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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 1939.

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## LOOKING BACKWARDS.

War came this year to cut off suddenly the activities of ringers, as it disrupted the even flow of almost every phase of normal life, and 1939 goes out amid an upheaval, the effects of which no one can foresee. In attempting a review of ringing in the past twelve months it is only possible to say that a year which opened brightly and showed great prospects of producing results as good as if not better than any of its immediate predecessors has ended in placing the art under a heavy cloud. Compared with the great issues at stake that is a matter of no importance, but one cannot help regretting the setback which ringing has received. That it will recover in the better days which lie ahead, when this conflict is over, and the world, we hope, will be allowed to live in peace, there can be no doubt. Ringing rose after the last war to greater heights than ever before, and it will do so again when this country and its Allies come, as assuredly they will, successfully out of the war. But until those happier days it is left to the ringers who remain in the belfries to carry on the task as best they can.

Reviewing, in these last days of the old year, the effect of the war on ringing, the most striking thing was the sudden cessation of everything connected with the activities of ringers when war was declared. Nothing could have been more complete than the way in which ringing was abandoned. It was, perhaps, not altogether surprising. Everyone had anticipated that, as soon as war broke out, the country would be subjected to devastating attacks from the air, and no one knew where the blows would fall. Until there had been time to measure the effects of the changed world about us, it was natural that ringing, among other things, should be entirely suspended. Slowly, however, after the first two or three weeks, when it was found that the threatened attacks from the air did not materialise, ringers began to return to their towers. In the limited revival which has followed we think 'The Ringing World' can claim some share for the lead it gave. That there was no official reason for the abandonment of bell ringing has been made plain in the Control of Noise Orders which have been issued by the Minister of Home Security. The authorities, except a few local police officials, have seen no objection to the normal use of bells, and it is now becoming the general practice once again to ring for Sunday services, where blackout restrictions do not intervene. More and more, we hope, ringers will get the bells going in town and village and, with regard to the latter, we think the recent pronouncement of the

(Continued on page 782.)

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Minister of Home Security, that it is not even intended that air raid warnings shall be sounded in rural areas, gives still greater reason why any local bans which may still remain on the ringing of village church bells should be lifted.

But what of the year 1939 before the war began? The eight months to the end of August were full of promise. No record lengths were rung, but records were made in other directions which rank equally high in merit. Foremost, probably, were the performances by bands in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. A six-bell company, it will be remembered, made three successive records in spliced method ringing by increasing the number of methods in a peal of Minor from 84 to 100, then to 102 and afterwards to 104. These were outstanding achievements which only a few years ago were not even dreamed of, for the reason, if for nothing else, that it was not deemed possible to incorporate so many methods in seven true extents of Minor. Then, too, Lincolnshire must be credited with one of the other notable performances of the year when a band rang a peal in ten Surprise Major methods. Worcestershire men also gathered laurels by ringing a spliced peal in eight Surprise Major methods, and the Hertfordshire handbell band continued their remarkable achievements by further peals in Spliced Surprise Major on handbells. Yes, the year certainly showed great promise, for alongside these outstanding performances were many things which indicated progress in many quarters.

But the blow which fell at the end of August and seemed at first entirely to paralyse ringing will prove to be merely one of the fortunes of war. True, with the calls made upon the mind and energy of men, such things as ringing must take a very subsidiary place, yet there is, nevertheless, a place even for ringing in the distracted life which we are now living. The coming year may present new difficulties, and in any event ringing inevitably must be carried on in a very subdued manner, but that is no reason why all concerned, both in towers and associations, should not bend all their available energies towards keeping the art going and strengthening their forces, as far as possible, against the time when peace on earth will once more permit the bells to come again into their own; when in Tennyson's immortal words, they may indeed:

Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

## THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandairs, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

**EIGHT BELL PEAL.**

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.  
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1939, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... .. 1	JOSEPH HANLEY ... .. 5
G. LEONARD HEWITT ... .. 2	ALAN M. JONES ... .. 6
E. DENNIS POOLE ... .. 3	EDWARD V. RODENBURST ... .. 7
ALFRED S. BAYLEY ... .. 4	JOSEPH L. STAMIER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by E. V. RODENBURST.

\* First peal. Rung after meeting short for Grandsire Caters. Specially arranged and rung on the occasion of the marriage of Leone Jewett, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. Underwood Whitney, to Lieut. E. Leo Kellett Donaldson Wood, Royal Navy. The bride's brothers, Rupert and Tony, are members of the Coalbrookdale band. Also rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the fourth.

**SIX BELL PEAL.**

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.  
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 16, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Morning Star, Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob, Clifford Pleasure, Percy's Pleasure, Reverse Canterbury and Grandsire. Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM BEAVER ... .. 1	A. BRYAN ELSMORRE ... .. 4
JAMES P. HYETT ... .. 2	DAVID H. BENNETT ... .. 5
LESLIE EVANS ... .. 3	ALBERT E. JONES ... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

\* First peal in seven methods. Rung in honour of His Majesty's birthday. Quickest peal on the back six bells.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1939, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE RECTORY,

**A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... .. 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First peal of Little Bob Major. Rung on the tenth anniversary of E. A. Barnett's first peal. The band would like to thank the Rev. L. S. B. Beckley for his kindness in providing accommodation and refreshment for them.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... .. 1-2	ERNEST C. J. TURNER ... .. 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. 3-4	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ... .. 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

**THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES.

An addition was recently made to the collection of books in the 'Cockerill Memorial Bookcase' in St. Paul's Cathedral belfry. This was the book recording the names of the subscribers to a presentation purse, given to the late James Pettit in the late '90's.

