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LADIES' GUILD DIFFICULTIES.

The extracts which we give to-day from the annual report of the Ladies' Guild reveal some of the difficulties under which the ladies' organisation has to carry on its work. There are approximately three hundred active members, in addition to some 65 non-ringing honorary members and they are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. It is only the loyalty of the members and the enthusiasm of the officers that can keep the Guild intact, for it is practically impossible for all to keep in real touch with the organisation. And yet, with all the limitations upon it and the discouragements, which must be many, the ladies contrive to make their Guild an active force in the Exercise.

What would a 'mere man' do as district secretary in face of some of the obstacles! Fancy having to run a 'district' like the Northern District, which extends from Nuneaton in Warwickshire to Leeds in Yorkshire, and from Ashton-under-Lyne in Lancashire to Nottingham? Or a district like the Southern District in which the members are as far apart as Hastings and Truro, from east to west, and as Oxford and Portsmouth from north to south? Can one wonder that there is a difficulty in getting in subscriptions, or that meetings are necessarily small in numbers? The Northampton District is the smallest, but members have to travel thirty to fifty miles in turn to attend meetings. In the Lincolnshire District, the secretary and vice-president (who is really the district chairman) live 80 miles apart, and yet interest is maintained. It needs unbounded enthusiasm on the part of the responsible officials to achieve results, but the general secretary (Mrs. E. K. Fletcher) is able to report 'increase in membership and renewed interest.'

In the coming year the Guild will celebrate its Silver Jubilee, and everyone will hope that record success may be attained. Despite the scoffers, who think the Guild redundant, in view of the facilities that are offered by the territorial and diocesan associations, most ringers will, we think, admit that the existence of the Guild gives the ladies a suitable status in the Exercise. We know there are still some ringers who think the belfry should be the exclusive preserve of the male sex, but the march of time has brought women into practically every walk of life which a generation ago was thought to be the strict domain of men, and it is admitted that the arts and professions have gained thereby. The upward trend in belfry reform has been helped by the presence of ladies in the towers, and those who used to sneer at the capabilities of women at the end of the rope have to admit that there are to-day many clever women among

(Continued on page 830.)

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the ringers of this country, and that, in the mass, they are as competent as men in the mass. It is only in their physical limitations that they fail compared with the 'sterner sex,' but this is not their fault, and even in this they are no worse than many men, for we doubt if three parts of the latter are any real good at the heavy end of a ring of bells. There is a definite value in having ladies in the Exercise and the Ladies' Guild fills a useful place in the scheme of things. We can only hope that their difficulties of organisation may in course of time be overcome, and that their Silver Jubilee will bring a substantial acquisition of strength.

TEN BELL PEALS.

WIGAN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1936, in Three Hours & Thirty-Three Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 29 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb.

LESTER L. GRAY Treble	JAMES MARTIN 6
THOMAS W. HAMMOND ... 2	JAMES W. GROUNDS 7
JOHN WILKINSON 3	THOMAS B. WORSLEY 8
GEORGE R. NEWTON 4	EDWARD CAUNCE 9
JOHN BOOTH 5	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by GEORGE R. NEWTON.

First peal in the method on the bells. Rung in honour of the proclamation of King George VI.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, THAMES STREET,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

CHARLES T. COLES Treble	JOHN G. NASH 6
GEORGE R. PYE 2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 7
WALTER J. BOWDEN 3	THOMAS J. LOCK 8
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 4	JAMES BENNETT 9
HARRY HOSKINS 5	JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GEORGE R. PYE.

* First peal of Cambridge Royal. Rung on the occasion of the Proclamation of the Coronation of King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth and in honour of His Majesty's accession.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE BELL TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5087 CHANGES;

Tenor 31½ cwt. in C sharp.

*JOHN C. PERKINS Treble	JOHN HALL 6
MISS AMY R. JOHNSON ... 2	HARRY MIDDLETON 7
JOHN THOMAS 3	J. WILLIAM HEATH 8
JAMES HEMMING 4	GEORGE J. HEMMING 9
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 5	JOSEPH E. NEWMAN Tenor

Composed by W. WILLSON. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Stedman. Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to Mr. H. Middleton on the 70th anniversary of his birthday. Six members of the above band rang in his 60th birthday peal in 1926.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WICKEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 12, 1936, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

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

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

FREDERICK C. CASE Treble	A. NUNNELEY WOOD 5
JOHN A. GREEN 2	ERNEST C. LAMBERT 6
FRANK J. GREEN 3	THOMAS E. ROBERTS 7
CHARLES W. CLARKE 4	ALBERT J. GREEN Tenor

Composed by J. H. BARRETT.

Conducted by A. J. GREEN.

Rung in honour of the accession of His Majesty King George VI. Composition No. 111 in Central Council Collection.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 14, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*MISS N. WIGGINTON Treble	RICHARD SMITH 5
GEORGE LADD 2	JOHN CURRY 6
*NEVIL HOLLINGWORTH 3	ARTHUR J. FARR 7
*CLAUDE W. STUBLEY 4	JOHN G. AMES Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal. Rung in honour of the birthday of His Majesty King George VI.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 14, 1936, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES E. DAVIS Treble	GEORGE R. PYE 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT 2	GEORGE W. STIERE 6
CHARLES T. COLES 3	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON 7
JAMES BENNETT 4	REUBEN SANDERS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 144). Conducted by C. T. COLES.

Rung on His Majesty's birthday, in honour of the accession of King George VI. Also rung as a compliment to Miss Evelyn Sanders, daughter of the ringer of the tenor, on her sixth birthday.

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THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 15, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HILDA,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JAMES E. SCOTT Treble	ADAM DEAS 5
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 2	WILLIAM ROBSON 6
STEPHEN THOMPSON 3	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 7
CHARLES E. LAWSON 4	WILLIAM H. BARBER Tenor

Composed by H. JOHNSON.

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

RIPLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1936, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S ODD-BOB ONE-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

FRED W. HILL Treble	FRANK F. HILL 5
G. ARTHUR BOWMER 2	ROGER D. ST. JOHN SMITH 6
WILLIAM H. T. KING 3	ALEX. HUTCHISON 7
JOHN J. TURNER 4	*WILLIAM BERESFORD Tenor

Conducted by FRED W. HILL.

* First peal.

BUCKFASTLEIGH.—On Wednesday, December 16th, at the Parish Church, in 50 minutes, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1,248 changes): H. O. Collyer 1, A. L. Bennett 2, J. E. Lilley 3, A. W. Myers 4, T. G. Myers 5, E. J. Taylor 6, C. R. Walker 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WEST DORSET BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 17, 1936, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*FRANK D. HISCOCK Treble	REV. C. CAREW COX 5
JOHN E. PHILBRICK 2	GEORGE H. WHITMORE 6
CUTHBERT W. H. POWELL 3	*FRANK E. BLACKMORE 7
HENRY G. KERLEY 4	FRANK PRICE Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by REV. C. CAREW COX.

* First peal on eight. † First peal of Major. First peal in the method on the bells and the first peal of Major ever rung by a local band in West Dorset. Rung in honour of their Majesties, King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth. It was also the 32nd anniversary of the conductor's first peal.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Friday, December 18, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICAR'S.

Tenor 17½ cwt. in E.

EDWARD B. WEBSTER Treble	ARTHUR HEYWOOD 5
*HAROLD OWEN 2	JOSEPH OWEN 6
MISS C. ANNIE CROOK 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
ALBERT EDWARD SANDIFORD 4	OWEN OLIVE Tenor

Conducted by MISS G. ANNIE CROOK.

* First peal. Rung to celebrate the conductor's 21st birthday.

HURSLEY, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt.

*LEONARD KNOTT Treble	ERNEST J. TRIMMER 5
*REGINALD A. REED 2	GEORGE WILLIAMS 6
WILFRED ANDREWS 3	*R. GORDON CROSS 7
ANDREW J. CORRIGAN 4	*ROBERT G. HUNT Tenor

Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

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

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

JOHN H. B. HESSE Treble	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 5
CHARLES HAZELDEN 2	GEORGE W. STIERE 6
HENRY HUTTON 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 4	ALFRED H. POLLING Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. POLLING.

Rung with half-muffled bells for the funeral of the Very Rev. the Provost E. C. Kirwan, a true friend of the ringers. The band consisted of past and present members of the Cathedral Society and the Master of the Guild.

NEWHEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT Treble	*ARTHUR HAMBLER 5
WILLIAM BERRY 2	IVAN KAY 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 3	*REGINALD PLATT 7
*NORMAN HAMBLER 4	ALWYN TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM BERRY.

* First peal at first attempt. Rung to celebrate the diamond jubilee of this church.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Botolph,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*GEORGE J. BUTCHER Treble	ALAN J. HOPPER 5
JOHN WHEADON 2	E. GEORGE MORRAD 6
DERICK M. SHARP 3	JAMES E. BAILEY 7
NORMAN SUMMERHAYES 4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.
* 100th peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

SANDHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(HASTINGS AND DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, December 12, 1936, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Nicolas,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents, called differently.

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK CHAPMAN Treble	*WILFRED S. POPE 4
*EDWARD BISHOP 2	JAMES G. POWELL 5
LESLIE W. JARVIS 3	WILLIAM GORRINGE ... Tenor

Conducted by L. W. JARVIS.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung for accession of King George VI. A birthday compliment to W. H. Lambert, of Benenden.

TERRINGTON ST. JOHN, NORFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 14, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court, Double Oxford, Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.

SIDNEY FLINT Treble	WALLACE COUSINS 4
*EDWARD GREENACRE 2	FRED WIGMORE 5
CECIL EBBERTSON 3	CLAUDE COUSINS Tenor

Conducted by FRED WIGMORE.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung in honour of the birthday of H.M. King George VI.

FLITTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 15, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

C. HENRY HARDING Treble	FRANK C. TYSON 4
*ANDREW C. SINFIELD 2	EDMUND WAGSTAFFE 5
REGINALD J. HOUGHTON 3	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES ... Tenor

Conducted by C. E. JEFFRIES.

* First peal 'inside.'

SCOTOW, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 15, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven variations of extents.

*DENNIS F. BELL Treble	WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD 4
HERBERT C. READ 2	WALTER MEDLER 5
*ALFRED W. KING 3	GEORGE BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE BAILEY.

* First peal. The first peal on the bells since they were rehung and new treble added. The band regrets that Mr. G. Bell, of Scotow, was unable to take part in the peal owing to illness.

COGENOE, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of six 120's each of Canterbury Pleasure, Old Doubles, April Day, Plain Bob, St. Simon's, London and Grandsire.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

ROLAND JONES Treble	WILFRED JOYCE 4
JACK DAVEY 2	THOMAS HOLLOWELL 5
PHILIP JONES 3	EDWARD HASTINGS ... Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal. First peal by all in seven methods. Rung to celebrate the third anniversary of the first peal, rung at the same church, by the ringers of 1, 3 and 4.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 17, 1936, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

FREDERICK A. SALTER ... Treble	WILLIAM THORNLEY 4
FRANK BRADLEY 2	WILLIAM THORNLEY, SEN. ... 5
J. ALFRED BARRATT 3	JOHN E. HOBBS Tenor

Conducted by F. A. SALTER.

Rung on the front six after meeting short for Kent Treble Bob Major. Rung as a compliment to the mother of Mr. Bradley on her 70th birthday.

HAZELBURY BRYAN, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Mary and James,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 11 six-scores each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob and 20 of Grandsire, with 18 different callings.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*WALTER J. GOSNEY Treble	E. T. PAUL FIELD 4
H. JIM RALPH 2	GILBERT W. RENDELL 5
FREDERICK J. MARSH 3	†WILLIAM E. TREVITT ... Tenor

Conducted by E. T. P. FIELD.

* First peal away from the tenor. † First peal. Both at first attempt. Specially arranged and rung as a birthday (December 20th) compliment to Miss Anita Rees, of the Rectory.

EARDISLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.

Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS E. STREAD Treble	FRANK SANDFORD 4
HARRY OWENS 2	TREVOR JONES 5
LESLIE EVANS 3	THOMAS R. ECKLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

Ringers of treble, 2nd and 3rd are local men.

WARBLETON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE ... Treble	ARTHUR F. LEWRY 4
FRANK H. HICKS 2	JAMES G. POWELL 5
LESLIE W. JARVIS 3	ARTHUR J. HART Tenor

Conducted by A. F. LEWRY.

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FOR BEGINNERS.

REFERENCE INDEX TO OUR 1936 ARTICLES.

The articles which have appeared under this heading have been, as we have already pointed out, intended as a help to those who are called upon to give instruction, as well as to learners themselves. Purposely they have followed no set plan, for the reason that all 'beginners' are not in the same stage. Indeed, we are all 'beginners' of some kind or other, and that is why sometimes the articles are a little more advanced than those which absolute beginners can, perhaps, understand.

Now that we have got to the final week of the year it may be as well if we catalogue in some degree the articles which have appeared in 1936. It will, we hope, facilitate future reference by those who may have need of them as hints in teaching future pupils. The subjects are, so far as possible, grouped.

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CONDUCTING FROM A 'NON-OBSERVATION' BELL.

Here is a letter from Australia with reference to what we wrote about conducting from a non-observation bell:—

Dear Sir,—In your issue of August 28th, this subject is discussed in your usual clear manner, and to me it seems the concluding words in paragraph 1 are particularly apt and sum up the position. You then discuss calling the bells 'Before' and 'In the Hunt' in Grandsire Triples.

In the case of compositions in one part, such as Holt's Original, or other notable 'peals,' 'lengths,' etc., the plan, I venture to think, is admirable. But if, in the case of touches or peals in 4-5-6-7-8-10-12 parts, all the bells falling into 3rd's place are to be noted throughout,

would this not, in effect and in a broad sense, reduce all compositions of whatever length to one part? I quote a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples as an example to illustrate my meaning:—

234567

752634—1

527634—4

275634—4

Repeat nine times, with S. at half-way and at the end. (If a Holt single be preferred, the 2nd is retained at the part-end throughout.)

On the face of it, the calling is for the 2nd 'Out,' 'Before,' 'In' in the first half, and the 3rd likewise in the second. (No need to discuss the alternative when Holt's single is used.) But if the young conductor is to adopt the bells Before, the position is by no means so clear or so simple. He must memorise the bells, thus: (1) 5.2.7; (2) 6.2.4; (3) 3.2.5; (4) 7.2.6; (5) 4.2.2(S.); and in the second half substitute 3 for 2.

Actually this was the first quarter-peal I called, and, though but a lad at the time, I found no difficulty in doing so from the 4th, and even after 30 odd years I would prefer this plan to 'taking' all the bells 'Before.'

The subject, as all ringers will admit, is a 'big' one. In a given case, five notable men will probably conduct the same touch or peal on five different plans, and by the fact that each would be successful shows that each plan is correct.

For a number of years I have thought the subject was worthy of a 'text book,' but finally concluded that if such a book were issued by one individual alone, it would probably be adversely received by the ringing brethren.

But, Mr. Editor, from the point of view of the young and ambitious ringer, I still am of opinion such a book would be welcomed in the British Isles, and, maybe, command a ready sale. I particularly refer to the ringer of two or three standard methods, who has no one available to whom he can look for help in the initial stages of calling.

If, therefore, the Central Council could be induced to discuss this matter and endeavour to find men who would undertake such a work it would make a notable addition to the publications already issued. I commend it for your consideration and leave to others the question of methods and numbers of bells.

ERNEST F. BEHAN.

Carlton, Melbourne, Australia.

We do not think we have suggested that all peals and touches of Grandsire should be called by the bells 'Before,' because it is perfectly true, as our correspondent points out, that to do so would sometimes be a more laborious task than calling by other means. We illustrated our article by explaining how easily Holt's ten-part can be called by the bells Before, but in the following issue we also showed how, in peals of a different type—Parker's twelve-part was the illustration—other 'observations,' such as calling a bell In and Out of the hunt and into other positions, can be used just as easily. Perhaps, however, Mr. Behan had not received that issue of 'The Ringing World' when he wrote his letter.

OTHER DOUBLES METHODS.

