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THE EXERCISE.

The gathering of ringers by the graveside in Pyrford Churchyard and the appreciations we have received form a remarkable tribute to the memory of a man widely held in esteem and affection. And they are something more still. They are a proof and a visible expression of one of the strongest links which bind ringers together into that somewhat vague entity we call the Exercise.

The attractions of change ringing are many and the reasons why men devote their time and energies to it are various. To some it is a means of serving their church. A few see in it a means of picking up a few shillings now and then (but of late years these people have much diminished and are now almost extinct). To some it is a most excellent bodily exercise. To some it provides intellectual enjoyment of the highest class. And to some (who include the best and most skilful of all) it is the most absorbingly fascinating sport that ever was invented. All these things appeal to most ringers in varying degree and at different times, for change ringing has many rewards to bestow on those who serve her faithfully.

But if you were to go to a man who has spent a lifetime as a ringer, and can look back on a successful record in the art, and if you were to ask him, What have you got out of it all that you value most? the chances are he would reply, The friends I have made. We have noticed this time after time, and the fact should make us all proud of being ringers, and the more resolved to do nothing unworthy of so great an ideal.

Friendship is a very precious thing and varies a great deal in its quality. In its highest form it is not to be broadcast over the whole community, but must be reserved for the inner circle of friends. But beyond that a decent man has still plenty of friendship and goodwill to give those with whom he comes comparatively seldom into contact. It is here that ringing has done so much good. Whatever the reason may be, it is a fact that the idea has grown up among us that ringers are the members of a body with definite relations and obligations one to another, so that a ringer visiting a strange town has only to go into the belfry to be made welcome and to be asked to ring.

It is a fine thing and one we may well be proud of. There is nothing quite like it elsewhere. A keen chess player would not expect to turn up at a chess club in a strange town and expect to be given a game; nor would a cricketer expect to join in with a local team whom he had never met before. Neither (to put the comparison on another level) would a man, however fine a singer he

(Continued on page 278.)

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might be, expect to join without notice the choir of any church he might visit.

This brotherhood among ringers is one of our most precious possessions. How we came by it is not too clear. It was not always so. It is one of the results of the several influences which, during the last sixty years, have transformed the Exercise, and of which the great territorial associations with the Central Council at their head are not the least. But however we did get it, it is a thing we must cherish and never let go, for it concerns the very life of the Exercise and the art of change ringing.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, June 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	FRANK W. PERRENS 5-6
ALBERT WALKER 3-4	*PTE. A. J. ADAMS, R.A.O.C. ... 7-8
†ALFRED BALLARD 9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES. Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

Witnesses—George E. Fearn and George F. Swann.

* First peal 'in hand.' † 200th peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, June 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

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

Composed by J. F. PENNING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

*HARRY HARRIS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*HUGH M. PAGE 7-8

Composed by J. F. PENNING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal. † First handbell peal.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALLS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5030 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*EDGAR G. RAPLEY 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4	THOMAS HARRIS 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First peal of Major on handbells and first peal of Plain Bob Major. Mr. Rapley was elected a member of both societies before the peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT 10, WALTON CRESCENT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in E flat.

*PEGGY KINIFFLE (Westfield) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 3-4
JEAN M. BUCKLEY (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, June 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	*JOHN THOMAS	5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	3-4	*MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ...	7-8

Composed by W. H. WILDE. Conducted by Mrs. E. K. FLETCHER

* 100th peal together.

GILWERN, BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, June 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At THE MILL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

WILFRED WILLIAMS	1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER	5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS

Umpire—Sydney T. Rackham.

The first eight-bell peal 'in hand' rung in Wales.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. GORDON.

WELL-KNOWN BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles H. Gordon, of Bristol, who passed away suddenly on May 28th at the age of 77.

Mr. Gordon was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, and was also one of the founders in 1894 of the present St. Stephen's (Bristol) Ringing Guild.

He rang in about 100 peals, ranging from Grandsire Triples to London Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal. He took part in a peal of Stedman Triples on Lundy Island on August 8th, 1905, the only peal rung on the island.

For over 30 years Mr. Gordon was assistant clerk to the Kingswood Urban Council.

THE CURFEW CHIMES OF WINDSOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent C. W. P. is, of course, entitled to his own opinion, and tastes differ, but the tune St. David is one of those fine old psalm tunes which have come down to us from the late 16th century, the time of Tallis and Byrd, in the opinion of many authorities the best period of English church music. It is included in all the standard hymnals, and should be very effective as a chime on a good ring of bells.

'ORGANIST.'

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION

(Continued from next column.)

The final composition is the application of the Q Sets to the groups of paired round blocks, and it can be done only in one simple and straightforward manner. Whenever in any group of round blocks each block contains one member and one member only of a set of Q Sets we have an expression of our peal.

We could if we were so disposed go on and prick all the possible expressions. There is an enormous number of them, but the number is definite and easily calculable. The expressions (or as we usually call them the variations) differ in appearance and according to the older standards most of them would rank as 'original' compositions. But we must realise that they are not.

This way of looking at a composition will appear to many people as novel and older composers would contest it strongly. It is, however, becoming to be accepted increasingly by the best of the younger composers even if sometimes they do so somewhat partially; and it is most interesting and instructive to notice that it was the way that Richard Duckworth, the earliest writer on change ringing, looked on peals nearly three hundred years ago.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

It is not at all unlikely that a reader who has been following the explanation we gave recently of the composition of a peal of Bob Major has wondered why we did not conclude by giving, or at least indicating, a set of figures showing a definite number of course ends and the bobs that produce them. Perhaps to most ringers any idea of a peal apart from such figures is meaningless.

