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**BOOKS FOR SALVAGE.**

In a letter printed on another page Mr. C. T. Coles calls attention to a matter which is of some importance to the Exercise. A great effort is being made to collect books of all sorts to be pulped and used for the making of munitions of war. So far, it is stated, 2½ million books have been obtained and the aim is to gain 50 millions.

These are enormous figures. The great mass of the books have long since served their purpose, if they ever had any, and no regrets need be felt for their disappearance; but among them there must be some that deserve a better fate, and almost certainly some whose destruction would be a real loss.

The authorities are fully alive to the danger and the books surrendered are carefully examined. If the examiners are competent persons this will ensure that no really valuable volume is sacrificed, though, as anyone who has had the job of going through a mass of books and papers to decide what shall be kept knows full well, after a time the tendency is to get sick of the sight of so much rubbish and to become ruthless. Then it is that books on the border line can expect no mercy.

For us ringers the matter is important because it may lead to the loss of some old ringing books. If any such are among those surrendered we fear they will have little chance of survival. A member of the scrutiny committee might hesitate for a moment over a first edition of the 'Clavis,' but he would not give a second glance at a Shipway, or a Sottanstall or a Thackrah.

What can be done to meet the difficulty is not easy to say. Probably Mr. Coles' suggestion that the Literature and Press Committee of the Central Council should write to the Press is as good as anything. Or if any ringer knows of a scrutiny committee being appointed in his district he might approach the members personally if an opportunity presents itself.

All of us should do what we can at all times to see that old ringing books are not destroyed; and if we know of any that are at all likely to be given up for salvage we should try to persuade the owners to the contrary. But perhaps after all the chance of any really valuable ones being destroyed is not very great.

Fortunately, copies of all the published ringing books from the 'Tintinnalogia' onwards are now available in public libraries, in addition to those in the Central Council library and the libraries of such associations as the Guildford and Hertfordshire. There is also a fair number in private hands in different parts of the country.

(Continued on page 58.)

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It is difficult to say how many copies of, for instance, the 'Clavis' still remain out of the five hundred that were printed a century and a half ago, but many an old ringer treasured his copy and handed it on to his son. It is only when the owner dies and leaves behind no one with an interest in change ringing that the book is likely to be lost sight of and ultimately destroyed. In a case like that, those ringers who know of the existence of the book should do their best to gain possession of it before it is too late.

A lot of good work has been done in late years, much of it unnoticed and unknown by the general Exercise. The Guildford Guild's library, which, in normal times, is housed in the spacious belfry of St. Nicolas', has been formed in quite recent years, yet it has reached the stage when it can challenge comparison with any other collection of ringing books, not excepting even those in the great national libraries. And it is not the only one.

The possession of a good library should be the ambition of every great association. It can be formed if a sufficiently enthusiastic man can be found to act as librarian and if a constant watch is kept to secure any books that may be available. Meanwhile, let every ringer keep his eyes and ears open. The fifty million books that are going to feed the moloch of war need not include many devoted to bells and ringing.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 9, PATRICK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

JAMES PAGETT	...	...	...	1-2	ROGER D. ST. J. SMITH	...	3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH	...	...	...	5-6			

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, January 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... .. 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE College) ... .. 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) ... .. 3-4	JOAN HODDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... .. 7-8

Composed by J. J. BRIERLEY (C.C.C. 108).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First peal away from the tenors.

## THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

To the Editor.

Sir, — With reference to your interesting article, 'The London Scholars,' I have just been loaned the fifth edition of 'Campanalogia,' corrected by J. Monk and printed in 1746 for L. Hawes, W. Clarke and R. Collins; and S. Crowther, in Paternoster Row, dedicated to our honoured and much esteemed friends, the Society of London Scholars. The 'epistle dedicatory' is by J.D.C.M., evidently the J. Monk who corrected the edition.

Apparently it is as you say. Although nothing was heard of their peals after 1730, they must have been active in ringing, or the social side of ringing, as surely a book would not have been dedicated to them in 1746 if they had not a pretty alive society.

'LISKERRET.'

[The dedication in the 1746 edition of the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanalogia' is merely a reprint of that in the 1702 (original) edition. Joseph Monk was certainly not the C. M., who cannot be identified.— J. A. T.]

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 49.)

### THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

George Partrick died in June, 1796. For some time he had been to the London Exercise little more than a memory, for the 'Clavis' (published in 1788) refers to him as the late Mr. George Patrick. His funeral in St. Leonard's churchyard was, however, the occasion of a striking demonstration of esteem and respect. The corpse was followed, according to a contemporary account, by all the ringing societies in the Metropolis and its environs, each sounding handbells with muffled clappers. A 'dead peal' was rung on the church bells which produced a most solemn effect upon 'an innumerable concourse' of spectators.

In his lifetime Partrick enjoyed a great reputation as a composer. The writer I have just quoted said that 'his productions of real Double and Treble Bob Royal are standing monuments of his unparalleled abilities.' How far that is merely rhetoric we have no means of judging, for with one exception all his compositions are lost. Most of the early peals by the Cumberlands he called, and a large proportion of them, no doubt, were compositions by older men which had become the standard peals of the Exercise, such as Annable's Bob Major and Triples and Double Bob Major, Holt's Ten-part, and Baldwin's Treble Bob Major. The St. Simon's and New Bob Triples were probably Annable's composition. It was not until 1753 that he is recorded as having composed and called a peal, but some at least of the earlier ones were, no doubt, his composition.

The one peal of his which has survived is the one-part composition of Treble Bob Major containing 5,088 changes in twenty-two courses. It is still quite well known and has been rung many times, down to recent years. Its peculiar feature is that it contains only twenty-seven bobs, 'which,' says the 'Clavis,' 'is the fewest you can possibly have in a peal in this method.'

Partrick never called the peal himself and the first time it was rung seems to have been on April 1st, 1759, at Whitechapel, when Samuel Wood conducted with a band of Cumberland Youths. Wood apparently called it again in 1761 and 1763.

Thomas Harrison did not reduce the number of calls, but he did succeed in getting a peal one hundred and twenty changes longer with the same number of bobs. It was a reduction of a 5,920 in five equal parts with five courses to each part. Jasper Snowden, in his collection, gives it as the work of Henry Warhurst, of Mottram-in-Longdendale, where it was rung (reduced to 5,024) in 1847.

