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LOOKING AHEAD.

The story of the destruction of the bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields, which is told in this week's article on London Bells, is a reminder of vicissitudes of various kinds which have befallen many famous rings in the city, the worst of all being the neglect which most of them in turn have suffered. Happily few peals of bells have met the fate of Spitalfields, except, of course, in the Great Fire, but Bethnal Green and St. Olave's, Southwark, lost their bells by fire after Spitalfields. The greatest despoiler of London's bells has been negligence, and there are still a large number whose tones have not been heard for years and of whose existence, in all probability, the vast majority of the inhabitants in each parish are unaware. Some of these bells have figured prominently in the past in London history; they have now gone into decay for want of use. It is a sad story and one for which London ringing societies are not entirely free from blame.

It has to be remembered, of course, that conditions in London are vastly different to those in nearly every other place in England, and the silencing of the many church bells, which now are no longer heard, is not due solely to any one cause. The reasons which from time to time have led to the demolition of city churches, have resulted in others becoming more or less deserted, and the disappearance of the ringers is but a phase of the conditions which have led to the disappearance of the congregation. But there is another cause which must not be overlooked, and that is the policy of the ringers themselves in a past generation. In the South of England, at any rate, Sunday service ringing was not practised, except in isolated cases, until about the 'eighties of last century. Such ringing as was done was almost entirely for the amusement or profit of the ringers. In London the bells were, prior to that time, and in some cases even later, merely the sport of the different bands that sprang up. The only times the bells at many churches were rung were paid occasions and for peals, and when the former failed and the latter became impossible through the condition of the bells or the inactivity or the loss of interest of the ringers, the bells were just allowed to lapse into permanent silence. For years many of them have hung mute, and it has been surprising to watch, through even this century, how little real effort London ringing societies have made to create any local interest in bell restoration which might lead to a general improvement. There have been one or two notable exceptions, but even so there are literally dozens of rings of bells within the metropolitan area that, up to the outbreak of war, have been abso-

(Continued on page 738.)

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lutely neglected unless for one reason or other some enthusiast has organised a band to attempt a peal.

Ringers do not need to be reminded that the best way to preserve bells is to ring them, and nothing is more likely to keep them in reasonable ringing order than their regular use on Sundays. Until war broke out we believe that the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral had been rung every Sunday without a break since their opening in the year 1878, and their condition now is a tribute to the care bestowed upon them during that long period. It is doubtful if they would have been so well maintained had they not been regularly rung on Sundays. Regular ringing leads to regular attention being given to the bells and their fittings, and unless they are primarily used in the service of the Church, ringers can hardly expect to raise the authorities' interest in their upkeep.

It is doubly essential in these days, when conditions tend to reduce the ringing of church bells, that no effort should be spared to keep going those that may be rung. For the sake of the bells themselves, as well as for the place they fill in connection with the services, they should be regularly heard at least once on Sunday. Moreover, it will be found to be very difficult to restart those bells which are allowed to become silent. The interest of ringers may wane; the public themselves in some places may object to their revival, although we feel that among the majority of people the sound of the bells after the war is likely to be received with general joy. But be that as it may, what is now required is a determination to keep the bells of this country going, and during this period of enforced partial inactivity in the towers the London ringing societies might well give thought to planning a great revival when happier times come again.

LUNAR CALENDAR

FOR THE BENEFIT OF ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think the enclosed Lunar Almanac should be useful for quick reference to secretaries arranging meetings or practices.

Moonlight Period.	Full Moon.
1939	1939
Dec. 18—29	Dec. 26
1940	1940
Jan. 16—27	Jan. 24
Feb. 14—25	Feb. 23
Mar. 14—24	Mar. 23
April 13—22	April 22
May 12—21	May 21
June 12—20	June 19
July 13—21	July 19
Aug. 12—22	Aug. 17
Sept. 10—22	Sept. 16
Oct. 9—21	Oct. 16
Nov. 7—19	Nov. 15
Dec. 6—18	Dec. 14

Hourly particulars are given, of course, in the local papers each day.
C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

RINGERS WED AT BATLEY.

On Saturday, December 2nd, the wedding took place at Batley Parish Church between Miss Hazel Holmes, who is one of the local ringers, and Mr. Morris Hodgson, who until his departure to London a year ago was also a ringer at the same church.

As the bridal pair left the church a touch of Treble Bob was rung on the bells and the band then adjourned to a local cafe, where the party was celebrating the event, and a sumptuous tea was partaken of.

The bride and bridegroom were presented with a timepiece from the local band, and after the usual compliments the couple wished to ring a farewell touch before their departure to somewhere in England, where Mr. Hodgson is on aeronautical research work. A well-struck course of Treble Bob was brought round and then they left to catch their train, all wishing them the best of luck and happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson are members of the Yorkshire and the Leeds and District Associations, and Mrs. Hodgson is also a member of the Ladies' Guild.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

CLYRO, RADNORSHIRE.
 THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.
 On Saturday, December 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 24 six-scores, three 240's of Lindoff's and six 240's of Morris' Arrangements. Tenor 10 cwt.

JAMES P. HYETT	Treble	LESLIE EVANS	3
ALBERT E. JONES	2	FREDERICK J. WATKINS	4
DAVID H. BENNETT		Tenor	

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

Rung as a welcome to the new Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, who was consecrated at Bangor Cathedral on St. Andrew's Day.

DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS, Lincs.
 THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 5, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Double Court and five of Plain Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt.

CHARLES E. BLACK	Treble	CHARLES PERKINS	4
WILLIAM DOPPY	2	FRED BRIGHTMAN	5
EDWARD BROWN	3	FRANK TAYLOR	Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TAYLOR.

* First peal on an 'inside' bell.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.
 THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 3, 1939, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

AT 92, BUTCHER'S ROW,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Three callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

* HAROLD WOOD	1-2	EDGAR RAPLEY	3-4
CECIL LONGBURST		5-6	

Conducted by E. RAPLEY.

Witness—F. Roberts.

* First peal 'in hand.'