The omission was deliberate on our part, because we are using this peal, not for any interest it has in itself (though it has a lot of interest), but as an illustration, and because there is a profound truth which we want to point out and explain. It was not that we were talking generally and more or less vaguely. We were, or at any rate we tried to be, quite definite and precise. We stated the problem definitely. We gathered the available material together and we arranged it in certain definite groups. We worked out all the Q Sets that are possible to use for joining together the necessary blocks. And we saw exactly how those Q Sets can be used. But we did not go further and set down or indicate any one instance of the use of these Q Sets. Why?

The answer is that the composition, as a composition, is already complete. What remains is to apply in a particular or selected way the composition we have already got. To put it into final words to reduce to a concrete form the abstract truth we have already discovered.

It is rather a pity we should have to use words that sound somewhat high flown and pedantic, but there does not seem to be a better way of expressing it, and when it is understood a great flood of light is thrown on the nature of composition and the problems of theoretic ringing.

The fact we must now grasp is that we have got one composition, but there are many ways in which it can be expressed and one expression is not in itself of more importance than another.

Let us go back and have another look at our peal.

We have the sixty in-course Natural Courses as our material. These courses we separate into groups according to the bells in sixth place at the course ends. The Natural Courses with the 2nd in sixths we group together in pairs of round blocks in as many ways as possible, and we discover that there are forty-eight of these ways.

In similar fashion we group the Natural Courses with the 3rd in sixth place, and the 4th and the others.

We have now got our material not merely grouped and arranged, but grouped and arranged in a number of alternative ways, any one of which is available for use. And when we work out the combinations of these ways we find we have an enormous and indeed a stupendous number of ways in which the sixty Natural Courses can be set down in pairs of blocks. But large as the number is they are for our purposes, so far, all alike and can be treated as if they were only one.

Next we worked out the available Q Sets. We need a definite number of them and they must consist of a set which bear a definite relation to each other. We can without much trouble see what sets are to be had and write them down in figures.

(Continued in previous column.)

JOHN HOLT.

(Continued from page 269.)

A GREAT COMPOSER.

As a composer John Holt holds a position which is unique in the history of change ringing. As we trace the development of the science from the first invention of the Sixes down to the latest production in Spliced Surprise or Stedman Triples, we can see how our present knowledge has been gained by a succession of able men, who, working on what had been done before them, handed on their discoveries to those who came after. More often than not in early days there was no actual explanation of how peals were produced, but usually the peals themselves gave sufficient explanation for the later men to work on. The story of the evolution of Thurstans' four-part peal of Stedman Triples is a striking example of how the production of one man was developed and carried on by the next, until, after many years, the desired end was reached; and when Thurstans achieved his masterpiece he did but put the coping stone to the structure many men had had a hand in building.

But John Holt seems to stand entirely outside any such succession. It is difficult to trace the genesis of his compositions in earlier peals, and when he died his secrets died with him. His peals became widely known and popular, but it was beyond the capacity of his successors to understand their construction, and for more than a century, until modern times, the composition of Grandsire Triples remained a sealed book. All that could be done, beyond the multiplication of bob-and-single peals, was to obtain close variations and transpositions of the ten-part. John Reeves, with his well-known variation, and William Shipway with his five-part, came nearest to adding something which may fairly be called original; but for the other men what they did was well summed up by the authors of the 'Clavis' when they wrote that 'it may be no difficult task for some to produce variations of Mr. Holt's peal and broach them for their own. But the discerning part of the exercise are not to be so blinded, and we will be bold to say that if anyone will produce a peal of Grandsire Triples with two singles, and will say he did not borrow his plan from Mr. Holt, he is a braggart and an impostor, and will be branded as such by every judicious professor of the art.'

All this shows how far advanced Holt was beyond the development of his day, and how great was his achievement. It illustrates also the custom of the time by which a composer made public the results of his work, but never thought of explaining the processes by which he had obtained it. Indeed, in the case of Holt, anything like explanation would probably have been impossible. He was, as I have said, uneducated and totally untrained, and anything like the formal explanations such as C. D. P. Davies, W. H. Thompson and Arthur Heywood published, would have been quite beyond him, as they would have been beyond John Carter, who, in his mental equipment, was in many respects not unlike Holt.

It would be intensely interesting and instructive to learn how Holt worked, but anything beyond conjecture is impossible. He may have got the idea of the reversal of the two halves of the ten-part from Garthon's peal, but it is just as likely that it was a piece of brilliant intuition which came to him after he had experimented with many other plans and failed. The Original, too,

most likely was not the result of any one deliberate plan, but of much patient trial and error during which he gradually saw light.

I have already given what seemed to me to have been a likely starting point for the Original, and I think it instructive to reproduce the opinion of Joseph J. Parker, who made a name as a composer of Grandsire Triples worthy to stand alongside that of John Holt. Parker's article was the last thing he wrote and was published shortly after I had written my account of Holt on which I am now largely drawing.

'The origin of our old peals,' wrote Mr. Parker, 'will always be of interest, and anything calculated to show the mental stages gone through by the early composers should be interesting.'

'While I was engaged upon my investigations of Grandsire Triples in the year 1888 I built a certain table of lead ends with a view to trying to obtain a six-part peal with the 6th and 7th never called Before. While experimenting with the table, I noticed that certain passages in the table were similar to some passages in Holt's peal. This set me wondering what suggested to Holt the idea of having two bells never called Before, and those two bells the 2nd and 6th; also why the peal contained so many calls.

'To get anything like a feasible answer to these questions we have to consider what material Holt would have in those days to assist him in producing such a peal. To this last question I will suggest that the Bob and Single peal gave him the idea for a six-part peal, with the 6th and 7th never called Before, and I believe this was the kind of peal Holt set out to compose.

'Taking the Bob and Single peal to start with, naturally it would occur to Holt to substitute bobs for all the singles, not that that would get him very far.

