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LONDON'S LOSSES—AND THE FUTURE

Londoners who love the churches of the city, and the millions of others who hold those hallowed places in reverent respect, even though they may never have entered their portals, have learned with horror of the unforgivable vandalism of the Germans who, in their hate and probably despair of bringing England to her knees, endeavoured to fire the city, and in that endeavour brought destruction upon at least nine of the city churches. Next to the loss of life and the destruction of hospitals, the devastation of churches probably strikes at the hearts and raises the wrath of the people more than anything else, and in no previous raid over the metropolis, as far as we know, has so much damage been done to those sacred buildings as was done on Sunday. It is indeed a sad tale of loss. Two of the churches, St. Lawrence Jewry and St. Bride's, Fleet Street, are world famous, and by all ringers are held in an honoured place among the churches of London.

This wanton destruction is part of the price we have to pay in the fight for freedom against tyranny, part of the price which is involved in saving the very faith for which the churches have stood as witness for hundreds of years. But the churches will rise again; the barbarian has never stamped out the faith born nineteen hundred and forty years ago, nor will he to-day. The faith will never die, and all his vandalism will come to nought, for the undying spirit of the British people will only be stirred to greater effort by this vicious attempt to fire the city and with it the treasures handed down to us through the centuries. The fury of the Germans in their disappointment will avail them nothing. Britain, with London at its core, stands steady as a rock, and the pointless and indiscriminate murder and destruction which are being perpetrated will some day bring their retribution.

The new year upon which we have just entered may, indeed probably will, inflict upon us all even grimmer trials, and as ringers we still have to forego our own particular service to the Church and the practice of our art. The Archbishop of Canterbury, it is learned, made strong representations to the Secretary of War for the shifting of the ban for Christmas and the Sunday services, but the reply has been that there are still military reasons for its maintenance. In view of this, there is no immediate prospect of the sounding of the church bells, except in the face of a national danger, and all who love the sound of bells must endeavour to possess their souls in patience. In the meantime ringers in the towers are gradually diminishing in numbers; the call to arms is taking away the younger men. Those who remain, how-

(Continued on page 2.)

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ever, need not abandon hope. There is a task to be done in the coming year. Everywhere there should be an effort made to teach new ringers. They can be taught how to handle a rope, on a clapperless bell; they can be instructed in change ringing by the use of handbells. Whatever happens, we ought to make sure that we have enough men and women, boys or girls, in our towers to ring the bells when victory is assured, and if the present enforced silence is not conducive to teaching the young idea how to strike—well, we think the people will be so glad to hear the bells again that at first it will not matter very much. This may seem heresy to some, but in our view the most important thing that lies before the ringers at the moment is to ensure sufficient personnel to ring with tolerable efficiency when the time comes to let the clappers loose again. The finer arts of striking can be taken in hand as soon as our ears once more come into play.

Actually there is no need for idleness in the belfry. This training of beginners should go on as far as the present restrictions permit. It may not be very interesting to the instructors, but even a wearying task may be well worth while in the end. And then, too, much more might be made of handbell practice than seems at present to be done. It is not at all essential that handbells should always be rung double-handed, even though it should be the ultimate aim of the ringers. But single-handed ringing can be a valuable help, both in keeping method ringing fresh and extending the scope of the band. New methods can be mastered against the day when tower bells once more come into their own, and when it will require all our endeavours to reinstate both the art and the Exercise in the position it occupied before the war. The year 1941 calls for a supreme effort in every direction; it calls equally upon ringers to put their best into building up their bands against losses, and preparing for the brighter days ahead. Let our endeavours be directed to saving the art so that it may be restored rapidly after the war. We cannot afford to neglect such effort now; we must continue with unflagging energy to 'go to it.'

USE OF CHURCH BELLS AT DEATHS AND BURIALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The use of church bells in connection with deaths and burials still seems of interest. In my early days, some 65 years back, after I had learnt to manage a bell, Mr. Gatland would sometimes ask me to do duty for him.

The custom at Steyning was to use two bells, one called the little knell (the 4th) for those up to 14 years of age, and the big knell (the tenor) for those over that age.

The bell was chimed on the swing for the three times three for the male, and three times two for the female, and then raised to a set pull. The bell was pulled off one stroke, at intervals of about three minutes (a little extra set being given to make more sure of the bell being set each stroke). This was rung for one hour, the bell then lowered and the same number of strokes chimed as at the beginning. A fee of one shilling was paid. The same procedure was adopted at the committal, but the bell was not raised. C. TYLER.

MR. C. W. ROBERTS' ARTICLE. A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should be glad if you would correct two small misprints in my article on Stedman Caters, for which my writing may be responsible. In the last sentence in paragraph 3 the word 'dominates' should be 'eliminates,' and the number of changes in peal No. 4 should be 5,031.

Should this article prove sufficiently interesting to the Exercise, I will follow it up with others, describing other little-known plans of composition.

Wishing you a happy and, I hope, a victorious New Year.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

DOWN THE AGES.

ANNIVERSARIES IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Three hundred years ago the Exercise was already a century old, perhaps more, though as yet ringers were a long way off looking on themselves as members of a body with common aims and common interests, and the art of change ringing was a comparatively new thing which was practised only in the more advanced and select circles.

At Cambridge, at Oxford, and in London, the young men of the Universities and the Inns of Court looked on ringing much as their successors to-day look on football and cricket, and it was among them that the new style of changes was introduced in place of the older raising, round ringing and ceasing. So much advance had already been made that about 1641 the first six-score of Doubles was rung.

The leading society in London for many years had been the Schollers of Cheapside, but they had passed their prime, and the state of their records for the year 1641 shows that there was not much life left in them.

At the other end of the town the new Society of College Youths, which had been founded four years earlier, had already taken its place as the leading company of the Exercise. What they were then doing we do not know. The man who held the office of Master for the greater part of the year, Mathias Burnaby, is to us no more than a name, and all we know of his successor, Thomas Joyce, is that he was the son of a gentleman who lived at Sturminster in Dorset, and that a few years before he had matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, at the age of 17.

We pass over a hundred years, and when we come to 1741 the Exercise had already taken the form it showed until about fifty or sixty years ago, and the art and science of change ringing were full grown. In London, at any rate, peal ringing was recognised as a normal thing in a ringer's life, though naturally neither the number of peals nor the number of methods was anything like what it has since become.

