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THE SEEKERS

NOT too long ago someone wrote that one of the most interesting features of our art of ringing was the opportunity its votaries had to place numerous and varied offerings upon its altars. To this might be added in complement that bells and bell ringing offer remarkable fields of study both for the practical ringer and for the non-ringer, and that even a cursory examination of a bibliography reveals an astonishing variety of essay and excursus in the historical, mechanical, archaeological and mathematical branches of this tremendous subject. It is, moreover, a significant fact, and one that the student of these matters will discover, that the study and investigation that have given us so much knowledge of bells and ringing have been by no means confined to the practical ringer. On the contrary it is probably true to say that the larger part of our bibliography has come from the pens of writers who have, either by inclination or through circumstances, never progressed very far in practical change ringing.

It is well at this point to remind ourselves that there is a goodly list of writers on the art who have performed prodigies both as expert change ringers and in their voluminous outpourings of written matter. Sir Arthur Heywood's writings, though not outstandingly large, were considerable, and Heywood was a good practical ringer, who for a time had a reasonably busy ringing career. Snowden planned a series of books and wrote the nucleus of the collection in the midst of a short and busy life in the belfry. But the output of these excellent writers seems small compared with the seemingly endless flow of matter, technical, philosophical and historical that came from the pen of J. A. Trollope, and the tremendous essays of Ernest Morris, whose 'History and Art of Change Ringing' might, in itself, have occupied the best part of an ordinary ringer's spare time. And both these men have a large list of peals.

It may be said that most of the notable antiquarians were not great practical ringers. This does not mean that we belittle their work or that we can fail to recognise the value of their researches. To their earnest search for information, their enthusiasm in preserving records, and their influence in helping to save much that would have been destroyed—to these labours we owe a debt of gratitude. Without their efforts much valuable knowledge and possibly many a ring of bells would have been lost to us.

Their work lay often in dark and dirty places, and was conducted in cramped and painful conditions, and we may well wonder at the patience and endurance that made long journeys and exhausting investigations possible. Raven and Ellacombe did little practical ringing, North was a cripple and could not even enter a belfry. To these men, to Walters and Tilley, and to other enthusiastic searchers, must be added the name of Frederick Sharpe, who is a great student and a fine practical ringer.

The mathematical field of change ringing holds for us numerous men who, while not standing in the front rank with their peal ringing feats, have performed notable, and even astonishing, performances with paper and figures. As typical examples, and interesting in comparison, we have W. H. Thompson, H. Earle Bulwer, J. W. Driver and A. J. Pitman. Thompson, of Cambridge University and the Bengal Civil Service, settled for us an important practical question, and proved beyond doubt that a peal of Grandsire Triples could not be obtained with common bobs only. Yet Thompson was not a ringer and, indeed, had little or no interest in ringing. Bulwer was buried, so to speak, away in the Eastern Counties, with little opportunity for ringing, but because of this very handicap he was able to confer on us the valuable results of his investigations into Stedman Triples.

More remarkable, perhaps, was the work of Mr. J. W. Driver, for he was not a ringer at all. His attempts to learn to manage a bell failed, and his interest, which began in the antiquarian field, was diverted to the theoretical and mathematical side of change ringing. Thus his contribution to the progress of spliced Minor ringing was most important and of far-reaching consequence. Mr. A. J. Pitman has indeed done more practical ringing than the three mentioned above, but his opportunities have been limited, and the ringing Exercise has, in consequence, benefited by his brilliant spliced Surprise Major compositions.

So we return to our first thought and the many and varied opportunities we have for service in this art. To some are given ten talents, to some five, and to some just one. But with the gift of the talents, however small or however large, surely there is, if we can only find it, the accompanying opportunity for the Exercise and increase of it. The history of bell ringing would seem to prove the point.

E. C. S.

TEN BELL PEALS

CREWE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 27 Minutes,

At CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5040 SOUTHWELL SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 20 cwt.

*JOHN E. BROUGH Treble	GEORGE A. PACKER 6
JOHN W. GRIFFITHS 2	†FREDERICK S. SUTTON 7
PERCY SWINDLEY 3	HOWARD HOWELL 8
RICHARD B. LANGFORD 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 9
F. HECTOR BENNETT 5	IVOR R. NICHOLS Tenor

Composed by W. PYE.

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal of Surprise Royal. † First peal of Surprise Royal 'inside.'

First peal of Royal in the method by all the band and for the Guild.

In memoriam Harry F. Holding, a ringer at this tower for 50 years.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOC. & N. SOUTHWARK DIO. GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5019 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

*JUNE A. CREAK Treble	CHARLES W. OTTLEY 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	WILFRID G. WILSON 7
ARTHUR D. BARKER 3	THOMAS E. DAVIES 8
CHARLES A. HUGHES 4	HAROLD W. ROGERS 9
MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS 5	SQUIRE CROFT Tenor

Composed by GEORGE R. FARDON.

Conducted by ARTHUR D. BARKER.

* First peal.

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mr. E. Alexander Young, also as an 18th birthday compliment to Miss J. Creak.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 38 Minutes,

At THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5031 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 37 cwt. 2 qr. 16 lb.

*MRS. C. MCGUINNESS .. Treble	†THOMAS COOKE 6
CHARLES MCGUINNESS 2	DENIS A. BAYLES 7
KENNETH ARTHUR 3	EDMUND P. CROWDY 8
FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD 4	W. NORMAN PARK 9
*ALAN N. BROWN 5	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.

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

Rung as a compliment to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Ald. R. S. Mould-Graham, at the conclusion of his year of office, during which he welcomed and entertained the Central Council to Newcastle.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., May 18, 1955, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr.

FRANK LORD Treble	C. AUBREY HARRISON 5
ARTHUR W. HOODLESS 2	ARTHUR CROWDER 6
NORMAN BELL 3	GEORGE W. MOODY 7
RONALD CHAFER 4	JACK BRAY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

First peal in the method on the bells.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 14 Minutes,

At THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE.

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb.

Dexter's Variation.	Harold's Variation.
HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	HAROLD MARCON 5
JOHN OLDFHAM 2	JOHN A. ACRES 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	COLIN HARRISON 7
PAUL LEA TAYLOR 4	G. RONALD EDWARDS .. Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

600th peal on the bells.

WANDSWORTH, SURREY.—At the Church of the Holy Trinity, on May 15th, 1,344 Plain Bob Major: W. S. Langdon 1, H. Belcher 2, B. K. Lunn 3, S. H. Dearden 4, W. Rawlings 5, J. Chilcott 6, James Phillips 7, John Phillips (cond.) 8.

MAYFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., May 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Vicars' Six-part.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

CHARLES A. BASSETT .. Treble	STANLEY G. PONTING 5
*PETER N. BOND 2	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE .. 6
ERNEST J. LADD 3	BERNARD V. COLLISON 7
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT .. 4	ROY CHANDLER Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE.

* 100th peal.

Rung on St. Dunstan's Day.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5120 BELVEDERE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER .. Treble	JOHN R. MAYNE 5
MARY LAWRENCE 2	ALICK CUTLER 6
G. EDWARD JEFFRIES 3	ALFRED J. HOUSE 7
RONALD J. SHARP 4	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by RICHARD F. B. SPEED

The first peal in the method by all the band.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16½ cwt.

MRS. J. THOMAS Treble	ROGER SAVORY 5
JOHN THOMAS 2	GERALD C. HEMMING 6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3	JOSEPH E. NEWMAN 7
E. TREVOR NEWBURY 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING .. Tenor

Composed by G. CROSS.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First in the method on the bells. Mr. Roger Savory has now 'circled the tower' to a peal.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 5056 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

*ARTHUR V. DAVIS Treble	*MICHAEL J. BEST 5
MRS. C. H. KIPPIN 2	*ADRIAN TUMBER 6
*MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY .. 3	MAURICE J. BUTLER 7
*DANIEL T. MATKIN 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

CLARE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

*REGINALD RIPPINGALE .. Treble	JACK H. BRETT 5
†ROBERT E. LESTER 2	RALPH BIRD 6
LESLIE D. MILLS 3	†SAMUEL J. TWITCHETT 7
†ROSEMARY SEABROOK 4	*THOMAS BIRD Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY.

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.

* 50th peal together. † 150th peal. ‡ 25th peal together. First in the method on the bells.

DRONFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

A PEAL OF 5088 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

ALEX RICHARDSON Treble	DENNIS COOPER 5
BENJAMIN BARKER 2	FRANCIS R. LOWE 6
*CYRIL RUSBY 3	MARK BARKER 7
WILLIAM LANCASTER 4	JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by P. O. BIXBEY.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal on eight bells.

MARSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt.

*PERCY CROWE Treble	†REV. H. G. LILLINGSTON .. 5
†MRS. H. G. LILLINGSTON .. 2	JOHN R. SMITH 6
MRS. H. F. CARTER 3	WALTER C. MEDLER 7
HANBURY F. CARTER 4	KEITH CONSTABLE Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE.

Conducted by JOHN R. SMITH.

* First peal. † First peal on eight and first 'inside.' ‡ First peal on eight.

Rung for Ascension Day.

NEW ALRESFORD, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt, 3 qr. 18 lb. in F.

DUGALD M. MACPHERSON Treble	HARRY POYNER 5
*GEORGE N. ORMAN 2	GEOFFREY K. DODD 6
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH .. 3	J. MICHAEL LAKIN 7
†ALAN E. HARTLEY 4	J. ALAN AINSWORTH .. Tenor

Arranged by HARRY POYNER.

Conducted by J. ALAN AINSWORTH.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Surprise. First peal in the method as conductor.

A birthday compliment to Mrs. W. Poyner, mother of the ringer of the fifth. The average age of the above band is 20 years 6 months.

WHITTLESEY, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Tenor 19 cwt.

HERBERT GOAKES Treble	TREVOR BEVIS 5
JAMES HAW 2	JOHN H. BLUFF 6
DR. C. WRIGHT 3	LAURIE HADMAN 7
GEORGE BUSH 4	WILLIAM BARKER Tenor

Composed by THOS. DAY.

Conducted by JOHN H. BLUFF.

Rung in memory of Frank Warrington, Ringing Master, of Hunts District. First peal on the bells since restoration.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

CLAY CROSS, DERBYSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

(North Notts District.)

On Tues., May 10, 1955, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob.

PHILLIP EASTLAND Treble	*FRANK BRADLEY 4
DOREEN ARMSTRONG 2	SAM SCATTERGOOD 5
ARTHUR SMITHSON 3	GEORGE E. HANCOCK .. Tenor

Conducted by DOREEN ARMSTRONG.