WOLVERHAMPTON.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, December 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 15, RUGBY STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

* HERBERT KNIGHT	1-2	FRANCIS BROTHERTON	3-4
REV. A. F. SARGENT		5-6	

Conducted by the REV. A. F. SARGENT.

* First peal in the method 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.'
 Rung as a birthday compliment to H. Knight.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* CECIL C. MAYNE	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	7-8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal on handbells. First handbell peal as conductor.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 10, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 19, HOWARD ROAD, BRAINTREE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

* RONALD SUGKING	1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN	5-6
BASIL RIDGWELL	3-4	ALBERT WIFFEN	7-8

Composed by J. E. BORTON. Conducted by L. W. WIFFEN.

* First peal on handbells. A birthday compliment to Mrs. A. Wiffen.

'MOURNFUL' BELLS.

A NORTHAMPTON COMPLAINT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A letter complaining about the sound of bells has appeared in a newspaper in the town in which I live, the text of which I give below: 'The local striking of church clocks every quarter of an hour throughout the night with a mournful snatch of melody brings to mind the following lines from the poet, Edgar Allan Poe: "Through the balmy air of night, how they ring out their delight! How they clang and clash and roar, What a horror they outpour. Is there balm in Gilead?—tell me, I implore! Quoth the raven nevermore."'
 The writer goes on: 'One wonders if the ecclesiastical authorities have really considered whether they are serving a good purpose in so disturbing the sleep of people who happen to live nearby, and, secondly, whether they are immune from the law relating to nuisances which states that every person who creates an unusual noise in the night time in the neighbourhood of a dwelling house so as to disturb the repose of the inmates is guilty of a nuisance.' The writer signs himself 'Ronald Frank.'

It will be seen that he considers the sound of bells 'mournful.' Though the complaint chiefly deals with clock chimes, there is one thing I would like to say a word or two about: In Northampton (and I have noticed it elsewhere) ringers seem to have fallen into the lazy and distasteful habit, when meeting short, of picking on the front end bells for chiming and often for ringing, irrespective of whether their notes present a pleasing or untuneful sound to the ear. One church, in the centre of Northampton, in particular has the peculiar habit of chiming the first seven of its octave. Another the first six and sometimes the first three. And another church has more than once been heard to ring the first five of the eight.

Is this not opening up the path for complaints about mournful bells? If any of the peals in question were particularly heavy or went badly there might be a certain amount of excuse. But in Northampton every church which has bells has had them rung since 1927. Whether here or elsewhere, I would ask, do ringers think they are being fair both to the Exercise and to the public by adopting such lazy habits and not studying the musical side to their art as well as the physical— if any be needed on such light-going bells?

Another thing I would like to draw attention to is, after a band has met short and raised the back six or five, often someone will walk in late and without any consideration for the ears of people outside, up will go the other two or three trebles clanging on top of each other. Is not this also opening up the path for complaints? I know the old cry—well, we haven't always got time to pull them up singly or in pairs. Which is the best—to sacrifice 'a 120' or cause some strong complaint? And a word about the ringing of seven bells: When ringers meet seven strong, is it not better and more tuneful to ring seven missing the second of the octave out than to ring the last seven?

P. AMOS.

Northampton.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, December 2nd, at St. Ambrose's Church, Bristol East, where there is a very nice ring of eight bells, with a tenor of 11½ cwt. These were set going shortly after 2 p.m. and standard methods were rung until half-past four, some useful practice being put in. About 45 members and visitors attended the service conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. S. Lee). The address was given by the Rev. C. K. Davis, himself a ringer.

Tea was served in the Church Room, and afterwards the Vicar was thanked for taking the service and for the use of the bells. Thanks were also given to the organist and choirboys for their attendance.

The meeting was presided over by the branch chairman, Mr. C. Harding. The balance sheet having been adopted, the Chairman remarked that, owing to the war, the past year had not been a very good one for the branch. When the war started the activities of the association were brought practically to a standstill for a time, but they were gradually getting used to the abnormal conditions, and meetings were now being held as often as possible. He said he hoped that practices and Sunday ringing would now go on, and added that they should keep the art as much alive as possible during these dark days.

Mr. C. Harding was re-elected chairman of the branch and thanked the members for their confidence. Mr. R. C. Gifford was re-elected secretary, and the Rev. C. K. Davis was elected as representative of the branch on the Management Committee.

Meetings were arranged as follows: January, St. Werburgh's; February, Westerleigh; March, Biton.

A resolution that 'members who had joined H.M. Forces should remain members without payment until their return' was asked to be forwarded to the Management Committee for their consideration.

The Chairman said he would like to thank all those who had made the meeting so successful, especially the tower secretary, Mr. F. Skidmore, and the local captain, Mr. Maggs (who also apparently grows a good brand of celery). He also welcomed the visitors from the Bristol City Branch.

A few members then indulged in handbell ringing, and this brought a very successful meeting to a close.

WITH PENCIL AND PAPER. THE ART OF PRICKING CHANGES.

Before we study our group of fifteen methods in detail it is well to write out a full plain course of each of them. Perhaps some of our readers will think that it means an immense amount of trouble, and others may think that it means unnecessary and useless trouble.

But when you know how to do it the trouble is not so great after all. With a little practice you can prick changes about as fast as you can ring them; and though you can, if you are experienced, find out everything about the course from one lead of it, many hundreds of ringers have discovered from the Diagrams in Snowdon's 'Standard Methods,' the advantages of having a full course.

It may be objected that the goodness of those diagrams lies, not in the figures, but in the 'blue line' which shows the work of one bell, and that you can draw the 'blue line' as a 'skeleton course,' a much more convenient form, which does away with any necessity for having figures.

It is quite true that many ringers, and those among the most experienced, never use figures at all but always learn their methods from skeleton courses. We should be the last to belittle the value of the skeleton course, but we must point out that, while it will give you the bare essentials which you must know before you can ring a method, it will not help you to understand the method nor tell you those things you must know when you study the conducting and composition. It may be that among our readers there are some beginners who do not know what a skeleton course is. For their benefit we will explain that it is a lined diagram showing the path of one bell only, and, as it can be very much foreshortened, it is possible to draw it on a page of a small note book, which of course makes it very convenient.