The most active company was the Eastern Scholars, who had been founded in 1733, and numbered several clever ringers among their members. Their first peal in the year was 5,040 changes of Double Bob Major at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on the new ring which not long before had been supplied by the Whitechapel foundry to the rebuilt church. John Sharpe called the bobs. He is one of the men whose names were quite forgotten in after years, but in his own time he was an important person in London belfries. Philemon Mainwaring rang the tenor. He was another who did much for London ringing, and as a tenor man has earned a place among the greatest. John Blake, who rang the sixth, and Thomas Bennett, who rang the seventh, were also leading ringers, and at one time or another both belonged to almost every one of the great societies.

The Eastern Scholars' next performance was one of outstanding interest and merit, for it was the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal ever rung. It was at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, on April 7th. Mainwaring called the bobs from the ninth, and the other men we have mentioned were in the band with Robert Windleborough as tenor man. The number of changes was

5,200, but the figures of the composition have not survived, and we do not know what it was like.

The College Youths were having a very quiet time so far as peal ringing was concerned, and they scored only one during the whole year. This slackness was probably the result of the quarrels and jealousies which were so frequent in the old companies, and which had divided the College Youths into Annable's party and John Cundell's party, with a number of more or less neutral men who had no objection to ringing with either.

Slack as they were at the time, the College Youths could hardly take the Eastern Scholars' peal of Royal as otherwise than a challenge to their supremacy, and since they could not ring the first they determined to show that at least they could equal it, so on May 30th they, too, rang 5,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal and in the same steeple.

Both companies erected boards to commemorate their performances, and sixty years ago both boards still existed. Now that of the College Youths only remains. It does not give the names of the performers, but it has a rhyming couplet which has given rise to some speculation:—

When merit's justly due a little praise then serveth.
A good peal needs no frame, a bad one none deserveth.

It has been suggested, and even definitely stated, that this couplet is proof that the first peal was false, or at any rate a bad one. The assumption is quite unwarranted, for no claim was made either on the board or in the peal book, that the College Youths' performance was the first true peal in the method, and the sentiment expressed by the couplet is, after all, pretty trite and commonplace.

Annable composed the peal and rang in it, but for once he did not call the bobs. Richard Spicer was the conductor, and so he was in the next peal the society rang, which was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in the following year.

It was at this time, and also at St. Sepulchre's, that the College Youths rang Court Bob Royal for the first time. The method was an extension by Annable of the London Court Bob Major, which was practised by the metropolitan ringers and afterwards by some of the provincial bands. It was decidedly inferior to Norwich Court Bob Royal, and the London men evidently did not think it was worth while ringing a peal of it. Norwich Court Bob Major had not yet reached London, but was already being rung in the city of its birth, and Edward Crane called the first peal at St. Michael's Coslany in the following year. (The date in 'The Norwich Gazette' is March 9th, 1741. But that would be in 'old style,' in which the year began and ended on March 21st.)

The Eastern Scholars rang four more peals in 1741. They were 5,040 Bob Major (the first in the method) at St. Nicholas', Deptford; 6,160 Bob Major at St. John's, Hillingdon; 5,120 Oxford Treble Bob at All Saints', Fulham; and the first peal of Bob Major at St. Mary's, Mortlake. John Sharpe called the first three and John Bradshaw the other one.

The only other London society to ring a peal in 1841 was the Union Scholars, who rang 5,040 Bob Major on November 23rd at Fulham. The band was made up largely by men who had seceded from the Eastern Scholars on account of one of the quarrels which were so frequent at the time. It included Sharpe, who probably conducted.

(Continued on next page.)

RINGING IN THE PROVINCES.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

(Continued from previous page.)

Very little information has come down to us about ringing in the provinces, and the only peal during the year of which we have any record was one of Grandsire Triples at Coddendam in Suffolk. Theodore Eccleston, a wealthy young man, who lived at Mortlake and was a member of the Society of Eastern Scholars, had inherited an estate in Suffolk, and he gave a ring of eight bells to Coddendam Church, and another of ten to Stonham Aspal. He got together a band of ringers, and induced leading men to go and live in the country to act as instructors and conductors. John Sharpe went down there a few years later, and William Walker from Richmond, and Andrew Field, a College Youth.

The first man to act as conductor was John Foster, whom we have already met as the landlord of the Eight Bells tavern at Norwich, and the ringer of the sixth to the first peal of Stedman Triples at Mancroft in 1731. He called John Garthon's composition, and the peal board records it as 'Caterines Triples.' Afterwards he went to Lincoln and called the peal again at St. Peter Arches in that city.

The year 1741 was not a very eventful one, and the number of peals rung was, even for the time, small.

PEALS IN 1841.

Neither was the year 1841 one of any particular importance in the history of the Exercise, and especially so in London. The College Youths rang but three peals—Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lewisham, Grandsire Caters at Leeds in Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. James', Bermondsey. They were at a turning point in their history, when old conditions were passing away, and the younger and more vigorous men who were to re-establish the ascendancy of the society on a different basis had not yet obtained control.

I regret I cannot give full particulars of the peals of the year, for the war has shut up my sources of information other than those already in my possession, and my detailed research work has not yet covered the middle of the nineteenth century.

In the provinces the leading companies were at Norwich, where the Norwich Scholars still maintained their high reputation, though they rang very few peals; at Birmingham, where such famous ringers as Thomas Thurstans, Isaac John Lates, Thomas Day and Henry Johnson were in their prime; and at Sheffield, where during the year Thomas Hudson called a peal of Stedman Caters. There was also a good band at Leeds, and the first peal of Cinques in Yorkshire was rung on the new bells of the Parish Church.

THE ART ON THE DOWN GRADE.

Taking the country at large, the Exercise and the art of change ringing were on the down grade, and the decline continued until it reached bottom level ten years or so later. Then, after an interval of about twenty years, began a slow but steady revival which at length has given us the Exercise we know to-day.

