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THE VALUE OF TEXT BOOKS.

Our article last week has brought to light an excellent example of what can be done in a home ringing circle. Elsewhere we give some details that have been sent to us of the achievement of a youthful band formed at Sundridge, Kent, by the daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, who, during his lifetime, was one of the leading ringers among the clergy. Miss Brenda Richardson and her sisters had made some progress in ringing before their father's lamented death, and their interest, thus stimulated, has now resulted in putting in some excellent spadework among their youthful neighbours. This report bears out what we said last week about the possibilities of awaking a wider interest in our art. Moreover, what can be done among young people can also be done among older men and women, and there are, we believe, gratifying prospects for the future of ringing in those places where home circles can be started.

In this connection, too, we would recommend those who start such little companies to give some thought to employing text books to help them and to give their pupils something to study in their spare time when they are not actually practising with the handbells. There are several elementary treatises in which beginners can take an intelligent interest and which can be relied upon to add to their store of learning. For instance, there are the publications of the Snowdon series which have been the standard text books of instruction now for two generations. 'Rope-sight' has been the 'vade mecum' of thousands of ringers. The greatness of the service which this book has rendered to the promotion of change ringing will never be known and its usefulness is as great now as it was when first written by Jasper Snowdon more than sixty years ago. Elementary change ringing has never been better explained than in this volume, and it is always safe to turn a would-be ringer loose among its pages. Snowdon had an extraordinary gift of exposition and 'Rope-sight' is something of a classic among books of instruction. This volume at least should be in every beginner's possession.

There are other books which can be confidently recommended as 'instructors' for those just setting out to explore the art of ringing. 'The Ringers' Handbook' (by E. S. and M. Powell) is one of these. It covers a wider field than 'Rope-sight,' and deals most admirably with the four 'standard' methods. It is not to be expected, of course, that as purely a beginner the young, or even the not-so-young, ringer will require at first to know how to ring more than one method, but there may well come a time, not too long delayed, when curiosity will prompt him to turn over the pages to discover

(Continued on page 482.)

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'what comes next.' At this stage interest is definitely established, drudgery, if any there has been, is forgotten, and the new ringer is well on the way to that stage from which, given encouragement, there will be no going back. That is one of the advantages of using a book which goes beyond a single method, and, as it were, opens the next door.

Here we can go back to the Snowdon series and point to the value of 'Standard Methods' as a text book for this purpose when once the beginner has some mastery of the common language of ringing. Another of the great advantages of 'Standard Methods' is that it introduces by its diagrams a different way of learning to ring changes, a way in which advanced ringers all eventually digest the most complicated methods. With these three books, supplemented perhaps, by Roe and Broome's pamphlet on 'Grandsire Doubles and Triples,' the beginner has in his possession a series that will take him far into the realms of change ringing. But if these home circles are to be successful, 'book' learning, indispensable as it is, is not in itself sufficient. The 'instructor' must be ready to 'instruct' and to give help and encouragement. It is the personal element in the teaching that counts. Nothing educates so much as the direct question and answer, but the beginner can enlarge his knowledge and expand his questions if he takes the opportunity which the ringing text books offer of furthering his studies.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—If Mr. Armstrong will read my letter again he will not find anything which can be described as destructive criticism, but will discover that it can be conveniently divided into three parts: (1) A review of things as they are; (2) a practical position; (3) a warning.

It is significant that Mr. Armstrong did not (or could not) deny the substantial truth of part one, gave qualified approval to part two, and entirely ignored part three. His notes on the activities of the Sussex County Association are very interesting, but hardly relevant, since my letter was intended for those associations who do not hold meetings. From the tone of his letter one must assume that they were included to forestall any suggestion of the 'cap fitting.'

The rest of his letter, to quote another Brighton correspondent, is 'twaddle.'

ERIC B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park, Middlesex.

5,120 DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

By CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

23456 1 4 5 6

32654 — —
36254 — S

65234 —

53264 —

23465 — —
34265 —

35248 — —

42536 — —
25436 —
54236 —

43256 —

32546 — S

Three times repeated, calling bobs for single in 2nd course of 2nd and 4th parts. This peal has the 6th 12 times wrong and 24 times right with 4.5.6 only in 6th's.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE.—The following notice is said to have been posted on the church door of a rural parish: This is to give notice that no person is to be buried in the churchyard but those living in the parish. Those who wish to be buried here are desired to apply to me.—J.B., Parish Clerk.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| MRS. R. RICHARDSON | 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE | 5-6 |
| RUPERT RICHARDSON | 3-4 | CADET A. J. BRYAN WAYMAN | 7-8 |

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Umpire—C. T. Coles.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| L. W. BULLOCK | 1-2 | J. BULLOCK | 3-4 |
| T. H. BULLOCK | 5-6 | | |

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—J. A. Bullock.

Rung as a birthday compliment to G. L. Newman.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Friday, October 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| IVOR C. N. BELL | 1-2 | W. BERTRAM KYNASTON | 5-6 |
| JACK S. ROBERTS | 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE | 7-8 |

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

Umpire—H. W. Bishop.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| WILLIAM L. B. LEESE | 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE | 5-6 |
| MISS MARIE R. CROSS | 3-4 | *WILLIAM C. PORTER | 7-8 |

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal on handbells. First peal of Major as conductor. A birthday compliment to the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and to the Rev. J. Shephard-Walwy.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT 92, BUTCHER'S ROW,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| *GEORGE W. MASSEY | 1-2 | EDGAR R. RAPLEY | 3-4 |
| CECIL R. LONGHURST | 5-6 | | |

Conducted by E. R. RAPLEY.

* First peal 'in hand.' The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member before starting for the peal.

AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD PEAL.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles by the Oxford University Society rung at Rochester on September 13th should be credited in the Analysis to the Oxford Diocesan Guild to which the other society is affiliated. The University Society is not at present affiliated to the Central Council.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

(Continued from page 471.)

I don't think that the second half lead need be described in detail. In the Section BR 324 act reverse to 246 of Section B, changing forward C.O. 51324 at row 14R to backward C.O. 42351 at row 11R, at the same time moving the treble one step back in C.O. to correspond with the Bob Major lead head 15738264 at row 11R and increasing the C.S. on 78 of Section BR to a B.S. on 678 at Section AR, row 10R. In Section AR, 6, 7, 8 C.S. with the treble moving the treble three more steps backward and the B.S. on 678 completed at row 1R completely restores backward C.O. with the treble between 6 and 4 corresponding to the Bob Major lead head 16482735, finally (L6 C.S. of 4 and treble at the lead end moves the treble still one more step back in C.O. and produces the first lead head 14263857.

Thus every single place of London Surprise plays its part in producing the first lead head of the method and each is part of the partial plained Q set of the lead. Sections A and B move the treble step by step to the 4th lead head of Bob Major 1867, etc. Section C moves the treble back to the first lead head 1352, etc. Sections BR and AR move the treble step by step to the 5th lead head 1648, etc., and 2nd's place at the lead end moves the treble one more step to 14263857. Strictly speaking, there are no Q sets of composition, but the Bob shunt on 357, the places of 578 in Section C and the B.S. on 876 are made up of three interlocking Bobbed Q sets on the five course bells 35786 somewhat similar to the two interlocking Bobbed Q sets on the four course bells 5324 in the Bob Major touch W. H. repeated, but not exactly so.