The following superscription has been added in the form of a fly-leaf: 'This book, originally given to the late Mr. James Pettit, a former Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths and Leader of St. Paul's Cathedral ringers, was discovered in after years at Bristol. It was then bought and kindly given to the society by Messrs. J. T. Dyke and S. H. Wood, both of whom are well-known members. The book records the names of those fellow-ringers and members of the society who subscribed to the presentation. A few only now remain, and one of the oldest, Mr. F. E. Dawe, Past Master, has kindly provided this superscription. July, 1939.'

**THE LATE MR. J. H. CHEESMAN.**

HIS LIST OF PEALS.

The funeral of the late Mr. John H. Cheesman, of Greenhithe, whose death at Margate Hospital on December 15th we recorded last week, took place at Stone, near Dartford, on December 20th, and was conducted by the Rector. In addition to the family mourners the following ringers were present: Messrs. H. Hoskins (representing the Ancient Society of College Youths), G. W. Steere (hon. secretary, representing the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths), E. Barnett (representing the Kent County Association), H. E. Audsley, J. Bennett, J. Bailey, E. H. Oxenham and Finn (Lyminge). Mr. Finn took part in Mr. Cheesman's first peal, rung 50 years ago.

Mr. Cheesman, who was for many years a representative of the Kent County Association on the Central Council, rang, in all, 1,966 peals, of which he conducted 435. Of these 159 were rung at St. John the Baptist's Church, Erith, 155 at Crayford and 83 at Dartford. He completed his 1,000 peals in December, 1935, and his last peal was at Bexley in June, 1938. There was never a more unassuming ringer or one more modest about his achievements than John Cheesman, whose passing is mourned by a large circle of ringing friends. Appended is the list of his peals:—

		Rung	Conducted
Minor	...	4	4
Major—Grandsire	...	12	4
Plain Bob	...	1	
Canterbury Pleasure	...	1	
Erith	...	1	
Oxford Bob	...	1	
Darlaston Bob	...	2	1
Union	...	4	1
Stedman	...	217	128
Major—Plain Bob	...	22	6
Reverse Bob	...	2	
Canterbury Pleasure	...	13	
Double Norwich	...	(a) 161	77
Real Double Norwich	...	4	
Double Oxford	...	6	
Hereward Bob	...	2	
St. Clement's	...	1	
Painswick College	...	1	
Pulford Bob	...	1	
Little Bob	...	1	1
Little Canterbury	...	1	
Crayford Little Court	...	1	
Dartford Little Bob	...	2	
Erith Little Bob	...	2	
Northfleet Little Bob	...	1	
Duffield	...	1	1
Forward	...	2	2
Kent Treble Bob	...	(b) 49	25
Oxford Treble Bob	...	12	3
Granta Treble Bob	...	1	
Cam Treble Bob	...	2	
Kent and Oxford Treble Bob	...	(c) 3	
Bob Major and Stedman Triples	...	1	1
Bob Major, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob	...	1	1
Bob Major and Canterbury Pleasure	...	1	
Bob Major and Double Norwich	...	1	
Bob Major and Double Oxford	...	1	
Double Norwich and Double Oxford	...	1	
Cambridge and Superlative Surprise	...	1	1
Cambridge Surprise	...	103	45
New Cambridge Surprise	...	9	2
Superlative Surprise	...	103	36
New Cumberland Surprise	...	1	
Norfolk Surprise	...	4	1
Yorkshire Surprise	...	4	1
Pudsey Surprise	...	3	1
Lincolnshire Surprise	...	2	
Ipswich Surprise	...	1	
Staffordshire Surprise	...	1	
Erith Surprise	...	1	
Crayford Surprise	...	1	
Lessness Surprise	...	1	
Wheatley Surprise	...	1	
London Surprise	...	34	
Bristol Surprise	...	(d) 23	1
Four Spliced Surprise	...	4	
Caters—Stedman	...	(e) 92	56
Royal—Little Bob	...	1	
Kent Treble Bob	...	27	11
Oxford Treble Bob	...	2	2
Can. Treble Bob	...	1	
Kent and Oxford Treble Bob	...	1	1
Cambridge Surprise	...	5	1
Cinques—Grandsire	...	3	
Stedman	...	58	18

(Continued on next page.)

## WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

### SOME RULES OF METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

When, nearly fifty years ago, the Central Council was started, it set itself the task of drawing up rules, formulating definitions, and generally tidying up all matters connected with the art and science.

In this it was largely influenced by Sir Arthur Heywood (or, as he was then, Mr. Percival Heywood) and naturally so, for he was fully qualified socially and intellectually to be a leader of men.

Among the things he desired to have settled were the rules which should govern the construction of a method. He had, himself, given the matter a lot of consideration, had published several articles in 'The Bell News,' and in his excellent little book on Duffield had explained many of the qualities which he thought every method should possess.

Quite a number of people were publishing methods which offended his sense of what was right, and he thought that the way out of the difficulty would be for the Council to draw up a number of definite rules to distinguish what was then called a 'legitimate' method from an 'illegitimate' one.

He did not actually introduce the matter himself, for he was the President and would, of course, have to occupy the chair, but left it to Henry Earle Bulwer, with whom he had closely collaborated in several investigations into ringing problems, and who was very largely in sympathy with his views.

The result was not quite what was intended. Instead of a few simple rules being agreed to, a committee was appointed to go into the matter. This was the beginning of the Methods Committee and of a long and keenly fought out controversy.

For it speedily became clear that there was anything but agreement on the matter among those people who were called 'experts,' and it is equally clear now that this disagreement was mainly because all those people did not really know so much about the matter as they thought they did.

The question has been settled, not by one set of controversialists being proved to be right and the other wrong (for that can hardly be said), but by bringing to the test of actual experience what was for the most part in those days conjecture and theory.

Heywood's own ideas were mainly based on the dictum that the only thing which matters is music. Everything must give way to that, and he had formed some definite opinions of what made for good music and what did not.

