the board it said, 'They would have satisfied their ambition had it not been for the broken rope, as every man was in perfect strength.' That, said Mr. Hibbert, was a wonderful thing to read to-day.

The General Secretary reminded the members that since the last annual meeting, Mr. A. E. Reeves, a former secretary of the Guild, had passed away. He read a letter from Mrs. Reeves thanking the Guild for their sympathy, for the flowers sent, and for the handbell ringing at the graveside.

WANTED TO CLAP THE SERMON.

This concluded the business and the members then lunched in the fine old Dining Hall, Canon Coleridge presiding, supported by Alderman J. S. Pritchett (Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham), the Rev. R. Howes, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Mr. A. J. Wright, Miss Vera Robinson, etc.

The toast of 'Church and King' was honoured, and the Master then proposed 'The Oxford Diocesan Guild.' Referring to the slipping away of members, mentioned at the meeting, he said if everyone had been able to retain his membership as long as he had, namely, 54 years, their membership would have been something like ten thousand people. But they had some very keen ringers among their smaller number. He hoped they would all continue to do their very best. They all had something to learn, no matter how much they might think they knew about ringing. No man could be a good ringer until he could ring every bell in his tower properly, and he urged ringers, even some of those who could ring Surprise methods, to learn how to handle a bell properly. He was afraid many be-

(Continued on next page.)

THE LADIES' GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING REVEALS GRATIFYING FINANCIAL POSITION.**

The annual general meeting of the Ladies' Guild was held at St. Lawrence Jewry, London, on Saturday, July 13th. Twenty-eight members attended, and all districts with one exception were represented. After a short service, conducted by the Rector, who gave the Guild a hearty welcome, the business meeting was held in the vestry.



MISS EVELYN STEEL.

Re-elected President of the Ladies' Guild.

The president (Miss Evelyn Steel) was in the chair. The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure of £3 0s. 1½d.—a very gratifying state of affairs.

The president (Miss Steel) and the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mrs. E. K. Fletcher) were re-elected, as were also the two representatives on the Central Council (Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Richardson). It was decided to proceed with the printing of new service forms and also obtain quotations for new badges. It was also resolved to issue reports annually.

A committee was formed to discuss the possibilities of holding a dinner on the 25th anniversary of the Guild's formation, and to report at the next meeting.

Bath was chosen for the next annual meeting.

Ringing took place during the afternoon and evening on the heavy ring of bells, and an excellent tea was provided by Mrs. P. Humphrey, to which 45 sat down.

LAVENHAM'S RINGING ANNIVERSARY.

On Saturday, June 22nd, the 124th 'ringing day' was held at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Lavenham, when 46 visitors took part with the local company in many touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent, Oxford, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. The following places were represented: Assington, Cornard, Chelmsford, Colne Engaine, Debenham, Groton, Halstead, Ipswich, Little Waldingfield, Long Melford, Monks Eleigh, Maldon, Maplestead, Newton, Sudbury, Shipley (Yorks), Sible Hedingham, Tooting (Surrey), Thorington, Wanstead, Woodford and Wormingford. Tea was followed by a short business meeting of the Suffolk Guild, of which a district meeting was being held in conjunction with this gathering. In the absence of the Rector, the chair was taken by Mr. E. Chalk, of Maldon.

Handbells were afterwards rung by Messrs. F. Chalk, Mansfield, S. H. Symonds, L. J. Clark and Miss Baldock, Messrs. Clark and Symonds rendering some old airs, four-in-hand. Further tower-bell ringing followed.

'A GREAT ADVENTURE.'**MAKE SURE OF YOUR COPY NOW.**

When the Australian ringing tour was first alluded to in 'The Ringing World' it was described as 'A Great Adventure,' and, under this title, the story of that wonderful journey, the greatest in all ringing history, will be told in the forthcoming book, which, as announced last week, will be published on August 14th.

The subsequent visit of some of the party to New Zealand—a departure only decided upon after the tourists had left England—will also be described, and hitherto unrelated history of ringing in Australia from the year 1855 will be included.

The book will be illustrated with no fewer than forty photographs, and the price will be 2s. post free. Ringers will find it of present interest and future historical value, and everyone should secure a copy. The edition, however, will be limited, and unless an order is placed at once, it may be too late.