The writer of the account of Partrick's funeral went on to say that he 'was the person who composed the whole peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes (till then deemed impracticable), for the discovery of which the citizens of Norwich advertised a premium of fifty pounds, which was paid to him, three years since by the Society of St. Peter's, Mancroft, with the highest encomiums on his superlative merit.' The account appeared in a sporting magazine and was copied by Robert Southey, the poet, into his Common Place Book. I took some trouble to see if the original could be traced, but I could find no periodical of the time with the name. The state-

ment is quite wrong and even absurd. The Norwich Scholars were not in the least likely to have paid fifty pounds, or even fifty shillings, for any peal; they thought themselves quite capable of producing anything they needed; nor is it at all likely that Partrick ever composed or attempted to compose a peal of Stedman.

It would be interesting to know what was the real foundation for the legend. Statements like that, however much they may become distorted, have usually some basis in fact. It is curious that the same tale was told in 'The Norfolk Chronicle' about George Gross, who was said, when he died in 1791, to have left the fifty pounds paid him by the Norwich ringers for the peal of Stedman Triples, to provide for the ringing of Shoreditch bells annually on his birthday and funeral day, for ever. This was still more wildly inaccurate, for George Gross did not die until 1805.

George Partrick cannot be included among the greatest names in the history of the Exercise, but he holds an honourable position in the second rank.

From the earliest times until now the life of the Exercise has flowed in one continuous stream. Sometimes the current has been full and rapid, sometimes shallow and sluggish; but it never has been broken, and everything that we do to-day had its origin and its causes in the things of old.

As we look back over the years we notice only the outstanding men and events, and the story, which is really one connected whole, seems to fall into a number of periods each with its own characteristics, each with its special contributions to the art and science, and distinct from the periods which went before and followed after it.

Annable died in 1756, and with him one of the most important periods in the history of change ringing came to an end. Not only was the great personality which for so many years had dominated the London Exercise removed, but most of those who had been associated with him drop out of sight. We hear no more of John Cundell or John Hardham. Robert Catlin died in 1751, and John Holt's short and brilliant career ended before that of his great rival. The old societies were passing away. The London Scholars had lapsed some years before, the Union Scholars and the Eastern Scholars were soon to come to an end, and even the ancient Society of College Youths, who for so many years had been the leading company, with the death of Annable, drop out of sight, to emerge thirty years later for one short period of activity before it, too, disappeared, leaving its prestige, its traditions, and its name to a younger and more vigorous branch.

During the second half of the eighteenth century, the story of London ringing is largely about the rivalries between this company (which was generally called by the name of the College Youths without qualification) and the new Society of Cumberland Youths. For a time there were other companies not much inferior or less skilful, but gradually these two absorbed all the leading ringers of the Metropolis. The tendency was at work for long, but the full effects were not seen until the nineteenth century, and the result was not good for the Exercise.

During the eighteenth century this rivalry led to the accomplishment of several fine performances and so far

(Continued on next page.)

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

was a good thing, but it was by no means a friendly rivalry. The personal feeling between the two companies seems to have been one of strong and even bitter hostility, which was caused largely by the fact that the College Youths looked down on the others as socially their inferiors, and the natural resentment felt by the Cumberlands was increased by the fact that those of their own members who got the chance were usually willing and anxious to desert to the opposite camp. No small proportion of the most skilful among the College Youths had first shown their abilities as Cumberland Youths.

The policy of the older societies had always been to keep the company small, and only to elect new members as they were required to fill vacancies caused by death or retirement, or when one of their number dropped out of the peal band, which consisted of about a dozen men who were keen ringers and personal friends. The Cumberlands adopted a wider policy, and from the first almost any proficient ringer who cared to join them was welcomed. The result was that they usually had more members than they could find room for in their peal bands, and many eager young men who joined in the hope of taking part in a five-thousand found themselves disappointed. A way out of the difficulty would have been to form two bands, for both the men and the conductors were available; but they seem never to have thought of that, or, if they did, they discouraged it as tending to split the society into two parties. Once in 1775 one band went to Spitalfields and rang a peal of Treble Bob with George Gross as conductor, and another to Whitechapel, under Samuel Wood, and rang a peal of Bob Major; but that was looked upon as an exceptional occurrence. In view of the peculiar constitution of these societies no doubt the policy was a wise one, for, after all, peal ringing was only a part of their activities, and it was essential to maintain unity in the meeting room and at the practices. But it frequently happened that a member, disappointed of his hopes of ringing with the company, left them and sought an opportunity elsewhere.

In 1752 several men seceded, including William Simmonds, who had been a member since 1748, Charles Barnard, who had been elected in 1751, and Michael Purser and Robert Reynolds, who had been elected in 1752. Thomas Lester had just hung a new ring of eight at St. George's-in-the-East, and it seemed to these men a good opportunity for forming a new company to practise on them, so they joined forces with some ringers who called themselves the London Youths and who were meeting at Whitechapel, where there then were six bells. Thus was formed a company which had a very successful career and, in the year 1780, was finally merged in the ancient Society of College Youths.

There was another company who called themselves the ancient Society of London Youths. They had been founded at least as early as 1730 and lasted down to the opening years of the nineteenth century. They did little in the way of peal ringing, but once in 1758, when they were joined by deserters from the Union Scholars and the Eastern Scholars, they had a band good enough to ring 6,336 changes of Bob Maximus at Southwark. The tenor was turned in single-handed by the elder Samuel

Muggeridge, who was the first of the very small number of men who have rung a 50 cwt. tenor to a six-thousand.

When George Partrick left the Society of Cumberland Youths the conducting fell to Samuel Wood, and for three or four years only seven or eight peals were rung, none of them of any particular interest except one of 5,400 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at West Ham, at the time the longest in the method. Partrick was back again in 1761, but though he called a peal of Cumberland's Fancy at Shoreditch on January 26th in that year, he did not supersede Wood. Four months



ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

later he was one of a band who visited Bedford and rang the first peal (5,040 Bob Major) on the new bells which Lester had just put up at St. Paul's Church, and then he finally dropped out of peal ringing except for the Treble Twelve at Southwark.

