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SILENT APPARATUSES & PEAL RINGING

In a recent letter Mr. E. G. Hibbins, of Cambridge, mentioned a peal of Bob Major rung some years ago on the Seage's apparatus at Great St. Mary, and recorded on a board in the belfry. He reminded us that we said in this column on March 7th that 'however good a silent apparatus is, it should be used only for practice, and not for peal ringing'; and he asks whether a performance similar to the one at Cambridge would be recognised by the Central Council.

What attitude the Council would take, if the matter were brought before it, we do not presume to say. The question has never been raised, and any attempt to decide it by citing any of the existing resolutions would be unfair and mischievous, since they were drawn up to solve other problems. One of them, however, might perhaps have some relation to the matter. It lays down 'that every bell must during the peal sound at every change.' It must not, of course, be read as necessitating the sounding of the bell in the bell-chamber, though it is being rung by the ringer. The sounding of the handbell in the belfry would be a valid substitute. But it does definitely state that the failure of any one of those handbells to strike in every change would invalidate the peal. A silent apparatus, unless it is very perfect in its working, is liable to irregularities in the striking of the handbells, and a condition such as is contemplated by the Council's resolution might easily arise during a peal.

If we are ever so fortunate as to come into possession of a silent apparatus which gives results sufficiently good to tempt bands to use it for peal ringing with any frequency, the situation could be cleared up and put in order by a formal resolution of the Council. As we said, we do not know what course would be taken, but we do not doubt that the matter would be discussed fully and in all its bearings. One broad consideration should in the end decide. What would be the effect of such peals on the bands who rang them and so indirectly on the whole Exercise? Would they help progress or hinder?

Much can be said on both sides of the question. Peal ringing undoubtedly does stimulate interest, and improve ringing, and so help in no small degree the use of bells in the service of the Church; and peal ringing is most decidedly worth doing for its own sake. There are many towers where normally open peal ringing is but sparsely permitted. Why should not the bands at such towers take advantage of a silent apparatus and ring peals to their hearts' content without causing an-

(Continued on page 278.)

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royance to anyone? That is one side of the question, and if an apparatus can be devised, which will give inside the belfry the same effect as the open bells, it is hard to find more than one answer.

But the difficulty is that so far no apparatus seems to be able to reproduce the effect of the actual bells. To put it simply, the striking is a makeshift, and must be treated as a makeshift, and that can hardly fail to lower the standard of the ringing when the bells are open. Here is the danger. There is a tendency, and to some extent a growing tendency, to treat the method as the most important thing, and to relegate good striking into a secondary place as a most desirable quality, but not that of the first importance. Method ringing can be learnt and practised, and perhaps enjoyed, on a silent apparatus; but we very much doubt if good striking can be learnt so. Method ringing can be learnt and practised with silent clappers, but we fear that a lot of it would have a disastrous effect on striking.

It has been suggested that to allow peals on silent apparatuses would open the door to fraud and false peals. We do not attach much importance to such a fear even if cause for it exists. There always have been, and probably there always will be, some people who are not over scrupulous in peal ringing; but they are not many, and in the long run they usually defeat their own ends. A deliberate attempt to fake a peal may be hidden, but it often comes to light, and one such doubtful performance does more harm to a man's reputation than a score of good peals do good. And the man who thinks it worth while to fake peals can find plenty of opportunities for doing so when the bells are rung open.

We trust to a band's sense of honour and truthfulness, and it is seldom that the trust is misplaced. When a band say they have rung a peal on handbells we do not doubt their word, though they had shut themselves up in a room where there was no one to hear them. Why should we doubt them? There is not much satisfaction in saying you have rung a peal unless you actually have rung it. You are the only person who really bothers about it, for in days, when peals are so plentiful and so comparatively easy to score, the ringing of one does not fill other people with any excessive amount of either admiration or envy.

We need not consider whether peal ringing on silent apparatuses would lead to deliberately false peals; we must consider whether it would tend to lower the standard of ringing and of striking.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. WHITSUNTIDE MEETING.

The May meeting of the society was held at St. Paul's, Shipley, on Saturday, May 31st, in perfect weather, and as it was the start of the Whitsun holiday, it was hoped that a good number would be present to try the clapperless bells, but owing to a wages dispute in the bus company, and the fact that Shipley is on a direct route to the West Coast, travelling was very difficult. Ringers were greatly delayed on the journey and only the most enthusiastic arrived at Shipley.

After tea at a nearby cafe the bells were pulled up in peal and silent touches were enjoyed, but could not be compared to the handbells, the music of which made the ringers realise what they were missing.

The business meeting was held in the tower. Mr. J. F. Harvey presided, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle and the local company.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local company, including Mr. Ernest Simpson, was proposed by Mr. P. A. J. Johnson and seconded by Mr. F. W. Dixon.

The next meeting will be held at Batley on June 28th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, May 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One each of College Single, Oxford Bob, Woodbine Treble Bob,
Merchant's Return, Kent and Oxford, and Bob Minor.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 3-4
HAROLD HOWSON... .. 5-6

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First seven methods 'in hand' by all.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. J. HAIRS 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS 3-4 | *R. GORDON CROSS 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal on handbells. A birthday compliment to Mr. James Hunt.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
CRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | *FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW... 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 11 in G.

IVOR C. N. BELL 1-2 | *MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 5-6

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung on the wedding anniversary of a popular local ringer.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, June 5, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4 | EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ban on church bells has been in operation for nearly twelve months now, and I, for one, have still to see any written instructions as to their use in case of enemy invasion. Whether invasion will ever be attempted remains to be seen, but as nothing has happened up to the present, I think the Central Council should, as a body, approach the Ministry of Home Security again and see if the ban can be lifted, or even modified. In this direction they should, in my opinion, enlist the co-operation of the two Archbishops and any other Church dignitaries.

Mr. C. T. Coles, in a letter which he wrote to you some time ago, truly stated, I think, that the Government had made our churches military objectives, and it would be interesting to know whether the Government would be prepared to compensate those Church authorities whose bells have been destroyed or damaged by enemy action, as probably restoration work will be much more costly after this war is over.

AUBREY L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh, Devon.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BIBBY.

WELL-KNOWN CHESHIRE RINGER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Bibby, of Frodsham, Cheshire, who passed away on June 3rd in Chester Royal Infirmary.

Mr. Bibby was long a prominent figure in the Chester Diocesan Guild, which he represented on the Central Council from 1912-1914 and 1921-23.

Not only was he the mainstay of ringing for many years at Frodsham, where he was in business as a basket maker, but trained his family as ringers, his sons, John Edward and Francis, and his daughter, Miss Norah Bibby, being prominent members of the Chester Guild.

Mr. William Bibby had rung some 160 peals for the Chester Guild and over 50 for the Lancashire Association.

GUILDFORD RINGER REPORTED MISSING.

LOST IN H.M.S. 'FIJI.'

