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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1939.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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RINGING FOR CHRISTMAS.

A letter elsewhere in this issue from the Hon. Secretary of the Central Council further confirms the information which has already been published on the subject of church bell ringing in war time. There are still places in which efforts are being made, under the Control of Noise Order, to restrict the ringing of church bells, but it is not the intention of the Ministry of Home Security that local authorities should do this. The Department, we learn, is, therefore, communicating with the Regional Commissioners on the subject. This step would appear to be necessary, for only this week we have received information that the Chief Constable of Cheshire has forbidden any ringing at a village in that county. There may, of course, be exceptional circumstances in this case, which make it desirable that the bells should not be rung, but, in view of the exception which the order provides, it will be interesting to know the exact grounds upon which the ban is based. It seems obvious, from the fact that the Minister is approaching the Regional Commissioners that there is a misunderstanding in some places, and no doubt the action of the Defence Authorities will put the matter right.

It is gratifying to learn that the Ministry is anxious that, as far as possible, normal ringing shall be continued, even to the extent of including in this category peals of ordinary length. In view of the desire of everyone that the morale of the people shall be maintained at a high level and of the attitude towards keeping up the usual activities of the public outside their working hours, including the encouragement of sport and entertainment, and everything that will lead to the quenching of pessimism or depression, it is of course a natural corollary that no attempt should be made to curtail the ringing of church bells which, taken by and large, is a thing which the great majority of English people like to hear, particularly on Sundays and on special occasions. Among the latter are the great festivals, and there is no occasion when the sound of church bells strikes the popular imagination more than on Christmas morning. Then, too, the ringing of bells at the passing of the old year, and their joyous pealing in the first minutes of the new year is not only a traditional practice in very many places, but is awaited with pleasant, and we may say, sentimental anticipation by vast numbers of people. It is a little surprising, therefore, to find doubts in the mind of the Ministry concerning ringing early on Christmas morning or at the passing of the old year. We wonder whether doubts would have arisen about these two occasions unless the sug-

(Continued on page 750.)

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gestion had been made to the Ministry. The Hon. Secretary of the Council asks for a voluntary abstention from ringing on these two traditional occasions, principally, it appears, on the ground that it may disturb the rest of those who are engaged on work of national importance. We think this is taking a somewhat exaggerated view of the possible effect. This particular early morning and late night ringing is something which the public expect and, provided a reasonable spirit is shown in the hour and duration of the ringing, we must say we feel bound to disagree, and we do it somewhat regretfully, with the suggestion of the Council's secretary. The early morning ringing on Christmas Day and late ringing on New Year's Eve will be impossible in many towers, because of the lighting restrictions, but wherever it is possible and has been customary we believe the public will desire to have the traditional practice maintained and, indeed, will be disappointed if they fail to hear the bells. To ring on these occasions will only be to carry out, in one more direction, the aim which we all desire to achieve, namely, that of keeping up the public spirit and, after all, in as far as Christmas is concerned, what more appropriate action can be taken, in this distracted and war-ridden world, than to herald the festival with a reminder of the great message of 'Peace on Earth good will to men,' which perhaps summarises, better than any other phrase, what we and our Allies are fighting for.

OUR 1,500th NUMBER.

This is the fifteen hundredth issue of 'The Ringing World.' Established in 1911, this paper has endeavoured to foster the interest of ringers and raise the standard of ringing throughout these 28 years. With the exception of one week during the general strike of 1926, when publication was impossible, 'The Ringing World' has never failed to appear. Even in the vicissitudes of the last war the paper was published with the greatest regularity and, now that the country is once more in the throes of a similar struggle, we hope we may be able to continue similar service to the Exercise. We hope, also, that ringers will, in these difficult days, continue to give us their full support. It is not only during the present that this support is important to 'The Ringing World,' but it is important also for the future of ringing; for recovery from the present difficulties will be infinitely greater if there is no journal to help co-ordinate effort and keep ringers in touch with what is being done. This fifteen hundredth number is a suitable occasion, therefore, once more to direct attention to the imperative needs of this journal to the future fortunes of the Exercise.

OVER. CAMBS.—At St. Mary's Parish Church on December 4th, 720 Double Court Minor: W. I. Ginn 1, F. Warrington (conductor) 2, G. E. Crisp 3, D. Adams 4, C. Robinson 5, A. W. T. Ginn 6, W. Thorpe tenor (covering). First 720 Double Court by ringers of 1, 4, 5 and 6 (with no previous practice).

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TEN BELL PEAL.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 16, 1939, in three hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

CHARLES A. HUGHES 1	Treble	*HERBERT G. ANDREWS 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2		JAMES W. CHAPMAN 7
MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK 3		GEORGE W. DEBENEAM 8
HENRY G. MILES 4		THOMAS W. TAFFENDER 9
CHARLES W. OTTLEY 5		† HAROLD W. ROGERS Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by THOS. H. TAFFENDER.

* First peal in the method and on ten bells. † First peal on ten bells. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last mark of respect to the late Mr. Harry Mance, late Southern District Master of this association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ALDENHAM, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

EDWARD P. ASHBY 1	Treble	CHARLES T. COLES 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2		CECIL C. MAYNE 6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3		EDWIN JENNINGS 7
FREDERICK W. BRINELOW 4		HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

The peal consisted of 2,240 London, 1,664 Bristol and 576 each Cambridge and Superlative, with 115 changes of method.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas-the-Martyr,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

EDWARD T. SIXCH 1	Treble	*REGINALD W. DARVILL 5
ERNEST W. FURBANK 2		JOHN H. SIXCH 6
HARRY TURNER 3		ALBERT E. PRYKE 7
FRANK B. LOPKIN 4		ROBERT C. HEAZEL Tenor

Composed by J. HONT. Conducted by FRANK B. LOPKIN.

