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*These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.*

### THE CHURCH BELLS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE

A notable addition to the archæology of bells has just been made by the publication of 'The Church Bells of Monmouthshire' by Mr. Arthur Wright. Mr. Wright's interest in bells began many years ago as a schoolboy in Norfolk, and for nearly forty years he has been engaged on a systematic investigation of the belfries of South Wales. His research work extended largely over Glamorganshire and other counties, but before a work of this sort can be published one whole county must be finished to the last bell, and thus it is that Monmouthshire is the first Welsh county to have a complete survey of its bells in book form.

In one respect Mr. Wright has been fortunate. Had he remained in Norfolk he would have had to face the fact that John L'Estrange had already published his book on the bells of the county, a most excellent work, though since it appeared so long ago, it might well be revised and brought up to date. But in Monmouthshire and in South Wales generally Mr. Wright could deal with a virtually unexplored district, and could set about his task as a pioneer filled with the hope of making discoveries and coming across some ancient and forgotten bell, whose origin and history would supply the problem dear to the heart of the antiquary.

In that he has not been disappointed. As we might expect, Monmouthshire is not rich in bells and never has been, but there are three or four of great interest. Four of them are of the early long waisted type without inscriptions, which date from the early thirteenth century. Bells of that class could only survive in small and obscure parishes, for wealthier places would have replaced them long since. In many ways it would be a pity if, after so many centuries of active service, they were turned into mere museum pieces, yet it might be a good thing if they were taken down from the steeples, and hung inside the church where they could be seen and perhaps serve some purpose such as sacring bells.

Mr. Wright gives the details of every bell in the county, and in a final chapter a general survey and a very full account of the Chepstow foundry, the only one in the county. This belonged to the Evans family and lasted from 1686 to 1767, during which time 508 bells are known to have been cast by them, though the number is almost certainly greater.

Mr. H. B. Walters has contributed a foreword to Mr. Wright's book. He justly calls it 'a comely and beautifully printed and illustrated volume,' and calls attention to 'the patience and perseverance with which the writer has done all he could have done to ensure its complete-

(Continued on page 70.)

ness and place it on the level with the more fortunate English counties.' Patience and perseverance are indeed necessary to the bell archæologist, but they would be of little avail without enthusiasm and a profound love of the subject.

'The Church Bells of Monmouthshire' is printed in a limited edition only. In years to come a copy will be a valuable item in any collection of books devoted to bells and bell lore.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN ... .. 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD... .. 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS ... .. 3-4	FRANK E. HAYNES ... .. 9-10
ALBERT WALKER ... .. 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Umpire—Mr. F. V. Nicholls, Stourbridge.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, February 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH ... .. 1-2	PETER WOODWARD ... .. 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	RAYMOND FORD ... .. 7-8

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. Harold Chant and Miss Mary Sykes. Also to celebrate the 21st birthday of the ringer of '78, which occurred the previous day.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT PUDSEY.

The January meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Pudsey on Saturday week, attended by members from Armley, Bradford, Barnsley, Calverley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Liversedge, Rothwell, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

The president, Mr. F. J. Harvey, was in the chair, and Messrs. Gordon Thompson, of Calverley, and C. W. Woolley, of Bushey, were elected as members.

A vote of thanks to the Pudsey company was proposed by Canon C. C. Marshall and seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who spoke of the many happy times he had come to meetings at Pudsey.

Mr. Barton replied and said he was pleased to see so many present, for their attendance showed that the spirit of the associations was still alive and it was to the associations (large and small) we should have to look after the war for instructors and ringers.

There was handbell ringing before and after the business meeting, and well-struck touches on 8, 10 and 12 bells.

The next meeting will be at Liversedge on February 27th.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was 50 years on the 9th inst. that I rang my first peal, one of Bob Triples here at Debenham. The band consisted of six Williams and two Johns, all of whom except myself have passed on.

The composition was Annable's six-part, conducted by William Grimes, and we thought it a wonderful performance (despite the four blows in seventh's).

Two of the band, Messrs. Crickmer and Flory, each walked five miles alone to make the attempt. I finished with a dozen blisters, some of which were due to the cot not being securely fastened, but did not mind in the least.

WILLIAM C. RUMSEY.

Debenham.

**BUSHEY.**—On Thursday, February 4th, 1,280 London Surprise Major: \*E. Jennings 1-2, \*Ernest C. S. Turner 3-4, Harold G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, Frederick W. Brinklow 7-8. \*First quarter-peal in the method on handbells.

## MORPETH.

MORE INTERESTING RECOLLECTIONS.