Captain of the S. Nicolas', Guildford, band, Mr. Sidney Elton, son of the late Mr. T. Elton and Mrs. Elton, of Walsall, has been reported 'Missing, believed killed' from the action in the defence of Crete. He was serving as a fitter-artificer on H.M.S. 'Fiji', having joined the Royal Navy in November, 1940. Mr. Elton was 35 years of age and had been associated with S. Nicolas' tower for many years. A talented bellringer and conductor, he had rung peals in many methods, including Surprise. While in Guildford he worked at Messrs. Dennis Bros. His wife is living at Middlesbrough.

DEATH OF BOURNEMOUTH RINGER,

FORMER CAPTAIN AT ST. PETER'S.

Mr. James Bennett, formerly captain of the ringers at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, passed to his rest quite suddenly on May 26th at the age of 77 years. He began his connection with the mother church of Bournemouth at the age of ten as a choirboy and subsequently was a bellringer as well as a chorister. For many recent years, however, he had not taken an active part in either capacity, for whilst the doctor forbade the long climb up to St. Peter's belfry, his wife's ill-health prevented his regular attendance in the choir.

Mr. Bennett sang bass and few choristers could sound such a resonant bottom C, and his 'weight' in the lower clef was greatly missed when he retired. As a ringer Mr. Bennett did not aspire to becoming a 'star' performer, but he had few superiors on the back end in Stedman or Grandsire Triples, and with Mr. George Preston must be counted among the pioneers of change ringing in the Bournemouth district.

He had the satisfaction of standing in the first peal ever rung in St. Peter's tower, as also did Mr. Preston.

The funeral service took place in St. Peter's on Friday, May 30th, the singing of the hymns, 'Jesu, lover of my soul' and 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,' being led by many of his former colleagues in the choir.

A course of Grandsire Triples, struck in slow time on handbells by Mr. Frederick Townsend 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, Mr. Arthur V. Davis 5-6 and Miss F. Childs 7-8, was rung in the church, and the cortege left to the singing of the Nunc Dimittis.

Many ringers from the district were present in the congregation, including the Rev. C. A. Phillips (Salisbury Diocesan Guild), Mr. G. Preston (Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, Christchurch Priory), Messrs. C. R. Porfitt, E. Waters, C. Chandler and H. Osborne (St. Peter's), and Mr. H. R. Bennett (St. John's, Surrey Road).

DEATH OF MR. A. J. SMITH,

OLD ESSEX RINGER.

On June 2nd, Mr. A. J. Smith, of the Essex village of Langham, who had passed away quietly and suddenly, was laid to rest in the churchyard. He was 82 years of age and had been a regular chorister and keen bellringer for more than fifty years. For long he was a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council, and Steward for Langham of the Tendring Hundred Benefit and Sickness Society. He was a life member of the Essex Association and had taught many ringers. He took part in one peal, but peal ringing did not appeal to him.

The Rector, the Rev. C. J. S. Ward, officiated at the funeral service, which was fully choral, Mr. F. P. Pratt being at the organ. The mourners included Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Smith (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. Edward Smith (son), Mrs. Crath (daughter), Mrs. Mabel Liddamore, Mrs. Ivy Davey and Mr. Cyril Smith (grandchildren), Mr. E. Liddamore, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sage, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Nevard, and Mr. L. Wright (hon. district secretary of the North-Eastern Division, Essex Association). Floral tributes were from Mr. F. C. Smith and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. Smith and the grandchildren.

Mr. Smith's two sons are both ringers and well known to members of the Essex Association. Mr. Frank Smith is still at Langham, and Mr. E. D. Smith is Ringing Master of the Leytonstone band.

DUBLIN.—On May 25th, at St. George's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 7-5-8 covering, in 49 minutes, for the Ascension service: Miss Sadie Lorgan 1, David McGregor 2, Miss Ada C. Dukes 3, William Hall 4, Ernest Davidson 5, Frederick E. Dukes 6, George McGregor 7, William McGregor 8.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 268.)

THE THIRD COUNCIL.

The first session of the third Council was held at Whitsuntide in the marvellous summer of 1897. It was the year of the Diamond Jubilee, the culmination of the great Victorian epoch. Never had England seemed so great, so wealthy and so prosperous, and the spirit of the times was reflected in the military pomp and pageantry. Historians tell us now that already there were signs of coming trouble, but of that the ordinary people knew nothing.

The Council's meeting was held at the Church House in Dean's Yard, Westminster, the building which recently was pulled down and where for many years the Council held its London sessions. The attendance was, as in all the early years, far from satisfactory. Out of a total number of 91 elected members, 38 were absent. It was Henry Law James' first meeting, and from that time until his death he was one of the most active and important members. It was also my first meeting. In the previous year I had been elected to represent the Norwich Diocesan Association, more by the favour and influence of Earle Bulwer than on account of any merits of my own. He said nothing to me, nor, I believe, to anyone else, but simply put my name forward, in my absence, at the annual meeting of the association to take the place of Holme Pilkington, who had retired.

At the Council's meeting there was a very full agenda. The most important item was a motion by the President, who had now turned his attention to the betterment of the conditions of bells and belfries and the improvement of the relations between ringers and Church authorities. He said that the Exercise had practically come to a deadlock. Ringers had made themselves, chiefly by their own efforts, into a very respectable body; but they could not get Church authorities and the public generally to do their part and recognise them fairly and their art. Why should they not be treated with the same consideration as church choirs? The bells were usually the most costly possession of a church, yet, while organs were kept in good tune and repair, the bells were neglected. He had given a good deal of thought to the subject, and he came to the conclusion that if a return could be got from the secretaries of the various associations throughout the country of the condition of the rings of twelve, ten, and eight bells, and a statement drawn up and laid before the Church authorities, it might open their eyes and shame them into taking action.

Heywood's motion was, of course, carried, and he proceeded further to ask for a committee which consisted of himself, W. T. Cockerill, R. S. Story, F. E. Ward, George Williams, F. E. Dawe, and myself. I thus found myself on a committee at my first meeting, and have not since ceased to be a member of one or another.

The appointment of the committee was really only a concession to form, for the idea was Heywood's and he fully intended the execution to be his also. He drew up a set of questions to be sent to each tower, and asked us to approve it. Of course, there was nothing for us to do but pass it, and after that Heywood took the whole matter into his own hands.

It was by far the best thing to do and he carried the matter through very thoroughly and very efficiently.

Much of it was routine clerical work, and that was performed by one of the people in his employment.

In due time the returns came in and were published weekly in 'The Bell News,' but they were entirely different from what Heywood had expected. So far from showing that the rings of twelve, ten and eight were in a bad condition, the reports stated that they were mostly in good ringing order. Good ringing order is a relative term, and undoubtedly many bells then considered to be in full pealable condition would to-day be regarded as badly in need of rehangng.

But there was not much reason for trying to shame the Church authorities by exposing the state of the bells, if the Council's own return showed that the state was generally satisfactory. So Heywood announced that nothing more would be done in the matter.