* First peal of Double Norwich. First peal of Double Norwich as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, December 9, 1939, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

At 81, BAKER STREET, SPARKHILL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

DANIEL T. MATKIN 1-2		GEORGE F. SWANN 7-8
ALBERT WALKER 3-4		FRANK E. HAYNES 9-10
FRANK E. PERVIN 5-6		* MORRIS J. MORRIS 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* 120th peal of Stedman Cinques. Rung in honour of the gift of a son to Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Reynolds (nee Winnie Walker), also of the 41st wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. Walker (the grandparents).

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 12, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At GLYN GARTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. R. RICHARDEON 1-2		*ALBERT H. FIRTH 5-6
ROBERT RICHARDEON 3-4		*CYRIL WANDER 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ROBERT RICHARDEON.

* First peal 'in hand.'

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, December 15, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

At 170, HEADSTONE LANE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

CECIL C. MAYNE 1-2		HAROLD G. CASHMORE 3-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY 3-4		EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by J. B. WOOLLEY. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 17, 1939, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Residence of W. C. MEDLER.

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

JACK N. A. POMPKREY 1-2		WALTER C. MEDLER 3-4
ERIC DURRANT 5-6		

Conducted by ERIC DURRANT

First handbell peal of Treble Bob by all. First handbell peal as conductor. Believed to be the first handbell peal of Oxford Minor for the association.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Western Branch was held on Saturday, December 2nd, at Kempsey, where there is a peal of six, tenor 15 cwt. There were 38 members present from Claines, Crowle, Grimley, Hallow, Powick, Suckley, Upton-on-Severn, Worcester Cathedral and St. John's and the local band. Ringing began promptly at 2.30 p.m. and the bells were kept going in a variety of methods, from Grandure to London Surprise, till 4.15 p.m., when all the ringers adjourned to the Vicarage for tea, which was generously supplied by the Vicar (the Rev. E. B. R. de Jersey) and Mrs. de Jersey.

After tea the business meeting was held, presided over by the Vicar, who gave a hearty welcome to all and remarked that, apart from the pleasure ringers obtained from bellringing, it was a work for God and was much appreciated in every parish.

Mr. A. Morgan reported that for various reasons they had been unable to attempt the last quarterly peal, which should have been rung at Shelsley Beauchamp. Mr. G. E. Large proposed and Mr. E. Wilson seconded that the next quarterly peal should be attempted at Kempsey with as many of the local band as possible and to be conducted by Mr. E. F. Cubberley.

All the officers were re-elected, viz.: Master, Mr. C. Camm, Upton-on-Severn; secretary, Mr. E. F. Cubberley, Kempsey; representative to the Central Committee, Mr. W. Ranford, Suckley. Two new members were elected, Miss M. Butcher and Mr. Derrington, both of Kempsey.

It was decided that the next meeting should be at Claines, when two new bells would, most likely, have been added, making a ring of ten.

Mr. S. T. Holt read a circular issued by the Central Council on the use of bells in war time. He then put forward a suggestion that practices should be arranged on Saturday afternoons while the war lasted. This was carried unanimously, and the arrangements for the first meeting were left to the Master and the secretary.

A collection was made for the Belfry Repair Fund, and Mr. J. R. Newman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. de Jersey, which was carried with applause. The Vicar briefly responded and told all the members to come again.

The ringers then returned to the tower and the bells were kept going till 8 o'clock.

NORTHERN BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE CONTINUED.

A good meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Wollaston on Saturday, December 9th. The election of officers took place, and as the hon. secretary (Mr. N. Goodman) had been called up for the Army, a new appointment had to be made.

Mr. J. Lloyd was elected Ringing Master. Mr. B. Ashford was appointed to fill the office of branch secretary. Mr. J. Bass was elected as a representative on the Central Committee.

Ringling was carried out in various methods before the service and again for about an hour in the evening. The tone and go of the bells was favourably commented on. They have recently been retuned and rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

The curate (the Rev. Craze), who presided at the meeting, gave a short account of how the money for the bells had been raised.

The Vicar is now acting as a padre in the Army. The Association Ringing Master (Mr. S. T. Holt) was present in spite of the awkward travelling and black-out.

The quarterly peal was arranged to be rung at Wollaston, the date being left in the hands of Mr. J. Bass, the chairman saying he would do what he could to get permission.

It was decided to carry on with the quarterly meetings, and the next will be held in January at Wordsley, by kind invitation of Wordsley ringers.

WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

THE IN AND OUT OF COURSE OF THE CHANGES.

Our last week's talk on pricking changes will give us a good insight into another important matter connected with change ringing. That is the in and out of course of the changes or, as we more often say now, the nature of the rows.

This is a thing which at a very early time forced itself on the notice of ringers. As far back as the middle of the seventeenth century Robert Roan set himself the task of composing a six-score on five bells produced by all double changes. He got as far as a three-score and then found that, in order to get the full extent he must make two Singles. As he had produced our familiar 120 of Grandsire Doubles he had not laboured in vain.

Roan evidently was a clever man, and perhaps he could see the reason for it all, and why he failed to get the extent of a five-bell method with all double changes. The men who followed him were just as sure from experience that the thing was not possible, but why it should be so seemed to them too deep to be understood, and the in-and-out-of-course of the changes came to be looked upon as a mathematical mystery which could be recognised, but which could hardly be explained.

Several of the older authors attempted to give an explanation, but their writing only showed the fog which was in their own minds, and it was left to Jasper Snowden, first in 'Church Bells' and then in his 'Treatise of Treble Bob,' to give the first satisfactory explanation of the matter. Even his description rather defeats its own ends by being overweighted and attempting to explain too much.

For the only difficulty about the question is its extreme simplicity. This is not a paradox, for simple things, just because they are simple and elementary, are the hardest to explain.

We saw last week that each row is produced from the preceding row by transposing a certain number of pairs of bells. Those rows which are produced directly or indirectly from rounds by transposing an even number of pairs are the even or in-course rows; and those which are produced directly, or indirectly, from rounds by transposing an odd number of pairs of bells are the odd or out-of-course rows.

That is the full explanation of the matter, but one or two other things should be said.

