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THE COMING YEAR.

Had the times been normal, the coming weeks would have been full of activity among the ringing associations, for it has been the habit of many of them to hold the annual meetings of districts in the early part of the year. Circumstances, however, compel a vastly modified programme. It is not only the present restraint on all ringing of church bells that enforces the abandonment of meetings, but the stern demands made upon the members which prevent so many of them coming together. True, the imposition of the ban has led to a considerable falling off in the number of ringers' gatherings, for much of the attraction is lost by the silence of the bells, but a good deal may, we think, also be rightly attributed to the preoccupation of men in connection with the war, either in the services, or in the front line at home. Coupled with this there has been, of course, the difficulties of transport in the black-out, which have added to the obstacles besetting those who are responsible for organising meetings. All the same, there is good reason why the associations should endeavour to keep up the continuity of their meetings. They have before them the splendid example set by the Ancient Society of College Youths, which, driven from its old home by enemy action, has grimly determined to carry on in the very centre of the bombed city. The College Youths meet not once in three months, as is the habit of many of the associations in regard to their districts, but once a fortnight. Moreover, in order to attend the meetings many of the members have to travel a good deal further than provincial ringers. The decision of the old Society should be an inspiration to the faint-hearts, who hesitate to embark on meetings from fear either of difficulties or failure.

We are approaching now the longer hours of daylight and, with the lengthening days, association officials should lay plans to enable their members to meet at any rate with reasonable frequency, without, of course, expecting more than moderate attendances. It is not members that count now, it is the importance of 'keeping the flag flying' in these discouraging days of ringing. There are associations in which little effort has been made in the last few months to keep alive the organisation. Where this has happened, we hope some more energetic action can be taken this year. It is so very easy to let things slide, and to wait upon events. It is impossible to forecast how long the present situation may last; there may be even grimmer days before us, but there is no reason why any ringing organisation

(Continued on page 26.)

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should be allowed to die of inanition. Officials owe a duty to their members to give them the opportunity to meet; members owe a duty to the officials to give them the support their efforts deserve. With a reciprocal response meetings can be made quite worth while; and as the days lengthen so will the attendances grow. But what is needed in the first place is courage to make and carry out plans. To hold back for fear of unpredictable happenings is a defeatist attitude inconsistent with the spirit which is required to-day and which in other walks of life is being so magnificently shown.

As with the associations, so with the Central Council. That body has good reason for planning a meeting for this year, for it is the jubilee of its foundation. The first meeting of the elected Council was held on Easter Tuesday, 1891, and it would be unfortunate if this auspicious anniversary had to be passed over without a meeting, be it ever so modest. Even if it is not possible to hold a business meeting of the customary full-day type, a gathering of those members able to attend would be a gratifying recognition of a notable milestone in the history of the Council. There would, we feel sure, be enough members present to make the assembly worth while, even though only a minimum of business was transacted, for all who could would surely be anxious to join in the celebration. The venue of such a meeting would be a matter for careful thought; and while London might be out of the question, there are other places not far away from the Metropolis that might well serve. At any rate, in view of the fact that this is the jubilee year of the Council, some effort should be made to call it together. Even if the worst came to the worst the meeting could be postponed at the last moment, but it would be a pity if the occasion were allowed to pass without any attempt to mark it.

RINGERS' FEASTS.

WHAT THEY ATE AND DRANK AT NORWICH.

Now that rationing is very much with us, an old 'feast bill' may be of interest.

The 'Purse Club' or Benefit Society connected with St. Peter Mancroft ringers was governed by a set of rules, or articles, dated December 22nd, 1716, and part of rule 8 reads: 'The Feast Makers, with consent of the Headsman, shall have power to appoint the place for the yearly feast, which shall be kept upon Whitsun Monday, at which feast every person belonging to this Society shall pay unto the Feast Makers one shilling and sixpence for their entertainment upon that day.'

The earliest account for this feast day appearing in the books is for the year 1740, and is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Beef, 48 lb.	1	0	0
Mutton, 15 lb.		5	6
Veal, 8 lb.	2	4	1/2
Bacon and Suet		1	6
Butter, 1 quart		1	2
Bread		2	0
Pickles and Pepper	1	2	1/2
Porteridge			3
Tobacco	1	7	1/2
Pipes		1	0
Servants	2	0	
Vinegar			4
	£1	19	0

In 1742, 58 lb. of beef is entered at 3¹/₄d. per lb., and 1¹/₂ lb. of tobacco was bought for 1s. 6d. The costliest feast was in 1762, when they had 70 lb. of beef, 38 lb. of mutton and 78 lb. of veal, the total cost, including drink, amounting to £7 8s. 2d. At this time there were 40 members of the society! As years went on more attention was apparently paid to liquid refreshment, for in 1827 '108 quarts of ale and porter, £2 14s.' is one of the items in the bill. What would these old heroes think of present-day rationing?

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

St. Martin's was made a separate parish in 1542 by letters patent of Henry VIII., and the tradition was that it was done because the king objected to funeral processions passing down Whitehall through the palace precincts on their way to St. Margaret's, Westminster, the mother church.



[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

We do well, however, to mistrust such traditions. There had been a Chapel of St. Martin from early times, and it was only natural that, as the district developed, it should become a parish church.

There were then three bells besides the sanctus bell and the sacring bell. The latter is referred to as the mass bell and it was hung in the chancel within the church, either on the screen or on the wall.

In 1530, John Brook was paid for two days' work trussing the great bell at the rate of eightpence a day. That will give us some idea of the money earned by workmen at the time. Brook was, of course, a skilled artisan, and probably would have to pay the labourer who helped him.

Trussing the bell was tightening it up on the stock. In those days there were no such things as bolts and nuts, for there was no means of cutting a thread. The bell was hung by straps of iron called stirrups, which were passed through the canons and fastened to the sides of the stock with dogs or large iron nails. Such an arrangement was bound to work loose in course of time, and to be affected by the shrinkage of the wood caused by changes of weather. Old churchwardens' accounts usually contain frequent items of charges for trussing.

The church was rebuilt about 1544, and three or four years before that the bells were recast and hung in a new frame, the cost being partly defrayed by gifts from the parishioners. John Young, the saddler, who regularly supplied the baldricks, made a gift of three for the new bells. About the same time a parishioner gave a new saunce or sanctus bell.

The baldricks were leather straps, by which the clapper was hung, and were passed through the crown staple and a loop at the top of the clapper shank. They very quickly wore out, and their renewal was a very considerable charge on the parish revenue.

Some time after the bells were hung the stock of the tenor began to shrink, and this necessitated 'winding up the great bell' and shutting (i.e. welding) the stirrup by which it was hung.

In 1544 a new treble was added by a founder whose foundry was at Houndsditch, but who cannot be identified. In 1572 the third was recast, and in 1581 the tenor was recast by Hugh Walker. The first time he did the work it was unsatisfactory, and the bell had to be recast a second time.

In 1584 the whole ring was recast by Robert Mot, of Whitechapel, the cost being defrayed by public subscription. The list of 67 names includes those of Sir Thomas Bromley, the Lord Chancellor of England, the Earl of Rutland, and Sir Francis Knowles.