He, however, still continued his work in connection with bell towers and hanging. His early knowledge of engineering stood him in good stead, and he was the first to experiment with self-aligning bearings, which he installed in his own tower at Duffield. He took a great interest in the investigations Mr. Edwin H. Lewis made into the stresses and strains exerted by a swinging bell, and the present Towers and Belfries Committee was first appointed at his instance. In connection with the work of this committee he wrote a book on 'Bell Towers and Bell Hangings,' which was intended to be an appeal to architects to consider the uses and needs of bells in designing church towers. It incorporated chapters by the various members of the committee, Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. J. H. B. Hesse, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, but it was characteristic of Heywood that it was not issued as a Council publication, but under his own name and at his own expense. It appeared in 1914. He took some trouble to get it into the hands of architects, but whether it had any influence with them I cannot say. Probably it had not much, for architects, like lawyers and doctors, are a very close corporation and treat with contemptuous indifference or resentment any attempts by amateurs to teach them their business.

Improvements in the designs of bell hanging are much more likely to be made by and through the bell hangers than through architects, for an architect has to acknowledge, whether he likes it or not, that the bell hanger knows his business better than he does. So far as the steeples are concerned, there is not much chance of the ideal bell tower being built until architects treat towers as places for housing bells which may be made into ornaments; rather than ornaments which may occasionally be used for bells.

At the 1897 meeting the condition of the belfry at Westminster Abbey was mentioned and an attempt was made to get a protest sent to the Dean from the Council; but Heywood was always anxious to avoid anything like interference with individuals, and he in effect forbade the Council to meddle with the matter. After Frederick Thornton had introduced his motion and made his speech, he intervened before it was seconded and nothing more was done.

Thornton had already moved a resolution on another subject which was carried and which throws a light on one of the habits of peal ringers in old days. From the earliest of times men have been ambitious to shine as conductors of peals and have brought very varying

ability and knowledge to the task. Always they were faced with the possibility of missing a bob and the tricks a faulty memory might play. And always some had been tempted to get over the difficulty by having the figures stuck up on the wall near by so they could refer to them when in doubt. Such things were, of course, not advertised, and how far they were customary we have no means of knowing; but as early as 1731, Thomas Melchior, of Norwich, taunted his rival, Edward Crane, with using the trick, and fifty years ago it began to be quite common. As is usual in such cases, a local dispute over a peal rung in Kent brought the matter to a head, and the Council was asked to declare 'that the practice of using visible aids to memory in the conducting of peals is detrimental to the interests of the art.'

The resolution, naturally, was supported, and after being somewhat watered down, was carried; but it is significant that many people defended the practice in a half-hearted and apologetic manner. There was hardly a man to say downright that the custom was a bad one and ought to be stopped. John W. Taylor did not care to see bobs hung up, but his poor head would certainly not carry part ends. H. A. Cockey thought that occasional use did not matter, but 'to use visible aids constantly is, however, most illegal.' G. F. Attree failed to see where the illegality came in. R. C. M. Harvey had the course ends written down when he called his first peal; but would not have the effrontery to ask for more. R. Binns, of Leeds, thought ringers should have some discretion in the matter. And so on.

The resolution the Council did pass was a mild one, but that did not matter. As soon as the question was

brought into full light, the Exercise generally recognised how unfair the practice was, and it very soon died out, or if it survived did so in a hole-and-corner fashion.

The discussion on another resolution which was passed reflects the conservatism of the older members and illustrates the keenness of the rivalry then existing between composers. Several men had been trying to produce peals of Treble Bob Major without either the second or the third in sixth's place at the course end. Mr. Lindoff was the first to succeed; but he did so by beginning his compositions with one or two bobs at Home and at once Nathan Pitstow and Henry Dains (who had also been trying but so far without success) complained that it was not playing the game. They demanded that all peals of Treble Bob should have their Home bobs at the end. Bulwer thought it fit to bring up the matter and, despite protests, the Council decided that there is no valid reason why a peal of Treble Bob should not begin with one or two Homes.

Younger men who see this resolution among the Council's official pronouncements may wonder why it ever was thought worth while to pass such an obvious thing. They find it difficult to realise the strength of old prejudices and habits. Even Jasper Snowdon shared this prejudice. Referring to the long peal of Treble Twelve rung at Norwich in 1783, which was started with two Homes, he remarked that it was probably done to save a muddle out, but he himself would rather run any risks than have recourse to such an expedient. It is strange that so able and so generally unprejudiced a man should not have seen that the Norwich men knew quite well what they were about. Their peal ended with the full plain course, not a bad way to ensure the most effective ringing at the coming home.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

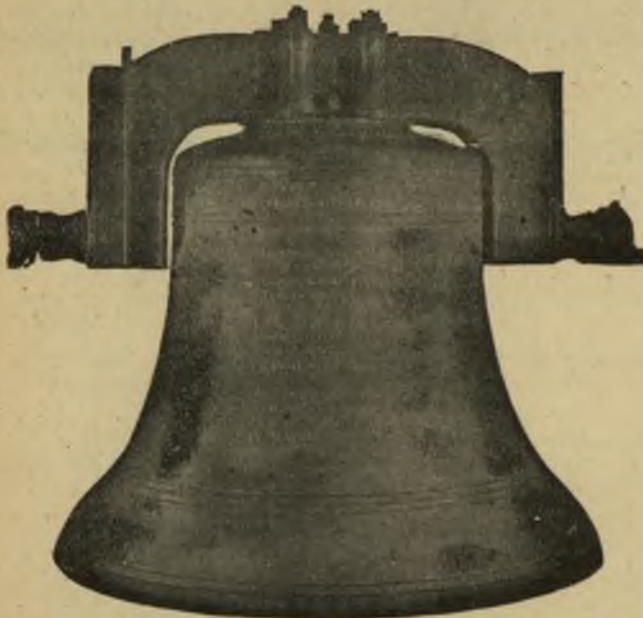
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We and the whole Exercise wish Mr. Edwin H. Lewis many happy returns. To-day is his birthday.

On June 9th, 1850, the first peal in America was rung at Christ Church, Philadelphia, by a band of handbell ringers who were touring America with P. T. Barnham's show. The method was Grand sire Triples and the conductor Henry W. Haley.

The last peal on the old ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, was rung on June 9th, 1883.

On June 12th, 1815, a peal of Grand sire Maximus, 5,040 changes, was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, by the St. Martin's Youths.

On June 15th, 1851, the College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Caters on handbells. The composition, however, was false and the peal was replaced by another by the Cumberlands in 1855.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. Four were Grand sire Triples, two Bob Major and one Kent Treble Bob Major. The last was on handbells by the St. Albans Cathedral Society. Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham conducted and Mr. G. W. Cartmel rang 3-4.

We are informed that the bells of St. Albans Abbey have been taken down and put in a place of safety, and those of St. Magnus', London Bridge, are shortly to be taken down.

As advertised in our last issue, Mr. James George is now living at Quinton Hall, Quinton, near Birmingham, where he will be pleased to see any of his ringing friends. He tells us that he is feeling much better and is getting on very nicely with his artificial leg.