Half a century later the year 1891 brings us into the period which fairly belongs to the modern history of change ringing. The Exercise was then completely organised, and the year saw the first meeting of the Central Council, which took place at the Inns of Court Hotel, in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Easter Tuesday,

That, of course, was an outstanding event, but otherwise nothing happened during the year of any marked importance. Peal ringing had increased enormously during the half-century, and that year's total reached 878. The methods most rung were Grandsire Triples 269, Treble Bob Major 138, Stedman Triples 103, Bob Major 64, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 40. Only two peals of London Surprise were rung, and both were at Duffield and were conducted by Sir Arthur Heywood. Peals of Cambridge Surprise Major numbered only 3, and Superlative only 5.

TRIPLES METHODS.

There was considerably greater variety in seven-bell methods than in more recent years. Union Triples was enjoying a temporary popularity, and 15 peals of it were rung, as were 15 peals of Oxford Bob Triples and two of Court Bob. John Carter introduced during the year a method which he called Darlaston Bob Triples, but which was really College Single Triples. Four peals of it were rung, and the popularity of Plain Bob Triples was shown by as many as 29 peals. Methods which now are considered irregular and obsolete were Violet Treble Bob Major 1 peal, Woodbine Treble Bob Major 1, Canterbury Pleasure Triples 3, and Canterbury Pleasure Major 13.

On the higher numbers was the first peal of Duffield Maximus rung at Birmingham and conducted by Heywood, as well as peals of Grandsire Cinques 2, Stedman Cinques 5, and Treble Bob Maximus 4. Two peals of over 10,000 were rung and the Suffolk men got out after ringing 12,320 changes in an attempt for Day's 16,608 of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

In composition, the chief event was the publication by Heywood of his articles on peals of Stedman Caters.

The chief controversy which divided the opinions of ringers was whether seven-bell peals might be rung without a covering tenor.

The most outstanding ringers who passed away during the year were James Lockwood the composer, Captain A. P. Moore, a leading ringer and a bell founder, and Henry Hubbard, the son of the famous Norwich author and composer.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The December meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Rotherham on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Members were present from Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth and Wath.

A room was provided at the Wheatsheaf Hotel for the use of the ringers, and handbells were rung in the afternoon until tea and the usual business meeting. Mr. J. E. Turley, of Handsworth, who had survived the blitz air raid on Sheffield on the previous Thursday, and although he had encountered some inconvenience in transport had made a determined effort to attend, was elected chairman. Mr. Chant proposed and Mr. Gill seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. S. Briggs for the arrangements he had made. The meeting was rather small. Nevertheless, it was a happy gathering.

Further handbell ringing followed, the methods rung during the afternoon and evening being Plain and Double Bob Minor, Treble Bob Minor and touches of Bob Major. A.G.M. at Barnsley, Jan. 11th.

JOHN CHAMBERLIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Borrett's accounts of the old Norwich ringers and especially of John Chamberlin is most interesting. Can he tell us anything of the old Norwich men and what became of their peal books and property? I suppose they had some, for it was the usual thing with these old companies. And how does he reconcile the statement that the Norwich men rang the first peal of Court Bob Royal at St. Peter's Mancroft in 1769 with the entry in James Barham's peal book, which says that 6,720 changes of Court Bob Ten In were rung on January 25th, 1765, at Leeds in Kent?

It would seem that a good many of the claims made for the first peals in different methods in olden times were made in ignorance of what other people had done, and will not really stand a severe test. Still, there may be some explanation.

L. W. BUNCE.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
NORTH DORSET BRANCH MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch was held at Kington Magna on the King's birthday. The Guild office was conducted in All Saints' Church by the branch secretary (the Rev. W. Uphill), and an address appropriate to the Advent season was given by the Rev. Canon Hellins, D.D. The Rector (the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, hon secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild) was at the organ, and after the Magnificat a sacred melody was played on handbells by four boys, who also assisted in the accompaniment of Psalm cl. The service was notable for the effective singing of the score or so of male voices, which rose to a grand climax in 'God save the King.'

Tea was enjoyed at the School, and there were no symptoms of rationing!

The business meeting followed, Dr. Hellins presiding.

The branch secretary submitted an interim statement of accounts, showing a credit balance of £20 10s. 1d.

The Rev. Dr. Hellins was re-elected chairman, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards deputy chairman, the Rev. W. Uphill secretary.

Mr. E. Coward stated that he was soon due to be called up, and on his proposal Messrs. W. Shute and L. Perrett were elected joint Ringing Masters.

Messrs. M. Brown and S. Braddick were appointed members of committee.

Mr. F. Fowler, of Stourton, was elected member, and another Mr. F. Fowler, who is stationed at Mere on military service, a life member.

The Rev. W. Uphill reported that he had represented the branch at the funeral of the late Mr. Walter Jackson, of Childe Okeford, whose death after a short illness inflicted a severe loss both on the Guild and on the parish, where he had done invaluable work in training young ringers and had exercised a strong influence for good on the lads of the village.

Mr. W. Hinks, a member of the Stour and Avon Catchment Board, who as churchwarden was present at the meeting, also testified to Mr. Jackson's sterling qualities as an employe of that body and the deep regret felt by the members of the Board at his decease.

All those present stood in silence as a tribute of respect to his memory.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Hellins for his address, to the Rector and to the ladies kindly undertaking the arrangements for tea, was proposed by the secretary and carried with applause.

Although the day was one of incessant rain, six towers were represented, Gillingham, Mere, Stourton, Zeals, Hazelbury Bryan and Kington Magna, and one enthusiast cycled over twenty miles to attend. Methods practised on handbells included Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob.

**HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.
THE REV. A. S. ROBERTS' EXPERIENCE.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I gladly tell 'Nemo' of the introduction of handbell ringing here. Some weeks ago I introduced handbells at a meeting of our Fellowship of Youth, and, being favourably impressed, I told the members that we would look forward to ringing them in church at Christmas. Handbell practice became a feature of our weekly gatherings, and the Sunday week before Christmas, when announcing the services for the festival, I said what was to be done, and that we hoped to ring handbells before certain services.

The church being blacked out, we rang before the Midnight Mass and again before the ordinary morning service on Christmas Day. We have received no requests to repeat our performances because I had announced also that the ringing would continue each Sunday morning and evening afterwards, but we have had many words of appreciation.

