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CREATING NEW INTERESTS

Throughout these difficult days 'The Ringing World' has urged ringers not to neglect their art and to make the most of the restricted opportunities still open to them. There is now, in many quarters, a gradual awakening of activity and, although peal ringing is bound to be curtailed almost to vanishing point, ringers are realising there are other ways in which they can maintain their interest. On our part we have endeavoured to create a new interest in subjects connected with bells and ringing which some ringers, in their enthusiasm for other phases of their pursuit, may have passed over with little attention. Fresh features have been introduced into our columns which we have every reason to believe are appreciated by our readers. For instance, Mr. J. A. Trollope's contributions on the history of the bells of London churches throw new illumination and interest on some of the ancient bells of the Metropolis and their associations with civic life. These articles are the direct result of Mr. Trollope's personal research into ancient records, and he brings to light many hitherto unpublished details, which have been collected only at the expenditure of much time and patience. Mr. Trollope has established himself as the leading authority on the history of ringing, and this series of articles, which he is kindly writing for our columns, is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the famous rings of bells in London.

Then our new series, 'With Paper and Pencil,' will, we hope, help to educate not only those who are just taking up the art, but many others who, now denied full opportunity of indulging in the practical side of ringing, have some leisure to devote to the theoretical study of those things which, while they form the background of practice, have been given very little direct study. We hope, as this series develops, that ringers of all classes will find them of increasing interest and value. We had proof when a series of articles written primarily for the benefit of beginners appeared in our columns that others than mere beginners found them of real use; for here and there they shed a light on some point which despite considerable knowledge on the part of the reader had somewhat escaped attention. And so, perhaps, this 'Paper and Pencil' series may in a similar way prove itself helpful even to ringers who have long since passed beyond the beginner's stage.

The circumstances which have enforced the silencing of many church bells, at any rate during normal hours of practice, have made it desirable that more attention

(Continued on page 642.)

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should be given to handbell ringing, which can become a very fascinating pastime. The 'blackout' evenings provide the opportunity for ringers to take up this branch of ringing and, from the correspondence which we have received, many of them are anxious to do so, but as handbell ringing is, in a sense, a different kind of thing to tower bell ringing, they do not know how to start about it. This week we are happy to be able to give them a first insight into handbell ringing, which we hope may be followed by other hints. This article has been contributed by one of the greatest experts in handbell ringing, Mr. C. H. Woolley, who, having learnt in what was probably the finest of all handbell schools, the Cambridge University Guild, has graduated in the famous Bushey band, with whom he has been the 3-4 man in all the great performances, which have included peals in Spliced Surprise Major. There can thus be no better authority on handbell ringing than Mr. Woolley, and our readers are fortunate in getting instruction from such a tutor, who is not only highly skilled himself, but, unlike many other talented handbell ringers, has been able to set down on paper some of the elementary directions for overcoming the initial difficulties. We hope Mr. Woolley will later expand this instruction for the benefit of new enthusiasts and later, perhaps, other exponents of double-handed ringing may be induced to contribute from the store of their knowledge. At any rate, Mr. Woolley has laid a foundation, and it may be that many bands will be able to build upon it from an experience that will grow from practice. One thing, however, is vitally necessary to success in double-handed ringing, and that is constant practice. Practice, practice, and yet more practice is the key to achievement, and we hope those who attempt this form of ringing will find the urge to persevere and will not be discouraged if success does not come all at once. They may rest assured that when the first difficulties are overcome, there is nothing more fascinating in the whole art than double-handed change ringing.

TO KEEP A BAND TOGETHER.

SOME HINTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I give a few words of advice to bands of ringers up and down the country as to the best way of keeping a band together and also promoting the art of change ringing? Keep the ordinary practice night going, if not by tower bells, then by handbells (but not double-handed ringing). Ring the handbells single-handed, that is, ring one bell each, in the same way as on the tower bells. Youngsters can be taught to hunt the treble, others can be taught inside work of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and Major, Treble Bob Minor and Major, Stedman Doubles, etc., and by sticking to it it is possible to learn any method. It is no good meeting one week then missing two—that is a waste of time. If you wish to keep things going you must stick to it and help yourselves by helping others.

Double-handed ringing will not keep a band together. To me handbells are much the same as tower bells; only a certain percentage become efficient. No matter how you try or what anyone does, if a beginner cannot see it—well, that's that, and no one can tell anyone else why they cannot grasp it or see it.

J. HUNT.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

MRS. J. FERNLEY Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS 5
JAMES FERNLEY 2	JAMES A. MILNER 6
WILLIAM FERNLEY 3	LIONEL CLOUGH 7
REV. FRANK BONNER 4	JOHN WORTE... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by JOHN WORTE.

* First peal of Surprise. Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. Alan James Kendal to Miss Margaret Edith Humphreys. The bride is the daughter of the Rev. A. J. Humphreys, Vicar of Norbury and Rural Dean. The peal was also a welcome to the curate, the Rev. Selwyn Gummer.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 14, 1939, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lb.

THOMAS BARKER Treble	JOHN JACKSON 5
JOHN CHARNOCK... .. 2	B. A. KNIGHTS 6
KENNETH HALL 3	LAWRENCE WALMSLEY 7
*EDWARD RAMSBOETHAM 4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS.

* First peal in the method 'inside.' Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of Alfred Blogg, branch secretary, who was interred on the 11th inst. Rung on the 29th anniversary of the first peal on the bells, which was also conducted by Mr. B. A. Knights.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WEEKLEY, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5940 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 10 lb.

ARTHUR S. COOPER Treble	W. REGINALD BUTCHER 4
BURLEY P. MORRIS 2	GEOFFREY E. WATSON 5
LEONARD G. TOSSLAND 3	BERNARD J. SADDINGTON Tenor

Conducted by BERNARD J. SADDINGTON.