* 50th peal. † First peal conducted by a lady for the Guild.

Rung as a farewell to the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, who is leaving Clay Cross for Lancashire shortly.

IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 12, 1955, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, two extents of Kent Treble Bob, and three extents of Plain Bob.

FREDERICK WATSON Treble	A. RAYMOND TONKS 4
E. CHARLES TURNER 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD 5
WILLIAM T. GOADBY 3	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR E. ROWLEY.

Rung as a wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. W. A. Wood (General Secretary of the Guild) and Mrs. Wood.

WICKHAM-SKEITH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Fri., May 13, 1955, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being extents each of Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, Plain Bob, and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

LESLIE W. FOSTER Treble	ROBERT E. LESTER 4
BERT CHILVERS 2	RONALD W. STEWARD 5
GEORGE W. WATERMAN 3	URBAN W. WILDNEY Tenor

Conducted by URBAN W. WILDNEY.

WALBERTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., May 15, 1955, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents, C.C.C. 77, 75, 80, 81, 76, 21, 20.

Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

*SYLVIA STREATER Treble	RAYMOND P. WOOD 4
HAROLD J. PESKETT 2	ERNEST TREAGUS 5
†BETTY MCKANE 3	HENRY C. WEAVER Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST TREAGUS.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

A farewell peal to the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Lunn, on his departure to Loxwood.

GREASLEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Chesterfield District.)

On Tues., May 17, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 960 changes of St. Bartholomew's, 600 St. Simon's, 600 St. Martin's, 960 Plain Bob, 960 April Day and 960 Grandsire.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

J. PHILLIP EASTLAND .. Treble	GEORGE E. HANCOCK .. 3
DOREEN ARMSTRONG 2	SAM SCATTERGOOD 4

FRANK BRADLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK BRADLEY.

First peal of Doubles in six methods by all.

AYLESBEARE, DEVON.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN DOUBLES

Being 42 extents (10 callings).

Tenor 12 cwt.

SIDNEY SKINNER Treble	JOHN H. GLANVILL 4
L. KENNETH DAWE 2	JOHN QUICK 5
WILFRED PANTER 3	NORMAN SKINNER Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY SKINNER.

First peal of Stedman Doubles for all.

BECKLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

Tenor 13½ cwt. in F sharp.

*MARGARET H. TWIDALE .. Treble	WILLIAM BUTTON 4
RUTH A. CAREY 2	ALAN J. HICKS 5
PATRICIA A. M. FORSTER .. 3	ROBIN A. HODGSON Tenor

Conducted by ALAN J. HICKS.

* First peal 'away' from a covering bell. First peal of Minor as conductor.

Rung for the Festival of the Ascension.



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EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

By P. AMOS

Kingscliffe may not be unknown in the strict sense of the word, but few ringers have had the privilege of ringing the bells in this fine edifice, where the Peterborough Diocesan Guild met for the first time as a Guild since its formation—in 1924—a short time ago.

This village of 'the stone age' lays somewhat off the beaten track. A few visiting ringers occasionally make a call, but the present belfry holds no great attractions owing to the excessive noise of the bells, and the day is looked forward to when it may be possible to ring them from the ground floor, which in this case would be in the chancel, in full view of the congregation, similar to that of Wollaston, near Wellingborough. The steeple, like Wollaston's, is central, hardly as high, is a broad steeple with a rather short tower, and has one very unusual feature: near the top the spire suddenly ceases to be octagonal and goes four-sided. The belfry is ascended by a metal spiral staircase.

Of the six bells (tenor 12 cwt.) it will be immediately noticed by anyone with a keen musical ear that there is something wrong with the tenor, which is slightly sharp to the others; to me it sounds as if it may be slightly cracked.

The late Rev. E. S. Powell does not give the data of these bells quite correctly when he states in his 1938 inventory that Warners, of London, rehung them in 1917. Actually Messrs. Warners rehung the last five in 1914, and in 1917 Mears and Stainbank were called in to recast the tenor. Messrs. John Taylor and Co. added the treble in 1930. They are all in a metal frame. At least one of the bells dates back to the reign of Elizabeth I. John H. Bluff, of Stamford, conducted the only peal (to my knowledge), a peal of Doubles, upon them, in 1931, and I neither envied his throat nor the drums of the ears of the rest of his band at the finish. However, it must be said that the bells all go well.

Nearby is Woodnewton, where I found a tower capable of six bells. There is a frame for four. In the 16th century this church did actually have four bells as well as a sanctus. They were replaced by one in 1640 by Thomas Norris, of Stamford, and another in 1720 by Henry Penn, of Peterborough. In 1910 Messrs. Taylors recast both. The lighter is 35in. in diameter, and the heavier 39½in., is 11 cwt.

A MINIATURE CATHEDRAL

Fotheringhay is close by—this village so well known in history as the place where Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded in 1587 at the order of Elizabeth I., in the now defunct castle—only a mound near an historic river bridge to-day shows where the castle once stood. Fotheringhay Church is of a miniature cathedral character, with a large lantern tower in two sections—the lower half square and the upper portion octagonal. It contains but four bells, tenor 11 cwt. The treble is 1595, the 2nd 1614, the 3rd, originally 1609, was recast in 1860 by G. Mears, and the tenor bears the inscription of Thomas Norris, of Stamford, 1634. They are ~~totally~~ unringable at the moment.

From Fotheringhay I could not resist a call to Tansor, where there is a mid-fifteenth century bell by Robert Crouch, of London, among these three bells. A dusty belfry, with ropes moth-eaten to threads, some day a new incumbent may respect this historic bell, and with its two others—one a sixteenth century undated, and the other 1611—a restoration and possible augmentation may take shape. Like Fotheringhay and Cotterstock on either side of it, Tansor has a rich history.

From Cotterstock (five light bells here) comes the saying, 'The weakest go to the wall,' for there were no seats at one time except stone benches alongside the walls, where the infirm sat during service, the rest having to stand.

(To be continued.)

600th PEAL AT LOUGHBOROUGH FOUNDRY CAMPANILE

A Staff Occasion That Was Narrowly Missed

When Mr. Paul Taylor and his associates of John Taylor and Company read in an article by the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead in 'The Ringing World' last month that 593 peals had been recorded on the bells of the Foundry Campanile, they decided to keep an eye on events—and save the 600th peal for themselves.

But peal ringers at the little tower have recently been coming and going in quick succession, and, unfortunately, by the time the idea was next remembered, the 600th peal had come and gone as well. Or so it seemed, until the band that had rung it found, on investigation, that their peal had proved false! It had to be disclaimed.

Mr. Taylor, while doing his best to appear sympathetic, seized the opportunity. Five fellow members of the Foundry staff were hurriedly mustered, Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Poole were 'conscripted' from Leicester for this rather special occasion, and in no time at all the 600th peal was shaping nicely. Just two hours 14 minutes later it was an accomplished fact.

There were several points of interest about the peal. One was that it was rung in the same method—Stedman Triples—as the very first peal to be rung on the Foundry tower bells on September 27th, 1901. On that occasion, too, there was a Taylor in the band, Paul's father, the late Mr. John W. Taylor, jun., who conducted.

Another interesting point about the 600th was that it marked the recall from ringing retirement of that well-known Foundry executive, Mr. John Oldham, who rang his last peal no less than six years ago. Mr. Oldham rang No. 2 to Harold Poole's conducting of Dexter's Variation without a single trip, thus proving himself to be as capable a ringer now as ever he was.

Yet another ringing stalwart whose presence added more lustre to the 600th peal was that other colleague of Paul, Mr. Colin Harrison, captain of the Loughborough Parish Church band.

It was here that, last December, the abortive attempt by Mr. Eric Critchley's gallant men to ring the extent on eight bells caused the nation to catch its breath.

Incidentally, the food shelves that were put up around the ringing chamber to help to sustain the team during their ordeal (not that they were ever likely to be so hungry as to eat the shelves!) are still in position. Extent-minded challengers should please note.

With the 600th peal now behind them (this is by far the largest number of peals rung in any single tower), the Foundry ringers are now looking to the future . . . and the 1,000th.

To avoid missing the boat a second time—although last week it was only a near miss—they should make a note in their pocket books of the date, July 27th, 1991.

For that, by my calculations, is when, at the present rate of peals progress, the 1,000th Foundry peal will become due. . .

I can only hope it keeps fine for them.

R. L.

HITCHIN RINGERS ON AIR

The team that rang for the broadcast service at Hitchin on May 19th was S. Ashton 1, C. V. Hare 2, R. Head 3, K. Timbury 4, P. Croft 5, J. Church 6, M. Orme 7, D. P. Jones 8. It was intended to ring a course of Plain Bob Major but owing to misunderstanding on the part of the B.B.C. there was only time for a couple of minutes of rounds.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

A New President

In spite of a threatened rail strike there was a fairly representative gathering at Paisley on April 30th for the annual meeting of the Scottish Association. The ringing during the afternoon was in the hands of the Ringing Master, Mr. C. R. Raine (St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh).

As the Minister of St. James', Paisley, the Rev. S. Scarlett Daly, had only been inducted to the parish in the middle of February, it was a novel experience for him to welcome the Association to St. James'. His address and the short service in church were much appreciated by all. Both Mr. and Mrs. Daly and the members of the Association were the guests of the local ringers at the very excellent tea which followed. Mrs. Caldwell, the tower secretary, had gone to no end of trouble to arrange the tea. The president, Mr. W. H. Pickett (St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh), thanked Mrs. Caldwell for all her work.

The President took the chair at the business meeting which followed. The company stood in silence as a mark of respect to Miss F. E. Hogg, who had from 1916 till her death in October, 1954, been a faithful member of the band at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh. Apologies were intimated by the Secretary from Miss Branson and Mr. Lloyd (Edinburgh), and from the ringers at Dunblane Cathedral. New members elected were as follows: D. Kerley, R. Tingley, R. J. Cook and Heather Smythe (St. James', Paisley), A. Brydon and A. Smith (St. Mary's, Edinburgh).

The president told the meeting that he did not wish to stand again for office, and, although several members tried to persuade him to carry on, he declined, and Mr. Ernest Boumphrey (St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow) was elected in his place and took the chair vacated by Mr. Pickett. The Ringing Master and the secretary were re-elected for a further year.