Not all of them will stand any real test. He accepted the rule, as did everyone else, that the tenors should be kept together as much as possible and held, rightly, that double dodging is the finest movement in ringing. But he did not stop to consider what mathematical laws were involved in combining the two. In fact, neither he nor anyone else thought that mathematical laws had anything particular at all to do with the construction of a method. The bells were mixed up in a lead, pretty much as one liked within limits, and if a lead end was produced which would repeat the required number of times, a method, good or bad as the case might be, was the result.

One rule he rather strongly insisted on for the sake of the music. Places should not be made together side by side. He did not go so far as to say that it must never be done, but, in his opinion, it was a defect.

It is difficult to follow him here and to see why, for instance, the first four changes of Oxford Treble Bob, in which third's and fourth's are made together, are musically inferior to the first four changes of Superlative, where third's and sixth's are made.

C. D. P. Davies was a great authority on the composition of Grandsire Triples. In that he did pioneer work of real excellence. When he started, the problem was whether a peal in the method was possible with common bobs only, and this coloured and influenced his entire outlook on all ringing problems. A peal of Grandsire on seven bells should (if possible) consist of triple changes and triple changes only, and therefore an eight bell method must consist of alternate quadruple and triple changes without any deviation from the regular succession.

That meant that only those methods which we recently described as 'backstroke' methods were legitimate. It meant that such methods of London and Bristol and, above all, Cambridge, were to be rejected as 'illegitimate,' and that he was quite prepared to do. He had the courage of his opinions, and he published one or two pamphlets and his book on the Surprise Methods to spread these ideas.

Heywood rather inclined to the same opinion. He laid it down as an axiom that 'every bell must move that can move,' which, properly understood, is a perfectly sound and important truth. It must be remembered that in those days London was rung only by one or two very expert bands, and Cambridge was rather despised as an early and crude attempt at method building. These ideas, which to us seem rather absurd, could easily be reconciled with the methods then rung.

But Heywood had an advantage which Davies and Bulwer lacked. He was closely associated with the Burton-on-Trent band and had a good band in his own tower and so could bring his theories to the test of personal practical experience. He had rung peals of London and was not prepared to reject it altogether. His conclusion was rather a lame one. London might break the strict rule, but the question was how much illegitimacy might be allowed in a legitimate method.

After half a century's experience the conclusion the Exercise has reached is that the regular succession of the nature of the rows is of no importance, except so far as it is necessary for the production of true peals.

There are still, however, a large number of men who hold that a seven-bell method must be all triple changes and a nine-bell method all cater changes.

### THE LATE MR J H CHEESMAN'S LIST OF PEALS

(Continued from previous page.)

	Rung	Conducted
Maximus—Plain Bob ... ..	5	
Canterbury Pleasure ... ..	1	
Little Bob ... ..	1	
Kent Treble Bob ... ..	17	3
Cambridge Surprise ... ..	(f) 17	
	1,066	433

(a) Including 11,008 and 15,072. (b) Including 10,064. (c) Two Combined, one Spliced. (d) Including 15,072 (record). (e) Including 18,027. (f) Including 7,392 at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.  
DERBY DISTRICT.**

The last meeting of the year was held at St. Michael's, Alvaston, on Saturday, December 16th, when members attended from Nottingham, Sawley, Breaston, Burton, Ticknall, Spondon and Derby, with the local ringers. The methods rung included Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Spliced Treble Bob, Double Court, Oxford Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

A short business meeting was held in the belfry, at which the secretary read a letter from the Chief Constable saying he did not think it would be wise to ring the bells for any lengthy period either on Christmas Eve or any other day, as it might interfere with an air raid warning. The meeting interpreted this as referring to peal ringing. The secretary stated that he had left with the police a copy of 'The Ringing World' containing the correspondence with the authorities on the subject, and had been advised to carry on as usual unless he heard from them to the contrary.

The annual meeting and the election of officers will be held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday, January 13th, 1940.

The secretary gave a short summary of the meetings held during the year. Nine meetings were held, and one, which was arranged at Belper just prior to the outbreak of war, had to be postponed, the Vicar saying that he considered the bells ought not to be rung, as the public might put a wrong construction on the matter. The average attendance was 24. Seven new ringing members had been elected, six had rejoined and three had been transferred from the Burton district owing to removals, one of them being the Rev. Lloyd-Jones, who was now Rector of West Hallam. Two old members, Mr. Walter Wallace and Mr. Charles Davies, of Melbourne, had been added to the list of life members.

This was considered a very satisfactory statement in view of the war and the fact that meetings had been discontinued in the district.

Handbells were then brought into use and brought to a conclusion what all considered had been a very successful meeting.

**COLLEGE YOUTHS' STEWARD MARRIED.**

On Saturday, December 2nd, at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, the marriage took place between Mr. G. W. Cecil and Miss Julia Harrison.

Mr. Cecil is an officer of the St. Dunstan's band and junior steward of the Ancient Society of College Youths. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss May Harrison, and Mr. Frank Shorter was best man. As the party left the church a 720 of Bob Minor was rung by members of the St. Dunstan's Guild: G. Boomsma 1, H. Stracey 2, T. G. Fox 3, H. E. Thompson 4, E. G. Cousins 5, L. J. Fox (conductor) 6.

**FOUR-PART PEALS OF BOB MAJOR.  
WHAT THE BARKING MEN DID.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Recently in 'The Ringing World' you published the figures of two peals of Bob Major. The first one I know well.

When we started to learn to ring at Barking in the terrible winter of 1895 we were being taught change ringing under Samuel Hayes and York Green. We went along rather fast and were soon taken on to ring handbells. We practised Bob Major at first and we soon mastered that, those who took part being T. Faulkner, A. Hardy, E. Fenn and C. Fenn. While we were making headway York Green gave us something to do. He wanted one of us to composed a peal so that when we rang it we could make it all Barking.

