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RULES.

If we were to go by appearances we might imagine that ringers are a body of men who are bound hand and foot by rules, and in all they do in the exercise of their art are subject to regulations and restrictions. Most belfries have their rules; local societies have their rules; the associations have their rules; the Central Council has its rules; there are rules for peal ringing, and rules for methods; in fact pretty nearly everything ringers are or do is, nominally and formally at any rate, controlled and regulated by some rule.

It always has been so. Dozens of codes, centuries old, have come down to us, some in verse and some in prose; and throughout the history of the Exercise their number has been continually added to. Yet it is the fact, and a fact we need not be ashamed of, that of all organisations connected with the Church, ringers have always been the most independent and the freest from the restraints of authority.

The earliest rules of all were inherited from the old medieval guilds on which the first ringing societies were modelled. Later the general English custom of forming clubs for all sorts of purposes influenced bodies like the College Youths, the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham, and the like. They all adopted rules so that the business and social intercourse of the society could be transacted smoothly, without friction, and in due order. The rules of the Central Council and the modern associations are of the same kind and for the same purpose. The rules which regulate peal ringing and the art itself are intended to raise and maintain the standards of ringing. All these rules are natural and necessary for the life and well-being of the Exercise.

But some seventy or eighty years ago a new style of code of rules was introduced. They were not voluntary agreements by the ringers, but regulations and restrictions which outside authority attempted to impose. There was a reason for them and a good deal of justification. From causes which we need not now consider, the general state of ringing and the relations between ringers and the Church authorities were altogether unsatisfactory. There was great need for reform, and reform did come eventually. But one of the means which the clergy of the time tried to use to improve the condition of their belfries was to draw up rules and lay down restrictions which they expected their ringers to abide by. Ellacombe and the men who worked with him and thought as he did set great store by these rules. And so we find in many belfries a long list of things

(Continued on page 397.)

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which ringers were expected to do, and a still longer list of what they were forbidden to do. Even to-day when a new band is started there is generally a set of rules more or less copied from these others, and the Central Council has drawn up and published a model set much in the same spirit.

Do these codes of rules serve any good purpose? Perhaps the best answer is that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they remain a dead letter. A good band does not need any rules. A bad band never observes any. The most successful and efficient bands carry on usually without any rules or formal organisation. They do things, or refrain from doing things, not because rules say they must or must not do them, but because they feel instinctively what is the right thing to do, and they know that there are some things which are not done. There was a time when the state of belfries called for the exercise of some discipline on the part of the clergy, but to-day, if a parson told his ringers that there must be no drinking, bad language, or smoking in the belfry, they would not be resentful or indignant; they would only feel amused. The men of St. John's, Deptford, did well to keep their rule in their minute book as a relic of the past. It was hardly necessary even to label it as 'obsolete.'

But we need not think we are all that amount better men than our predecessors because in these things we are different from them.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

THE RAILWAY WHISTLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is a statement in 'The Ringing World' for August 20th (page 364) that calls for comment. Your contributor, referring to the phenomenon of the drop in pitch of the sound of an engine whistle as the train passes through the station, says this 'is only an aural illusion.' It is true that the pitch of the whistle is constant to an observer on the train, but it is also true that for the observer on the platform the pitch of the sound of the whistle of an approaching train is higher than the pitch of the sound of the same whistle at rest, while for a receding train the pitch is lower. This phenomenon is well known to scientists under the name of the Doppler effect, and has a simple explanation in terms of the wave theory of sound. The drop in pitch depends on the speed of the passing train and need not necessarily be an octave.

This does raise the very interesting point that, since a bell in process of being rung is a pretty fast-moving object for at any rate part of the time, the apparent pitches of the various tones of the bell—by which I mean the actual pitches of the sounds that reach the ears of the hearer, ignoring possible genuine aural illusions—may be appreciably different from the pitches observed when the bell is struck, at rest, in the tuning-room.