I hope I have been able to make this analysis of London Surprise Major clear, intelligible and interesting to some at least of those who read it. I know many will find it dry and condemn it as a waste of valuable space and energy. Those who are interested in composition will see why the false course ends affect Section A of one lead and Section AR of another lead and that similar relations couple Section B of one lead with Section BR of another lead. Now a problem for the student: Is London Surprise Major an extension of London Surprise Minor? You can solve it by trying to analyse the Minor as I have analysed the Major. If you decide they are the same, it will follow that London Royal and Maximus are impossible. Why this is so I cannot discuss now. If you decide they are not the same method you can attempt to extend London Major to Royal and Maximus.

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite fail to see what point there is in the remarks of your correspondent who calls himself 'Anti-Silent.' Whether bells and organs are luxuries or not depends on what people mean by luxuries, but any sensible person must agree that bells are not a necessity for church life, and big and costly organs are not a necessity either. Wherever it is possible to do it, bells and organs should, of course, be insured against enemy action, but anyone who knows anything about the finance of an average church knows that it is not usually possible, because there is not the money to do it; and after all there have not been many bells destroyed considering the number there are. The risk is worth taking.

If a parish is so unfortunate as to lose its bells, what must be done is to hope that after the war some generous person will come forward and find the money to replace them. There can be little doubt that in most cases it would be done. It would be just the sort of thing to appeal to the sympathy of the same class of people who found the money in the first instance. This is the view taken by the diocesan authorities in the Peterborough and other dioceses, and it is a thoroughly sensible view.

'Anti-Silent' quotes what a Northamptonshire clergyman wrote in his parish magazine. We can sympathise fully with that clergyman's feelings, but what he says is not very convincing. You can get all the musical accompaniment you need with far smaller and less costly organs than are usually found in churches, though everyone would prefer the luxury of the full instrument.

And the same with bells. We ringers naturally like peals of eight, or ten when we can get them, but for country churches three are sufficient for ordinary purposes, and for town churches one bell is sufficient or even none at all. By all means let us have luxuries when we can afford them, but they are luxuries and not necessities.

The Rev. A. A. Liney was altogether wrong when he talked about bells replacing trumpets. Trumpets were never used in the service of the Church. And he was wrong when he talked about organs 'ousting the old scraped fiddle in the gallery.' Organs were used in some churches long before the village orchestra, and what replaced the latter was the barrel organ turned by a handle and grinding out only half a dozen tunes. It was a pity the village orchestra did disappear. If it had survived it might have done much for music and church life in the country parishes, but the hand of the reformer was heavy. The old musicians and the old ringers were very much alike and many clergymen tried their best to get rid of all of them.

'Anti-Silent' keeps talking about organised opposition to church bells. There is no such organised opposition outside his fancy. Some people don't like church bells near them, and sometimes they have good reason; but there are not, I am sure, half a score of people in the country who have any intention of doing anything to stop or even curtail the general use of church bells.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 461.)

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Now that half a century has passed since the Central Council was founded it is almost inevitable that we should have to face the same question (but with a difference) as was asked fifty years ago. Then it was: What good will it do? Now it is: What good has it done?

No one can deny that in almost every way there has been improvement in the Exercise since 1891; improvement in the art of change ringing, in the condition of bells and belfries, in the status of ringers, and in their relationship with the Church and the clergy. Would that improvement have taken place in like measure had there been no Council? The question is impossible to answer, and probably is a futile one. The correct way is not to look on the Council as an independent body, but as representative of the whole Exercise, the keystone and apex of its organisation. And if that be so, then its real value lies not so much in what it has done as in its actual existence. It is, in fact, a visible sign and reminder that the Exercise is one; that ringers are joined together in a bond of fellowship and common interest, and that even more than with ordinary people is it true that none of us liveth or can live to himself.

All this may sound very much like a platitude, but if we study carefully the history of the Exercise we shall find that it has been kept alive by two main influences (apart from the fascination of change ringing as a sport). Both of these influences are social, but while one is exclusive the other is inclusive.

When ringing first began as a secular athletic sport in the sixteenth century the ringers (or at any rate those of the better class) formed themselves into companies not merely for the purpose of ringing, but as social clubs, and for a couple of centuries the social life was at least as important as the activity in the belfry.

These clubs in their organisation, their spirit, and their outlook were exactly similar to the many other clubs formed for various purposes which were a very marked and very important feature of the general social life of the times. One feature was common to all—they were small and they were exclusive. Inside the club there was (in theory at any rate) equality, and the members in turn and in proper order filled the various offices up to that of Master. Admission to the club was jealously guarded. Every member's loyalty was due to his own club, but did not (for the immediate purposes) extend beyond, or to other clubs; and in the case of ringers, did not entail any obligations to the Church or to any outside body.

That was the way in which the best of the Exercise was organised in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; and the leading societies of the time—in London the College Youths, the Esquire Youths, the London Scholars, and the rest; and in the provinces many more, such as the Union Society of Shrewsbury, the St. Stephen's Company of Bristol, the Hertford College Youths and others—kept alive and developed change-ringing. Between the members of the various clubs there was little intercourse, and outside was perhaps the majority of ringers, lower in social status, lower in technical skill, and including not a few of those who in all ages earned for ringers a very bad name among ordinary people.

Such organisations served their purpose well enough in the eighteenth century, but in the nineteenth, following the industrial revolution and the Napoleonic wars, a great change came over the people of England. There were alterations in social conditions and one minor result of them was the disappearance of the ringing clubs. In some cases, notably the College Youths, the forms survived, but taking the country as a whole, the forces and influences which had created the Exercise and kept it alive had largely worked themselves out and become bankrupt. It is quite certain that change ringing as a sport was doomed unless some new vivifying influence could be found.

But where was it to come from? Not from the old societies or what was left of them. They had an important part to play, which was to maintain what had come down from the past; without them change ringing could hardly have survived, and if it had died out it would never have been revived. But left to themselves the societies could have done nothing to arrest the general decay. Salvation came from those few men who had the courage and the devotion which made the great territorial associations possible, from the work and books of men like Jasper Snowdon, from 'The Bell News' and 'Church Bells,' and from all those influences which gave ringers a common outlook and a sense of common interest. And of those influences the Central Council is the apex and the focus.

Some people may, perhaps, doubt whether change ringing was in such jeopardy as I have said. They will point to the steady succession of peals through the century, to the presence of skilled bands in London, Birmingham, Sheffield, and elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was a steady decline. Things move very slowly in the ringing Exercise, but they do move, and for many years during the mid-nineteenth century it was a move downwards. It was very fortunate that those years were years of peace and social stability, for change ringing would hardly have survived such a cataclysm as we have twice experienced during the last twenty-five years.

Since, then, the value of the Council consists largely in its being the focus of the forces that unite ringers, its social side cannot fail to be of the utmost importance. By the social side I do not mean merely the very pleasant outings and entertainments which for some years past have been provided by the associations whose cities and towns have been visited, though they have a far greater value than the pleasure they immediately give. I mean the opportunities that men from all parts of the country have of meeting together and enjoying each other's society on terms of equality for the time being.