A. Hardy was first to get a composition and gave his peal to York Green, who proved it. I got one out a few weeks later. It was a variation of Hardy's and was the same as you published in 'The Ringing World' last week. Hardy's peal was rung on handbells on July 4th, 1896, conducted by T. Faulkner. I have enclosed the figures. The one you published was rung at Harwich, Essex, and A. Hardy was the composer and it was a variation to his.

Afterwards Mr. Green asked us to get the sixth the other way, namely, 24 times R. and 20 times W. I got the peal out and gave it to Mr. Green, who asked us to ring it on tower bells, as he would like to hear it. It was rung, without a clip, on April 18th, 1903, and was the first peal by all natives of Barking. Several College Youths were outside to hear it. The peals were published with figures in 'The Bell News.'

CALEB FENN.

Barking

A. C. Hardy.					O. Fenn.				
23456	W	B	M	H	23456	W	B	M	H
23564	—	—	—	3	52364	—	—	—	1
24536	—	—	—	2	43526	—	—	—	1
53248	—	—	—	1	24365	—	—	—	1
34562	—	—	—	3	45362	—	—	—	2
32546	—	—	—	2	23564	—	—	—	1
Rung July 4th, 1896.					24536	—	—	—	2
					32546	—	—	—	3
					Rung April 18th, 1903.				

DAWLEY, SHROPSHIRE.—At the Church of the Holy Trinity, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): \*Sidney Douglas (aged 13) 1, \*S. Rushton 2, F. Attwood 3, \*H. Jones 4, \*S. Birch (conductor) 5, \*W. Houlston 6. \*First quarter-peal. Rung for the wedding of Dorothy Lewis-Price and C. James Pearce.

# 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.

A Happy New Year  
to all Ringers  
Wherever they may be.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Messrs Mears and Stainbank have just completed the rehaunging of the bells at Milborne Port, Somerset, where the tenor is 28 cwt. The Whitechapel Foundry has also completely rehung with fittings the six bells at Priors Marston, Warwickshire. The bell frame has also been strengthened.

Rogate, Sussex, has a timber tower, containing six bells. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have strengthened the tower and repaired the bells.

Sir Arthur Heywood, son of Sir Perceval Heywood, the third baronet, was born on Christmas Day, 1849. He died on April 18th, 1916, during the Great War. For many years he was the undisputed head of the Ringing Exercise.

We are pleased to state that Mr. A. Panther is now at his home at 29, Avenue Road, Waltham-on-Avon, where he is progressing favourably after his recent operations.

The rehaunging of Shotteswell bells, Warwickshire, has been entrusted to Mr. Thomas Bond, of Burford, Oxon. As he is at present employed on work of national importance, these bells will be rehung as soon as circumstances permit.

It may be interesting to add that the fourth bell was recast in 1887 by Mr. Bond.

Holt's Original was rung at Saffron Walden on Christmas Day, 1754, by the 'Society of Young Ringers of the Town, to the no small mortification of their antagonists (some of the old society).' The bobs were called by Charles Bacon, who rang the second, but whether he had any visible aids to memory in so doing is perhaps rather doubtful. John Holt himself, a little more than three years earlier, had called from manuscript without taking a rope.

More long peals have been rung on December 26th than on any other date in the year. Among them are the following: 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Elland in 1831; 8,064 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at Leiston in 1885; 9,312 Superlative Surprise Major, at Crawley in 1894; 11,111 Stedman Cinques, at Birmingham in 1901; 9,728 Superlative Surprise Major, at Clent in 1910; and 10,442 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Walthamstow in 1923.

On the same date in 1760 the College Youths rang a peal of College Exercise Major at St. John's, Hackney. Almost certainly the composition was a false one.

On December 27th, 1718, the Union Scholars rang at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East the first peal ever achieved of Oxford Treble Bob Major, and, indeed, of any Major method. The five-part composition, which probably was composed by Robert Baldwin, was true, more we suspect by luck than by wit.

Thirty years later, on the same date, the 'Friendly Society of Ringers' rang at St. Andrew's, Holborn, 6,000 changes of Bob Major. This is the only notice we have of this society and probably the name was taken for the occasion by a band made up from more than one company. The board, which was still in existence 60 years ago, has long since disappeared.

The 27th is also the anniversary of several long lengths, including 6,000 Bob Major, at Twickenham in 1749; 6,600 Stedman Cinques, at Birmingham in 1820; 16,608 Kent Treble Bob Major, at Earlsheaton in 1872; and 17,104 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at South Wigston in 1904.

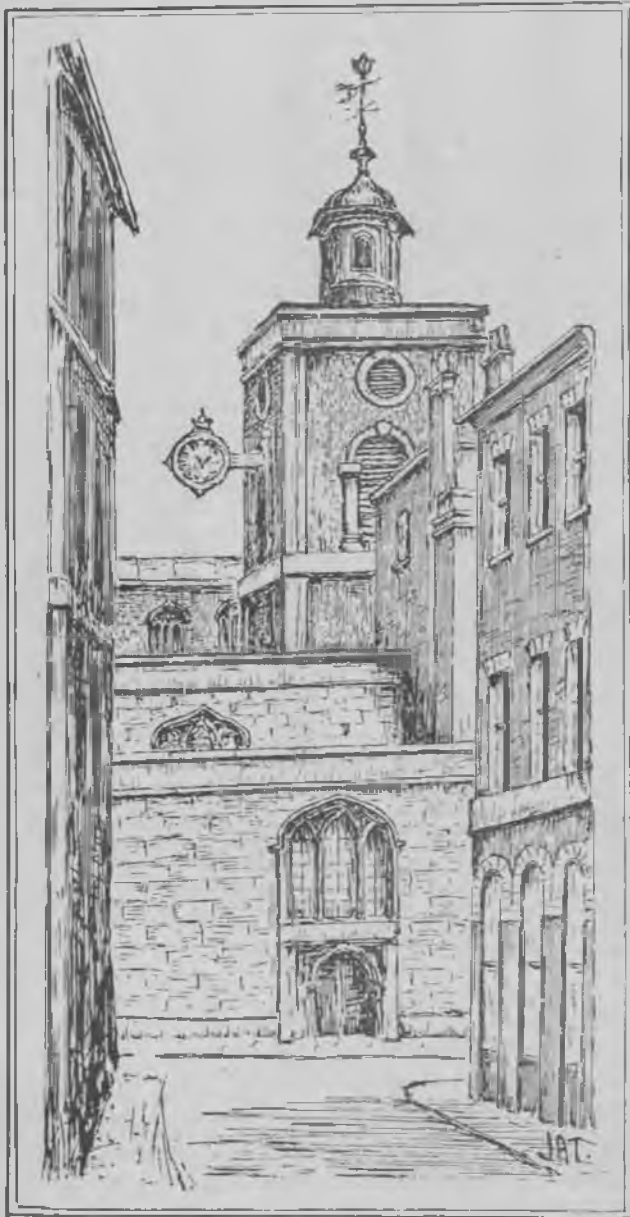
Doubts were expressed as to the truth of the Earlsheaton peal, and it is not now recognised as a genuine record.