First peal and first attempt by ringer of treble, who is a young member of the local band.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 9, 1939, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT 35, ALBANY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

CYRIL BRETT-SMITH 1-2	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY 5-6
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Umpire—T. Groombridge, sen.

Arranged and rung on the 72nd birthday of Mr. T. Groombridge, sen.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 15, 1939, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5-6
GEOFFREY V. MURPHY 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Umpire—D. M. Sharp.

Arranged as a compliment to E. A. Barnett, now of the R.A.F., Stanmore, on his 21st birthday, and as a farewell to G. V. Murphy, who joined the Royal West Kents on the following day.

CHANGE RINGING ON HANDBELLS.

BY C. R. WOOLLEY.

How To Begin.

To explain how to ring a pair of handbells in changes is, perhaps, one of the most difficult things a ringer can attempt to do. Few of those who are able to ring two bells 'in hand' can tell you exactly how to do it; and probably no two have quite the same idea upon the best way to instruct others.

But we have asked Mr. Chris. Woolley, one of the celebrated company at Bushey who have made history by ringing handbell peals of Spiced Surprise Major, to tell us how he approaches the subject. This he has kindly done, and we hope the article may be followed by others on the subject, perhaps by other talented handbell ringers, so that our readers may have the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

Handbell ringers are inclined to be evasive when asked how it is done. This is not generally through any lack of system, but rather because of the difficulty of conveying to others the ideas underlying the system. However, there are perhaps many tower bell ringers who would be unable to convey their system clearly even to other ringers, let alone explain it to a non-ringer. One knows the initial stages to counting, following course bells, or picking out the bells to follow in cyclic order—according to the way in which one was taught; but how many people can explain clearly what takes the place of these methods when practice and proficiency enable them to be dispensed with? Certainly some sort of instinct steps in at a certain stage, and the ringer finds he need no longer keep his eyes glued to his course bell, or his mind filled with a constant stream of figures.

The same applies in handbell ringing, and the same sort of initial stages of learning are necessary for complete success; so that when the already proficient tower-bell ringer finds himself called upon to go back to the beginning he must try not to pass the whole thing off as being too laborious, but rather, remembering his early struggles in the tower and recognising that there is a definite difference between the two branches of the art, realise that the learning stage must be gone through on handbells if he is really and truly to master them as well.

The average ringer will start handbell ringing with certain advantages over the non-ringer; but his knowledge is only of advantage to him provided he does appreciate that there is a difference in the system. If he attempts to ring a pair of handbells in the sole light of his experience in the tower it may eventually prove a definite handicap, and he will probably soon reach a limit of performance beyond which it is very difficult to make any progress at all.

THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT.

The first and most important point about handbell ringing is that the pair must be made to help each other, and rung in each change by a single effort of thought; in other words, one must not attempt to split the mind into two and follow the course of each bell separately. To attempt this is precisely the mistake into which the average ringer, starting on his own, is liable to fall; and because certain pairs in some methods can be rung in this way without very great trouble, he may be led to believe that he has reached his own personal limit, whereas in reality he has failed to appreciate and tackle the problem in the right way from the beginning.

Having got this fact quite clear, it remains to show its practical application. First, the question of the number of bells and the method arises. My own personal opinion is that six is quite the best number to commence

on, since Minor methods contain most of the work without much of the practical difficulties of counting and sighting involved in higher numbers. Major is also quite a good number to start on, if the band can manage the initial stages, and the fact of having an extra pair not in course, and the remarks which follow apply to eight bells with very little addition. Of methods, Plain Bob is a very obvious first choice. Odd bell methods—e.g. Grandsire—are not quite so easy for a start, and have the obvious disadvantage of giving the tenors no practice in the way of ringing both bells in the work.

Starting, then, with Bob Minor, we will imagine the learner to be on 5-6; the course should be written out, and the pair lined in (different colours may be used, but are by no means necessary). It will be seen that, at the beginning, having crossed over in 5-6, the pair course down to lead, the tenor first, with one bell in between each time, until they come together and cross over on the front and course up, the fifth now striking first, with one bell in between as before. Now to work them as a pair, the first bell in each change (i.e., the sixth coming down, and the fifth going up), which we will call the 'leading bell,' need be the only one to occupy the attention, since the other, or 'following' bell, can be placed each time from the position of the leading bell by allowing one bell to strike in between; excepting, of course, when they are at front or back together. Since the dodges are done also in course with one bell in between, these are also done by concentrating only on the leading bell.

WHEN THE PAIR IS PARTED

In the third, or parted lead, the treble comes in between the pair in the coursing order, as it does in turn between each coursing pair. This means that the normal coursing of this pair in this lead consists in striking with three bells in between, though as they separate from 2-3 at the beginning of the lead they strike for one change with two in between, as they also do before, and after coming together in 4-5, and before coming together in 2-3 at the end of the lead.

The whole of this lead must be rung by placing the leading bell correctly and counting the interval between it and the following bell. This may seem laborious; but on no account must the beginner try to ring the bells by separate parts, nor should he attempt to muddle through, as this will obviously lead nowhere. In fact the whole lead should be carefully studied beforehand so that he shall have a very clear idea of what he is to do, and know the spacing between the bells change by change.

The lead may be summed up thus: Fifth make seconds, tenor dodge back into 3rd's place, striking together in 2-3. Fifth leads again, two bells in between; fifth leads, three in between; three in between, three in between (sixth behind); two in between, meet and cross 4-5 under the treble; two in between, three in between, three in between (fifth now at lead); two in between; meet in 2-3 over treble, sixth makes seconds, and the fifth dodges back into fourth's bringing the pair in course.

The same applies in the parted lead of the tenors in Bob Major; only there are two extra changes both up

and down with three bells in between to cover the extra places.

It will be seen that the work of a coursing pair in Bob Minor consists of four leads in course and one parted lead; the whole is known as the 5-6 position. During the parted lead the pair are said to be working round the treble.