When we get 21436587 from 12345678 we produce it directly from rounds by transposing four pairs of bells, and as four is an even number the row is an even row.

But very few rows are or can be got directly from rounds in this way. Between most of them and rounds many other rows intervene. In those cases we count all the pairs of bells which have been transposed in the intervening changes, and as the total number is odd or even so is the resultant row an odd or an even row.

For it is a mathematical fact that, though any row can be produced indirectly from rounds in a great number of ways, if one of those ways involves the transposition of an odd number of pairs of bells so do all the ways. And if one involves the transposition of an even number of pairs of bells so do all the ways. You can never get a row from rounds in one way by transposing an odd number of pairs, and in another way by transposing an even

number of pairs, though you may be able to get it by transposing any one of a great number of pairs, all of which are even or all of which are odd.

Nowadays we usually talk about rows being odd or even. Some people prefer 'positive' and 'negative,' which are terms not nearly so suitable, although it is customary when marking the nature of rows to use the + sign for the even rows and the — sign for the odd rows.

Older writers and, indeed, the whole Exercise, until the last forty or fifty years used the terms 'in-course' and 'out-of-course.'

Now most of the terms we use in change ringing did not appear because once upon a time someone invented them. Nearly all of them are ordinary English words which came into use naturally because they expressed the idea which was in the minds of the people at the time. Only in the course of time did they harden into technical terms with precise and limited meanings.

When we remember this we can often recapture what was in the minds of the old ringers by studying the terms they used.

For instance, 'in-course' and 'out-of-course' do not seem very good terms to distinguish between rows of opposite nature, and in fact that was not what the early ringers meant when they use the terms. They knew from experience that if two bells got shifted, no arrangement of bob calling would bring the bells round at backstroke. So they said the bells were out of course. They did not apply the term to individual rows. From the time a shift had taken place, or a single had been made, until the shift had been put right or another single had been made, all the changes were out of course, though the rows might be some odd and some even.

To this day the expression 'out of course' is often used with this meaning and quite legitimately. When ringing is going on, it is a great help to the conductor if he can tell at any time whether the bells are in or out of course in this sense of the words, and there are more than one way of so doing. One way is to notice particular rows which come up and of which you know the nature. You know, for instance, that if the course end 42365 turned up, the bells are out of course. The better way is to judge by the natural coursing order of the bells. Those conductors who have studied coursing order and made use of it when calling peals can tell in a surprisingly quick time whether the bells are in course or out of course.

DEATH OF MR. E. A. PERRETT, OF ROWDE.

The death took place on Thursday morning, December 7th, of Mr. E. A. Perrett at his residence in Marsh Lane, Rowde. He had been in failing health for the last two years, and took to his bed about ten days before his passing. The funeral was on Saturday week at Rowde Church, where he had been a choirman and bellringer for 50 years, and also for some time the sexton. He took a keen interest in ringing, was the captain of the local band and a most loyal member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

There was a large congregation at the service, which was choral. Miss Wright, one of the ringers, was at the organ, the choir were present, and the Rector (the Rev. P. H. Opperman) officiated. Among the congregation were Mr. C. D. Heginbotham (representing the Salisbury Guild) and several members from Devizes.

His own band of ringers then rang the bells half-muffled, after which 360 changes of Grandsire Doubles were rung by A. T. Weeks 1, C. D. Heginbotham 2, S. Hillier 3, G. England 4, F. Green 5, T. Ferris 6. Among the wreaths was one sent by the Devizes ringers.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, November 19th, to mark the dedication festival of Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, 1,120 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. J. Lewis, sen. (conductor) 1, A. W. Baldwin 2, H. S. Parsons 3, A. Painter 4, H. L. Cooke 5, W. Godwin (longest length in the method) 6, F. J. Lewis, jun. 7, W. H. Hayward 8.

DEATH OF MR. ABRAHAM HAIGH.

MEMBER OF YORK MINSTER SOCIETY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Abraham Haigh, of York, which occurred suddenly on Wednesday, December 13th, after a seizure, at the ripe age of 85 years. He had carried out his duties almost to the end, and was present at the Minster on the previous Sunday morning, after walking the 24 miles from New Earswick, his usual custom each Sunday, no bus service being available to enable him being present in time to ring.

Mr. Haigh was elected a member of York Minster Society in the year 1876, and remained a member with the exception of about ten years spent at Gillingham, Kent, at his trade of engineer in H.M. Dockyards. He continued to follow the art along with his brother William Haigh, a respected member of Kent County Association. He had been a member of the Yorkshire Association since the year 1875. Until the last year or two, when advancing years compelled him to ring one of the smaller bells, he was always at the heavy end, usually at the eleventh.

The funeral was on Friday, December 15th, at SS. Philip and James' Church, Clifton, where he first learnt to handle a bell and where he continued to be an active ringer and choirman until the end (with the exception of the time absent in Kent). His remains were afterwards interred at Huntington Churchyard.

The majority of the Minster ringers were present to show their regard for one whose ever jovial smile and good companionship will be greatly missed.

On Sunday, the 17th, the bells at Clifton Church were rung half-muffled by the local company, assisted by Mr. W. Haigh, Kent, and Mr. Fuller, Farnham, Surrey, as a last token of respect.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED PYE.

We learn with regret of the death of Mr. Alfred Pye, of Seven Kings, Essex. He was buried on Saturday at Aldborough Hatch, near Ilford.

The late Mr. Pye was one of the famous family, which included the late William and Ernest Pye and Mr. George R. Pye, of Chadwell Heath.

Although he had not been so conspicuous in the Exercise as his brothers, Mr. Alfred Pye, nevertheless, took part in many peals. He served for over twenty years in the Army as staff-sergeant.

He was a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, as well as of the Essex, Middlesex and Kent Associations.

THE FIRST PEAL OF MAXIMUS AT BOW.

AN ACCOUNT BY AN OUTSIDER.

What is probably the best book ever written on the churches of London contains the following passage in its account of St. Mary-le-Bow. Ringers will read it with amusement, and it shows how badly astray even clever and well-informed men can go when they try to write about bells and bellringing.