About this time two of the most famous names in the history of the Exercise first appear. John Reeves joined the Society of Cumberland Youths on February 21st, 1761, and George Gross on April 9th, 1763. Although there were many excellent ringers in London during the second half of the eighteenth century, these two men were probably the greatest of them all. They occupied in their time much the same positions that Annable and Holt had done in an earlier generation. Throughout their careers they were rivals, and there is plenty of evidence that there was a good deal of ill feeling between them. Both were fine ringers, conductors, and composers; but while Reeves outstripped his rival as a composer, the other was the greater leader and more popular with his colleagues.

(To be continued.)

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT COLCHESTER.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday at All Saints' Church, Colchester, and was attended by members from Harwich, Mistley, Thorrington, Thaxted, Ipswich, Rushmere, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, Sudbury, Halstead and Colchester.

Handbells were rung in the Parish Hall at 2.30 and a service in church at 4 o'clock was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Jack. Mr. J. T. Chapman was at the organ.

The Vicar presided at the tea and business meeting. The secretary's report for 1942 was read and accepted. It contained an appreciation of the late W. J. Nevard. The officers were re-elected—District Master, Mr. G. Waterman; district secretary, Mr. L. Wright; General Committee, Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. J. Ellis.

The place for the next meeting was left in the hands of the officers. A discussion took place on the subject of a National Association. Mr. W. Keeble sent in a proposition that it would not be of any use to the Exercise to disturb the present Diocesan Guilds, County Associations and Central Council, and although some advantages might follow the disadvantages would be greater. The meeting agreed.

The Master thanked the Vicar and Mr. Chapman for what they had done. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 11s 1d.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung in church by G. Moss, G. Andrews, A. R. Andrews and C. J. Ellis.

**THE VICTORY RINGING.**

The following letter has been received by the Dean of Westminster: Dear Sir,—Would you convey to the bellringers of the Abbey the congratulations of the bellringers of Christ Church Cathedral at Victoria, B.C., on the ringing of the Abbey bells on Sunday, November 15th?

We had our own radio in the bell tower and listened in to the broadcast of the ringing in England, and it brought back many a thrill to those listening, who had previously heard the bells rung.

Here in Victoria we are very fortunate in being able to ring our bells regularly for the morning and evening services, and we often ring a quarter-peat before the evening service. On Sunday, November 15th, we rang a quarter-peat of Grandsire Triples, which was broadcast over the local radio station.

We wish to take this opportunity of sending you and the ringers our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.—E. W. Izard, 980, Arundel Drive, Victoria, B.C.

**THE OLDEST RINGER.****MR. EDWARD CLAPSHAW.**

On Tuesday, January 26th, Mr. Edward Clapshaw, of Farnham, Surrey, reached the great age of 98.

He has been a member of the band at St. Andrew's, Farnham, for 75 years, but has not taken an active part in the ringing for 10 or 12 years. His last long touch was a quarter-peat of Grandsire Triples on his 85th birthday.

Mr. Clapshaw joined the old Winchester Diocesan Guild years ago and is now a life member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. He has also been a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild since its formation.

No doubt many of his old ringing associates and friends will be glad to hear that he is still alive and that his health is fairly good considering his great age.

There is little doubt that he is the oldest living ringer, and we send him our congratulations.

**DEATH OF MR. THOMAS FITZJOHN.**

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Fitzjohn, of Scarthoe, Grimsby, who passed away on December 20th, four months before his 85th birthday, after a short illness.

He was laid to rest on December 23rd in the churchyard of St. Giles', Scarthoe, and Mr. S. Bromfield attended and represented the ringers.

Mr. Fitzjohn, who was over 40 years of age before he learnt to ring, was captain of the band at St. Peter's, Thetford, for 20 years. He was a very keen ringer and made many friends. Although he rang only 45 peals, he did a lot of spade work. When he retired he went to Grimsby, where he lived with his brother. He joined the St. Andrew's band and rang five peals in the district.

**HANDBELLS AT HUGHENDEN.**

On Saturday, January 16th, a practice was held at St. Michael and All Angels', Hughenden, to greet Mr. R. Biggs, home on leave once more. Various methods were rung, including touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and a plain course of Double Norwich.

On the following Saturday, January 23rd, a quarter-peat of Plain Bob Major (1,260 changes) was rung in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, \*R. Biggs (conductor) 7-8. \* First quarter-peat on handbells and as conductor on handbells.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756, and was buried beneath the tower of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, where he had rung many of his best peals.

The Birmingham men rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters on February 1st, 1832.

James Barham's band rang a peal of Morning Pleasure Ten in at Leeds in Kent on February 2nd, 1765.

On the same date in 1824 one of the earliest peals of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Mary's, Richmond-on-Thames.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Triples was rung at Warnham, Sussex, on February 3rd, 1887, and the first peal of Lutterworth Surprise Major at Old Windsor on February 3rd, 1937.

The Cambridge University Guild was founded on February 4th, 1879.

Grandsire on even numbers was at one time popular in the Birmingham district. On February 4th, 1861, the Walsall men rang 10,032 changes of Grandsire Major.

Mr. F. W. Perrins called the first peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Nuneaton on February 4th, 1928, and Mr. Harold Cashmore called the first peal of Zetland Surprise Major at Bushey on February 4th, 1939.

Thomas Hurry, of Norwich, died on February 5th, 1869, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, a recognised authority on the composition of Grandsire Triples and the author of a book on Stedman, died on February 5th, 1931.

The first peal of Ickleton Surprise Major was rung at Ickleton, Cambs, by the Bushey men on February 5th, 1938.

The Norwich Scholars rang 5,376 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Giles' on February 6th, 1835. They claimed it as the first peal in the method, but one had already been rung at Huddersfield.

The first peal of Knebworth Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on February 6th, 1937.

### BOOKS FOR SALVAGE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The Salvage and Recovery Department of the Ministry of Supply recently announced an extension of a scheme, already in operation in some towns and districts, for collecting books. It was stated that some 2½ million books have so far been collected, and a target of 50 million books has been set. Under the scheme all books collected will be examined by 'suitable persons,' so that no book worth keeping for any purpose will be used for salvage. Books worth preserving will be sent to the British Museum or go to local archives, or be used for restocking public libraries which have lost books in air raids. Other books, suitable for the purpose, will be sent to service depots as reading matter for men and women in the Services. Numbers of books will be available for repulping, and it is anticipated that a great amount of paper will be recovered for war purposes by this means, without destroying any book worth keeping.