The 3-4 position consists of three leads with three bells in between, like the parted lead of 5-6, but with the pair working round the second, and consequently crossing in 2-3 as well as in 4-5. The dodges at the lead-ends should be studied; they are known as "scissors" and consist in dodging apart (to an interval of two bells) before or after crossing in 4-5. The other two leads in the 3-4 position, those at the beginning and end of the course, are known as "opposites," since when one of the pair leads the other is behind. *These leads must also be worked out by spacing from the leading bell.*

TWO BELLS SHOULD WORK AS ONE.

We now find that we have the whole of the work of inside pairs in Bob Minor, since at all times these pairs are ringing some part of one or other of the 3-4 or 5-6 positions. A pair cannot change its position without a call; and calls at certain places in the course have only the effect of changing the pair from one part of the course to another in the same position; while at other places the pair will be changed from one position to the other. Having mastered the positions in the plain course the work at the calls may be studied with diagrams; with a certain amount of practice this work becomes evident.

It will be found in Major that there are three positions, those of 7-8 (coursing); 3-4, which contains leads similar to the parted lead of 7-8, and two others with five bells in between; and 5-6, which contains leads similar to those of the 3-4 position (with five bells in between) and leads at opposites.

The trebles start and finish in course, separating lead by lead to the position of opposites, thereafter coming together lead by lead. They thus have coursing in all positions, but not the internal work at the lead-ends.

If all the band are beginners on handbells the work may be easier by starting the course from 132456 (or 12345678 for Major) when all the pairs will be in the coursing position. This will give all a chance of becoming familiar with the easiest position before embarking on the more difficult parted positions.

The leading bell may be hunted by means of its course bell going down, and by 'following the bell which followed it' on the way up; when coursing, this will be the bell which struck in between the pair in the preceding change. Another method is by counting, laying emphasis on the places in which the leading bell is due to strike, thus:

1-2-3-4-5-6,
1-2-3-4-5-6,
1-2-3-4-5-6,
1-2-3-4-5-6, etc.

After some practice the ringing of the various positions should become entirely automatic and involve no more mental effort than is required in the tower for the ringing of one bell. The above recommendations, that each different type of lead should be studied in line and analysed, are made in the absolute conviction that the two bells should work together as one, and that the learner must have a very clear idea of what he has to do

(Continued in next column.)

CHANGE RINGING ON HANDBELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

before he attempts to do it. This system requires much modification later, because when a more advanced stage is reached the work involved in learning all the leads in the different positions in quite simple methods becomes far too big a job to be practicable—besides becoming unnecessary. The system by which more intricate methods can be dealt with must be left for another article.

MR. G. E. SYMONDS' ADVICE ON RINGING IN HAND.
To the Editor.

Sir.—The letters published in your issue of September 29th were very interesting to me as one who has called peals of Grandsire, Plain Bob and Treble Bob on 8, 10 and 12 handbells double-handed.

I should like to make known what is, in my opinion, the easiest way to overcome many difficulties.

Do not try to ring two handbells by the same rule as lower bells, that is, by course method or by passing the treble, but hunt both bells in a plain hunt until you see the treble lead.

In Grandsire dodge one step backwards when it goes into 2nd's after leading, the two handbells will then be in exactly the same positions as they were when it led at handstroke and then continue the plain hunting again. It is important to have a reliable ringer on 1-2, also always to follow one's course bell after hunting all the way up.

In Plain Bob the step backwards is one blow earlier, and in Treble Bob the dodge occurs when the bell on the slow makes its second blow in second's place.

By using the above I ring and also call the bobs with less mental exertion than is required for ringing one tower bell, as mentioned by Mr. Jones.

GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich.

DEATH OF AN OLD TOTTENHAM RINGER.

On September 26th last, at Old Quarry, Nettleshead, Kent, William Pye English passed away peacefully at the age of 84.

Fifty years ago the deceased was an active member of the band at All Hallows', Tottenham, and took part in several peals at Tottenham, Southgate and other towers in North Middlesex.

He was a pioneer cyclist who was well known as a long distance and track rider, and, according to the local paper, it was principally owing to his efforts and the late Mr. Justice Scrutton's that danger boards were erected on steep hills leading to the saving of many lives.

TINTAGEL BELLS RESTORED.

NEW TEAK FRAME.

The strikingly situated Church of Tintagel, Cornwall, built on the headland overlooking the Atlantic, was the scene of considerable interest on Saturday afternoon, September 30th, when the peal of five bells, with tenor just over 7 cwt., was rededicated by the Vicar, the Rev. E. D. Arundel.

For all practical purposes the bells have been unringable for many years, and, although the question of restoration was considered from time to time, nothing came of it owing to lack of the necessary funds. Some six months ago, however, the present Vicar received an offer which enabled him to revive the scheme.

Messrs. Gilbert and Johnston, of Croydon, were called in and found everything to be in a deplorable condition. Their detailed proposals for a complete restoration were submitted to the diocesan authorities and fully approved by the Advisory Committee, and an order was placed with the firm for the work to be put in hand. This has now been completed.

The restoration was made possible by the great generosity of Lady Baron and once again Tintagel possesses a handy and useful ring.

The work, which has been most admirably carried out, consists of completely rehanging the bells with new fittings of modern design, including ball bearings, in a new frame.

Owing to the exposed situation of the church near the sea and the consequent prevalence of salt spray, special precautions were taken to obviate as far as possible the effects of corrosion. The new framework is constructed entirely in seasoned teak wood and the headstocks also made of the same timber.

The bells have been carefully tuned and it is agreed by everyone that they have been considerably enriched in their tonal quality. The ringers who attended also expressed the greatest pleasure in the 'go' and timing of the peal.