Mr. Ernest Morris has received the following interesting notes on the detached tower at Morpeth from Mr. C. L. Routledge, of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association:—

The only instance in the north of the Tees of a detached tower is that of Morpeth, which was at one time the county town of Northumberland, about 13 miles north of the Tyne. It is known as the Watch Tower and contains a bright harmonious peal of eight with a tenor of 12 cwt. in G.

A 'couplet' was posted in the tower, and is probably still there, and is full evidence of the detachment:—

'Morpeth folks are silly people,

A mile divides their church and steeple.'

A steeple it is not by any means—that may just be poetic licence—save the mark—for it is just a solid square tower about 55 to 60 feet high, containing also a clock and chimes. You reach the ringing chamber by a short outside staircase by a side door.

The tower stands in the Market Place and is the property of the Mayor and Corporation. I know the ringers were paid by the Corporation and used to ring on Sundays, and at one time I believe all denominations of places of worship synchronised their times of service to fit the ringing of the bells.

The bells were cast by Phelps in 1706—about the same time as the old six at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were metalled.

I remember, too, the old bull-baiting rope with its strong poles and snout-rings which was hung round the belfry on hooks, for this cruel sport was in great favour in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

We had a distinguished member of the Exercise to our tower at St. John's, Newcastle, in March of 1892, in the person of Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., of Loughborough (and of pleasant memory), and took him to Morpeth Watch Tower on Tuesday, the 12th, after he had conducted us through a good peal of Stedman Triples at St. John's on the previous night, calling Heywood's No. 1, which we found a treat after plodding on with Brooks' Variation for a long time. This was the second peal of Stedman by the Durham and Newcastle Association.

At Morpeth we tapped off the first peal on the bells, 5,088 Kent Major, a favourite three-part by Tom Lockwood, in 3 hours and 3 minutes: C. L. Routledge 1, Francis Lees 2, W. Holmes 3, J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor) 4, R. S. Story 5, A. F. Hillier 6, W. Story 7, F. J. Harrison tenor. At the time this was the most northerly peal rung in England. Since then we have rung peals at Rothbury, Aynwick, Embleton and Berwick-on-Tweed.

The latter peal of bells, tenor 21 cwt. in F, is hung in a tower dominating the Town Hall itself, and is the property of the Mayor and Corporation. They were installed there in 1852. This town, though on the northern border of the River Tweed, is part of England and an English borough. The bells were rehung and retuned by Carrs, of Birmingham (Smethwick), in 1894, and a band representative of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association went through on Monday, August 5th, 1894, and reopened them with a well-struck 5,040 Stedman Triples, Thurstans' Four-part, in 3 hours and 1 minute: W. Holmes (conductor) 1, Thomas Hudson, sen. 2, R. S. Story 3, F. Lees 4, C. L. Routledge 5, A. F. Hillier 6, F. J. Harrison 7, John Burrey tenor. The latter was employed by Carrs' firm and had done the rehanging of the bells. He was a well-known ringer in Birmingham for many years.

## MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one who has always been interested in music of various kinds, vocal and instrumental, I thought I would send to you a few musical memories, chiefly handbell ringing, but also tower bell ringing.

Thirty years or so ago we had a good band of tower ringers at Moorside, and the methods rung were Grandire Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. The bells are in the key of E, tenor 18½ cwt. I always enjoyed hearing good ringing. There are a set of handbells, seventy in number, in our school, with which, many years ago, as a band of eight ringers, we spent many happy hours. I will tell you what pieces we had in the following manner.

A meeting was arranged, so the 'Men of Harlech' tramped 'Over the hills and far away, passing the residence of 'The Maid of Llan-gollen' singing 'Land of my Fathers' as they wended their way through 'The Ash Grove.' On arrival 'In my Cottage,' 'The Harmonious Blacksmith' recited 'The Legend of the Bells,' and also sang 'Drink to me only.' After a rest the company enjoyed change ringing, a few plain courses, also tune ringing. The 'Old Folks at Home' greatly enjoyed 'The Blue Bells of Scotland' blooming in 'Home Sweet Home' for 'Auld Lang Syne.' We also had Mozart's 'Gloria' from 12th Mass, a selection from Weber's 'Der Freischütz' and Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

I have written this just to contribute something of interest to your readers. A few of us have met at Mr. Ivan Kay's home many times to ring a few plain courses. 'Tis a pleasant pastime. There is a good peal of eight at Leesfield Church, near Oldham, also a nice minor ring at East Crompton. Best wishes for your paper, also for the art of change ringing.