The arrangements for ringing are as follows: The tower here is at the north-east corner of the church, and the handbells are arranged in pairs in a circle on a soft rug under the tower arch, which is actually between the high altar and lady chapel altar. About a quarter of an hour before the beginning of the service I go to the choir vestry to fetch the young men who are either in the choir or servers, and, each wearing his cassock, we go into the church. We begin with a short collect, standing in front of the separate pairs of handbells, and then ring for approximately four minutes, we then stop for two minutes, and those who have duties to do leave, whilst others, some being young women, take over the bells. A further four minutes' ringing, and the organist commences playing immediately, which is roughly five minutes before the service is due to begin.

At Christmas we rang rounds and 'Queens' very creditably on our ring of twelve (tenor size 20 in E flat). Of course, it will be a long time before we advance beyond this on twelve, but I hope we shall do more on lesser numbers.

At a practice I listened with others to the ringing from various parts of the church, but the best effect was when one entered the porch and door, for to be greeted by the sound of bells was most inspiring and realistic. An interest and keenness has been created by our innovation. I recommend that the ringers are towards the east end of the church so that they can be seen, for this will prevent much turning of heads amongst the assembling congregation in an effort to see what is being done.

To change the subject, may I say that I hope that all the records of peals rung at St. Nicholas', Bristol, have not been lost. I remember the late Mr. Uriah Braven showing me the peal books belonging to this tower when I was at his house several years ago; they were in his keeping.

A. S. ROBERTS.

Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

At a recent meeting of the Blandford Clerical Club a paper was read by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards on 'The care of our silent bells.' A number of questions were asked and an interesting discussion ensued. Among those present was the Bishop of Sherborne.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples at Bethnal Green by the College Youths. James Pettit called Holt's Original and the band included Matthew Wood, Edward Wallage, Walter Prime and Arthur Hughes. Frederick G. Newman called Brooks' Variation of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples at Sevenoaks, and the Cumberlands rang Stedman Caters at St. Giles', Camberwell, with George Newson as composer and conductor.

Mr. James George, who is still happily making progress, and sends his greetings for the New Year to all his friends, reminds us, in connection with recent events at Coventry, that he is the last survivor of the band that rang Coventry Cathedral bells for the last time. That was on June 28th, 1885. At that period he was living in Coventry and used to ring with the Coventry ringers.

On December 28th, 1820, the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham rang the then longest length of Stedman Cinques, 6,600 changes.

On the same date in 1872 a band was supposed to have rung at Earlsheaton, in Yorkshire, Thomas Day's 16,608 of Kent Treble Bob Major, but it was afterwards admitted that the bells were jumped into rounds at the end.

James W. Washbrook called two long, and at the time record, peals on the last day of the year. One was 12,096 changes of Double Norwich at Maidenhead in 1892, the other was 15,041 changes of Stedman Caters at Appleton in 1888.

New Year's Day was the anniversary of several notable peals. In 1733 the Oxford men rang the first peal in the city. In 1754 the Saffron Walden band rang Holt's Original, the conductor taking a rope. In 1793 James Barham rang his 100th peal, and in 1795 the men of Soham one of the first peals of Double Norwich Court Bob outside Norwich.

On January 4th, 1784, the Oldham men rang 14,480 changes of Bob Major, composed and conducted by Thomas Kay.

A MERSEYSIDE LOSS.

In one of the recent heavy air attacks on Merseyside a church with a well-known ring of twelve bells was almost totally destroyed by fire—but once again the tower withstood the ravages of the flames.

The loss of the church is a sad blow to the community, but the tower may still be found strong enough to enable the bells to be rung for the day of victory.

And later, doubtless, the church itself will rise again, for there has been a church on this site for many centuries.

WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD? QUALITIES WHICH ARE NECESSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Harvey, writing on 'What is a good method?' has certainly provided us with a number of ideals which good methods should fulfil as far as possible. I am glad he quoted the remarks of the Rev. E. Banks James with regard to music; to get the bells coming up behind in the proper coursing order, and to keep the coursing bells as near together as possible seem to be the primary requirements for good music.

Cambridge has gained for itself the position which is occupied by no other Surprise method, for it is undoubtedly the most widely practised of all methods of this class. Why this should be so, I cannot say, for its false course ends allow of only one peal with the tenors together, and, unless my counting has gone astray, there are 90 rows (and not 64 to 72) in the plain course with more than one bell between the tenors. Points in its favour are (1) it allows of pure extension to Royal and Maximus; (2) the bells come up behind in their proper coursing order; and (3) all leading and place-making is made 'hand and back.'

On looking through my collection of Surprise Major Methods, I find one method which stands out above all the others in fulfilling the requirements suggested in Mr. Harvey's letter. This method is Bedford Surprise, composed by Mr. F. Dench and published in 'The Ringing World' of March 10th, 1939. The method has, in my opinion, the following good points: (1) It has only one false course end, 24365; (2) the bells come up behind in their proper coursing order; (3) there are only 54 rows in the plain course with more than one bell between the tenors; (4) the longest period a bell occupies the same set of places is for 14 rows in 3-4; (5) no pair of bells makes more than a double dodge together; (6) it allows of pure extension to Royal and Maximus.

I have never heard the method myself, and so I should be interested to hear the opinion of someone who has rung it, for that, and that alone, is the real test of 'What is a good method?'

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

Highcliffe, 81, County Road, Swindon.

FAMOUS LONDON CHURCHES DESTROYED

ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY AND ST. BRIDE'S
AMONG THEM.

Renowned Rings of Bells.

The pitiful tale of famous London churches and other historical buildings destroyed or damaged by enemy action was seriously added to last Sunday night when the Nazi aircraft dropped thousands of incendiary bombs in the city and started numerous fires, in what was described as a wanton and indiscriminate attack upon non-military objectives.



THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY AS
RINGERS KNEW IT.

The famous Guildhall and eight Wren churches were gutted by fire. The churches were St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Stephen's, Coleman Street; St. Vedast's, Foster Lane; St. Mary's, Aldermanbury; St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe; St. Anne and St. Agnes, Gresham Street; and Christ Church, Newgate Street, as well as St. Mary Woolnoth and St. Mary Matfelon.

The Guildhall has been so completely destroyed that only the shell remains, and with it must have gone many of its treasures. At the beginning of the raid several incendiary bombs fell on the roof, and efforts to extinguish them seemed likely to be successful until the fire at the nearby Church of St. Lawrence Jewry spread to the Guildhall, and the conflagration got beyond control.