For the benefit of those who tried to find the three variants of the Doubles method which we published last week, but did not succeed, here are the figures:—

12345	12345	12345
21354	21354	21354
23145	23145	23145
32415	32415	32415
23451	23451	34251
32541	32541	43521
23514	35214	34512
32154	53124	43152
31245	51342	41325
13425	15324	14352
14352	13542	13425

'The Mad Hatter' writes as follows: 'Your Doubles method is Reading Doubles, No. 12 in the Central Council's Collection, but with the Plain lead as bob, and the Bob lead as the method. Given thus, the method is asymmetrical, while as Reading Doubles it is symmetrical.'

Of course, we knew this, but as a 'method' it is different to the others, and it produces an additional lead in the plain course. The variations, again, are all different, just as there are often four methods of Minor with the same framework, but differing, as we have pointed out previously, by the addition or omission of 2nd's and 5th's places over and under the treble respectively.

FATHERS AND SONS.

At St. Catherine's Church, Gorseinon, South Wales, on Sunday, October 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Williams 1, Latimer Williams (first quarter-peal 'inside') 2, Reg. Dobbins 3, J. Hanson 4, A. W. Dobbins 5, W. Dobbins 6, Haydn Dobbins (conductor) 7, C. Pettit 8. In this quarter-peal three fathers and three sons took part. Specially rung as a wedding compliment to the curate, the Rev. J. W. Jones.

NEW PEAL AT BRADSHAW, YORKS. RING OF FIVE DEDICATED.

The gift of Mr. Eli Fielding, an old and esteemed resident of the village, a new peal of five bells was dedicated at the Church of St. John, Bradshaw, Halifax, Yorkshire, on Saturday, December 12th. The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. Seaton).

The church, which is situated on the edge of the famous Ogden Moors, was well filled for the ceremony. Directly the bells had been handed over to the care of the Vicar, a few rounds were rung by the ringers of Queensbury, who have undertaken the responsibility of instructing a young band at Bradshaw.

The Bishop in his address expressed gratitude to the donor of the bells for his gift, thanks to the Queensbury ringers for their services, and words of advice and encouragement to the youths who had come forward to be instructed in the art of change ringing.

After the service bells were rung to Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

The bells are another fine example of the work of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of the Croydon Foundry, who were represented by Mr. S. R. Roper. The tone and go of the bells is all that could be desired, and a great asset to Sunday worship in this village has been added by the installation of the peal. The weight of the tenor is 8 cwt, 0 qr. 12 lb.

THE PROVOST OF GUILDFORD.

DEATH OF A VICE-PRESIDENT OF GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The diocese of Guildford has lost a prominent and much-loved figure in the person of the Provost, the Very Rev. Ernest Cecil Kirwan, and with his passing the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Ringers has lost a vice-president who had endeared himself to all the members.

The Provost had been in indifferent health for nearly two years, and for some weeks past had been in a nursing home. He was 69 years of age.

Educated at Bath College and Keble College, Oxford, his theological training was received at Cuddesdon College, and he was ordained deacon in 1891, and priest the following year.

After two years in a curacy at Bracknell, Berks, he was appointed in 1893 to a curacy in Guildford, and except for six years as Vicar of Camberley and Yorktown the rest of his active life was spent in Guildford in the service of the Church and town. He was inducted as Rector of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's in 1907, and when Holy Trinity became the Cathedral of the new diocese, Canon Kirwan became the first Provost. He never spared himself in the multifarious duties which fell to his lot, and his devotion to his work led to the breakdown in his health.

From the inauguration of the Guildford Diocesan Guild he made its progress a matter of keen personal interest, for his own ringers had always a warm place in his heart, and he extended this interest to the new Guild when it was formed. He regularly attended the annual meetings and dinners, sometimes presiding, and he also, whenever possible, was present at the meetings of the committee, of which he was an ex-officio member. In the Guild, as in the town and diocese, his loss will be deeply felt.

At the funeral on Saturday afternoon, attended in the Cathedral by a large and representative gathering of churchmen, the Guildford Diocesan Guild was represented by the Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse), the hon. treasurer (Mr. J. Corbett) and past and present members of the Cathedral Society. After the service a half-muffled peal was rung.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ASHFORD DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES.

The Ashford District of the Kent County Association met at Wye on Saturday, December 12th, in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Romney Marsh and District Guild. Although the weather was none too favourable, about thirty were present, representing ten different towers. No service was held, but the Vicar, Rev. D. W. Metcalfe, joined the company at tea at the King's Head Hotel.

At the business meeting which followed tea, the Vicar presided. In presenting the report and balance sheet for the year, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. Conley) stated that there had been a net increase in practising members of thirteen, making a total of 153. The district had only two hon. members, yet in spite of this the receipts were higher than last year, amounting, with the collection for the benevolent fund, to £16 2s. 6d. The expenses had also been somewhat higher, so that the amount paid to the central fund was rather less than last year. The meetings of the district had been well attended throughout the year, the lowest attendance being thirty.—Both the report and balance sheet were adopted.

The Secretary then gave a report of the Central Committee meeting at Maidstone, and was thanked for doing so.

For the Romney Marsh Guild, Appledore was again chosen for the annual meeting to be held on January 16th, when the same enter-
(Continued in next column.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WEATHER AFFECTS ATTENDANCE AT EASTERN MEETING.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Pontefract on Saturday, December 12th, and was rather poorly attended, owing, no doubt, to the bad weather. About 20 ringers were present from Bodsworth, Campsall, Goole, Hemingbrough, Pontefract (St. Giles' and All Saints'), Rotherham, Selby Abbey and Sherburn-in-Elmet. All Saints' Church bells (8) were rung during the afternoon and evening, and St. Giles' (10) were available during the evening. Good use was made of both, the following methods being rung: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

Evensong in All Saints' Church was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. A. G. Shipley), and the preacher was the Vicar of St. Giles', Pontefract (Rev. C. C. T. Naters).

Tea was partaken of at the Co-operative Cafe, and the business meeting was held in St. Giles' belfry, the Vicar presiding.

Three new non-resident members were elected—Messrs. Martin Walker and Tom Hall, of Uleby, Lincolnshire, and George Dobbs, of Killingholme, Lincolnshire.

The Secretary explained that Pontefract was substituted for Goole for the meeting as Goole is at present without a Vicar. Mr. Hill, of Goole, extended a provisional invitation to the district for the annual district meeting to be held in March. This, of course, is subject to the approval of the new Vicar on his arrival in Goole in the new year.

Mr. Cryer proposed, and Mr. Vigor seconded, a vote of thanks to the Vicar of the two churches for the use of the bells, and this was responded to by the Vicar of St. Giles'. He extended a hearty welcome to the members to Pontefract.

Mr. Hill proposed, and Mr. Bradley seconded, a vote of thanks to the organist of All Saints' Church and the local companies. This was responded to by Mr. Walters.

It is hoped to arrange a special practice meeting at Howden early in January, notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World' in due course.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild was held at Neath. About 40 ringers attended, including visitors from Aberdare, Bridgend and Newton Porthcawl. The bells, a peal of six rehung this year by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and going well, were rung from 3 p.m. Service was conducted by Rev. Canon R. W. Jones, B.A. (Rector), assisted by Rev. E. V. Dodd (curate). Mrs. Richards presided at the organ, and the choir, some of whom are ringers, was in attendance.

A very interesting address was given by the Rector on the Parish Church and bells of St. Thomas. Three of the bells date back to about 1700. There is also a bell (no date) on the floor of the church which had been brought from Chili with four others and given to Ostermouth, St. David's, Swansea, Hafod and Clyne.

Tea, partaken of in the Church Hall, was very generously given by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Thomas. About 40 sat down and did full justice to all the good things provided. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded by acclamation to the donors.

At the business meeting, with the Rector in the chair, a vote of condolence was passed with the relatives of the late Mr. D. Williams, of Sketty.

Mr. E. Stitch was re-elected hon. district secretary, and Mr. D. L. Rees elected auditor.

Morrison was chosen for the March meeting.

Two new members were elected, and the chairman kindly became an hon. member.

It was reported that a peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor had been rung at Llanelly as a quarterly peal for the Guild, and it was hoped to be able to ring one in each quarter.

Votes of thanks were given to the chairman and to all others who had helped to make the meeting such a success.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor. A course of London Surprise Minor came to grief six changes from home.

(Continued from previous column.)

timers will assist with the social part of the meeting as on the last occasion. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

One peal has been rung for the Guild since the last meeting, a notable one in some ways, being the first local peal at Aldington for fifty years.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for his attendance at the meeting.