JOHN OGDEN.

18, Turfpit Lane, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 60.)

### JOHN REEVES AND GEORGE GROSS.

Except for the peals he rang and the compositions he worked out, we know practically nothing about John Reeves—what sort of a man he was—what were his profession and his station in life—whether he was an educated man, or whether, like John Holt, he was self taught. No tales are told of him and no traditions have come down to us. That he was a brilliant composer, far in advance of any of his contemporaries, his compositions show. In that respect he stands among the greatest ringers of all time. Stedman in the seventeenth century, Holt and Reeves in the eighteenth—these names stand alone until Thurstans and Day and Johnson appeared in the nineteenth.

Reeves had a long and distinguished career as a peal ringer, but it is significant that through he was associated with several brilliant bands, his connection with none lasted more than a few years, and usually ended with a quarrel. He was born about 1740, and probably lived at Whitechapel, where he rang his first peal (Oxford Treble Bob Major on April 3rd, 1761) and where forty years later he rang his last.

George Gross was about the same age as his rival. He was a weaver by trade and lived at, or near, Shoreditch. The records give him as the composer of many peals, and in a note to his last five-thousand it is said that he surpassed all his contemporaries as a composer of Treble Bob. Unfortunately, nearly all his compositions are lost, and we have no opportunity of judging his qualifications. It seems clear that he laid claim to peals which Reeves considered were his, and this no doubt was one of the principal causes of the ill feeling between the two. In 1783 a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Bishopsgate, 'being the first ever called with 100 bobs and 2 singles, composed and called by George Gross.' It does not take much imagination to see that it was Holt's Ten-part with two plain-lead singles instead of two bob-lead singles. The 'Clavis' (of which Reeves was part author) says that 'if any person 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.' The authors, no doubt, were genuinely trying to do justice to Holt, but it is pretty certain Reeves had Gross' peal in mind.

John Jennett, who had called the long peal of Bob Maximus at Southwark, joined the Cumberlands in 1760, James Titchbourne, Thomas Bennett and Christopher Wells in 1763. Charles Purser's and Joshua Brotherton's names appear for the first time in the same year, and John Povey's in the following year. All these men had ambitions as conductors, and there was not nearly enough room for them in the company.

Bennett quickly went back to the College Youths. Titchbourne was Warner in 1764, but in the same year he returned to the London Youths and took Brotherton with him. Samuel Wood was still calling most of the peals, but in 1764 Reeves called 5,040 changes of Bob Major, 'in three parts with 66 bobs only,' his first as conductor and probably his own composition. Samuel Wood did not take part.

George Gross' first peal was one of Bob Major at Rom-

ford in 1764, and during the following twenty years the society rang only seven peals in which he did not stand, not counting those rung by provincial members. He called his first peal, one of Bob Major, in 1768, and after 1770 he conducted nearly all those in which he rang.

The presence of so many brilliant and ambitious ringers was not altogether a source of strength to the Cumberlands. There were many rivalries, and members were continually joining and leaving the company. Between April, 1764, and October, 1766, only one peal was rung, and, as it happened, in 1765 Shoreditch bells were increased by the addition of two trebles cast by Lester and Pack. The College Youths rang the first peal on the ten, 5,112 Grandsire Caters on September 29th, and followed it on December 8th by 5,202 Double Grandsire Caters, both peals conducted by William Underwood. The London Youths rang 5,435 Grandsire Caters on June 29th, 1766, and it was not until the following October that Samuel Wood called the Cumberlands' first peal on the ten. A year later Wood called 5,312 changes of London Court Bob Major at Whitechapel, the only peal rung by the society in the method.

Ever since Annable had conducted the first peal of Double Bob Major at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West in 1727, the method had been one of the most popular in London, and many peals of it were rung on eight, ten, and twelve bells, though it does not appear to have been much practised outside the Metropolis. Barham's band rang two ten-thousands and one or two five-thousands, but the only record of any other early provincial peal is one in 1761 at Alburgh in Norfolk by a mixed band.

After about 1780 the method dropped into general disuse, and, except for an occasional peal in recent times, has not been practised since. We rather wonder why; for it is a method with many good features, as musical as Plain Bob and without the long lengths of plain hunting which some men think monotonous. Probably the reason is that the old ringers found it more difficult and less interesting than Treble Bob, which gradually became almost the only even-bell method practised in London.