Three of the lost churches are of outstanding interest in the history of change ringing, and a fourth possessed one of the three rings of six in the metropolis. Full particulars of the damage to the bells is not yet available, but we fear it will prove to be serious. It is already known, however, that the rings at St. Lawrence and St. Bride's have been destroyed.

St. Lawrence Jewry, which stands in Gresham Street, and from which the blaze spread to the Guildhall, was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of 1666, and was the most expensive of all those designed by him, if we except the steeple at St. Mary-le-Bow. It was especially noted for the plaster work of its ceilings and its wood carvings, the latter being the work of Grinling Gibbons.

THE BELLS OF JEWRY.

The bells were a noble ring of eight, with a tenor of 32 cwt., and in the opinion of many people they ranked among the very best in the country, some going so far as to give them the first place.

They were cast at Whitechapel by James Bartlet in 1679, the tenor being recast by the same founder in 1687, the treble by Pack and Chapman in 1775, and the second by Richard Phelps in 1770. In recent years they had been restored by Mears and Stainbank, and notwithstanding a very long draught of rope the 'go' was as near perfection as possible.

Not many peals have been rung in the steeple, but it was here that on May 17th, 1735, a band of College Youths rang the first peal of Court Bob Major, with Richard Spicer as conductor. The method was that which later was known as Double London Court Bob, though Jasper Snowdon formed the opinion that it was an unknown variation of that method.

No other peal seems to have been rung on the bells until the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, when a peal of Grandsire Triples was accomplished, also by the College Youths. One other we believe has since been rung.

Though the church itself was not very well known, the striking steeple of St. Vedast, Foster Lane, was one of the most familiar sights to the thousands who passed along Newgate Street towards Cheapside. The bells, six in number, were by John Darbie, of Ipswich, and had a tenor of about 18 cwt. They had not been rung for many years.

For some years, under the leadership of Mr. Albert A. Hughes, there has been a regular and enthusiastic band of ringers connected with St. Lawrence. Formed mainly from choirmen and church keepers, they rang the bells regularly every Sunday.

ST. STEPHEN'S, COLEMAN STREET.

The ring at St. Lawrence was the oldest in London, and the next oldest was at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street. That church is also among those destroyed. The bells were cast in 1693 by James Bartlet, with a tenor of 14 cwt. The original treble, second, third, fifth and sixth were still in the tower, but the tenor had been recast by Mears in 1833 and the others by John Waylett in 1772.

In 1733 the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple, one of Bob Triples, with William Loughton as conductor. The next peal was Bob Major by the Eastern Scholars, and an account of that performance was cut in the lead roof of the church, a unique record which has almost certainly now been destroyed.

(Continued on next page.)

DESTRUCTION OF LONDON BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The Eastern Scholars rang another peal of Bob Major in 1747, and after that there are no known performances until the early years of the nineteenth century.

On April 2nd, 1827, the reconstructed St. James' Society rang their first peal at St. Stephen's, and it was followed by several others.

Of late years there has been very little ringing at the church, but two interesting performances took place there. One was the first peal of London Surprise Major in the City of London, which was rung on January 14th, 1890, by a band from Brighton; the other was the first peal by the Irish Association outside Ireland. It was Bob Major on St. Patrick's Day, 1905.

ST. BRIDE'S BELLS LOST.

Deeply as the loss of St. Lawrence's and St. Stephen's bells will be felt, there are many who will regret even more the destruction of Rudhall's fine ring of twelve at St. Bride's, which now lie smashed and destroyed at the base of the famous steeple. The tenor was the first to crash, and it now lies broken into three pieces among the charred remains of the old oak frame.

The roof of the church has gone, the gallery organ and pews are a mass of charred woodwork, and only the stone walls, the tower and the spire remain.

Few, if any, bells have played a greater part in the history of our art. On them was rung the first peal of Caters and the first peal of Cinques, the first peal of Bob Major, the first of Royal and the first of Maximus. For many years the belfry was a stronghold of the College Youths, at the time when Benjamin Annable was their leader, and beneath its shadow at the Barley Mow they held their meetings. Annable himself sleeps within the tower where he was laid in 1756. A full account of the bells and the ringing on them will be found in our issue of May 10th last and the following weeks.

OTHER DAMAGED CHURCHES

St. Mary Woolnoth stands at the junction of Lombard Street and King William Street on one of the most prominent building sites in the whole world. The church was designed by Hawkesmoor, and has a facade with twin towers, which contain two bells.

St. Anne and St. Agnes is a Wren church of no great artistic or historical value. An early ring of five was destroyed by fire as far back as the end of the sixteenth century, since when the church has never had more than two bells.

The two other city churches which have suffered badly are St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, and St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. Both are Wren churches.

Three bells from Avenbury Church in Herefordshire, which was pulled down, were hung in the steeple of St. Andrew's. One of them, dating from the fifteenth century, was credited with curious powers, for it was said to have tolled of its own accord on the deaths of the last two vicars of Avenbury.

St. Mary's is largely associated with Henry Condall, one of Shakespeare's companions, and one of the men who collected and published the great poet's works. He was, there is reason to suppose, the ancestor of John Cundall, who at one time was so prominent a member of the Society of College Youths.

Christ Church, Newgate Street, was originally the church of the Grey Friars, who came to England in 1224.

(Continued in next column.)

THE FIRST PEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your mention of the peal at Woodstock, South Africa, is interesting to myself, as indirectly my father was concerned in its success.

In the year 1882, shortly after my father commenced ringing he changed his lodgings, going to live at Wanstead with Mrs. Priest, mother of Mr. James Priest, one of the band which rang the peal at Woodstock. James Priest and my father were of the same age and became fast friends, and James needed little persuasion to take up ringing. He was an apt pupil and between the years 1882-1890, when he went to South Africa, rang many peals.

When my father left London for a few years to be closer to his home, James followed him and took part in the first peal on Monmouth bells, which was my father's first as conductor. Soon afterwards they both returned to London.

One of my earliest recollections is coming from Wanstead to Leytonstone, where we lived, with Mr. Priest, who was my godfather, and my father after Sunday morning ringing. I also remember his visit to Crayford to say good-bye before sailing.

Mr. Priest was a Cumberland Youth and with this society he rang his last peal before leaving. It was at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and was his first peal on ten bells.