Incidentally, on the suggestion of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the framework has been designed with accommodation for a treble to make six and the Vicar hopes it may not be long before it will be possible to complete the scheme by the addition of this bell. No doubt he would be very pleased to receive contributions! The cost of the additional part of the new frame is being defrayed by some members of the Parochial Church Council.

IBSTOCK, LEICS.—At St. Denys' Church on Sunday, October 8th, for harvest festival service, a quarter-peal of Doubles (480 Bob Doubles and 780 Grandsire): Miss E. Iris Rowley 1, C. Verey 2, F. S. Fowkes 3, A. E. Rowley (conductor) 4, A. R. Tonks 5, F. Fowkes 6.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The war-time derangement of the postal services and the necessity of getting the copies of 'The Ringing World' into the hands of the publishers earlier on Thursday make it absolutely essential that all contributions to our columns, and particularly all notices, should be in our hands by Monday in each week. We cannot guarantee the insertion in the following issue of anything received later.

We hope that secretaries will send us prompt reports of their meetings, and we shall welcome any items of news relating to ringers and ringing, but they must reach us early.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We have yet another grudge against Hitler. He is responsible for the dislocation of our postal service. Will correspondents kindly note that, unless they forward communications to reach us by the first post on Tuesday, they may be too late for the following issue of 'The Ringing World.' Moreover, the arrival on Tuesday of long distance letters is very uncertain unless posted early on Monday.

Southover Guild, Lewes, Sussex, had arranged to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the bells on Saturday, October 28th. It was feared at first that the war might prevent the arrangements being carried out, but it is now hoped that a suitable commemoration may take place. The bells will be rung in the afternoon and a dinner is to be held in the evening, all being well.

The celebration of a centenary is not quite like an ordinary annual dinner. A centenary comes only once.

To-day is the 145th anniversary of a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major rung at St. Giles', Camberwell, by the Cumberlands, and conducted by the elder George Gross. The composition was John Reeves' five-part, containing 6,720 changes, and William Shipway, who was in the band, says that this was the first time a peal of Treble Bob containing the 120 course ends was ever performed.

Shipway probably was wrong in this statement, for on March 4th, 1791, the Kensington band, with James Bartlett calling the bobs, had rung the same length, and, as William Jones, the chief author of the 'Clavis', was in the band, almost certainly the same composition.

Five months earlier on October 21st the same men (except that Edward Rumball was in William Jones' peal) rang Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob. This was for many years thought to be the full extent in the method without parting the tenors. The Junior Cumberlands had already rung the composition to Kent, but this was the first time it was rung to the Oxford variation.

To-day is also the anniversary of a peal of Grandsire Cinques, rung in 1751 at St. Bridget's, otherwise St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by the Society of Union Scholars. It was composed and conducted by John Holt.

Charles Henry Hattersley, one of the foremost and best known ringers of the generation that belonged to the later years of the nineteenth century, died on October 21st, 1915.

On October 21st, 1876, the St. Martin's Society rang the only peal as yet accomplished of Stedman Royal. It was at Aston, and the number of changes was 5,184. Henry Johnson composed the peal and called it from the sixth, and the band included men like Amos Cresser, Henry Bastable and Johnson's son, Henry, who were well-known ringers in the district at that time.

Stedman on even numbers is an obvious misfit. It was rung by making each bell lie for three blows in fourth's place both going out and coming in, which gives back-stroke double dodging in 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10, but the sixes behind do not coincide with the sixes in front.

The vice-president of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association spoke of the great difficulties in travelling some 40 years ago when attending meetings. We understand that he had the utmost difficulty in getting home from Shipley, what with black-out restrictions and disjointed bus services—and this in 1939.

Among the peals recorded in this week's issue is one rung to celebrate the 21st birthday of Mr. Edwin A. Barnett, of Crayford, now serving with the Royal Air Force. Never, we believe, in the history of the Exercise has anyone reached his majority with a peal ringing record anything like his. Our readers will join us in congratulating him, and wishing him luck for his own sake and for the sake of his grandfather and father, whose friends among ringers are countless.

Another handbell peal has also been rung for the 72nd birthday of Mr. Thomas Groombridge, sen., whose recovery from his serious accident on August 12th will give great pleasure to his many friends. We are glad to be able to report that he is now again ringing on tower bells and as well as ever.

THE B.B.C. INTERVAL SIGNAL.

MR. TROTMAN EXPANDS HIS VIEWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When, in my original letter to you about the B.B.C. interval signal, I said 'the record which is now used was not made specially for the purpose,' I meant to imply that an interval signal was a special item for which a special record was necessary.

If the idea of such a signal is analysed it can be looked at from the point of view of the B.B.C. or from the point of view of the man in the living room (the 'man in the street' does not apply for once!). The B.B.C. regard it as something to help a listener to tune in when there is no programme. Hence its indiscriminate use after all programmes, including news bulletins, with the result that the outbreak of war, the Russian stab-in-the-back for Poland and the sinking of ships like H.M.S. Royal Oak are greeted with a peal of bells to accord with the shouts of joy in our own hearts! In the first instance I was reminded of Walpole's remark on the outbreak of 'the war of Jenkins' ear' in 1739—'They are ringing the bells now, but they will soon be wringing their hands.'

The listener wants some sound to tune in to when no programme is available. The present signal is much pleasanter than those used by foreign stations, though, in my opinion, the ringing fraternity could produce something more suitable. The listener is not interested in the ringers or the method used. He merely desires a smooth and undulating sound which does not jar on his nerves every so often.

No existing record of bells 'foots the bill.' The main thing to remember about it is that people have to listen to it several times a day. It does not come into the category of a Sunday service touch, which has a definite beginning and a definite end (usually!). In the signal there should be 'no beginning or end to it' (thank you, Mr. Whittington, for those words). Rounds should be avoided both at the beginning and the end. As it is, one of the announcers starts the record in the middle to avoid them, and they all have to take the record off before it has finished.