Until about 1769 the bobs in Double Bob were made when the treble is leading as in Plain Bob, but then the variation called 'real double' was introduced in which the bobs are made both when the treble is leading and lying. On January 29th, 1769, at Whitechapel, the Cumberlands rang the first peal, George Gross calling what he claimed was his own composition, but what was the obvious adaptation of Annable's Bob Major. The bobs were made alternately, one when the treble was at the front and one when it was behind.

The society gave its own name to the variation and booked the peal as Cumberland real double eight-in, but the Exercise would not accept the title.

The College Youths had rung a peal of Double Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch in 1765, and in 1770 the Cumberlands rang there 5,040 Grandsire Caters new double, conducted by Samuel Wood. What it was is not clear, but probably it had bobs behind as well as in front. Later on in the year George Gross composed a peal of real double Grandsire Caters with the bobs alternately before and behind, and conducted it at St. Magnus the Martyr's. Six years later he composed a similar peal of Cinques and called it at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The peals were booked as Cumberland Caters and Cinques.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, president of the Norwich Diocesan Association, was instituted and inducted to the parish of Mulbarton on February 3rd by the Bishop of Norwich. Handbells were rung before and after the service by F. Wacey, H. Nicholls, F. W. Middleton and F. C. Goodman.

Lieut. G. A. Bell, who has been for two and a half years in the Army, is the second member of the Prestwick band to be granted a commission. Another member, Sapper B. J. L. Whittaker, has been acting as organist at Gibraltar Cathedral.

As will be seen from our peal column, Birmingham men rang a peal of Stedman Cinques for the Ancient Society of College Youths on January 30th. In accordance with the rule, this needed an umpire, and the services of Mr. George Swann were secured, but unfortunately at the last moment he had an attack of influenza and could not leave his bed. Mr. Nicholls, of Stourbridge, who came to hear the peal, took his place and proved a thoroughly competent umpire. The Birmingham band are fortunate in being able to get such men to serve.

We have received a letter from Mr. C. K. Lewis. He sends best wishes to all ringing friends, and relates some of his experiences on the journey to the East. Like many other soldier ringers he had a break in South Africa and managed to get some handbell ringing with Mr. D. H. Parham and Mr. Manicom. They rang 360 Bob Minor. Mr. Parham is one of Mr. J. E. Spice's pupils and he has taught Mr. Manicom something about change ringing since he has been abroad. Unfortunately, they have no opportunities for practice.

The ring of eight at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was opened on February 7th, 1783, when each of the three leading companies rang a peal. The board which once recorded them has long since disappeared.

John Reeves called his well-known variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples for the first time at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, on February 7th, 1801.

On the same date in 1925 the College Youths rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Paul's.

John Carter called the first peal of Forward Major at St. John's, Deritend, Birmingham, on February 8th, 1889.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major in London was rung at Bethnal Green by the St. James' Society on February 9th, 1850. In the previous year on February 10th the Woolwich men had rung a peal. Five members of the Banister family took part.

The first peal of Yoxford Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on February 9th, 1934, and the first peal of Bedford Surprise at Bushey on February 9th, 1939.

Barham's band rang 6,720 changes of Morning Pleasure, at Leeds, on February 10th, 1757. We much doubt if the peal was true.

Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of St. Lawrence Little Bob Major at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on February 10th, 1920.

A peal in one of the extensions of London Surprise to ten bells was rung at St. Peter's, Brighton, on February 11th, 1926.

Mr. W. H. Hewitt called the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Croydon on February 11th, 1939, and on the same day Mr. Harold Cashmore called the first peal of Northchurch Surprise Major at Northchurch in Hertfordshire.

William Wakley was born on February 12th, 1853, and on the same date in 1921, the Oldham men rang 14,016 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters was rung by the Birmingham men at Aston on February 13th, 1848.

## A NOTABLE SIX-BELL PERFORMANCE.

'On Shrove Tuesday, February 7th, 1826, the Society of Change Ringers of Bingley met in the tower of the parish church, and rang during the day in three touches of 12 twelve-scores each, without a single break down or a false change, the extraordinary number of 36 twelve-scores, making a total of 8,640 changes in the following methods:—

Oxford	Morning Exercise	Royal Bob
Violet	Cambridge	Worcester
New London Pleasure	Morning Star	Chichester
Duke of York	Evening Star	Durham
Kent	Coventry	York
College Pleasure	Ely	Bristol
College Treble Bob	Rochester	Lichfield
City Delight	Treble Bob Reverse	London
Tulip	Morning Pleasure	Wells
Primrose	Symphony	College Exercise
Oxford Reverse	Cheapside	Evening Exercise
London Scholars' P.	College Delight	London Delight

The Ringers were stationed as follows:—

John Briggs ... 1	Hezekiah Briggs ... 3	Henry Dickinson ... 5
David Bailey ... 2	James Lilley ... 4	Isaac Rhodes ... 6

Weight of tenor 11 cwt. 3 qrs.