In 1586 Hugh Walker recast Mot's treble and added another bell to increase the number of the ring to five. A good deal of work was done to the bells at the same time, the total cost being £17 9s. 11d. 'So,' say the churchwardens, 'we have laid out more than we received 49s. 11d.'

Only six years later Lawrence Wright recast the tenor at a cost of £10, and a year later still the fourth at a cost of £8. These charges were met by public subscription, and as ninety persons contributed it is evident that the bells were very popular.

The payments for ringing were similar to those in other churches, but, as at St. Margaret's, a large proportion of them were for occasions when royalty passed. The earliest on record was a payment of fourpence when Henry VIII. passed by in 1538. Tenpence was paid when Queen Mary came to Whitehall, and sixteenpence when Mary and Philip of Spain arrived in London. When Mary died, eightpence was paid for ringing her knell, and the same amount to welcome her successor.

All through Elizabeth's reign there was ringing whenever the queen came to or left Whitehall or St. James' Palace, until January 21st, 1602, when she removed to Richmond, where she died.

Two months later the bells were rung 'at the proclaiming of our king,' and as the large amount of two shillings and eightpence was paid, there was probably a full day's ringing.

(Continued on next page.)

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

LEGEND OF NELL GWYNN.

(Continued from previous page.)

There is no record of any payment when the Spanish Armada was defeated, but, as at all the other London churches, the bells were rung when the Spaniards beat the Turks at the battle of Lepanto, and for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

In 1663 the tower of St. Martin's was rebuilt. The weather vane at the top was in the form of a ship and marked some traditional connection between the church and the Board of Admiralty. It was long the custom, and perhaps still is, for the latter to supply the flag that is flown on festivals. All through the seventeenth century there was a ring of five in the steeple, and in after years a tradition grew up that Nell Gwynn, Duchess of St. Albans and mistress of Charles II., had left in her will money to provide the ringers with a weekly leg of mutton supper. The editor of Thomas Betterton's 'History of the English Stage,' published in 1741, says that 'among her donations was a sum of money for a weekly entertainment of the ringers of St. Martin's which they enjoy to this day.' A writer in 'The Champion' of June 3rd, 1742, referring to the fraudulent practices of parish vestries, and particularly that of St. Martin's, says, 'I cannot forbear mentioning one action more laid to the charge of these honest men. Nell Gwynn, player, left a handsome income yearly to St. Martin's on condition that on every Thursday evening in the year there should be six men employed for the space of one hour in ringing, for which they were to have a roasted shoulder of mutton and ten shillings for beer, but the legacy is of late diverted, and no such allowance is now given.'

Actually no such legacy ever was left by Nell Gwynn or by anyone else. One explanation given of the fable is that it was the custom of the ringers after their practice to adjourn to the 'Nell Gwynn' public-house near the Adelphi Theatre, where the landlord reserved a private room and provided a hot leg of mutton supper at an inclusive charge of one shilling per head for the bell-ringers and any friends belonging to the different societies of ringers that used to attend the weekly practice. Whether there is any more truth in this explanation than in the original legend may perhaps be doubted.

St. Martin's was not the only parish at which there was supposed to be endowment for providing the ringers with a leg of mutton supper. There was a similar tradition at Fulham and several other places.

As at St. Martin's, most of these traditions were probably baseless fables. It is true that during some centuries a good many bequests were left in different places by various men, in order that bells might be rung, but very few of them were primarily for the benefit of the ringers. Usually it was to mark the anniversary of the testator's death. He provided money for the ringing of the bells, but so long as they were rung it mattered not at all who rang them. There was, however, a legacy at Chertsey, Surrey, of one pound yearly for 'young men to ring and make merry with' on August 6th, and a similar legacy at East Molesey. In the year 1841 the Charity Commission reported that these legacies had not been paid for some years, but the authorities evidently had been brought to book and promised to renew the payment.

At Harlington, in Middlesex, there was a genuine legacy for a leg of pork supper for the ringers. It was a charge on a piece of land and was paid regularly. To this day the ringers annually have their leg of pork, served at the local inn, but this is the only instance in the country of an ancient endowment for such a supper.

In the early years of the eighteenth century, St. Martin's Church had become altogether inadequate for the needs of the parish, and in the reign of George I. an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable the parishioners to rebuild. The design was supplied by James Gibbs, the first stone was laid on March 19th, 1721, and the new building was consecrated on October 24th, 1726, by Dr. Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London. A rate was levied on the parish, but money poured in so liberally that a gift of £500 towards the enrichment of the altar was declined.

It was decided to recast the old six bells. On November 3rd, 1724, eight new bells were ordered to be hung; on the following December 8th it was resolved that two be added to the number agreed on, and in the next year it was decided to have a full ring of twelve.

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, then at the height of his career, and the cost, including old and new metal, was £1,264 18s. 3d.

Rudhall apparently had some difficulty in casting the trebles, and they were not ready at first, for when the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple, three days before the church was consecrated, it was one of Grandsire Caters. When the trebles were supplied they were not a success, and in 1728 they were replaced by two new ones. The old bells some time after went to All Saints', Fulham, and one of them is there still, where it blends perfectly with the rest of the ring.

The College Youths' peal was conducted by Benjamin Annable, and the band included such famous ringers as Robert Catlin, Peter Merrygarts, William Laughton and Matthew East.

In 1728, after the two trebles had been hung, a match was arranged to take place at St. Martin's between the London Scholars and the College Youths. Whether it was the result of a challenge or by invitation of the parish authorities we do not know, but probably it was the latter. And we do not know what the terms of the contest were, but most likely there were none. Almost certainly there was no prize or stake money, though there may have been a dinner for the winners. The London Scholars were asked to ring first, and they gave their best; the College Youths followed and tried to do better.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT SPALDING.

VETERAN RINGER DIES AT BECCLES.

Many ringers in East Anglia, particularly of the older generation, will be sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Robert Spalding, on January 6th, at the age of 90 years. 'Old Bob,' as he was known to the majority of his friends, spent most of his life at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, where he was parish clerk for over 25 years, and most of his ringing was then done on the five bells at Haddiscoe, with occasional visits to Beccles and Yarmouth districts.

After the death of his wife about 20 years ago he went to live with his son, also a ringer, near Beccles, and then he commenced ringing seriously, and he was the most regular attendant at Beccles belfry, rarely missing a Sunday service or practice until failing health compelled him to give up. Even then he took a keen interest in ringing matters and always listened for the bells.

He had taken part in four peals, the last being his first peal of Major at Lowestoft when in his 80th year. His devotion to the art and regularity in attendance were an example to all, and the memory of him will be cherished by all who knew him.

E. R. G.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

APPRECIATED BY CONGREGATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Nemo' in your issue of December 27th asked those who have tried handbells in church to report on how the bells appealed to the congregation.