'At this stage a few experiments will have suggested a table of lead ends, similar to the one I built in 1888, at which time I happened to transpose the peal from the row 347526—to see what it would be like with the 6th and 7th taking the place of the 2nd and 6th. I found that it produced a very poor peal, and I took no further interest at the time.

'Having recently reproduced the transpositions from my table, to see what actually happened in the process, I found the result very interesting. I will here give a description of the table, which is built in three sections.

'Section A. This is built to the following rows: 236745, 346725, 426735, 327645, 247635, and 437625. Bobbing every row except when the 6th or 7th comes Before, will give the whole section in six round blocks, with 6-7 and 7-6 coming into 4-5 at regular intervals. These row should be taken as the dominant numbers of 24 Q Sets.

'Section B. This is built to the following six rows, 234567, 342567, 423567, 324576, 243576, 432576. Treated as Section A, this gives six round blocks with 6-7 and 7-6 coming behind at regular intervals. Again we get the dominant numbers of 24 Q Sets.

'Section C should contain 24 B Blocks in which the 6th and 7th never come Before.

'I will now endeavour to show how I believe Holt first composed his peal. In dealing with sections A and B, by plaining nine Q Sets in each case, he got the whole of Section A with nine B Blocks linked together with one round block. He also got Section B with fourteen B Blocks linked together into one round block.

' At this stage a certain B Block will appear in both sections, but by omitting two bobs, the three false rows are cut out and the two sections joined up together, giving the peal in its transposed form with Section A at the beginning, and Section B with all the 6-7's and 7-6's at the end of the peal.

' We now see that Holt had to transpose in order to get some 6-7's spread about the peal instead of 2-6's, and to get the singles to come in the last four leads.

' With regard to the number of calls I would suggest that Holt never selected and bobbed thirty Q Sets, but that he adopted the plan of plaining eighteen Q Sets.

' In building his table, I think we may take it for granted that Holt began with Section B, as he would naturally start with the row 752634 when the rest would follow.'

Joseph J. Parker's explanation of the construction of the Original is a masterly one and clearly shows the design that is behind the peal, but whether it accurately describes the process by which John Holt obtained it, is perhaps rather doubtful. It imputes to him a knowledge of the general laws of composition in the method which he can hardly have possessed and which has been attained only in modern times by the patient and skilful investigation of men like W. H. Thompson and J. J. Parker himself.

(To be continued.)

MR. GOLDSMITH'S HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your account of the ringing career of our old and mutual friend you refer to his set of handbells, and I feel bound to make a correction. They were not a gift from me, but were ordered by him from the firm in the ordinary way of business.

A. A. HUGHES.

The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP

HANDBELLS IN YORK MINSTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following will no doubt be of interest to many of your readers.

Bellringing history was made in York Minster on Thursday, June 11th, when handbells were brought into use inside the Minster in place of the tower bells, which unfortunately could not be used on account of the ban, as they were on previous similar occasions.

The ringers took their stand just inside the gates of the chapel dedicated to the Yorkshire Light Infantry Regiment on the west side of the north transept. The occasion was the enthronement of Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett as Archbishop of York.

The ringers had about 20 minutes at their disposal before the service, which was timed for 2.30 p.m. The ringing consisted of Grand-sire Caters, Grandsire Triples on the back eight and rounds on the twelve for about three minutes. The names of the ringers taking part were Messrs. G. Worth, F. Rickitt, S. Steel, A. C. Fearnley, T. F. Earnshaw and L. Woodcock. Other ringers present were G. Horner (hon. secretary) and H. Forden. We had a 'try out' the previous Tuesday night at 9 p.m. in the Minster, the object being to find the most suitable place to stand so the bells could be heard to the best effect. Also to give the Dean, the Very Rev. E. M. Milner-White, an opportunity to decide if they were likely to be a success. With the Dean were Chancellor the Rev. Frederick Harrison and Chamberlain the Rev. H. F. J. A. Frazer. They were all pleased with the result.

Probably the effect of the ringing would be better then, when everything was still, and the Minster empty, than it would be when it was filled, and filling, with a crowded congregation. I have heard personally comments on the ringing from members of the congregation, and all agreed it was 'very nice.' One lady said she was particularly pleased with the last piece, viz., the rounds on twelve bells. I think that remark would apply to about 99 per cent. of the general public, as to them change ringing, however well struck, is only a conglomeration of sound, whereas if rounds are continued for a bit, they can follow them. However, as all ringers know, the real attraction to them is method ringing.

The whole thing was an eleventh hour arrangement, so to speak, otherwise I dare say the microphone could have been placed to get a better reception of the bells and consequently a better broadcast.

T. F. EARNSHAW, President.
York Minster Society.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths should note that there will be no meeting at the Bell Foundry to-morrow, but instead a visit to Bushey, in Hertfordshire, next week.

The peal of Stedman Caters at Birmingham reported in another column was arranged for Pte. Adams, of Banstead, Surrey, who thus had the opportunity of ringing his first peal in hand. To make it possible, the St. Martin's Guild placed their headquarters at the disposal of the band and postponed a peal attempt of their own.

The handbell peal rung in Bristol last week was arranged at 24 hours' notice specially for Mr. Edgar G. Rapley, of West Grinstead, Sussex. He has been working at Bath during a temporary release from duty with H.M. Forces, but was suddenly recalled to his unit, so he dropped in on the Bristol Guild's weekly practice on Tuesday, and Wednesday's peal was arranged.

The peal of Bob Major at Gilwern last Saturday was the first eight-bell handbell peal in Wales. So far as is known, the only other handbell peal in the Principality was one of Stedman Caters rung in All Saints' belfry, Newport, Mon, some time before the Great War of 1914-18. The late William Pye took part. The band desire to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rackham for their generous hospitality after the peal and for providing the facilities which made this attempt possible.