These twelve-scores were conducted by H. Briggs and I. Rhodes. The total time occupied in ringing was 5 hours and 11 minutes. All the ringers were resident members of the Bingley Society.—From the 1879-1880 Report of the Yorkshire Association.

## PEAL PERFORMANCES IN 12-BELL TOWERS

MR. BORRETT REPLIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank Mr. Rogers for his notice and criticism of my letter. But may I point out the heading was the same as to this letter, and with this title peals on all numbers had to be included.

In the case of Mancroft there were special reasons for peals on the lighter rings, one of which was at the time no ring of eight was available or pealable in the city. I hold that a good eight-bell ringer soon makes a good one on twelve, and consider those peals were justified.

My idea, however, was not merely a local one. Nearly fifty years ago, Mr. Editor, I remember you remarking, 'Rings of twelve are white elephants.' It stuck in my mind and I have often recalled it, for if you take a general look round the 12-bell towers in the provinces you will find their peal performances lamentably small. Birmingham and Ipswich are, of course, brilliant exceptions, and prove the weakness of the others. What have great centres such as Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield contributed to 12-bell peals? Very little indeed. And in recent years the number of rings increased to twelve have been as flies in summer—Canterbury, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Christchurch, Safron Walden, St. Albans, Taunton, Tewkesbury, Trowbridge, etc. What likelihood is there of 12-bell peals at these, except by visiting companies or largely made up of visitors?

Alas! local peals on 12 bells are, and always have been, rare indeed amongst the towers we have in mind. I even wonder at how many of them is the full peal used at practices.

Of the 32 peals on Mancroft 12—over 168 years—not half were rung by a local company—even with a generous application of 'local' too!

But I still hope other correspondents will carry out my original idea of lists from other towers. We shall then have information at our disposal—at present only a negligible amount—and it would give us something to think about. I know well enough that the building up, and the keeping together, of a 12-bell company in the provinces is no easy job, but now, with so many towers available in the country, I fear they are not put to their best and fullest use.

Naturally, I am writing of normal, and not these abnormal, times.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

## NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL.

Dear Sir,—Following the lead of Mr. C. E. Borrett, the following complete list of all peals rung in the magnificent tower of the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, may be of some interest to ringers.

A ring of eight, tenor 36 cwt., was installed somewhere about the end of the 18th century, and four peals, all of Grandsire Triples, were rung on them in 1808, 1809, 1842 and 1848.

In 1892, a ring of ten were installed, tenor 37½ cwt. in D flat. The most interesting performances on them were a peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1894) and Double Norwich Major (1898), in which F. J. Harrison turned in the tenor. R. Richards turned in the tenor to Forward Major in 1913. One false peal of Stedman Caters was rung in 1901. The bells were increased to twelve in 1914 and an extra bell added later in the same year to make a middle eight, the 'Dixon Eight.'

The first peal of Spliced Caters ever rung, Stedman and Erin, was rung in 1925, conducted by W. H. Barber, who, incidentally, has conducted 50 of the total number of 81 peals rung since the ten were installed. These peals include the first ever of Little Bob Maximus and a great variety of compositions in Stedman, such as the first peal of Stedman Cinques with short courses only. The full list is as follows:—

Maximus.—Cambridge Surprise 1, Kent Treble Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob (Granta) 1, Little Bob 1=4.

Cinques.—Stedman 20, Erin 1=21.

Royal.—Kent Treble Bob 6, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Little Bob 1, Plain Bob 1=9.

Caters.—Stedman 29, Grandsire 3, Spliced Stedman and Erin 1=33.

Major.—Superlative Surprise 1, Double Norwich 1, Forward 1=3.

Triples.—Stedman 5=5.

On the 'Dixon Eight':—

Major.—Cambridge Surprise 1, Double Norwich 2=3.

Triples.—Stedman 3=3.

On old eight:—

Triples.—Grandsire 4=4.

Grand total 85.

ERNEST WALLACE.

88, Grainger Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.

A BAD FAULT.—It is undoubtedly a fact that many beginners are pushed on too rapidly, attempting rounds before they can ring round properly.—Jasper Snowdon.

THE ONE GREAT AIM.—The one great aim of every beginner should be to obtain an accurate striker.—Jasper Snowdon.