Here, in Diss, we have a large parish church and I decided to fix up my handbell frame in the chancel for Christmas. Our Rector was very enthusiastic about it when I mentioned this to him. I 'tapped' ten bells for five minutes before the 7 and 8 a.m. Holy Communion services by the aid of a torch in the almost dark church, and I was told the effect was simply grand. Again before the 11 a.m. service the organist played until five minutes before service, then I came in with the bells. It was so appreciated by all the congregation that I continued on the following Sunday for the morning and afternoon services.

Our Rector afterwards said it was simply surprising the number of people who told him how much they appreciated the bells and many had asked, 'Why cannot we have the handbells every Sunday?' I have been asked the same question by many people. So now I hope to continue the five minutes before each service until we can have our tower bells again.

If 'Nemo' could come to Diss he might make up his mind whether he likes handbells in church or not. I, for one, would like to hear a few more of his reasons against it.

ALBERT G. HARRISON.

Diss, Norfolk.

PROGRESS AT ACCRINGTON.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps 'Nemo' would be interested to know we have rung handbells in church on several occasions since the ban on tower bells. The Vicar voiced his appreciation; the verger reported to us that numerous members of the congregation expressed pleasure with our performance and would like us to repeat it. The organist also was very friendly towards us.

The following is a copy from the 'Padiham Advertiser' of October 13th, 1940:—

'Before the evening service some of the Parish Church bellringers, assisted by friends from Accrington, rang short touches on handbells inside the church—a beautiful innovation.'

A summary of our activities may encourage others. We have steadily practised for the last 18 months and now include Plain Bob, Double Bob, Reverse Bob and St. Clement's as regular ringing methods. We are progressing very nicely with Oxford and Kent

Treble Bob. We adopted Westminster Surprise for practice, but it was too much of a surprise for me. Two of us rang Stedman Triples double-handed at Bolton on the occasion of the last Lancashire Association meeting, the only touch of Stedman my friend has ever rung, and my only attempt on handbells.

From our interest in the art has sprung another infant society. The boys at Accrington Grammar School have contributed and acquired a set of twelve handbells, since augmented to thirteen, to provide two minor rings. The thirteenth, I think, they made from an old relic someone had at home, but it is correct pitch. We are working all out to get them going, but the future only can give us the results we so earnestly wish for.

CHARLES W. BLAKEY.

Accrington.

MORE WANTED.

At All Saints' Church, Rettendon, Essex, on Christmas Day, handbells were rung in church for 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. Holy Communion service and the 11 a.m. morning service. Several plain courses of Grandsire Triples were rung on each occasion, those taking part being Charles W. Jay, Frank S. Jay, Roy Wheston, Gerald Frost and Frank C. May.

During the course of the morning service the Rector, on behalf of the churchwardens and the congregation, thanked the ringers for all that they had done, and expressed the hope that they would continue to ring the handbells week by week for all the Sunday services.

On Sunday, January 5th, for evensong at 3.30 p.m., courses of Grandsire Triples were again rung for 15 minutes before the service by Charles W. Jay, Frank S. Jay, Pte. Harry Jay and Frank C. May. The Rector again thanked the ringers for what they had done, and delayed the start of the service for a few minutes so that he might sit in church with the congregation and listen to what he called the beautiful music of the handbells.

BEARINGS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—For a long time now I have waited to see the real reason why 'plain bearings' are preferred to ball bearings. If anyone, like myself, who attend to the 'going,' they might say ball bearings are better. Should one try to ring a bell without a stay to a peal as I have done several times, then 'plain bearings' are undoubtedly to be preferred. With regard to ringing heavy bells, my experience is that you can ring a 30 cwt. bell easier at Saffron Walden than at Cambridge. No stones cast at anyone.

FRANK WARRINGTON.

Swavesey, Cambs.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, was recently installed Worshipful Master of the United Service (Dorset) Masonic Mark Lodge.

In reply to enquiries, we are pleased to say that St. Peter Mancroft Church and its famous bells, with the other churches of Norwich, have not sustained any damage by enemy action.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred last Saturday, of Mrs. C. D. Potter, widow of the late president of the Bagnsley and District Society.

On January 13th, 1772, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 6,048 changes of Imperial the Third Major. The method, which has irregular lead ends and is now obsolete, was composed by William Porter, the author of Double Norwich Court Bob. It was much practised by the Norwich Scholars during the eighteenth century and is a difficult method, but though it was given in the 'Clavis' and by Shipway, only one peal was rung away from the city of its birth. Christopher Lindsey composed the Coslany peal, and John Chamberlin, of whom Mr. C. E. Borrett recently gave us an account, called the bobs.

On the same date in 1903, the St. Martin's Youths rang at Birmingham the first peal of Forward Maximus. This method, which was introduced by John Carter, has some good qualities, but is almost intolerably monotonous for peal ringing.

The band from St. Peter's, Brighton, rang the first peal of London Surprise Major in the city of London on January 14th, 1899. It was on the bells of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, which were destroyed in the recent air raid.

James Barham died on January 14th, 1818, at the age of 93.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They consisted of two Kent Treble Bob Major, and one each of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Union Triples and Stedman Triples.

Mr. George Williams, the doyen of conductors, who, we are pleased to say, is hale and hearty despite the enemy's close attention, rang his first peal 57 years ago to-day. It was one of Grandsire Triples at Soberton in Hampshire.

The Mancroft record peal of 7,126 Stedman Cinques was rung on January 18th, 1844.

Next Sunday is the 216th anniversary of the first peal by the College Youths. It was also the first peal on twelve bells and was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Henry Bastable, for many years the leading conductor in Birmingham, and the Ringing Master of the St. Martin's Society, died on January 19th, 1899, at the age of 50.

'RINGING NOT AN ACT OF WORSHIP.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is not my usual practice to reply to folk sheltering under anonymity. No doubt our friend the 'Association Secretary' is convinced that he has reasons justifying his doing so. So in reply I would say that we seem to agree that when we worship God we honour Him. If he does not honour God in his ringing, by making it a testimony of his esteem for all that God has done for him, I would respectfully suggest that he ought to. When we praise God we worship Him. We praise God in various ways, as, for instance, Psalm 150 will show. Once one accepts the fact that they can (and should) worship God by their ringing, my other points will hold true.

G. P. ELPHICK.

Priory Street, Lewes.

SOUVENIRS OF OLD NORWICH RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. L. W. Bunce in your current issue—the Court Royal at Leeds in 1765 was the London variation. The Norwich peal in 1769 was the Norwich variation, and, therefore, the first in the latter method. All authorities agree upon this.

As to the old Norwich ringers and the property their 'Purse Society' acquired, I would refer him to your issue of September 1st, 1939, where he will find his question answered by Mr. Trollope in one of a series of articles he has so ably contributed on this and other most interesting matters.

The property was divided amongst the members when the Purse Society—it was a small benefit society—was dissolved. I was able to purchase two pieces of the pewter set, a quart flagon and a half-pint mug. The former is engraved, 'The Society of Ringers, July 19th, 1821, Peckover Hill, Headsman,' and the mug similarly, save the omission of the Headsman's name. I have also several pieces of the pewter 'token money.' They are about the size of a five-shilling piece, and engraved round the edge, 'St. Peter's Mancroft Ringers.'