In a brief reply he said how pleased he was to welcome the ringers to Wye, and hoped to have the pleasure of doing so many more times.

After a short touch on handbells, the company returned to the tower and made good use of the bells until 8 p.m., when an enjoyable meeting closed.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEMBERS ENTERTAINED BY PRESIDENT.**

The annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 12th, when 63 members and friends were present from Burslem, Brown Edge, Bucknall, Cheadle, Crewe, Disley, Draycott, Kids Grove, Kingsley, Longton, Lawton, Leek, Marple, Macclesfield, Norbury, Norton, Newcastle, Stockton Heath, Stoke, Stone, Tunstall, Uttoxeter, Warrington and Wistaston.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. S. Churton, of Stoke, seconded by Mr. G. H. Hall, of Brown Edge, to the Rector of Stoke (Rev. P. Harthill), who kindly provided the tea.

The Rector gave a very hearty invitation to all present, and expressed his wish to be with them next year.

He was supported by Rev. K. G. Symcox, curate. The Rector, who is president of the association, was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson, hon. secretary, Mr. Kenneth Thacker, assistant hon. secretary, Rev. K. G. Symcox and Mr. Sidney Churton.

After the minutes of the last annual meeting and of the annual committee meeting had been approved, Mr. J. E. Wheeldon commented on the secretary's report, which appeared in our issue of November 27th, and stated it was the finest report he had had the opportunity of listening to.

Mr. R. D. Langford, hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild (Crewe Branch) thanked the Rector and ringers for the welcome extended to visitors when they attended any of the meetings of the association. This was supported by Mr. C. K. Lewis (Stockport, Bowden and Mottram joint secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild).

RINGERS' DINNER.

The annual dinner of the St. Aidan's Guild and guests (Blackhill Branch of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association) took place on Friday, December 11th, in the Church Recreation Hall. A gathering of about 28 sat down to an excellent meal, presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. Jenkin Jones). The toast of 'The King' was honoured. A toast to 'The founder of the bells (Mrs. Lee),' was proposed by Mr. Baley, and Mr. F. W. Marshall submitted 'The St. Aidan's Guild,' both of which were suitably replied to.

A social was afterwards held, the proceedings including a small whist drive. Songs were sung by Messrs. Johnstone, Tyson, Lynn, and the Rev. W. Chapman (curate). The arrangements were successfully made by the Ringing Master (Mr. Macfeggan), and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

HUNTINGDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

BY G. LINDOFF.

12345678	5.152			
21354768	23456	W	M	H
12537486				
21357846	52436	—	—	—
23158764	45623	—	—	—
32517846	65324	—	—	—
23157486	26354	—	—	—
32514768	32465	—	—	—
23541786	42563	—	—	—
32457168	84523	—	—	—
34251786	56342	—	—	—
43527168	36245	—	—	—
34257618	43265	—	—	—
43526781	24536	—	—	—
45327618	54632	—	—	—
54236781	26435	—	—	—
45327681	42635	—	—	—
54236718	64235	—	—	—
52437681	26543	—	—	—
25346718	35264	—	—	—
52436178	23564	—	—	—
25341687	52364	—	—	—
23546178	43526	—	—	—
32451687	54326	—	—	—
23415678	35426	—	—	—
32148587	23456	—	—	—
23416857	The first peal in this method was rung on January 10th, 1935, at St. Mary's, Helmingham, conducted by G. Whiting.			
32148675				
31246857				
13426587				
31245678				
13254768				
13527486				

Bob 12357486

COVENTRY.—On Sunday, November 8th, at Stoke Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: E. Sibley 1, W. J. Smith 2, E. H. Johnson 3, J. Jagger 4, F. Pervin (conductor) 5, D. Ellender 6, W. T. Cox 7, F. Rouse 8. Also rung for the 50th anniversary of the first peal by W. J. Smith, in which J. Jagger also took part.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We extend to all our readers the heartiest wishes for 'A Merry Christmas.' The prayer for 'Peace on earth; goodwill to men' has seldom been more necessary than to-day.

Bellringing will be included in the television programme to be broadcast on Christmas afternoon. Four members of the College Youths will ring Stedman Triples on handbells: Messrs. E. H. Lewis, H. Langdon, W. Roughton and A. B. Peck. This will be the first occasion that ringing will be 'seen on the air.'

Mr. Tom Hibbert, the popular secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, has spent his long ringing life endeavouring to raise the standard and quality of peal ringing. On Saturday week (as recorded in our last issue) he conducted a peal of Bob Major at Bucklebury. It was rung for the 81st birthday of the Bucklebury veteran, Mr. Wm. Wigmore, who has been a ringer at the tower for 63 years.

Recording this event, Reading's only daily paper, the 'Evening Gazette,' informed the public that the ringers 'rang a peal of Plain Bob Major, firing 5,040 changes in three hours 12 minutes from the belfry.' The emphasis is ours.

As one of Tom's friends said to him the next day, 'Well, old man, your standard of ringing has sadly deteriorated, according to the local paper.' But then, Tom himself once said on a public occasion, that all newspaper men are akin to Ananias, or something to that effect. The reporter of the 'Evening Gazette' seems to have done his best to prove it.

The many friends of Mr. Ben Jarman, of Harpenden, Herts, will be sorry to hear that he is in the London hospital and has undergone a serious operation. It is hoped he will make a speedy recovery.

The name of the ringer of the second in the half-muffled peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Benilton, on Thursday, December 10th, should read Arthur A. Hadley, not William, as published.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS LEARNING TO RING.

MISS JOAN KYNASTON'S EFFORTS AT FRENESHAM, N.S.W.

Among the letters which have brought us greetings is one from Miss Joan H. Kynaston, of Frensham, Mittagong, New South Wales, where she is teaching as a member of a school staff. She took with her from England all the keenness of an enthusiastic ringer, and is endeavouring to interest some of the senior girls of her school in the art.

The Rev. C. C. Cox obtained a set of handbells, which were sent out last December.

Since their arrival, says Miss Kynaston, I have shown a number of people how to use them. It was very difficult at first, as I was the only member of Frensham who knew anything of change ringing. I am proud to say that I now have a team of senior girls who can ring Doubles of Bob and Grandsire, Plain Bob Minor, and have attempted Grandsire Triples and Stedman. Their enthusiasm knows no bounds, and I very much hope they will continue as ringers when they leave school, especially if they are able to visit England.

The ringers at St. Mark's, Darling Point, have been extraordinarily kind and good to me. They gave me the warmest welcome on my first visit, and each time since then. In August Mr. Kearns very kindly arranged for some of his ringers to meet us at the church, and they taught the five girls I took from Frensham how to handle big bells.

We have twice rung a plain course at the school service, and the parents have shown great interest in the bells. In due course I hope that members of the school may help to build up a tradition of change ringing in the State.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HARTEST.

BELLS CAST WHEN RICHARD DUCKWORTH WAS RECTOR.

Sir,—The article by Mr. Trollope about the 'Tintinnalogia' and Richard Duckworth is interesting. It may be of further interest to our readers to know that while Duckworth was Rector of Hartest-cum-Boxted a new peal of bells was erected at the Parish Church, Hartest. They were all cast by John Darbie. The treble, 2nd, 3rd and 4th were inscribed, 'John Darbie made me, 1661.'

The tenor, about 11 cwt., 'John Darbie made me, 1661. William Coppinge, Richard Murrell, Churchwardens.'

These bells are in size and tone like a peal of six with the fifth left out. Although they were rehung in 1880 in a new oak frame, it is no easy task to ring them. That they have been rung through the ages there is little doubt. On one occasion, about 100 years ago, one of the ringers, after ringing a short time, dropped down dead in the tower.

The old ringers, whom I knew when a boy, had an old set of handbells with wooden handles and no springs. The clappers consisted of a short piece of iron with an eye turned on one end, and on the other end was a ball of wood about the size of a marble, according to the size of the bells. The bells were rough and not polished, but just as they came out of the mould. They were not very musical. What has become of them I am unable to say. The old ringers whom I knew were illiterate. They used to ring 120's of Grandsire, and they all had their own bells to ring, which makes me think they did not ring by rule. However, they were always pleased to see a visiting ringer. I believe the bells are seldom rung now.

Glemsford. T. SLATER.