GOOD LEADING.—Good even ringing depends much upon the accuracy of the time sustained by the bell at the lead.—Henry Hubbard.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT WOOLWICH.**

The Lewisham District of the Kent County Association held its first meeting of the year at Woolwich on Saturday, January 30th, and 17 members attended from Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Lee and Woolwich.

Handbell ringing in the Rectory room was followed by a short service, conducted, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector, by the curate, the Rev. P. Ashe, who gave a short, informal, topical, instructive and very original address.

At the conclusion of the service the curate had to leave, but before departing he extended a warm welcome to the members and regretted that health reasons prevented the Rector (the Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley) from attending.

Tea followed, prepared, on behalf of an anonymous host, by Mrs. Aldridge and her friends.

Mr. E. A. Barnett took the chair at the ensuing business meeting. Mr. R. Wake, of Woolwich, was elected a member of the association. The district secretary suggested that it might be useful to combine with the Tonbridge District to hold the spring meeting somewhere in the area where the two districts are contiguous. This was agreed to, the secretary being entrusted with the charge of making the necessary arrangements.

Mr. E. Barnett gave the meeting a brief resumé of the history of the District, which he had drawn up upon realising that the last meeting had marked the jubilee of its organisation. The paper was received enthusiastically, and Mr. Barnett agreed to submit it to 'The Ringing World' for publication.

News was exchanged of members serving with His Majesty's Forces and of Mr. G. V. Murphy, now, unfortunately, a prisoner of war.

Mr. R. A. Jenkins moved that the meeting consider possible means to ensure the rehabilitation of ringing in the District as soon as possible after the lifting of the ban. There was a lengthy discussion, but no new suggestions were forthcoming, and it was agreed to circularise the bands in union to see what support was likely to be afforded the obvious schemes of mutual co-operation between neighbouring towers.

Questions were asked about the future of the bells at Quex Park, Birchington, and the secretary agreed to get what information he could through the general secretary and the Canterbury District in time for the attention of the next meeting.

Cordial votes of thanks to the Rector and curate of Woolwich; to Mrs. Aldridge and the generous host; to the local secretary and to the chairman concluded the business.

Further handbell ringing followed before the members dispersed at the conclusion of (by common consent) a very pleasant meeting.

**THE LATE MR. EDWIN BREEZE.**

Mr. Edwin Breeze, whose death we announced recently, was one of the oldest and at one time one of the most active members of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

Although 76 years of age, his health was apparently all right until three weeks ago, when he was compelled to remain indoors and eventually to take to his bed. He had a seizure from which, owing to the state of his heart, he never recovered and passed away on January 20th.

Mr. Breeze was born at Battlefield, a small village near Shrewsbury, and learnt to ring at Shrewsbury. Fifty years ago he went to Bebington and was associated with the church as a ringer and chorister. About the year 1904 eight bells were installed in the tower of Port Sunlight, and Mr. Breeze was appointed towerkeeper. He carried out the duties there with zeal and efficiency.

He was made a member of the Lancashire Association in 1898, and up to the end he was a loyal supporter of the Liverpool Branch meetings and up to the ban a constant attendee at the weekly practices at St. Nicholas'.

He kept no record of his peals, but there were one or two he was very proud of—a peal of Minor in seven Surprise methods at Eastham when he was upwards of 70 years of age, his first peal of Stedman Triples at St. Mary's, Handbridge, Chester, on January 6th, 1900, and the first peal of Double Norwich by the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association on February 26th, 1906.

The passing of Edwin Breeze is a great loss to the Exercise on Merseyside. He was full of energy and enthusiasm and his place will not easily be filled.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT WANSTEAD.**

The annual district meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Wanstead on January 30th, and was attended by 32 members from Hornchurch, Leytonstone, Woodford, Collier Row, Brentwood, West Ham, Dagenham, Romford and Wanstead. A most excellent service was conducted by the Rev. C. K. Waller, who said how pleased he was to welcome all present, especially some of his old friends from Hornchurch.

Tea followed, and the business meeting was presided over by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, who stated how pleased he was to see so many at the meeting, especially Mr. R. Heazel, who had managed to come after a very long illness. The secretary read a report on the previous year's work, and the yearly account, both of which were accepted. Two honorary members had been elected during the year, as well as the Rev. — Rooke, of South Weald, who was elected during the afternoon. The secretary thanked all those who had helped to make the meetings successful.