On the last day of the year 1888, 15,041 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Appleton; and in 1892, 12,096 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Maidenhead.

**CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.****ST. OLAVE'S, HART STREET.**

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

St. Olave's is one of the smallest, but one of the most interesting of the City churches. It was built in the fifteenth century, and the inventory made in the reign of Edward VI. records that 'there remayneth in the steeple iij greate belles and a saunce bell.'



ST. OLAVE'S, HART STREET, LONDON.

Queen Elizabeth is said to have returned thanks in the church on her release from the Tower, where she had been confined in her sister's reign. The tale goes that, to commemorate the event, she presented the church with a set of silken bellropes, and the parish erected a crown above the weathercock on the steeple.

The latter part of the story may be true (there is a crown above the weathercock at the present time), but

the other is clearly a legend, though, since Elizabeth liked to hear church bells rung, it may have had some foundation in fact.

St. Olave's is closely associated with Samuel Pepys. It was his parish church, and in it he is buried. On January 30th, 1666, he set down in his diary—'This is the first time I have been in the church since I left London for the plague and it frightened me indeed to go through the church more than I thought it could have done to see so many graves lie so high upon the churchyard where people had been buried of the plague. I was much troubled at it and do not think to go through again a good while.'

Anthony Bartlet, of the Whitechapel foundry, had just recently (1662) hung a ring of six bells in the tower, and they are all there still, except the tenor, which was recast by James Bartlet in 1694.

The church escaped the great fire of 1666, but very narrowly. Burning embers fell into Scething Lane, which runs by the east end of the building, and the dial of All Hallows' Church at the bottom of the lane was burnt. That was the furthest point reached by the fire towards the east.

Like all the rings at the other City churches, St. Olave's bells were rung regularly, during the following years, but they do not figure in the history of London ringing. The leading societies, who had rings of eight, ten and twelve bells at their disposal, were inclined to despise six-bell ringing, and no record survives of any peal of Minor rung in one of the half dozen City towers which possessed six bells.

The Rambling Ringers paid a visit to the belfry on December 6th, 1733, and rang one 720 of Plain Bob and another of College Single. Jeremiah Gilbert rang the treble (he rang the treble to the first peal scored by the Cumberlands), Laughton rang the third, and John Trenell rang the tenor. Trenell was a fine heavy bellringer, who afterwards took part in many peals with the College Youths.

In 1929 the bells of St. Olave's were rehung and two trebles were added by the Whitechapel foundry, making them a very handy octave. A good many peals have since been rung on them in all the Standard methods, the most notable being one in which every member of the band had already scored over a thousand peals.

**A SWEDISH TRANSLATION OF 'THE NINE TAILORS'***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I notice a suggestion that a 720 of Stedman Minor may not have been rung since December 16th, 1819. Some 35 years ago I saw Thurstans' composition of a 720, with the result that it was rung one evening at St. Michael's, Garston.

Being confined to my bed in a Glasgow hotel with influenza, I have no means of giving you the date in this letter.

By the same post as 'The Ringing World' there arrived for me a copy of 'De Nio Malarna,' just published in Stockholm. This is a Swedish translation of 'The Nine Tailors.' With it was a charming note from Miss Sonja Bergvall, the translator, thanking me for some slight help I was able to give to her, and to this she kindly refers in the preface.

My attempts to read Swedish have so far been confined to two or three technical papers on cement, but I hope to read 'De Nio Malarna' to see how far Miss Bergvall has succeeded in the most difficult task of translating such a book.

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

**EALING**—On Sunday, November 26th, at St. Stephen's, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 42 minutes: J. A. Trollope 1, J. E. Churchill 2, Miss I. Hastie 3, P. E. Clark 4, M. Stacey 5, E. C. S. Turner 6, W. G. Wilson (conductor) 7, F. Miller 8. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the second.

**PEALS OF DOUBLES.**

**THE PRESENT ILLOGICAL POSITION.**

Now that the activities of ringers are so seriously curtailed, there may be opportunity to discuss in these columns some of the subjects connected with ringing, which will not be any the worse for ventilation, and may serve to keep interest alive in these slack days.

For instance, although the Central Council, when it met at Canterbury, settled to its own satisfaction the question of what should be recognised as a peal of Doubles, it actually left the matter in a very unsatisfactory state. The members did not visualise all the consequences of their decision. What the Council did was to concentrate attention on Grandsire, and it is doubtful if any thought at that time was given to Stedman. And Stedman Doubles offers an interesting problem in the light of the decision laid down.