It is, however, disconcerting to read in the Press recently that at Bristol a very considerable number of books of great literary value were given up. I need quote only two examples, taken from a long list in a recent issue of 'The Times': 'An edition of Suetonius, A.D. 70, "Lives of the Twelve Cæsars," printed at Leyden in 1651,' and 'An edition of the "Poetical Works of Coleridge, Shelley and Keats," published in Paris in 1829.'

The point of all this is the question, 'What might be done to ensure that no ringing books worth preserving are destroyed?' It is quite certain that the 'suitable persons' mentioned above will not contain any experts on ringing matters, and it is, therefore, conceivable that any ringing books given up will go to be pulped. Not very long ago I had an unpleasant experience of the way in which people are apt to dispose of books when there is nobody left in the family with an interest in the subject matter, and it is hardly to be doubted that many ringing books will be given up in this salvage drive.

What can be done beyond writing to the Press on the subject I do not know, but perhaps some of your readers may be able to suggest something better. In any case, if the Press is written to, it should be done by some person or persons with authority, such as, perhaps, the Literature and Press Committee of the Central Council.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park, E.4.

### A POET ON THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Be others pleas'd with trifling gew-gaw sights  
Unmeaning—but let me behold a band  
Selected, and of twelve compos'd, with arms  
Ascending and descending, stand, while health  
Sits wreathing roses on their damask cheek  
And jocund pleasure dances in their eyes;  
While ev'ry bell strikes true, and not a note  
Of jarring discord hurts attention's ear.

—William Woty, 1761.

## THE LATE HERBERT F. HULL.

A POPULAR CHARACTER.

Referring to the death of Mr. Herbert F. Hull, a correspondent writes:—

I first knew him about 1904, when my brother and I were learning to ring at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow. Frank, although not a member of the band, was pretty regular in his attendance, and was always made welcome, as he was, in fact, wherever he went.

With his help our band progressed very well, Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Double Norwich all being rung in turn. How long he had lived in Walthamstow before I met him I do not know, but I always understood that his early days were spent in Bedford, where he learned to ring. If ever a man had his heart in ringing that man was Frank Hull, and it was a misfortune for all of us, as well as for himself, when his accident occurred. Whilst he was convalescing my brother and I used to visit him at his home, where he had gathered together many musical instruments and a very large set of handbells. It was as much as we could do to ring the tenors. There was also one of the earliest gramophones, and the only record he had was 'Little Brown Jug,' which was always played when his friends called upon him.

After Frank commenced to ring again we made numerous attempts for a peal of Grandsire Triples under the conductorship of that fine gentleman, Mr. G. B. Lucas. George Lucas' favourite peal was Davies' five-part, and Frank used to try to follow the calling. As by this time his deafness had very much increased he soon began to think that things were going wrong, and then they did go wrong. On one occasion George tried a famous variation of Parker's twelve-part in order to stop Frank worrying, but this only made matters worse, and we soon lost the attempt.

Many incidents come to my mind. On one occasion we went to a ringing meeting at Epping, and after leaving that place on bicycles to return home, Frank collided with a haycart. Fortunately he was not hurt, but his bicycle had to undergo sundry repairs before we could resume our journey.

He was pretty good at playing tunes on handbells, and for years frequented the Walthamstow market places. As a conductor he was not a great success, but he called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, the first peal on the bells after their rehanging some years ago, before the last war. He also called a peal at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton.

At home he was always pricking out touches in various methods, and in conversation could talk of nothing else but bells and composition. Walking home from practice at All Hallows', Tottenham, a distance of nearly three miles, would give Frank a fine opportunity of talking 'Before, Middle, Wrong and Home,' but leaving us just about as wise at the end of the walk as at the beginning.

Frank was a man who was esteemed by all who knew him, and one who, but for his infirmities, would have probably reached a high place in the Exercise.

It is greatly to be regretted that the handbells, which he loved so well, were not rung at his burial, but that was beyond our control. May he rest in peace.

## PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very interesting to read the letter of Mr. Charles E. Borrett in last week's columns seeking to obtain the complete list of peals rung at all the twelve-bell towers.

Personally, I agree with him that most of us, whether or not we are twelve-bell ringers, have a reverence for rings of twelve and their history in twelve-bell performances, but to me it certainly seems superfluous to also include peals rung on the back ten and even more so on the back eight, although these in many cases have been feats of physical endurance and have a high place in the history of ten and eight-bell performances.

Then, again, to include in the history of twelve-bell towers peals rung on the front eight or the middle eight would, to my mind, be as interesting as including peals rung on the front six of a peal of ten or the back six or back five of a peal of eight. In the interesting list of peals rung at St. Peter Mancroft and published by Mr. Borrett, out of a total of 119 peals rung in the tower only 32 are twelve-bell peals. Although I have never yet had the privilege and pleasure of ringing on this noble peal I would much prefer when I do to have a pull on the twelve in preference to the back ten or eight, and my admiration of this tower and its history is solely created by its twelve-bell performances.

I hope Mr. Borrett will not misunderstand my intention in so far as to condemn other than twelve-bell ringing in twelve-bell towers, but it does occur to me that to compile an interesting history of our many famous twelve-bell towers, the Exercise in general would appreciate the contribution each tower has given to maintain and raise the history and standard of twelve-bell ringing.

FREDERICK W. ROGERS.

Portsmouth.

## VISITORS.

RINGERS, CHOIRMEN AND CRICKETERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice the subject 'Visitors' has again been dealt with in the leading article. It must be less than a year ago a similar article appeared following a suggestion that visitors to London should be 'met' by a committee with a view to sending them to different towers according to their ability, etc., etc.

The same arguments were used then as now, i.e., comparisons were drawn between our Exercise and the church choir, and, further, the cricket team, and I, being interested in all three, remember being quite convinced that such arguments were fallacious.