Ten years ago last Tuesday at Beddington, Mr. Charles H. Kippin called the first peal of Londonthorpe Surprise Major. On the following Sunday he repeated the performance at Horley in Surrey.

Next Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in eight methods. It was conducted by William Pye and rung at Willesden. The methods were London, Rutland, Bristol, Cambridge, Superlative, New Gloucester, Norfolk and Yorkshire.

On June 15th, 1851, at the Osborn Arms in Spitalfields, a band of College Youths rang 5,086 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells. It would have been the first in the method in hand, but the composition turned out to be false, and the honour went in 1855 to the Cumberland Youths. Meanwhile both Triples and Cinques had been rung.

The first peal at Lincoln Cathedral, one of Treble Bob Major, was rung on June 15th, 1886.

On June 16th, 1816, a mixed band of College Youths and Cumberland Youths with William Booth and William Hall, of Sheffield, rang 5,280 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

Jasper W. Snowdon, who as author and leader did so much for the Exercise and the art of ringing, and whose influence is not yet exhausted, was born at Ilkley Vicarage 98 years ago, on June 18th, 1844.

An early peal of Grandire Triples was rung at St. Peter-at-Archies, Lincoln, on June 20th, 1756. The method was called Catharans Triples and evidently was John Garthon's original composition. The church has recently been pulled down in the course of street improvement.

Fifty years ago to-day Holt's Original was called at Pinner in Middlesex by Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham. Besides the conductor, two of the band, Mr. C. H. Martin and Mr. James George, are still alive.

Fifty years ago yesterday four peals were rung, one was Grandire Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major, and one Kent Treble Bob Royal.

THE FUTURE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Though few of us in the South-West of England knew the late Editor of 'The Ringing World' personally, yet through the weekly copy of the paper we knew him as an unselfish and devoted servant of the Exercise, keeping us all in touch with one another's thoughts and activities, inspiring and guiding us so often with those excellent leading articles of his.

The best way in which we can express our gratitude for all he has done for change ringing these last 31 years is to make the paper which he founded, and edited so well, the permanent journal of the Exercise. There are, I believe, nearly 50 recognised guilds and associations, and if they are to work for the benefit of the whole, and not simply as separate units, they must have a common source of information and a common means of imparting knowledge. May I suggest what is, after all, probably in the minds of many others, that each guild and association should feel itself in honour bound to contribute so much in advance every year for the permanent establishment of 'The Ringing World,' and that the Central Council should fix the amount according to respective resident membership?

A paper we must continue to have: now it is up to us all not only to continue this paper as a tribute to the late Editor's labours for the whole Exercise, but 'to make some effort and to face some sacrifices' to this end.

E. V. COX.

The Rectory, Tedburn St. Mary, Exeter.

DEATH OF MR. ERNEST BRETT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ernest Brett, who passed away on June 6th at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford. Mr. Brett, who was 65 years of age, was a well-known member of the London Exercise and had rung many peals in a number of methods. He retired some years back from the Metropolitan Police Force and was a member of the National Guild of Police Ringers.

THE LATE MR. JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 273.)

A GREAT RINGING JOURNALIST.

In the year 1902 Mr. Goldsmith rang seventeen peals and called eleven, a much smaller number than in 1898 and 1899; but which, for most ringers, would represent a busy year. One of the peals he called was Double Norwich Court Bob Royal at St. Nicholas', Brighton, a method in which at the time very few peals had been accomplished. Another was Stedman Triples, at Southover, on November 29th, his farewell peal on leaving Lewes to take up an appointment at Woking.

When he left school, Mr. Goldsmith was apprenticed to his uncle, who owned the 'East Sussex News,' and he thoroughly learnt the trade of a printer and newspaper work in all its branches. Particularly he developed into a very skilled reporter and journalist. He was an expert shorthand writer and typist; he had the gift of instinctively selecting just those passages in a speech which gave the essence of what the speaker said, and he could write a descriptive account of any event at short notice and in good, sound English.

APPOINTMENT AT WOKING.

In 1903 he was appointed to take charge of the editorial work of 'The Woking News and Mail,' and shortly afterwards he became manager. This brought him into contact with the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., of Guildford, the firm which has printed 'The Ringing World' from the beginning.

Woking at the time was rapidly expanding, following its receipt of powers of local government in 1895. Goldsmith was closely associated with local activities, and became a very widely-known member of the community.

He had married shortly before he left Lewes, and during this period of his life he worked extremely hard at his profession. His opportunities for ringing were much curtailed, for the nearest band of any account was at Guildford. He managed to get away now and then for a peal and rang eight in 1904 and six in 1905. One of them, on August 23rd, 1904, was Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham. It was Mr. Albert Walker's first peal in the method as conductor, and the 10th was rung by Mr. A. Paddon Smith. Thus began a connection between Mr. Goldsmith and St. Martin's, Birmingham, and its ringers, which ever after remained one of his most cherished possessions.

TWELVE BELL RINGING.

At no time during his life had Mr. Goldsmith the opportunity of practising in a twelve-bell tower, but he adapted himself to twelve-bell ringing without the slightest difficulty, and used to say that he could see his way as clearly among twelve ropes as among eight.

Gifted as he was both as a bellringer and a journalist, it is not surprising that he formed the ambition to combine the two and to produce a ringing journal which should not only meet the needs of the Exercise, but also reach the very high standard its founder set before himself. How early he began to cherish the idea we do not know, but he must have pondered it long and deeply, for he well knew the difficulties which lay in his way and the risks he would have to run. That he succeeded is a tribute to his faith and perseverance as much as to his skill and knowledge. It is quite safe to say no other man could have done it, and that in itself is some

measure of the debt the Exercise owes to the memory of John Sparkes Goldsmith.