If, therefore, you have not already reserved your copy, **write now**, enclosing 2s., to

'The Ringing World,'
Woking, Surrey.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Shropshire Association held a most successful meeting on Saturday, July 20th, when Hodnet was visited. The melodious peal of six were set going to Doubles and Minor, and by tea time a company of 30 had assembled.

A satisfactory number of new members were elected, including nine from St. Andrew's, Great Ness, which is a new tower for the association.

The Ellesmere meeting was fixed for September 7th, and the secretary was asked to arrange the postponed Edmond meeting for October 5th if possible.

In the evening a party visited Stoke-on-Tern. The church is situated on the bank of the stream amid rural surroundings, which consist of a farm, a few cottages and a newly-erected dairy. The Vicarage is nearby, but hidden among trees. The bells are a peal of six with 8 cwt. tenor, and are tuneful but in need of the attention of the bellhanger. However, Grandsire Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor were rung, and a good 'fall' completed the excursion.

Good practice was obtained during the day, and instruction given to the less advanced. A touch of 240 Cambridge was successfully brought round, and various methods of Minor were rung during the afternoon and evening.

The following towers were represented: St. Chad's (Shrewsbury), Coalbrookdale, Market Drayton, Wem, Olive, Great Ness, Stockton, Malins Lee, Hinstock, Stanton and the local company.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Continued from previous page.

gimmers were taught to ring changes before they could properly ring rounds. He urged every member to make himself a proficient ringer, and he hoped the Guild would prosper and flourish in the future as it had in the past.

The toast having been honoured, the Master tendered the thanks of the Guild to the Dean and Chapter of Christchurch for the use of the Cathedral and Chapter House, the Dean and the governing body of Christchurch for the use of the Dining Hall, the organist, Dr. Armstrong, and all who had helped them to have such a happy and excellent gathering, especially the preacher, whose coming to the diocese as Vicar of Beenharn they gladly welcomed.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert, in seconding the vote of thanks, said he had never heard a sermon that he wanted more to stand up and clap (laughter). He had heard plenty of twaddle when he would have liked to get up and walk out, but Mr. Howes' address was one of the best he had ever heard given to ringers (applause).

The Rev. R. Howes, in reply, expressed his pleasure at the opportunity of addressing the Guild at their annual festival, and said that although he had been in the diocese only a week, they had already pushed him into office as secretary of the branch of the Guild in which he lived.

By request, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith gave a few brief impressions of the Australian tour.

Afterwards the members dispersed to the various city towers, where they enjoyed change ringing for some hours.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

EASTERN DISTRICT AT JARROW.

A most successful meeting of the Eastern District was held at Jarrow on Saturday, July 13th. Ringers were present from Whickham, Chester-le-Street, Sunderland, South Shields, West Hartlepool, Gateshead and the local men.

The bells of Christ Church and St. Peter's were kept going during the afternoon and evening, the methods rung being Bob Minor, Kent Treble Bob Minor and Major and Grandsire Triples. A short meeting was held after tea, Mr. R. L. Patterson, vice-president, presiding. After the loyal toast, Mr. Patterson said it was a great pleasure to see such a good number of ringers present, and hoped the Jarrow men would be encouraged by the association's visit.

Mr. Pickering moved a vote of thanks to the clergy for the use of the bells, and Mr. Hall, in reply, said the association's thanks would be conveyed to both incumbents.

Seven new members were elected, viz.: The Rev. J. Williams (Vicar of St. Peter's) and Messrs. Harold Craig, Sidney Craig, James Atkinson, Harold Thompson, Ronald Myers and Albert Overton.

Mr. G. S. Taylor, secretary of the association, read a letter from the Rev. Dr. F. H. Jackson, Rector of SS. Mary and Cuthbert, Chester-le-Street, saying he was retiring in October owing to ill-health, but would be very pleased to give the address at the annual meeting of the association in Durham Cathedral in September.

Sympathy was expressed with Dr. Jackson, which the secretary was asked to convey to the Rector, with the hope that he would be long spared in his retirement.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at West Hartlepool about the middle of August, the date to be announced later in 'The Ringing World.'

After the meeting the bells again went merrily until about 8 p.m., a very happy time being spent by all. The vice-president and district secretary must have been loth to leave Jarrow. The local ringers went to the station to see them off, but within half an hour they were back in Jarrow again, having got into the wrong train after changing at Tyne Dock. However, all's well that ends well, and it was a successful meeting.