Moreover, if the theory is correct that different portions of the bell are responsible for the production of the different tones, the various harmonics would not all be affected in the same degree, as those parts of the bell nearer the sound-bow are moving faster than those nearer the crown. And the effect on any of the tones would depend also on whether the part of the bell producing it was moving towards or away from the listener, i.e., it would be a varying effect.

It is obvious that to go quantitatively into the above considerations, or indeed into any detail, would be a very intricate business, but they may afford an explanation of the recognised fact that there is so often a lack of agreement between the effect of a ring of bells heard dead in the foundry and the same ring swung in the tower.

A. R. PARGETER.

Meadow Road, New Milton, Hants.

'THE TEN RINGERS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The moral we evidently are supposed to draw from the parable of the Ten Ringers in your recent issue is unsound, and if the writer intended to apply the lesson of the five wise and five foolish virgins, the analogy is a false one. In these days, when there is a general shortage of competent ringers, their places cannot be properly filled with half-trained pupils; and the band that helps another band is in the long run helping itself.

CHARLES GREEN.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday, September 1, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE PART, TENOR 16 cwt.

WILLIAM T. PETTY Treble	ERNEST STITCH 5
EDWARD T. BAILEY 2	*ALFRED W. WRIGHT... .. 6
ALFRED HANINGTON... .. 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
CHARLES H. PERRY 4	DAVID HUGHES Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PERRY.

* 50th peal on the bells. Rung half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Mr. B. J. Toby, a member of the local band, who was buried the same day.

FAR HEADINGLEY, LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

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

Tenor 18½ cwt.

MISS L. K. BOWLING ... Treble	WILLIAM BARTON... .. 5
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 2	GEORGE ROBINSON 6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM ... 7
ALFRED SMITH 4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS, Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7½ cwt.

DAISY M. ANDREWS Treble	WILLIAM CHALK... .. 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS 2	GEORGE A. ANDREWS 6
HARRY J. MILLATT 3	HORACE A. WRIGHT 7
CHARLES A. ANDREWS ... 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, September 2, 1943, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD.

AN OBSOLETE RULE.

Owing to the death of Mr. William J. Jeffries, who had been for long the captain of the band at St. John's, Deptford, the Vicar expressed his wish to have a meeting of the ringers, and it was held at the Vicarage on August 25th.

The Vicar referred to Mr. Jeffries' long and faithful services, and at his request Mr. George H. Daynes was appointed to the vacant office of captain and towerkeeper. Mr. F. W. Richardson was elected secretary.

Mr. Richardson read the rules, and when he came to No. 10 he suggested that it should be wiped out. It reads: 'No drinking, bad language, or smoking, shall be allowed in the belfry, which is part of the church, the bells being instruments of sacred music, used in the service of God.'

After a discussion the Vicar made the happy suggestion that a Note should be added, 'This rule is now obsolete,' and this was agreed to.

The Vicar of St. John's is not only president of the local society, but has learnt to handle a bell, and the members hope and are pleased to think he will soon be quite at home with change ringing.

BUSHEY.—On Saturday, August 14th, 1,376 Bristol Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1, F. Smallwood 2, G. M. Kilby 3, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 4, F. W. Brinklow 5, F. E. Collins 6, H. J. Cashmore 7, M. F. R. Hibbert 8.

HUDSON'S NEW LIGHT.

TREBLE BOB VARIATION.

There has always been a number of people in the Exercise who hold that, as a method, Treble Bob is spoilt by the Slow, and especially by the two leads when the tenors are in the Slow. Several variations have been introduced with the object of omitting those two leads. John Carter produced Forward, in which, not only the Slow, but the fixed treble is eliminated; and in more recent years variations have been rung which, either by arrangements of Kent and Oxford places or by making the treble a slow bell for a few changes, prevent the tenors from going into the Slow.

In theory the music should be very much improved, but that is hardly the actual result. Practical experience shows that the leads with the tenors in the Slow have a definite musical value, not because they are in themselves attractive, but because they prevent monotony, and by contrast very much heighten the musical value of the other leads. This is in accordance with strict artistic principles. It is not likely, therefore, that these variations will ever have any particular popularity and that probably is the reason why the earliest of all, after a somewhat promising start, fell flat and was forgotten by succeeding generations of ringers.