Looking back over the fifty years it is very noticeable how great an advance has been made in this thing. It is not, of course, all due to the Council. Much is due to the changes in the general social life of the people at large, to the widening of education and the disappearance of class distinctions.

The boast is often made that in England there has never been the chasm between the great people and the common people that there was in most Continental countries. In the sense that Englishmen have never been divided into people who belonged to the nobility and those who did not, that is true; but it is also true that society here was divided into a considerable number of classes, each of which had its own class feeling and prejudices, and did not mix with those below it.

These class distinctions were reflected in the ringing Exercise. We cannot imagine the College Youths of the seventeenth century meeting or associating with ordinary ringers. Nor can we imagine the College Youths of the eighteenth century treating the average ringers as their equals. In the nineteenth century it so happened that ringers were, as a whole, of the lowest class socially. The men who started the reform movement and founded the territorial associations did not belong to the same class as the rank and file, nor to the class just above them. There was a clear break, which, with all the goodwill in the world, prevented full understanding and sympathy.

Fifty years ago the gap was not filled up. Ringers as a body belonged to the working class, and many of their leaders belonged to the university class. The lower middle class was not very well represented. In the peal records of 'The Bell News' we often come across a man's name with 'Esquire' tacked on to it—a significant sign of class distinction and snobbery.

To an older member of the Council, perhaps the most significant change which has taken place is the disappearance of class distinction. It would be wrong to say that it was obtrusive or objectionable in the old days, but it did exist, and it is all to the good that it exists no longer. The leading men to-day are no better, probably they are not so good, as the leading men of forty years ago, but the average members in education and intelligence show a distinct advance.

HANDBELLS BEFORE SERVICE.

At Thorington, Essex, on Sunday, September 21st, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, for matins, 720 Bob Minor: Alan R. Andrews (conductor) 1-2, William J. Nevard 3-4, George A. Andrews 5-6.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FUTURE MEETINGS IN SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.

A pleasant and successful meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, September 27th, at Heston. A beautiful afternoon and a free aerobatic display by members of the Royal Air Force added to the enjoyment and interest of those present, even though the proceedings were at times practically washed out by ear-splitting roars as numbers of the above-mentioned gentlemen engaged in games of leapfrog over the Westrock Hall and nearby dwellings.

Twenty-one members and friends attended from Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Ruislip and Twickenham, welcome visitors being Messrs. W. G. Wilson (assistant secretary) and F. W. Garner, of Ealing, both arriving from their depots and looking very fit and smart in khaki. Ladies present included Miss I. Hastie, of Ealing, Miss Brenda Richardson from Sundridge, and Mrs. Kilby from Ruislip.

Two sets of handbells were available, and some good (and bad) ringing was accomplished in Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Tea was presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. G. Craggs). Grace was preceded by a well-struck course of Grandsire Triples.

A short business meeting followed. The Vicar was welcomed by the vice-president (Mr. J. A. Trollope) and suitably responded.

A considerable discussion ensued on policy regarding future meetings. A kindly offer was made by the Vicar to the local company and any others who could join in to allow a weekly handbell practice at the Vicarage; and there was a suggestion by Mr. W. H. Coles for a meeting at Hayes, which he thought might be arranged.

Mr. J. Herbert was strongly of the opinion that meetings should be held.

In the end it was decided, in view of the coming dark evenings, to leave the matter in the hands of the secretary, who promised to co-operate if any definite suggestions should come forward.

The secretary (Mr. J. E. L. Cockey), after extending a special welcome to Mr. W. G. Wilson, made the usual appeal for the payment of subscriptions, and again urged tower secretaries to keep him posted with the latest information, especially in such matters as names of those serving in H.M. Forces and any other happenings.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the local company and especially to Mr. H. C. Chandler for the excellent arrangements made, and to Mrs. Pocock for a very enjoyable tea.

Further handbell ringing followed and an enjoyable meeting closed just before black-out.

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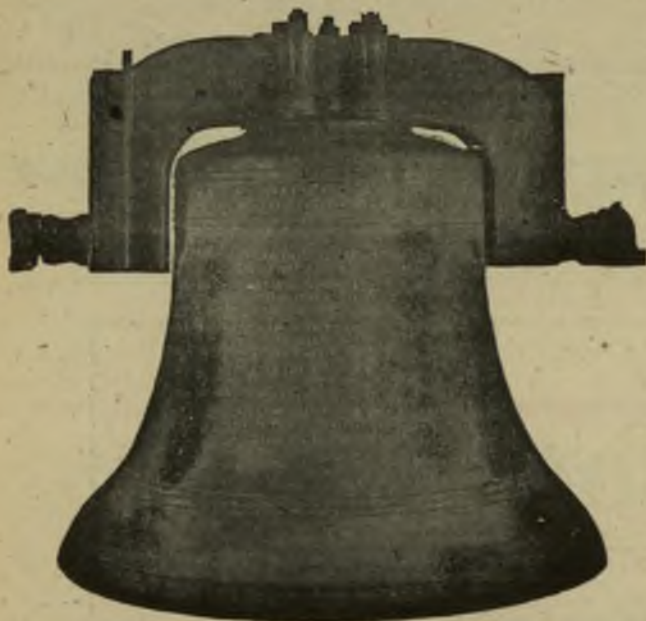
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The various text books referred to in our leading article this week will be found advertised on the back page of this issue.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques was rung by the College Youths at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on October 6th, 1788. The band included some of the most famous of the eighteenth century London ringers, among them being John Povey, Christopher Wells, John Inville, William Lyford, Samuel Lawrence and Thomas Blakemore. The composition is lost, but the number of changes, 6,204, show that it evidently was a peal of 5,076 Caters applied to eleven bells, and very likely one of those in the 'Clavis.' The board which records the performance is now in the crypt at St. Martin's.

William Booth, a leading Sheffield ringer and grandfather of Charles and Thomas Hattersley, died on October 6th, 1849.

On the same date in 1902 the first peal at Exeter Cathedral was rung. The bells were then a ring of ten and the method was Grand-sire Caters. Mr. George Williams conducted, Canon Coleridge rang the tenor with the help of a strapper, Mr. Richard T. Hibbert rang the ninth, and the band included Mr. A. W. Brighton, Mr. C. R. Lilley, Mr. W. W. Gifford, the Rev. F. E. Robinson and the Rev. H. A. Cockey.

The Australian tourists rang Bob Major in hand on the Indian Ocean, on Sunday, October 7th, 1934. It was Mr. George Martin's first handbell peal, and the first double-handed peal in the Southern Hemisphere.

Henry Hubbard, the author of a text book on change ringing which went through four editions, died on October 9th, 1881.

To-morrow is the thirty-first anniversary of the first clerical peal on ten bells. The method was Stedman Caters and it was rung at St. Mary's, Warwick. C. D. P. Davies was the conductor.