There are at least two ringers living who will remember Mr. Priest, Mr. Rann, of Loughton, and Mr. Harry Brown, of Newport, late of Monmouth. It is quite possible Mr. Fussell may also recollect him.

Shortly before 1890, two good ringers also left Wanstead for South Africa, Lewis Green and Arthur H. Gardom. The latter was also a clever conductor, and it was to the former that Mr. Priest went. I rather fancy Mr. Green retired and returned to England a few years ago, and I am almost certain that he, too, was in the Woodstock peal.

Some five years ago the late Mr. Alfred Pye spent a holiday in South Africa and visited Mr. Priest. He gave me his address and I wrote to him. He replied, but, unfortunately, in moving about, I have lost his letter and have been unable to write since.

E. BARNETT.

THE DESTRUCTION IN LONDON.

(Continued from previous column.)

The building was destroyed in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren. It has a fine tower, but neither in the old church nor in the later one were there more than two bells.

For hours on Sunday night St. Paul's was surrounded by a veritable sea of fire, but we are thankful to say that the noble cathedral came out of the ordeal unscathed.

Other London churches badly damaged in recent raids, which may now be mentioned by name, are St. John's, Horsleydown, where the first peal of Stedman Caters was rung, St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, where for so many years Matthew A. Wood was steeplekeeper, and St. John's, Waterloo Road, where before the last war many Surprise Major peals were rung.

A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Almost surrounded at one time on Sunday evening by a blazing inferno, the famous old Bell Foundry, known to ringers for nearly five centuries, still stands amid a scene of desolation, and we are very glad to be able to say that, despite a terrifying experience, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes are safe. Buildings all around them went up in flames, burning cinders and sparks, falling like a snowstorm, twice set fire to the temporary roof of one of the workshops, and swept through the broken windows of the carpenters' shop, but always providentially failed to get any hold. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and their son stood by, helpless. St. Mary Matfelon Church nearby was ablaze, the bells fell from the tower with a crash that sounded like a bomb and long after the 'raiders past' signal had been given the dangerous and awe inspiring spectacle went on. Then, when the immediate risk to their own home had passed, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes busied themselves with supplying refreshments to firemen who were working heroically to extinguish the fires all about them.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT COLCHESTER.****The Year Reviewed.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on December 7th at All Saints' Parish Church, Colchester, 21 ringers attending from eleven towers, viz., Colchester, Halstead, Thorrington, Tendring, Mistley, Barking, Great Bentley, Braintree, Groton, Harwich and Dedham. Handbell ringing was not indulged in to any great extent, but members seemed content to exchange greetings and talk on the past and present day topics. However, the proceedings, which started at 2 p.m., continued until 9 o'clock.

A service was held in the church at 4 p.m. conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. H. Jack), who gave the members a hearty welcome. He said they were the most enthusiastic of bellringers, otherwise they would not be there. He said how sorry he was for them in not being able to ring the bells owing to the ban. He hoped the day would soon come when they should be ringing the bells again, not for the days of peril, but for peace and great joy in all the world. 'Retain your enthusiasm,' he went on, 'for I fear that when the great day of victory comes, many of our men and the ladies as well will have found new attractions and occupations; strive on and be ready to take your places in the belfries to call people to worship.'

The ringers then returned to the hall for tea, which was followed by the business meeting, with the Master, Mr. G. Waterman, in the chair.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The report of the district secretary (Mr. L. Wright) was read. It was with much regret that in making his first report he was not able to record any great achievements. That, as they knew, was not his fault. During the month of June, campanology for the first time in the history of the art had its activities banned by the Ministry of Home Security. Since then several attempts have been made to get the ban lifted, but so far with no success. The report of the district must not, therefore, be considered too discouraging. During the year one peal was rung, viz., Bob Minor in seven methods, conducted by Urban W. Wildney. Meetings were held at Tendring, Kirby-le-Soken, Ardleigh and All Saints', Colchester, with an average attendance of 20. One honorary and eleven ringing members were elected. The towers in union with the association showed a decrease of one. Ardleigh was rejoining, but Wivenhoe was waiting until after the war before rejoining. Owing to enemy action, one of their churches with its little peal of five no longer existed. The honorary members in the division now numbered seven and ringing members 94. As far as was known, 14 members were now serving in H.M. Forces. If to these names anyone could add others he would be thankful: Noel Foakes and Alfred Osborne, from Mistley; Roger Cadamy, Colchester; Fred Orriss, Great Holland; Victor Morley, Great Tey; Wilfred Gusterson and Jack Edwards, Little Horkesley; Urban Wildney, Kirby-le-Soken; Albert Hales, Tendring; Ernest J. Durrant, Thorpe; Jack Stone, Thorrington; B. Leggett and V. B. Leggett, Wormingford; S. Moss, Mistley. Many hours had been spent with the aid of various tower secretaries in trying to bring the news of the district up to date in the report, and if by chance there were still some mistakes that needed rectifying, he hoped someone will bring them to his notice. Lastly, the secretary thanked all the members, and specially the tower secretaries, for giving him their support and help during a very trying year.

The members expressed their pleasure at this new innovation of a secretary's report for the North-Eastern Division.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Mr. G. Waterman was re-elected to serve as District Master for the ensuing year, and Mr. L. Wright as district secretary.

A new item on the agenda (under Rule 1) was the election of two members to serve on the General Committee, and Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. A. Ellis were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Little Clacton some time in March.

Mr. R. W. Stannard conveyed greetings and good wishes from the Master of the College Youths (Mr. E. G. Fenn), who remarked that it gave him much pleasure to see that they were carrying on. He wished the meeting every success.

The Master then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place in his parish and for his warm welcome and address; also to the organist and the blower for their services.—Mr. C. A. Ellis supported the motion and added a word of praise to the district secretary for his services and the very fine report which he had compiled.

The Master, before closing, expressed his pleasure at the presence at the meeting of Miss Hilda G. Snowdon, hon. district secretary of the Northern Division, and Mr. L. W. Wiffen, of Braintree.

The Vicar then added further words of welcome. It gave him great pleasure to have the ringers at his church and parish, and hoped he would again be with them in happier days.

Handbells were lent by St. Peter's ringers and Mr. W. Chalk.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.**ARCHBISHOP'S REGRET.**

That the people of this country missed the sound of the church bells at Christmas is to be found in evidence forthcoming from every part of the land, but the bells were not forgotten.