As early as the year 1843, William Hudson, of Sheffield, who has earned an honourable name as a composer of Stedman Triples, introduced a variation in which both Kent and Oxford places are used to keep the tenors out of the Slow. The idea caught on quickly and some peals were rung by different bands, but when the novelty had passed the plan lost its popularity and disappeared from use. Here are the records of the peals rung:—

'March 26th, 1843. On Tuesday the Sheffield St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers ascended the steeple and rang 5,600 of Hudson's New Light on Treble Bob Major in the time of 3 hours and 46 minutes, being the first in that method ever rung by any company of campanologists. The band was stationed as follows: Wm. Hudson sr. 1, Thomas Whaley 2, Isaac Lomas 3, Geo. Hudson 4, John Lomas jr. 5, Thomas Crossland 6, James Firth 7, Wm. Hudson jr. tenor. In the above method of ringing Treble Bob the plain course contains 800 changes, and the peal was rung with only nine bobs. Composed and conducted by Mr. William Hudson sen., who has received great praise for the work.'

'April 23rd, 1843. Monday last the Junior Company of Change Ringers, belonging to Wakefield old parish church, ascended the steeple of Liversedge church and there rang a true peal of treble bob major consisting of 8,000 changes, which they completed in the short space of four hours and a half. The peal was composed in two parts with 25 courses in each part, and the tenors at home every course end without going into the slow hunt. Each part contained 7 bobs, 14 bobs completing the peal. This new mode of composing was found out by Mr. William Hudson, sr., of Sheffield, who composed the above peal and kindly presented it to the above named society. The following are the names of the band as stationed: W. Milner 1, Stephen Prestley 2, Joseph Healey 3, William Swain 4, Henry Senior 5, W. Scott 6, Thomas Clapham 7, George Milner, tenor. Mr. J. Firth, conductor of the Liversedge Company of Change Ringers, umpire and time keeper. Mr. B. Thackrah of Dewsbury, Mr. Barraclough of Birstall, Mr. T. Dawson of Bradford and several other professionals were in attendance and expressed their approbation of the splendid manner in which it was performed.'

'September 10th, 1843. Castleton in the Peak of Derbyshire. On Monday the Castleton junior ringers ascended the tower and rang a true peal of 7,200 Hudson's light upon Treble Bob System in 3 hours and 57 mts. As under are the names of the ringers. 1st Robert How, 2nd John Dokin, 3rd Robert How, 4th Wm. Eyre, 5th Thomas Ashton, 6th Samuel How, 7th Geo. Hall, tenor James Hall.'

'October 29th, 1843. On Sunday the 23rd inst. the celebrated ringers of Saddleworth, Yorkshire, rang a true peal of treble bob consisting of 720 changes in twenty-five minutes on their sweet toned bells. In this peal there is neither bob nor single. When the treble dodges before, the third and fourth places are made both in the Oxford and the Kent treble bob method. This is the first peal ever rung in that method on six bells. The ringers were stationed as follows: First Ralph Broadbent, second John Holden, third Benjamin Holden, fourth Martin Holden, fifth Benjamin Broadbent, tenor Albert Wood. The Peal was composed by James Platt and conducted by Ralph Broadbent. John Holden is in his 79th year.'

THE LADIES' GUILD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—In Belfry Gossip you record the handbell peal of Grandshire Doubles at Kinson as being the first rung entirely by ladies. This is an error, as on May 23rd, 1942, at 101, Surrey Road, Branksome, Dorset, we rang a peal of Grandshire Doubles in 2 hours 10 minutes: Miss F. M. Childs 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshall 3-4, Miss Jessie C. Chick 5-6. F. J. MARSHALLSAY.

11, Exton Road, Bosecombe East, Bournemouth.