The Society of Cumberland Youths, with George Partrick as conductor, rang Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples at Shoreditch on October 12th, 1754. This is usually said to be the first performance of this celebrated composition, but it is more than doubtful if it were so.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, two Grandsire Caters, two Stedman Triples, and one each of Bob Triples, Darlaston Triples and Canterbury Major. The Darlaston was the first rung in the method, which was introduced by John Carter and consisted of the old College Single Minor with a bell in the hunt.

A SURFLEET RINGER'S DEATH.

GALLANT ACTION IN SYRIA.

Some weeks ago we reported the death of L.-Cpl. Ernest T. King, one of the band of ringers at Surfleet, Lincolnshire. We understand that he was serving in the same unit as Lawrence W. Dean, the son of Mr. Charles Dean, for so many years the secretary of the Surrey Association and member of the Central Council. Rifeman Dean was wounded at the same time, but is progressing favourably.

The action, we believe, was the one for which Acting Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Charles Tasker Keyes, son of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes, M.P., has been awarded the Military Cross, the storming of a strong fortified line on the River Litani, which the French had been ordered to defend 'to the last man and the last shell.'

The French had blown up the bridges across the swift-flowing river and the Imperial troops were held up by a withering fire. Col. Keyes, with men of his unit, crossed the river in a boat, and although suffering a number of casualties from mortar and machine-gun fire, held the position on the north bank.

Ernest King and Lawrence Dean had met and knew each other.

THE LONDON SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr Trollope's letters are always interesting, but he has not advanced any reason to scrap the rule excluding from one of the old London societies any member who joins the other. At the present time it is not advisable to scrap anything which belongs to the past. It may be before this war is over we shall not have anything left but tradition. Everyone regrets the loss of the College Youths' possessions, because while you can rebuild you cannot replace. I agree that if it would improve ringing and friendship the rule might be cut out, but would it? College Youths and Cumberland—all receive a hearty welcome at each other's meetings. We ring with each other, go to the dinner or luncheon, and I hope, if health and Hitler permits, to go this year and shall enjoy the friendliness of the College Youths' gathering.

I admit the College Youths have a strong draw with a young ambitious ringer with the possibility of St. Paul's for a peal, but by the look of the neighbourhood the authorities will have to be thoroughly satisfied before a peal is rung there again. May I say here that the finest gesture we have seen was when St. Paul's ringers gave up their peal attempt to the country ringers.

No one wishes modern societies to build their rules on the old style any more than modern buildings are built like the old, though they could improve on the outside of some modern ones. Those two old societies are the only ones to have that rule, so leave it alone.

A. H. PULLING.

Guildford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION TO BE HELD.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, held on Saturday last at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, fully justified the proposal to attempt a meeting away from the Guild's headquarters, and, if possible, to arrange a tea. The attendance was good, 28 sitting down to a good tea, consisting of meat sandwiches, all kinds of cakes, and sugar. No one bothered to ask how it was done, but all thoroughly enjoyed it. It even did one good to see ringers gossiping in the church porch when they ought to be in their places in church for the service, which usually is a source of some little irritation to the secretary, and to the Ringing Master, who would rather have them in the ringing chamber.

The bells were rung silent before the service, Cambridge, Stedman and even rounds and the cross change being practised. The Vicar, Canon Blofeld, a vice-president of the Guild, conducted the short service, and in his address spoke on the subject of stimulants, remarking that we all hated the Germans like poison, and the more were killed the better we liked it. That was a stimulant in the war effort for more tanks and munitions of all kinds; all kinds of sport were a stimulant to keep up the morale of the people; alcohol was a stimulant at least for a time, but we all knew if taken in excess was very detrimental to health and wellbeing; and so if the peace we were all longing and hoping for was to be just and lasting, then it would have to be worked for and Christian principles applied to it.

After tea the secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens, who had kindly provided the tea; to the ever jovial and obliging beadle, Sydney Freemantle, for having everything ready, and to his good wife and helpers for arranging and serving tea. This was seconded by Mr. Albert Walker and carried with acclamation.

The Vicar responded and in the course of his remarks stated that he now had one son in Iceland and another a prisoner of war in Germany. He was pleased to see the happy spirit and fellowship which had brought them together, although the bells could not be rung open. Whilst the silent ringing had been in progress he had walked round the church and had distinctly heard the sound of each bell (which would be the sound of the stay coming in contact with the slider), and if tears had not come into his eyes he had felt a decided gulp in his throat.

Mr. Vice-President A. Walker presided over the short business meeting. The secretary apologised for the absence from the meeting of Vice-President Councillor Paddon Smith, who, although present earlier in the afternoon, had to leave before the meeting owing to another engagement. He also announced an apology from Mr. W. C. Dowding, who sent best wishes to all his old friends. Two new life members were duly elected: Messrs. Bernard C. Ashford, of Stourbridge, and Walter Yeend, of Cheltenham.

It was proposed by Mr. Fred Price, seconded by Mr. F. W. Perrens and agreed that the Henry Johnson Commemoration be held on the first Saturday in March, 1942, on similar lines to that held in March last. It was also agreed that the next meeting, being the annual, should be held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms.

Mr. John Jaggar announced that he had recently visited Messrs. James George and Tom Miller and had found them very well. They sent kind regards to all their old friends of the Guild and would be pleased to see them whenever they could visit them.

The handbells were then brought out and several good touches were brought round, including a course of Stedman Cinques. Later a move was made to headquarters, where the visitors were further entertained.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY?

A meeting of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Chertsey on September 20th, and commenced soon after 3 p.m. with the ringing of handbells under the tower. The methods were only Grandsire and Stedman, but a good amount of practice was put in until the service at 4.30 p.m., which was conducted by the Vicar, who afterwards accompanied the ringers to tea.

Previous to the service the Vicar inquired of Mr. J. B. Hessey, one of the local ringers and Ringing Master of the district, whether it would be possible to ring handbells at the church for matins on Christmas Day. If it is found possible to get a band together, this will be attempted.

The attendance at the meeting was good considering the fact that only handbells were possible and that handbell ringing is not much practised in the district. About twenty ringers put in an appearance during the afternoon, including visitors from Guildford, Slough and Haslemere. Another old friend also turned up and was welcomed in the person of Mr. W. Sheppard. He promised to make one for handbell ringing at Chertsey on Christmas Day.

The business meeting after tea was very brief. The hon. secretary (Mr. F. Hawthorne) was instructed to endeavour to hold a meeting at Chobham on November 1st.

Mr. Simmonds (Hersham) raised a question in connection with a statement made by the general hon. secretary, and the district secretary was instructed to look into the matter and report at next meeting.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and all who had by their presence made the meeting a success. Further handbell ringing took place in the Church Room afterwards.

SUSSEX PEAL COMPETITIONS.

A CHALLENGE BELL AND THE QUESTION OF PEAL POINTS.

By THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The history of the rise and decline of the competitions for the Challenge Bell of Sussex gives an interesting sidelight on a branch of ringing which once commanded an important place in the association activities, and influenced in no small measure the policy of the Central Council with regard to point scoring for the analysis.

The association was founded on January 24th, 1885, mainly on the instigation of Mr. George F. Attree, of Brighton, and a representative gathering of the county clergy whose churches possessed bells. At the time only some five or six towers in the county practised change ringing, and it was for the extension of the art and belfry reform that the first meeting was called.