I have spent a good many delightful Old Years' Nights in the company of these pewter drinking vessels and token money, and am sorry such convivial days are a thing of the past.

The number and variety of the peals we rang on each of these nights, with our tongues, after the pewters had been filled with 'hot-pot' from the great stone jug, and handed round by the stewards a few times, was prodigious, and 10 p.m. was not the closing hour in those days!

Sheringham, Norfolk.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

THE OXFORD SOCIETY.**SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR'S PARTY.**

The Oxford Society had planned to go to Nottingham, Leicester and Loughborough for their annual outing last Whitsuntide, but for obvious reasons it had to be cancelled at the last moment. This year a precedent was set when a New Year's party was held on Sunday, January 5th, at the Oriel Restaurant.

The weather, although dry, was very cold, but the ringers were shown into a warm and comfortable room, where the heavily laden tables were a sight for sore eyes. The shortage of meat offered no problem to the proprietor, as turkey held pride of place on the menu.

The society was honoured with the presence of the Mayor (Mr. C. Bellamy) and others present included the president (Alderman Brown) and Mrs. Brown, Mr. V. Bennett (secretary) and Mr. R. Post (Ringing Master). The ringers and their wives and friends totalled about 30.

The president proposed the toast of His Majesty the King. In these difficult times, he said, they were fortunate to be able to have such a happy gathering. He and his wife had done a little arithmetic, and it might interest the Mayor to know that here were 27 rings and 172 bells within the environs of Oxford. He hoped that good care would be taken of them, as it would be a tragedy if their victory peals came to an untimely end through faulty bearings or ropes.

Mr. W. Collett proposed the toast of the Mayor and Corporation. He expressed the society's pleasure in having His Worship with them that day. Although they had not met under those conditions before, the Mayor had been in the belfry of Christ Church more than once. Besides, added Mr. Collett, the Mayor has a very good press, and it will help get the society more publicity.

Since ringing has ceased, continued Mr. Collett, he had been looking for some other diversion, as his wife thought he should have one. He used to get a good deal of pleasure from playing tennis, although he had never got beyond the 'rabbit' class, so he thought he would take it up again. Unfortunately, when he got his flannels out he found that they would not go round any more. His wife was still insistent and entered him as a member of a bowls club. He thought before one could become a bowls player one must be a similar shape as a wood. Whilst playing in the park last summer he overheard two ladies talking. One suggested that they should stop and watch the game for a while. The other protested and said it was an old man's game. 'But that man over there is not very old,' said the other (meaning me, I hope, said Mr. Collett). 'Come on,' said the second lady, 'there must be something the matter with him.' Needless to say, he added, I am still looking for a diversion.

THE MAYOR AND THE BELLS.

Replying, the Mayor said how happy he was to be with them that day. Mrs. Bellamy had been looking forward to it also, but regretted that only a few hours before she had found it impossible to be present. He had much enjoyed listening to the handbells, and he thought the music was beautiful; it stirred something inside him when he first heard them. As for the other 172 bells, he continued, he was afraid he could not do anything about them, as his time was fully occupied in keeping his 60 councillors in order, but he hoped that the bells would be looked after and it was the ringers' duty to the public. His knowledge of ringing was not very much, and he had to go to the ringers' archives to find out what he should speak about. He went on to speak of the many peals that had been rung in the city in the early days. He noticed that in one peal there was a potash maker, a cork-cutter, a tailor, a schoolmaster, butler and two college servants. Surely ringers were as democratic as England herself, and he hoped it would always be so. The enthusiasm of those College Youths who walked from London to Oxford, a distance of 54 miles, must have been tremendous.

Continuing, His Worship said that one old Oxford ringer, Jonathan Pavier, who was a blacksmith by trade, lived in a small cottage in Gloucester Green. When he was 80 years of age, he approached a well-known Oxford solicitor and offered him his cottage if he would pay him £1 a week for the rest of his life. The solicitor, thinking he was on a good thing, readily agreed, but it didn't turn out so good, as old Jonathan lived to be over 100.

Mr. R. Post said he was speaking for all the ringers present when he said how much he missed the draw of the belfry. Handbells were a very pleasant hobby, but they were a poor substitute for the tower bells. He hoped it would not be long before they could mount the familiar steps to ring for victory.

Mr. V. Bennett then proposed that all present should stand for a minute in memory of Charles Eustace, a member of the society, who was killed at Dunkirk. He was trying to get in touch with Alec Gammon, who was a prisoner of war in Poland, and he went on to read letters of good wishes and thanks for the presents which were sent to six members now in the Services.

Mr. T. Trollope said that much greater effort was needed to get more beginners to take up ringing. He felt there was no dearth of talent about, and the ringers would endeavour to get the public acquainted with the art, not only amongst men, but ladies as well.

He went on to pay tribute to the good work Miss Marie Cross was doing as secretary to the City branch of the Diocesan Guild and to the great help she was to beginners on handbells as well as in the tower.

The handbells were frequently in use during the afternoon and included in the methods was a very well-struck course of Stedman
(Continued in next column.)

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**JOHNSON COMMEMORATION TO BE HELD.**

The annual meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, January 4th.

In the absence of the Master (Alderman J. S. Pritchett), Councillor A. Paddon Smith occupied the chair. The attendance of members, although not up to the usual number for an annual meeting, was quite satisfactory and showed that, although there could be no ringing on the tower bells, the interest in the Guild's business was still very much alive.

The Master wrote regretting his inability to attend and the opportunity of shaking hands with old friends. Unfortunately, his house had been bombed and he was much upset, but luckily no one was injured. He sincerely hoped we were entering upon a happier year and that 1941 would bring peace and happiness. He hoped to be 86 on January 8th. The secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of the Guild with him in his misfortune, and their hearty congratulations and best wishes on his birthday and throughout the year.

The treasurer presented the annual accounts, which showed a small loss on the year caused by the increased cost of the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner. The auditors having given their report, the accounts were unanimously adopted.

The secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. James George, now of Wolverton, thanking him and the members of the Guild for their letters of sympathy and good wishes during his very dangerous illness and serious operation. He enclosed cheque in settlement of his subscription for the current year and also a donation of £1 5s. towards the Guild's funds as a mark of appreciation. It was proposed by the chairman and unanimously agreed that a letter be sent Mr. George thanking him for his kindly thought and donation and wishing him continued good health and that in time he would overcome the disadvantage of the loss of his leg.

Mr. W. C. Dowding, now of Martley, Worcestershire, wrote apologising for his absence. He enclosed his subscription and sent best wishes to all the members and expressed the hope that it would not be long before the bells could be rung as usual.