Among the bells destroyed or damaged in recent air raids on Central London are several which figure prominently in the history of change ringing. They include the twelve at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; the ten at St. Clement Danes'; and the eights at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, and St. Mary, Bow, Stratford.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

CHURCH DESTROYED IN AIR RAID.

More of the old and mellow buildings of London, it may now be stated, says 'The Times,' have been consumed by fire or blasted by high explosive in recent air raids. Charterhouse and the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, famed the world over for its bells, have suffered severe damage. Little but charred walls remains of the Grey Coat Hospital and Spurgeon's Tabernacle has been destroyed.

Little is left of the church of St. Mary-le-Bow but the great tower and steeple. This bears marks of the intensity of the fire, and the familiar clock in Cheapside is charred. The church had suffered some damage in previous raids, but now the whole of the interior and roof and parts of the walls have gone. The famous Bow bells, however, had previously been dismantled. Like most of the other Wren churches, St. Mary, which was destroyed in the Great Fire, dates back to the reign of William the Conqueror. It is said to be the first church built in England upon arches or bows of stone, hence its name. Wren rebuilt it at greater cost than most of his other churches, and his steeple, second in height only to St. Bride's, is considered to be one of the best balanced of his designs.

St. Mary's, Newington, is now added to the long list of London churches destroyed. It was burnt out, and only the walls remain.

We fear that 'The Times' is inaccurate in saying that Bow bells had been removed to a place of safety before the church was destroyed, but definite information about damaged bells is not easy to get.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

CITY RING TAKEN DOWN.

At the meeting held on Saturday last at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the business was short and mainly routine. Among those present were Mr. J. H. Shepherd, Swindon, who was congratulated by the Master on his 52 years' membership, and Mr. F. W. Budgen, of Brasted.

Greetings were received from Messrs. W. C. Dowding (Birmingham), J. W. Jones (Newport, Mon), E. P. Duffield (Colchester), S. H. Hoare (Watford) and G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Central Council).

The treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) gave more interesting details of damage to towers and bells, and mentioned that another ring of ten in the City were to be lowered for safety.

Mr. W. H. Passmore reported that his nephew, Mr. Herbert Passmore, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, had written to say that he was in good health.

After the treasurer and Mrs. Hughes had been warmly thanked for their kind hospitality, the Master announced that the next meeting would be held on Saturday, June 21st, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

THE SAFETY OF BELLS.

PRECAUTIONS URGENTLY NEEDED.

The 'Church Times' last week referred to a communication it had received from the College Youths. 'The Ancient Society of College Youths,' it writes, 'is naturally very concerned about the fate of bells in the blitz. "Bells," writes its honorary secretary, "should be lowered to safety, then sandbagged and enclosed; for not only are they very vulnerable to heat and blows, but to loss by theft." In proof of this he cites a recent case of looting. In daylight the Whitechapel bells were nonchalantly broken up where they fell, packed in baskets, and as old metal worth £300 driven away under the eyes of the onlookers.'

A NOTABLE PEAL.

THE FIRST IN FOUR SURPRISE METHODS.

In the history of the ringing Exercise, there are some peals which stand out prominently, not only because they were fine performances in themselves, but because they were milestones in the path of progress, and after they had been achieved, the art was, in a very definite way, something different and wider than it was before. Such were the first peal of Stedman Caters in 1787, the first peal of London Surprise in 1835, the first performance of Thurstans' Four-Part in 1846, and others, not the least among them being the first spliced peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods, which was rung 14 years ago last Wednesday.

The idea of including more than one method in a touch or a peal is an old one, dating back more than a couple of centuries, but little had been done to develop it, and after the falseness of the Crown Hobs had been exposed, nothing was done except for a few performances, each consisting of a number of independent courses and touches in different methods. The most notable of those performances were by Leonard Proctor's band at Bennington, and there are still a few boards in different belfries which record them, but the Exercise in general, and the London men in particular, held that it was illegitimate ringing. Fifty years ago, Harvey Reeves, the Editor of 'The Bell News,' wrote that, though it might be possible to combine two or more methods in a true peal, no real ringer would think of doing so.

It was the introduction of spliced Minor ringing by Law James just before the last war that made men consider whether something of the sort might be possible in Major. The Cambridge University men rang spliced Plain, Double and Little Bob Major on handbells; and that was followed by various combinations, including Spliced Cambridge and Superlative at Whitley Bay in 1924.

Then naturally men began to think of a spliced peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods, but the trouble was to find a true composition. It was produced by Henry Law James, who had the brilliant idea of using two leads of London and one of either Cambridge or Superlative to make up the normal course, with leads of Bristol added in certain places.

At the time, to ring it was generally considered to be too difficult a task, but Mr. A. H. Pulling got together a band, and on May 28th, 1927, an attempt was made at Warnham. The task was found to be not less difficult than had been expected. The first start ended at the second lead-end, the next lasted ten minutes, then there was half an hour's ringing, and at last the bells got away fairly and there seemed a good chance of a peal being scored; but after about three hours, a shift course occurred.

At a second meeting on June 11th the task was completed. The band was G. W. Steere, J. S. Goldsmith, J. A. Cole, W. J. Robinson, O. Sippetts, W. T. Beeson, C. H. Dobbie and A. H. Pulling.

A few weeks later a band of the Middlesex County Association, with William Pye as conductor, rang the peal at Willesden, and they went on to score peals in five and six methods, and eventually completed the series up to twelve, except that they never completed one in two methods. They did have one or two attempts, but each time something happened, and the illness and death of the conductor finally prevented the complete record being made.

When the war broke out spliced ringing in the four standard Surprise methods had become fairly common. It had lost a good deal of its former terrors. Some men even professed to treat it as easy, and to express wonder why people ever thought it difficult. But it was difficult when it was first practised. It is not quite easy to see why it should be so, but it is undoubtedly true that the fact that one band has achieved a task makes it easier for those who come after. The men who now find Spliced Surprise easy do so only because Mr. Pulling's band faced and overcame difficulties 14 years ago.



MR. A. H. PULLING.

PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader in the issue of May 30th raises two very important points—the recording of compositions and the preservation of composers' manuscripts.

One is prompted to ask why all associations do not record the compositions of peals which are rung under their respective auspices. The value of such records cannot be over-estimated, not only could the truth (or otherwise) of any peal be established at any time if challenged, but the record of each performance would then be complete, and would, as Jasper Snowdon put it, 'preserve from oblivion the only particulars of permanent interest connected with the performances they record.'

The Yorkshire Association was, I believe, the first of all societies to insist on the publication of every composition in its records on seven bells and upwards. Jasper Snowdon was adamant on that point at the inception of the association, and the rule has been adhered to rigidly ever since. No peal is accepted for publication unless the calling accompanies the other particulars of the performance. The calling then appears in the annual report unless it has been rung previously by the association, in which case the reference number is given, denoting where the same composition can be found. Thus all compositions rung by the Yorkshire Association have appeared in print in its records at least once.