On this assumption, therefore, Triples will not do. They are pleasant enough to ring and pleasant enough to listen to for a short while. But to hear them repeatedly is very tedious. They begin to sound like a small child doing four finger exercises with an irate music mistress stamping her foot to keep time! If, on a consensus of opinion, the tenor behind is preferred, let us have Cinques, when its 'blows' will be few and far between.

What is really wanted is a 'fantasia' of bells. The whimsical character of Major with its crotchets and quavers provides a much more suitable medium. Moreover, the record should be 'faded in' after the bells have gone into changes, and 'faded out' before they come back into rounds. The record should be made at some distance from the tower, as a 'blare' could never be pleasant. Given these conditions, Double Norwich on the back eight at Bow would provide slow heavy ringing, with no jars or monotonous repetitions, on the world's most famous peal.

A. TROTMAN.

Longbredy, Dorset.

P.S.—The best ringers obtainable should be procured for the job—those who are familiar with Bow bells, including perhaps some of those who made the record now used. It would be highly undesirable for C3 ringers like myself ever to turn Bow tenor in except as a warning for an air raid, earthquake or some other major catastrophe!

VARIETY OF RECORDS ADVOCATED.

Sir,—Since the war began I have turned to the pages of 'The Ringing World' to be convinced that you, sir, are carrying on. The items of interest from your many contributors convincingly appeal. Your journal has transformed itself into a magazine of interest to all lovers of bells, peals and historic customs.

The correspondence on the B.B.C. interval signal provokes one to express admiration for the ringers who produced and permanently recorded for all time the real beauty of a magnificent peal of bells. The work was done by expert ringers. When the B.B.C. operator adjusts the gramophone to the correct speed the 'harmonics' and 'hum' tones distinctly tell on the air. Hence the ringing and the bells are admired by ringers, who 'live' for striking only, and by the common folk. Seldom is a blow very faulty.

Still, we grow tired even of the very best in time, and it has occurred to me that the Regional transmitters might have regional variations. What about a course of Stedman on the minor eight with the eleventh as tenor from Exeter Cathedral for the west? Or a course of Bristol on that fine peal at Shrewsbury for the Midland Regional or some other fine peal in the North with a really musical method well struck for the North Regional? Everybody loves bells; particularly in this true in rural areas, where there is never much difficulty in getting money for the bells if it be required.

If such records were made, and, if necessary, re-made, and presented to the B.B.C. I feel convinced they would thank you for them and use them. Even a word of appreciation, to my knowledge, has been courteously replied to.

FRED C. SMALE.

Okehampton.

A number of other letters on this subject are unavoidably held over.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION AND THE LEEDS SOCIETY MEET.

Visit to Shipley.

A very enjoyable joint meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association with the Leeds and District Society was held on Saturday at St. Paul's Church, Shipley. This was the first meeting of the two societies since the commencement of the war, and the result proved beyond doubt that, where it is possible to arrange a ringing meeting, the members from the surrounding districts give their fullest support. Some members travelled a considerable distance, using no less than four different bus routes, in order to have a few brief touches. Practices in most districts are either very much curtailed, if not stopped altogether, and the few meetings which are possible can be sure of a good attendance.

Ringing commenced about 2 o'clock and continued until almost 'black-out' time. During the afternoon touches of the following methods were enjoyed: Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and Airedale Surprise, and the standard of ringing and striking was very much above the average for meetings.

The business meeting was held in the Institute, with the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, in the chair, supported by the Rev. W. J. Perrett, Vicar of Shipley; the president of the Leeds and District Society (the Rev. J. H. B. Andrews) having had to leave early owing to another appointment.

The Chairman in very characteristic style proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens of Shipley for very kindly granting the use of the bells, and also to the local company for making such excellent preparations for the members' comfort and the other arrangements. He mentioned a humorous incident when he attended his first 'country meeting' at Shipley many years ago, when travelling facilities were rather primitive and were not helped by a thick fog which incidentally prevented him from reaching home at night. He was sure that wherever ringers went they would not find a more genial spirit than that which was found in the belfry at Shipley. There was always a hearty welcome for ringers, and the way in which the belfry was kept was a model which other places might try and emulate. Under the guidance of Mr. Simpson and Mr. Kendall, the Shipley company were keeping up the great traditions of those gone before, and he hoped they would continue to make such good progress for a very long time to come.

The Rev. W. J. Perrett, in replying, spoke of his very great pleasure in welcoming the associations to Shipley. He took the greatest interest in his ringers, and whenever he visited the belfry he was always conscious of the spirit of brotherhood amongst them. He was sure that there was a great deal more unity in the belfry than in other parts of church work. Unfortunately, they, like other towns, were having difficulty in maintaining a full band, but he hoped that when the affairs of the country were more settled they would have no trouble in obtaining a plentiful supply of young ringers to carry on this wonderful work. He had enjoyed listening to the bells all the afternoon, but he hoped that next time he would be able to listen to them under more pleasing national conditions.

Mr. Ernest Simpson, in replying for the local company, spoke of their pleasure in receiving the associations and assured everyone that there would always be a ready welcome at Shipley.

The Chairman mentioned that the next meeting was due to be held in December, but owing to the many difficulties—of travelling and rationing, to say nothing of the short time available for ringing owing to darkness which would no doubt prevail at that time—the committee were under the impression that it would be wise to cut this out and to hold the next meeting in March. He mentioned that the Leeds and District Society would endeavour to continue with their monthly meetings whenever possible within the radius of that society, and he hoped that as many as possible would take advantage of this and give their fullest support.

It was, therefore, decided on the proposition of Mr. John Ambler, seconded by Mr. Armitage, that the next meeting be at Queensbury, and unless more settled conditions prevailed in the meantime, that this be held next March.