It will be well if, at this point, we make a rapid survey of ringing journalism through the ages.

The first periodicals to print any reports of ringing were 'The Era' and 'Bell's Life.' Both were sporting papers, and both dealt frankly with change ringing as a secular sport among other secular sports. Some time before the middle of the nineteenth century 'The Era' began to print short reports of occasional peals, accounts of prize ringing, and challenges from various bands or individuals to ring against all comers for wagers of money.

Later on 'Bell's Life' was the paper favoured by ringers for the publication of their peals, and it went so far as to print some of Jasper Snowdon's early articles on the history and science of change ringing.

At that time the Exercise, owing to circumstances which do not now concern us, had reached its lowest ebb, and a number of devoted men were engaged on the belfry reform movement which, in the end, did so much good. One of them was Canon Erskine Clark, who was Vicar of Battersea and himself a ringer. In 1870 or 1871 he was concerned with the foundation of a weekly illustrated newspaper called 'Church Bells,' and became its first editor.

'Church Bells' was primarily a Church paper, dealing with ordinary church matters and appealing to average churchpeople, but a page was reserved for bellringers and bellringing, and H. T. Ellacombe was given the oversight of it.

'THE BELL NEWS.'

The gain to the Exercise was very great. Now, for the first time, there was a visible link which bound ringers together and gave them an interest in one another's doings. In due course it led to the idea of launching a paper entirely devoted to ringers and ringing. Whose idea it primarily was we do not know. Jasper Snowdon was concerned in the matter, but whether as the mover or as the adviser is uncertain. The man who actually started and owned the paper was Harvey Reeves, a printer by trade, and one who had been in the employment of the great publishing house of Cassell's. He was the best man for the job at the time, and his peculiarities and shortcomings in after years should not blind us to his real merits and the service he rendered to the Exercise.

'The Bell News' appeared as a tiny monthly eight-page paper in February, 1881, and had sufficient success to be turned in April, 1882, into a weekly paper. In the sixty years since then the Exercise has never lacked the benefit of a journal week by week.

What 'Church Bells' did in a small way, 'The Bell News' did in full measure, and we may fairly date the modern period in the history of change ringing, with all its advance and improvements, from April, 1882.

Harvey Reeves had been a ringer, and he had some pretensions to be a composer of Grandsire Triples (his quarter-peal is still the best and most popular in the method), but his work as editor of 'The Bell News' was passive rather than active. He printed what was sent him. He published articles by leading ringers, and very good some of them were. But he made no effort to influence ringers, and to more than a handful he was

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

completely unknown personally. As time went on he got very slack, and it was generally understood that the paper was only kept alive by the very substantial financial support given it by Sir Arthur Heywood and others. It is not surprising that a good deal of dissatisfaction grew up, with a demand for a better journal. It was easier, however, to make the demand than to satisfy it.

Two attempts were made and both were failures. The first was by a man named Bedwell, of Lewisham, in Kent, who launched a weekly journal called 'Campanology.' It started fairly well in September, 1896, and lasted until the following March, but it could not stay the course. Its opposition had galvanised 'The Bells News' into something like life, and there was nothing in the new paper so superior to the old that men should prefer it.

'THE BELLRINGER'.

Some years later William Willson, of Leicester, started 'The Bellringer,' which had a still shorter life. Willson had abundance of energy and enthusiasm, he had plenty of ideas, he gave full measure for money, and he could write in a vigorous and somewhat boisterous style which in its proper place was not ineffective. As a writer of occasional articles he was quite good. But he had not the gifts of a journalist and still less those of an editor. His exuberant personality was too much in evidence in the paper, and the novelty of his style and the extremeness of his opinions rather irritated and antagonised the more old-fashioned and sober people.

So 'The Bell News' was once more left alone in the field, and yet, as the years went on, it did not improve, nor did the feeling abate that something better ought to be had. As we turn over the pages of the journal there is only one thing, apart from the articles contributed by outsiders, that we can wholeheartedly admire and indeed envy. For a few years during the early nineties Harvey Reeves published a series of portraits of leading ringers on full page art paper, which are a delight to look at. Although he charged only a penny extra for the copies that contained them, these portraits are quite good enough for framing. To-day, alas, the relatively increased cost of paper and printing has put such luxuries far out of the reach of an ordinary journal.

THE MAN AND THE OPPORTUNITY.

This, then, is a rough survey of the position when Mr. Goldsmith made up his mind to start a new ringing paper. There was a need and there was a demand. Could he meet it? Others had tried and had failed. Could he succeed?

Looking back now over the years we can see easily enough that he possessed just those qualities and those advantages that others lacked, and we may be quite sure that he, and he alone, could have done the thing he did. Did he know it himself? Perhaps he did, for no man could have ventured on such an undertaking unless he was sure of himself. And he had almost every qualification necessary for the job. He was a trained and competent journalist as the others were not. He was a skilled ringer, more so than Willson, far more so than Bedwell, or Harvey Reeves. He had the character and personality which could gain the confidence and affection of ringers. He had grown up as a ringer among ringers, sharing their views and ambitions. His out-

look was the same as theirs, though it was wider, and so he was eminently fitted to express their opinions and minister to their needs. He held no extreme views, nor did he specialise on any particular branch of the science or art of change ringing. Specialisation is an excellent thing in its way, and is necessary to progress, but it tends to give a man an undue sense of the importance of his own subject, and that in an editor of a newspaper is a defect. And he had the feeling that the thing was worth doing for its own sake apart from anything it might bring him or he could get out of it. That was as important as any of the other things for, without it, no really good work is ever done by anyone.

(To be continued.)

APPRECIATIONS.