Mr. Joyce then took the chair, and Mr. J. Chalk and Mrs. J. H. Crampion were re-elected as Master and secretary respectively for the ensuing year. Mr. A. Prior and Mr. Dawson were re-elected as committee members. The secretary reported the death of Mr. Hull, of Walthamstow, who passed away last September, and all present were asked to stand in silence for a few seconds.

It was proposed by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. Petty that the next meeting be held at South Weald about the middle of April.

Mr. Butler stated that when Mr. Dawson and he attended the funeral of the late Mr. Nevard, he was surprised that no mention was made of all the work Mr. Nevard had done towards procuring the bells at Great Bentley, and it was proposed and seconded that a notice be put on the agenda to this effect.

During the afternoon a few touches were rung on the handbells, in particular a touch of Bob Minor by Messrs. J. Bullock, T. H. Bullock (15 years) and L. W. Bullock (13 years), which was a credit to them and their father. They also entertained the company by ringing tunes on the handbells, which was much enjoyed, and a great feat by such very keen and enthusiastic youngsters.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. C. K. Waller for conducting the service and to Mr. Crellin, the organist. Mr. Joyce expressed a vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the meeting a very successful one.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.****MEETING AT IRTHLINGBOROUGH.**

The annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irthlingborough on Jan. 23rd. Towers represented were Wellingborough, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Earls Barton, Great Doddington, Wollaston, Warkton and the local band. The Guild service was conducted in St. Peter's Church during the afternoon by the Rector (the Rev. R. S. Sleight), who also gave an interesting address. The organist was Miss Lamb.

The Rev. R. S. Sleight paid tribute to the way the bells and ringers were found ready for the recent temporary lifting of the ban, and the thrill that the sound of Irthlingborough bells gave to him on first hearing them. Tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall by the local ringers' wives, 23 people being present, including Mr. and Mrs. Sleight.

In the absence of the branch president (the Rev. J. H. Marlow), the Rector very kindly presided at the subsequent business.

After mentioning the names of three members (Messrs. T. R. Hensher, G. W. Brafield and C. W. Clark) who had died during the year, also the sad news that Mr. Donald Cockings was reported missing at sea, the members stood a moment in silent tribute.

The officers were all re-elected, and the auditor (Mr. E. W. Johnson) was warmly thanked for his many years of good service. Two new honorary members (the Rev. R. S. Sleight and the Rev. W. R. Flex) were elected. Miss M. Frost (Great Doddington) was elected a ringing member.

The Chairman congratulated the branch on the splendid way in which it was carrying on in difficult times. Mr. F. Barber also urged the older members to do all in their power to keep things going and to encourage the younger members. He also commended the practice, where possible, of Church Councils paying the subscriptions of their ringers to the Guild.

On the proposition of Mr. J. R. Main, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to all the Irthlingborough people who had contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment.

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## THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 54.)

Some time ago the question was being debated: How far is it possible to obtain a peal of Stedman Triples with only two singles and in two exactly similar parts? Let us see what would be the conditions necessary for such a peal on the twin-bob plan.

The 5,040 rows would first have to be set down in two round blocks, each consisting of thirty courses and each produced by 120 bobs. One of the round blocks would have to be the reverse of the other, much in the same way that the second half of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples is the reverse of the first half.

We are doubtful if this could be done, but we will assume we have done it. We have now to join the two blocks together by singles. One of the blocks must be reversed, which will make the two alike in calling, but one with the even rows at backstroke and the other with the even rows at handstroke. The singles must be added at the same point in each block. But since the observation bell must make the singles, that is an impossibility, and therefore a peal of Stedman Triples in two exactly similar parts, and only two singles is definitely not possible on the twin-bob plan.

The nearest that can be had is probably Thurstan's Four-part. There the two halves are alike, except that the 'extras' in the first half (that is, a bobbed Q Set) are balanced by the 'omits' in the second half (that is, a plained Q Set). And since the observation bell has to make the singles, the position of those calls is not the same in the two halves.

The use of singles in peals on the odd-and-even plan is not unlike that in peals on the twin-bob plan; but since our knowledge of the plan is limited, we do not propose to say anything about it. We come to peals based on B Blocks.

The first men to attempt to compose a peal of Stedman Triples—Annable and Melchior and Crane, of Norwich—thought that the job had to be tackled much in the same manner as an extent in any other method. They had no idea of the peculiar difficulties in the way, and of course they failed, and failed so badly that they did not even know they had failed.

John Reeves was the first to gain any real insight into the problem. He got as far as realising what he had to contend with, and that was a great advance. He did not succeed, mainly because he was hampered by conditions which the best men of his time held were essential to the method. The most important of these was that bobs should never be made at two consecutive Sixes. Working on these lines, he produced a quarter-peal and cautiously observed that the 1,260 came very near to the extent of the method with single bobs only, 'that is to say, by having two bells dodge behind not more than five whole pulls.'