'The 1881 set of twelve bells were not rung with all the full honours of a "maximus" or twelve-bell method till January 19th, 1907. On that occasion a select party from the Ancient Society of College Youths—who were established in 1637, and have always since that date been the Bow Church ringers—rang a touch on the method known among campanologists as "Triple Bob Maximus," which, if I mistake not, is the *ne plus ultra* of twelve-bell ringing.

'The completion of the same would have taken nearly thirty-eight years. The "Youths" got as far as 5,688 changes, which appears to be a certain stage in the proceedings, in four hours and one minute, working at terrific speed. This would give four bell strokes per second, and each ringer would pull once in three seconds. To do this for the larger bells must require enormous skill.

'There was a continuous roar of sound, but one can hardly say much campanological beauty, for the whole of the four hours. The noise in the belfry must have been pandemoniac. However, after this ceremony one must suppose that the bells may be considered baptised and ready for any sort of service.'

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

WEST DORSET BRANCH EFFORTS TO CARRY ON.

The annual meeting of the West Dorset Branch was held at Bridport on December 2nd, and was, naturally, much affected by transport difficulties and other restrictions. Arrangements had been made for Bridport tower to be open from 1.30 p.m., and eventually some 15 members mustered from Bridport, Beaminster and Lyme Regis.

At the business meeting held in the tower the officers of the branch were unanimously re-elected, and the chairman, the Rev. C. Carew Cox, expressed the hope that all hands would do their utmost to keep together and uphold the ringing for Sunday services at least. Evening practices were likely to be resumed at Beaminster, but were not possible at present at Lyme owing to the close proximity of the church to the sea.

It was decided to abandon the February meeting and hold one at Bradpole in May.

The bells were kept going in Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major during the afternoon and evening.

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.

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' extends Greetings to all his readers, and expresses the hope that, in these troublous times, they will keep a good heart and courage.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have just completed the rehangng of the eight bells at St. Mary's, Gateshead, in new framework.

The bells at Tewin, Herts, have been increased to six by the addition of a new treble. The work has been carried out by the Whitechapel Foundry.

On December 17th, 1888, the first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham in Sussex. The band had rung peals of Bob Major and Oxford Bob Triples in the same tower on the two previous days. Canterbury Pleasure was generally known as 'Bob Major spoilt,' a not inappropriate name. Also on this date, in 1810, the Richmond ringers rang 8,448 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

December 18th was the anniversary of the first peal accomplished in the county of Devon. The method was Grandsire Triples and it was rung at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, by a band of ringers from Huntsham, assisted by William Banister, of Devonport, who conducted. C. A. W. Troyte rang the seventh. He did much for the art not only in the West, but, by means of his well-known text book, throughout the country.

Banister, who had been one of a very skilful band at Woolwich, was also the author of a text book on ringing, which was largely modelled on Hubbard's 'Campanalogia.'

On December 19th, 1853, a band of the Cumberland Youths, which included John Cox and Henry Haley, rang 5,040 changes of Stedman Triples in hand. William Cooter, who heard the peal, asserted that Cox changed his bells and put them right again just before a part end came up. As his assertion seems to be a well-founded one, the honour of ringing the first double-handed peal in the method belongs to the College Youths.

On the same date in 1730 Benjamin Annable called a peal of Bob Triples at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the only five thousand ever achieved on the old eight bells in that tower.

It was a very fine heavy bell feat when, on December 19th, 1925, William Pye turned the famous old Bow tenor in to 7,392 changes of Cambridge Maximus.

Last Wednesday was the one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the long peal of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church, Spitalfields, mentioned in our last issue. Thirty years later on the same date the Junior Society of College Youths rang 5,001 changes of Stedman Caters at Southwark.

On Christmas Eve, 1934, the last peal connected with the Australian tour was rung. It was a peal of Bob Major on the Red Sea, rung by the remnant of the party making the homeward trip via Suez. Five of the rest were steaming eastward and two had been left behind in India.

Mr. William B. Cartwright's friends no doubt will be interested to hear that he has passed the solicitors' final examination held by the Law Society.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

A TALENTED RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. John H. Cheesman, late of Greenhithe, Kent, who was well known to so many of our readers as a leading ringer and conductor. Two years ago Mr. Cheesman fell and broke his arm, and since then he had not been really well, but had spent much time in various hospitals, including a month in Guy's, ten weeks in Gravesend General Hospital, and about six weeks in the County Hospital at Dartford.

At the outbreak of the war he and Mrs. Cheesman removed to Margate, where at first he seemed to pick up a little, but he had to enter the local hospital, where he underwent three operations, the last on Wednesday, December 13th, from which he did not recover, but passed away early last Friday.

Mr. Cheesman was born on January 23rd, 1872, at Stouing, near Folkestone. He learnt to ring on the five bells in his native village.



THE LATE MR. J. H. CHEESMAN.

and on his seventeenth birthday, rang and conducted his first peal at Lyminge, turning in the 18 cwt. tenor to seven 720's of Bob Minor.

Soon afterwards he moved to North Kent and joined the very active band at Crayford. At the age of 19 he rang the tenor at St. John's, Erith, to 10,080 changes of Canterbury Pleasure Major in 5 hours and 50 minutes.

In the year 1894 he went to New Zealand, but he felt the absence of ringing there, and four years later returned home. Erith in those days, was the scene of much peal ringing, and the late William Pye and his brothers were often there. On April 3rd, 1899, 15,072 of Double Norwich was rung; on April 9th the first peal of London Surprise by Mr. Cheesman and the brothers Pye; on April 22nd a peal of Double Norwich; on May 6th a peal of Stedman Triples; on May 17th a peal of Duffield Major; and on June 1st a peal of Superlative Surprise. Also at Erith on Boxing Day, 1898, he took part in 10,464 of Kent Treble Bob Major. Altogether at this tower he rang about 150 peals, and very nearly as many at Crayford.