Confidence was expressed in the officers of the Guild and all were unanimously re-elected as follows: Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett; Ringing Master, F. E. Haynes; trustees, Councillor A. Paddon Smith and E. T. Allaway; auditors, F. Price and G. E. Fearn; librarian, G. F. Swann; hon. secretary and treasurer, T. H. Reeves.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed not to let the Henry Johnson Commemoration drop, but on account of present conditions it would not be possible to hold it in the evening or on the same scale as hitherto. It was proposed by Councillor Paddon Smith, seconded by Mr. Albert Walker and agreed that the commemoration this year be held on Saturday, March 1st, and take the form of a mid-day lunch at 1.30 p.m., and that the speeches be curtailed so that everyone can get home before black-out time. Should the Master not be able to preside, it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Paddon Smith be chairman.

Mr. G. F. Swann reminded those present that Mr. John Jaggar was celebrating his 80th birthday on that day. He moved that the hearty congratulations of the Guild should be accorded him. This was carried unanimously and Mr. Jaggar suitably responded. Unfortunately tea could not be provided at the Tamworth Arms, so after some handbell practice and social intercourse the proceedings terminated.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION'S LOSS.**DEATH OF MR. JAMES CLIFF, BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.**

Captain of the belfry of St. Cuthbert's, Blaydon, for many years, Mr. James Cliff passed away at the age of 67 years on Tuesday, January 7th, after only a fortnight's illness. He was a tower of strength to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, whose ranks he joined in 1898. Although he had only rung in two peals, one of Bob Major and one of Minor methods, he had done a good work in instruction in his belfry and in those in the Western District of the association.

One of his sons, Herbert P. Cliff, is a prominent and popular member of the Newcastle Cathedral Guild, while one of his daughters, also a ringer, is married to a well-known ringer of Croydon, Mr. Fred Collins.

The interment took place at Blaydon Cemetery on Friday, January 10th. A service was held in the Parish Church previously, and amongst the tokens laid on his grave was a wreath from the president and members of the association.

Mr. Cliff was of a happy, genial nature and his presence will be sincerely missed at future meetings. He leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters to mourn their loss.

THE OXFORD SOCIETY.

(Continued from previous column.)

Cinques. Some carols and other well-known tunes played by Mr. R. A. Post and his wife were greatly appreciated by all.

It was suggested that these parties should become an annual affair for the duration. This brought many varied opinions as to how long the war would last, which only ceased when there was a general dispersal of the party at 4.30 p.m.

**PEALS OF STEDMAN.
A FALLACY IN TRIPLES.**

We rather expected that some of our experts would have replied to Mr. G. E. Symonds' enquiry which appeared in our issue of December 27th last

Mr. Symonds said he had been told of a peal of Stedman Triples, called by James W. Washbrook, in which the treble was a quick bell throughout. He rather doubted the report, but said the figures would be highly interesting.

If such a peal was ever claimed to be rung, which is inconceivable, it would have been false. Washbrook did many fine and many remarkable things, but this is beyond anyone's powers. In any peal of Triples each bell must strike an equal number of times in every position. Now if the treble is always to be a quick bell it must be bobbed in 6-7, either up or down, every time it goes out behind. That means that in each journey from the lead to the back and down again it will strike twice in each firsts, seconds and thirds places, six times in each fourths and fifths, and nine times in sixths and sevenths.

From this we get 40 as the full number of possible courses and therefore 1,440 changes as the extent on the plan, the number of changes in each course being 36.

But what is possible is to have a peal of Stedman Caters in which one bell always goes in quick, for the number of changes on nine bells is so great that it is no longer necessary for an individual bell to fall an equal number of times into every position.

Peals of this sort have been composed and rung. It is said that when Henry Hubbard went from Norwich to Leeds he tried to induce the local men to ring Stedman Caters, but there was the stumbling-block that one of them could not, or would not, learn the slow work. To get over the difficulty Hubbard composed touches and a peal in which one bell always went in quick. They rang the touches, but not the peal.

Henry Johnson composed peals with the sixth always a quick bell. They were on the short course plan with alternate 7689 and 6789 course ends. One of these compositions was rung at Christ Church, Dublin, on May 25th, 1901, by a band which consisted of W. H. Barber, J. S. Goldsmith, G. R. Pye, P. W. Davies, I. G. Shade, W. Short, E. Pye, J. George, W. Pye and J. Buffery.

Mr. Barber called the bobs and it was the first time such a composition had been called from a non-observation bell.

IPSWICH RINGERS.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY MEETS WEEKLY.

The annual meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society was held on Sunday morning, January 5th, when all the officers for the ensuing year were re-elected en bloc.

Two members were prevented from being present by illness, the veteran Mr. Robert H. Brundle and Mr. Charles A. Catchpole, who had contracted influenza. Hope was expressed for their speedy recovery.

After the meeting 880 changes of Kent Treble Bob Royal were rung by G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. P. Garrett 9-10.

The society is keeping alive by meeting every Sunday morning for handbell practice. On two recent occasions over 1,000 Bob Major were rung, also touches of Grandeire Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Maximus, etc.

THE BELLS OF ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that the bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, will never ring again, I am sure there are many who, like myself, would like to say a word of thanks to those gentlemen who opened up the tower in recent years, thus enabling many to make their first acquaintance or renew old acquaintances with those historic bells.

For many years the bells were only allowed to be rung once or twice a year on special occasions, and the 'go' of the bells and the condition of the ropes can be better imagined than described. The ringing was undertaken by the Cumberlands, and through the efforts of the Master of the society, Mr. G. H. Cross, a new set of ropes was obtained, and eventually permission was granted for the bells to be rung for Sunday evening services, when a band could be arranged. He also obtained permission for the bells to be rung on Whit Monday, 1936, when the Central Council met in London. On that occasion there must have been numerous ringers who rang for the first time on St. Bride's bells.

The late Mr. Frank Smith and Mr. T. Bevan, the present senior steward of the society, also deserve our thanks for their efforts to make the bells go a little better. Those of us who have been in the neglected bell chamber of a city church realise the nature of their task.

Although the efforts of these gentlemen may seem to have been frustrated by the destruction of the bells, I, for one, will always remember the gloomy ringing chamber, with its circular windows and big ancient peal boards, and be grateful for the chance to ring in such an historic tower.

J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford, Kent.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD?

ARE PRACTICAL RINGERS THE BEST JUDGES?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Melville's letter is interesting. He is correct in saying that, in Cambridge, the tenors are divided by more than two places in 90 rows in the course. I quoted the Rev. E. Bankes James without checking his figures. This is another drawback to an attractive but very faulty method. It seems certain that it would never have attained its present-day popularity had more perfect methods been available, or, at least, better known. The fact that it extends so well to Royal and Maximus does not, in my opinion, make up for its deficiencies.

I am not acquainted with Bedford Surprise, but it sounds good; one false course end, correct coursing order, variety, good music and easy extension are first class qualities. Perhaps you would be kind enough to repeat the publication of a lead, so that your readers may have an opportunity of judging if, amongst all these, it has any faults.

Whether practical ringers are always the best judges of the qualities of a method I'm not so sure. Just as a good musician can judge the qualities of a piece of music without playing it, so it is possible to assess the qualities of a method, both theoretically and musically, without ringing it. The great majority of ringers, I should say, consider interest first, and then music, and, unless they happen to be composers, rarely go beyond these. Just to have a little dig at my good Yorkshire friends, capable ringers may spoil excellent methods, as they have been doing, for many years past, with their 'cart-wheel' Minor.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

BEDFORD SURPRISE.