The meeting decided to go ahead with plans for a ringing meeting at All Saints', Inveraray; a bus would run from Edinburgh, collecting ropes and the contingent from the West at Glasgow. The means of public transport available for anyone not going on the chartered bus would be by the public service bus leaving Broomielaw bus station, Glasgow, at 9 a.m.

MARKET DRAYTON JOINT MEETING

The joint meeting of the Shropshire Association and Crewe Branch of the Chester Guild, held at Market Drayton, on May 14th, was well attended in spite of the weather. The ringing included methods from rounds and call changes to four Surprise methods. During the service the Vicar welcomed the ringers and reminded them of the serious purpose behind the art.

After a good tea in the Church Hall there was a short business meeting, and seven new members were elected. Several enthusiasts then visited Norton-in-Hales to sample the light eight there; the rest returned to the tower. The ringing in general was of a high standard.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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Peals.—Luppatt, 2s. 6d.; Isleworth, 5s.; Mayfield, 2s.; Beckley, 3s.; Whittlesey, 4s.; Marsham, 3s. 6d.

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FRIEZLAND VISIT LONDON

On May 14th ringers of Christ Church, Frieze-land, West Yorks, Messrs. A. J. Bennett, J. Burgess, L. Dawson, A. Farrand, G. Perrin, J. Smith and F. White, were conducted to several London towers by Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Deal.

The first tower visited was Christ Church, Wanstead, where good ringing was enjoyed. At St. Mary-atte-Bow the striking was affected by the ropes being hung too low at hand-stroke. The same experience was met at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, but the touches rung were good.

At St. Botolph's-within-the-Walls, Bishopsgate, an excellent tea was prepared by Mrs. Ellen Davis, and partaken of in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers. The bells here proved to be heavy going, but good striking was obtained. The final call of the day was to St. Olave's, Hart Street, where the bells and ringers suited each other to a T.

The next morning St. Mary Magdalene, Hol-loway Road, was visited for a short touch before morning service.

In the afternoon Mrs. Deal conducted the party to St. Paul's Cathedral, and, whilst the bells were being rung for service, the bell chamber was visited, where the party could observe the bells turning, and also obtain an excellent view of London.

Accompanied by Mr. Deal the visitors walked down Ludgate Hall, through Fleet Street, and by St. Clement Danes', to Euston Station, departing for Manchester at 5.40 p.m.

Through 'The Ringing World' Frieze-land ringers wish to convey their sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Deal for the great hospitality shown, and the most excellent arrangements made. They would also like to thank incumbents and local ringers who met them.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION

The bells of Little Hadham Church were set going promptly at 3 p.m. on May 14th for the Eastern District meeting, and the minor five were rung to Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, All Saints' and St. Simon's Bob Doubles.

Thirty-four ringers, representing 16 towers, enjoyed tea.

The Rev. Mr. Dinsdale-Young, Rector of Little Hadham, presided over the meeting and welcomed ringers to the Hadham district. Messrs. R. Berry, W. Coptcote, D. Munden and R. Sanders, of Great Amwell, were elected resident ringing members, and Messrs. A. Livings and F. Wright, of Roydon, were elected non-resident ringing members. The secretary announced that the next district meeting would be held at Braughing and Great Horstead on June 11th.

After the meeting the ringers attended evening song at Hadham, conducted by the Rector, Canon L. Dewar.

Ringling then continued on the light eight at Much Hadham until 8.30 p.m., when a good 'fall' in peal ended the day's proceedings. Standard methods up to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major were rung.

PEAL FOR CENTENARIAN

Wednesday, May 18th, was the 100th birthday of Mrs. Sarah Peters, of Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, and to mark the occasion a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the bells of St. Michael's Church. After the peal the ringers, together with the remainder of the local band, were entertained to supper by Mrs. Peters, who thanked them all and remarked how pleased she was that the bells had been rung in her honour.

OUTING**BALDOCK AND NORTON**

A coachload of ringers and friends from Baldock and Norton visited some towers in Ely Diocese on May 14th. After a good start, marred only by the news that, owing to his wife's illness, Mr. E. Buck was unable to come, we arrived at Fordham (6), 17½ cwt., and began the day's ringing with Cambridge Surprise. Mildenhall was next and, after admiring the great angels and beautiful carvings which adorn the beams, we had an enjoyable ring on the ten (16½ cwt.) there.

We went on to Littleport (8), 18 cwt., after a good lunch. Here we were reminded again of our duty:

'Do not ring and run away,
Leaving other folk to pray,
When a Ringer doeth so,
Hands says "Come," but foot says "Go."'

For the first time that day rain fell, but it had stopped by the time we reached St. Mary's, Ely (8), 18 cwt., where we had a pleasant ring. Tea was excellent, even by ringers' standards, and on the way back to the coach some stopped just inside the Cathedral door to listen to the choir.

A 15½ cwt. octave was in previous years popular with the clergy (one Major peal included five clerical ringers); good use was made of these bells. The last tower, Longstanton, must surely be one of the lightest octaves in East Anglia, as the tenor weighs only 7½ cwt. The bells delighted those who are used to 'featherweight ringing,' but came as a shock to some of the learners who are accustomed to a tenor of more than a ton.

All of us are very grateful to Mr. Buck, who organised the outing, and to the incumbents.
J. S.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

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Council of Church Bell Ringers

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Miss Enid L. Roberts, former Ringing Master of the University of Bristol Society, called her first quarter in Australia on Anzac Day (April 25th) at Adelaide Cathedral. It was Plain Bob Triples. The tenor at Adelaide is the heaviest bell in the Southern Hemisphere, being 41 cwt. The total weight of the ring is about 150 cwt.

Mr. E. Razzell, of 33, Mansfield Road, South Croydon, offers, free to any ringer, unbound copies of 'The Ringing World' from 1947.

Congratulations to 17-years-old Michael Orme for the masterful way he rang the 26 cwt. tenor to a quarter of Bob Major at Hitchin on May 22nd.

We thank a Sussex ringer for his thank-offering. In the last lead of a peal at Mayfield his rope slipped wheel, but the bell was back in place after missing only one blow, and the peal was scored.

The quarter peal of Stedman Caters at Beddington on May 21st was rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal by past and present officers of the Surrey Association to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Apropos the last peal at Nayland, Suffolk, Mr. W. W. Steward provides us with the following details:—Rung on June 11th, 1938, 5,040 Plain Bob Minor; A. R. Andrews (conductor) 1, Mrs. L. Wright 2, Eleanor Reeve 3, H. J. Millett 4, C. A. Andrews 5, Leslie Wright 6.

Mr. J. W. Evans, who has completed 60 years as a ringer at Oxton, Cheshire, was on May 19th presented with a fountain pen and a cheque by the Vicar on behalf of the parishioners as a token of appreciation on his wonderful record of service both in the belfry and in the church. A presentation is also to be made to him by Wirral ringers at their monthly meeting.

BELFRY GOSSIP

It was a happy thought of the ringers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to honour the Lord Mayor, Ald. R. S. Mould-Graham, at the conclusion of his year of office with a peal of Stedman Caters. His welcome to the Central Council was most cordial and generous. Ald. R. S. Mould-Graham is a prominent churchman and a churchwarden at All Saints', Gosforth.

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers have their own quarterly, 'Overtones.' An article appears in the current issue on casting and tuning, giving impressions of the visit of Mr. Ernest Oliver to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Liverpool Cathedral tower still needs more attention to keep the weather out. Mr. Ernest L. Humphriss has been much heartened by appreciative letters the Dean has received concerning Easter ringing, especially one from a woman patient in the neighbouring hospital.

The news of the early departure of Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey to settle in Winnipeg will be received with regret by his many friends. From his pen this journal has received interesting communications. We wish him every happiness in the autumn of his life in Manitoba.

Porthkerry (Glam) ringers defied superstition to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the dedication of the two trebles. This was on Friday the 13th, but they scored the 13th quarter peal on the bells. Sunday service ringing has been maintained without a break during this period.

From Canterbury we learn of progress by local ringers who, at St. Dunstan's on May 20th, rang their first (except J. Unwin) 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor. The band was A. Butler 1, Mrs. G. Stockbridge 2, A. C. Philpott (to whom birthday congratulations were extended) 3, J. Unwin 4, J. Stockbridge 5, D. Chatfield (conductor) 6.

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SURREY ASSOCIATION'S 75th BIRTHDAY DINNER

Memories of Past Achievements

ONE of the oldest of the territorial associations, formed at about the same time as the Kent, Yorkshire and Devonshire Associations, celebrated its 75th birthday with a ringing festival and a well-supported dinner at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on May 21st.

Towers available were Immanuel, Streatham, St. Peter's, South Croydon, Beddington and St. John's, Croydon.

The Master, Mr. Roydon Davies, presided at the dinner, supported by the Ven. C. F. Tonks, Archdeacon of Croydon, Mr. E. A. Barnett, secretary of the Central Council, Mr. W. F. Oatway (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Oatway.

After the loyal toast had been honoured, the Master, in proposing the toast of 'The Church,' said, throughout the day they had been ringing bells to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Surrey Association. But there was a far wider association, which did not confine itself to territory, with which they were proud to be associated—the Church. To them, as ringers, the Church was necessary and important: without the Church they, as ringers, would have no being.

PORTRAYS THE GLORY OF GOD

'It is said that bankers build their bank buildings with such imposing strength to portray to their customers stability and strength. So also the Church with its own strength and beauty portrays to the world the glory of God.

'As the Church needs buttresses to strengthen it as a building so we as ringers by our example of service can also add strength by being members of a team together with the clergy, choir, organist and other Church workers. We must therefore maintain our support by teaching the young ringer to become proficient in the art and thereby perpetuate it as we have been fortunate enough to do these 75 years of ringing in the Association.'

The Master concluded by thanking all the incumbents of the Association's towers for their help in every way.

The Archdeacon of Croydon in reply congratulated the Master on being in office in this memorable year—three quarters of a century in the Association's life of service to the Church. They were proud that the Master was one of the ringers at his church, and they were always pleased to welcome ringers to St. John's, Croydon. He was thankful that in the old days people built towers for the churches. He was afraid that in the days to come there would be a definite mark between those towers and those churches of this age as it was rather tragic that in many of their modern churches they had not spent money on building a tower and there were actually some churches which had not a bell. He went to induct an incumbent to a new church recently and was surprised to find the church had not a bell. He told the churchwardens that next time he came he would expect the bell.