Some time ago, with the blessings of the committee, I started on the rather lengthy job of proving all the compositions rung by the Yorkshire Association (nearly two thousand of them), and already the value of this research has been realised. The idea is not so much to discredit those who took part in a peal which is found to be false as to purge the records of all false peals, and, by giving a detailed list, to obviate the possibility of a conductor using any of them again.

This research has proved (if such proof is needed) that no composer, however capable, can be entirely trusted not to have made a mistake. During the past two or three months I have found false peals bearing the names of such eminent men as Arthur Knights, Arthur Craven, H. Law James, Charles Henry Hattersley and Tom Lockwood. Who would say that those men were not first rate composers and that a simple mistake by any of them was to be expected? Yet Arthur Knights produced a peal of Grandsire Caters with an entire round block repeated; Arthur Craven has a peal of Treble Bob Major with one course false against three others where the alternative calling in that same course will render the peal true; H. Law James has a peal of Cambridge Royal with two courses internally false against each other given in their entirety; Tom Lockwood makes the mistake of having four calls, the last a Single, at successive lead-ends in Grandsire Caters; and C. H. Hattersley's 'faux pas' occurs in a peal of Stedman Caters, where part of the main body of the peal has already appeared in the opening course.

In fairness to the late Mr. Arthur Craven, I must state that the fault may not be his. The peal mentioned above is a 7,456 of Treble Bob Major, which gives the 30 course-ends in 24 courses. This peal was rung at Eckington on May 18th, 1937, in an abbreviated form (5,088), and was conducted by the late Mr. Arthur Knights; fortunately, the shortened peal is true. The full peal of 24 courses is given in our report as sent in by the conductor, but, and this is why I doubt the accuracy of the figures, the calling does not correspond with the number of changes. I am endeavouring, therefore, to get hold of Mr. Craven's manuscript book so that I can examine his original figures.

This is an example of those cases where the existence of a composer's manuscript is of the utmost importance, and it proves once more the wisdom, if not the necessity, of preserving the work of our composers whenever we can do so. Had the peal which I have just quoted been rung in full, there would have been some doubt as to the truth of what was rung, as both the conductor and the composer are deceased.

The other false peals which I have mentioned are as follows, the index number being the number of the performance in the Yorkshire Association records:—

- No. 699. 5,075 Grandsire Caters, by Tom Lockwood, rung at Leeds, April 2nd, 1893.
- No. 1,700 5,175 Stedman Caters, by C. H. Hattersley, rung at Halifax, June 22nd, 1907.
- No. 2,250. 5,039 Grandsire Caters, by Arthur Knights, rung at Sheffield, on handbells, June 6th, 1912.
- No. 3,776. 5,040 Cambridge Surprise Royal, by the Rev. H. Law James, rung at Ripon, May 19th, 1934.

As the peal of Cambridge Royal will, no doubt, have been rung by other associations, I append the figures of the peal:—

23456	M	W	H	M	W	H	
52436	—	—	—	36524	—	—	The 6th and 8th leads of the 5th course are respectively false with the 1st and 4th leads of the 9th course; and the 1st and 4th leads of the 6th course are false with the 6th and 8th leads of the 8th course.
34625	—	—	—	23564	—	—	
52643	—	—	—	62534	—	—	
64523	—	—	—	35426	—	—	
54326	—	—	—	42356	—	—	
23645	—	—	—	34256	—	—	
42635	—	—	—	23456	—	—	

A question before I close. How many of the associations could claim an unblemished peal list if all their records were checked?

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

PEALS WITH 'SILENT' APPARATUS. A COUNCIL MEMBER'S VIEWS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I rather expected to see some official pronouncement in your last issue on the point raised by Mr. Hibbins as to whether 5,000 changes rung on a Seage's apparatus, such as there is in the tower of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, would be recognised by the Central Council as a peal? As the Central Council is not meeting, perhaps none of the officials cared to venture an opinion on what might be a controversial matter.

There seem to me, however, to be certain past practices either tacitly agreed to or openly winked at by the Council which, failing some definite new ruling, would compel the Council to recognise such a peal—shall I add, for what it is worth?

Personally, I think it is a fair analogy to say that such a peal would rank to some extent with a peal on handbells rung 'single-handed,' a type of performance which the Council in 1904 said 'though technically a peal, should be discontinued.' Circumstances, as we know, alter cases. Present conditions are vastly different from those of 1904, and handbell ringing, single-handed, is the only way open to a great many beginners to learn change ringing. Peal ringing in this fashion is not, therefore, so much to be discouraged now as it was when the Council passed its resolution.

Ringing on Seage's or similar apparatus goes, of course, a stage further than handbell ringing pure and simple. The management of a bell is part of the operation, and, assuming that the apparatus is in proper working order, and that accurate striking is to be observed, the added value of the tower bell control is gained, although what is actually heard is, only, in effect, a handbell.

Logically, therefore, it seems to me that, if the Council recognises as technically a peal a single-handed handbell peal on handbells 'retained in hand,' as it was once the fashion to describe it, the Council must accept in the same way a peal on handbells sounded indirectly through the operation of the church bells, which is more difficult than simple handbell ringing. And in the present circumstances such peals also appear to me something which, at least, should not be officially discouraged.

There remains one other point, and that is the Council's resolution of 1895 that 'where practicable, there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.' In recent years, at least, that recommendation has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance. If it were strictly complied with, I would say that any peal rung with an apparatus like Seage's should have a competent umpire, because in so far as the ringing and what happens in the course of it can be known only to those taking part, the two cases are absolutely parallel. But many handbell peals—I am probably right if I say most—have for years been rung and accepted purely on the honour of the ringers who ring it.

That, of course, is as it should be. A 'cooked' peal can be rung on open church bells just as well as on handbells, and, for the little difference such performances would make to the Council's official records, conductors who would knowingly be guilty of such practices are welcome to the 'glory' they can get out of such peals. I feel convinced, however, that so-called peals of this character, either on tower bells or handbells, are and have been few and far between, and if we can trust the honour of a handbell band without an umpire we can trust those who would ring a peal on Seage's apparatus. All I would insist upon, if that is possible, is that the apparatus is in proper working order and that all the bells should strike throughout the peal. If one or more of the bells, through failure of the mechanism, failed to operate, the ringing should stop, just as it should on tower bells if a clapper broke or fell out.

My views may not be the views of other members of the Council, and I should like to see the opinions of some of them expressed in your columns.

A COUNCIL MEMBER.

INTERESTING OXFORD EXPERIMENT. An Electrical Difficulty.

Dear Sir,—I have been following, with much interest, the letters in 'The Ringing World,' re silent apparatus for tower bells, and some of us here in Oxford have been carrying out experiments with a system in New College Bell Tower, where the clappers have been removed for silent practice.

This apparatus is, as yet, in an experimental stage and requires much work before it can be said to be satisfactory, but we have found out for ourselves one fact which quite a number of your correspondents have overlooked.