Bedford Surprise Major, by Mr. Frederick Dench, was first published in 'The Ringing World' on April 7th, 1911. It has a perfect extension to Royal and Maximus. It has only one false course end in Major, 24365, and therefore all peals of Treble Bob on all numbers can be used with the bob made in 4th's. If the bob is made on the three back bells, peals with the 6th its extent in 6th's can be obtained.

Below is a lead of Major and a half lead of Royal and Maximus:—

12345678	1234567890	1234567890ET
21436587	2143658709TE	2143658709TE
124638579	1246385079E	1246385079E
21648375	2164830597	2164830579E9
26143857	2614385079	2614385079E
62413857	6241380597	6241380579E9
26148357	2614835079	2614835079E9
62418375	6241830597	6241830579E9
26481735	2648103957	264810375E79
62847153	6284019375	62840173E597
68241735	6824103957	682410375E79
86427153	8642019375	86420173E597
68472513	6840291735	6840291E3957
86745231	8604927153	860472E19375
87654213	8069421735	8069421E3957
78562431	0696247153	087624E19375
87652341	8069274513	806927E481735
78563214	0896725431	0876E2947153
75836241	0987624513	078E62491735
57382614	9078265431	9078E26947153
75328164	0987256341	078E29674513
57231846	.....	70E892765431
52738164	1243658709	ET0982674513
25371846	.....	ET9028765431
52317486	1426385079	TE0927856341
25137468	.....	.....
52314786	.....	1243658709TE
25134768	.....	1426385079E
21537486	.....	.....
12354768	.....	.....
21345678	.....	.....
12436587	.....	.....
14263857	.....	.....

DEATH OF MRS. LAURA SNOWDON.

We much regret to announce the death of Mrs. Laura Snowdon, who passed away on January 6th at the advanced age of 91 years at her home at Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancashire.

Mrs. Snowdon was the widow of the late Mr. William Snowdon, to whom she was married in 1883. She was buried in a grave next to her husband at Cartmel, Lancs, on January 9th.

The deepest sympathy of the Exercise will go out to her devoted daughter, Miss Margaret Snowdon.

MORE ABOUT RINGERS' TALES.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

When a man has reached a certain age and has fallen, or is about to fall, into what Shakespeare picturesquely calls the sere and yellow leaf, there are two grave faults to which he is very prone. One is the habit of giving good advice to younger people; the other is telling tales of what he did when he was a young man.

According to a witty Frenchman, old men give good advice because they can no longer set bad examples. Whether that is so I will not now seek to determine, but I must and will say it is a fault from which I myself am singularly free. I have lived a long and not uneventful life, spent in many places and under diverse conditions. I have had my faults and made my mistakes. I have missed bobs I should have called. I have gone in quick when I ought to have gone in slow. I have lost myself at the crucial time in a peal. These things I have done, but no one, no, not my most candid friend, can say that I give good advice.

Unfortunately, it seems to be a law that if in one thing a man is blameless, then he must make up for it by a superfluity of naughtiness in another thing, and when I turn to the other grave fault I confess my conscience makes me tremble. Here, alas, I have great cause to beat the breast, and to cry out in a loud and lamentable voice, *Mea culpa! Mea maxima culpa!* Set me on my Sunday morning walk with mine own familiar friend; put me in a saloon bar with three or four ringers after a peal or practice meeting—and the urge to talk is well nigh irresistible. Ask those members of the Central Council what happens in the hotel lounge long after midnight has chimed. Ask them, but don't forget to remind them that I am not the only offender, nor yet the worst.

It has been held by authorities that faults and offences lose half their badness when they are performed elegantly and gracefully. Be that as it may, I think we may admit that much talking (in itself an offence) can be made tolerable if done in the right way. In the puritanical circles wherein I was born and nurtured it used to be said that idle talk was a sin, and perhaps no good talker can be wholly a righteous man. He must be a bit of a liar, something of an egotist, and he needs a suspicion of malice, and a reasonable amount of naughtiness.

Thinking these things over, I wondered whether I could reproduce for the benefit of the readers of 'The Ringing World' some of the good tales I have heard and told; but, alas, a tale good to tell or to hear, nearly always turns out a poor feeble thing when it is set down in print. You shall judge. Here is what I call quite a good yarn.

Many years ago I had to go to the East End of London, and after I had finished my business I went into a public-house to get a drink. There were a number of men in the bar and among them a big, hulking bully of a fellow, who was throwing his weight about, insulting people and generally making himself a nuisance. The rest of the company were getting pretty well fed up with him, and, remembering that bullies are generally cowards at heart, were hoping that someone would stand up to him and slosh him across the jaw. But each waited for the other to begin and so no one acted.

There was, however, one man who was sitting by himself quietly drinking his glass of beer. He was a rather small man not quite of middle age, and as one looked at his face one could see that he was a man of force of character, who would not readily enter into a quarrel, but once in would not be a quitter.

Well, he sat there quietly, and as I watched him I could notice the anger and disgust that were mounting in his mind.

Presently the bully went across to where a small man was sitting on a stool, pushed him off it rudely and sat down himself.

That decided the quiet man. He got up, walked over to the bully, and said calmly but sternly, 'Let that man have his stool again!'

The bully put his pint pot down and half turned with a look of blank surprise and amazement on his face.

'Eh?' he said.
'Get off that stool, I tell you, and get off it quick!' ordered the quiet man, and I noticed that his right arm was taut and his right fist was clenched.

The bully put his feet slowly to the ground and stood up, and the two men stood facing each other while the company looked on in tense silence.

For a few seconds they faced each other, then the bully stretched out his two great paws. Grasping the other's collar with one hand and the seat of his trousers with the other, he tossed him through the open door into the street, and, having done so, he climbed on to the stool again and finished his beer.

Properly told, that is quite a good tale. I got it out of a book, and I did my utmost to turn it into a ringing tale, but, try as I would, I could not.

Now here are two other tales which happen to be true, and you will see how inferior they are to the first.

During the last war when I was in France I was sent to Divisional Headquarters on a signalling course. It was supposed to be a refresher course for men who were already signallers, but actually I knew nothing about it, and I suspect it was a bit of favouritism on the part of my company commander to give me five or six weeks out of the trenches, which I appreciated accordingly. But that's neither here nor there.

One day I was walking across the field which served as a football field and parade ground, and at the other end there was a party

(Continued in next column.)

THE BAN ON RINGING, QUESTIONING M.P.'s.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Smith's letter in 'The Ringing World' of December 20th reads like a 'Haw Haw' broadcast talk—it is abusive without being constructive and written by a person who does not care to put his address. In it (as in the letter underneath it) the presence of argument is negligible.

If I made a guess, I don't think I should be far wrong in saying that what Mr. Smith does not like about my letter is that it bears the wrong 'identity card,' and was a case of 'sour grapes.' There is no doubt by writing such a 'blitz' to your columns Mr. Smith thinks he has delivered a 'knock-out' blow, but the next time he tries such a move I'll advise him to fill his 'bombs' with something a little bit different to wind.