His other long lengths included the 18,027 of Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, which took 12 hours and 18 minutes, and was at the time the record length in any method; the 15,264 of Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch in 1912 (in which he never made a trip); the 7,592 of Cambridge Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow in 1925; and 11,008 of Double Norwich at Erith in 1927.

As a conductor he had few equals, and no composition was too difficult for him. He was particularly brilliant in calling Stedman and conducted about 200 peals in that method on all numbers, in-

(Continued in next column.)

**THE RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS.
CIVIL DEFENCE REGULATIONS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—At the beginning of November I was able to issue a notice regarding the above which had the approval of the Ministry of Home Security. This notice had been under discussion for some time prior to its issue, but publication was delayed so as not to anticipate the Control of Noise No. 2 Order.

Since the issue of this circular many reports of objections by the police have reached me, these being principally through misinterpretation of the No. 2 Order.

In some cases ringers and incumbents are uncertain as to the position. I am now able to state the following:—

1. The approved circular is confirmed.
2. The words 'customary manner' mean service ringing, i.e., Sundays, saints' days and other festivals, etc., weekly practice, association meetings, and peals of normal length. The Ministry are anxious that, so far as is possible, all normal ringing shall be continued. The Ministry are also aware that peals of normal length take approximately three to four hours.

3. To overcome the difficulties which have arisen at various places the Ministry are communicating with all Regional Commissioners on Home Security enclosing a copy of the circular, together with the further particulars above.

The one question which is causing some anxiety to the Ministry concerns midnight and early morning ringing at Christmas and for the New Year. There is nothing in the Control of Noise Act to prohibit this ringing, so may I ask for a voluntary abandonment of these ancient practices during the present troubles? Ringers are asked to remember that many engaged on work of national importance may be enjoying a well-earned rest, and that it is important that this brief holiday should not be disturbed.

I am grateful to those who have advised me of their difficulties and would ask that they would again approach those who are responsible, with a request that the matter be referred to the Regional Commissioner. If no satisfaction is obtained and they will write to me again, the Ministry will be advised.

In all cases please try to avoid bad feeling with those who are trying to serve us all in the interests of public security.

May I invite all those who communicate with the Ministry to send me a copy of their letter, or write to me direct, as the Ministry are now referring ringing matters to me, and with full particulars to hand I may be of greater assistance to everybody.

GEORGE W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Secretary, Central Council.

RINGING THE OLD YEAR OUT.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I suppose ringing in the New Year will be out of the question this year. And yet it seems to me there would be no danger, especially so far west as this, in ringing a short touch.

Martock, Somerset.

F. FARRANT.

There is nothing, in law, to prevent church bells being rung at the departure of the old year, provided, of course, the regulations relating to the lighting restrictions are observed. The Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order provides that no instrument shall be sounded except for air raid signal purposes, or 'in such circumstances that the sound of the instrument is not liable to be mistaken for any such signal.' Church bells, ringing in the customary way, could not, of course, be mistaken for an air raid signal, and, under the Order, there is no restriction as to the hours during which church bells may be rung.—EDITOR, 'Ringing World.'

WAR-TIME RINGING ARRANGEMENTS.

Nuneaton: 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

Stepney, St. Dunstan's: 10 to 10.30 a.m. and 3 to 3.30 p.m. (revised times). Practice, Saturdays, 2.30 p.m. fortnightly.

Hereford Cathedral: 2 to 3 p.m. and 10 to 11 a.m. every third Sunday.

Lyme Regis: 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Maulden, Beds: Practice, Wednesday, 7.15 p.m.

Sible Hedingham: 10.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

(Continued from previous column.)

cluding Carter's Odd Bob one-part peal, all of them from non-observation bells.

He rang in the first John name peal, one of London Surprise at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, in 1904; and called the second, one of Superlative Surprise at St. John's, Waterloo Road, in 1905. He also called the John peal of Stedman Cinques rung at St. Giles', Cripplegate, on November 23rd, 1912.

By calling Middleton's peal of Cambridge at Crayford on December 17th, 1935, he reached his thousandth peal, and in the following February he was one of a band, all of whom had gained a similar record, who rang the same composition at St. Olave's, Hart Street.

John Cheesman will be remembered not only as a brilliant ringer, but as a quiet unassuming man with sterling qualities which endeared him to a host of friends, who will mourn his death.

The funeral took place last Wednesday at Stone Cemetery, near Dartford.

THE MUSIC OF CATERS. EFFECTS OF THE TITNUM POSITION.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

The history of change ringing, like the history of other branches of music, is the story of the growth of Art Forms. Musically, the establishment of Form in change ringing was not possible until ringing was practised on higher numbers than six bells. On the lesser numbers there was mathematical Form and Truth, but beyond an innate desire to keep 5.6 the right way in Minor, nothing could be done on any musical plan.

From the moment, however, when that great genius, Ben Annable, 'saw no reason for parting the tenors in a peal of five or six thousand,' a musical Form may be said to have been established. What was the basis of this musical Form? It was undoubtedly the principle of making the heavy bells (perhaps two, or perhaps more) play a tune of their own and to play it as they coursed to and fro amid the embroidery of sound from the lesser bells.

If you listen to one of those grand old chorales of J. S. Bach you will notice how the simple strong tune is wrapped round and round with a beautiful decoration of other melodies. They weave over and under the tune, and yet the tune stands out from its framework, going on sturdily among the marvellous patterns of the added melodies. In a much lesser degree it is so with the use of the heavy bells on the higher numbers. In Major it may be only the beating of 7 and 8 as they course to and fro among the pattern their brethren are making, or it may be the more satisfying tune that 6, 7 and 8 can make; but it is this persistence that provides rhythmic pleasure to what would otherwise be an unrhythmical succession of sounds.