CHANGE RINGING THE MUSIC OF BELLS

But one bell was not much use to them. The music of bells was that of change ringing and in these days they were in danger of getting 'canned bells' which were of no use to change ringers. He hoped that when money was a little less tight they would rise above utility buildings and build towers which were strong enough to hold a ring of bells.

The Archdeacon said he looked upon ringers as part of the ministry of the Church. The

Ministry was not confined to the choir and sanctuary and those who put on surplices; it was very much composed of laymen. 'You in the tower are a part of the Ministry in sounding your welcome, thanksgiving and praise in a form of beauty which no other country has got. . . . I want to thank you for your service and I hope we shall popularise change ringing as a science and an art so that the beauty of sound must be perpetuated over the whole countryside and the townships of this country!'

The toast of 'The Surrey Association' was proposed by Mr. E. A. Barnett, hon. secretary of the Central Council, who said that this was their actual 75th anniversary as the Association was formed at Beddington on May 21st, 1880, when the incumbent was instrumental in getting it formed. Their second secretary was Dr. Carpenter, of Carshalton, who was a well-known ringer and a distinguished composer.

THE BEDDINGTON BAND

Mr. Barnett recalled the achievements of the Beddington band when Mr. Kippin was in charge. One peal worth recording was that in 1926 when the average age was 21—the youngest band then to ring a peal. Another peal Mr. Kippin called was the first by a band of civil servants in which he was privileged to take part.

His first ringing acquaintance with Surrey was when he made his ninth attempt for his first peal of Stedman Caters. It was about a week after Messrs. Gillett and Johnston had one of their ringing weeks in which ringers going to Croydon would travel half fare by rail. One of their party from Crayford asked for a cheap ticket to Croydon. When told that there were no cheap tickets he told the booking clerk to make it out as the previous week. He did and to this day he did not know whether Messrs. Gillett and Johnston footed the bill or not.

He hoped the Surrey Association would go from strength to strength and he hoped that a dinner like that which celebrate their centenary.

Mr. W. F. Oatway, the general secretary, apologised for the absence of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Armstrong, of the Sussex Association, Dr. Hatcher and Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Blow, of Croydon.

The seeds which led to the formation of the Association were reputed to have been sown in a public house at Carshalton after ringing practices. The first formal meeting was held at Beddington 75 years ago that day, and right from the start they had been on good terms with the clergy. The Rev. C. Sharpe, of Beddington, agreed to act as the first secretary and the Rev. E. A. Young, of Kingston, as treasurer. The incumbents of most of the towers joined the Association as honorary members.

DR. A. B. CARPENTER

In 1883 Dr. A. B. Carpenter, a well known Croydon physician, became secretary and held the office for nine years during which period and after he devoted much of his time to the welfare of the Association and research into the field of composition. Conductors of Stedman knew his works on this method and use it today. Dr. Carpenter's work for the Association did not go unrecognised; in 1911 the office of Master was created and he was unanimously elected the first holder. His passing in 1913 was regretted by all and to his memory his ringing colleagues erected a tablet in the belfry of St. Mary's, Beddington.

No foundation member was alive today. The oldest were Alfred Arnold, joined 1887, Frank Hoad, 1893, George Hoad, 1894. Frank and George Hoad still rang regularly at Reigate but Alfred Arnold was prevented by physical disability.

They were not a prolific peal ringing Association, the total being 1750. The first peal was rung at Kingston in 1881. The peal they were most proud of was one of Spliced Surprise Royal, at Beddington, in 1936, the first in the country and it was rung by a resident band.

In 1936 the bells of St. John-the-Baptist, Croydon, were replaced by a ring of 12 and this band felt very proud that hardly a Sunday passed without the 12 being rung to Cinques at least once during the day and also they were one of the few towers that could ring Stedman Cinques by a Sunday service band.

'The Visitors' was proposed by Mr. A. P. Cannon and 'The Master' by Mr. F. E. Collins.

The entertainment was of a high order. The Beddington band gave handbell place making demonstrations and the L.J. Singers gave a comprehensive programme.

THOSE PRESENT

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. P. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gear, Mr. and Mrs. A. Harman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hawthorne, Mr. and Mrs. F. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lathbury, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. D. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. W. Parrott, Mr. and Mrs. R. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. L. Reece, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. M. White, Messrs. A. S. Besant, C. J. Champion, M. Chilcott, T. Cowell, J. Crawley, S. Dearden, F. Darby, D. Jennings, F. Jennings, S. Kimber, F. Kimber, A. E. Laker, G. Lodge, G. Massey, G. Oliver, G. Olliver, D. J. Parr, D. E. Parsons, A. Pannell, W. G. Paternoster, C. Parks, G. Peters, H. N. Pitstow, G. N. Pratt, E. Razzell, J. Relf, A. S. Richards, L. Tidy, A. Weiss, A. C. Winn, Mesdames D. Cooper, P. Vowles, Misses B. Paine, M. Christopher, E. Cooper, F. Davis, J. England, J. Franklin, N. Kempshall, M. Lewis, B. Mason, B. Mayers, M. Maxwell, V. Potter, N. Shorter, G. Stanton, M. Smerdon, J. Weller, S. Whitehouse, J. Winchester, M. Young.

MR. ALEX YOUNG'S 90th BIRTHDAY

College Youths' Tribute

In honour of Mr. E. Alex Young's ninetieth birthday, members of the Ancient Society of College Youths met at Bromley Parish Church to ring a quarter peal of Stedman Triples on Sunday, May 22nd. Afterwards they went to Mr. Young's house, where they found a birthday party in full swing, with Mr. Young acting as a very genial and capable host.

Proposing Mr. Young's health, Mr. J. F. Smallwood said that the Ancient Society held this youngster in very high esteem, and nearly 100 members had personally signed a birthday card, which he now had much pleasure in handing over, and to tell him of the love which all members felt for one who had served the Society so well.

Mr. Young expressed his appreciation of the gesture and said he was glad to know he occupied such a place in their thoughts. He would treasure this card to the end of his days.

The handbells were then brought out, and a touch of Stedman Triples, in which Mr. Young took 7-8, was rung. Those taking part congratulated him on the splendid way he rang in this touch. For one entering his 91st year, it was no mean achievement.

The quarter peal on tower bells was rung by: B. Lunn 1, I. Emery 2, H. Langdon (cond.) 3, James Phillips 4, D. Kirby 5, W. J. Rawlings 6, A. B. Peck 7, J. Phillips 8.

TOPIC FOR THE MONTH - V.

Taking It Seriously

AS ringers we belong, of course, to a great brotherhood. the interests and maintenance of which every good member will have closely at heart. This membership brings, normally, an enjoyment that is unique and a privilege that is sanctified—the privilege of divine service. Do we, then, take our part in the affairs of the Exercise with due seriousness? Are we sufficiently and consistently aware of our obligation—our individual and personal duty, in fact—to safeguard and promote the welfare of our Art, in this service to the Church?

In plain English, is each and every one of us doing his bit, no matter how small, in some way to improve ringing?

You may have noted that previous Topics have touched on what may be called 'mechanisms' of ringing activity: The maintenance and promotion of long-period ringing, as opposing any threat of peal-limitation or stoppage: The categoric recording of acceptable methods and accepted performances: The compilation of a comprehensive guide to modern ways of instruction: And the implemental functions of the ringing parliament. These mechanisms among others, properly adjusted and applied, help to lay the foundation essential for the successful development of the Exercise; yet the entire foundation is valueless without the vital functioning of the individual ringer, building up a living superstructure of good practical ringing.

Many are the ways in which this contribution can be rendered: Apportioned and regular study of ringing away from the tower; punctuality and regularity of attendance at the tower; ever-constant effort to give of one's best in the team-work of practical ringing; instructing, whether as in charge or assisting; work in the theory of ringing and in ringing research; composing; conducting and tower-leadership; genuine encouragement of less progressive ringers; tolerance and, yes, peace-making! Service in executive or administrative capacity for tower-guild, association or C.C.; propaganda and recruiting. By these and other means learner-wastage and stagnation can be checked and positive progress substituted. Surely, everyone can find something in this collection of 'constructives' (even if only to help or supplement the work of the steeple-keeper), whereby, if his conscience is not already satisfied in this matter, he may reassure himself that his membership of this great fraternity is not merely lukewarm?

RECRUITMENT AND WASTAGE

The history of the Exercise is illumined by many a bright record of devoted service; and there are giants even in these days; but we all know in our hearts that the garment has extensive threadbare patches. Let us, each one, we in urban tower, we in rural steeple, and we delegates as we come down from the annual conference just closed, let each ask himself: have we any clear idea of what is to be our personal programme for betterment of ringing in the next twelve months?

Consider just one of the 'constructives' listed above—the last: 'Propaganda and Recruiting.' What opportunities lie here? Yet, isn't it usually rather haphazard? The wastage of learners in some towers cannot but give rise to concern for the future of ringing therein; but the situation in which no learners are forthcoming is, perhaps, even graver.

How may the problem be attacked? It seems to resolve itself into two parts: extend propaganda and awaken curiosity to the extent of 'having a go,' and then maintain interest and arouse enthusiasm until confidence is born.

At leisure times, when in conversation with our non-ringing friends, an odd word or two can lead round to the subject and frequently 'trigger off' an interesting chat about 'this ringing business.' This, followed up with an invitation to visit a tower practice for a look-see, may enlist at least one recruit.

A potentially great source of recruits is a school. Where 'local interest' school societies exist it is often possible to obtain the co-operation of the headmaster in arranging for a visit of a class of seniors to a local tower. Here a talk can be given in the ringing chamber, illustrated with demonstration both at rope's end and in the bell chamber itself. Seed falls on not wholly barren soil!

One sometimes feels that more could be done by co-operation of incumbent and tower captain in introduction of the young people's guilds and societies, run by or in association with the Church authorities, to ringing. For example, the Church Lads' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society, Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., Scouts and Rovers should be teeming with potential recruits.

Certainly, a 'ringers' service, with handbells rung in the nave, ringers reading the lessons, and an informed address on the interest and use of the art in the service of the Church, is likely to create sympathy for, and even practical interest in, the ringing of the bells in the tower; with a further likelihood of at least some response to an appeal for learners to come forward and join the local band.

TALKS AND CLASSES

Talks to Rotary (illustrated with slides borrowed from one or other of the bell-founding firms) have aroused considerable interest in fruitful quarters. The value of ringing as a mental and physical recreation can be indicated, for people of both sexes and nearly all ages! But it is important to make it clear that the Exercise is not a 'closed shop' and that newcomers are welcomed.