PEALS OF TWELVE BELLS.

RAPID INCREASE IN NUMBER.

The new peal of bells at Croydon Parish Church, the opening of which we chronicled last week, brings the total number of ringing peals of twelve to 55, all but two of which are in England. Since the war there has been an amazing growth in the number of rings of twelve, which 25 years ago totalled only thirty-four—thirty-two of them in England.



THE TOWER OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST'S CHURCH, CROYDON.
[Photo: C. H. Price.]

York Minster was the first tower in which a peal of twelve was installed, but York has not had this number continuously. A long period intervened when there was only a peal of ten. The Gloucestershire tower of Cirencester has had a ring of twelve for the longest consecutive period, but St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, runs it close, for two trebles were added to the then existing ten by Rudhall in 1719.

In Shipway's day, that is, 120 years ago, there were thirteen rings of twelve in existence. These were in the following towers: St. Bride's; Christ Church, Spitalfields; St. Giles', Cripplegate; St. Leonard's, Shoreditch; St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; St. Michael's, Corn-

hill, and St. Saviour's, Southwark, London; Birmingham, Cambridge, Cirencester, Liverpool, Norwich and Shrewsbury.

Of these, Spitalfields afterwards disappeared in a fire which destroyed the tower and bells. St. Peter's, St. Albans, is another tower which once had a peal of twelve. These were subsequently reduced to the original ten.

It is not uninteresting to note that in Shipway's list of churches with peals of ten bells (1816) eighteen are now among the twelve-bell towers. They were St. Mary-le-Bow, London; Ashton-under-Lyne, Aston, Canterbury, Exeter, Halifax, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester (St. Margaret's), Oxford, Painswick, Reading, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Wakefield, Worcester, Yarmouth and York.

The following is the present list of rings of twelve, in addition to which there will soon be ringing peals of the same number at Manchester Town Hall and Leicester Cathedral.

LONDON.		Tenor.
		Cwt.
St. Paul's Cathedral	...	62
St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	...	54
St. Bride's, Fleet Street	...	28
St. Michael's, Cornhill	...	41
St. Giles', Cripplegate	...	36
St. Saviour's Cathedral, Southwark	...	50
St. Martin's-in-the-Fields	...	30½
St. Leonard's, Shoreditch	...	28½

THE PROVINCES.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, St. Michael and All Angels'	25
Aston, Birmingham, SS. Peter and Paul's	25
Birchington, Kent, Waterloo Tower, Quex Park	15½
Birmingham, St. Martin's	37½
Bristol, St. Mary Redcliffe	50½
Cambridge, St. Mary-the-Great	28
Canterbury, Christ Church Cathedral	30
Chelmsford, Essex, St. Mary's Cathedral	34½
Cheltenham, Glos, St. Mary's	22½
Christchurch, Hants, Priory Church of Holy Trinity	30
Cirencester, Glos, St. John's	29
Croydon, Surrey, St. John-the-Baptist	36
Exeter, Devon, St. Peter's Cathedral	72
Halifax, Yorks, St. John's	25½
High Wycombe, Bucks, All Saints'	31
Ipswich, Suffolk, St. Mary-le-Tower	32
Kidderminster, Worcs, St. Mary and All Saints'	24½
Leeds, Yorks, St. Peter's	41
Leicester, St. Margaret's	33
Lincoln, Cathedral	24
Liverpool, St. Nicholas'	39½
Macclesfield, St. Michael and All Angels'	26½
Newcastle-on-Tyne, St. Nicholas' Cathedral	37½
Norwich, St. Peter Mancroft	27½
Oldham, Lancs, St. Mary's	33
Oxford, Christ Church Cathedral	31
Painswick, Glos, St. Mary's	26½
Reading, Berks, St. Laurence's	23½
Saffron Walden, Essex, St. Mary's	24
St. Albans, Herts, St. Peter's Cathedral	23½
Sheffield, Yorks, St. Peter's Cathedral	41
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, St. Chad's	43
Surfleet, Lincs, St. Laurence's	12
Taunton, Somerset, St. Mary's	30
Tewkesbury, Glos, St. Mary-the-Virgin	23
Trowbridge, Wilts, St. James'	24
Wakefield, All Saints' Cathedral	31
Walsall, Staffs, St. Matthew's	26
Waltham Abbey, Essex, St. Laurence's	38½
West Bromwich, Staffs, Christ Church	23
* Winchester, St. Swithin's Cathedral	31
Wolverhampton, Staffs, St. Peter's	33
Worcester, St. Mary's Cathedral	49½
Yarmouth, Norfolk, St. Nicholas'	30½
York, St. Peter's Cathedral	60

IRELAND

Dublin, St. Patrick's Cathedral	45
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AUSTRALIA.

Melbourne, St. Paul's Cathedral	31½
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* Winchester bells are now being recast and increased in weight.

STEPNEY SCHOLARS.

FIRST QUARTER-PEAL OF TRIPLES.

To mark the ordination of the Rev. W. H. Bathurst as priest, the Stepney Scholars rang the first quarter-peal of Triples by the Guild on Sunday, when 1,260 of Grandsire was brought round on the back eight bells of St. Dunstan's Church, Stepney: *H. E. Thompson 1, †G. C. Cox 2, *T. G. Fox 3, G. W. Cecil 4, *A. A. Jarvis 5, H. A. Pinchbeck 6, L. J. Fox (first quarter-peal of Triples as conductor) 7, C. Andus 8. * First quarter-peal of Triples. † First quarter-peal. All are regular Sunday service ringers at St. Dunstan's.

WILLIAM, LORD BRERETON. FIRST MASTER OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In the following article Mr. J. Armiger Trollope writes of the first Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, William, Lord Brereton. In our issue of November 27th we gave a brief outline of the career of Lord Brereton, a great Royalist as well as a ringer, to whom, in large measure, the society owes its origin.

In this three hundredth year of the existence of the Society of College Youths a good many of the members will no doubt be glad to hear something about the man who was the first Master and principal founder, especially as we are told in the books that nothing is known of him.

The Breretons were a very old family, which had been settled in Cheshire from before the reign of Henry I. The eldest stock lived at Brereton, a village a few miles from Crewe, and there were branches in other parts of Cheshire, in Ireland, and in Norfolk. Many members of the family served the State in the Army, the Court, the Church, and the Law.

From very early times it was the custom to call the eldest son William and the second son John; and as this was so in the junior branches of the family as well as in the elder, there were a great many William Breretons, several of whom had the honour of knighthood conferred on them, and many Johns. In the reign of Henry VIII., Sir William Brereton was second in command to Sir William Skeffington, the Lord Deputy of Ireland and was afterwards Lord Justice. His son, Captain (afterwards Sir) John and Andrew were active in the Irish wars, and other members of the family are mentioned in the State papers of the time.

LORD BRERETON'S ANCESTRY.

Another Sir William Brereton held an office in the royal household. He was involved in the disgrace of Anne Boleyn, was charged with having committed adultery with that unfortunate queen, and was beheaded for treason on May 17th, 1534. Another Sir William, son of Captain John and grandson and heir of the Lord Justice, was Sheriff of Cheshire. He died in 1559 and was succeeded by his son, a boy of nine years old, who was baptised at Brereton, February 6th, 1550. This William served in the Low Countries and was knighted at Flushing by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the English Commander-in-Chief. About 1586 he built the hall at Brereton, a building of stone and brick, which is usually considered one of the finest examples of Elizabethan architecture extant. The tale is told, but on very doubtful authority, that the great queen laid the foundation stone and afterwards visited the completed house.

On May 11th, 1624, Sir William was created Baron Brereton of Leighlin in the peerage of Ireland, and in 1630 he died, aged 80 years. He had four sons, William, born 1579, who was entered a student of Lincoln's Inn in 1586; Robert, born 1584; William, born 1586, and John, afterwards Sir John, born 1591. As all of these predeceased the old lord, the title and estates fell on his death to his grandson, John's son William, who was born on February 28th, 1611, and baptised on March 8th at Gawsorth.

Of his boyhood and early manhood nothing is known. I have not been able to trace his name among the alumni of Oxford or Cambridge, or as a student at one of the Inns of Court, though the names of several of his family appear. In after years he applied for a legal post which

seems to show that, like most young men of his class, he did have some training in the law. His student days were over and he was 26 years old when he and his friends founded the Society of College Youths. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Goring, afterwards Earl of Norwich, who held a position of great importance at the royal court and managed to secure a very large income by getting hold of monopolies. Through the influence of his father and his own social position, Brereton was brought into close contact with the king and all the leading men of the time.