In 1882 a new peal of eight had been erected at St. Peter's, Brighton, by Warner, replacing the three bells which had done duty for 50 years, and it was to this tower that Mr. Attree was attached. By 1885 the band was able to ring Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Single, Plain Bob and Stedman, being with Warnham about equally advanced in the art.

Two years after the foundation of the association a discussion took place to find some means of stimulating change ringing by competition, and the firm of Warner were approached on the subject of supplying the trophy. This eventually took the form of a model bell, and was presented to the band ringing the greatest number of peals in each year. For the first four years country towers won the bell by large numbers of peals in mainly plain methods, and, by the unrestricted use they were able to make of their bells, obtained an apparently unfair advantage over the town towers. In 1888, for instance, out of a total of 98 peals rung, Warnham scored no fewer than 33, followed by the Angmering branch with 20, and Brighton (two towers) 8. Obviously something had to be done in order to even out the chances or the town towers, which had to consider the population, and were, in general, practising the more difficult methods, might never come within reach of the trophy.

A TABLE OF POINTS.

In April, 1889, at the annual general meeting a resolution was passed for the setting up of a sub-committee to make out a table of points values relative to the complexity of the method rung. As a result in May of that year the sub-committee met in Brighton. It was composed as follows: F. Luxford, Arundel; C. Hills, Angmering; J. Gasson, Balcombe; J. Newnham, Crawley; W. Gibson, Cuckfield; H. Weston, St. Peter's, Brighton; J. Searle, St. Nicholas, Brighton; T. Hart, St. Mary's, Eastbourne; T. M. Smith, Christ Church, Eastbourne; H. Burstow, Horsham; G. Williams, Midhurst; G. Smart, Steyning; H. H. Chandler, Warnham; and F. W. Rice, Worth, the chair being taken by Mr. G. Williams.

In view of the results of the competition under the points valuation, the place of meeting and the composition of the sub-committee might well have been viewed with suspicion by those unacquainted with the facts. The sub-committee, however, was quite fairly representative of the peal ringing bands then in the county, and the place of the meeting an obvious one from the point of view of convenience. The railway services radiate from the town, and it is equally accessible from all directions. Whatever system that was decided upon for the allocation of points was an undoubted success in evening out the handicap of the town towers in one instance, for St. Peter's, Brighton, took the trophy for the next five years, with no near rival. In this respect the sub-committee had overlooked the advantages which St. Peter's possessed by scoring points for complexity of method. Mr. Attree was a churchwarden and a man of considerable standing in the town, so could use the bells when he liked with considerable latitude. Also, among his employees were most of the best change ringers in the town, and thus the band was not so independent as it otherwise might have been.

The competition continued on this footing until in 1898 there seemed to be no possibility of any other tower seriously challenging the position, and, no doubt a good deal of discontent growing up, St. Peter's offered not to compete the following year. In 1900 Heene (Worthing) secured the bell by a margin of two points, and the question of the bell not being held for two years in succession by the same band was settled by a resolution at the annual general meeting. From 1900 to 1908 the competition (if it may be so called) swung to and fro between St. Peter's and Heene, first one winning and disqualifying for the next year, and then the other.

In 1906 the Mayor of Brighton, presenting the bell at the luncheon on the occasion of the annual meeting, remarked that he wished that he could have the pleasure of presenting the bell to some other tower than St. Peter's and Heene. Whether as a result of this rather pointed remark or for some other reason, Heene announced in 1907 that although they would continue to ring peals, they would no longer compete for the bell, and the contests settled down once more to alternate years St. Peter's and another tower, usually Christ Church, Eastbourne. Heene, however, did again enter the competition, winning the bell in 1914, and then finally withdrew.

The war which followed this date did not help on the declining fortunes of the contest, and the trophy does not seem to have been revived until 1919, when it was won by Salehurst.

That the point system was at fault was at length recognised in the next year, when a resolution was carried restricting the points score

(Continued on next page.)

A VILLAGE RINGING 'CIRCLE.'

GUILD OF YOUNG RINGERS AT SUNDRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here in Sundridge, Kent, a band of ringers has grown up despite the ban, and, strange to say, there has been more ringing in the village and more keenness shown recently than there ever was before the ban or even before the outbreak of war.

In February I started teaching several boys and girls to ring handbells, and we have now formed ourselves into the Sundridge Guild of Young Ringers. The members are Heather Chatfield (11 years), Peter Chatfield (13 years), John Finch (12 years), Joyce Mumford (14 years) and my three sisters, Dorothy (15 years), Christine (12 years) and Monica (15 years).

We are able to ring handbells every Sunday for about half an hour before the morning and evening services. Our tower is situated at the west end of the church so that the congregation pass under it as they enter the building. There is a small lancet window in the west wall of the ringing room, and opposite a low door opens up to a narrow ledge which is completely open to the church. Our handbells can, therefore, be heard both inside and outside the church, and although we do not ring any advanced methods, the ringing is very much appreciated.

Every week we hold a handbell meeting, practising Bob Minor, and recently we have tried Bob Major. We also ring rounds and call changes as practice for good striking.

We have taken out the clappers of the second and third bells, and all the band can now handle a tower bell. Under the existing circumstances they cannot go further than this, but being able to vary the handbell practices with the tower bells serves to maintain interest, and provides valuable ground work in preparation for the time when they will be able to learn change ringing on tower bells, which, I trust, will be very soon.

Any ringers who find themselves in the vicinity will be welcome at Beechcroft on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and on Fridays at Sundridge Church at the same time. We hope to continue these practices all through the winter.

BRENDA M. RICHARDSON.

DEATH OF MR. A. G. DRIVER.

We deeply regret to announce that Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, Kent, passed away very suddenly on September 29th and was buried on the following Thursday.

Mr. Driver was not a practical ringer, but he had a deep knowledge of the science and especially of some branches in which he specialised. Few, if any, knew as much as he did about the composition of Minor methods, both as extents of separate methods and as extents of many methods spliced together. He also made investigations into the composition of Surprise Major methods and Spliced Surprise Major peals. In the past he was a fairly frequent contributor to our columns.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A HINT TO MEMBERS IN ARREARS.

The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held jointly with the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association at Clent and was very well attended. The ringers made good use of the 'silent' tower bells, which were at the disposal of the members from 3 p.m., touches in various methods being rung as well as rounds for a few learners. Tea was served in the Parish Hall and afterwards a brief business meeting was held, over which Mr. C. H. Woodberry presided.

It was decided to include in this report a request that the secretaries of the towers which have not paid their subscriptions should get in touch with their members and see what they can do to get them sent to the hon. secretary.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Sedgley in December, subject to the usual permission being given. Failing Sedgley, Bilston was suggested as an alternative.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the ladies who so kindly prepared and served the excellent tea, also to Mr. W. Short for having the bells in such good going order and making all the arrangements for meetings and tea.

SUSSEX PEAL COMPETITIONS

(Continued from previous page.)

to one for any method. The reform was too late. Enthusiasm was not to be revived, and in 1921 the bell was won for the last time by St. Peter's. Two years later it was decided finally to end the contest and offer the bell to Brighton Museum, but unfortunately the museum was no more anxious to acquire it than the association was to hold it, so the relic remains, unhonoured and almost forgotten in the tower which won it so often.