Local Education Authorities are usually sympathetic if approached in the right way, i.e., from an educative standpoint, and with the coming of autumn it may be found possible to arrange for a series of evening classes in the theory and practice of ringing—similar to that already carried into effect in one district.

The local press is often sympathetic, tactfully approached, and can do much to arouse public interest; always providing that peal-ringing has not been overdone locally! A good line to take here is the preservation of our unique art as a national heritage.

The longer days and light evenings are now with us; but this is surely the time to plan our campaign for increased activity when the year begins to close. Not all of us have a pull with the B.B.C., but it seems to me that the possibilities of propaganda on T.V. have not yet been fully exploited. It is well, of course, always to bear in mind that to risk alienating public sympathy is to commit campanological suicide!

Tact and optimism with real effort should soon pay dividends, in the shape of more recruits, developed trainees and all-round improvement in ringing standards.

Are we really considering these things seriously? If so, what are we going to do about it?

A. Y-B.

(Comments and suggestions are invited.—Ed.)

ST. DAVID'S DIOCESAN GUILD Annual Competition

The annual competition for the Bishop Prosser Shield took place at Haverfordwest on May 14th. There were six bands competing, namely, Llandilo, Llanelly, Carmarthen, Tenby, Haverfordwest and Llanbadarn Fawr.

Owing to the treble being damaged and the tenor not going too well there was no alternative but to ring the test piece on the remaining six bells from No. 2 to No. 7. Many thought that this would sound very odd but to the surprise of all it was quite good. By 2.30 p.m. all the bands had arrived and after the usual draw for places the bells were set going by the Haverfordwest band, who drew first attempt.

By 4.30 p.m. the competition was over and the six bands had tested their skill on the bells, which are hung anti-clockwise but, nevertheless, there was some fairly good striking by some of the bands. The Vicar (the Rev. J. Bowden Thomas) was at the church to greet the ringers and stayed all the afternoon. Over a nice and welcome tea the atmosphere became tense as everyone was anxious to know the results. The adjudicator was Mr. F. Sharpe, of Oxford, who was accompanied by his daughter, Miss E. Sharpe. He had travelled overnight to Haverfordwest and brought some of his collection of handbells and photographs of bells, which were displayed in the hall and greatly admired. After tea the usual touch on the handbells was given by Mr. Chris. Hawkins, Mr. F. Sharpe, Mr. R. Scudamore and Mr. A. Reynolds.

The Vicar took the chair and after extending a hearty welcome to members of the St. David's Guild called upon Mr. F. Sharpe to give his verdict. After the usual comments as to who were the culprits and their faults, etc., he gave out the order in which each band came according to its merits, namely:—1 Llanelly, 14 faults; 2 Haverfordwest, 30; 3 Tenby, 32; 4 Carmarthen, 36; 5 Llanbadarn Fawr, 52; 6 Llandilo, 71. Great credit is due to the young boy ringers of Haverfordwest for the way they rang in the competition.

The Vicar then presented the shield to the captain of the winning band and a certificate to the captain of the runners-up. Mr. F. Sharpe and his daughter then played some tunes on the handbells, which were an eye-opener to many of the company, and great credit is due to Miss Sharpe for the way she rang the heavy handbells.

After all the formalities of the competition a very hearty vote of thanks was extended to the Vicar and the ladies who provided the tea, by Mr. Chris. Hawkins, the secretary, supported by Mr. Ed. J. Thomas and Mr. D. Curtis. The Vicar ably responded. The members then returned to the tower to finish off the evening.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD

'When I do call, come, serve all,' was the text (from an old bell) taken by the Rev. W. C. Harting for an inspiring address at the service at Leiston of the Saxmundham District. Mr. T. R. Rowsell was organist. A collection was made in aid of the Leiston New Church Hall Fund.

At the business meeting Mr. L. Mills, of Bures, took the chair. Mr. J. Pilgrim reported that the monthly practice meetings for Surprise methods had been a success and these would continue on the third Friday of each month where possible.

Mr. A. R. Bridges was re-elected hon. secretary and Mr. J. M. Bailey elected Ringing Master for the district, and one new member was elected. Aldeburgh was selected as the place of the next meeting, on Saturday, July 16th.

Ringers attended from all parts of Suffolk, with some well-known visitors from Essex. Many methods were rung, ranging from rounds to London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LONDON TOWERS

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May 13th Mr. Bullock, of Romford, writes concerning the ring of eight at Christ Church, Poplar. It seems he has been misinformed by someone—this church has certainly not been pulled down. Far from it, as during the last few months it has been undergoing repairs and has been entirely redecorated, and is still very active in its work in the Isle of Dogs.

As far as ringing is concerned there has been no band there for some years, but several bands have visited the church for peals, their failures being mainly due to old, rotten ropes breaking. If the bells were fitted with new ropes this tower would, I feel sure, be as popular as it has been in the past, as the Vicar is very keen on bells.

In connection with some others towers mentioned in the article on Middlesex rings, Cripplegate bells are, of course, back in order now (as are also Greenwich and Bromley, mentioned in the Kent article). At several towers the bells would be rehung if the money was available, e.g., Bow, St. Clement Danes, St. Magnus-the-Martyr and Aldgate—though one wonders who would ring them for Sunday services. The ten at the Imperial Institute are in the process of being rehung.

There have been few peals at Shepperton, Middlesex, because of excessive noise outside the tower; and few at Lee, S.E. London, because the bells do not go well, and the spire has been rebuilt during the last 18 months.—Yours sincerely,

IAN H. ORAM.

Lee, S.E.12.

THE OSWALDTWISTLE BAND

Dear Sir,—The announcement of the death of Mr. A. T. Houldsworth recalls to mind the early days of the two brothers, James and Alfred, and also many more whom I had the honour of teaching from handling a bell to Surprise ringing at Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle, round about the birth of the present century.

I invited Alf about a year previous to Jim and a few months later we had about ten ringers able to ring Surprise Minor. Previous to the bells being taken back to Loughborough Foundry in February, 1913, for quarter turning and two trebles added, we rang a peal of Surprise Minor in seven methods, non-conducted. All ringers in this peal were taught by me from the stage of handling a bell.

Major ringing to this band presented little difficulty and peals of Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative and London Surprise were rung before the first world war put an end to method ringing, as many had to join the Forces.

When the war was over and the ringers back home Surprise ringing was quickly acquired again. It was with this band that G. R. Newton rang his first peal of London; also W. W. Wolstencroft and William Taylor, of Penwortham. As Mr. Newton once remarked to me, they were a wonderful band and would not let you go wrong. Most of the band were cotton workers and the slump in the mid 1920's meant their seeking a livelihood elsewhere; this brought to an end this very advanced band.

C. SHARPLES.

Errata. The peal rung at Harpford, Devon, on April 21st, was the first in seven Plain Minor methods for all, and for the Guild; it was also the 25th together for Frederick Wreford and John L. S. Glanville.

A QUESTION IN ECCLESIASTICAL LAW

Dear Sir,—Nowadays it is generally understood that to remove from or to add anything to a church a faculty or an Archdeacon's licence is required. This is so for the removal of old gravestones, to add a peal tablet, a chiming apparatus, etc. As is well known, adding a chiming apparatus does not necessarily involve removing the wheels, ropes, stays, sliders and pulleys of bells already hung, but I know of at least three cases where this has been done, and it has occurred to me to ask—were the incumbents sanctioning their removal legally in order? The wheels, ropes, etc., are part of an already consecrated work. Would the granting of a faculty for chiming apparatus automatically cover the removal of existing wheels, ropes, etc., or should a separate faculty for each to be obtained? There seems to be some contradiction among clergy opinion upon this matter, and I am wondering if someone with an even keener knowledge than myself could determine these finer points of ecclesiastical laws?

What have members of the Central Council Towers and Belfries Committee, for instance, to say about it?

Ketton, Rutland, has a ring of six bells (tenor 11 cwt.), rehung in 1897 by John Taylor and Co. Since 1933 (or just after) all the wheels and ropes with their stays and sliders have been removed by order of the present Rector, who installed a chiming apparatus—'because (he tells me) he could not get men to ring regularly on Sundays, the villagers in the main being seven-day-a-week cement and farm workers'!

Any story which may have been told that this fine steeple is not suitable for these eight bells (which swung for over 200 years—the newest is 1748 and the oldest 1598) can be discountenanced—just as a similar story a few years ago about Oakham steeple proved, upon the report of an independent architect, to be just a hoax.

Barnack, Northants, is a similar case, only here the wheels were left intact but the ropes, sliders, pulleys and floor immediately beneath removed at the time an apparatus was installed in 1935. These five bells, like Ketton six, were rehung in completely new fittings in 1897 by Taylors, for ringing.—Yours sincerely,

P. AMOS.

Weston Favell, Northants

ARMY EXERCISE III.

A further parade of N.C.O.'s and men of various corps stationed in the Aldershot district was held at Pirbright, Surrey, on May 11th, a peal of Doubles being the objective. Two R.A.S.C. personnel were thirty minutes late on parade, and the Exercise was not commenced until 18.30 hours.

As the bells had to be lowered by 21.00 hours, a careful check was kept on the duration of each 120 by the Sergeant I/C. the party, and as the estimated time of conclusion was judged to be within five minutes of zero hour, ringing was allowed to continue.

L/Corpl. Ainsworth, R.A.S.C., detailed as conductor, committed a grave error at 19.05 hours when he disobeyed his own word of command in that he omitted to run out at one of his own bobs. Safety precautions were not taken in sufficient time to prevent rapid firing, and ringing was brought to an abrupt end. A severe reprimand was immediately awarded.

It is planned to repeat the Exercise at Farnborough, Hants, in the near future.

H. P.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Cockey's Departure

St. Stephen's, Ealing, is a beautiful building, standing on high ground, with its fine tower and spire dominating the surrounding residential area, and visible for miles around. The bells are a musical ring of eight, with a 14 cwt. tenor, cast by the Whitechapel Foundry, and installed by Warners about 50 years ago. The large louvres have been boarded up and fitted with adjustable shutters, and two floors above the bells have been removed. The result is a well-balanced tonal effect, much of the sound escaping through the spire louvres, allowing the bells to be clearly heard at a distance, while nearby the sound is much softened. The well-appointed ringing chamber, dominated by a cross at the east side, can claim to be one of the best in the diocese. In addition to an almost unique set of early eighteenth century handbells, it contains numerous handsome peal records, and is always an attraction to visitors.