A DAY IN KENT.

WOODFORD GUILD VISIT NOTABLE TOWERS.

St. Mary's, Woodford, Guild, accompanied by eight guest ringers, spent their annual outing in Kent. They left home at 7 a.m. and arrived at Margate at 10 o'clock. They were directed to a fine looking tower and would doubtless have had an enjoyable ring there but for the fact that, despite a thorough search, no bells could be found. However, they eventually arrived at St. John's, the tower they were actually seeking, where they were met by Mr. Saxby and an old London friend, now resident in Margate, Mr. Joseph Waghorn. Various touches from Grandsire to Double Norwich were rung for the morning service, on the recently rehung, fine toned ring of eight.

The Waterloo tower bells, Quex Park, were placed at the service of the party through the kindness of Major Powell-Cotton, and an interesting time was spent with this unique light ring of twelve, rounds, Siedman Caters, Double Norwich and Grandsire being rung. Lunch was held in Canterbury, and after this came the 'high spot' of the day's ringing. By the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter, the splendid ring of twelve at the grand old Cathedral were rung for the afternoon service. This great privilege was highly appreciated, and it is pleasing to be able to record that the ringing came up to that standard which should always prevail at such noble edifices. The band wish to thank Mr. M. Pierce for his assistance and the welcome which he extended to them. Another old friend met the company here, Mr. A. Patrick Cannon. It was with great regret that a departure was made from the Cathedral, as time did not permit a thorough tour of the building.

For Sunday evening service, All Saints', Maidstone, with its ring of ten, was visited, and methods from Grandsire to Treble Ten were rung. When the party was about to leave Maidstone it was found to be one short, and they, therefore, sent a search party out for him under the expert and professional guidance of one of 'Lord Trenchard's young men.' The missing member was speedily found, and when taken into custody mumbled an excuse, but it is not known whether he meant 'bells' or 'belles.'

The last visit of the day was to Withyham, Sussex. Here the party were met by the Rector (the Rev. Layng), who is president of the East Grinstead Guild. The church is beautifully situated on a hill and has a peal of eight worthy of it. The Rector is a keen supporter of ringing and gave the visitors a hearty welcome. Various touches were rung before a start for home was made at 9.20 p.m.

During a stop on the journey, Mr. J. G. Prior, on behalf of the guests, thanked Mr. Morss, the Master, and also the Woodford band for inviting them to what had proved such a splendid day out. He also proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. A. Waugh, Deputy Master of the band, for the admirable arrangements he had made.—This was seconded by Mr. A. Rumens, who took the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Morss on the splendid progress his young band was making.—Mr. Morss and Mr. Waugh both replied.

It was a long and memorable day — beautiful weather, lovely country, good comradeship and what perhaps counts most of all, splendid striking.

A OPEN LETTER.

TO MEMBERS OF THE METHODS COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,—In common, no doubt, with very many others of the Exercise, I have been interested to read of your proposals—(1) to re-issue the Doubles and Minor Collection in some form; and (2) to publish a collection of Surprise Major methods, which, I understand, may include an 'explanation of proof and similar things.'

It is the proposed explanation of proof which primarily has caused me presumptuously to address this letter to you all, collectively and individually, in the hope that its suggestions will not die the natural death that appears to be the lot of so many, because there happens to be in existence a system of proof which I believe to be the quickest to use and the easiest to understand. I believe, also, that this system is, very probably, unknown to you.

A secondary cause is the fact that one of you (or, perhaps, more than one) wrote that 'explanation' in the Doubles and Minor Collection, to be found on page 113, where we read that '... 6-5s are inevitable in so-and-so, etc., etc.' much of which is pure stuff and nonsense, disproved long before that collection was completed by one who had covered the whole of the Minor field from all of those angles with which the collection deals. You publicly have acknowledged some of the errors in that book—errors which easily might have crept into any work of this kind; but reminders in this journal, calling for the correction of the inexcusable misstatements regarding the 6-5s, have carefully been allowed to die the natural death afore-said. I wonder why?