Lastly, a word about the trophy may not be out of place. It has been described as 'a small model bell,' which is true so far as it goes. The bell itself is actually of quite massive proportions, some 13 inches diameter, mounted in a wood frame, with wheel, fittings and rope, with few pretensions to correct scale. The whole weighs probably half a hundredweight, and is calculated to prove more of a source of embarrassment than one of pride to any band confronted with this formidable piece of ironmongery and the problem of its transportation.

DARLASTON BOB TRIPLES.

THE JUBILEE OF A METHOD.

Fifty years ago to-day, namely, on Saturday, October 10th, 1891, John Carter called at Darlaston in Staffordshire the first peal in a seven-bell method, which he named Darlaston Bob Triples.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 1234567 | Bob |
| | 3564721 |
| 2143576 | 3657412 |
| 2415367 | 6375142 |
| 4251376 | 6731524 |
| 4523167 | |
| 5432617 | 7613542 |
| 5346271 | 7165324 |
| 3564721 | |
| 3657412 | Single |
| 6375142 | 3564721 |
| 6731524 | 3657412 |
| 7613254 | 6375142 |
| 7162345 | 6731524 |
| 1726354 | |
| 1273645 | 7613524 |

A few peals have been rung since, here and there, but, apart from Grandsire and Stedman, Triples ringing has received little attention of late years, and even such good methods as Oxford Bob and Court Bob are seldom practised.

Darlaston is not so good as those are, but if ever there is a demand for simple seven bell methods it might serve a purpose.

It is not given in the 'Collection of Triples Methods,' published by the Central Council, for it has not got the correct Bob Major Lead Ends and is not, strictly speaking, a regular method. The defect, however, is not of any great consequence, since Bob Major Lead Ends have not the same value for seven-bell methods as they have for eight or even six-bell methods.

As given, the plain course is the old College Single Minor with a bell in the hunt.

As a composition there are several interesting things about the method. The single John Carter used, as shown above, can only be used with peals on the 3-lead-course plan similar to the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire. In those peals the real plain course is the B block, when the method is College Single Triples with a treble and six working bells. If the bob in that course is made by moving fifth's to third's at the lead end the method becomes Oxford Bob, with plain lead for bobbed lead and vice versa.

In peals of Darlaston other than those in the 3-lead-course plan it is necessary to have in-course singles in which the bells in 4-5 and 6-7 lie still.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ELECTION OF TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on Saturday and was attended by over 30 members from the following towers: Brasted, Leigh, East Peckham, Penuhurst, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Shipbourne and Sundridge, with T. E. Sone, Paddock Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Housden from St. John's, Leytonstone.

A short service was held and a most interesting address was given by the Vicar, who extended a very hearty welcome to the ringers. He said he was going to call them 'the silent party,' but he could not do that after the way they had sung the last hymn.

A collection was taken after the service for the association's Benevolent Fund and amounted to 7s. 4d.

Tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, after which the business meeting was held. The Vicar, being unable to stay to the meeting, wished the Tonbridge District 'good luck' and said, 'Come again.'

Mr. W. Latter was then voted to the chair. In connection with the election of the district officers, Mr. T. Saunders was asked if he would carry on as district secretary if he was elected. To this he agreed and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Medhurst and Mr. W. Batten were elected as district representatives on the committee and Mr. E. Ladd as Ringing Master.

Four new members were elected from Sundridge, which brings a fresh tower to the district and the association.

Tunbridge Wells was selected for the next meeting place, where eight 'silent' bells will be available.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Vicar for his most interesting address, to the organist, and to Mr. J. Medhurst for making all the arrangements.

During the afternoon and after the meeting some members enjoyed ringing touches on handbells.

CHURCH BELLS AND HUMAN LIFE.—We need not be surprised at the affection for bells and their music, for not only do they summon all—as well the denizens of the crowded city as the scattered inhabitants of the rural hamlet—to the House of Prayer; not only are they heralds of the Festivals of the Church's year with their joyous and heart-stirring music, but they are also connected with every marked epoch of human life; the birth in some instances, the marriage in more, the death in all, are marked by the joyous peal or the solemn toll of our church bells.—Thomas North.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS IN 1869.

A VISIT TO ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

Here is a further extract from the article in 'All the Year Round,' of which we have already given portions:—

We descend to the floor below, where we find ten ringers ready. A glance round from the conductor, who with his two assistants rings the tenor; 'go'; and they start. The tower rocks, the bells clash, tenor booms at appointed intervals. After some little time one gets used to the noise, which is not so great as might be expected, and begins to pick out the rhythm of the chime. The ringers all have an earnest fixed expression; attention is written on every face. Occasionally a slight wandering look betokens that the ringer is a little vague as to his place in the change, but he soon seems to pick it up and come right again. The work is severe, especially on the arms and muscles of the back, but it is done with an ease derived from long practice. The rope is pulled down at the sally, and falls to a loop on the floor; as it begins to fly up again the ringer checks it, the bell is balanced against a wooden stay that prevents its falling over, and the clapper falls; then he lets it run up, round goes the wheel above and with it the bell, and presently the bell's mouth comes up on the other side, and the clapper sounds again. It is a delicate operation, checking the bell on the poise; if done too late, the bell breaks away the restraining stay, the rope flies up and probably disappears through the hole in the ceiling, drawn up round the revolving wheel, and disgrace is the portion of that youth. Disgrace and pecuniary penalty for a fine is inflicted for a broken stay.

We are informed that a touch is being rung, and find on enquiry that anything short of a peal is called a touch. In a touch the changes are simply rung according to the recognised forms, and when the order of bells comes round to that of the first round, the touch stops. Comparatively few changes can be rung in this way, but there are many ways of introducing a fresh change, by which the ringers, instead of pursuing and completing the system in which they began, take up some other combination of bells. The signal for such a change is given by the conductor, who calls 'Bob' or 'Single' upon which the desired change is made and the touch lengthened. The conductor must necessarily have the whole science of change ringing at his fingers' ends, and must know exactly how to work his bells. Bobs or singles in the wrong place would upset the whole arrangement, and the bells would get so clubbed that they would probably never get round to their proper order again; and as no good ringer ever thinks of leaving off until that state of things occurs, it is difficult to imagine what would happen. A peal consists of not less than five thousand changes, though many more can be rung, and the arranger of a given combination is said to have composed or invented it. He may or may not conduct and call the changes; if he does not the conductor has to learn the peal, of course.