SHORT RINGING CAREER.

His active connection with the College Youths did not last many years, for clouds were gathering on the political horizon, and in 1642 the Civil War broke out. Brereton threw himself warmly into the cause of the King, went down to his own county, gathered arms, raised forces, and garrisoned his house. On the other side was his distant cousin and namesake, Sir William Brereton, of Handforth, 'a gentleman of competent fortune in that county and Knight for the Shire in Parliament, but most notorious for a known aversion to the government of the Church.'

Sir William came down from London with a troop of horse and dragoons, inflicted a sharp defeat on the Royalists, and fortified Nantwich. Chester City, through the influence of the Cathedral, was for the King; his adherents made it their headquarters; and from the two camps the opposing forces strove for the control of the county. The issue was decided in 1644, when Thomas Fairfax, the best general the Parliament had (save only Oliver Cromwell) marched from Yorkshire, joined Sir William Brereton and routed the King's army at Nantwich, after which the Royalist cause never revived again in Cheshire.

Lord Brereton fought at Nantwich and after the defeat escaped southward, but he was surrounded and taken prisoner with his son and wife at Biddulph Hall in Staffordshire. He petitioned the Parliament to be exchanged, but his request was refused, and he was told that he must first give satisfaction for killing several of the Parliamentary side in cold blood at Nantwich. A year later, however, he was exchanged for Sir John Harcourt, and after that he retired to his own house and took no further active part in the war.

ESTATE SEQUESTERED.

But his troubles were by no means over. The Parliament had fought the war partly on the ground of the illegal raising of money by the King; and now faced by the necessity of providing the sinews of the war they themselves adopted much the same plan. A Committee for the Advance of Money was appointed, who assessed the value of the estates of country gentlemen and then levied a rate accordingly. Brereton was assessed at £2,500; appealed against it, had it altered, and finally settled the demand by paying £240.

When the Parliament finally triumphed the estates of those gentlemen who had been guilty of 'delinquency' (i.e., of bearing arms for the King or supporting his cause) were sequestered and among the list of those seized in Cheshire appears Lord Brereton's. The delinquents were allowed to redeem their estates by paying a fine, variously fixed from one-third to one-tenth of the value. Lord Brereton was assessed at £4,605 5s. 10d.

*Clarendon.

and ordered to pay one-sixth. He paid half of what was demanded, appealed for a reduction of the balance, and finally received his discharge at Goldsmith's Hall on May 6th, 1648. The estate was said to be worth £1,400 a year. His brother John, who as a boy of sixteen had ridden out to serve the King, was also punished by sequestration, and Lord Brereton compounded for the claims on him by paying £150. Thomas Sidway, the estate bailiff, had to pay £120.

Mr. Robinson, the Vicar of Brereton, was ejected for delinquency, and in his place Lord Brereton appointed a John Holm, whose doings and opinion were not to the likings of the Puritans of the district. He refused to keep the fasts and thanksgiving days appointed by Parliament or to subscribe to the Covenant. He would not do it, he said, for ten times the value of the living. Some fanatic complained of all this to the Parliament and laid the blame on Lord Brereton. 'This sads,' he wrote, 'the heart of the honest part in the parish.' The Puritans of Churchhulm and Middlewich also complained that Lord Brereton had hindered their ministers and prayed that they might be paid out of his estates.

In 1660 came the Restoration of the Monarchy and Lord Brereton, like many another country gentleman, looked for restitution and compensation for all the losses he had borne. He petitioned the King for a grant to himself and his son after him of the office of Custos Brevium in the Court of Common Pleas. Whether his request was granted does not appear, but on May 31st, 1661, a warrant was issued to pay Lord Brereton £500 as the King's free gift.

TRIALS OF OFFICE.

He was made Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire in conjunction with Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, who was also Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and Lord of the Isle of Man. This division of the office was unusual, and was done in this case because while Brereton represented the Cavalier gentry of the county, Derby's territorial and family influence in the district was so great that he could not be passed by. The arrangement was not satisfactory. There was a great deal of ill feeling between the Breretons and the Stanleys. The latter were suspected of being lukewarm in the royal cause; and 'ten loyal subjects,' headed by Lord Brereton, sent a petition to the King against Thomas Stanley of Alderley, who wished to obtain the honour of a baronet. They protest that their action was not malicious and point out that Stanley had made some persons 'take bonds never to acknowledge a king' and (this, no doubt, was a sore point) his son Peter had bought part of the Marquess of Winchester's estate from the Commissioners of Delinquents' Lands.

Derby ignored Brereton and tried to govern the county as if he did not exist, and this offended and irritated Brereton. There was confusion and complaints sent up to Whitehall. Secretary Nicholas wrote to Derby that 'the King hears the militia is in no good position because the earl will not consult with Lord Brereton about the appointment of deputy lieutenants. All diligence must be used in settling the matter.'

In reply, Derby excused himself by blaming Brereton for not signing the Commissions, and brought down upon himself a sharp rebuke. 'His Majesty is much dissatisfied and begs him to use expedition and let his next letter report his diligence. The reason why Lord Brereton

refused to sign the deputations was that the Commissions and instructions had not been sent to him nor his advice taken about Cheshire which the King expects to be done as he is joined in the Commission.'

Matters did not much improve and later on Richard Leigh writes to the Secretary at Whitehall that, having two Lords Lieutenant, he finds it hard to please both. Lord Derby now seeks to oblige all he can and Lord Brereton is so wedded to his own humour that nothing else can please. Some of the country gentlemen sent a request that both Brereton and Derby should be dismissed and Lord Gerard appointed Lord Lieutenant; but this was not done. A hint seems to have been given to Derby to devote himself to his other lieutenancy of Lancashire and his lordship of Man and to leave Cheshire to Brereton.

PETITIONS TO WHITEHALL.

There was a good deal of dissatisfaction in the county and Brereton reported that he was keeping a strict watch. Several of the suspects he arrested and imprisoned in Chester Castle, for the Habeas Corpus Act was not yet passed. One man, John Griffiths, was especially obnoxious to him. He had been a captain in the Parliamentary Army and a dependant of the Stanleys. Lord Derby made him Collector of Excise in the county, although disqualified under the Act of Indemnity from holding Government employment. Him, Lord Brereton clapped into prison together with other persons connected with the government of Chester under the old regime, and naturally they and their friends did their best to make trouble for him.

Petitions were sent to Whitehall that Griffiths might be released so he could attend to the King's business, but Brereton countered them by saying that Griffiths was a seditious person, who tried to prejudice the King and Council against those who opposed his wicked attempts, as most of the gentry in the county would testify. It was not the Excise business that troubled him, for he had offered never to act again if he might have his liberty. He tried to escape from the castle, and, therefore, the writer suspected him of greater matter than had yet been found out.

Brereton complains that he serves the King in a place where he can please no party. One, Zachary Croftin, had left preaching, turned cheese factor and rode up and down the county sowing sedition. After he was arrested he boasted that he had written one bishop silent who could not speak, and another dumb who could not write.

LORD BRERETON'S DEATH.

Part of Lord Brereton's duties was to enforce the laws against Nonconformists. He reports that he took some persons at a Presbyterian Conventicle, but let them go, this being their first fault, on promise not to do the same again and on paying the soldiers who secured them; but others taken at an Anabaptist meeting were sent to gaol, obstinately refusing to give bonds or take the oaths, but saying they must obey the spirits.

Having got all these people into prison and the expected trouble having been averted, the Lord Lieutenant was at a loss to know what to do with them. He therefore applied to London for instructions and an Order in Council was issued directing him to release them all on good security and after they had taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. Only Griffiths and another

were to be kept and his lordship was to gain proofs against Griffiths.

A month later, February 20th, 1664, in reply to some Government communication, George Brereton wrote that his father was laid up with an excessive cold, but would attend to the King's business so soon as he could come abroad; but he never did come abroad again. His illness worsened and in April, 1664, he died and was buried on the 21st at Brereton. There is no memorial at present to him in the church.