May I again remind each one of you (and, after all, each of you is responsible for what appears, if only by reason of your claim to 'copyright') of the tables compiled by 'The Mad Hatter,' before you offer to the Exercise a reprint of that page, much of which should never have been put to paper at all? This is by no means a first reminder. As a matter of fact, I mentioned it again, earlier in this year, personally to one of your most illustrious members, who then asserted that there was nothing wrong with it! In spite of the fact that peals have been rung with 5-6s only, where the book definitely states that 6-5s 'are inevitable'!

He impressed upon me the difficulties which beset the committee, which I think most of us well realise; and I believe that most of us appreciate the work that you do, and are grateful for the time so ungrudgingly given. But many of us are of the opinion that only the best possible should go into the official publications of the Central Council, no matter the source whence it comes, and you will forgive me for suggesting that there is a limit to the knowledge of any one man, or any one body of men.

He also stressed the lack of response brought by inquiries made by the committee through the medium of the Press, and I quite believe him. Here, however, I take time by the forelock. I should be very sorry indeed to read a treatise on proof, backed by the official support of the Methods Committee of the Central Council, written by (say) the '6.5s gentleman,' on the lines of that to be found in 'Surprise Methods'—a very lengthy process; or even in the condensed form as published by the Rev. E. Bankes James some years ago, which, in turn, is superseded by a simpler and shorter method. It would be a positive sin to tell the Exercise that it may use rows of like nature only, when it safely and easily may use unlikes; that it must produce at least four false course ends from every false section of a method, when two only of every four are necessary; that a whole lead must be used, when half the lead is all that is required, or that it must find at least 16 false lead-heads from a lead of (say) Bristol, when not a single one is required there.

Those are some of the features of the system which is available for your consideration. Since it was published in 'The Ringing World' of December, 1928 (by 'Minormania'), it has been through the purifying fire of 'The Mad Hatter'—the only man I know who thoroughly grasped the principles upon which the system stands. He approached it from a different angle, and travelled along a different route; he tore it to shreds and remade it to suit himself, simplifying much that was in the original without destroying it. Much argument went into the work of cutting and polishing. The result, which belongs to 'Minormania' and 'The Mad Hatter' (purely chronologically so), is a system which enables the practitioner to decide that a method like Bristol has a clean proof scale in one to three minutes; to produce the false course ends in a method like Cambridge in five to ten minutes—according to his degree of ability to use the system. And to do so with certainty and without fatigue.

I wonder if you (whoever it may be who is writing that 'explanation' for the book) can do likewise, on lines other than those covered in the articles published in December, 1928?

As I have said, this system of half-lead proof was born in December, 1928, following exhaustive inquiry as to its possibility (without success) from leading authorities some time in 1927. Subsequently tables of 'Related Course Ends,' which are merely a logical conclusion from the basis upon which the system is built, were posted to those from whom I had first made inquiries, amongst whom and others were the Revs. C. D. P. Davies and H. Law James, Messrs. G. Baker, J. W. Parker and J. A. Trollope. The 'family tree' of the system may be of interest. Its 'father' was published by the Rev. E. Bankes James; its 'uncle' was used by Mr. G. Baker; its 'grandfather' appears in 'Surprise Methods' (the Rev. C. D. P. Davies). And #

(Continued on next page.)

EASTWOOD HO!**READING RINGERS' DAY OUT.**

The ringers of St. Laurence's, Reading, accompanied by their Vicar, went 'Eastward Ho' for their outing. For some years they have gone to the west, but Essex and Hertfordshire were chosen for this journey. At 10 a.m. they reached Waltham Abbey, and the fine Norman work was much admired. Then up the winding stair, and Stedman Cinques was soon rolling out in good style. After two touches, a good course of Major was rung on the back eight. Then to Chelmsford, where, through the kindness of Mr. Clark and the officers of the Essex Association, the visitors were allowed the use of the bells, while the association dined and held their business meeting. Stedman Cinques went well here, and so did a good dinner at the Golden Fleece Hotel.