FROM MR. THOMAS H. REEVES, FOR THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

We of the St. Martin's Guild always had a warm and sincere regard for the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and we were always happy to welcome him at our gatherings. His services to ringers and the art of change ringing generally will never be fully known or appreciated, but to many of us who valued his friendship, his passing will be a sad loss. He has had a full and useful life of service, and we trust he is now at rest.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

136, Newton Road, Birmingham.

FROM MR. C. H. JENNINGS.

We all deeply regret the passing of the late Editor of 'The Ringing World,' John S. Goldsmith.

I first met him and Mrs. Goldsmith 30 years ago at Woking, a lasting friendship was the result, and we have met and rung together on many occasions since.

We pay humble tribute to a fine personality. He was enthusiastic and a warmhearted friend, and he has left behind an inspiring and glorious memory of his wide work for the Church. He was a cheerful and faithful friend and the centre of good fellowship. He worked with great enthusiasm for improvement not only in ringing but belfry reform; it was born in him; he helped to raise a higher standard of ringing, and was most loyal to his Church. His work for 'The Ringing World' will be a lasting memory.

His passing has bereaved us of a valuable friend, and marks the close of a life devoted to the service of the Church and his fellow-men, and in the words of the ringers' hymn—sung at the burial service—'Called home to rest at last.'

We salute the memory of a good and true brother, a great ringer and a loyal servant of the Church. R.I.P. C. H. JENNINGS.

59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

FROM MR. GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

On behalf of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, I, as hon. secretary, am writing to you re the death of our beloved Editor of 'The Ringing World,' Mr. John S. Goldsmith.

From reports from time to time in our paper it seemed evident that he had a very serious illness.

We at Ipswich held him in the greatest esteem. He always was willing to do all ringers a good turn, even though it might sometimes be inconvenient to him.

His visit to St. Mary-le-Tower Church on the occasion of the unveiling of our peal board containing eight peals of Maximus was much appreciated by all our members.

We have lost a friend who has done an immense amount of hard work for the good of the Exercise and will be sorely missed.

This society send their deepest sympathy to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

FROM MR. W. H. LLOYD.

I have ever been impressed by his energy, enthusiasm and sincerity in all matters pertaining to the Exercise, and I trust his influence and example will be a source of inspiration and encouragement for many years to come.

W. H. LLOYD.

41, East Street, Taunton.

FROM MR. BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

I am directed by the Northern Branch Committee of the Worcester and Districts Association to write expressing our profound regret at the great loss the Exercise has sustained by the passing of Mr. Goldsmith, a loss fully appreciated by many members in our country areas who had never been fortunate enough to meet him, whilst among his old friends around here the additional feeling of sad personal loss is extremely keen.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just read my 'Ringing World' of June 12th and was deeply interested in the question put as to the relative claims of J. J. Parker and J. W. Washbrook to be the first to compose a peal of Stedman Triples on a new plan.

I can throw some light on this, as I was one of a ringing party invited by Canon Wigram to ring in Herts in November, 1889. Six peals were rung in the week, one at Braughing, when the peal composed by J. W. Washbrook was conducted by him. I was not particularly keen to ring in it, as I knew the striking was likely to be below first class, judging from a peal rung the previous day. To my relief I was able to stand out and hand over the spare rope to a brother parson, the Rev. A. D. Hill, who had arrived late in the week.

Just before the start I asked Washbrook, 'What are you going to ring?' His answer was, 'I want you to listen and tell me afterwards what peal it is.' I went into the chancel, where I had a full view of the ringers in the gallery and also heard the calls. Being quite ignorant of the intricacies of composition as well as having no musical ear whatever, I was dependent on 'Troyte' and a clear view of the ropes for checking the part-ends. I was expecting the familiar 'Thurstans,' but as no call was made I imagined a plain course was being rung by way of a try out for adjustment of tail-ends, etc., but it was nothing of the sort, as the first call—or rather 'yell'—was 'Single' at the end of the course, which put me off my bearings, never up to then having heard or rung anything but Thurstans' with a couple of Brook's Variation.

The peal was rung, but as Squire Proctor and a couple of his Benington band had turned up towards the end and were anxious for a pull, I went up with them to the belfry and rang a short touch, eliciting a remark from the Rev. W. S. Willett, who was never known to strike a faulty blow in a peal; 'There, that's something worth doing. I enjoyed that far more than the peal.' Walking from the tower I asked Washbrook what the peal was. He said, 'I have been trying to get it for months, but I only succeeded this morning. I woke suddenly and saw the composition before me as plain as plain can be.' (I expect he had been dreaming about it.)

This settles the date—an early morning hour of November 21st, 1889—more than two months later than Parker had composed his peal on similar lines, justifying him in saying, in that modest way so characteristic of him, that 'he was inclined to think he had the priority,' though Washbrook by every rule and custom was entitled to it.

Both Parker and Washbrook, Squire Proctor and his men and those who rang the peal 52 years ago have passed away. I alone am the solitary survivor of the party, but my memory of the Braughing peal and what was said in connection with it are as clear to me to-day as on the day when the peal was first rung.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

Crowthorne Vicarage, Berks.

WASHBROOK'S EXPLANATION.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to read your note on above in last week's 'Ringing World,' amplifying my few remarks on same.

I well remember Washbrook's letter on above when it came out, and thought it was the most concise explanation of composition possible in the space of half a column. I had often wanted to find it, but owing to there being no index it was always an endless job. However, on reading your note, I have looked it up and find it is June 1st, 1889. Would it not be a good idea to republish it in 'The Ringing World' for the benefit of would-be composers of the younger generation?

I had spent two separate weeks in and around Oxford with Washbrook about this date. He was always dinnin' these ideas to me when not ringing.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEIGH.

At a meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th, members were present from Brasted, East Peckham, Penshurst, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Sundridge and the local band, as well as Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. W. Scaly, who gave the members a very hearty welcome and hoped when they came again they would be able to ring the tower bells instead of handbells after the service.