During the last three years of his life he was member of Parliament for Cheshire, but he took no active part in the proceedings and indeed his other duties must have prevented any long stay at Westminster. Two months later Lord Derby showed his relief at getting rid of his troublesome colleague by writing to Secretary Bennet and thanking him for obtaining for him the lieutenancy of Chester without a companion.

TITLE BECOMES EXTINCT.

There was a John Brereton who joined the College Youths in 1657 and was Master in 1660. I should like to think he was Lord Brereton's younger brother, the boy Cavalier of 1642, only he is said by Ormerod, in his monumental 'History of Chester,' to have died in 1656, but I have found some mistake in Ormerod's account of the Breretons and this may be one. John Brereton graduated B.A. at Oxford in 1646 and M.A. in 1649.

Lord Brereton was succeeded by his son William, an amiable and accomplished man, who was one of the founders of the Royal Society. He was educated at Breda at the expense of his grandfather, the Earl of Norwich, and was a poet, algebraist, and musician. Owing to the losses and expenses sustained by his father in the Civil War he was compelled to dispose of the Cheshire estates, and when he died administration was granted to his creditors. He was buried at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. His son John died in 1718 and was succeeded by his brother Francis, who died childless in 1722, when the peerage became extinct.

George Brereton, Lord Brereton's younger son, was at Oxford. He was created Master of Arts by virtue of the King's letter. Anthony Wood says: 'He never suffered anything for the King's cause, yet because he was a lord's son, got a fellowship of All Souls' College, where speaking evilly of Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Ralph Snow they found means to eject him thence.' George Brereton afterwards took orders and was a Prebendary of Lincoln.

The above account is based largely on State papers and is taken from a 'History of London Ringing in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,' now in course of preparation.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

ANNUAL REPORT REVEALS DIFFICULTIES OF ORGANISATION.

The annual report of the Ladies' Guild has just been issued to members. While it reveals general progress, the difficulties attending its organisation are manifested in comments by the district secretaries. The scattered distribution of the ladies makes it difficult to keep the members in touch with the activities of the Guild.

The active members number 297, and the non-ringing life members 65. They are distributed as follows:—

District.	Active.	Honorary.
Central	85	18
Lincoln	25	14
Northampton	37	9
Northern	33	3
Southern	57	9
Western	53	7
Unattached	7	5

The report of the general hon. secretary (Mrs. E. K. Fletcher) states: During the twelve months since the issue of the last report there has undoubtedly been a noticeable increase in the membership and renewed interest in most districts. The time has come to consider the advisability of altering the districts to enable the country to be more adequately covered, and a committee was formed at the annual meeting at Bath to go into the matter.

The year 1937 marks the 25th anniversary of the Guild's formation, and it is hoped to hold a dinner in London to celebrate the event. The date has been provisionally fixed for October 23rd, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

The district secretaries deserve a hearty vote of thanks for their work during the year, and the best way to show this is by supporting the meetings which they arrange.

DISTRICT SECRETARIES' COMMENTS.

Here are some pertinent extracts from the reports of the district secretaries:—

Central District: On the whole the meetings were very well attended, except the December meeting. Three honorary members and nine ringing members were elected at the meetings, but eleven members have lapsed since the last report was printed.

Lincolnshire District: The balance for the year is not as good as previously, a few members having withdrawn. Those of our branch who really are interested attend every meeting possible, but others are very lax. They pay their subscriptions and there their interest ends. If only members would realise that attendance at meetings is necessary for the welfare of the branch and very much appreciated by the officials, I am sure more would attend. In our district, the vice-president and secretary live 80 miles apart, so that if it were not for the use of cars it would be impossible to carry on, as the railway is hopeless. We find that joint meetings with branches of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild are a great help to all concerned.

Northamptonshire District: Although our district covers a small area compared with other districts of the Guild, it is not proportionately simple or convenient for the arrangement of meetings accessible to the majority of members. Distances of 30 or 50 miles are usual for all of us in turn, therefore an average attendance of about 10 members cannot be considered unsatisfactory. I would appeal, however, to each member to do her utmost to come whenever the Guild visits her neighbourhood; it is when those who could come do not do so that the Guild suffers and is less able to carry out its objects. To keep our membership up to 35 in number we must judiciously encourage all the beginners that we come across, so that they are not lost during the dangerous stage that comes between the novelty of the learner and the accomplishment of the change ringer. The continued support of all the 'old members' is the greatest help. For us all, shall we put our minds to better striking? Following on improvement in our own towers there might be great results on the valuable occasions when we meet.

Northern District: I am pleased to state that the meetings held at Manchester and Ossett were a credit to the district, and I would like to thank members for their support in attending these meetings. At the Manchester meeting a change of secretary is recorded, Miss Cawthorne resigning after six years' service to the district, this making the third change in secretaries since the formation of the district. The accounts of the district are very satisfactory, the subscription receipts being above average and practically up to date.

Southern District: The Southern District has held meetings at Aldershot, Leatherhead, Reading and Ash. The attendance (with the exception of Leatherhead when there was thick fog) has been good, and the secretary wishes to thank her keen supporters who have made the meetings a success. Ten new members have been elected and four have dropped out. The secretary appreciates prompt payment of subscriptions, and thanks those who are always to time.

Western District: The district has made fairly satisfactory progress during the past year. There has been only one new member, and several of the older ones appear to have dropped out. Also subscriptions have not come in as well as usual. On the other hand there seems to be greater interest in the meetings, and the attendance has greatly improved, though this might be still better if some members would really make an effort to be present when the meeting is within reasonable distance.

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SIX DORSET RINGERS' FINE RECORD

FORTY YEARS OF BELFRY COMRADESHIP.

When 24-year-old Tom Foote went to the little Dorset village of Marnhull as a young man life seemed to be dull among the village lads. There were no motor-cycles, no films, very few dances, because that was 40 years ago.

So he got other five bachelors together, and in November, 1896, started a bellringing team at the Parish Church. The six men, all now grey-haired, still wend their way up the belfry steps to the tower, and in completing 40 years' unbroken service as a team they have created a wonderful record.

They estimate that they have rung for 10,000 hours.

And one of them, Alfred Drew, who is 75, has probably rung for many hours longer than that, for he has been sexton of Marnhull Church for most of his life.



FORTY YEARS TOGETHER.

The ringers of Marnhull, Dorset, who have rung together at the Parish Church for 40 years. Mr. T. Foote (the captain) is seen, congratulating Mr. Alfred Drew (aged 75), the oldest member.

[Photo by Dorset Press Services.]

The ages of these six fine old countrymen total 406 years. Mr. Tom Foote, the captain of the team, is 64, Henry Haskett is 73, Mark Denn 72, Walter Drew 62, and John Crew 60.

Mr. Foote started on his bellringing career when he was 17, at Donhead St. Mary in Wiltshire.

'It is extremely difficult to persuade young men to go into the tower nowadays,' Mr. Foote told an interviewer. 'They think too much about town life, the pictures, dancing and going off to the seaside on Sundays. Yet bellringing is as fine and healthy an exercise as you can find. Look how it has kept this team fit for 40 years.'

Once in the days of a former Rector this Marnhull team resigned, and the reason provides a funny story. Henry Haskett was a maltster, and maltsters had to work every day of the week. Henry was often busy at the kiln on Sundays, but he managed to take his 'rope' in the tower all the same.

(Continued in next column.)

ROUND BLOCKS AND TRANSPOSITIONS IN PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

BY GEORGE BAKER.

Some credit for this latest discovery of mine is due to Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, Kent, because it was a doubt expressed by him about the relationship of Middleton's peal of Cambridge Surprise and a similar peal that led me early in November to test these two peals to try and find out whether Round Blocks and Transpositions existed in peal compositions as well as in Methods, Principles and Systems.

They do exist, and the three symmetrically arranged peal compositions which follow together with their Round Blocks and Transpositions prove the fact indisputably.

No. 1 for 2nd's place Methods.

W. M. H.	23456	2nd part.	Round Blocks.	Transpositions.
—	43652	x 62534	= 46532	46532
—	26435	x 45623	= 46325	52643
—	43265	x 62453	= 54263	46532
—	52436	x 34625	= 54632	35264
—	42635	x 64523	= 42635	23456

Composed November 3rd, 1936, by George Baker.

No. 2 for 8th's place Methods.