On May 14th members and friends from many places, local and far afield, had the pleasure of meeting the new Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Matthews, B.D. Some good ringing, ranging from rounds to Surprise, was carried out, under the supervision of the Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender.

Choral Evensong was preceded by a Plain Course of Grandsire Caters on handbells, rung in the chancel, by H. W. Rogers, T. H. Taffender, W. G. Wilson, Mrs. O. L. Rogers and F. P. Mead. As an anthem, 'Crimond' was nicely rendered by the choir.

A very welcome tea, attended by the Vicar, organist and choir, and other friends, had been provided by the St. Stephen's Girl Rangers, who had been the recipients of numerous gifts, including a beautiful display of flowers, from friends of the Church. The Vicar, before leaving, expressed his pleasure at meeting those present and hoped they would come again before long.

At the business meeting, presided over by the Master, a number of new members were elected. The Master referred with great feeling to the recent passing of a great and much esteemed friend and member of the Association in Mrs. C. J. Matthews.

The meeting was informed of the forthcoming 90th birthday of Mr. E. Alexander Young, and a congratulatory motion was carried unanimously. Mr. T. H. Taffender mentioned that he had rung in Mr. Young's 60th birthday peal at St. Mary's, Southampton, and (D.V.) would stand in a peal on the following Saturday in honour of his 90th birthday.

Members present expressed great disappointment upon learning that the Association's treasurer, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, was shortly to emigrate to Winnipeg, Canada. Mr. Cockey was formally thanked for all the work he had done for the Association and was left in no doubt that upon departing he would be very greatly missed by members of the Association and particularly by the authorities and ringers at St. Stephen's and Christ Church, Ealing. In Winnipeg Mr. Cockey will not be the only ringer, as he will take out with him his grandson, Robin Lyndon, who, during his stay in this country, learnt to ring.

A warm vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar, the organist and choir, to friends who had made gifts and, last but not least, to the girl ringers for all they had done, the latter receiving quite an ovation.

Further ringing was on the fine ring at Christ-the-Saviour's from 8 to 9 p.m., and more handbell ringing there completed a very pleasant day.

H. W. R.

PEAL RINGING IN NORFOLK

By The Rev. K. W. H. FELSTEAD

ALTHOUGH the period which is under review in these articles is the past 75 years or so, when practically all the peals rung have been published in either the 'Bell News' or 'The Ringing World,' an account of ringing in Norfolk would not be complete without some small reference to its fame as one of the first centres of change ringing in history. It is at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, that we find the first recorded peal—Bob Triples—on May 2nd, 1715, soon to be followed by the first ever of Grandsire Triples on August 26th, 1718. Mr. Ernest Morris, in his book 'The History and Art of Change Ringing,' gives many particulars of the early ringing in the county, of which there is not sufficient space to make further reference here except to echo his words that 'there is scarcely a place in England of greater interest to ringers than Norwich, because some of the earliest performances in change ringing were achieved there.' Amongst famous names connected with the county perhaps the most prominent is that of Samuel Thurston, although there are many others whose fame will always be remembered by the methods and compositions which they produced, and most recent of these—Mr. J. A. Trollope, born at East Dereham.

But now for some figures. Hethersett (8) has recorded the most peals in this period—198. The first one I noted, in 1891, did not claim to be the first one on the bells, so I do not know whether any were rung there before this. No less than 94 of the total have been rung since the last war, which makes it the most popular peal-ringing tower at the moment. After the first two in 1891 and 1892, there was a gap until 1904, after which 35 peals were rung up to 1914. Between the wars came 67.

As a point of interest, it would seem that in this county the attention of ringers has been largely concentrated on a relatively few towers (only six counties have a greater number of rings) so that whereas these have very respectable totals, there is a big gap between them and the remainder, as we shall see.

Thus there are eight which have passed the century mark, two about 90, five in the 50-60 range and the remaining 190 or so towers a long way behind, the majority not having reached double figures. Pulham (St. Mary Magdalene's, 8) comes second with 187 peals. It can conveniently be considered with its neighbouring tower, Pulham, St. Mary-the-Virgin's, which is actually equal fourth with 172. These towers were the most popular in the county prior to 1914, for 95 and 94 peals respectively were rung at them in under 20 years (11 years in the former case). Between the wars, the average wasn't quite so great, for we find they recorded 83 and 63 peals. Since 1945, numbers have been fewer still—St. Mary Magdalene's has had nine from 1948 to 1952 and St. Mary-the-Virgin's 15 from 1947 to 1953.

The third on the list is Redenhall (8), which again shows rather a diminished number of peals of late. From 1881 to 1909 there were 75 peals. Then there was a gap until 1925, after which 74 peals were rung in the next 14 years. There have been 26 since 1945, making a grand total of 175.

ST. PETER MANCROFT

Equal fourth with Pulham, St. Mary's, is Norwich's most famous tower, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich—the only 12-bell tower in the county. Its 172 peals have been well spread over the years since 1883—65 before 1914, 49 between the wars and 58 since the last war (meaning a higher yearly average at the moment). Its other claims to fame have already

been mentioned. Diss (8) seems to have had its best time prior to the first war, for 90 of its 161 peals were rung then. 51 came between the wars and there have been 20 since 1945, so on the whole it has had a pretty consistent history.

The remaining two centenarians are a good way behind this little group of six towers. Saxlingham (8) has 116, 60 after the first peal in 1901 to 1914, and 31 since the last war, so again we find a better average 50 years ago although it is better now. Wymondham (8) has 112. This tower's best time was from 1919 to 1940, for 70 of the peals were rung then. There had been 19 from 1903 to 1914 and there have been 23 since 1945. The two nearest the 100 mark are Alburgh (8) and Norwich, St. Michael's (8). The former has recorded 90 peals from 1881, fairly evenly up to the last war but only three since then, whilst the latter has been fairly consistent since the first in the period in 1895 (there were many earlier peals here, of course) and has had 89 peals rung there.

And now for peals on towers with higher numbers of bells. I suppose for its size and number of rings, Norfolk has fewer 12's and 10's than any other comparative county—one 12 and three 10's. The first has already been dealt with and one of the 10's, St. Andrew's, Norwich, is noted for being one of the two 10-bell towers which have not had a peal rung at them since 1881 (the other being Dunham Massey) and in fact it is more than 100 years since a peal was rung (the bells are unringable at the moment, of course). This is strange considering that the first peal of London Surprise Major was rung there in 1835. The other 10-bell towers are Aylsham and King's Lynn. Only 45 peals have been rung at the former—one every year or two since 1890, whilst the total at the latter is fewer still—13, of which 10 have come since the last war. The previous three were in 1894, 1900 and 1927.

There remains to mention the four 8-bell towers which have passed the 50 mark. They are Norwich, St. John's (62—rung fairly evenly since 1909); Loddon (57—nearly half since the last war and only nine prior to 1914); Norwich, St. Giles' (56—42 since 1944 and only one between 1910 and 1937); and Marsham (55—15 from 1893 to 1914, 31 from 1920 to 1939 and nine since 1945). As I have said above, the great majority of the other towers are a long way behind. There is one tower still to be conquered—Thorpe Episcopi—but only three of the remainder have not had a peal on them since the last war, and of these, the last peal at Tunstead (where seven have been rung) was as long ago as 1904.

VIRGIN TERRITORY

As for 6-bell towers, 18 out of the 91 are still virgin territory. They are Old Buckenham; Felmingham; Hedenham; Litcham; S. Lopham; Martham; Mileham; Norwich, St. Gregory's, St. John-the-Baptist's and St. Lawrence's; Outwell; Thetford, St. Mary Magdalene's; Snettisham; Tottington; Wigganham; St. Mary's; Wilton; Woodton and Worstad. Actually, Norfolk has one of the highest percentages of 6- and 5-bell towers in its total of any of the counties—no less than 169 out of 205, but it cannot be said that the peal totals of these towers are out of the ordinary. In fact I think they are fewer than one would expect under the circumstances. Only two 6-bell towers have reached the half century. Bunwell has 60, 44 since the last war (the first in 1892) and Terrington St. John, 51, 36 since 1945. I think there will be just space enough to mention those towers with more than 30 peals to their credit. They are Tibbenham (40—39 between 1901 and 1914, the other 1930; Buxton (38—29 between the wars and six since); Wrox-

ham (37—26 between the wars and seven since); and Walpole, St. Andrew's (31—18 from 1920 to 1938 and 11 since 1945). Perhaps I ought also to mention Gaywood, which has 29, 19 between the wars and seven since. The longest silence of the 6-bell towers which have had peals is Rushford, where the only peal was rung in 1901.

The list of unconquered 5-bell towers is too long to give—47 of the 88 being in that category. No tower has reached double figures here, the best being Fornsett St. Peter with six (four since the war). Six towers have five and here they are with the years of their peals: Besthorpe—1894 and 1895 (3), 1947, 1950; Clenchwanton—all from 1910, 13; Dickleburgh—all from 1923-32; Inwood—1903, 1935, 1939, 1948, 1949; Norwich, All Saints'—1911, 1920, 1932, 1934, 1938; Shropham—all from 1911-13. Actually, there are other indications apart from these just mentioned, that there was a spate of activity on the 5-bell towers just before 1914. The longest silent towers of this group are Norwich, St. Peter-Parmantergate and Thurlton, whose only peals were rung in 1893, but several others have not been heard for 40 or 50 years.

Although I haven't indicated it above, mention ought to be made of the variety of methods which have been rung in the Norfolk towers in the past 25 years especially. Even though peal totals are not high compared with some counties, many unusual methods are found amongst them, and that alone is an achievement.

Peals which have appeared in the ringing Press up to April 15th are included in the above totals.

SIXTY YEARS AFTER HIS FIRST PEAL

Bedford Dinner in Honour of Mr. D. Thompson

The St. Paul's, Bedford, company, held a dinner at the Dujon, Bedford, on May 17th, in honour of Mr. Donald Thompson, who rang his first peal—one of Holt's Original Grandsire Triples—on the tenor at St. Paul's, on Tuesday, May 14th, 1895, 60 years ago. This was a performance by the local band—the St. Paul's company. Also, he has rung nearly continuously for 65 years at St. Paul's.

Mr. S. Foskett, the tower captain, congratulated Mr. Thompson most warmly on his achievement, also mentioning that an old friend, Mr. Herbert Harlow, who was unfortunately ill, had nearly completed 50 years at St. Paul's.