Hundreds of ringers, as we said, have realised from Snowdon's 'Standard Methods' the advantages of having a full course to study; but they would get much more benefit from it if they were to prick it themselves, rather than use one which has already been written or printed by someone else, provided they prick it from a knowledge of the construction of the method, and do not just blindly copy what another has written.

It is worth while, therefore, to say a few things about the pricking of changes.

And first you must realise that a written course of a method is not merely a collection of figures put together in a certain way. The figures are symbols which are intended to represent as nearly as possible that movement of the bells which is the essential thing in change ringing. Hence the most important thing is not the rows of figures themselves but the way in which one is produced from another.

For our illustration, we will confine ourselves to eight bells, and since plain hunting is the basis of all change ringing, we will start by seeing how we must prick changes to represent plain hunting. We start from the row 12345678, which represents rounds.

In this row of eight figures there are four pairs, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, and 7 and 8. The first thing we do is to transpose each of these pairs and write down 21436587 under 12345678.

We have still got four pairs of bells, but if we trans-

pose them again we shall merely come back to where we started from. We therefore, in the next row, write the first and last bells (in this case 2 and 7) in the same positions as they were in the previous row, and alter the positions of the six other bells only.

We have now got three pairs of bells to deal with, those in 2-3, 4-5 and 6-7 (in this case 1 and 4, 3 and 6, and 5 and 8). We transpose each of these pairs and write down the result 24163857 as our third row.

What we have done is, first of all, to transpose all four pairs of bells, and then to transpose the three internal pairs of bells, and if we continue to do these alternately we shall produce the plain hunting course.

Now all change ringing consists of plain hunting (forwards or backwards) with certain variations, and in a similar way all pricking consists of the alternate transpositions just described, with certain variations.

The only way we can vary hunting is by the introduction of place making. The making of a place involves certain definite alterations in work of some of the other bells, and so, if we know when and where the places are made, we can also know the whole of the work of the method.

There are two kinds of methods. In one of them all the work (place making and dodging) is at backstroke. In the other, handstroke places and work are introduced.

The latter, both in construction and in actual practice, are much the more complex, and so we will confine our attention for the present to the others. In pricking these backstroke methods (that is, the methods in which the place is completed by the backstroke blow) we note two things. The first is that every alternate row is always produced by transposing all four pairs of bells, just as when we are pricking plain hunting. The second is that all the variations from plain hunting are done by keeping one of the inside bells in the same position as it was in the previous row instead of one of the first or last bells.

This is what we call moving an external place to the interior of the change, and, however we do it, we shall still get three pairs of bells to transpose.

The external place on the front can only be moved to 3rd's, 5th's or 7th's; the external place at the back can only be moved to 6th's, 4th's or 2nd's. It follows that place making in 3rd's, 5th's or 7th's affects the bells below those positions, but not the bells above. And place making in 6th's, 4th's and 2nd's affects the bells above those positions, but not the bells below.

When we are pricking, and we know that 3rd's place has got to be made, we transpose the pair in 1-2, keep the bells in thirds in the same position, and transpose the other bells as we should do if we were pricking plain hunting. Similarly, if we know that 4th's place has to be made we write the bell in fourths in the same position as it was in the previous row, and transpose the pairs in 5-6 and 7-8.

Now experiment by attempting to write out one of our fifteen methods from the position of the places.

Take Edmonton Bob, an excellent method which is produced by the R. Court Shunts in 5-6 and the Extreme at the lead-end.

For the first four changes we have plain hunting, so we prick by alternately transposing four pairs and three pairs. When the treble gets into fifths, 6th's place is made over it, so we transpose the pair in 7-8 instead of

(Continued in next column.)

WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

(Continued from previous column.)

that in 6-7. Two changes later 5th's place is made, so we transpose the pairs in 1-2, and 3-4 instead of those in 2-3 and 4-5. Four changes further on we do the same thing, and two changes later still, when 6th's place is made, we transpose the pair in 7-8 instead of that in 6-7. At the lead-end 2nd's is made, so we transpose the pairs in 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 instead of those in 2-3, 3-4 and 5-6. Except for these variations we prick exactly as if we were pricking plain hunting. You see how simple it is, provided that we know exactly where the places are made.

From Mr. Woolley's article we learn that all this will be a great help in ringing two handbells.

'CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.'**THE FIRST PEAL OF KENT MAXIMUS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In connection with Mr. J. Armiger Trollope's interesting article on the above in 'The Ringing World' of December 8th, will Mr. Trollope kindly inform me when the Cumberlands rang their first peal of New Treble Bob Maximus (otherwise Kent Treble Bob Maximus)?

There is a peal tablet in St. Martin's ringing room, Birmingham, recording 7,200 New Treble Bob Maximus rung by the St. Martin's Youths on April 17th, 1820, in 5 hours and 8 minutes. The celebrated Thomas Thurstans rang the tenor and Henry Cooper conducted. This peal is also recorded in St. Martin's Guild peal book as 7,200 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (Kent Variation) and the first peal rung in this variation on twelve bells.

Birmingham.

ALBERT WALKER.

WAR-TIME RINGING.

The ringers at Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, have now been granted permission to ring after black-out time, provided the police are notified of the times of ringing. A practice on Saturday next, December 16th, from 5 to 7 p.m., has, therefore, been arranged, to which any ringers will be very welcome.

Since our last issue we learn that the bells of S. Nicolas', Guildford, will now be rung on Sunday mornings at 10.15 a.m. There will be no ringing for evensong and no practice until the new year.

COURSING ORDER AND METHOD CONSTRUCTION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—A system of so-called constructional R Court Shunts and P Court Shunts can never give a true explanation of Coursing Order and Method Construction, they only deal with the fringe of the subject.

To understand Coursing Order and Methods one needs first of all to understand the Primary Plain Principles and the Treble Bob Principle. I am tired of repeating that every place, or move, in a method counts just as much as every Bob in a peal counts.