This time the subject comes up at a time when I have more time to think about it (being confined to bed for a day or two), and I feel sure I have discovered some of the faults. Let us deal with the choir first. If the music of a church is of a high level you will find that each service is 'practised for' separately, i.e., the settings, anthems, psalms and perhaps occasional unfamiliar hymns receive the personal attention of the choirmaster during the week and the full choir on Friday evenings at least. During these rehearsals the choirmaster impresses upon his 'voices' the tempo he requires—the expression—arranges quartette or solo work and any unaccompanied singing, etc., so that even a regular member of the choir being absent from such a rehearsal can ruin things on a Sunday unless he exercises great care. Is it likely a complete stranger, however good his voice, will fit in?

Now the cricket team—the strength of a cricket team, or any team for that matter, depends upon the ability of that team to field a regular eleven, also a keen stranger may not be up to standard (although good), or he may be even too good, with what result? The committee, having decided to include him and exclude someone else, find they have made a mistake, the team is unbalanced, but nothing can be done about it. He is in the eleven for that game, come what may, whilst your regular subscription playing member (rabbit, perhaps) is disappointed and 'fed up.'

Of course, there is the other side. Your No. 1 batsman may be on holiday and a keen visitor may be about who would like a game. Then if you welcome him and do all to put him at ease so that he settles down quickly, you may get your 50 just the same, but much depends on the home team's attitude.

Well, how do these comparisons stand now? In the first place, we rarely practise special touches in the belfry unless it be for an extraordinary occasion (such as a broadcast), when no visitor would expect to be included. Secondly, a ringer tells you he can ring Grandsire Triples. Right. 'Take hold for a touch of Grandsire Triples. Where would you like to ring, sir?' 'All ready?' 'Treble's gone.' Now your preliminary half a dozen rounds will tell you if your man can handle a bell and also will set the rhythm (tempo if you like), a few more rounds and he is getting settled in and you can begin to judge his striking. Should his bell have peculiarities tell him so if he is what he claims he won't mind. 'Go, Grandsire.' Well, sir, I submit that your first half-lead tells you whether he can ring the method, in any case the first call will. How much time has this taken? He is not in your team like the cricketer, you can stop the ringing if necessary and say, 'I am sorry, this won't do for service ringing,' or, if it's a practice, perhaps you can help him if he has overstated his ability. If he is a Grandsire Ringer and your team on the ropes is a Grandsire team, he will fit in and perhaps even improve your usual ringing. It is the same of course, with other methods. Grandsire Triples are Grandsire Triples wherever you go, and, provided the ringer is truthful to the leader of the belfry he is visiting as to his (the visitor's) capabilities, the visitor is an asset to the tower and Exercise in general.

The snags are (1) the visitor who claims too much for himself, but, as I have explained, four minutes find him out, and (2) the conservative band which thinks it is independent of all others outside its membership. I am inclined to think such a band will not exist after this war.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

One of the most pleasing features of the war-time gatherings of the College Youths is for old friends to meet together and recall happy memories of days gone by. Although the attendance was not large, three of the ringers present at the meeting held on January 30th have been members for over 50 years—H. R. Newton, 57 years; R. A. Stannard, 53 years; H. Hoskins, 51 years—and the Master, secretary and treasurer have been members for over 40 years.

Mr. Young sent an apology for absence, as he had to attend a meeting of the Johnsonian Society at Britannic House.

The death of Mr. Frank Hull, of Walthamstow, was mentioned, and the members stood in silence in the usual way.

The election of Mr. Edward J. Charman, of Warnham, Sussex, was confirmed.

Greetings were received from J. J. Lamb and W. Berry, of Greenwich, E. P. Duffell, of Colchester, R. Fenn, of Gloucester, and A. C. Clarke, of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheshire. Other members present were J. M. Kilby, C. Potheary, R. F. Deal, J. A. Trollope, C. W. Roberts, E. Jennings, W. H. Hewett, A. Miller (Christ Church, Mitcham) and Major J. H. Freeborn.

## HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

### A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 21.)

In the last extract we gave from Haweis' 'Music and Morals' he was trying to explain how to read the inscriptions on bells; but it is clear that he did not know very much about the matter. He does not seem to have had any experience of taking rubbings, or to have heard of it being done; though that, of course, is the normal process. In fact, his acquaintance with bell archæology was but slender. His essay goes on—

It may be worth while to mention that it is often possible to pass the arm round a bell and feel the dates and letters which it may be impossible either to see or in any way illuminate. A little practice with raised inscriptions will soon enable the bell-hunter to read as the blind read—with the fingers.

The antiquary will note with satisfaction the incontestable antiquity of bells. We read in Exodus a description of the high priest's dress at the celebration of the high sacrifices. He was to wear 'a golden bell and a pomegranate upon the hem of his robe round about,' and to show that no mere ornament is intended, in the next verse we read: 'It shall be upon Aaron to minister, and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord, and when he cometh out.' This ancient use of bells in the old Hebrew service irresistibly reminds us of the bell which is introduced into the Roman ritual at the celebration of the Mass, for a very different reason.

It is unnecessary here to trace the history of bells before the Christian era. It is certain that they were early used in the Christian Church for devotional purposes. The first large bells for this purpose were probably cast in Italy; they were soon afterwards introduced into this island.

Ingulphus, who died in the year 870, mentions a chime of six bells given by the Abbot Turketulus to the Abbey of Croyland, and he adds with much satisfaction, as the sound of those famous bells came back upon him, with memories perchance of goodly refectons at the Abbey, and noble fasts on fish, and long abstinence tempered with dried raisins from Italy and the British oyster—'Non erat tunc tanta consonantia campanarum in tota Anglia.' There wasn't such a peal of bells in all England. (Note by Haweis: This document is now considered unauthentic.)

We believe there is no bell extant of so early a date as 800. Bad bells have a habit of cracking, and the best will be worn out by the clapper in time, and have to be recast. There are, however, some wondrous bells in different parts of the world, which deserve to be mentioned even in so informal a treatise as the present. Father Le Comte, the Jesuit missionary, speaks of seven enormous bells at Peking, each of which was said to weigh nine tons. They proved too heavy for the Chinese tower, and one day they rang it into ruins. Indeed, a Chinese tower never look as if it could bear a good storm of wind, much less the strain and heavy rhythmic vibration of a peal of bells.