The Vicar (the Rev. J. H. King) said that he and the other guests were honoured by being invited to dine with such an exclusive circle of ringers. These were splendid records, but long service at St. Paul's was not unusual, as Mr. Ruhliche and the verger (Mr. A. Summerfield) had very many years' service behind them.

It is hoped to hold a ringers' dinner annually.

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Unfortunately the last monthly meeting of the Society, at Bolsover, on May 7th, coincided with the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association and so there was a lower attendance than usual. However, about 18 ringers representing seven towers, including the local company, were present. Methods rung before tea included Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative.

After tea and a short business meeting the ringers, joined by more members, returned to the tower where ringing continued until 9 p.m. In the absence of the Ringing Master the new Assistant Ringing Master, Mr. W. L. Robinson, very efficiently filled the position. D. J. S.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting at Bolton

THE annual meeting of Lancashire Association was held at Bolton on April 30th. Ringing commenced at 11 a.m. and continued throughout the day at All Souls' (8), Deane (8), The Saviours' (8), St. George's (8), and the Parish Church (8). Holy Trinity (8), St. Bartholomew's (6), were available after tea.

The service was conducted by the president, the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith, M.A., B.D., and Canon R. G. Norburn, M.A., B.D., Vicar and Rural Dean of Bolton, gave the address. The lesson was read by Mr. Stephen Lloyd Parry.

Tea was served in the Parish Church Schools, where the Rural Dean welcomed the members. The president thanked the Rural Dean for his warm welcome and expressed the Association's appreciation of being allowed to come to Bolton once again. He also tendered the members' thanks to the ladies and to Mr. Vincent Martin and local ringers for their part in making the arrangements, and said that the success of the annual meeting was due in no small measure to the willing help which everyone gave.

The annual meeting followed with the president in the chair, and apologies were read from Mr. F. Dunkerley, the secretary, and Mr. Peter Crook. Mr. Parry was acting secretary for the meeting.

The president informed the meeting that no nominations had been received for the office of president, and vacated the chair. The vice-president then took the chair and paid tribute to the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith's leadership during his term of office. This was received with acclamation. Mr. A. Tomlinson moved that the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith be nominated, this being seconded by Mr. E. G. Gower; no further nomination was received and the vice-president declared the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith duly elected.

The president returned thanks to the members for their confidence in him.

He announced that Mr. Stephen L. Parry was the only nominee for the office of ringing secretary and thereby declared him elected. Mr. Parry briefly replied.

Mr. Peter Crook was the only nominee for treasurer and was elected. No nominations had been received for auditor. Mr. R. Leigh was appointed auditor.

The committee's report, the ringing secretary's report and the balance sheet and auditor's report were adopted.

The following resolution was adopted: 'That the office of hon. vice-president be awarded to any member of this Association whom the committee feel have served the Association well. This award rests entirely at the committee's discretion and will entitle the recipient to attend committee meetings without voting powers.'

After discussion it was decided to transfer Heversham from the Furness Branch to the Lancaster Branch.

An omnibus vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the meeting was moved by Mr. R. Benson and seconded by Mr. J. E. Burles and carried with acclamation.

Mr. R. Benson, Manchester Branch secretary, invited the Association to Manchester, and after discussion it was decided that the next annual meeting be held at Manchester on the last Saturday in April, 1956, or as near as possible to that date, at the discretion of the Manchester Branch.

F. D.

5,040 LITTLE BOB ROYAL

By CORNELIUS CHARGE

Column A

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234567908 4ths

Column B

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324 — —

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64235 — —

236457890 — —

Column B twice repeated

omitting the Bob at In produces rounds.

This composition contains the 6th its extent at home in the Tittums position, and the extent of the full combinations of 4, 5 and 6 in 5-6 in the Home position without 2nd ever in 5-6 or 3rd in 6ths place.

Reduced to a peal of 5,000 changes by calling the bracketed courses in column B in the last part as follows:—

35264 W M

25436 S —

54236 by bobs at 1.2.3

another village called Crosthwaite. Here once more some made music while others sought the wherewithal to lubricate their gasping tonsils.

And so they returned even to their own homes, having enjoyed to the full the good things provided.

Here Beginneth the Twelfth Chapter of the Book of the Journeyings of the Ringers of Leeds

It came to pass on the 14th day of the fifth month of the ninth year of our habitation and in the fourth year of the reign of Elizabeth our Queen, that there was assembled before a certain soot-begrimed sacred edifice a company of old men and maidens, young men and children, which any man could easily have numbered.

And even as they stood a chariot bore down upon them from out of the East, and being come upon them it did stop, and those that were assembled did climb aboard and lay claim to their seats.

After all were assembled, checked and counted they moved off to the West, but all were not present; some lived far off along the road to be travelled and were to join the chariot as it moved westwards.

And so the chariot travelled along the vale of Aire, and finally all had joined, and travelled from the vale of Aire into the vale of Wharfe.

Looking now at those on the bus one could not but notice the number of those growing long in the tooth and short in the thatch. But there were others of form divine and countenance fair, whose names sounded like music on the ear though those same names had often caused confusion in the belfry.

On we went, past a certain Naked Man. Some there were who, having passed this way before, had oft enjoyed his hospitality, but to-day, like the Levite, they passed by on the other side.

At length they came to a place called Clapham, and there they did both stop and stay to attend to the wants of the inner man.

There was with the party one named after a bird who went forth and found nowhere to rest, but he carried many leaves and his cry was 'Taylor's, Taylor's, there are no bells like Taylor's,' which, being interpreted, is 'If you want a good ring go to Loughborough.'

And so we journeyed to Kendal that it might be fulfilled which was written, 'And thou, Kendal, in the county of Westmorland, on to thee shall descend a horde from over the hills, and in your midst shall they raise a great clangour. This will be a change, for many of those who shall come are more used to dropping clangers, and they shall all depart leaving thee in peace at noonday.'

Journeying by the vale of Kent, beneath the weeping heavens, we came to Bowness, and there we did feast ourselves, gaining sustenance for the inner man and strength for our further battles with the monsters of bronze.

And they that were once an hungered and now were filled employed the next hour as the spirit moved them. Some to the belfry, where the noise might conceivably, as at Jericho, have brought the walls a-tumbling down.

Then those that had rung, and those that had been shopping, set forth in search of the gleaming chariot, and having found it at length they boarded it and made ready for further journeyings.

So they were led beside the still waters and through valleys of shadows, and the heavens sent down snow, and all were amazed at the wondrous beauty of the land through which they travelled.

At length they came to Keswick, and leaving there those to whom shops meant more than bells the ringers journeyed on apace to the shrine of Saint Kentigern. Here they disported themselves right royally, enjoying themselves to the full and making music to delight the heart and ear.

Again they were an hungered, and like chaff were they scattered abroad, each seeking to ease the pangs and quiet the rumblings.

Aboard again, and back on the way we had come till we came to a hamlet, yea even to

(Continued foot of previous column)

RINGERS HAD A GOOD PRESS IN 1954

The report of the Literature and Press Committee for 1954, presented to the Central Council at Bristol last Tuesday, shows that the art of change ringing had a good press in 1954. The report is signed by Edgar C. Shepherd (convener) and Fred E. Dukes, and states:—

Once again your committee has to report that ringers and ringing affairs have received considerable notice in the Press. The return of H.M. the Queen from her tour of the world was marked by a request from Parliament that all the bells of Britain should ring for the occasion, and newspaper notices of this stressed again the part bells play in our national life. Much more extraordinary was the light of publicity thrown upon the attempt at Loughborough to ring the extent of Major. Never in the history of ringing has so much attention been given, nationally and internationally, by newsmen and news agencies, to any bellringing project. The American Press was very interested, and an article in 'Time,' which began by being informative in transatlantic style, ended in the mock-heroic strain. The leader writer of 'The Manchester Guardian' was perhaps rather carried away by the stream of his own prose, and even 'The Times' was moved in sober fashion to compare the attempt with the climbing of Everest. Some of the less responsible portions of the National Press were crudely critical, and some correspondence for and against ringing naturally followed. Among the genuinely lighter comments was an amusing dialectic by 'X.Y.Z.' in 'The Suffolk Chronicle,' which turned the mind back to Debenham and ringing feats of old time. Possibly the best article that came to hand was the well-planned and carefully written essay in 'The Leicester Mercury,' written before the attempt, and giving the layman a sensible survey of the proposed undertaking. The article was accompanied by a photograph of the inside of the Loughborough campanile.

SUBSIDIARY RINGING JOURNALS

It is with great pleasure that your committee notes the continued appearance during 1954 of a number of subsidiary ringing journals. Among these are 'The Belfry,' the quarterly magazine of the Maidstone District of the Kent Association, the 'Irish Bell News,' the lusty quarterly of the Irish Association, and 'The Ringing Towers,' issued by the New South Wales Association of Change Ringers. After a very able and conscientious period as Editor of 'The Ringing Towers,' Mr. W. M. Rowe has resigned and his place has been taken by Mr. T. W. Goodyear. The persistence and enterprise that produce these periodicals both at home and in the far distant outposts of the Exercise are greatly to be commended.

Certain individual ringers have during the year provided notices or news items in the press and among them are four of what may be termed 'The Old Brigade still on active service.' In June, Mr. Adolphus Roberts celebrated his 84th birthday, an occasion marked by an excellent photograph and note in 'The Birmingham Mail.' In the same city 'The Sunday Mercury,' on May 16th, chose Mr. Albert Walker as 'Personality of the Week,' and in October 'The Surrey Times' gave honourable mention of the golden wedding of Mr. Alfred H. Pulling, accompanied by a delightful photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Pulling. Towards the end of the year 'The Oxford Times' included Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, in its series 'Impressions by David Peters.' In January, 'The Oxford Mercury' in a cheerful article described Appleton and its claims to fame and included references to the Whites and the Holifields.

The articles have been well written and varied in style, ranging from Fred Norris's light-hearted interview with the Rev. J. G. M. Scott in a West Country paper to W. A. Farmer's authoritative account of Clunbury bells in 'The Shropshire Magazine.' 'The Croydon Advertiser,' of August 27th, gave us a reminder of the old Society of Croydon Youths and the work of Dr. A. B. Carpenter; and 'J. P. D.' in 'The Harpenden Free Press' discoursed pleasantly on the difference between carillon playing and bell ringing.