The ringing of Caters provided, of course, scope for a big advance in musical Form. To judge by the old peals given in 'Campanalogia' (about 1700) the early ringing of Caters was a very jumbled business. It was not as if the heavy bells were kept in their plain course positions (as is suggested by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies). They were allowed to take their chance. The small bells were the half-hunts, while the big bells wandered about quite aimlessly. When, however, Annable threw them 'into the harmonious tittums' he performed a service for change ringing as great as that performed for instrumental music by Haydn. The Symphony is, of course, far and away above the Tittum position in its sublimity, but both are the products of the love of Form so marked in the 18th century.

The Tittum position provided a satisfying tune, 7-8-9, and the 'framework' of the bells was big enough for them to be heard a great deal on their journeys from front to back and back to front. The result was a delight that has never palled. In addition we were provided with the beautiful termination 978 and the termination 7-8-9. The 8.9 termination is worth noting. The 8.9 alone was good, but how much better it was with 7 close at hand.

The position was so satisfying that it was quite a long time before the thought of adding to it became a conscious one. It is true that the peals of Annable, Reeves and Gross show the 6th behind the 9th, but it is not until the time of stout old John Martin, of Leicester, that we find this position fully appreciated. For Martin the Tittum position was sublime, and he does not hesitate to

record his delight in it. To it he added the joy of using the 6th. We find in his peal book a reverence and admiration for the blocks of changes with the 6th behind the 9th, and he loses no opportunity of drawing our attention to compositions in which he has incorporated what he calls 'the long twelve-hundred course with ye 6th behind ye 9th.' And there is no doubt that the 6th was a royal addition. The tune 7-8-9 was very pleasant, but 7-8-9-6 was a greater joy. The termination 7-8-9 was very good, but 7689 was the quintessence.

The old classical plan of long-course calling, with bobs on 8.9 and 7.8, did not lend itself to the retention of a bell in 6th's place, and it was not until the time of Tebbs, at the beginning of the 19th century, that the short-course plan gave opportunities for the 6th to be fixed in front of the 7th. Here was a new effect. One missed the 7689 termination, but in place of it there was a grandeur in the new tune 6-7-8-9 rolling down to the front, and uplift in the surge of 9-8-7-6 towards the back.

It is one of those inexplicable mysteries that, while the plain course position 6789 is comparatively uninteresting, the inverted plain course position, usually called the Handstroke Position, is so very beautiful. But it is so. The termination 7698, followed by 6789, seems trite and commonplace, but 6789, followed at backstroke by 7698, achieves a great measure of beauty and majesty.

Although the position was found in the middle of the 18th century, it does not seem to have been appreciated and exploited until nearly a hundred years later. It was certainly used for bringing the bells round at hand, and Henry Cooper, in his peal, dated 1816, used two or three courses in the position; but until the middle of the 19th century the musical aim seems to have been to keep the bells in the Tittums as long as possible. From the middle of the 19th century, however, the 'Handstroke Home' position was exploited fully, and, while it has never equalled the Tittum position, it has been its closest rival.

The effect of 'open leads' is nowhere demonstrated so clearly as in the difference between the Tittums and the Inverted Tittums. In the latter the music is at handstroke, and while it cannot compare with the Tittum position, yet one feels that Mr. Trollope is hardly fair when he calls it very poor stuff. It is certainly the best form for muffled ringing, where the open handstrokes need the best music, and when employed in this way it can be very noble and awe-inspiring.

The earliest attempt to use the position systematically appears in a long touch given in Shipway's book of 1816, but it was left to the end of the 19th century to adopt it for the specific purpose of muffled ringing. In this particular Form the use of the 6th should be noted. If you wish to get the 7689 termination you must have the 6th at home, whereas it will be recollected, in the Tittums the 6th must be fifth's-place bell to produce this termination.

From the middle of the 19th century onwards many experiments were carried out in the use of the back bells in different positions, but, apart from the Tittums and the Inverted Tittums, none of these placings is very satisfactory without the constant attendance of the 6th. Using the 6th in conjunction with variation of the position of 7, 8, and 9, however, some fine musical effects can be secured. Thus, 7968 is good as a termination, and the 'tune' is 7-6-8-9. The 7896 position is a handsome

(Continued in next column.)

THE DEKYNs OF COVENTRY.**MEDIÆVAL BELL RINGERS.**

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In the year 1834 a man who signed himself 'T.S.' sent to the 'British Magazine' a transcript of two ancient manuscripts, which were preserved in the vestry of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry. They are a copy of the 'constitutions of the office of the deacons' in that church, drawn up in the year 1462, and they have great historical value, not only as showing the duties of parochial officers at the time, but also (and for us ringers much more important) as throwing a good deal of light on the conditions of early ringing and the genesis of the Exercise. The dekyns were two in number, a senior and his fellow. As we read, we quickly realise that they were not deacons in the correct meaning of the word, but the term is used as the equivalent of 'clerk,' which is frequently employed in the same sense in contemporary writings.

The diaconate was originally founded, as we know from the Acts of the Apostles, as a body of men who should attend to the temporal and mundane affairs of the Church and save the apostles from the necessity of 'serving tables'; and much of the original idea still clung (at least in theory) to the office through the succeeding ages. But long before the Middle Ages it had become, which it is to-day, little more than a novitiate to the priesthood, though all along there were men who remained, for some reason or other, in deacon's orders throughout their lives, with no intention of taking the higher step. This was not uncommon in the post-Reformation Church of England, notably among the fellows of colleges at the two universities.

One of the duties of the deacons in early times was to assist the priest at Mass, both by making the necessary preparations and at the actual celebration. At High Mass the three ministers were the priest, the deacon and the sub-deacon, the chief duties of the two last being to read the gospel and epistle. This custom has been retained in the Church of England, whenever it is possible, although the titles are not used in the Prayer Book.

What we have to notice is that the duties, and, to some extent, the title of the deacon were dissociated from the actual order of deacons. The deacon at High Mass might be, and usually was, in priestly orders, or he

THE MUSIC OF CATERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

piece of work, for not only is the 'tune' 7-9-6-8, but every so often we get the termination 7-9-68. It will be seen at once that while the termination 68 is good, its effect is immeasurably greater because 7 and 9 are close at hand.