The Council decided that a peal of Doubles shall consist of 5,040 or more changes, rung in:—

(a) True and complete Six-Scores, without interval between any two Six-Scores, and without rounds or any other row being struck more than once before the next change is made.

(b) Round blocks consisting of two or more Six-Scores, provided that each of the Six-Scores which comprise the round blocks shall be itself a true and complete round block.

(c) Twelve-Scores known as Morris' and Pitman's.

(d) Combinations of (a), (b) and (c) above, or any two of them.

Thus the Council said that if the following 240 be rung one or more times in a 5,040, it may be called a peal.

2345	S 5423	S 3542	S 4352	— 4532	S 2543	S 4253
	S 3254	— 4235	— 5243	S 2345	— 4325	— 5342
	S 4532	S 5342	S 3452	— 4523	S 5243	S 2453
	4253	5234	3245	4352	5324	2345

But if you want your peal recognised, you may not ring the first three blocks and repeat them, although that would produce exactly the same changes, with the last half in a different order. Neither may you ring the last three blocks and repeat them, although this arrangement would also produce exactly the same changes as in the original. And yet these are 240's made up by repetition of the two halves of Pitman's composition!

There are other types of 240 excluded by the resolution which are just as 'true,' if such things can come within the category of what has hitherto been deemed 'true' in ringing.

For example, is there any logical reason for ruling out the following 240's, which are as near truth, in the separate six-scores, as Pitman's and nearer truth than Morris' P—

2345	3245	2345	3245
2534	3524	2534	3524
S 4325	S 4235	S 4325	S 4235
— 2543	— 3542	— 4532	— 4523
S 3425	S 2435	— 3245	— 2345
3542	2543	3524	2534
S 2435	S 3425	— 2435	— 3425
— 3524	— 2534	— 2543	— 3542
S 4235	S 4325	S 3425	S 2435
4523	4532	3542	2543
S 3245	S 2345	— 4235	— 4325
— 4532	— 4523	4523	4532
— 3245	— 2345	S 3245	S 2345

Thus it will be seen that the Council's definition of a peal of Doubles, even in Grandsire, excludes compositions of exactly like character, which is entirely absurd, whichever side you take in the argument as to what should constitute a true peal of Doubles.

Then take Stedman. Peals of Stedman Doubles are not infrequently rung and deserve some consideration.

It would probably be possible to compose a peal of Stedman Doubles in one part and conform to the Council's definition. Equally it would be possible to compose a peal in one part which did not conform to the definition and yet include each change 42 times and no more.

Restrictions of space prevent printing examples of such peals here, but below are given two 'touches' of Stedman Doubles. One conforms to the Council's ruling; the other doesn't. Yet they contain

all the 120 changes the same number of times each, and they are produced by the same number of calls.

How many ringers are there, even among those who decided the future of a peal of Doubles, who can say which of the two, incorporated in a peal, would be recognised under the definition and which would not and why one should be accepted if the other is rejected? The rows are the six-ends, and the two 600's are divided into five columns representing 120 changes each.

23145	14253	15243	13245	13254
34251	45132	54132	34152	35142
S 34521	45321	54321	34521	35421
42315	52413	42513	42315	52314
S 42135	52134	S 42153	S 42135	S 52134
23451	23541	25431	23451	23541
23514	23415	25314	23514	23415
31245	31254	S 51234	31245	31254
31452	31542	51342	31452	31542
15324	14325	14523	15324	14325
S 15234	S 14235	S 14253	15243	S 14235
53142	43152	45132	54132	43152
53421	43521	45321	54321	S 43512
32514	32415	52413	42513	31425
S 32154	S 32145	S 52143	S 42153	31254
25341	24351	24531	25431	15342
25413	24513	24315	25314	15423
51234	41235	41253	51243	S 51243
51342	41352	41532	51432	52431
14523	15423	13425	13524	23514
S 14253	S 16243	S 13245	S 13254	23145

23145	42153	41523	34215	13542
34251	25431	12435	41352	S 34152
S 34521	25314	12354	41523	34521
42315	S 51234	25143	12435	42315
42153	51342	S 25413	12354	42153
25431	14523	51234	S 25134	25431
S 25341	14235	51342	25341	25314
54213	43152	14523	54213	S 51234
54132	S 43512	14235	54132	51342
43521	31425	S 43125	43521	14523
S 43251	31254	43251	43215	14235
35412	15342	35412	S 31425	43152
35124	15423	35124	31254	S 43512
52341	S 52143	52341	15342	31425
S 52431	52431	52413	15423	31254
23514	23514	S 21543	52134	15342
23145	23145	21435	S 52314	15423
34251	34251	13254	21543	S 52143
S 34521	34512	13542	21435	52431
42315	S 41352	34125	13254	23514
42153	41523	S 34215	13542	23145

All this, of course, appears to favour the argument of those who would admit anything as a peal of Doubles as long as each change appears 42 times in a recognised method, because once a break is made in the recognised practice of requiring true extents there is no logical argument against any form of composition, good or bad.

To carry the Council's policy to its logical conclusion, both the above 'touches' of Stedman must be admitted in a peal and so must the alternative 240's of Grandsire which are printed above. Also, we ought to admit 240's made up of:—

2345
2534
— 3425
— 2534
— 3425

Five times repeated with a single half-way at end. And having gone that far we should accept the same calling repeated 83 times with a single half-way and end; that is to say a peal of Grandsire Doubles with only two singles. Further, we should recognise 5,040's of Stedman Doubles with only two singles and made up otherwise entirely of plain courses!

**THE LATE ALFRED PYE.**

**FUNERAL AT ALDBOROUGH HATCH.**

Mr. Alfred Pye, who, as announced in our last issue, died suddenly on December 12th at the age of 78, was buried at Aldborough Hatch Churchyard on Saturday, the 16th.