LEGEND OF PIXIES AND BELLS

'Pulman's Weekly News' revived the legend of the pixies and the bells of Ottery St. Mary, and the story of the destruction of the carillon at Cattistock was related by William Pike in 'Home Words.' To this little paper may, perhaps, go the palm for the most charming essay of the year, 'A Novice goes Bell Ringing,' a delightful account by B. J. Jackson of a layman's approach to handling a bell and ringing rounds. Running it very close in simplicity and charm was John Saunders' 'The Bells of Steeple Aston' in 'The Lady' of December 2nd.

Early in the year the continued correspondence on synthetic bells in 'The Daily Telegraph' was assisted by Mr. E. A. Barnett, and in 'The Kent Messenger' Dr. John Hatcher conveyed a New Year message to the people of Kent. To correspondence in 'The Western Gazette' on bells of the countryside, Mr. H. J. Sanger made a valuable contribution.

The ringing publications of 1954 cover the archaeological, historical and practical approaches to our art. The Exercise will congratulate Mr. Frederick Sharpe on the completion of 'The Church Bells of Oxfordshire' by the publication of Volume 6 and the consummation of thirty years of compilation. Part XIII of 'The Church Bells of Berkshire,' by the same indefatigable student, appeared in the middle of the year. Mr. Wilfrid Wilson's valuable essay on conducting, prepared for 'The Ringing World,' has been produced in book form with the title 'On Conducting' and is now on sale among the publications of the Council. Other books and pamphlets published during the year include the following:

- 'Cheshire Bells,' J. W. Clarke.
- 'The Chester Scholars,' J. W. Clarke.
- 'Beginner's Grandsire' (2nd edition), A. Waddington.

'ORANGES AND LEMONS'

Among the publications of the year not written primarily for ringers are 'Oranges and Lemons,' dedicated by the author, Miss Gladys Taylor, to the Ancient Society of College Youths, and 'Bells in England,' by Tom Ingram. The former work gives a survey of the churches of London and will appeal strongly to all ringers. We may agree with 'The Ringing World' that the description in this book of the Sunday ringing at St. Paul's is most impressive. Mr. Ingram's work covers bells of every kind, from door bells to bells on buoys, and contains an eight-page bibliography that would appear to us to be the most comprehensive ever published.

'The Ringers' Note Book and Diary,' by Viggers and Hodgson, continues to appear and deservedly flourishes. It is of great use both as a diary and as a ringer's vade mecum.

OBITUARY

With regret we inform the Exercise of the death of Frank L. Fisher, of Ufford, Suffolk, on May 20th, at the age of 54. A fuller report will appear in our next issue.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 3s. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s. 6d.

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WALKER-BATEMAN.—June 7th, 1930, at St. Andrew's Church, Nottingham, S.E.9, Harold Walker to Mabel Bateman. Present address, York 6443

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PUBLICATIONS

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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.—12 short easy chapters. FIFTH EDITION ready end June. Order now. 5 or more, post free, at 5 for 2s. 6d. Less than 5, 6d. each, plus 3d. postage, etc.—W. G. Wilson, 28, Abbey Avenue, Alper-ton, Wembley. 6383

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH,' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author, 67a, The Close, Norwich. An account of the bells of one of England's most historic cities, well illustrated with plans, cross sections and pictures. Second edition, much improved; no increase in price.

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MEETINGS

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting, June 4th. Ringing, St. Stephen's, Clapham Park, S.W., 3.30. Business meeting, Ship, Talbot Court, E.C., 6 p.m. Note: No ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 7th. 6410

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Taunton Branch.—Meeting at Wilton (8), Saturday, June 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea.—A. H. Reid, George Street, Taunton. 6397

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Ely District.—Meeting on Saturday, June 4th, Chippenham (6), 3 to 4.30. Service at 4.30. Tea 5.15 at Fordham Crown. Fordham (6) after tea. —R. J. Housden, Dis. Sec. 6386

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — South-Western.—Meeting, Havering-atte-Bower, Saturday, June 4th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to F. Goodwin, Lydstep, Havering Road, Havering-atte-Bower. 6388

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Send (6) on Saturday, June 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 in Red Cross Hut. 6382

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Abbots Langley (6) June 4th, 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. 6417

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Combined meeting with the LADIES' GUILD at Biddenden (8), June 4th. Bells, 2.45 p.m. Service, 4.25 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m. Frittenden (8) bells also available from 6.30 p.m. 6369

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—By-meeting, St. Peter's, Thanet, Saturday, June 4th. Bells, 2.30 p.m. Service, 4.15 p.m. Tea 2s. per head. 6370

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—By-meeting at Hever, on Saturday, June 4th. Bells (6), 3 p.m. Service, 5.15 p.m. Tea (2s. 6d.), 6 p.m. 6374

LADIES' GUILD.—Midland District.—Meeting at Aylestone (8), Leicester, on Saturday, June 4th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the Aylestone Boat-house. All ringers and friends welcome. 6403

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at West Lavington (6), June 4th. Usual arrangements.—F. Slatford, North Bradley, Trowbridge. 6438

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Quarterly meeting at Meopham, Kent, Saturday, June 4th. (Train from Victoria.) Bells (8) available 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Cricketers' Inn, 5.15 p.m. Wrotham bells (8) available after tea (6.30 p.m. bus from Meopham). 6361

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Practice meeting, Tichborne, June 4th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 at Riverside Farm. 6405

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Bidford-on-Avon (8), Saturday, June 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting. 6408

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, King's Norton (10), Saturday, June 4th, 3 p.m. Service, 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business. 6367

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Blunham on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m., tea at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—L. H. Bywaters, Sec. 6431

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Shobrooke (new tower for most), Saturday, June 11th. Bells on arrival. Service 4.30 p.m., conducted by the president. Tea 5 p.m. Catering by local ladies. Extra support this time, please! Names by June 7th.—F. Wreford, 24, Normandy Road, Exeter. 6436

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting, Saturday, June 11th. Benfieldside St. Cuthbert. Names to C. T. Lamb, Hon. Dis. Sec., 26, St. Mary's Crescent, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 6427

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Bishopstone (8), June 11th. Tea. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon (Tel. 3936). 6429

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Crondall (6) on Saturday, June 11th, from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. Mellins, Pankridge Street, Crondall, by previous Wednesday. (Note change of meeting place from Farnborough, as per programme.)—G. S. Joyce, Hon. Dis. Sec. 6423

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—June 11th, Great Horstead 3 p.m. Names for tea (5 p.m.) by Thursday, 9th, to Mrs. A. J. Baker, 18, Willow Close, Great Horstead, Nr. Buntingford. Ringing at Braughing from 6 p.m.—T. J. Southam. 6446

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Practice meeting at Chelsfield, Saturday, June 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for refreshments by Monday, 6th, to A. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere. 6447

LADIES' GUILD.—South Wales District.—Meeting, Saturday, June 11th, St. Mellons. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and important business. Gentlemen cordially invited.—J. S. Evans, Dis. Sec. 6387

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—A quarterly meeting will be held in Minehead (10) on June 11th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Other towers available: St. James', Taunton, 10.15 to 11.15 a.m.; Dulverton, 1.15 to 2.15 p.m.; Curry Rivel 7.45 to 8.45 p.m. The usual coach will travel from the Bath/Bristol district—a few seats are still available. Lunch at Dulverton. Names for coach, lunch and tea as soon as possible to Mrs. M. de Jong, Vanaarken, Beresford Close, Saltford, Bristol (Tel. Saltford 2147).—M. de Jong, Hon. Sec., Western District. 6440

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Loughborough District.—Whitwick, June 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Toc H Hut. Names to Mr. R. Beniston, 157, Hall Lane, Whitwick, by June 8th.—C. W. Hall, Hon. Dis. Sec. 6433

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby District.—Meeting at Great Carlton (5), June 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Ringing after the meeting at Louth (8). Names for tea, by June 7th, to Mr. A. Holmes, Great Carlton, Louth, Lincs. 6401

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Lincoln District).—Quarterly meeting, Caythorpe (8), June 11th. Tea for those who notify me by Wednesday previous.—C. Brown, 3, Altham Terrace, Lincoln. 6415

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Willesden on Saturday, June 11th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. with tea and business to follow. Buses 660 and 664, alight at the White Hart, or Neasden Underground Station, turn right and 5 minutes' walk. 6434

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.—Next meeting, Netherseale, on Saturday, June 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those who notify W. F. Woodward, Netherseale, Burton-on-Trent. 6441

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Welshpool, June 11th. Bells at 3 p.m. Leighton also available. Names for tea to E. V. Jones, 30, Oakley Street, Shrewsbury, by first post on Monday, June 6th. 6422

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Nottingham, Saturday, June 11th. Bells available 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Old and new members welcome. 6442

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—North Notts District.—Crawford Cup contest and meeting and Bawtry (6), Saturday, June 11th, 3 p.m. start. Names for tea, by 7th, to Mr. A. Wilson, Shady Nook, Doncaster Road, Bawtry, Doncaster.—H. Denman. 6414

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice meeting, Rudgwick (6), June 11th (not Slinfold as printed in meeting card). Names for tea please by previous Tuesday to W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchingfield, Horsham. 6445

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Corporate Communion at Midsomer Norton, Sunday, June 12th. Bells 7 a.m. Service 8. Names for breakfast essential to E. Chivers, Wingles, Chilcompton. 6395

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District.—Next meeting, Owston Ferry, Saturday, June 18th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those who notify me by Tuesday previous.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Crow Garth, Lee, Gainsborough (Tel. 2623). 6399

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chipping Norton Branch.—Annual meeting, Shipton-under-Wychwood (8) on Saturday, June 18th. Service 4 p.m. Tea afterwards. All ringers welcome.—J. Keyte, Branch Sec., Charlbury. 6430

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Annual meeting, Lichfield, June 18th. Bells: Cathedral (10) 2.30–3.15 and 6.30–7.30 p.m.; St. Mary's (8) and St. Michael's (6), also available during afternoon and evening. Service at St. Mary's 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names for tea not later than Wednesday, June 15th, to Fred Bennett, Pool House Road, Wombourne. 6439

Preliminary notice. The joint meeting with the Shropshire Association and Hereford Guild will take place at Walsall on July 9th. 6439

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting at Charlwood, June 18th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by June 15th to A. J. Ede, 1, Claremont Villas, Charlwood. 6437

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Advance notice. The Snowdon Commemoration Dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15th, 1955, at the Guildford Hotel, Leeds. Tickets, price 11s. 6d. each, now available from A. E. Marsh, 19, Priestley Gardens, Pudsey, Leeds. 6384

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