The six placings of 689 all have interesting features and will provide good music. In taking advantage of them there is no need to lose the 7th. 7689, 7968, 7896, 7869 and 7698 will each yield 24 courses, and it is not too difficult to turn the bells from one position to another.

To get the best music then, we must aim at two things:—

- (1) Keeping 7, 8 and 9 close together:
- (2) Making good use of the 6th.

No. 1 alone will not satisfy us entirely, nor is No. 2 of any use if the 7th is allowed to get away; but a judicious use of both means will place a wealth of musical possibility at our disposal.

might be a bishop, as is always the case in the Coronation service. Of course, the superior orders included the lesser.

On the other hand, much of the deacon's duties were performed by men who were not in major orders at all.

These Coventry constitutions give an interesting example of this confusion of titles and duties. The senior dekyn had to 'find a dekyn to read the gospel at hve masse every sonday ond woly (holy) day.' He was not to read it himself—he was not qualified. It is rather a strange order, but it shows that he was responsible for all the arrangements of the service and for seeing that the necessary ministers were available.

The dekyns of Coventry, then, were not, strictly speaking, deacons at all, but belonged to that body of men who were usually referred to as 'clerks.' They were not laymen. They were clerics in minor orders and enjoyed the 'benefit of clergy,' which was one of the causes of the bitter disputes between Church and State in the Middle Ages. They claimed exemption from the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts and could not be punished by the king's officers, even for such crimes as murder, until they had been condemned by an ecclesiastical court, and degraded from their orders. This benefit of clergy lingered long after the Reformation and was not finally abolished until the beginning of the last century, the last people to enjoy it being, oddly enough, the members of the House of Lords.

The clerks as a body took an important part in Church life. In secular conventual churches, in the many hospitals, in colleges connected with parish churches, and in the parish churches themselves they were indispensable. Socially and in importance they were at least the equals of the chantry priests, and, though they were inferior in status to the incumbents, they all came from much the same class of people, and there was no great social distinction between them.

In the Coventry manuscripts we have a detailed list of the duties of the two dekyns, which do not differ in essentials from those of the clerks throughout the country.

At half past six in the morning of every week day the second dekyn had to be at the church to unlock the doors for Matins. If it was a commemoration, that is, an ordinary saint's day (of which there were many), the first dekyn had to be there, too, to help to ring 'all in.' They got ready the books and vestments and assisted at Mass, and at High Mass sang in the choir.

After the service was done the first dekyn was responsible for seeing that the chalice and books were safely locked up in the vestry. At three in the afternoon, if it was a saint's day, a 'feast of nine lessons' or a double feast, he had to be in church to help to ring 'all in' and to sing in the choir as rector, or leader, on the south side, and afterwards to lock up the church.

His other duties included sweeping the floor of the choir when needed, and cleaning away snow; and he and his fellow were specially charged to keep the leads of the church clean. He had to provide holy water for the priest and to bear holy water to every house in his ward, to hang a towel about the font at Easter and Whitsuntide, to vest the altars, to tend the lamps and find oil, to find palms for Palm Sunday, and to watch the sepulchre at Easter.

At Mass he had to see that the holy bread was cut up and distributed to every man according to his quality;

(Continued on next page.)

THE DEKYNS OF COVENTRY

(Continued from previous page.)

and he had to attend the priest when he went to visit the sick, or else find a deputy. He had also to provide 'ii; dyscipln rods,' and presumably to use them on refractory boys.

In Lent the two deykns helped the churchwardens to veil the altar and rood 'and y^e church wardens schall gyffe them money to drynke.'

To some extent the second dekyrn was the assistant or the first, but he had clearly defined duties of his own. He had his part of the church and the leads to clean and keep clear of snow. He had to lead the singing on the north side of the choir; and, while his fellow had to provide a deacon to read the gospel, he had to provide a child to act as server. He had to take charge of funerals, put on his surplice and escort the body to the church, and to provide candles. 'Also he schall helpe to sarve at ev'y drenkyng after ev'y derige done at y^e coste of y^e church.'

Two things are especially noticeable in these constitutions. One is the importance of the bells in the services of the church; the other is that all the care and maintenance and use of them was entrusted to the clerks. They took charge in turn. During one quarter the first dekyrn had to oil the bells and look to the baldricks and the ropes. If anything was amiss he had to report it to the churchwardens so that it might be put right in due season. The next quarter the second dekyrn took charge, and so turn and turn about.

The first dekyrn rang the day bell, that is the twelve o'clock bell. The second dekyrn rang curfew at eight in the evening, and afterwards 'he schall searche y^e churche all aboute lest ther be any p'sons lyeing in any sete or corner and yen lokke. y^e churche dur sure.'

These were secular bells, rung for secular purposes. There is no mention of the ringing of an angelus or ave bell, though no doubt many pious persons would repeat the 'Hail Mary' when they heard the sound of a bell rung primarily for other reasons.

The fees for the use of the bells at burials and obits were given to the dekyrn, and they were made responsible for the bells being rung whenever the bishop, king, queen, or prince came to Coventry. Royal visits to the city were rare, and this probably was the general rule and custom throughout the country.

There are many instances of parishes being fined for not ringing on such occasions, and at Holy Trinity it was ordered that if there was such negligence the dekyrn should bear any fine that might be incurred.

Throughout the day the services—Matins, Mass and Evensong—were marked by bell ringing, the more important feasts being distinguished by two bells being rung instead of one. There were also special services; during Lent the first dekyrn rang the great bell to compile on Saturdays, but on ferial days the second dekyrn rang the first bell.

THE FIRST PEAL OF KENT MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—The first peal which we know without any doubt whatever was Kent Treble Twelve was, as Mr. Walker points out, the 7,200 rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820.