You, sir, do not welcome columns of figures in your pages, and as I know of no other way to prove the truth of my assertions, I wish to say that any of your readers who desire to know 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' about Coursing Order and Method Construction can have their wishes granted by writing to me direct, and I will guarantee to satisfy anyone except those people who belong to the class of 'There are none so blind as those that won't see.'

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

CWT. OR CWTS.?

Sir,—Will you allow me to point out a common error into which your contributors often fall? In speaking of the weight of a bell, many of them write *cwts.* and *lbs.*; in both cases the *s* is wrong. In the first the mistake is obvious, for no one ever writes or says 'hundredweights'; in the second the reason is different, because *lb.* stands for the Latin *libra* (sing.) or *librae* (plur.) indifferently; and as *librae* has no *s*, it is wrong to write *lbs.*

W. C. B.

A MANCHESTER POLICEMAN JOINS H.M. FORCES.**FAREWELL QUARTER-PEAL AT DIDSBURY.**

At Christ Church, Didsbury, Manchester, on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung as a farewell to P.C. Albert Ford, of the Manchester City Police, who is leaving to join H.M. Forces. It was also to celebrate the retirement on pension of P.C. John Carter, who now resides at Saddleworth, Yorkshire: Thomas Jones 1, Harold Hollingworth 2, ex-P.C. Birley Walshaw 3, Alfred Frost 4, Harold Jones 5, P.C. Richard Benson 6, P.C. Albert Ford (conductor) 7, ex-P.C. James Turner 8. Composed by the late R. T. Davies, for 40 years head ringer at Christ Church. P.C. Ford would like to thank those taking part and the other ringers who attended in exceptionally bad weather, some of them travelling ten miles to be present.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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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

Mr. Roger St. John Smith, of Heanor, Nottingham, is to be ordained deacon by the Bishop of Manchester, in Manchester Cathedral, on St. Thomas' Day, December 21st, and licensed to the parish of St. Paul's, Kersal.

Mr. St. John Smith, who took his B.A. degree at Cambridge and afterwards read Theology as a member of Jesus College and Ripon Hall, Oxford, holds the unique distinction of having been Master of both Cambridge University Guild and Oxford University Society.

The Rev. A. F. Sargent, who conducted the handbell peal of Minor at Wolverhampton on December 4th, has recently been appointed to a title at St. Giles', Willenhall. He is looking forward with pleasure to the prospect of a happy time in the district, and will certainly be an asset to the Archdeaconry of Stafford Society as well as to the Willenhall band.

Last Tuesday was the 204th anniversary of the first peal at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, 'which,' said the 'Ipswich Gazette,' 'was rung by our town ringers, being the whole peal of Grandsire Triples on eight bells. It was done in three hours and eight minutes to the satisfaction of all the lovers of that science.'

In the records of early peals of Grandsire Triples the expression 'whole peal' is frequently used and there is good reason to believe that this is a reference to the composition in the J.D. and C.M. Campanalugia, which is false.

On December 12th, 1848, the Birmingham men rang 7,392 changes of Stedman Cinques, beating by 266 changes the peal rung in 1844 at St. Peter, Mancroft, by the Norwich Scholars. Birmingham held the record until 1851.

To-day is the anniversary of the first peal on the twelve at St. Saviour's, Southwark. It was rung by the College Youths in 1735, the method was Grandsire Cinques and the number of changes was 8,008. This length has never been exceeded in the tower, except in 1923, when the College Youths rang the long peal of Stedman Cinques, which, unfortunately, turned out to be false in the composition.

The first peal on the present ring at St. Saviour's was Grandsire Caters by the Eastern Scholars, and Benjamin Annable called a peal of Bob Triples on the old ring of eight, the tenor of which weighed 49 cwt.

On December 16th, 1819, the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang the first 720 of Stedman Minor, Thomas Thurstans was the tenor man. It is quite possible that this is the only 720 ever rung in the method, which, of course, is only a freak.

Mr. F. C. Tysoe informs us that it is hoped the tower bells will be rung after tea at the Bedfordshire Association meeting at Kempston to-morrow.

THE FIRST PEAL AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the much appreciated 'Belfry Gossip' in your last issue I notice there is an error—a very rare occurrence in your retrospective account of past achievements of noteworthy interest—with regard to the first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral. It was 5,014 Stedman Cinques, rung in 4 hours 17 minutes, on December 10th, 1881, composed by Henry W. Haley and conducted by James Pettit, one of the best, most reliable and respected members that ever joined the Ancient Society of College Youths! I was very nearly taking part in the peal, as one member of the selected band turned up very late—in fact, the preliminary 'rounds' had been rung! Of the two 'spares' present, William Greenleaf was finally considered to be the most able of the two of us to tackle the 9th and he took part in the 'preliminary.' I spent the whole time at or near the Goose and Gridiron with many others, including Henry W. Haley, the composer, who was too advanced in age to take part in it. Mr. Haley frequently pointed out to me the progress of the peal, especially when a fresh bell was put 'behind the 7th' and who were together behind, or who made the 'bobs.' The ringing was truly magnificent and accurate, and elicited roars of applause at its conclusion, the united opinion being that the quality of the striking 'couldn't be beaten'! A little while afterwards we had a dinner at the Goose and Gridiron in honour of the event!

F. E. DAWE.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**FARNHAM DISTRICT'S USEFUL MEETING.**

Yorktown Church, Surrey, is one of the places where the black-out restrictions have been sufficiently overcome to allow practices to be held in the dark evenings, and there, on Saturday, members of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild held a very useful meeting. There was not so large an attendance as was usual in happier days than these, when Aldershot by itself could provide a good sized meeting, but about 20 ringers put in an appearance, and some good practice was put in as standard methods. Nothing higher than Double Norwich was attempted, but a good many of those present found the opportunity to improve their acquaintance with the methods rung.

The customary Guild service was held, the Vicar, the Rev. F. W. T. Waitman, officiating, the singing being led by choirboys.