SALISBURY.—At St. Martin's, on Sunday, August 8th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *H. A. Roles 1, E. J. Maidment 2, F. L. Harris, R.A.F. 3, L. Harris 4, E. L. Box, R.A.F. 5, H. C. Bond 6, F. W. Romaine (conductor) 7, W. Chalk 8. *First quarter-peal and first attempt.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

A notable feature in the history of ringing and one which for good and evil had a profound influence on the character and development of the art and the Exercise was the matches and prize-ringing meetings which at one time were common all over the country, but especially in the North and the West. The full story of them has not yet been written, and before it can be done it would be necessary to gather together a very large amount of information which lies buried in the pages of old newspapers, and to arrange and study it.

To some people it will seem that the task is not worth undertaking. Prize ringing, they think, was a discreditable phase in the history of the Exercise, and it would be well to forget all about it. That is hardly the right way to look at the matter. History, to be true history, must record the bad as well as the good; and one, as much as the other, has done its share in making us what we are to-day.

Many men will think that there is something strange and indeed repulsive in the idea of competitions and contests being held in churches for money or other prizes. Such things they feel could only happen in conditions when standards were low and discipline was lax. The actual fact, however, is that competitive ringing matches were common events, in varying degree, from the very earliest times until within living memory.

Ringing began, and for long maintained itself, as a sport; at first as a purely athletic sport classed by writers among such 'manly sports' as wrestling and football. Later on, among the best bands, it developed into a much more intellectual pastime, but it did not lose many of the marks and characteristics of its origin. The idea that ringing could be a branch of church work never entered into the heads even of sober and responsible churchmen who fully recognised the part bells had to play in the service of religion.

Thomas Staveley, a lawyer and a man whose sympathies quite clearly were with the High Church party during the closing years of the seventeenth century, wrote a book called 'The History of Churches in England.' In it he had described the ancient and superstitious uses which once attached to bells, and he goes on—'but the memory of these ceremonies being now almost exploded, the bells themselves are still preserved in their modern and proper use, innocently serviceable to ecclesiastical, civil, and recreative purposes. And they are now esteemed part of the church goods and furniture, and it is manifest sacrilege to steal, embezzle, or alienate them.'

The interesting thing about this quotation is that it affords evidence that sober and well instructed Church opinion two hundred years ago recognised that bells might be used not only for religious services, but for secular reasons, and also for purposes of sport. It would perhaps be true to say that during some centuries more bells were cast and hung for recreative purposes than for ecclesiastical and civil purposes.

It did not seem to people in the Middle Ages, or in the centuries following the Reformation, so strange or so wrong, as it would to-day, to use a part of a church, and some of its goods, for sport. Churches were then very much the centre of the social life of the people. The laity largely owned and controlled the fabric of the

buildings and the fittings, which they had to maintain and pay for. And the buildings were used for many other purposes than holding religious services.

A ringing match in the church steeple was no more incongruous to the men of the eighteenth century than a cricket or football match on the village green. All were carried on in the same spirit and by much the same people, nor were there any more objectionable features in the one than in the others. It must be remembered, too, that ringing matches could not have taken place without the active co-operation, or at least the tacit consent of the church authorities, clerical and lay. In the case of the lay authorities, represented by the churchwardens, there was definite and active co-operation. The clergy, as a body, seem to have concerned themselves very little about ringing. It was no business of theirs and, in that tolerant and stationary age, one of the last things they would have wished to do was to interfere with the customs and sports of the common people, or to stir up trouble by attempting unnecessary reforms.

But as the century passed away, a vast change was beginning, which, in time, completely altered the social and religious life of England and had a most profound effect on the ringing Exercise.

This change, which is known as the industrial revolution, was much more violent in the North than elsewhere, and it was in the North that the objectionable features of prize ringing became so much developed that they were a scandal and a disgrace both to the Church and the Exercise. The accounts which have come down to us from the middle of the nineteenth century paint most lurid pictures of drunkenness, disorder, gambling and cheating; and when we have made all necessary allowances for exaggeration, we can understand why the men who founded the territorial associations set their faces against prize ringing in any form, and we may be thankful that they were successful in their efforts to stamp it out.