Until the time of one Fabian Stedman, who flourished as printer and bellringer at Cambridge about sixteen hundred and eighty, change ringing was in its infancy. Stedman greatly extended, and indeed revolutionised, the art, and his system, though far more complicated and intricate than the old method, is generally adopted by practised ringers. The old style is called the Grandire method, whether from its antiquity or no does not appear, and is tolerably simple. On eight bells, under either system, the ordinary changes are five thousand and forty, but Stedman arrives at this result by much the more tortuous path. Although it is easy enough to see that the peal is made by altering at stated and understood intervals, the order in which the bells follow each other, and that these alterations are ruled by fixed laws, it is impossible to understand the scientific principles of change ringing without practical teaching and illustration—as impossible as it would be to attempt to explain in the same way the science of music. Enormous handbooks on the subject exist, it is true, but the endless rows of figure with which they are filled are, to the novice, bewildering in the extreme. Patient application and constant practice are the only means by which safe and steady change ringers are made. Besides the difficult task of learning to follow the windings of a peal, the technical terms are many and curious. We are told in explanation of some of them, that Doubles are rung on six bells, Triples on eight, Caters (or Caters—there seems to be some doubt about the spelling) on ten and Cinques on twelve.

The touch comes to an end. Two of the ringers leave their ropes and two novices take their places. Two older ringers stand behind them to prompt and keep them straight; but the conductor, who this time has left the weighty tenor and taken a bell easier to handle, has his work cut out for him, and may be heard occasionally admonishing the neophytes in gruff tones.

Half a dozen boys have found their way up into the tower, and gaze at the performers with eager eyes, probably looking forward to the happy days when they too will be ringers. The audience has also gradually increased by the advent of stray Collegians until the room is now pretty full.

We find that change ringing is not without its dangers. We are told of a man who the other day in a country church caught his foot in the loop made by the falling rope and was presently taken up by it and pitched across the room; we hear awful whispers of another victim who was caught by the neck and hung by his bell; but the date and place of this latter tragedy are not forthcoming. It is, however, a legend much in favour among frequenters of steeples, partly perhaps because of a wild statement with which it concludes

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DISS.

At the meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative, etc., were rung during the afternoon on the fine eight with clappers tied, while handbells were rung in the church.

The new Rector (the Rev. J. A. Appleton) and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (general secretary of the association) shared the conducting of the service, the Rector preaching the sermon. A good tea, with lots of jam, followed at the Coffee Tavern, and afterwards the business meeting, presided over by the chairman of the South Norfolk Branch, Mr. W. L. Duffield. Owing to present conditions, this was looked on as both a general and a branch meeting, so the chairman had to splice two sets of agendas together, and the meeting had to hear two sets of minutes. Correspondence included an interesting letter from the late general secretary, Mr. Nolan Golden, now in the R.A.F.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, late Rector of Bergh Apton, could not be present, but Bergh Apton was nevertheless well represented. Other towers represented were Attleborough, Botisdale, Dickleburgh, Fornsett, Garboldisham, Hitchin, Mulbarton, Norwich, Palgrave, Shelpham, Long Stratton, Winfarthing and Wymondham, and, of course, Diss. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Norwich on Saturday, January 10th, 1942. The new Rector of Diss was elected an honorary member.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and for giving the address at the service; to the organist, Mr. Marshall; to the vergier, Mr. W. H. Harrison; to the branch secretary, Mr. Albert G. Harrison, for the energetic way in which he had tackled war-time difficulties to produce such a good meeting; and to the branch chairman, Mr. W. L. Duffield. Further ringing on tower and handbells brought a very successful and well-attended meeting to a close.

Handbell ringing is being done for service on Sundays at Diss, and has just been started for Sunday services at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, to which visitors are welcomed. Visitors are also welcomed at 52, The Close, by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, general secretary of the association.

PEALS IN THE OXFORD DIOCESE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am compiling, with the sponsorship of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, an inventory of the bells of the diocese, including an analysis of all peals known to have been rung in the various towers. May I, through your columns, make an appeal to the secretaries and officials of other guilds and associations to supply me, of their charity, with details of any peals rung in the counties of Oxon, Berks and Bucks by their respective associations? I need only the date, tower and method in each case.

When completed this inventory will contain details of all the rings of five bells and upwards in the three counties, in addition to a list of the peals rung on them, and after publication it will be available to anyone who wishes for a copy, at a reasonable price. Cheersley Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. C. ELLIOT WIGG.

THE LATE MR. L. GREEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Seeing in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' a paragraph noting the death of Mr. L. Green, of Green Point, Capo Town, South Africa, I would like to state that it was through Mr. Green's endeavours that the only peal ever rung in South Africa was accomplished at Woodstock, Cape Town. Mr. Green came to live at Caversham in 1907 to give a delicate child a chance to grow up, and returned to South Africa in 1910 or 1911. During his stay at Caversham he rang about 30 peals, comprising Grandire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major. These peals were rung for the St. Peter's Society, the Oxford Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths, he having become a member of the A.S.C.Y. before he left London for South Africa. He was a good striker and a good companion.

R. T. HIBBERT.

MR. ROBERT BRUNDLE'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On arriving home from a few days' holiday in the country, I found my 'Ringing World,' September 26th and October 3rd, with numerous letters and greetings from many brother ringers and friends from far and near with kind congratulations on my 90th birthday. Will they kindly accept this intimation for the present, as I hope to reply to all individually in the near future? Thanking all for their kindness and good wishes. R. H. BRUNDLE.

(Continued from previous column.)

that government claimed but without success the manslaughtering bell. Excoriated hands are very common and violent jerks and strains not unknown; but on the whole it seems safe enough.

The second touch being brought to a harmonious conclusion, the two smallest bells hitherto are brought into play, and a third and last touch is rung with great spirit. Then we file down the cork-screw stairs, not without an uncomfortable feeling that if we were to slip or stumble an avalanche of College Youths is behind certain to be precipitated on to our prostrate body.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

VARIATION.

The new book on Surprise Major Methods contains a short chapter on variation. A good deal of what is said in it we have referred to in these articles, but it may be well to give the chapter as it stands so that our readers may see, and (if they think fit) criticise, the line taken in the book.

No method (whether we consider it as a means of ringing church bells or as the mathematical production of rows) stands by itself alone; it is related to other methods in many ways. The Exercise has been slow to recognise this. A composer likes to think that the figures he has written down are original and his very own; and both when they are dealing with the composition of a method and at practice in the belfry ringers seldom realise that the problems of ringing are much the same in all methods. Shipway tried to reduce methods to a system. Every Plain method in his book has its odd and even bell variation, and each of them is subdivided into single, reverse, and double variations. Up to a point that was a good thing, but not altogether so, for it stabilised and limited the idea. Men did recognise that there were variations, but they assumed that anything outside the single reverse and double versions was not a variation. They admitted that Single Norwich Court was a variation of Double Norwich Court, but Double Oxford Bob they treated as an independent and original method. Yet, actually, both in its construction and in its practice, Double Oxford is an even closer variation of Double Norwich than Single Norwich is.

The Surprise Major Collection contains many methods which are variations of each other. As the ways in which they are related differ, the variations could not well be grouped together, and it has not been thought necessary or advisable to give the same name to methods which happen to be (say) the reverse of each other.

Many variations are not given because they can be got readily from the figures given in the book by more or less mechanical processes.

Every method has two variations; one with second's place at the lead end, the other with eighth's place. Some of these variations are of no practical value, for they either bring the bells round at the first lead end (e.g. Bristol with second's), or they have a bell lying still for more than two blows in one position (e.g. London with eighth's place). The actual rows are the same in both variations, but the lead-ends come in a different order. The liability to falseness is exactly the same, and the False Course Ends are the same, but the incidence of the falseness is different. Often one of the two variations is distinctly superior to the other, for one may produce excessive dodging and stagnation (cf. Norfolk and Imperial) or one may produce too little dodging (cf. Cambridge and Primrose). Sometimes there is little to choose.