The investigations, however, had shown him another plan on which it might be possible to compose a peal, if only it was admissible. 'The only method that seems to carry the least appearance of possibility is by using a multiplicity of bobs, and thereby keeping two bells continually dodging behind, which must produce music extremely disagreeable and tedious to every judicious ear.'

Experience has compelled the Exercise to acknowledge that Reeves was right. Any hopes of a peal with single

bobs throughout had to be abandoned, and when the method came to be really understood some sixty years ago, all the leading composers set their faces against a multiplicity of bobs. Four-bob sets had to be admitted—they could not be avoided—but six-bob sets (and, of course, anything more) were looked on as blots, the presence of only a few of which was sufficient to condemn a peal.

Meanwhile, however, multi-bob peals had been composed and rung and proved very useful as stepping stones to better things.

The plans on which these multi-bob peals are constructed are very interesting to an expert composer. They have been explained at length by Earle Bulwer and Arthur Heywood, whose writings will be found in the 'Investigations' given in C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman.' We need not go into them now, but we must deal with the class of composition to which most of them are ultimately related. We mean the peals formed of B Blocks.

In any method a B Block is a block produced by making bobs at every lead-end (or, in Stedman, at every Six-end). In some cases the B Block is just as good a basis for a peal as the P Block (which is produced by plain lead-ends). It is so in Grandsire Triples; in fact, peals based on B Blocks are almost universal in that method. It is so in Grandsire Caters. In Major methods the B Block is not so useful, but short-course peals of Bob Major are now and then rung and have their uses.

In Stedman Triples the B Block would be most valuable if it were not for the fact that the consecutive bobs keep two bells dodging behind throughout. That is a defect which nothing can palliate, and it would be a bad thing if ever it was looked on as other than a defect; but it is a defect which belongs to practical ringing. If the composition of peals were no more than the solution of mathematical problems, then peals of Stedman Triples based on B Blocks would be entitled to rank with those based on any other plan. That is why it is worth our while now to consider them.

When we are composing with B Blocks the bob is really a part of the method, and the links by which courses and blocks are joined together are omits. The use of these omits is subject to the same laws and conditions as is the use of bobs when we are composing with P Blocks.

If we ring Stedman Triples and call continuous bobs until the bells come round (so producing a B Block), what we do in effect is to ring Stedman Doubles with 6-7 dodging behind. This has led people to say that multi-bob peals are no more genuine Stedman Triples than Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 or 7-6-8 covering, is Grandsire Triples. To a very great extent this is true, but for the purposes of producing a true peal it is a great advantage.

For a course of Stedman Doubles is not only true in itself but contains the full extent of the rows of like nature, and therefore in the B Blocks of Triples we have that most desirable thing not otherwise attainable, the whole extent of the 5,040 rows set down in a number of independent and mutually exclusive round blocks which only need to be joined together to give us a true peal.

The existence of such a set of mutually exclusive blocks is what makes the extent of a method like Bob Major, or Grandsire Triples, possible, and when once we have got a set for Stedman Triples the composition of a peal does not in essentials differ very much from that

(Continued on next page.)

**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).

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

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held 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, Amptill Road, Liverpool.

**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. 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.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—A joint meeting with the Biggleswade District of the Bedford Association will be held at Henlow on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 5 p.m.

**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.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Handbells: Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea, Warburton's Cafe, 5 p.m. Business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. W. Green, 9, Moor Road, Wath-on-Deerne, near Rotherham, not later than Feb. 18th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

—Chew and Axbridge Deaneries.—A combined meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Bells, with silent apparatus, from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—P. Yeo, Long Ashton, Bristol, E. J. Avery, Sandford, Bristol, Hon. Local Secs.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., names for which should be received by me by the previous Tuesday. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

By Auction, on February 18th next, A SET OF 29 HANDBELLS by Taylor, Loughborough.—Apply G. B. Avant & Son, Auctioneers, Dawlish, Devon.

**THE USE OF SINGLES**—Continued from previous page. in these methods. There are, however, one or two special things to be noted.

**NOTE.**—We wonder whether any of our readers noticed a slip we made in our last article. We said that if we prick a full natural course from 564312 we shall find that it contains the same rows as the plain course, and in the same order, but backwards. We should have written, 'the course 123456' instead of 'the plain course'; for, as everyone knows, the plain course is 231456.

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