I could write at considerable length on his 'letter,' but there are one or two points I wish to make a few observations upon. One is, is Mr. Smith in favour of the ban or is he against it? If he is in favour of it, then he has no case and it is simply another instance of abusing the opposing attorney.

If he is against it, he should know perfectly well that to write such a letter is just the way to create an impression that there is a split among the rank and file of the fraternity, and this is just what those in favour of the ban are looking for. After all, how does he know but that the Government and military authorities may come up against his letter, and perhaps even file it for reference to support their case at some future date! I have heard of this being done more than once.

Perhaps Mr. Smith takes the attitude that because it is the Government it is no use putting up a fight, but exactly the opposite should be the case if Mr. Smith respects the freedom we are supposed to be fighting for. Let me remind him that it is this attitude which has led to the stalemate in politics which has given the Government many of the dictatorial powers which they now possess. Laziness and indifference to the things of life which matter most is the true description of this principle. If Mr. Smith resents going into action he should not (if he disagrees with the ban) adopt a 'dog in the manger' attitude towards others doing so. After all, the vote is a precious thing, which our forefathers sacrificed many things to secure, and it should be used whenever possible. Far from resenting questions, I find a great many M.P.'s and others welcome them, and often express the wish that more people would take the trouble of using the opportunity when it is afforded. Personally, I fail to see what it matters whether the question is put collectively or personally so long as it is put to the fountain head (which is Parliament itself) and not to any agents, and is supported by written views of a majority (as was done in this case with material from 'The Ringing World'), and that a strong case is made out.

A little initiative is worth more than all the officialdom in the world—and this latter phrase I would ask Mr. Smith and your other correspondent 'to go to bed and sleep on it.'

P. AMOS.
Northampton.

MORE ABOUT RINGERS' TALES.

(Continued from previous column.)

practising sending flag messages in morse. I stopped to take down the message, and there in the village of Saily Labourse, which, as everybody knows, is on the high road between Bethune and Lens, I read to my surprise that someone (I forget his name) had pulled up Bow tenor in so many minutes.

Away in the distance one of Jerry's balloons was up, and I should like to know what his observers, who certainly read that message, made of it. No doubt it was referred to the intelligence department as a new code which had to be solved.

The explanation, of course, was simple and even tame. I had had 'The Ringing World' sent out to me and dropped a copy, which the sergeant instructor picked up and used for his test message.

The other tale concerns something that happened not so long ago. I was walking on a Sunday morning with a very well known and distinguished ringer in a suburb of London where there are no bells. Presently I stopped and said, 'I heard bells,' but my companion said it was only a distant train and my imagination. So we walked on. I stopped again and said, 'I heard bells,' but my companion said it was only somebody's gramophone playing jazz dance music.

So we walked on. Again I stopped and this time we both thought we heard bells. 'Somebody has got a gramophone and St. Margaret's, Westminster, record,' said my companion, and we walked across the road to listen near the house where the sound seemed to come from; but it was not there.

We walked down a couple of roads still hearing the noise and we turned a corner and then there was no doubt about it. It was bells all right and not only bells but change ringing, and not only change ringing but Stedman Cinques, Stedman Cinques rung with a three ton tenor and rung as Stedman Cinques should be rung. And by all the laws of man and nature no Stedman Cinques should have been within miles of that place.

We followed the sound through several streets as it got louder and louder, and at last it led us to a small Roman Catholic church with a turret hardly big enough to hold a decent sized handbell. I should not say anything if they had rung Grandsire Doubles with a six hundredweight tenor, but Stedman Cinques from such a place! Now, I ask you, is it playing the game?

DOUBLE LONDON COURT BOB.

AN OBSOLETE METHOD.

In records of early ringing we often come across accounts of peals of Court Bob Major and occasionally of Court Bob Royal, and doubts sometimes arise as to what method was actually rung. It is generally recognised that the peal of Royal rung at Norwich in 1769 was what we now call Double Norwich Court Bob, but as our correspondent, Mr. L. W. Bunce, pointed out, Barham's band had already in 1765 rung 6,720 changes of Court Bob Royal at Leeds. If that was Double Norwich, how could the Mancroft peal be the first in the method?

The explanation is as Mr. Borrett points out, that the two peals were not rung in the same method.

Double Court Bob Minor, or, as it was at first called, Court Bob Minor, was one of the earliest and most popular of six-bell methods. It deserved to be and it was natural that men should try and extend it first to eight bells and then to ten, as they had already done to Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob.

But then a difficulty arose. In theory there may be more than one correct way of extending either Plain and Treble Bob, but there is only one way which satisfies the practical requirements of the belfry. That does not apply to Court Bob, and the men who tried to extend it to eight and ten bells took different views of what are the essential things in the method.

William Porter and the Norwich men said in effect: The one important thing in Court Bob Minor is that the bell which the treble turns from the lead makes fourth's and third's places round the treble, and the bell which the treble turns from the back similarly makes the fourth's and the third's places counted from behind. We will reproduce this feature on the higher numbers and let the other bells fit their work to it. The London men took a different view.

MAJOR.	ROYAL.
12345678	1234567890
21436587	2143658709
24163857	2416385790
42618375	4261837509
24681357	2468173059
42863175	4286710395
48236715	4827601359
84327651	8472063185
48372561	4870236915
84735216	8407329651
87453126	8043792561
78541362	80834975216
87514326	8039457126
78153462	0893541762
71835642	0985314726
17386524	9058137462
13768542	0951873642
	9015786324
	9107568342
	1970653824
	1796035284

They said that the principal feature of Court Bob is that every bell dodges on the lead and behind, before and after leading and lying full, except when the treble intervenes; the bell that the treble turns from the front or from behind makes third's place counted from the back and third's place counted from the front continually, until it follows the treble to the front or to the back; elsewhere all the work is plain hunting.

Either of these plans will give an extension which appears to satisfy the requirements of the belfry, and we are not surprised that both had their advocates who maintained that their extension was the correct one.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and while the Norwich extension showed itself to be one of the very best and most musical of methods, the London extension, although quite easy to ring, breaks up the tenors and makes it very difficult to get anything like a decent peal composition. It also has irregular lead ends, but the old ringers, though they preferred to have Bob Major lead ends, would not have condemned London Court because it lacks them if it had any compensating good qualities.

WINNIFY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £18. Further donations have been received from G. W. Cartmell, St. Albans, 10s.; W. H. Shuker, Manchester, 3s.; J. E. Davis, London, 2s. 6d.; J. M. Bullock, Dagenham, 2s. 6d.; A. Walker, Birmingham, 5s.; J. Emery, Bromley, 2s.; F. Smith, Bushey, 2s. 6d.; J. S. Goldsmith, Woking, 5s.; to whom the thanks of the committee are tendered.—A. B. Peck.

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TRANSPOSITION.

'MINORMANIA' EXPLAINS HOW IT IS DONE.