But the Cumberlands rang between December 13th, 1794, and May 26th, 1795, 5,200 Cumberland Royal Treble Bob at Shoreditch, 'the most that can be rung in 9 courses'; 5,232 Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus, at Southwark, 'the first rang on 12 bells in this method'; 5,504 Cumberland Treble Bob Major at Bishopgate, and 5,120 of the same at Edmonton.

It is certain that the method was a close variation of Oxford Treble Bob. Shipway rang in the Edmonton peal, and we can be almost sure that he would give the method in his book. The Cumberlands rang the first peal of 'real' Double Bob Major in 1769 and called it Cumberland Real Double eight-in; the first peal of 'real' Double Grandire Caters in 1770, and called it Cumberland Caters real double; and the first peal of 'real' Double Grandire Cinques, and called it Cumberland's Cinques. We know from the Clavis what methods actually were rung in these instances, though neither the book nor the Exercise generally accepted the new titles. The composition of the peal of Royal rung in 1794 at Shoreditch was obviously Reeves' 9-course peal of Treble Bob, and, taking everything into consideration, it is difficult to see what method could have been rung except Kent Treble Bob.

So I think we may fairly conclude that the peal rung at Southwark on Monday, March 9th, 1795, was the first of Kent Treble Bob Maximus. J. A. T.

A NEW BELL AT EASTBOURNE. RINGER'S GIFT.

A new bell has been given to Holy Trinity Church, Eastbourne, by Mr. Albert Piper, deputy warden, in memory of his wife. Mr. Piper is one of the original members of the Sussex Association, and was formerly attached to St. Peter's, Brighton, company. Another ringing colleague, Mr. Edward Bray, is sexton and verger, although Holy Trinity has but one bell. The previous bell, which has been in use for over a century, has been presented to the Bishop Hannington Memorial Church, Hove.

The dedication of the new bell at Holy Trinity Church was performed by the Vicar, and a tablet bearing the following inscription was then unveiled by the Vicar: 'The bell in this tower was given to the glory of God and in memory of Sarah Ann Piper, who died 14th April, 1939, aged 71 years. She was for many years a humble worker for the Church. Her first thought was for others.'

During the dedication ceremony Mr. Piper was attended by a number of his sidesmen colleagues, and afterwards he went into the tower and tolled the bell several times.

Preaching on the text 'Bells of pure gold,' the Vicar expressed the hope that the bell might be instrumental in drawing many to Christ.

The bell was cast at the ancient Church Bell Foundry in White-chapel, and is a deep C sharp. It is interesting to note that the same firm (Mears and Stainbank) cast the former bell, which was made for the opening of Trinity Church in 1838.

ANCIENT BELL FRAMES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I was very interested in the letter with reference to the Bagley frame at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, which appeared in 'The Ringing World' issue of December 1st, but there is one in the same locality which is, I think, even older.

At Alderminster Parish Church near Stratford-on-Avon is an oak bell frame, still in use, which is said by the local ringers to be 600 years old—at any rate, it was there when the oldest bell in the tower was installed by Bagley in 1653.

The bells, a lovely little peal, were tuned and rehung in the old frame with new fittings this year by Messrs. Taylor and Co. and are dated as follows: Treble, 1939, Taylor; 2nd, 1714, Rudhall; 3rd, 1853, Bagley; 4th, 1668, Bagley; 5th, 1716, Rudhall; tenor, 1676, Bagley (12 cwt. 2 lb. in F.).

They are described in 'Ancient Warwickshire Churches' as a 'most ancient and tuneful peal,' which is certainly true. It would appear that the frame dates at least from 1653—thirty years earlier than the Wellesbourne example.

WILFRED E. BOX.

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NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

CHESTER, ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL.—The ring of eight bells restored by John Taylor and Co. will be rededicated by the Bishop of Chester on Sunday next, Dec. 24th, at 3 p.m.

S.O.S. — Will any ringers visiting Scarborough at Christmas please come up and help, as we are only 'five'? Ringing, Sunday morning, 10 a.m., and Christmas morning, 10 a.m.—H. Ferguson.

ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.—Boxing Day, all ringers welcomed, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.—T. W. Taffender.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Lydney (8 bells) on Saturday, Dec. 30th, at 3.30 p.m. Election of officers for 1940, etc. All who require tea must let me know by Wednesday, Dec. 27th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec., 11, Victoria Road, Lydney, Glos.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, January 2nd. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—North-East Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Time of service and tea will be announced at meeting. It is necessary that those wishing to attend should notify me as soon as possible for the purpose of arranging tea.—R. Harris, Park, Silvertown, near Exeter.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Annual meeting will be held at St. Martin's Church on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Further details regarding ringing, etc., in next week's issue.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ringing St. Clement Danes, Strand, Saturday, January 6th, 2.30 p.m., followed by quarterly meeting, also Sunday, January 7th, at 10 a.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Measham on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) available at 2.45 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. Business important. It is hoped to arrange tea or light refreshment in Church Room at 4.45 p.m., but those intending to be present must notify me by Thursday, Jan. 4th. Hearty invitation to all. Frequent bus service from Birmingham, Tamworth and Nottingham.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Mount Pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, January 6th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. and also after business meeting. Tea at 5 p.m., notifications for which must be sent to me by Tuesday, Jan. 2nd. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The third annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained with remittance from Andrew Thompson (Hon. Secretary), 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs, until Jan. 18th. Ringing arrangements later.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL.—Sunday, ringing 2 to 3 in afternoon; 10 to 11 every third Sunday in month.—W. H. Symonds.

GREETINGS!

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.—The Rev. Noel E. Hope, Master of the association, sends best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members.

Pay S. Lieut. C. Glenn, R.N.V.R., sends hearty greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to the 'mad band' and all ringing friends.

Francis E. Dawe once again heartily wishes all his many ringing friends, both at home and 'at the Front,' and in the Dominions beyond the seas, 'All the Best of the Very Best' for Christmas and the New Year, together with Good Health—the greatest Blessing of All! —Woking, 1939.

Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild, Southern District. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all ringing friends, from E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

Mr. A. B. Peck, hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, extends to all his ringing friends the compliments of the season.

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