It was announced that a meeting of the Leeds and District Society will be held in November, if at all possible, and members are asked to look for an announcement in 'The Ringing World' for further details.

A request was made that all tower secretaries in Yorkshire should keep a record of members serving in H.M. Forces, and that particulars should be sent to the district secretaries for inclusion in the annual report. It was also mentioned that a number of subscriptions were still outstanding for the year which has just closed, and that these should be paid without delay, in order to keep the membership intact.

The towers represented during the day were as follows: Addingham, Arley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Elland, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Huddersfield, Idle, Keighley, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Queensbury and Shipley.

BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.—On Oct. 15th at the Church of Our Lady for morning service, a quarter-peal of Doubles, 360 each of Canterbury and Plain Bob, 120 of April Day and 420 of Grandsire: D. Perkins (first quarter-peal) 1, E. Smart 2, M. Laughton 3, D. Cookings (conductor) 4, T. Fleming 5.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

INTERESTING FACTS FROM HISTORY OF ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

St. Margaret's, Westminster, was not only a prominent church, with a large and important parish; it was the parish church of the royal palace and of the Houses of Parliament. There was, therefore, a lot of paid ringing in the steeple. A large part of it was on the days that the King or Queen arrived at or left Whitehall, or on royal birthdays or the Coronation Day. This last was a special ringing day and in 1626 the vestry agreed to pay the ringers £1, which was a large sum and probably means that the bells were rung on and off the whole of the day. The same amount was paid on that day in every succeeding year right down to 1648, a few months before the execution of King Charles I. It was resumed after the Restoration in 1660.

An early and interesting entry in the accounts records the receipt by the parish 'atte burying of William Caxton for iij torches vjs. viijd Item for the belle atte same burying vjd.'

The fees for the bells in connection with deaths and burials formed a considerable item in the parish revenue at St. Margaret's as well as at most other places. They were for passing bells and for knells; and we seldom find an entry for a funeral peal rung by all the bells. Yet they were common enough. Probably the ringers were paid directly through the clerk. The parish paid for bell ringing at the funerals of King Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth.

In 1586, when Babbington's plot was discovered, the bells were rung, and in the next year, when the news came that Mary, Queen of Scots, had been beheaded. In 1612 her body was removed from Peterborough to the Abbey, and again the bells were rung, but this time as a mark of respect.

There was ringing in 1588 when Queen Elizabeth went to the camp at Tilbury, where the English army was waiting for the expected landing of the Spaniards, but there is no mention in the accounts of any when, a week or two later, the news came that the Armada had been defeated at sea. No doubt the ringers did not wait for any official orders or promise of pay. A few years earlier, when the Spaniards beat the Turks at the battle of Lepanto, all London's bells, and St. Margaret's among them, were set ringing.

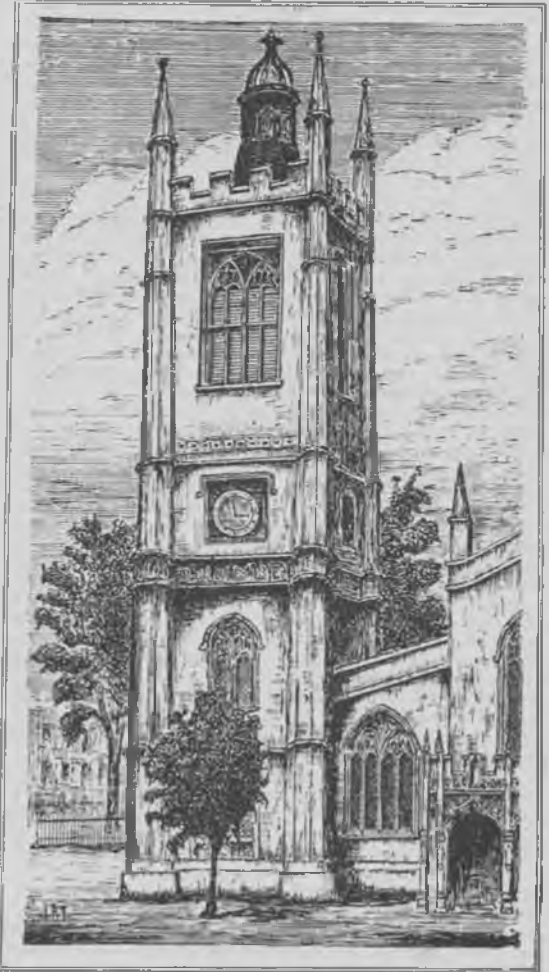
St. Margaret's was more than the church of the parish in which the Houses of Parliament were situated; it was also from 1614 'as it were a National Church for the use of the House of Commons,' and this was the cause of a certain amount of ringing. In 1605, as soon as Guy Fawkes' plot was discovered, the bells were rung; in 1628 when Charles I. accepted the Petition of Right; in 1640 when the Triennial Act was passed; in 1651 when the Scots were beaten at Worcester; in 1653 when Oliver Cromwell was installed as Lord Protector; and always when a new Speaker was elected.

The tower was reconstructed, refaced, heightened, and given its present appearance in 1735; the cost being partly paid by a grant from Parliament.

The churchwardens did not deal directly with the ringers, but employed a steeplekeeper, probably the parish sexton, and he provided the ringers when they were needed. In the early seventeenth century the

steeplekeeper was Michael Stockdale and his wages for attending to the bells for a year were one shilling and eightpence. Later on Edward Rogers was steeplekeeper.

In 1674 a boy of fourteen was dragged up by one of the ropes and killed. An inquiry was held and it was proved that the steeplekeeper had been very negligent in the discharge of his duties and, instead of being constantly in the belfry when a knell was being rung, he had



ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

left a number of boys there and absented himself 'on no occasion of the parish.' Other misdemeanours being proved against him, he was dismissed from his employment.