In addition to the sound of the bells of Bethlehem heard over the wireless on Christmas Eve, the B.B.C. put mention of the bells in the forefront of their Christmas announcements in the 9 o'clock news on Christmas morning, and expressed the widespread regret that this age old feature of the festival had for the first time for more than a thousand years to be lost to us.

MILITARY NECESSITY.

The Archbishop of Canterbury made an effort to get the ban on church bells lifted for Christmas Day and Sunday services, but without success. The following statement was issued by the Archbishop a day or two before Christmas:—

The Archbishop of Canterbury has made strong representations to the Government urging that the time has now come when the existing Order forbidding any ringing of church bells except for the purpose of giving warning in the event of any threatened invasion by the enemy might be modified so as to permit the ringing of the bells on Christmas Day and thereafter on Sundays only immediately before the accustomed hours of morning and evening prayer.

The Secretary of State for War received these representations with full understanding and sympathy. But he has now informed the Archbishop that the highest military authorities are unable to advise that any change in the existing Order should be made and that he feels bound to accept this decision. The Archbishop greatly regrets it and believes that it will cause much disappointment throughout the country.

Many church services were, however, not entirely without bells, for, acting on the suggestion made in 'The Ringing World,' handbells were rung in many places immediately before the services on Christmas Day.

EXPLANATION NEEDED.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It seems to me that the problem of the ban on bells would be simplified, even if not solved, if only the authorities would give us their reason for the ban, and I am not aware that this has been done up to the present. Has it ever been asked for?

The Englishman is a reasonable person, but it is against his nature to be driven blindly, and I feel that if we were given an adequate motive for the ban we should all willingly agree, and the matter would drop.

If, however, the reason given appeared to be inadequate, then it would be up to us ringers to suggest a better alternative, as criticism should be constructive as well as destructive; for example, if the idea is to reserve the bells solely for use as an alarm in the case of invasion, then this would seem a very inadequate reason, as a bugler going round on a bicycle or in a car would be much more effective. The bugle is a very powerful and penetrating apparatus; it only needs one man to perform on it, and he can go round about with it, whereas the audibility of bells in a fixed position depends on the direction of the wind and the distance you live away from them. Our air raid siren has the same defect, and the wardens' whistles going round seem to be more useful.

If, on the other hand, there is some secret reason for the ban, which would be of value to the enemy if divulged, then we should be told so plainly, and argument would cease.

Could the Central Council be asked to obtain the reason and publish the correspondence in 'The Ringing World'?

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON.

Southcliff, Ventnor, I.W.

MISSED BELLS AT CHRISTMAS.

How much the public missed the bells at Christmas is vividly indicated by the following extract from a private letter from a non-ringing lady at Mayfield, Sussex, to a non-ringing friend. She wrote: 'Wasn't it a nice, quiet Christmas? No bombs or planes for two nights. One could almost forget there was a war but for the bells not ringing out to greet the feast. We did miss them. There were plenty of small carol singers about, but one wanted the peals of the villages round.'

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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

WHERE HANDBELLS WERE RUNG.

At Nuneaton Parish Church, Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells from the chancel steps on Christmas Day by four members of the Warwickshire Guild, Mr. T. Chapman, of Nuneaton, and Mr. E. Stone and his two sons, Percy and Fred, now of Coventry and late of Nuneaton.

It was greatly appreciated by the members of the congregation. Mr. Chapman and Fred Stone (14) are respectively the oldest and youngest active members of the Warwickshire Guild.

At Coalbrookdale, Salop, on Christmas Day, before and after the 11 a.m. service, the local ringers rang handbells from the chancel steps, including well-struck rounds and set changes on twelve bells, also several plain courses of Grandsire Triples. The ringing was very much enjoyed and appreciated by a large congregation, and arrangements will be made in future, whenever possible, to ring handbells before morning and evening services.

Handbells were rung before divine service on Christmas Day at Guildford, both at the Cathedral and at S. Nicolas' Church.

At Donington, Lincolnshire, for morning service on Christmas Day, courses of Grandsire Triples were rung by G. Short 1-2, P. Markham 3-4, C. Warder 5-6, S. V. Woods 7-8.

At Tunstall, on handbells, for divine services, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes, was rung by G. H. Spice 1-2, Miss Betty Spice 3-4, John E. Spice 5-6, and W. Spice, sen. 7-8. Conducted by W. Spice and rung in the belfry, which is on the ground floor of the church. Also touches of Grandsire Triples and plain courses of Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters with the following other members of the Tunstall band taking part: Mrs. G. H. Spice, W. Spice, jun., and J. Webb.

A HALESWORTH COMMENT.

Touches of Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob were rung on handbells at Halesworth Parish Church before the morning service on Christmas Day. 'The Halesworth Times' had the following comment:

The church bells are silent. If they ring it would not be a peaceful summons to worship but a call to arms. They would be proclaiming warning of an enemy invasion.

It would not be the first time in our history that church bells have been used as an urgent summons to men to protect their homes. The old prayers of the church are full of phrases reflecting days of danger and assault in words that have come alive again in these last months. Our fathers won our liberties for us at a great price of vigilance and sacrifice.

Whether or not we are to hear the church bells ring the tocsin before this war is over, let their very silence remind us of our debt to the past and our responsibility in the present. We must watch and work, for our land is in peril and with it the liberties of mankind.

If we are faithful, one day the church bells will rock the steeples to celebrate victory and we shall reap in joy what we have sown in tears.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is an account of an alleged peal which appeared in 'The Bell News' some 40 years ago, which some of your readers may remember, and which was produced, I suppose, partly in fun and partly in satire on those who delight in ringing peals with some uncommon feature, such as 'Johns' or 'James' or even colours of surnames. Here it is:—

BALD-HEADED PEAL.

On the 1st day of April 18—
At the Church of St. Mudstan,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5,040 CHANGES.

Holt's Ten-Part.	Treble	Tenor 350th size in B sharp.
*John Ketch	2	Lowes Moore
†Citron Peel	3	Jno. McArony
Shore Ditch, Esq.	4	Merry Vale
*Guy Fawkes		†Titus Oates

Conducted by Jno. McArony, who marked off every lead as it was rung. All the above band were bald-headed. Some difficulty was experienced in getting a company together having this peculiarity, which was surmounted by those marked * having their heads shaved off (i.e., their hair) previous to starting for the peal. † First peal inside. ‡ First peal outside. Great credit is due to the ringers of the above, as the weather being very warm at the time, the flies were very troublesome.
J. R. B.