The Vicar gave an inspiring address, based on words from the Advent Collect, 'Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light.' In these times, he said, these words seemed to have more reality about them than ever, because if ever there was a time when the works of darkness were very evident, that time was the present. We were waging a spiritual war against the powers of darkness. To do so successfully we must put on the armour of light, and whatever we did, whether in work or recreation, should be done to the glory of God as well as for our own interest. He was glad that the ringers were maintaining their service to the Church, that they were not only keeping up their own church-going, but were doing their best to bring others to church. It was difficult in these times to keep up the spirit of church-going and to keep up everything in connection with our churches as it should be kept. He found a difference between this war and the last. In the last war their churches were thronged, but they did not see that now. Although the fact remained that if ever there was a spiritual cause for which they fought they were fighting for that cause now, yet people did not take the trouble to go so worship God as they should. He felt deeply grateful to those who not only came to church but tried to bring others by ringing the church bells. It was a great thing to remind people that the dear old church still goes on, that God is still there, waiting to be worshipped. He asked each one of them to do their utmost to keep up their service to God in this and other ways.

After tea in the Church Room, the Vicar, the choir, the organist and the local ringers were thanked by Mr. R. Gillians. At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, a vice-president of the Guild. Apologies were received from the District Ringing Master (Mr. R. Hasted) on account of the indisposition of his wife, and Miss Betty Stewart, of Aldershot, who was also indisposed.

Miss Cotterill and Mr. Nash, both of Basingstoke, were elected compounding members.

Mr. R. Hasted (Farnham) was again nominated as District Ringing Master, Mr. C. W. Denyer (Aldershot) hon. secretary and Mr. P. Eldridge (Farnborough) auditor. Mr. T. Upshall (Farnham), the retiring representative on the Executive Committee, who was unable to be present, had expressed a wish to retire, and he was thanked for his services, which have extended from the formation of the Guild. Mr. Gillians was nominated to the vacant position.

The Chairman explained that it was the feeling of those responsible that the annual dinner should be abandoned next January. In his view, he thought it undesirable to hold the dinner, not because there was any reason to make themselves miserable over the war, but because of the difficulties of travelling in the black-out, which would in all probability severely limit the possible attendance.

The Chairman also referred to the scheme which it had been proposed to launch to provide a sanctus bell for the new Cathedral when the first portion of the building was opened in 1941. The coming of the war, he said, had caused the scheme to be delayed, but he hoped after Christmas it would be possible to go ahead with it, although the changed circumstances might involve adopting a different plan to that originally proposed.

The Chairman went on to remind the meeting that many familiar faces were missing from that gathering, called away to serve the country in the forces of the Crown and elsewhere. The meeting would, he was sure, send them greetings and good wishes for a safe return. He suggested that the district secretaries should keep a list of all the members who joined the services, with a record of their units, so that when the war was over this information could be permanently preserved in some suitable form in the Guild library.

The hon. secretary reminded the members that the next meeting would be the annual district meeting and would be held at Farnham. He hoped every effort would be made to ensure a good attendance.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION'S EXCELLENT PROGRESS.**

The annual meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Leytonstone on Saturday, December 2nd, attended by 36 members, representing 11 towers. Good use of the excellent peal of eight was made during the afternoon, the methods rung ranging from Grandsire to Bristol and London Surprise. At 5 p.m. the company adjourned to the vestry for the business meeting, presided over by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk.

In opening the meeting the Master mentioned the great loss the district had sustained by the death of Canon Brown, of Leytonstone, one of the association's oldest honorary members, and one who had always shown a very great interest in the welfare of the association, and requested that the company stand for a moment in silence.

The secretary (Mr. J. H. Crampion) then read a report on the working of the district for the year. Meetings had been held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, North Weald and Rayleigh, the average attendance being 42. The meeting arranged for Orsett in September unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to the outbreak of war. Twenty new ringing members had been elected, and two extra towers, namely, Stanford-le-Hope and Langdon Hills, had joined the association. Two dedications had taken place, at Stanford-le-Hope and Dagenham, where in each case the peals had been augmented from six to eight bells.

Twenty-five peals had been rung as follows: One Cambridge Royal, one Oxford Treble Bob Royal, one Kent Treble Bob Royal, one Erith Little Bob Royal, one Stedman Caters, three Cambridge, two Superlative and one Yorkshire Surprise Major, one Double Norwich, five Kent Treble Bob Major, three Bob Major, one Bob Triples, one Stedman Triples, and three of Minor, being one each in one, three and seven methods.

The conducting was shared by J. H. Crampion (9), F. B. Lufkin (7), H. Turner (3), P. Corby and J. Bennett (2 each), and A. Prior and E. A. Barnett (1 each). Three members rang their first peal and 35 their first peal in the method. Mr. G. L. Joyce moved the adoption of the report, which was carried.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

With regard to future meetings, it was proposed by Mr. E. J. Butler and seconded by Mr. G. L. Joyce that it be left to the discretion of the Master and secretary when and where they should be held. This was carried, and the secretary informed the company that he hoped to arrange the next meeting at Epping Town on Saturday, March 16th.

For the election of Master, Mr. A. Prior took the chair and Mr. E. D. Smith proposed the re-election of Mr. J. Chalk. This was seconded by Mr. A. Pye and carried unanimously. Mr. Chalk then proposed from the chair the re-election of Mr. J. H. Crampion as secretary, which was carried. Mr. A. Prior proposed and Mr. G. L. Joyce seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Master and secretary for the able way in which they had performed their duties during the past year. This was responded to by Mr. Chalk, who thanked the members for their confidence.

Mr. F. W. Housden brought up the question of members serving in H.M. Forces, and after some discussion it was decided that the General Committee be approached with a suggestion that all members be exempt from subscription while on active service.

The secretary announced that he intended arranging monthly practices, particulars of which would appear in 'The Ringing World.'

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the church authorities of St. John's for use of tower and bells, and vestry for the business meeting, and to Mr. Dawson, of the Leytonstone band, for making all arrangements. This was carried with applause and responded to by Mr. Dawson.