The next tower was All Saints', Hertford, where Stedman Caters was the order, the bells being a fine ten. St. Albans Cathedral was next, a ring just about St. Laurence's weight. The visitors were met by Mr. and Mrs. H. Langdon and Mr. M. F. R. Hibbert. Two touches of Stedman Cinques were brought round, and it was said outside that the ringing was not bad, but most of those who took part complained that the bells could not be heard well in the tower. However, a good tea refreshed the grumblers, and off the party went to Watford, where Stedman and Grand sire Triples and a course of Cambridge Major were all rung well on a fine peal of eight. The conducting was shared by Miss S. Davis, Miss P. Holloway, Messrs. H. Langdon, E. Humfrey, S. C. Davis and R. T. Hibbert. The St. Laurence's ringers wish, through the columns of 'The Ringing World' sincerely to thank all those who made the arrangements for the ringing at the various places and those who met them. Reading was reached at 10.20 p.m., everyone being tired, happy and satisfied.

A SUMMER FESTIVAL.**GUILDFORD GUILD GATHERING AT SHERE.**

About 50 ringers from many churches in the diocese visited Shere on Saturday week for the summer festival of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. The picturesque village was an ideal spot for such a gathering on one of the most 'flaming' days of the year.

A service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. Sir Paget Bowman, R.D.), who gave a much appreciated address. Afterwards he conducted a small but interested party round the church, explaining some of its features. The ancient brasses were much admired.

The members of the Guild sat down to tea at the White Horse Hotel, where they were joined by the Rector, who was thanked by the Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse) for allowing the Guild the use of the Parish Church bells for the occasion, and also for conducting the service.

Despite the heat, the visitors enjoyed ringing on the eight bells which hang in the old church tower, the standard methods and Cambridge Surprise, as well as rounds for beginners, being rung.

FARNHAM DISTRICT.

Nearly 30 members and friends attended a meeting of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Scale on Saturday. Service was fully choral, a number of local ringers being choristers. The Rector (the Rev. R. S. Arrowsmith) conducted the service and welcomed the members to the parish. He also encouraged those present to stand fast in their work for God and His Church, and not merely to ring for their own pleasure and amusement.

Tea was served by local ladies in the Jubilee Room, and a short business meeting followed.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Rector, who prior to service had dedicated a tablet recording three peals rung in the tower. Thanks were also expressed to all who had helped in the success of the meeting.

A retiring collection for the Guild Benevolent Fund realised 5s. 6d. Ringing continued in the evening, and, after good practice, the bells were lowered in peal at 8.15 p.m.

A DATE TOUCH.

At Middleton, Lancashire, on Monday, May 27th, a date touch of Bob Major (1,935 changes) in 1 hour 7 minutes for the Queen's birthday: J. Hollows 1, W. Berry (composer and conductor) 2, H. Kent 3, J. Richardson 4, J. Smith 5, J. Ogden 6, J. H. Bastow 7, A. Ogden 8. It was also a birthday compliment to A. Ogden.

MUFFLED BELLS.

At Middleton, Lancs, on Tuesday, July 16th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) with the bells fully muffled in memory of the late Mayor of Middleton (Mr. William Taylor): J. Hollows 1, W. Berry 2, H. Kent 3, J. Richardson 4, S. F. Ogden 5, J. Ogden 6, J. H. Bastow 7, A. Ogden 8.

(Continued from previous page.)

had a good 'hair cut and shave' in the tonsorial establishment run by 'The Mad Hatter.'

Of course, the system would have to appear as ours, and, perhaps, 'Mr. Copyright' would rear his head. If so, it cannot be helped, but we think that it is good, and I think that you ought to consider it for the benefit of the Exercise—even if you turn it down. Anyway, the offer is here, and in good time.—Yours very respectfully, 'MINORMANIA.'

CHESHIRE RINGERS IN WARWICKSHIRE.**A WEEK-END TRIP.**

Once again an annual outing undertaken by a few members of the Chester Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild has become a very pleasant memory. Messrs. J. Morgan, R. Sperring, W. Thomas, W. Bibby, J. Swindley, P. Swindley, J. W. Clarke and A. E. Richards left Chester early on a Friday afternoon, and, in glorious spring sunshine, headed south-east for Warwickshire. A splendid trip of just over a hundred miles saw the party at the Bath Hotel, Leamington, the headquarters for the week-end.

As ringing was not possible that evening, an opportunity was taken to see the sights of 'leafy Leamington,' and the 'waters' of this famous Spa were found to be quite up to expectations. In fact, reservoirs were reported to be well filled as the evening drew to a close.