Among those present were Messrs. G. W. Steere, C. J. Matthews and Arthur Hardy, of the Cumberland Youths; James E. Davis and George Lucas, of the Middlesex County Association; and E. J. Butler, J. W. Butler, W. Watson, G. Dawson and J. H. Crampion, of the Essex Association.

We hope to give some particulars of Mr. Pye's ringing career in a future issue.

**GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF SWINDON BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch was held on Dec. 9th and the attendance was rather poor. Ringing took place during the afternoon and ranged from rounds and Grandsire Doubles to Kent Royal. Tea and meeting followed, at which all the branch officers were re-elected. The towers for the next three meetings are (D.V.) Stratton St. Margaret; St. Mark's, Swindon, and Redbourne Cheney. Members attended from various towers in the branch, with visitors from Cirencester and Trowbridge.



## THE DEKYNS OF COVENTRY.

### THE BIRTH OF THE RINGING EXERCISE.

(Continued from page 758.)

In addition to the ringing before the services there was ringing which was done during the services as part of the ritual. The two dekyms took turns monthly to ring the sacring bell at High Mass on Sundays and holy days. Evidently this was not a handbell, but a small bell hung on the screen or wall of the choir. No doubt they also rang the sanctus bell, but of that there is no mention.

There was also ringing during the procession before High Mass, for which the dekyms were responsible. This was not merely knolling by a single bell, but all the tunable bells in the steeple were rung up as high as they could be.

How, we may ask, could the dekyms, busied with their other duties, attend to this ringing? Of course they could not.

In the early days of the Church, when the buildings were small and the services simple, the priest himself rang the bell that summoned the faithful. In some cases it was a handbell, in others a small bell hung on the roof with a cord coming down inside the building.

As time went on and towers were built and heavier bells were cast, and as the services became more elaborate, the ringing was (with other things) entrusted to assistants, who became the clerks in minor orders. So long as only one bell was used, and that could be rung from the floor of the church, they could quite easily include the bell ringing among the other things they had to do to assist the priest at the altar. But when the bells were heavy, when the ringer had to climb a lofty staircase or ladder and especially when several bells had to be rung and not merely tolled, this was no longer possible.

Part of the difficulty was got over by providing the small saunce bells, which were light enough to be rung by a cord coming down to the floor of the church. It is not, I think, known when these bells were introduced, but they were in general use in the fourteenth century. Soon afterwards, and especially in the fifteenth century, the number of bells in the towers of the parish churches was increased. It was no longer possible for the clerks to ring them and attend to their other duties, and so another set of men had to be employed.

In earlier times that would have meant adding to the number of men in minor orders, and there would have been an order of ringers to take their places alongside the ostiarii or door keepers. But in the fourteenth century the time for that sort of thing had long since gone by. The customs and traditions of the Church had crystallised. In theory the clerks were still supposed to do all the ringing themselves, but in practice they had to get others to help them. It was the natural and obvious thing to pick a few strong, lusty young fellows and send them up into the tower to pull on the ropes. So was born the ringing Exercise.

At Holy Trinity, Coventry, it seems that the first dekyne controlled the ringing at procession time and gave the necessary signals to the ringers by knolling the saunce bell, but the second dekyne was responsible for providing half the number of ringers.

Now we must notice that the ringers, as such, did not receive any regular status in the parochial organisa-

tion. They were not the servants of the church, nor were they employed by the church. The parish dealt with the dekyne and the dekyne dealt with the ringers. It was so everywhere, and it continued to be so for five centuries. How much this fact affected and still affects the ringing Exercise is not easy to say.

Once a year, on All Hallows' Eve, the bells were rung throughout the night. It was a very old custom, the origin of which, I believe, is unknown. Perhaps it was a pagan survival and was connected with the belief in evil spirits, which was strong in the Middle Ages and especially in connection with death. The ringing was supposed in some way to benefit all Christian souls. And much in the same way, that in later years, the people of the parish gave to the ringers at Christmas time, so in these old days they collected for the ringers at All Hallows-tide. At evening on All Saints' Day the two dekyms went through the church, the first dekyne on the north side and the second dekyne on the south side and gathered the money.

Notwithstanding the many changes in doctrine and ritual during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Church of England is (or, at any rate, until lately was) the most conservative Church in Christendom. Her organisation, customs, and traditions went back to remote ages. And especially was this so in the parochial life. Throughout the Reformation period, and even throughout the time of the Commonwealth, the parochial organisation remained unchanged. The parish clerks and sextons of post-Reformation times were the successors of the clerks in the Middle Ages, holding the same office and discharging the same duties adapted to the changes in ritual and doctrine. The two dekyms of Coventry were the predecessors of the later clerks and sextons, and, indeed, in the regulations drawn up at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, London, in 1467, only five years after those at Coventry, they are so called by name. In smaller parishes the two offices were often held by the same man; and, as in early times, the bells and ringing were in the charge of the clerks, so they continued to be in the hands of their successors. For instance, in 1628 the following rule was passed at Newcastle-under-Lyme—'June 10. It is agreed that Thomas Harrison the Church Clarke shall not suffer any peal to be rung, upon pain of twelve pence, without the consent of Mr. Mayor or his deputy for the time being except to prayers and burials and that sparingly.'

Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and well down into the nineteenth we never came across an instance where the ringers were appointed or paid by the churchwardens directly. And of any contact between the clergy and the ringers there is absolutely no trace whatever.

I have pointed out elsewhere that the very unsatisfactory state of the Exercise in the nineteenth century was largely due to the fault of the clergy, who grossly neglected their ringers and made no attempt to see that they were recruited from suitable classes. It is easy to attribute this to the sloth and apathy of the eighteenth century, but it would be wrong. The cause is far deeper seated.

It is held by competent authorities that the incumbent has the sole control of the bells, the ringers, and the ringing; and that he alone can say when they shall

(Continued on next page.)