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CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Spitalfields, originally part of the great parish of Stepney, got its name from a priory and hospital commonly called St. Mary Spital. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, by which the Protestants had enjoyed rights and toleration in France, large numbers of the Huguenots, as these French Protestants were called, came to England and settled in this district, where they followed the trade of silk weaving. By the time of Queen Anne, the population had increased so much that, when the Act of Parliament was passed in 1712 to provide new churches for certain parts of London, one of the churches was allotted to this district and a new parish was formed out of Stepney.

As Parliament was finding the money, everything was done on a grand scale. The new building, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, cost £14,418 3s. 6d., and the site £1,260. These are large sums for the time.

The architecture of the church has been criticised as being too heavy, but it certainly does not lack a certain massive grandeur. The building was consecrated by the Bishop of London on July 5th, 1729.

A Mr. Wheatley, a wealthy parishioner, promised to give a ring of eight heavy bells, and on December 20th, 1729, the 'Universal Spectator and Weekly Journal' announced that 'Mr. Phelps the famous Bell Founder of White-Chappel has orders to cast a Sett of Eight Bells for the new Church in Spittle Fields. The Timber Work and Frame are now making in the Belfry of the said Church. The Tenor is to be 36 hundred weight.'

The weight of the tenor has always been said to be 44 cwt. in C sharp, and, though it is impossible to be quite sure, since the foundry records were destroyed by fire, the information given me by Mr. Albert Hughes of the weights and sizes of the two trebles cast in 1801 seem to show that that weight was correct.

The first recorded peal on the bells was 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major rung on February 23rd, 1735, by the Eastern Scholars. Philemon Mainwaring called the bobs and rang the tenor single-handed. This was an outstanding heavy bell performance, for it was not until the present century that a heavier bell had been turned in to a peal of Major.

But Spitalfields tenor must have gone well for its weight. In the year following, John Trenell rang it to a 'fine' peal of Treble Bob with a band of College Youths. Twenty years later, in 1760, a band belonging to the ancient Society of College Youths, with the elder Samuel Muggerridge on the box, rang 5,120 changes of Treble Bob, and a week later their rivals, the 'junior' Society of College Youths, beat the performance with a peal of 6,080 changes, Joseph Monk ringing the tenor. This in its turn was beaten by the Cumberlands, who, on December 3rd, 1785, rang 6,400 changes. Robert Mann was the tenor ringer. It is worth noting that all these peals were rung in the winter time; and that when William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers visited the belfry in the summer of 1734 he complained of the bad going of the bells.

The ring was augmented to ten in 1789, and on June 25th in that year the Cumberlands rang 5,201 changes of Grandsire Caters. Two men were needed for the tenor,

and the peal was conducted by Thomas Blakemore, who, owing to the troubles and disputes which were wrecking the ancient Society of College Youths, had come for a few months to the Cumberlands. The same society rang the first peal of Royal in the steeple—5,440 changes of Treble Bob in 1789 conducted by John Reeves.



Christ Church, Spitalfields, at the end of the 18th century.

Like the neighbouring tower of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, Christ Church belfry was the scene of several interesting contests between rival bands. In 1793 the College Youths rang 6,280 changes of Treble Bob Royal, and the Cumberlands immediately followed with 6,360 changes. In 1796, the junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang the first seven thousand on the bells, and in the following year 6,003 changes of Stedman Caters. This was the longest peal at the time in the method, but the composition by John Noonan was a false one. Noonan in 1804 called another notable peal, the first of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal rung away from Norwich.

In 1801 the bells were increased to twelve. The Cumberlands rang 5,170 changes of Grandsire Cinques on March 5th, 1804, and a month later 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, repeating their performance of two years previous at St. Saviour's, Southwark. James Marlon rang the tenors to both peals, and they were outstanding heavy bell feats.

In 1805, a match, with a purse of one hundred guineas, took place between the Norwich Scholars, and a band picked from the London ringers, which was won by the provincial men who scored a seven thousand of Royal. But the tenor proved too much for Charles Purser, who collapsed after ringing four thousand changes and so lost the match for the Londoners.

In 1806 the two societies of Cumberland Youths were contending for the honours of ringing the first peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells. The seniors started on December 13th for a six thousand and got out after ringing upwards of 5,500 changes. Two days later the juniors rang a peal of 5,086, and five days after that the first band was successful in their peal attempt.

Following this we have no record of any peal rung in the tower for over twenty years, with the exception of one of Treble Bob Maximus by the College Youths in 1808; but in 1829 the Cumberlands scored 5,015 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and that was the last peal on the twelve bells.

For many years Charles Purser had the charge of the bells and belfry. He was followed by Edward Bartell, another well-known ringer, who lived at 16, Union Street, in the parish, and had rung the tenor to the Court Bob Royal in 1804. He, in turn, was followed by a man named Dawson, who died at the end of the year 1835.

The appointment of his successor was in the hands of the vestry, and the churchwardens refrained from filling up the vacancy pending the meeting of that body at the ensuing Easter.

Meanwhile, the parish beadle had the charge of the belfry. He knew nothing about the bells, and cared less, and he employed or allowed a number of the young ringers of the district to do the service chiming. They were a somewhat undisciplined lot of young fellows, and though, for very good reasons, no names are mentioned, it is pretty certain that they included men who were afterwards known as the leading ringers of London. They turned the belfry into a sort of club room, where they met and spent their time talking, and smoking and, no doubt, handbell ringing, which was becoming very popular among the ringers of the district. It was a state of things which the Church authorities would not have tolerated for a moment had they known of it; but, apart from the disastrous sequel, it is impossible to say that there was anything particularly morally wrong about it. It was winter time, and to warm themselves they made a fire in a brazier.

On Wednesday, February 17th, 1836, they spent some time in the belfry, and then, hearing someone come into the tower, and fearing to be caught where they had no business to be, they pushed the brazier behind the tenor box and decamped.

Later in the afternoon someone saw smoke coming from the belfry windows and raised an alarm. Fire engines were soon on the spot but, owing to the height from the ground, the water could not reach the fire, and the firemen confined their efforts towards saving the church, which they did mainly by cutting away part of the roof. A stiff wind was blowing and the fire burnt fiercely. As the floors, beams and frame perished, the bells crashed to the ground, and every one was broken or melted. By seven o'clock the fire was stopped, when the steeple was completely gutted.