After a pleasant walk on Saturday morning, the tower of Lillington Parish Church appeared among the trees, and after inspecting the famous oak tree (one of several reputed to mark the centre of England), the tuneful ring of eight was soon raised. Historically, the sixth is the most interesting bell of the peal, as it was cast in 1480 (approx.), and for its age is remarkably good in tone. In spite of the fact that the bells are noisy in the ringing chamber, a very enjoyable hour was spent here, several touches being successfully completed.

Lunch at headquarters was followed by a journey of eight miles through shaded lanes to Southam, where, at the Church of St. James, a peal of eight by Taylor and Co. was at the disposal of the visitors for the afternoon. The bells were originally five, and a treble was added in 1855 to commemorate the wedding of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra. The six were rehung and two trebles added in 1915. At this tower Messrs. Burt, Thorne (verger), White and Rethbans joined in the ringing, and a variety of methods were attempted—most of them successfully. After a particularly pleasant afternoon, tea was clearly indicated, and, at the old Craven Arms, Mrs. White manipulated the teapot as only a lady can.

A visit to St. Mary's, Warwick, on Saturday evening, had been keenly anticipated. This fine ring of ten (tenor 24 cwt.) was a source of delight throughout the evening, for, beautiful in tone and delightful to handle, it is all that appreciative ringers could ask for. Although several methods were rung, perhaps the most interesting 'touch' was the rounds and call changes, with Master Billy Male, aged 9½, ringing the treble. They certainly believe in 'catching 'em young' at Warwick, for here is a small boy who can ring his bell and strike a treble lead with the best, and, incidentally, handle the bells as far down as the 8th! 'The Ringing World' recorded recently that on Jubilee Day, Master Male, his father and grandfather all rang together. Evidently ringing is in the blood!

An early start was made on Sunday morning by ringing for 10 a.m. service at All Saints', Leamington, where there is a smooth running peal of eight with a 12½ cwt. tenor. Following this Warwick was revisited and the charms of St. Mary's ten again enjoyed.

After lunch, bags were packed, petrol tanks filled, and the return journey was commenced. A halt at Coleshill made a welcome break, and a Confirmation service at 3 o'clock presented an opportunity to visit the belfry. The captain, Mr. J. Bayliss, very kindly handed over the ropes and some well-struck ringing resulted. The bells are a good eight with a 14 cwt. tenor, the order of the ropes falling anti-clockwise. An interesting relic near the church is a pillory in remarkably fine state of preservation, but a suggestion that it should be tested—with a member of the party as the victim—did not meet with unanimous approval, and the homeward journey was continued.

The George at Shrewsbury, by this time, no doubt, known to many ringers from all over the country, provided an excellent tea, and Wem was reached shortly before 6 p.m. Here the local company immediately invited the visitors to 'catch hold,' and a finely struck touch of Spliced Kent and Oxford Major brought a delightful week-end of ringing to its conclusion. No peals were attempted during the tour, but a large number of touches in a variety of methods were completed, with accuracy of striking the constant aim.

Looking back over several such tours, one all important fact stands out. The spirit of good fellowship among ringers is ever increasing. That the week-end described was so successful is a tribute to this good fellowship, and to the many new friends who helped to make it so the Cheshire ringers would like to say a grateful 'Thank you' for a delightful ringing week-end.

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NOTICES.

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

Notices must be received not later than Tuesday.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Farningham on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Important business to be discussed at this meeting. Half fares up to 2s. paid to members attending.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Pebmarsh on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—F. Ridgwell, Dis. Sec., Queen's Road, Earls Colne.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—A meeting will be held at Baslow (6 bells) on Saturday, July 27th. Edensor bells (6) will be available during the afternoon and evening. No arrangement made for tea. Subscriptions are due.—J. P. Tarlton, Hon. Sec., North Wingfield, Chesterfield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Bentley on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (5) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. If fine, tea will be held, by kind permission, in the grounds of Cecil House, if wet in the Schoolroom. There is a frequent bus service to and from Brentwood.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 313, Mawney's Road, Romford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m. Business: Nominations of officers.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Bishop's Waltham on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service in Parish Church 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., in Rectory Garden, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—A. T. Greenwood, 14, Cobourg Street, Portsmouth.