The largest bell in the world is the great bell of Moscow—if it has not been broken up. It was cast in 1653, by order of the Empress Sophia, and has never been raised—not because it is too heavy, but because it

is cracked. All was going well at the foundry, when a fire broke out in Moscow—streams of water were dashed in upon the houses and factories, and a little stream found its way into the bell metal at the very moment when it was rushing in a state of fusion into the colossal bell-mould and so, to the disappointment of the Russian people and all posterity, the big bell came out cracked.

It may be as well to mention that a gentleman lately returned from Moscow throws discredit upon this generally accepted statement, and maintains that the bell was originally hung, and that the crack was caused by its subsequent fall. It is said to weigh no less than 198 tons. The second Moscow bell is probably the largest in the world in actual use and is reported to weigh 128 tons.

The following extract from Chambers' Encyclopædia, a work of unusual accuracy, will illustrate the great difficulty of arriving at anything like facts and figures. 'The largest bell in the world is the great bell or monarch of Moscow, about 21 feet high, and weighing 193 tons. It was cast in 1734, but fell down during a fire in 1737, was injured and remained sunk in the earth till 1837, when it was raised, and now forms the dome of a chapel made by excavating the space below it. Another Moscow bell cast in 1819 weighs 80 tons.'

Our first account of the great Moscow bell is derived from M. Severin van Aerschodt, the celebrated founder at Louvain.

There are not many English bells worth noticing. In 1845 a bell of 10½ tons was hung in York Minster. The great Tom of Lincoln weighs 5½ tons, his namesake at Oxford seven tons.

We have to allude by-and-by to the bells at St. Paul's Cathedral and at Westminster, but for the present we return to Belgium, 'the classic land of bells,' as it has been well called by the Chevalier van Elewyck.

About 1620, whilst the Amatis in Italy were feeling their way to the manufacture of the finest violins, the family of the Van den Gheyns in Belgium were bringing to perfection the science of bellfounding. The last Van den Gheyn who made bells flourished only a few years later than Stradivarius, and died towards the beginning of this century.

The incessant civil wars in which Belgium for centuries had been engaged—at one time the mere battlefield of rival cities, at another the sturdy defender of patriotic rights against France, Germany and, lastly, against her old mistress, Spain—gave to the bells of Belgium a strange and deep significance.

The first necessity in a fortified town like Ghent or Bruges was a tower to see the enemy from, and a bell to ring together the citizens. Hence the tower and bells in some cathedrals are half civil property. The tower was usually built first, although the spire was seldom finished until centuries afterwards. A bell was put up as soon as possible, which belonged to the town, not to the cathedral chapter. Thus the Curfew, the Carolus, and the St. Mary bells in Antwerp tower belong to the town, whilst the rest are the property of the cathedral chapter.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Tuesday, January 12th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Royal in 50 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3-4, W. Lee 5-6, D. R. Fletcher 7-8, K. E. Fletcher 9-10. First quarter-peal of Royal by all. Also on Friday, January 22nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Wingrove 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher (conductor) 5-6.



**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DORCHESTER BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Dorchester on Saturday, January 23rd.

Ringling on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's began at 2.30 p.m., and the service followed, conducted by the chairman (the Rev. Canon A. W. Markby), assisted by the Rev. Canon D. F. Slemeck. The chairman gave an apposite address on conscience devoid of offence towards God and man.

At the meeting in the vestry about 40 were present. The chairman presided, supported by Canon Slemeck, Mr. J. T. Godwin, churchwarden, and Lieut. L. M. Hobson, R.E. The last named deputised for Mr. C. H. Jennings (hon. secretary and treasurer), to whose absence, due to ill-health, sympathetic reference was made. It was decided to send a letter expressing the hope that his health would soon be restored.

In his annual report Mr. Jennings dealt with the ban on ringling. In spite of all the difficulties, the branch had continued its activities very creditably. Three successful meetings had been held and four combined practices on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's, Dorchester. The ringling of the bells for the victory in Egypt and on Christmas Day was a great event in the history of the ringers.

The name of Brian Swaffield, R.A.F., a Wyke Regis ringer, had been placed on the Roll of Honour, and the branch had also sustained a great loss through the death of the Rev. E. de B. Thurston, who was a member for 24 years and always gave the branch a personal welcome to Wyke Regis. Death had claimed one of their oldest members and the founder of the branch, William Williams, of West Lulworth.

Thanks were expressed to the Rev. A. L. Edwards and the Wool band and the Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley, of Stratton, for their hospitality, to the Rector and friends of St. Peter's, Dorchester, to Capt. G. Wheeler (auditor) and to Mr. J. T. Godwin for his assistance in many ways.

The financial statement showed a balance in the Post Office Savings Bank of £18 5s. 11d. The auditor wrote expressing appreciation of the excellent manner in which the accounts were kept. The acceptance of the report and balance sheet, proposed by Miss Markby and seconded by Mr. J. Squire, was carried unanimously.

New ringling members elected were Lieut. L. M. Hudson, R.E., and Mr. W. R. Lloyd (Dorchester), and Mr. C. G. Dunn (Stratton). The Rev. W. G. Squire (newly-appointed Vicar of Abbotsbury) was elected an honorary member.

Apologies for absence were received from the Guild Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox, the Rev. R. P. Farrow, the Rev. A. S. Bryant, Messrs. Martin Stewart, J. Smith, J. Sturme, H. House, J. Marsh, Mrs. J. Orchard, Mr. H. Cornick and Capt. G. Wheeler.

An invitation by Mrs. Godley on behalf of the local band to hold a meeting at Stratton during the summer was accepted, and it was left to the secretary to arrange one at Wool.

A hearty welcome was extended to those members present who are serving in H.M. Forces, to Mr. W. Shute, Ringling Master, North Dorset Branch, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Powell, Lyme Regis (West Dorset Branch).

The members stood in silent tribute in memory of colleagues who had lost their lives in the war. The Chairman mentioned that Mr. H. Steer (Dorchester St. Peter's) was a prisoner of war in Italy.

All the officers were re-elected: The Rev. Canon A. W. Markby, chairman; the Rev. Canon D. F. Slemeck, vice-chairman; Mr. C. Smart, Ringling Master; Sergt. P. Toccock, R.T.R., Deputy Ringling Master; Mr. C. H. Jennings, hon. secretary and treasurer.

Canon Slemeck proposed a vote of thanks to Canon Markby, to Mr. J. T. Godwin and to the organist. He hoped the bells would soon be ringling again, and emphasised the appeal of the hon. secretary that they should be kept in good order. The Rev. A. F. Godley seconded the vote, which was carried with acclamation.