From ancient times the morning bell was rung at five o'clock and the curfew at eight. When the custom ceased is unknown.

Besides the paid ringing there was a lot of 'pleasure' ringing by people like the College Youths and the Esquire Youths. When the octave was completed in 1670, the vestry at the instance of the curate and some of the neighbouring parishioners, ordered that there should be no ringing in peal before seven in the morning or after eight at night.

No record survives of any five thousand rung on the first octave. The earliest known peal on Knight's bells

was 5040 changes of Double Bob Major on February 12th, 1742, by the Eastern Scholars. No claim is made in the peal book that it was the first on the bells and quite possibly one had already been scored by another company.

From that time until the present a steady succession of peals has been rung in the steeple, some of them of more than ordinary interest. In 1751 Annable called a peal of Reverse Bob Major for the College Youths. It was claimed as the first that was done in that steeple, which suggests that one had already been rung elsewhere. If so, no account of it survives.

In the same year John Holt called his original peal of Grandsire Triples for the first time. The band were members of the Society of Union Scholars, and Holt, thinking it beyond the powers of any man to call the peal and ring at the same time, sat in the tower and called it from the manuscript. A board was erected to commemorate the performance, but there is now no entry of it in the peal book. Osborn thought that it was omitted because it was considered irregular for a man to call and not ring. Snowdon thought it was omitted because Annable 'did not approve' of the composition. Neither explanation is convincing.

The company which had rung the peal and erected the peal board can hardly have had scruples about entering the record in the peal book, or would have been likely to pay much attention to the criticisms of a man belonging to another and rival society. Most likely the peal was entered in the usual way and the sheet afterwards taken out by someone when the book became dilapidated. The peals were not numbered and so the loss of a leaf cannot be traced. So far as we can tell, Annable did not object to the composition, nor hold the opinion that a peal of Grandsire Triples must be produced by bobs only.

In 1752 the Eastern Scholars rang a peal of Double Eastern Bob Major, a very interesting method of which they said it was 'unparall' for music, though derided by Ben, who says it is lopsided.' Annable had learnt something about the symmetry of methods since the days when he had composed, and presumably rung, lopsided six-bell methods himself.

George Meakins called the first peal on the ten bells; 5040 changes of Grandsire Caters rung by the College Youths in 1761.

The longest peal on the bells during the eighteenth century was 6000 changes of Bob Major by the Union Scholars in 1747 composed and conducted by John Holt. In 1805 the Westminster Youths rang 6011 changes of Grandsire Caters, which length was beaten in 1814 by the Junior Cumberlands, who rang 6101 changes in the same method, and again in 1823 by a peal of 7002 changes.

AN ANCIENT ABBEY BELL.

REPLY TO MR. E. J. THOMAS' ENQUIRY.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—In reply to the question by Mr. Edward J. Thomas as to what became of the large bell from Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire, when dismantled in 1772, there is no evidence that it ever came to Exeter.

According to the 'History of the Church Bells of Devon' by the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, 'Grandison,' the tenor bell in Exeter Cathedral, was recast by Pennington in 1629, and again by William Evans in 1729. When the Cathedral bells were restored in 1902 this bell was finally recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

Great Peter, the clock bell, hanging in the north tower, is said to have been brought from Llandaff by Bishop Courtenay in 1484 in exchange for five bells from Exeter. This bell was recast by Thomas Purdue in 1876. Its reputed weight is 6½ tons, and it is still in use.

Heavitree, Exeter.

T. LAVER.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

EVENING RINGING AT ROCHDALE BRANCH MEETING.

The Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association met at Moorside, near Oldham, on October 7th. The bells were set going by the local ringers at the appointed time and a touch of Stedman Triples was first brought round. As more people arrived so the variety of methods rung increased, and before an adjournment was made for tea all the standard methods had been rung.

The business meeting was afterwards held in the tower, and while waiting for the Vicar, the Rev. A. Calderley, who had expressed his willingness to take the chair, the handbell enthusiasts rang well-struck courses of Plain Bob, Stedman and Grandsire.

The Secretary said how disappointed they were that at the last meeting, held at Middleton on the Saturday prior to the declaration of war, the Rector had refused permission to ring, and he hoped this would not be a common occurrence.

The question was raised as to whether people serving in His Majesty's Forces would retain their membership without the necessity of paying further subscriptions.

After a short discussion the meeting decided that the General Committee ought to give a lead in this matter.

In his closing remarks the secretary was very emphatic on the point that the monthly meetings should be kept going at all costs, and those present promised to do their best to attain this end.

Before leaving the belfry the Vicar gave his permission to use the bells until 8.30, which was appreciated by all those present.

The bells were, therefore, soon set going again to Stedman. Other methods followed in rapid succession, including a touch of London Scholars' Pleasure for the six-bell ringers.

After a long course of Oxford Treble Bob, everyone thought they had had sufficient for one day, and so with promises to attend the next meeting at Shore, near Littleborough, the ringers disappeared into the darkness.

RINGING ARRANGEMENTS.

WHAT THE TOWERS ARE DOING.