The parochial surveyor reported that, besides the destruction of the bells, the roof of the church was partly burnt, the organ so damaged as to require reconstruction, the clock and chimes destroyed, the massive steeple entirely burnt out, and the stonework of the interior materially injured.

Churches in those days were not insured against fire, the damage had to be repaired by public subscription, and the restoration could not be done on the same lavish scale as the church was built. The twelve bells were not replaced, but sufficient metal was salvaged from the debris to make the present ring of eight, the tenor of which is 34 cwt.

The cause of the fire was never officially known. The beadle had good reason to keep his mouth shut, and fear of the consequences was enough to stop the culprits themselves from talking. Even Osborn who, as secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths had as good an opportunity as anyone for learning the truth, only knew that the fire was caused by some boys who smoked in the belfry. But many years afterwards men like Matthew Wood, Henry Haley, John Cox, and their friends used to tell what happened, and I think we may be sure that they gained their knowledge from something more than hearsay. At the time, Matthew Wood, who saw the fire, was only ten years old, and so could hardly have been in the belfry; but Cox was twenty-three and Haley seventeen, and though there is no proof that they were actually among the culprits, there is not much doubt that they belonged to the same party. Samuel Austin, who wrote an account which is now among the papers belonging to the College Youths, was of an earlier generation, and, like Osborn, was not privy to the secret.

The new bells were cast in 1837, but evidently they did not go too well, and it was not until 1845 that the Cumberlands rang the first peal on them, one of Grandsire Triples with two men to the tenor.

Shortly afterwards eight College Youths rang another peal of Grandsire, and when they published the report in 'The Era' they added, 'It is only fair to remark that this is the first peal on the bells rung by eight men only, another society having failed to do so with the same number of men after several trials, and having only accomplished the same peal after much trouble with nine men.'

But a year later the Cumberlands rang 5,280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major single handed.

In 1850 both societies rang a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells, and in 1851 the College Youths rang the first non-conducted peal ever accomplished. The composition was Holt's Ten-part, and a local builder had offered a prize of £5 to the first band which should perform the feat.

A few peals have been achieved in the steeple since, the most notable being one of Bristol Surprise, rung just before the Great War on December 20th, 1913, by the Middlesex County Association. Ernest Pye rang the tenor, William Pye called the peal from the seventh, and the band included such well-known ringers as Isaac G. Shade, Bertram Prewett and Alfred W. Grimes, besides C. T. Coles and Reuben Saunders, who are still among us. For several years now the bells have been unringable.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED.

The first meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association since the war was held at Norwich on December 2nd and was very well supported. Members from Acle, Attleborough, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Fornsett, Gressenhall, Halvergate, Mulbarton, Norwich, Reedham, Saxlingham, Swaffham (St. Margaret's), Wymondham and Yarmouth overcame the lack of pool petrol and the terrors of the black-out and congregated at St. Michael-at-Coslaury Church, Norwich, and later in St. Miles' Mission Hall.

A number of touches in a variety of methods, including Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, were rung on the historic bells before black-out hour arrived. Then a tea of goodly proportions was assimilated before the business meeting, which was presided over by the association's president, the Rev. Hugh McMullan, Vicar of St. Peter Mancroft.

The ratification of the belfry elections of four ringers was confirmed, and Mr. Robert Gray, of Northrepps, was elected a ringing member.

It was decided to publish a report for the year as usual, and to keep the names of those who had joined the Forces on the books without payment.

A somewhat heated discussion with regard to the holding of meetings during the war and carrying on the other normal activities of the association occupied some time.

The general secretary gave a resumé of the year's work. He said, while 46 new members had been elected, 12 had been lost through death, and, up to date, 42 subscriptions were outstanding, in spite of charmingly worded and beautifully printed reminders which he had sent out. There was a balance at present of £3 7s. 11d., and stocks of certificates and badges were exhausted. Thirteen branch meetings had been held, and all except one had been very satisfactory. There were three restorations to report—the recasting and hanging of Hethersett bells, the rechanging of those at Somerleyton and the augmentation of the five at Paston to six. Fifty-one peals, including two on handbells, had been rung, 124 ringers taking part, relying on the skill of 15 conductors.

After the meeting a number of touches were rung on handbells, and two of the party showed their adroitness at tune ringing on bells larger than they normally grab at. Then the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow made his first contribution to a ringing meeting in the diocese by lecturing on his holiday in Norway, in the Arctic Ocean and in Spitzbergen during June this year.

Mr. Thurlow proved himself to be an expert cameraman, for he brought home with him a colour film of rare beauty, and this film was highly appreciated by the meeting, as was the commentary thereon. Everybody envies Mr. Thurlow's hours in 'Paradise' with that charming young female and his experiences in 'Hell.' N. G.

DEATH OF A VETERAN NORTHANTS RINGER.

THE PASSING OF MR. FRED JONES, OF EARLS BARTON.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of 80 years, of Mr. Fred Jones, of Earls Barton, who passed away, after an illness of a little over a week, at the home of his brother, Mr. E. Jones, of Easton Maudit.

For more than sixty years he had been a ringer at Earls Barton. He began his ringing at Easton Maudit at the age of 18 and joined the Earls Barton band two years later. He was made a member of the old Central Northants Guild at a meeting at Earls Barton on November 27th, 1909, and rang one peal of Minor.

For some years and up to his death he was a member of the committee of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. So keen was he on his art that during recent years he gave up two evenings a week to the instruction of young men who wished to become ringers. He was very proud of Earls Barton's new peal of eight bells and never happier than when up among them seeing to their maintenance.

Although at so ripe an old age, he was a most enthusiastic attendant at branch meetings, and many times he has walked six or more miles to the place of gathering. The funeral took place at Earls Barton Parish Church on Tuesday afternoon, December 5th, when tribute was paid to his work by the Vicar (the Rev. L. A. Ewart). Members of the choir were present, and 'Abide with me' and 'Peace, perfect peace' were sung.