A JOINT MEETING of the Suffolk Guild and South Norfolk Association will be held at Elveden on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. C. Sharpe and Nolan Golden, Dis. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—The next meeting has been arranged at Chenies (6 bells) on Saturday, July 27th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Swainswick, on Saturday, July 27th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—T. Grant, Hon. Branch Sec., Swainswick, Bath.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Iron Acton on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—Frank Skidmore, 80, Carlyle Road, Greenbank, Bristol 5.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The summer meeting of the above will be held at Mapledurham on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (6) available from 3 till 8 p.m. Ringers' service in church at 5 p.m., followed by tea (1s. per head) at Mapledurham Lock. By special permission cyclists can use the bridle path from the Warren, Caversham, and pedestrians can cross the 'Roebuck Ferry' and walk across the fields. Corporation buses run from the centre of the town to the Roebuck Hotel.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Stanground on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock. A new treble bell has just been added to this tower.—H. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots, Hunts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Roxton on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good company is requested. Please come.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) **AND SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western District).—A joint meeting will be held at Ranmore on Saturday, July 27th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30 and tea afterwards.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Kirkby Lonsdale on Saturday, July 27th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m., price 1s. 3d. Meeting in the tower at 5.30 p.m. A good turn-up of members and friends is requested. Please bring subscriptions, which are now due.—E. Swain, 29, Beecham Street, Morecambe.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Adwick on Saturday, July 27th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Will all those requiring tea please notify me.—Ernest Cooper, 33, Church Street, Bentley, Doncaster.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on August 1st and 29th, *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 6th, St. Magnus' on the 8th and 22nd,

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St. Michael's on the 13th, St. Andrew's on the 15th, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 20th at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at All Saints', Higher Walton, on Saturday, Aug. 3rd. Bells ready from 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. All welcome and a good attendance hoped for.—J. Charnock, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, Aug. 3rd. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Business important. Members and non-members cordially invited.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—A meeting will be held at Histon on Saturday, Aug. 3rd, at 3 p.m. Good bus service, also trains, Histon, L.N.E. Railway.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford District.—A quarterly meeting of the district will be held at Wellington on Saturday, August 3rd. Bells (6) available 3.30 to 8.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. to those notifying me not later than August 1st. 'Red' buses leave Hereford at 3, 3.45 and 4.30 p.m. Fare 10d. return.—R. H. Stickley, Dis. Sec., The Lodge, Fownhope, Hereford.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Langton-by-Spilsby on Saturday, August 3rd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Will all intending to be present kindly let me know by Monday, July 29th?—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, Norfolk Street, Boston.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, August 5th, at Rotherham Parish Church. Ten bells. Tower open at 1 p.m. Cafes near church. All welcome.—M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 221, Hanover Street, Sheffield, 3.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The fourth annual dinner of the above association will be held on Saturday, October 26th, at the Baths Assembly Rooms, Library Street, Wigan. Arrangements are now well in hand, and a full and interesting day is assured. Tickets 4s. each, and early application will save a lifetime of regrets. Tickets may be had from the following: Mr. A. Parker, 245, Gidlow Lane, Wigan; Mr. N. Brown, 11, Cygnet Street, Wigan; Mr. W. Farrimond, 293, Ormskirk Road, Spring Bank, Wigan. Please apply early. Fuller details later.

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AN INFORMAL MEETING.

By the kind invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Reeder, M.A., an informal meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Withernsea on Saturday.

Choral evensong, with short address, was conducted by the Vicar, followed by tea in the Select Cafe, about 20 sitting down. Afterwards Mr. Cryer thanked the Vicar for his kindness in inviting the association to Withernsea.

Further ringing on tower and handbells and some little time spent on the promenade, enjoying the sea air, concluded a very good practice meeting.

MUFFLED BELLS.

With the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to Mrs. Wilson, who was interred at Appleton that day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes) was rung at St. Lawrence's Church on June 21st: F. S. White 1, H. C. White 2, G. Holifield, sen. 3, F. Barrett 4, F. Messenger 5, A. H. White 6, C. G. White 7, G. Holifield, jun. (conductor) 8, R. White 9, F. White 10.

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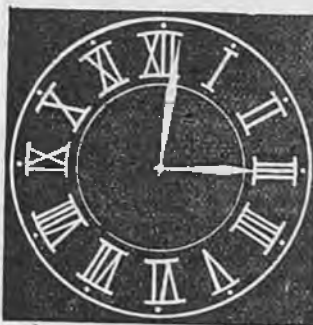
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