Practices on the silent apparatus in St. Peter's tower will be continued on every Saturday nearest the full moon.

The majority of the towers in the branch were represented.

Ringling on the silent apparatus followed, the following methods being practised: Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob.

**THE MUSIC OF THE BELLS.**

What music is there that compared may be  
To well tuned bells' enchanting melody!  
Breaking with their sweet sound the willing air,  
And in the listening ear the soul ensnare.  
—From the 'Tintinnologia.'

**BELLS AS WARNING,**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As long as the ban on ringling lasts there will be occasional voices raised demanding its being lifted. Much already, I believe, has been done to this end—certainly much has been written. We all know the disappointing results to date. To me the fact becomes evident that there is still a great gulf between our ringling Exercise generally and the Church which has to be bridged.

If efforts have been made in the name of the Central Council to lift the ban the Exercise should know what they were. If there was no gulf to be bridged I believe that long ago the Central Council would have taken the opportunity of giving a lead and acting jointly with the Church.

It is not yet too late to take that opportunity. Could not some formal appeal be framed for the ringling of bells for a certain period on Sunday mornings (say from 9 to 11 a.m.), and sent to all the Bishops, Archdeacons and Cathedral clergy for signature, and also to all Rural Deans to put before the clergy of their deaneries at the next chapter meetings? No doubt the majority of deanery chapters will be held again before the middle of Lent, and so the signatures of a majority of the clergy would be assured. If this could be done it would show that the Central Council can act jointly with the Church when necessary, and it would test the appreciation which the Church has for the central body of her own bellringers.

I have always wondered whether or not it was seriously intended to use the bells in case of an air-borne invasion, except by the one who conceived the bright idea. It was not until a few months ago that I was approached by a local Home Guard officer regarding the use of the 'bells' here. He approached me because he had to make a report to a senior officer. I explained that we only had one small bell weighing 75 lb., which would be totally inadequate for giving a general warning, and that in making his report he should suggest that some other arrangements ought to be made in this district. I asked if he would like to go up into the ringling chamber, or if I should arrange a secret place for the key to be kept so that he could gain immediate access to the tower. Both offers were declined. As long as I had the key that was all that mattered.

There is one significant fact and that is that never, as far as I know, in all the various district and area invasion exercises which have been held, when the public has been warned to keep indoors for some 24 hours, have the bells been brought into use to give warning or to test their efficiency. I am led to one conclusion; that the bells are now considered by the Government to be a very good occasional tonic for the people. So far it has worked well. The bells are, like much else 'controlled' by the Government and occasionally we are treated to a 'ration' of bellringling. The Church and ringers jointly must ask for the restoration of a greater freedom.

As ringers we must not be misled by the response of all and sundry to help with the recent 'Victory' ringling. On that day everybody was filled with fresh hope and a certain thrill. The response to ring on Christmas Day was not so great. That occasion was not inspired by 'Victory' ringling. From my own observations the efforts on Christmas Day were weak compared to the former occasion. We must plan for our regular post-ban ringling according to the Christmas bells rather than the 'Victory' bells.

First enthusiasm soon wanes, and we shall be thrown back upon the efforts of the various stalwarts of the Exercise. Alas, during the past three years the number of ringling pioneers has decreased—death has claimed so many. The task of teaching will fall heavily on the shoulders of a declining number. The sooner we can get our bells used again with some kind of regularity the sooner we shall realise the exact position of the Exercise and be able to remedy, in part, our many deficiencies.

I do not view the future with despair, but with a sense of urgency lest it be made harder than it need be for the want of some united and weighty effort in the present.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

[When the order was first issued, the Central Council, through its secretary, did get into touch with the authorities, and any action or lack of action since has been after due consideration.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

**A SERVICE PEAL.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Regarding Mr. V. A. Jarrett's enquiry concerning the Service peal of 1914, may I add I was one of the band and am very pleased to have heard of another. I would like my regards conveyed to him.

A. A. PLAYLE, ex-R.N.

10, Crossways, Marsh Green, Dagenham, Essex.

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## DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 54.)

How many bells William of Wykeham's tower at New College, Oxford, originally possessed is not known, but in 1655 there was a heavy ring of five there. In that year these were recast into a ring of eight by Michael Darbie, the surplus metal from the old bells more than covering the cost of the whole work. In 1712 two trebles were added by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester. Several of the original eight have since been recast, the present 4th by Rudhall, 1705; the 6th by Henry Knight, 1672; 7th by Rudhall, 1712; 9th by Rudhall, 1723.

Hearne the Diarist gives many accounts of ringing, and the following refers to an attempt for a peal at New College:—

'On Thursday, May 17th (1733) they (i.e. London ringers) began to ring at New College, proposing to ring the said number of changes, viz., 5,040, there. They began a little before twelve, and ran about three-quarters of an hour, when one of the ropes broke, and so they were stopped. . . . The next day being Friday, May 18th, they were resolved to ring the above-mentioned number of 5,040 changes upon New College ten bells, as they had begun to do before. Accordingly they began a little before twelve and rung full two hours in the morning wanting two minutes, when one of the ropes broke and put a stop to the peal, for which all were very sorry as they were at the fall of the great bell at Christ Church. For their ringing at both places, as well as elsewhere, was now surprisingly fine, without the least fault from beginning to end, such as was never before in Oxford, and 'tis a scandal that the bells should not be in good order.'

Hearne next mentions an attempt to ring 6,876 Caters at New College by Oxford ringers on May 1st, 1734, which came to grief after ringing about 2¼ hours. Then he records:—

'1734, September 28th, 4 Kal. Oct.—Yesterday being the obit of William of Wykeham (founder of New College) and the festival of S. Cosmas and Damianus, some of the Oxford ringers agreed to ring at New College proposing to ring 6,876 Cater changes upon the ten bells there.'