Tea was served under the chestnut tree on the green and was followed by the meeting. The Vicar being unable to stay, Mr. E. J. Madd took the chair. Sundridge was selected for the next meeting place on Saturday, August 8th. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Batten to the Vicar for taking the service and to the organist. The secretary thanked Mr. B. Pankhurst for making all the arrangements during the afternoon. Some good touches were brought round on the handbells.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

THE PRINCIPLES OF TWIN BOB PEALS.

By JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

The following article by J. W. Washbrook appeared in 'The Bell News' as far back as June 1st, 1889. It was the earliest explanation of one of the most interesting problems in composition—the principles of twin bob peals of Stedman Triples. These principles are explained in great detail in the 'Investigations' by Heywood and Bulwer, which are included in C. D. P. Davies' book on the method, and much more generally in J. A. Trollope's book. But Washbrook has the credit for being the first in the field, and at the suggestion of Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, we reprint his article for the benefit of our readers.

It has long been known to the Exercise (wrote Washbrook) of the impossibility of producing a peal of Stedman Triples with single bobs. In the whole peal, as it must come together, we find there are 120 sixes which must be produced by bobs, and 120 which must be produced by plain sixes—that is if no other species of calls are allowed. This is evident from the following example. Take the plain course and one beginning with 6532147, and if we prick down the two courses we find that the fourth six of the plain course is identical with the eighth six of the other, and yet the changes each side of the repeating ones are totally different. Thus in the plain course we get

3467251

4376521

3475612

3746521

7345612

7436521

4735612

7453162

And in the other we get

7364251

3746521

7345612

7436521

4735612

4376521

3475612

4357162

It will be seen that these sixes contain the same changes and each derives from a totally different six and both are slow sixes.

To get the whole peal both 7364251 and 3467251 must be included in it. Well, it is evident that one of them must be bobbed and the other not to make it true. Now, as there are 120 of these pairs in the whole peal which must come, call how you will, and one of each pair must be bobbed with double bobs, it is at once apparent that we must have 240 bobs and cannot under any circumstances have less.

Now if we take the 7th as the plain course bell as in Thurstans' peal (and I may mention you must have one), we shall find, seeing that she must not be interfered with by bobs, that there are 360 sixes which cannot be utilised, those being when she is in 4-5 up and in 6-7 up and down. That leaves us with only 480 sixes available for bobbing.

As I stated above, there are 120 repeating pairs; one of each pair must be bobbed with double bobs, and consequently one of each pair must be treated the same with plain leads, so it is at once apparent that the whole 480 sixes are absorbed—half must be plain sixes and half bob sixes.

It must be noticed that I am not treating of singles. They may be carted in wholesale in place of plain sixes, but never in place of bobs except in pairs as bobs.

To get a peal with common bobs we must have 240, neither more nor less. As two bobs are always called together it takes four bobs to add every course. For example, if you call bobs at 3-4 in two consecutive courses, you get the bells back to the same position again with one course to the good. This is universal throughout the peal and is a privilege enjoyed by no other method in the matter of extents. Thus, so far everything is in favour of a peal with common bobs only, but the point which beats us is the compulsory 240 bob sixes and plain sixes. Just as it takes four bobs to add one course, so does it take 236 bobs to add 59 courses, the number required in addition to the plain course. We get two pairs of bobs not used up, and which consequently are false with their sister plain sixes.

That in short is the whole thing. You must have 240 bob sixes and 240 plain sixes for a true peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs only. You cannot use more or less than 236 bobs to add 59 courses (the number required) to the plain course. Therefore, a peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs only is impossible.

THE MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

What music is there that compared may be
With well-tuned bells' enchanting melody?
Breaking with their sweet sounds the willing air,
They in the listening ear the soul ensnare.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CHELMSFORD.

The 63rd annual meeting of the Essex Association was held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd, when some 45 members attended. At the service in the Cathedral the address was given by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. F. R. Morrow, and the singing was ably accompanied by Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., the blind organist of Halstead, who recently was elected a member of the association.

The meeting followed in the Chapter House, when the Master, in his report, stated that the following peals on handbells had been rung during the year: Bob Royal 2, Bob Major 4, Minor in four methods 1, Doubles in two methods 1. Five were conducted by C. W. Woolley, one each by A. H. Everett, O. Broyd and H. Turner. Six members rang their first peal double-handed.

District meetings had been held at Braintree, Bocking, Halstead, Little Clacton, Ramsey, Bradfield, Brentwood, Loughton, Danbury and Chelmsford.

The balance in the general account on December 31st, 1941, was £234 9s. 4d. and in the Bell Restoration Fund £100 12s. 6d.

He regretted to record the death of the following members: The Rev. F. H. Moore, of Sible Hedingham, R. Woodward, of Harwich, both honorary members, also of Mr. A. J. Smith, of Langham, Miss E. M. Caton, of Mistley, Mr. G. E. Jennings, of Tendring, Mr. H. E. Parker, of Barking, and Mr. G. Perry, of Loughton. Mr. E. J. Durrant, of Thorpe-le-Soken, had been missing since the Dunkirk evacuation.

He wished to thank the district masters and secretaries and also the general secretary and the committee for all their work in endeavouring to keep interest in ringing alive during these trying times, and trusted that the time was not far distant when we should be able to resume our full activities.

The Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips, was re-elected, as also were the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. L. J. Clark, and the auditors, Messrs. E. J. Butler and R. Heazel. Messrs. J. Turner and W. Sillitoe were elected life members of the association.

The secretary reported that the committee had subscribed £5 5s. from the association funds to the appeal on behalf of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the committee's action was approved by the meeting.