In an editorial on this subject it is stated that any apparatus which does not exactly reproduce the natural timing of the clappers would be useless, but has this any foundation in actual fact? We have tried a rubbing contact fitted to the frame, consisting of two springs which are shorted by a metal plate fixed on the end of the stock just above the centre gudgeon pin, which means that the electrical impulse is received as the bell passes the bottom dead centre of the swing. This gives a near enough even blow both ways.

The effect in the belfry is that the stroke is heard appreciably earlier on both hand and back stroke, but, if the bells are rung by

(Continued in next column.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. ANNUAL MEETING.

About seventy members were present at the annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild at Kingsthorpe, near Northampton, on Whit Monday. The Guild service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. L. Couchman, who gave a practical and interesting address. He stressed the importance of teaching ringers to take their place in the belfries after the war, and the need for patience and consideration in dealing with beginners. The collection for the Belfry Repair Fund amounted to £1 12s.

Owing to a breakdown in the arrangements, a sit down tea was not possible, but the Vicar and Mrs. Couchman did the best they could, everyone was supplied with a cup of tea, and Mrs. Powell with her usual thoughtfulness had brought some cakes and sandwiches so that those who could not be notified of the lack of tea were assured of something.

The business meeting took place at the Vicarage. The Master, the Rev. E. S. Powell, presided and was supported by the Rev. A. T. Segger and the Rev. J. H. Marlow (branch presidents), Mrs. Powell, Mr. R. G. Black (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. T. Tebbutt, the Rev. E. V. Fenn, Messrs. W. R. Butcher, H. Baxter, A. Bigley and J. C. Dean (branch secretaries), the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, the Rev. R. H. Palmer, the Rev. E. H. Robertson, Mr. Lathbury, of Cambridge, Mr. F. Barber and a representative gathering from most of the branches. All the officers were re-elected.

The secretary stated that there had been a falling off of subscriptions for last year, which was not accounted for by the number of members serving in the Forces who were excused subscriptions. A resolution was passed that Rule 5, referring to lapsed members, should be adhered to.

Some of the branches were not holding any meetings, but others were making a success of their quarterly meetings, and their subscriptions had not fallen noticeably. As one member said, 'it is good to meet occasionally if only to drink a cup of tea and look at each other; more so when an hour or two can be passed with old friends.'

The Rev. A. T. Segger moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells (silenced), the service, address and the use of the grounds; to the organist and to all those who had in any way assisted in making the meeting a success. This was seconded by Mr. J. C. Dean and carried with applause.

ELHAM, KENT.

A REDISCOVERED PEAL BOARD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have for several years intended to send particulars of a peal of Grandire Triples rung at Elham in 1772. The peal board was for a considerable time used as a notice board at the church door, but about 1900, when the present Vicarage was rebuilt, the builder (a ringer) found it amongst some rubbish.

Elham, Kent. On Saturday, May 22nd, 1772, was rung for the first time in this steeple a complete peal of 5,040 changes of Grandire Triples in 3 hours and 8 minutes by the following: 1 Jh. Culling, 2 Will Rigden, 3 G. Downe, 4 R. Downe (called the bobs), 5 Richard Foreman, 6 Will Ruck, 7 D. Culling, 8 G. Ladd.

The bells were supplied in 1763 by the Whitechapel Foundry. The steeple and belfry were restored in 1887 and the bells rehung by Warner and Sons in a wooden frame. Up to the present ban on ringing they have been rung for service on Sundays, which reflects credit on the hangers.

ALBERT CASTLE

High Street, Elham.

(Continued from previous column.)

rope-sight, it is possible to attain fairly consistent striking when one becomes used to hearing the change nearer to pulling off. Another advantage is that the bells can be clappered up and down in peal.

Our main difficulty at present is to get a distinct sound from the handbells in the tower, which are mounted on a wooden frame, and ordinary house electric bells have been adapted as single stroke bells working from dry batteries.

We tried using a mains' transformer for current, but found that the alternating current, which in itself is making and breaking at the rate of 50 times per second, causes a loud hum in the coils of the striking gear of such intensity as to drown the stroke of the bell. Dry battery direct current is, therefore, to be recommended.

Some of your correspondents have mentioned a ball of mercury in a tube as a means of reproducing the clapper strokes: this in theory should work, but in actual practice the mercury splits into small portions and flies in all directions and so is useless.

I have written this description purely as a desire to add a small contribution to what has been for some of your readers a very instructive and interesting debate. I do not claim that our work has yet reached perfection, as those who have tried it will agree, but working broadly on these lines it should be possible to produce a simple apparatus which will reproduce the ringing in the belfry, which is all that ringers want, irrespective of whether the changes are heard at the same time as normally or not.

R. A. POST.

Headington, Oxford.

PEALS RUNG BY THE LATE F. G. WOODISS.

Mr. Frederick G. Woodiss rang in all 149 peals, 11 of which were on handbells. Two were afterwards found to be false in the composition, so the number actually was 147. The following is the list, the peals in hand being shown in brackets:—

Grandsire Triples 14 (3); Grandsire Caters 4 (2); Minor (4 methods) 1; Bob Minor 1; Major 14 (5); Royal 2 (1); Little Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 18; Caters 5; Kent Treble Bob Major 10; Royal 6; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 23; Superlative Surprise Major 9; Cambridge Surprise Major 7; Royal 2; New Cambridge Surprise Major 3; Bristol Surprise Major 2; Royal 1; London Surprise Major 12; Ashstead 1; Yorkshire 1; Spliced Cambridge and Superlative 1.

Three were notable peals: A 'Frederick' peal rung at Rochester, Kent, in May, 1933, Kent Treble Bob Royal. A peal of Grandsire Triples at Christ Church, Epsom, August 20th, 1932, for the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. The footnote to the peal reads: 'The first peal rung by a band of altar servers. The band represented eight dioceses and seven counties, and on this occasion and a previous unsuccessful attempt travelled approximately 2,300 miles.'

The third was a peal of Grandsire Caters rung in hand on August 16th, 1911, at the Technical Art School in the Crystal Palace, and was the first peal to be rung in the Palace. It was rung under the auspices of the All Saints' Society, Fulham, and was the 100th peal by that society. It was an achievement, for the public had access to the room in which the peal was rung, and talked and passed comments. A fine example of concentrated effort. His own footnote to the peal is, 'Excellent ringing!' The band were: William A. Woodrow 1-2, A. F. Shepherd 3-4, William Shepherd 5-6, L. Attwater 7-8, F. G. Woodiss 9-10. Conducted by William Shepherd.

Of the 149 peals, 78 were rung for the Surrey Association, 33 for Guildford Diocesan Guild, 22 for the Winchester Diocesan Guild and 16 for other associations.

HUNTING AND OTHER TERMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Surely 'hunting up' and 'hunting down' are the only correct terms? In the one case does not the lip of the bell swing higher and higher until the maximum is reached at 'behind'; and in the other, lower and lower, its journey down terminated at the 'lead'?

I shrewdly suspect 'up' and 'down' are terms evolved from this real motion and retained naturally when pricking or when drawing diagrams of bell-paths.