Hearne goes on to say that there were so many 'gross faults that it is not worth while to particularise them all.' However, they eventually did ring the peal on March 22nd the following year, and Hearne says: 'Tis the first time that such a number of Cater changes was ever rung in Oxford upon ten bells,' and gives the names and occupations of the ringers thus:—

1. Hearne, the Taylor.
  2. Mr. Vickers, second Butler of New College.
  3. Mr. George, the Taylor.
  4. Mr. Guy Terry, Pot-ash maker in St. Clement's.
  5. Mr. Yates, second Cook of Magdalen College.
  6. Mr. John Broughton, Barber.
  7. Mr. Richard Smith, Glover.
  8. Mr. Barnes, second Cook of Christ Church.
  9. Mr. Arthur Lloyd, of Holywell, Carpenter and Bell Hanger.
  10. Mr. Nicholas Benwell, who shows Great Tom.
- Hearne adds, 'They were much caressed when they had done, and were handsomely treated or entertained at

New College, but Mr. Barnes could not be at the entertainment, being obliged as soon as the ringing was done to go to his brother the waggoner's of St. Aldgate's then dying, who indeed died that very evening of a dropsy. He is the same Barnes that set up a waggon in opposition to the Vice-Chancellor.'

Needless to say, since that time many peals have been rung in most standard and some Surprise methods at New College; a tablet in the tower records a peal of 10,008 Grandsire Caters rung here Easter Day, March 27th, 1815, in 6 hours 42 minutes, composed and conducted by E. Nickolls.

Carfax Tower, Oxford, is all that remains of St. Martin's, Carfax, which was demolished in the latter half of the 18th century. It contains a ring of six bells which are still rung on special civic occasions by the Oxford Society. It is also famous for its clock and unique 'quarter boys' which I have already referred to in these columns.

Oxford also possesses what might be described as a semi-detached tower, that of its Cathedral of Christ Church. Here, according to Hearne's account, there were originally six bells named respectively Hautclere, Clement, Austin, John, Mary and Gabriel, which were brought from Oseney Abbey. Possibly the present 9th and 10th (from inscriptions threon) may be the 4th and 5th of the above-mentioned. For many years the ring consisted of ten bells, which hung in the central steeple of the Cathedral. Hearne, in his diary, mentions a visit to Oxford of a party of London ringers who walked all the way from London, and arrived at Oxford on Whit Sunday, 1733. On the Wednesday following they attempted a peal at Christ Church but, after ringing over two hours, the gudgeons of the tenor broke and so the peal failed. He records a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Caters rung by the Oxford men on New Year's Day, 1734. In 1872, the central steeple being deemed unsafe, the bells were taken down, and to receive them a large square wooden structure was erected over the entrance to the College Hall, and this was known as 'the meat safe' and gave rise to many witticisms. It answered its purpose, however, for, although the ringing room is somewhat noisy, the bells go well, and many peals have been scored upon them. The ugly square box has been hidden by an outside tower of stone, in a style of architecture to correspond with the surrounding buildings. In 1897 two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank, and the ring now forms one of twelve with a tenor of 31½ cwt. It is somewhat strange that neither this tower nor that containing 'Great Tom' are consecrated buildings.

Another tower that must be noted, although not actually in England, is that of St. David's Cathedral, which is in Pembrokeshire. The ring of eight bells hangs in the gateway tower and not in the cathedral tower. This bell tower is unusual in proportions, being octagonal in plan. Its height from the ground to the top of the parapet is about 46ft., the internal span of the belfry is approximately 28ft., and from the belfry floor to the ground is about 20ft. The ringing chamber on the ground floor is heavily vaulted and impressive, but, while the sound of the bells outside has been pleasantly modulated by the closing of louvres, and providing a lantern in the roof of the tower, the noise in the ringing chamber is very considerable owing to the close proximity of the bells.

(Continued on next page.)

**NOTICES.**

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. —D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Rd, Croydon.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Copies of the 12 photographs to be added to the restored Tercentenary Record Book are available; price 2s. each, mounted 2s. 6d., matt or glossy.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be at Middleton on Saturday, February 13th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. Reports to hand. All welcome.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea will be provided. There may be food. Will be grateful to any who bring a sandwich.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphthill Road, Liverpool.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch. —The branch annual meeting will be held at Desborough on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who notify me previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Feb. 13th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Service at 4.45. Tea, at the Duke's Head, 5.30. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Feb. 10th? Handbells and 8 silent tower bells available during afternoon and evening.—A. H. Smith, Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at Daybrook, on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at 3 p.m. Election of officers for the year. Handbells available. Please make own arrangements for tea. — F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks,

not later than February 17th. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20th, at Attleborough. Bells (silent), 2. Service 4. Tea and business meeting in Church Hall 4.40. Please let me know numbers for tea by Monday, February 15th. Trains leave Norwich 2.5 and 2.25; leave Attleborough 5.47 and 6.32.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring your own eatables; cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The Central Committee will meet at the Hind Hotel, Wellingborough, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Copies of agenda will not be sent by post this year.—Robert G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Geddington, Kettering.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., is now 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham. He will be glad to hear from any handbell ringers in the Nottingham district.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

By Auction, on February 11th next, A SET OF 29 HANDBELLS by Taylor, Loughborough.—Apply G. B. Avant & Son, Auctioneers, Dawlish, Devon.

**WANTED.**

WANTED, copies of 'Bell News' or 'Ringing World' prior to 1916; bound or unbound.—G. E. Fearn, 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

**BIRTH.**

**BOWERMAN.**—On Sunday, Jan. 31st, at Dromenagh Wood Cottage, Iver Heath, Bucks, to Frances Mary, wife of Lance-Bomdr. C. F. Bowerman (nee Gutteridge), 99/74 Regt. of R.A., the gift of a son.

**DETACHED TOWERS.**—Continued from previous page.

The bells—the tenor of which is 24 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.—were rehung and recast in 1928 by Mears and Stainbank, and each one bears a name as follows:—

1. Treble. Mair Fendigaid = Blessed Virgin Mary.
  2. Sant Stinan = St. Justinan.
  3. Sant Andres = St. Andrew.
  4. Esgob = Bishop.
  5. Deon = Dean.
  6. Sant Iago = St. James.
  7. Sant Mihangel = St. Michael.
- Tenor, Dewi Sant = St. David.

In addition there is a service bell hung in a curious wooden 'bell-house' on top of the cathedral central tower, by William Savill, of London, 1777, weighing 14 cwt., and on the floor of the cathedral is an ancient mediæval bell of 10½ cwt., now disused.

(To be continued.)

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