A discussion on the future of 'The Ringing World' followed, and a resolution was passed urging the Central Council to take steps to prepare a scheme to ensure the continuity of publication of the journal.

The Provost was thanked for allowing the use of the Cathedral and for conducting the service, as also was Mr. Chapman for his services at the organ.

Tea followed at Cannon's Restaurant, and during the afternoon and evening good use was made of the eight clapperless tower bells and handbells.

MARRIAGE OF MR. EDWIN NASH.

On Saturday, May 23rd, at the Parish Church, Mells, Somerset, the marriage was solemnised between Mr. Edwin Nash, elder son of Mrs. Nash and the late Mr. P. Nash, of the Talbot Inn, Mells, and Miss Elizabeth Stewart Smith. The service was fully choral, the choristers paying tribute to a fellow chorister. The Rector, the Ven. W. N. Higgins, officiated, and Mr. A. Evans was at the organ. The hymns were 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven.' The bride, who was given away by Mr. Kemp, wore a powder blue two-piece, with accessories to match. There were no bridesmaids. Mr. R. Nash, R.N., brother of the bridegroom, was best man. The reception was held at the Talbot Inn, and the honeymoon was spent at Seaton. Handbells were rung in the church.

Mr. Nash is a branch secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association and is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youlks. A course of Grand sire Triples was rung during the signing of the register.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BLETCHLEY.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on June 6th. Members were present from Bradwell, Stony Stratford, Stoke Goldington, Weston-Underwood, Shenley, Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Cosgrove and the local company. In church the Rector (the Rev. J. L. Milne) officiated at the organ, the Rev. J. F. Amies conducted the service, and the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master) gave an encouraging address.

The company of 19 sat down to tea generously provided and served by local ladies. As the chairman, the Rev. J. P. Taylor, was unable to attend, the chair was taken by the Rev. J. L. Milne. All the branch officers were re-elected, and a grant towards the upkeep of 'The Ringing World' was voted.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector for welcome shown to the branch, to the Rev. J. F. Amies and the Rev. C. E. Wigg for assisting with the service, and to the persons who provided tea. Ringing on handbells concluded a very satisfactory meeting.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.

—A summer joint meeting in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells will be available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at Warburton's Cafe at 5 p.m., at 1s. 6d. per head. Business meeting at Church House, 6.30 p.m., followed by discussion and handbells.

—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at East Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. Bells available 3.15; service 4.30; tea 5.15 (bring some with you if you can!); followed by business meeting. Bowls afterwards, by kind invitation of the Vicar.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, June 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. Nominations are required for branch secretary. The committee will meet at the same time. — W. H. Shuker, Gen. Sec., 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — An important general meeting of the association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. The back eight bells at the Abbey will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2.30 p.m. General Committee meet in the Abbey Sacristy at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Abbey at 4.15 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the Abbey. The general meeting will take place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m. prompt. Business urgent and important. — L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will take place in the School at Shilton, near Coventry, on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Cups of tea will be served, but please bring own 'eats' and sugar. The Vicar (Rev. Harold Smith) extends a hearty welcome to all members and friends.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th, by the kind invitation of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea in Hagley Park at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Handbell ringing afterwards. Please notify regarding tea not later than 24th inst. to Mr. Bernard C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, by kind invitation of the Hertford County Association. Tea at 1s. per head will be provided for those notifying Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, not later than Thursday, June 25th.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — A meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, June 27th. Service at 4.30, tea and business meeting to follow. It is essential that those who require tea should notify Mr. T. Lincoln, Oxney Green, Writtle, by Wednesday, June 24th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Just to remind you of Mr. E. J. Oliver's kind invitation to ring in his garden at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, June 27th. If you intend being there, please drop him a card by June 24th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, June 27th. Bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Service, with an address by Preb. Hartill, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided at the Rose and Crown at 5.30, followed by general meeting. Good bus service from Railway Street, Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th. Bells (silent) will be available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Please let me know how many for tea by the 23rd.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wool on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and short meeting on the lawn. Suitable train service—Bournemouth dept. 3.10, Weymouth dept. 2.25. Kindly notify early for tea. — C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Hagley (D.V.), jointly with St. Martin's Guild and Dudley Guild, Saturday, June 27th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) for 'silent' practice. Tea 5 p.m., handbells and usual evening arrangements. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—An evening meeting will be held at the Wagon and Horses (opposite church), Whitwick, on Saturday, June 27th, 6 p.m., to discuss future activities. Handbells available. Cups of — provided. Subscriptions are now overdue, and I should be glad to receive same. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next district meeting is at Barwell on Saturday, June 27th. Silent ringing 5 to 7. Meeting in the Queen's Head, followed by handbells, at 7.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Thames Ditton on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells (also 6 silent bells) available 3 p.m. It is hoped to provide tea for those who notify me not later than June 23rd. All ringers welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells available from 5 p.m. Tea (for drinking only) will be provided at 6 p.m. Will members please bring own food? Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 27th. St. Peter's eight will be available for silent ringing during afternoon and evening. Service will be held about 4.15 (exact time not yet fixed). The business meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Election of officers, etc. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Please try to attend.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Sileby on June 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Pochin Hall, near church, at 5.15 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by June 25th.—H. W. Perkins, Dis. Hon. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Copies of 'Ringing World' from 1931-1942. After 'cuttings' have been made, paper will be given for salvage.—A. S. Richards, 70, Station Road, West Wickham, Kent.

MARRIAGE.

BARNETT—HAIRS. — On Saturday, June 13th, at St. John's Church, Burgess Hill, Sussex, Edwin Arthur, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnett, of Crayford, Kent, to Olive Delia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, of Burgess Hill, Sussex. Present address: 26, Bucks Avenue, Oxhey, Herts.

DEATH.

BRETT. — On June 6th, at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, Ernest Brett, aged 65.

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