As Messrs. Trollope and Drake specialise in thrust and parry over terms, here is a problem—childish, perhaps, but not so infantile that it cannot be examined in the light of relative values.

Once on a time I instructed five lads; two were good; three about to begin their individual movements among the other ropes. These three were told to take the front three bells and continue to do nothing but plain hunt from lead to fifth's and back again; the remaining two had the following cycle to perform: when going up, make fourth's and down to lead, hunt up and lie four blows behind. Soon, this simple work was grasped by the others.

Twenty changes—our humble plain course—were easily achieved. We were highly delighted. We called the thing 'Duffers' Doubles.'

Had Hitler permitted we would have tried a 'hundred and twenty' by calling the requisite bobs, these being made by dodging in 3-4 up and down and making seconds.

The gaff is blown! Our plain course was nothing else than two bobs running of Bob Doubles and our 'bobs' the plain work of the same method. Well, sir, what is that plain course and potential 'one hundred and twenty'—'Duffers' or Bob Doubles?

Another poser: If 'Jinks' composes a silent peal of Grandsire Triples, can we call it with equal truth a gigantic plain course of 'Jinks' Triples'?

I suppose it all boils down to Albert Einstein's whimsical illustration: 'If I should be guilty of so grave and dangerous an offence as to drop my empty wine bottle from the restaurant car's window while the train is in motion, to me the released body would describe a straight path, but to those at work on the permanent way it would trace a parabola. What then is its real track?'

F. A. YORKE, Major, R.A.

OLD CUSTOMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At Pembridge, Herefordshire, there is a small field, the rent of which is to provide bell ropes whenever required. There is a peal of five bells in the tower, which is detached from the church, tenor 16 cwt. Although war-time restrictions have nearly cut out all peals, 'The Ringing World' is still most interesting reading, especially some of the old rules and customs connected with bells.

The curfew bell was regularly rung at Presteigne, Radnorshire, at 8 p.m. summer and winter till the ban was put on bells last June. The passing bell or death bell was rung in this district (mostly by request), and in the table of fees one shilling was the clerk's fee at Staunton-on-Arrow Church, and at Titley, an adjoining parish, the fee is two shillings. I have rung the bell for many, but did not always get the fee. Wishing the Editor a speedy recovery to health and strength again.

J. C. P.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WORSLEY.

In lovely sunny weather a joint meeting of the Manchester and Bolton Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Worsley on May 31st. The church is set in a very pretty district on the outskirts of Manchester, and though it is so close to an area which has suffered heavily by raids, it was difficult to realise that it was war time.

The clappers of the bells had been secured so there could be some practice, but it was sad to think of the grand ten bells overhead being dumb. Touches of Caters and Royal were rung, but a year without practice has had its effect, and when the time comes for some real ringing there will be a dearth of competent members to handle the bells.

It was decided to hold as many joint meetings as can conveniently be arranged during long hours of daylight. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. A. Scott, nominations for officers were discussed, and, owing to the restricted functions through the war, it was decided to nominate those retiring en bloc. Mr. Barnes was asked to continue as auditor for another year, although he wished to retire, as he had served for 20 years and felt he would like a rest. Mr. R. F. Williams, of Manchester, was nominated for two years.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and to the local ringers for the trouble they had gone to to make the meeting a success. The Rector came into the belfry to welcome the ringers. About 25 members attended, among them many ladies.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRENTWOOD.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th, and about 20 members were present from Leytonstone, Chelmsford, Springfield, Orsett, Wanstead, Fryerning and the local band. Touches on handbells and on silent tower bells were rung until 4.30 p.m., when the Rev. V. G. Vallance, Vicar of Brentwood, conducted a very interesting service. The party then proceeded to the Church House, where a most excellent tea was waiting, kindly prepared by the wives of the local band.

The business meeting was presided over by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, who stated how pleased he was to see Mr. L. Clark and Mr. Runter, of the South-Eastern Division.

For the next place of meeting three towers were proposed, Hornchurch, Dagenham and Loughton, and it was left to the secretary to find out which tower would be available by the end of July. Mr. Geoffrey Stitch, of Brentwood, was elected ringing member.

Reference was made to the account and receipt books, which had not been returned to the secretary. Mr. Clark promised to see the auditor, and hoped they would be returned before the annual general meeting.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. V. G. Ballance, the organist, the local ringers and their wives for the excellent tea provided under the present difficult circumstances. The rest of the evening was spent in various touches on the silent tower bells and on handbells.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although this letter is rather belated, I must thank Mr. C. T. Coles for having written. I have now been able to see the minute book, and I find that the only reference to spliced ringing is in the minutes for the annual meeting at Easter in Ipswich in 1929. A resolution was then passed with one dissentient in these words: 'The splicing of methods is theoretically unsound. But if this departure from strict regularity is allowed, the splicing of extents in five or six bell ringing should be allowed also.'

I cannot remember why this matter arose, nor can I find anyone who remembers it. The minutes say nothing of any discussion at the meeting, but they refer to outside discussion. It looks as though the resolution had something to do with a motion at the forthcoming Central Council meeting.

At any rate, it puts no ban on any kind of ringing. It speaks of the objection to spliced ringing as being theoretical. Which is almost as good as saying that practically—i.e., in actual ringing—there is no objection. Further, it asks for increased facilities (not specified) in splicing five or six bell ringing. Anything more unlike a ban can hardly be imagined.

I was quite right in saying that the Guild has never banned spliced ringing. My memory was a little at fault in saying it had never been mentioned.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

HERBERT DRAKE.

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CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

'TOURS INTO THE UNKNOWN.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—

Oh! Isn't he sweet? My! There's a crooner.
'Sakes'! Turn him off, the quicker the sooner,
All musty 'Tubbs'? No. A glorious 'Ring'!
What a lovely Girl!—(Frowzy old thing).

The above is only another way of setting 'De gustibus,' etc. That old trite saying. For no two of us think absolutely alike, nor do we see, hear or (objectively) smell alike. It is, indeed, one of the great dispensations that this should be so, and we are thankful for it.

Of course, 'Tourist,' in his letter you publish this week, may be doing a bit of 'leg pulling.' We, at a meeting to-day, mostly thought so. He provided, however, a good laugh, and that alone is something to be thankful for at the present time.

But, as once a lecturer upon architecture, I am inclined to look deeper. Such letters are a sign of the times, when the reckless rush in where, from their very knowledge, the more timorous fear to tread. I would recall to 'Tourist' that architecture is the 'mother of the arts.' A living ideal worshipped through the ages by her devotees. Always changing, it reflects To-day, tells us of Yesterday and even hints at our To-morrow. We elders of the World of Building naturally treat the art with great respect (be it Classic, Gothic or whate'er it will).

Michael Angelo, Raphael, De Vinci astound us by their mastery of all the arts ('there were giants in those days'). Their follower, Christopher Wren, was of such stuff and, like them, he was many-sided—scientist, astronomer, architect!—the latter thrust upon him in middle age. Unfortunately, he has left us few works out of London, and there we can spare none. No. Not even St. Paul's.