Staverton, Daventry, 6 p.m. Practice, Mondays, 7.30 p.m.
 Disley, 10.15 to 10.45 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
 Marple, 10 to 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
 Macclesfield, Christ Church, 10 to 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
 Norbury, 10.15 to 10.45 a.m. and 5.30 to 6 p.m.
 Cranleigh, Surrey, 10.15 a.m. and 3.15 p.m. Practice, Monday, 7.45.
 Swindon, Christ Church, 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
 Swindon, St. Mark's, 10.15 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.
 Redbourne Cheney, 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
 Burton Lalimer Parish Church, 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. Practice, alternate Saturdays, beginning October 21st, 2.45 p.m.
 Walsall, St. Matthew's, 10.15 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 3.30 p.m.
 Mistley, Essex, 10 to 11 a.m.
 Hugglescote, Leicestershire, 10.15 to 10.45 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
 Tring, 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m.
 Llanfrecfa, Newport, Mon., 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.
 Bournemouth, St. John's, Surrey Road, 10.15 to 11 a.m. and 2.30 to 3.15 p.m.
 Bozeat, Northants, 9.15 to 10 a.m. and 5.15 to 6 p.m. Practice, Friday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.
 Wellesborough, Kent, 10.15 to 10.35 a.m. and 2.15 to 2.55 p.m.
 Aughton, Lancs, 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

A special open practice has been arranged at Staverton, Daventry, for the first Saturday in each month, from 5.30 to 8 p.m., at which all visitors will be most welcome.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' ask what has happened to the Kent County Association? Have the officials got the wind up or have they abandoned the ship? Five weeks have gone and there is not a word from headquarters, local or otherwise. Now that the annual district meetings are due to be held, is there any valid reason why they should not take place? Transport in the county during the afternoon and early evening is practically normal, train services are fairly good and there is no food rationing at present. Although ringing might be limited, surely the business is sufficiently important to hold a meeting, apart from the very high value many ringers set to the social side.

Is an association such as this to be allowed to go to sleep at Hitler's orders, and, if so, will it wake up again when he gets his marching orders?

BELFRY BLACKED OUT.

Weekley belfry is 'blacked out,' and Mr. B. P. Morris will be pleased to arrange practices there for any Kettering District ringers who care to communicate with him.

It is hoped to maintain ringing at Hugglescote throughout the coming winter and visitors will be heartily welcomed. There will be an 'open' practice afternoon on Saturday, November 18th.

NOTICES.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Bampton on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells from 2 p.m. Time of service and tea to be announced at meeting. Come early. Will those wishing to have tea please notify me as early as possible?—R. Harris, Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Chilvers Coton (Rugby bells not available) on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Business meeting in the Vestry at 4.30. Please make own arrangements for tea.—Dorothy E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Sharnford on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells available 2.30 until dark. Tea can be obtained at the Church Institute, and names should be sent to the Rector as early as possible to allow for any delay in the post. Handbells, etc., for the rest of the evening. Please make an effort to attend. These meetings now depend on YOU.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BUSHEY SOCIETY.—The bells (8) at Bushey, Herts, will be available on Saturday, Oct. 21st, from 3.45 to 5.15 p.m. Everybody welcomed. Most methods available. Handbells after. No time limit.—E. Jennings.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea in the Parish Hall 5.30 p.m. Business meeting follows. All ringers welcome.—A. T. Greenwood, Hon. Sec., 6, Sheffield Road, Portsmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—H. W. Shadrack, Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—A special meeting will be held at Netherseale on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells available at 2.15. Important meeting in Rectory at 5.45 p.m. All district members should attend to consider how to fix a winter programme. All ringers will be given a cordial welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Calling all ringers. The next meeting will be held at St. Alkmund's, Derby, on Oct. 21st. Ringing from 2.30 till dusk. Come and let's hear your suggestions for carrying on the good work. All ringers welcome.—W. Lancaster, Sec., 83, Albert Rd., Chaddesden.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting will be held at Bromham on Saturday, Oct. 21st. The bells (8) will be available from 2 p.m. till blackout. The future programme of this district will be discussed at this meeting. All ringers very welcome. The service ringing at Bromham on Sundays is carried on as usual.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—The next meeting will be held at Clowne on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells available from 3 p.m. till dusk, followed by meeting and refreshments (1s. each). Names, please, to Mr. J. Keenan, 13, Creswell Road, Clowne. A short service will be held during the afternoon, at the most suitable time according to the number of members present. This tower asks for help and instruction. Please come along and give what you can.—Sam Scattergood, Local Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at headquarters on Oct. 24th at 7 p.m. Nomination of officers.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION (South and West District), **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Chertsey District) and **SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western District).—A combined meeting of members of the above will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells available from 2 to 5 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. in the Parish Hall, followed by a short business meeting. Numbers for tea to be sent to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, by Thursday, Oct. 26th.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, F. E. Hawthorne and F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley (10 bells), on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 28th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock to 6.30. All other branch members cordially invited. No ringing after 6.30 p.m.—J. H. Ridyrd, Sec., 35, The Crescent, Worsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, Oct. 28th. Eight bells. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. John the Baptist, Erith, on Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea will be arranged at a reasonable price for all who notify Mr. F. J. Cullum, 78, West Street, Erith, not later than Tuesday, Oct. 24th. Catering is difficult, so please support the effort made on your behalf and apply early.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Oct. 28th. The ten bells will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at 5.30 p.m. All ringers invited.—F. J. Plummer, Dis. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—By the kind permission of the Rector there will be an open practice at Halewood from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28th. No tea will be provided. No business meeting. All ringers cordially invited. It is hoped that the ordinary monthly meetings will be resumed on and from Nov. 11th.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Lea on Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (6) available from 1.30 to 5 p.m. Short service. Tea at 5.30 in the Women's Institute, which will be available for a social evening. Should events take a more serious turn and the meeting have to be cancelled, all those who let me know before Thursday, Oct. 26th, that they will be present will be notified. P.S.—There is still a very convenient train service to and from Lincoln.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Shalford on Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting and handbell ringing. It is essential that all those requiring tea should notify me not later than Monday, Oct. 30th.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Sec., 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A practice will be held at Sandhurst on Saturday, Nov. 4th (instead of Oct. 21st). Ringing from 3 till 6 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A commemoration luncheon to celebrate the 302nd anniversary of the society will be held at the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, on Saturday, Nov. 4th, at 1.30 p.m. The price of the luncheon will be 4s. per head. The names of those intending to be present must be sent in by Tuesday, Oct. 24th.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.—The tower of the above will be open for practices each Saturday, 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.—James E. Davis, Tower Keeper.

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