JOHN BOWTELL, OF CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Ringing in Cambridge during the last hundred years has never reached a very high standard, but there was a time when the town had a good twelve bell band, and 'on Monday, January 21st, 1788, was rung, in the Tower of St. Mary-the-Great a true and exquisite peal, consisting of 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus, in 5 hours and 5 minutes, tenor 28 cwt., without a false change, by the under-mentioned Cambridge Youths: J. Smith, first; W. Bland, second; R. Laughton, third; J. Lawson, fourth; J. Coe, fifth; T. Steers, sixth; T. Jones, seventh; P. Gould, eighth; C. Day, ninth; W. Young, tenth; J. Hazard, eleventh; J. Bowtell, tenor. Bobs by C. Day.'

It will be 153 years ago next January since this peal was rung, and as far as I know this length of Bob Maximus still stands as the record in the method. It may well be the longest time any peal has stood as a record.

John Bowtell, who rang the tenor, was a bookseller. I have before me a half-length portrait of him reproduced from the original which hangs in the board room of Addenbrook's Hospital, Cambridge.

He was born in the parish of Holy Trinity on August 1st, 1753. On October 21st, 1773, he was elected a member of the Society of Cambridge Youths and resigned on September 6th, 1810. Why he resigned at the early age of 57 I do not know. Probably an explanation may be found in his will, in which he left considerable sums of money to St. Michael's and Holy Trinity Churches, but none to St. Mary's, the headquarters of the Cambridge Youths. Something may have happened to displease him.

His marriage took place at St. Edward's Church in October, 1786, and he lived from 1791 to 1813 at the red brick Georgian house, 32, Trinity Street. This house still remains, the ground floor now being used as a clothier's shop.

Bowtell also rang the tenor at St. Mary-the-Great to 6,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal on February 16th, 1790, and to 7,002 Grandsire Caters on October 31st, 1791. He died on December 1st, 1813, and was buried in the east end of St. Michael's Church beside his wife.
E. E. HIBBINS.

LONG STANDING RECORDS.

In his account of John Bowtell, of Cambridge, Mr. Ernest Hibbins mentions the peal of Bob Maximus, 6,600 changes, rung at Great St. Mary's in 1788, which, after 152 years, still remains the longest length in the method, and he asks whether any other record has ever stood so long.

The answer is that there are some others which have stood even longer, but obviously only records in more or less standard methods can be compared to this one. The 10,080 of Double Bob Major at Harrietsham (1746) has stood as the record for 194 years, and the 8,100 of Bob Royal at Leeds in Kent (1751) for 189 years. The 12,000 of Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch in 1784 has stood unbeaten for 156 years. The College Youths held for 152 years the Grandsire Cinques record, which they gained by ringing 8,008 changes at Southwark in 1735, and the Norwich Scholars held the Grandsire Caters record with 12,600 changes from 1737 till 1888, 151 years. One of these two latter equals the Cambridge record, the other is one year less. The Cumberlands have held the record for Oxford Treble Bob Maximus since 1802, 138 years.

BELLS OF VICTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In olden times we rang the bells when the news came of great victories like Blenheim and Trafalgar and Waterloo, and it is natural for men to ask why we should be forbidden to ring for the good news from Egypt. But the cases are not alike.

The old victories were the culmination of the campaigns. They were fought within very narrow fields and between sunrise and sunset and the results were decisive.

The most striking successes in modern warfare are usually only the preliminaries to operations which extend over scores and perhaps hundreds of miles and may take weeks and even months. They are not victories, though they may lead on to victories. Too often they lead to disappointment and disillusionment. We remember the first day of the Somme, that loudly proclaimed victory with its thousands of prisoners and hundreds of captured guns. We know now that it was no victory and but a qualified success.

Once only during the last war did we ring our bells. That was for Cambrai in 1917, a resounding success followed within a week or so with a disastrous setback. There is only one victory for which we need really ring our bells and that is the last one. Meanwhile we must hope and work and endure.
SPES.

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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.

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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.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Annual meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941, at 4 p.m. prompt; followed by tea. Handbell practice and social evening to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Annual meeting at Ashby Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941. Handbells available at 3 p.m., followed by business meeting at 4 p.m. in Vestry. It is hoped to arrange tea afterwards. Please make an effort to attend.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Wanstead on January 4th, in the Schoolroom, at 3 o'clock. Handbells will be available. Outstanding subscriptions will be gratefully received at this meeting.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Hugglescote on Saturday, January 4th. Handbells in Schoolroom (near church) from 2.30. Meeting and convivial at Castle Inn 6 p.m. Business to include election of district officers for 1941, etc. Owing to catering difficulties, tea cannot be arranged, but it is hoped to obtain light refreshments afterwards. Will all towers please see that they are represented at this meeting. Other ringers cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Saturday, January 4th, 1941, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held in the Synod Hall, Holyrood, Quadrant, W.3, on Saturday, January 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea 4 p.m., followed by tower bells (10). All ringers welcome. We extend the compliments of the season to all.—E. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 11th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m., other arrangements as usual. A good attendance is desired.—H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Bells (6) without clappers and handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me before Wednesday. Fourth annual dinner February 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Committee meet 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m., in St. Peter's Parish Hall (adjoining church). Tea at nearby cafe. Handbells will be available, and it is hoped a good muster of members and friends will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting, which was not held on December 14th, has been rearranged for Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church in the Horsefair). Handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. The meeting will be over by 5 o'clock for those who wish to get away.—A. M. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th. Handbell contest at Rectory Rooms at 3.30 p.m., followed by the general meeting. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5.30 p.m., followed by social evening and handbell ringing. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than January 10th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, January 18th. Open from 2.30. Handbell practice and social chats. Tea arranged. All who are interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey (City 4270).

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GREETINGS.

To all my friends.—Many thanks for Christmas good wishes. Best of luck to you all for 1941.—Fred Price, 273, Albert Road, Aston Manor, Birmingham, 6.

J. A.
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