O. F. I.	23456	2nd part.	Round Blocks.	Transpositions.
—	63254	x 45362	= 65324	65324
—	25346	x 36524	= 46325	34562
—	34256	x 52364	= 54263	65324
—	25463	x 36245	= 65243	42635
—	35264	x 56342	= 35264	23456

N.B.—No. 2 peal is No. 1 peal converted from 2nd's place methods to 8th's place methods. The Round Blocks are the same in both peals; where they appear to differ, the proving value of either shows they are one and the same Round Block.

No. 3 for 8th's place methods.

F. I. O.	23456	2nd part.	Round Blocks.	Transpositions.
—	35426	x 56234	= 36524	36524
—	23564	x 35642	= 34562	65243
—	32465	x 53246	= 62345	36524
—	63254	x 45362	= 65324	42635
—	35264	x 56342	= 35264	23456

No. 3 peal was the first of the two peals published in 'The Ringing World' on November 27th last. Three of the Round Blocks are foreign to the first two peals, so it is not the same composition.

The three peals here given have regular part-ends, and all are symmetrical in their Bob formations, consequently 'Rounds' turns up as the last row of transpositions, as it does in Methods, Principles and Systems that are symmetrically constructed.

Where the first part of a peal contains more than five courses, or where the part-ends of a peal are irregular, or where the Bob formations are asymmetrical, as in the following peals, 'Rounds' will not turn up as last row of Transpositions.

Middleton's peal of Cambridge.

M. W. H.	23456			
—	43652	x 25463	= 65243	65243
—	56234	x 64352	= 36524	53462
—	23564	x 35642	= 34562	34625
—	52364	x 63542	= 54263	26354
—	35264	x 56342	= 35264	65243

A similar peal: Wrong before Middle:

W. M. H.	23456			
—	52436	x 26534	= 36524	36524
—	45623	x 32465	= 65243	42356
—	36524	x 54263	= 46532	36524
—	53624	x 25463	= 52643	23456
—	65324	x 42563	= 65324	65324

N.B.—Three of the Round Blocks of Middleton's differ from the similar peal, so they are not the same compositions.

(Continued from previous column.)

But one Sunday Henry was very busy at his work—and he was hungry. So when he dashed into the bell tower he started to munch a biscuit. Alas! he was caught by the Rector, who said, 'I won't have bellringers taking refreshment in the tower. If they can't wait till the ringing is over I would rather they did not come at all.'

So the bellringers in sympathy with hard-worked Henry Haskett resigned in a bunch.

But the Rector soon discovered his folly, and before the next Sunday he had repented, and the six ringers were in their places.

And they will be in their places on New Year's Eve to ring the old year out and the new year in.

SUFFOLK GUILD'S APPRECIATION OF UFFORD BELLS. BEST GOING RING IN THE DIOCESE.

A meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Ufford, the bells newly rehung, with four new bells, being a great attraction. Fifty-two sat down to tea, provided by Mrs. Drake. Mr. J. P. Fidler represented the founders, and Mr. Ernest Bilney, the churchwarden of Woodbridge, was elected to the chair.

Mr. Charles Mee was also present, and much satisfaction was expressed at the first-rate work he had put in in repairing the tower and making it fit for the new bells, and in altering the position of the clock. The fine tower at last now looks as it should, instead of one window being blocked out by a badly painted clock face.

Much appreciation was also shown for the more comfortable arrangements of the tower, now the best appointed, and containing the best going ring of bells in the diocese.

A collection was made, amounting to 28s. Thus the Guild has now raised more than the £10 required to fit the frame for some trebles to be added later.

A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Taylor and Co. for sending such a good ring of bells to the diocese.

The Guild met at Framlingham on December 12th, and ringers were present from Ufford, Little Glemham, Hacheston, Framdsen, Diss and Debenham. They came from all quarters by bus, motor or cycle, and they first met at the Parish Church of St. Michael. The ringing included Bob Major, Grandsire and other methods.

After wards the party of 17 sat down to tea at Simpson's restaurant, and a business meeting followed, at which Mr. G. Berry presided.

The Rev. H. Drake, hon. secretary, presented a report, which showed the Guild had had a successful year.

It was decided that the next meeting should take place in February at Stowmarket.

A vote of thanks was passed to Canon H. C. O. Lanchester (the Rector) for the use of the bells, and two new members were elected.

Handbells were brought into use on the second visit to the tower, after which further ringing took place on the tower bells. Later a visit was made to Dennington.

YOU CAN HELP.

In nearly every belfry there are ringers who do not buy 'The Ringing World.' We ask those of our readers who realise the importance to the Exercise of a ringers' paper to give us their help in increasing the circulation.

Get your friends to start the New Year by becoming regular subscribers to this journal. It will increase their own interest in ringing. Give them this form and ask them to fill it up and hand it to their newsagent.

To Mr. (Newsagent).
Please supply 'The Ringing World' (published on Fridays, price 3d.) every week until further notice.

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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,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

BOXING DAY.—Come to St. Giles', Camberwell; all ringers welcome; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; variety of methods. —T. W. Taffender.

MELTHAM, NEAR HUDDERSFIELD.—On New Year's Eve, at 7.30 p.m., the Bishop of Wakefield will dedicate the bells, a ringing peal of six and four stationary bells, which have been restored, including rehanging in a new framework, by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 2nd, 1937, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wedmore on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Creswell Church (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. For tea, please notify Mr. L. W. Bacon, Thanet House, Elmlton Road, Creswell. (Bristol, for practice.) All welcome. — M. E. Wilson, 13, St. Ronan's Road, Sheffield, 7.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea please advise Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Mier, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Maurice Hall, Colebrook Street, Winchester, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Business meeting at 3.15, followed by tea at 4. Service in the Cathedral at 5.15. The address will be given by the Rev. E. W. Morley, Rector of Stockbridge. Important: Please let us know if you are coming. St. Maurice's bells available at 1.30.—G. and Miss Noice, Hon. Dis. Secs., 6, Cathedral View, Highcliffe, Winchester.

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ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FOR NEW CLOCKS, CHIME ADDITIONS, REPAIRS.
OR REPAINTING OF DIALS.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Upholland on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec., 38, Poolstock, Wigan.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. —A meeting will be held at St. Anne's Parish Church on Jan. 2nd. Bells ready 3 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Ringing visitors welcomed. Subscriptions due, reports ready.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Augustine's, Broxbourne, Herts, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Bells available 3 p.m.-8.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Welcome 5.30. Those requiring tea please notify Miss Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Broxbourne, Herts, by Tuesday, Dec. 29th.—M. L. Cross, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and election of officers of the West Norfolk Branch will take place at Swaffham on Saturday, Jan. 2nd.—W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Church Kirk on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome. These bells go to any method.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, Jan. 4th? — R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual dinner will be held at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, on Saturday, Jan. 9th, 1937, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 5s. 6d. each, from the Hon. Secretary, J. S. Goldsmith, South-over Cottage, Pyrford, Woking, or any District Secretary. S. Nicolas' bells available 3.30 to 5.30.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Will all those intending to be present please advise me by Wednesday, Jan. 6th, and oblige?—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 313, Mawneys Road, Romford.

WATFORD.—Saturday, Jan. 16th. Tower open from 3.30. Tea, 5.30, in the school. Tower open till 8.30. Nearest station, High Street. Coach service, Market Place. Excellent services.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270. (Herts Association.)

COSGROVE, NEAR BLETCHLEY.—On Sunday, Jan. 17th, at 3 o'clock, the Bishop of Peterborough will dedicate the new treble of six installed by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Will secretaries of neighbouring branches please note that in future all meetings of the Swindon branch will be held on the **second** Saturday in each month (unavoidable circumstances excepted).—W. B. Kynaston, Hon. Sec.

GREETINGS.

To all my many friends. Kind regards and heartiest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sydney R. Roper,

Croydon.

Mr. Francis E. Dawe extends his hearty greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all his ringing friends at home and abroad. Woking, 1936.

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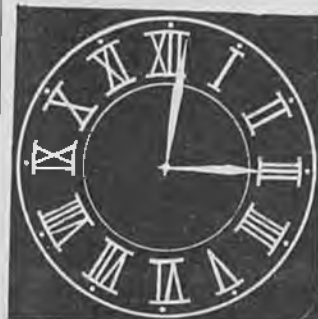
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