The letters from two correspondents, asking about transposition, have reminded me of the difficulty of an experienced ringer and conductor with whom, years ago, I was discussing Minor 'splicing.'

He would rattle off lead ends and course ends galore, far quicker than I, but when the treble was no longer at lead he went to pieces for some reason. He just could not see it.

One thing he did, with which I disagree, was to ignore the treble, and I think that this was his main trouble. I have noticed that the articles on proof, published recently, do this—not only when the treble is at lead, but also internally in the rows, and I think that the practice is most confusing. And, having scanned all of the articles, I am more convinced than ever of the necessity to example everything fully, as one goes along, if the matter is to be digested properly by those who really need it at all. Any subsequent enlargement is most likely never to be read, or, if read, to remain unconnected with the original problem of the reader.

However, that ringer and I got down to 'examples,' and the upshot was the publication of an article on transposition, with cards for the job, which might be worth repetition. It cannot be the same, since I write from memory while resting in a dug-out somewhere in a 'target area.'

When row (a) is 'transposed by' row (b), it means this: The numbers in row (a) are read as *bells*, while those of row (b) are read as *positions*, and positions in *two ways*. First, the positions visually obvious by the numbers you read; and second, the positions they hold in the row, from left to right. Thus, row (a) 24316587 transposed by row (b) 47263581 means that 24316587 are bells in the (understood) positions of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., respectively, while 47263581 each denote a position to which you look in row (a); and in that *position* you will find a *bell* (in a), which must now go down to another order (from left to right) which is (again understood) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th (in b). In other words, the 'understood' positions are 'rounds order,' while the positions (denoted by b) for which you look (in a) are not in rounds order.

If you work strictly from left to right (from b) you will write (naturally, from left to right) what you find (in a) from the given positions (in b): thus: 24316587 x 47263581 = 18453672.

The Rector, in Miss Sayers' story, 'The Nine Tailors,' did not do it from left to right, but he learnt his business from Troyte!

And that is all there is in 'forward' transposition, i.e., any row (a) by any row (b). But if it is not clear, get three sets of cards numbered from '1' to '8'; two sets of black and one set of red. Put down one black set in 'rounds order'—12345678. Cover it up with the red set (a) 24316587. Put row (b) under, in black, 47263581.

Now *uncover the black above*, one at a time and in no particular order, and cover the black below, but in strict order from left to right there, with the red cards. Take no notice of the numbers on the red cards until the job is completed. What you want to do is to uncover the black '4' above (which you cannot see) and bring down the red card on to the black '4' below. Then uncover the hidden '7' above, taking the red card to the '7' below. And so on. You cannot see the black hidden cards, but the point is that you know where to find them, because they are in 'rounds order,' hidden beneath row (a).

When you transpose 'backwards,' as you do when finding the false course ends from two rows, it means this: You couple together the bells appearing *one above another* in two rows. You then pick the coupled pairs up (together), and put them down again in any order you may want.

When looking for false course ends, from the articles, you require to put the coupled pairs down in rounds order, either from the top row, the bottom row, or from both. Thus, from the top, using (a) and (b) again:—

24.3.1.6.5.8.7	} becomes	1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8
4.7.2.6.3.5.8.1		6.4.2.7.5.3.1.8

When the top row (a) bells are written in rounds order, each bell has carried its 'mate' along with it, and you get 64275318. This tells you that if 24316587 comes from 12345678, then 47263581 will come from 64275318. (I have, purposely, not exampled a lead end here, in order to show the general application of the principle.)

If you prick rounds from the bottom row, similarly, you get this:—

2.4.3.1.6.5.8.7	} becomes	7.3.6.2.5.1.4.8
4.7.2.6.3.5.8.1		1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8

Which means a similar result to the above.

In other words, you 'read' rounds (in one row) and 'find' (in the other row), as you go along, those bells which are coupled to the rounds you are reading. And that's all there is in 'backward' transposition.

If you can transpose 'forwards' by any row you like (as, of course, you can do), it follows that you can transpose 'back' to what you like. In the articles on proof you transpose back to rounds. But you can, if you wish, halve the job by transposing back to 12345678 by reversing certain of the instructions, as I said when originally I criticised the articles.

(Continued on next page.)

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.

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

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.

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.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Lea in the Institute on Saturday, January 18th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by whist drive at 7 p.m. Refreshments, but bring your own sugar. Please come and bring your friends.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, January 18th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Refreshments can be obtained from the canteen in the Memorial Hall.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Derby, on Saturday, January 18th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives? All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

TRANSPOSITION.

(Continued from previous page.)

In the article of October 4th there were given some examples, where two rows of opposite nature produced four different course ends. I do not think that the explanation was very clear as to how the 'other two' come, but no matter. I am using them again to instance 'backward' transposition to something other than rounds.

Two rows were used (c), and, following the instruction, by transposing lead heads by one, then lead ends by the other, we get two rows (d). If we then transpose back to rounds, by 'reading' rounds in the top row, we 'find' in the bottom row, 16234578. And if we 'read' rounds in the bottom row, we 'find' in the top row 13456278. That is, the course ends Q and P, which are quoted. Now transpose ends by the one, and heads by the other of the rows (c), and we get two other rows with the tenors in similar places (e). Transposing back to rounds (down and up), we get 15426378 and 14632578—the course ends R and S quoted.

Now alter the given rules thus: When rows are opposite nature; transpose heads by both; when like nature, transpose heads by one and ends by the other (just the opposite to the instructions of the articles).

You will arrive at one row from (d), and one row from (e), with tenors in like but opposite places (f). Then transpose back to 12436587 by 'reading' that row in the top and you 'find,' in the bottom, 15426378. Next read in the bottom, and find, in the top, 13456278, and you have course ends R and P quoted in the article. If you are proving a peal only, you need go no farther, because S and Q are merely 'reflections' of R and P. But, if you do want them for some reason, you can obtain them (and any others similarly) by a sort of 'double transposition' thus: Read in R (154263) the positions occupied therein by rounds (123456). They are 1.4.6.3.2.5, which is course end S. Read in P (134562) the positions of rounds therein. They are 1.6.2.3.4.5, which is course end Q.

If there are mistakes, I apologise. Conditions are difficult and I am not able to take the usual care.

Here's 'good transposing' to all!

'MINORMANIA.'

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stourbridge St. Thomas (D.V.), 3 p.m., Saturday, January 18th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting, handbell practice and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held in Leicester on January 18th. Silent ringing on Cathedral bells if required, from 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Globe opposite the cathedral at 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet on Saturday, Jan. 18th, at 2.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Full details later.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbell ringing in the belfry from 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in Parish Room at 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by the 18th.—J. C. Dean, 4, Court Road, Northampton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting, at the café (opposite the church). Kindly inform me of the number for tea by Tuesday, 21st inst.—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke-Regis, Weymouth.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 25th, at 3.30 p.m. A substantial meat tea will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a social evening, including handbell ringing until 8.30 p.m., at an inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. per head. Names for tea must reach me not later than the first post on Tuesday, Jan. 21st. Reports will be available at this meeting.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but send names for tea to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

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