Where the working bells are in the same coursing order at the half-lead-end as at the lead-end, the method has two variations; one with first's, the other with seventh's (cf. Bristol and Premier). The same is true in a few instances where the working bells are in a different coursing order at lead-end and half-lead-ends. The conditions and practical limitations stated in the last paragraph apply equally to these variations.

In many methods, sixth's place is made at the second cross-section and seventh's at the half-lead-end. When the same three bells are in 6-7-8 in the first instance and in 5-6-7 in the second, eighth's place may be substituted

for sixth's at the cross-section and fifth's for seventh's at the half-lead-end. Usually this improves the method by reducing excessive dodging in 7-8; but sometimes it results in a bell lying still for more than two blows behind, and it may remove the method from the Surprise class. The alteration has no effect on the False Course Ends, and the incidence of the falseness is the same. An example of this style of variation was given in 'The Ringing World' of April 18th last.

| Wiltshire S. | Pembroke S. |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 |
| 2 1 3 5 4 7 6 8 | 2 1 3 5 4 7 6 8 |
| 1 2 5 3 7 4 8 6 | 1 2 5 3 7 4 8 6 |
| 2 1 5 7 3 8 4 6 | 2 1 5 7 3 8 4 6 |
| <hr/> | |
| 2 5 1 3 7 8 6 4 | 2 5 1 3 7 8 6 4 |
| 5 2 3 1 8 7 4 6 | 5 2 3 1 8 7 4 6 |
| 2 5 1 3 8 7 6 4 | 2 5 1 3 8 7 6 4 |
| 5 2 3 1 7 8 4 6 | 5 2 3 1 7 8 4 6 |
| <hr/> | |
| 2 5 3 7 1 4 8 6 | 2 5 3 7 1 4 8 6 |
| 2 3 5 7 4 1 6 8 | 2 3 5 7 4 1 6 8 |
| 3 2 7 5 1 4 8 6 | 3 2 7 5 1 4 8 6 |
| 3 7 2 5 4 1 6 8 | 3 7 2 5 4 1 6 8 |
| <hr/> | |
| 7 3 5 2 4 6 1 8 | 7 3 5 2 4 6 1 8 |
| 3 7 2 5 6 4 8 1 | 7 5 3 4 2 6 8 1 |
| 3 2 7 6 5 4 1 8 | 5 7 4 3 6 2 1 8 |
| 2 3 6 7 4 5 8 1 | 5 4 7 6 3 2 8 1 |
| <hr/> | |
| 3 2 7 6 5 4 8 1 | 4 5 6 7 2 3 8 1 |
| 2 3 6 7 4 5 1 8 | 4 6 5 2 7 3 1 8 |
| 2 6 3 4 7 5 8 1 | 6 4 2 5 3 7 8 1 |
| 6 2 4 3 5 7 1 8 | 6 2 4 3 5 7 1 8 |
| <hr/> | |
| 2 6 3 4 5 1 7 8 | 2 6 3 4 5 1 7 8 |
| 2 3 6 4 1 5 8 7 | 2 3 6 4 1 5 8 7 |
| 3 2 4 6 5 1 7 8 | 3 2 4 6 5 1 7 8 |
| 3 4 2 6 1 5 8 7 | 3 4 2 6 1 5 8 7 |
| <hr/> | |
| 4 3 2 1 6 8 5 7 | 4 3 2 1 6 8 5 7 |
| 3 4 1 2 8 6 7 5 | 3 4 1 2 8 6 7 5 |
| 4 3 2 1 8 6 5 7 | 4 3 2 1 8 6 5 7 |
| 3 4 1 2 6 8 7 5 | 3 4 1 2 6 8 7 5 |
| <hr/> | |
| 3 1 4 6 2 8 5 7 | 3 1 4 6 2 8 5 7 |
| 1 3 4 2 6 5 8 7 | 1 3 4 2 6 5 8 7 |
| 3 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 | 3 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 |
| 1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8 | 1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8 |
| <hr/> | |
| 1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6 | 1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6 |

When seventh's place is made at the half-lead-end and backstroke first's and sixth's are made in the fourth section, handstroke first's and sixth's (twice) may be substituted for the latter giving sometimes a more difficult method. The lead ends, False Course Ends, and the incidence of the falseness are the same in both variations.

Yoxford and Londonthorpe (both of which have been rung to peals) are examples of this kind of variation, and we give another example. Wiltshire and Pembroke are both good methods with plenty of varied and difficult work. The bells always come up behind in the natural coursing order and the methods will produce reasonably good music, but the natural coursing order is not well maintained in the interior of the lead. There is but one False Course End B 24365 with the incidence at 4-3, 5-4, and 1-7. Cambridge can be varied in this manner.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, White-chapel, on Saturday, October 11th, at 3 p.m. A luncheon to commemorate the 304th anniversary will be held on Saturday, November 8th. Further details will be given at a later date.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Braintree on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available from 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Please come and make this meeting a real success. A good bus service from all parts.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilminster on October 11th. Handbells and tower bells (silent) available from 3.15. Owing to rationing difficulties the usual tea cannot be arranged. Bring your own food; a cup of tea will be provided for those who send names to D. G. Taylor, Braeside, Ilminster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next silent ringing meeting will be at Barwell on Saturday, October 11th. Bells 4.30-7.30. No tea. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available Church Hall at 3 p.m. All will be welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The autumn meeting of this district will be held at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service at 3.30. Tea at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. in tower. Special business, so may we have a good attendance? Derby district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow, 4.15 p.m. St. John's also available.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—All members and friends are invited to attend a ringing practice and meeting to be held at Friezland on

Saturday, Oct. 18th. Tower bells, with ringing apparatus, will be available from 3 p.m. Don't miss this treat. Bus or train to Greenfield Station. — Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Daventry, Saturday, Oct. 18th. Handbell ringing. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, Oct. 14th?—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry. Northants.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) only for those who send their names to Mr. T. Groombridge, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst, not later than Tuesday, October 21st. Business includes election of officers.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Ewell on Saturday, Oct. 25th, at which nominations for district officers for 1942 will be received. Full details next week. — G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

SITUATION VACANT.

SECOND GARDENER wanted, change ringer; cottage with electric light, etc.—E. C. Lambert, Church Cottages, Cosgrove, Bletchley, Bucks.

ROUND BLOCKS AND TRANSPOSITIONS.

OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the table of coursing order I sent you four months ago Kent Treble Bob Major was fourth from the top, Oxford Treble Bob Major was thirtieth from the top. From this fact you ought to have realised there was a big difference between the two methods, in spite of the fact that the constructional moves are almost *but not quite identical*, as there are *ten* moves in 'Kent,' but only *eight* in 'Oxford.'

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

To prove his contentions, Mr. Baker has sent us a great mass of figures. They are too voluminous to print.—Editor 'Ringing World.'

J. A.
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