## THE DEKYNS OF COVENTRY.

(Continued from previous page.)

be rung and by whom. The church laws (canons they are called) instruct the churchwardens to prevent superstitious ringing, but give them no authority to order or allow any ringing themselves. No doubt this has always been the law, but when we study what we know of the history of the past we get a considerably different impression. The incumbent was the chief man in the parochial organisation, but he was not the only one who held authority. The churchwardens acted independently and on behalf of the laity, to whom very often the bells were important things. The clerk was subordinate to both, but he was not merely their servant. His office was a freehold and he could not be dismissed at pleasure any more than the parson could. As we have seen, by custom and prescription the bells and ringing were within his province. The clergy did not consider that those matters were their concern, and it is likely that any attempt at interference by them would have been resented.

The Coventry manuscripts, supplemented by the statutes of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street (1467), and other evidence, give us a good deal of information as to the ringing of bells in mediæval times and the beginnings of the Exercise. We can see that the tale which is sometimes told of bells being considered such sacred things that they might only be rung by priests vested in surplices, is a mere fable. We can see also that there was no room for guilds of ringers in the Middle Ages, though we are sometimes told that there were such. The Guild of Westminster was unique and had no compeer or successor. The societies of ringers which sprang up towards the end of the sixteenth century had their origin in the practice of ringing as a secular sport and were totally unconnected with any parochial organisation. Nor did they comprise more than a small and select part of the Exercise.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**WINDSOR, BERKS.**—On Thursday evening, December 14th, at the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans) to commemorate the 44th birthday of His Majesty. F. V. H. Sinkins 1, W. Birmingham 2, T. Smith 3, W. W. Phipps 4, J. A. Glass 5, G. Burgess 6, E. S. T. Farr (conductor) 7, F. Simmonds 8. Also 272 Bob Major, in which Sergt. Ford, of the Grenadier Guards, stationed at Windsor, took part. Previous to the outbreak of war Sergt. Ford was a member of the Manchester Police Force.

**SALISBURY.**—At St. Martin's Church for morning service on Sunday, December 10th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 minutes by J. Thompson 1, J. E. Figgures 2, A. Bennett 3, A. Fry 4, W. A. Romaine 5, A. Scuthey 6, F. W. Romaine (conductor) 7, W. Chalk 8. This was also a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 6th on his 70th birthday.

**STREATHAM.**—On Sunday, November 26th, for morning service at St. Leonard's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): C. A. Button 1, T. W. Taffender (conductor) 2, E. L. Miles 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, J. W. Chapman 6, T. E. Taffender 7, E. Wright 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. James George.

**MARSTON MAGNA, SOMERSET.**—At the Parish Church on Saturday, November 25th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles: Percy N. G. Rainey (conductor) 1, Frederick J. Reeves 2, William A. Osborne 3, Percy H. Wilham 4, Thomas J. Setter 5, Gilbert C. Bugby 6. First quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles by the ringers of 2, 4, 5 and tenor. Rung for the wedding of one of the local ringers.

**WEST BROMWICH.**—On Sunday, November 19th, for evensong at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,274 changes) (taken from Holt's Original Norman Hadley 1, William Peart 2, William Partridge 3, Herbert Howe 4, Frederick Horsfield 5, Maurice G. Turner (conductor) 6, Albert Mills 7, Samuel Loach 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Messrs. Herbert Howe and Samuel Loach.

**WATFORD, HERTS.**—On Sunday, November 12th, for Remembrance Day service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled: L. C. Webb 1, D. Laud 2, A. W. Dix 3, F. Bullock 4, S. H. Hoare (conductor) 5, F. H. Crook 6, R. G. Bell 7, D. Pearson 8.

## 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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**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.—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.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A quarterly meeting will be held at LONG ASHTON on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Further ringing after the meeting.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Service at the Cathedral at 3 p.m., to be followed by business meeting and tea, at St. Maurice's Hall. The Cathedral and St. Maurice's Church bells will be available from 1.45 to 3 p.m. It is particularly requested that those requiring tea shall notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch. The annual meeting will be held at St. John's, Devizes, on January 6th. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. It is essential that those requiring tea should notify me by January 4th.—W. C. West, 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Dorchester Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells at Charminster and Fordington available from 3 p.m., St. Peter's from 4. Service in St. Peter's Church at 4.30. Tea in the Moule Institute, adjoining Fordington Church, at 5.30. Business meeting to follow. Please notify by Tuesday, Jan. 9th, how many we may expect.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Barnsley, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 5 p.m. Tea in Rectory Rooms, Huddersfield Road, 5.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 11th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.**—The 19th annual dinner will be held at the Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol, on Saturday, January 20th, at 5 p.m. Tickets 4/6 each. Chairman, Mr. W. Abrahams. The Very Rev. the Dean of Bristol is chief guest. Ringing at Temple Church 1.30 p.m. Annual meeting at St. Thomas' Church Room 2.30 p.m. Ringing at St. Nicholas' 3.45 p.m. Please obtain tickets early.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Secretary, 46a, Tankards Close, Bristol, 2.

**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.

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#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Will ringers please note that the address of Mr. A. C. Pankhurst, Hon. Sec. of Eastern Division, Sussex Association, is now 11, Salehurst Road, Old Town, Eastbourne.

The address of Mr. R. C. H. Connolly is now 27, Monmouth Road, Watford, Herts. Telephone No. 5660.

#### SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.**—At the Parish Church of St. Michael for evensong on Sunday, December 3rd, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples (1,260 changes): T. Ward 1, R. Wood 2, W. T. Prior 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bird 5, H. M. White 6, E. Ansell 7, W. Wilkinson 8.

**STREATHAM.**—On Advent Sunday, December 3rd, at Emmanuel Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 45 minutes: C. A. Button 1, T. H. Taffender 2, H. G. Andrews 3, C. Potheary 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, L. G. Franks 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, F. Hopgood 8.

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