By the way, returning to the original vein, did 'Tourist' mistake that classic pile for a house of legislature?

E. ALEXANDER YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (ret.).

FIRST APPEARANCES SOMETIMES DECEPTIVE.

Dear Sir,—When I first visited London to ring, my feelings about the appearance of London's churches were very much the same as 'Tourist's,' but during the few years I have done some ringing in the Metropolis, I have learned that first appearances are sometimes deceptive.

'Tourist' does not say outright quite what sort of buildings he would have liked the churches of London to be, but I have a suspicion that he favours the typical English church one finds in town and village.

All will agree that the village church, surrounded by green fields, is a picture of beauty, and it will be freely admitted that if St. Martin-in-the-Fields or St. George-the-Martyr were set in similar surroundings they would look hideous. If the position were reversed, however, and the village church or one of our fine old cathedrals were set in the heart of London and surrounded by flats and offices, as St. Martin's and St. George's are, they would look equally ridiculous.

'Tourist' can call London's churches guildhalls, corn exchanges or town halls if he likes, but somehow they fit in with London itself, which I presume is what the architects intended.

No doubt the new churches of London will be designed to suit the rebuilt London, and I anticipate that 'Tourist' will be sadly disappointed if he expects them to be like the village church 'within a hallowed acre.'

I have heard many arguments about London bells by ringers who know them well, but I have never heard anyone describe Bow bells (either old or new) as 'a poor lot.'

I have no doubt that most of London's ringers feel very resentful of the fierce criticism levelled at the towers and bells which have become part of their ringing life, and although I am by no means a London ringer, I can appreciate their feelings.

J. E. BAILEY.
Dartford, Kent.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL TOWER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Wars certainly play strange things and bring out some peculiar questions. One such question comes to my mind, after reading in 'The Ringing World' of May 30th that, despite the destruction of Coventry Cathedral, the tower and bells still stand.

Practically everyone knows the story of this tower—how in 1927 it was not supposed to be strong enough to withstand the old bells being rehung and used as a ringing peal. Does not the terrible bombardment Coventry and this Cathedral has recently had to endure go to prove that this supposition was unfounded?

'TEST CASE No. 1.'

While it is true the tower of Coventry Cathedral, like the towers of so many other damaged churches, is still standing, it must be borne in mind that there has, as yet, been no report as to how far it has been damaged.

The famous tower of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, withstood the bombardment which destroyed the church and most of the buildings around it, but it is now stated that it may have to be demolished, as, with the western front, it is left leaning at an angle over Cheap-side.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ramsey on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. A good bus service from Colchester via Mistley. Visitors coming by car must obtain their permits before entering the defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea about 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City and Bristol Rural Branches.—A combined meeting of the two Branches will be held at Almondsbury on Sat., June 14th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meetings to follow at 5 p.m. Darts and handbells will be available for those who wish to show their skill. All heartily welcome. Buses from the centre (Gas Company's premises) at frequent intervals.—R. C. Gifford, Rural Sec., A. M. Tyler, Bristol City Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 14th. Eight silent bells available afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Business meeting at 6 o'clock in the Assembly Rooms. Tea cannot be arranged, so please make own arrangements. I hope all members and friends will do their best to attend.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 21st, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. Members and friends attending are requested to meet at the Village, Merstham, at 3 p.m. From there it is proposed to walk to Reigate via Gatton Park. Service at Reigate Church at 5 p.m. Following the service, Mr. M. A. Northover has very kindly offered to provide tea and his house and garden will be at the disposal of the association for the purpose of the meeting. Will those who require tea please notify me by Tuesday, the 17th inst.? Don't forget caterers are rationed too! So if you intend to be present please send that card.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) **AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD**.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 19th, please, to B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock, names to Mr. W. E. Dransfield, 21, Westgate, Almondbury, not later than Tuesday, June 17th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — The annual joint meeting of Southern District, Barnsley and District and Doncaster and District Societies will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea 1s. 6d. each, Warburton's Café, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Those requiring tea **must** notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, nr. Rotherham, not later than June 18th. Hoping for a good attendance.—S. F. Palmer, D. Smith and E. Cooper, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 21st. Committee meeting at 6 p.m. and general meeting at 6.30. Handbells. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Bergh Apton on Saturday, June 21st. Six silent tower bells available from 2.15 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 4.45 at the Rectory, followed by business meeting. Names for tea as soon as possible to the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, The Rectory, Bergh Apton, Norwich.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.—The annual meeting will be held at Vernon House, Friar Lane, Nottingham, on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. All ringers invited. Own arrangements for tea.—I. B. Thompson, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (d.v.) be held, by kind permission of Miss L. Clapcott, on the lawn at Bradford Peverell, on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering. Kindly notify for tea by Monday, June 16th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual general meeting will be held at Gravesend (d.v.) on Saturday, June 28th. Committee meeting at St. George's Church at 3 p.m. Association service at 4, conducted by the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate). Tea and business meeting at 5 at the Town Hall, by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor, who will preside. Tea (free)

will be provided only for those members who notify me before Tuesday, June 24th, to allow arrangements to be made with the Food Control Committee. Travelling allowance up to 2s. 6d. will be allowed to practising members notifying and attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — A meeting at Shrewsbury will be held on June 28th. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Please note change of address.—W. A. Farmer, 70, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury.

BIRTHS.

SIBLEY.—At 77, Caxton Street, Market Harborough, to Vera (née Freeman), wife of H. E. Sibley, R.A.F., late of 26, Addison Road, Coventry, on May 27th, the gift of a son. Both well.

KEY.—To Marion, wife of Staff/Sgt. B. G. Key, R.A.O.C., on June 8th, 1941, at Burton-on-Trent—a daughter.

DEATH.

BIBBY.—On June 3rd, at Chester Royal Infirmary, William, the beloved husband of Elizabeth and father of John Edward, Francis and Norah M. Bibby, of London Road, Frodsham, Cheshire.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A VARIATION OF T. CARTER'S NO. 11.

Treble the observation.

2314567 S H L Q

3247561 x x x 9S

2567431

x x

4537261

x x

5267341

x x

2347651

x x

3657421

x x

6427531

x x

5437621

x x

4627351

x x

6357241

x x

2764351

x x

11S

5462731

x x

3265471

x x

7345261

x x

x

6547321

x x

3745621

x

2543761

x x

6342571

x x

7652341

x x

x

4257631

x x

Last five courses eight times repeated, calling extra 12.13 in second course of 2nd and 7th repetitions (22nd and 47th courses of peal). Round 12th six of 60th course.

First rung, on the back eight, at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on January 15th, 1903, conducted by C. E. Borrett.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Herbert Drake has missed the point. It is easy to correct what in an ordinary bell we should call quick or slow striking. The difficulty is to reproduce in an apparatus the variations (if there are any) of the rate of striking by a single bell, caused by the greater or less arc in which the bell is swung.

MAURICE CLARKE.

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