The members of the district present included Messrs. C. W. Partridge, G. Brafield and W. Perkins, and the latter brought with him a wreath as a last tribute of respect from the branch.

In the evening touches of Grandsire Triples and a six-score of Stedman Doubles with 4-6-8 covering were rung with the bells half-muffled. Messrs. W. G. Callis (Mears Ashby) and C. W. Partridge (Wilby) were present, and by the kindness of Mr. D. G. Deighton, of Rushden, Messrs. A. Bigley, H. Chambers and W. Perkins, of Irlingham, were enabled to help the local band with the ringing.

(Continued from next column.)

Mr. Morris rang in the peal of Stedman Cinques by 12 secretaries, the first 'Ernest' peal, and peals by four sets of brothers (Triples), four fathers and sons (Triples) and five fathers and sons (Royal).

As is well known, Mr. Morris is the author of 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' 'Legends of the Bells,' and other works, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

MR. ERNEST MORRIS' 800 PEALS.

INTERESTING RECORDS IN A VARIED LIST.

As was recorded in our last issue, Mr. Ernest Morris, the hon. secretary of the Midland Counties Association, rang his 800th peal on December 2nd at Loughborough Bell Foundry. His peals have been rung in a great variety of methods and include a number of interesting records. There are among them 76 peals of Doubles, 91 peals of Minor, 155 peals of Triples, 301 peals of Major, 82 peals of Caters, 52 peals of Royal, 32 peals of Cinques and 11 peals of Maximus.

	Rung	Conducted
Doubles:—		
One to 14 methods	76	73 (a)
Minor:—		
One to 12 methods	85	78 (b)
Cambridge Surprise	5	3
Spiced Minor and Doubles	1	1
Triples:—		
Grandsire	87	65
Stedman	(c) 67	15
Canterbury Pleasure	1	1
Major:—		
Plain Bob	68	53 (d)
Little Bob	5	5 (e)
Spiced Plain and Little Bob	1	1
Canterbury Pleasure	2	2
Little Canterbury	3	3 (f)
Spiced Canterbury and Plain Bob	1	1
Double Norwich Court Bob	36	12
Spiced Double Norwich and Plain Bob	1	1
Shilton	1	1
Forward	1	1
Duffield	1	1
Kent Treble Bob	25	13 (g)
Oxford Treble Bob	4	2 (h)
Rkeston Treble Bob	6	5 (i)
Worcester Treble Bob	(j) 2	1
Liversedge Treble Bob	1	1
Granta Treble Bob	1	1
Spiced in three methods	1	1
Spiced in six methods	1	1
Spiced Major and Triples	2	2
Superlative Surprise	37	9
'Real' Superlative Surprise	1	1
Cambridge Surprise	(k) 47	10
'New' Cambridge Surprise	2	1
Spiced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise	1	1
Bristol Surprise	20	1
Yorkshire Surprise	3	1
York Surprise	1	1
Staffordshire Surprise	1	1
Pudsey Surprise	1	1
London Surprise	24	1
Caters:—		
Grandsire	17	11
Stedman	64	14
Spiced Grandsire and Stedman	1	1
Royal:—		
Plain Bob	6	4
Kent Treble Bob	10	5
Oxford Treble Bob	1	1
Spiced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob	1	1
Cambridge Surprise	27	4
'New' Cambridge Surprise	1	1
Leicester Surprise	2	1
Pudsey Surprise	1	1
Goldborough Surprise	1	1
York Surprise	1	1
Melton Surprise	1	1
Cinques:—		
Grandsire	3	2
Stedman	29	1
Maximus:—		
Plain Bob	1	1
Kent Treble Bob	2	1
Cambridge Surprise	8	1
Total	800	408

The total includes 52 peals 'in hand.' (a) 6,600 M.C.A. record; (b) 7,200 and 10,980 M.C.A. record; (c) includes heaviest and lightest handbells ever rung; (d) 7,488 Northants record, 7,008, 9,760 (all Singles) and 13,440 M.C.A. record; (e) 6,720 record; (f) 6,720 record; (g) 10,912 M.C.A. record; (h) 7,840 M.C.A. record; (i) 9,120 record; (j) 9,600 record; (k) 7,008 and 12,898 record.

The peals were rung in 207 towers, in 24 counties, for 23 societies. Mr. Morris has conducted the quickest tower-bell peal (Cambridge Surprise Minor in 1 hour 50 minutes) and the quickest peal of Major on tower bells (Double Norwich in 2 hours 8 minutes). His performances also include the record for towers in one county, viz., 121 in Leicestershire.

(Continued in previous column.)

NOTICES.

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

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Sacred Trinity, Salford, on Saturday afternoon, December 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting of the Crewe Branch will be held at Alsager (8 bells) on Saturday, December 16th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Alvaston, Derby, on December 16th (St. Luke's not being available). Tower 'blacked out,' so come and make use of this handy ring of six. All welcome. Bells available 2.30.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at Bishops Stortford on December 16th. Ringing from 2 p.m. until dusk. Tea and meeting to be arranged during ringing.—W. Wheeler, Dis. Sec., Mill Street, Harlow Common, Harlow, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice will be held at Burnham (8 bells) on Saturday, December 16th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., and ringing after tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough. Phone, Slough 23260.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Taunton, on Saturday, December 16th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Further ringing until 7.30 p.m.—R. W. Hayward, 24, Fairwater Cottages, Taunton.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A gathering in lieu of the postponed annual meeting will be held at the Crown Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, on Saturday, December 16th, at 2.30 p.m.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting will be held at Chatteris on Saturday, December 16th.—F. Warrington.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Clifton Reynes on Saturday, December 16th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

WATFORD.—Herts Association.—District annual meeting, Sat., December 16th, at Parish Church. Ringing from 2.30. Tea in Old School 5. Business meeting after.—C. H. Horton, Bushey. City 4270.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A practice will be held at Writtle on Saturday, December 16th, at 2 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters (The Coffee Pot) on Tuesday, December 19th.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—It is hoped that arrangements may be made to hold a meeting about the third week in January. Further particulars will be published in this column in due course.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

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