It would not be fair, however, to deny that prize ringing did have some good results. It helped to keep up a strong interest in ringing, it put a premium on good striking, and it discouraged slovenliness and slackness. The thought that a bad blow or a missed dodge in the course of a three-hour peal might be sufficient to lose his band the prize, could not fail to keep a ringer keen and alert who otherwise would have been inclined to be careless. In London and the Eastern Counties where there was very little prize ringing, men did very well without it, and were foremost both in good striking and in skill and keenness.

The worst features of the prize meetings in the North were due, not to the ringers themselves, but to the men who attended for other reasons than to ring or to listen to the ringing. A most undesirable concomitant was the large amount of betting. It was inevitable in any competitive event and it brought many evils in its train. The lot of a workman in those days was a hard one. He worked long hours and lived in sordid conditions. Drink and betting were almost the only relaxations he had, and we need not wonder if on his scanty holidays he over-indulged himself in them. The ringers were more fortunate than their fellows because they had something to take an interest in. Sunday service ringing was common in the North long before it was permitted in the

rest of the country. Perhaps the reason was not because the church authorities desired it, but because Sunday was the only day on which the ringers generally were free from work.

It was a very general custom, not only in the North but throughout the country, to hold a prize ringing meeting when a new ring of bells was opened. This custom dated from at least the eighteenth century. The arrangements were made by the churchwardens, who issued a circular inviting bands to compete, and stating the amount of the prizes and the conditions of the contest. Some of these circulars are still extant. In 1820 six complete peals were rung in two days at the opening of Chesterfield bells. In 1819, at the opening of Ashton-under-Lyne bells, there were four days' continuous ringing, which included two complete peals, besides touches and peal attempts by fifteen or sixteen different bands. In 1814 the twelve at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, were opened by a prize ringing match and a silver cup and twenty guineas were won by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham. More similar meetings could be mentioned, but the one which at present specially concerns us arose out of the opening of the eight bells at St. Michael's, Flixton, in 1808.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. B. J. TOBY.

The death is announced of Mr. B. J. Toby, of Bridgend, who passed away on August 27th and was buried in the local cemetery on Wednesday, September 1st, his brother ringers acting as bearers. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including a wreath from the Bridgend ringers. Mr. Toby had been in failing health for some time and last rang for service on Christmas Day. During nearly 40 years he had been a ringer at St. Illtyd's and had rung 21 peals for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. He was 69 years of age and leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his passing. A muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to his memory.

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640.				
23456	M	B	W	R
45236	1	—	2	1
23456			1	1
640.				
23456	M	B	W	R
62534		—	2	2
23456	2	—		
640.				
23456	M	B	W	R
64352	1			1
23456	2	—	1	1
640.				
23456	M	B	4th In	R
35264	—			
23456	1	—	—	2
640.				
23456	B	4th In	W	R
23564	—			1
23456		—	—	2
672.				
23456	M	B	W	R
54326	1	—		2
23456				2
672.				
23456	M	B	W	R
25634		—	2	1
23456	2		1	1
672.				
23456	M	B	W	R
62534	2		1	2
23456	2	—		

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Many well-known ringers were present last Saturday at Surfleet on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Enid Richardson, the only child of the popular Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and Mr. Brian Wayman. A peal of Stedman Cinques was rung. Readers will join in congratulations and all good wishes to the happy pair. An account of the ceremony will appear next week.

Inspector Harold Poole, of Leicester, has been selected as one on the 'short list' of applicants for the post of Chief Constable of Peterborough.

Thirty years ago last Friday, Mr. John Segar, of Retford, tapped a peal of Minor in seven Surprise methods. The methods were selected from the 35 Mr. Segar was able to tap. Half of them were Surprise.

On Sunday morning September 6th, 1807, 'the Coventry Youths rang on that Harmonious Peal of Bells at St. Michael's a peal of Tittum Bob Royal, consisting of 6,140 changes.'

The Cambridge University Guild rang the first peal of Little Bob Major on September 8th, 1911, at Brading in the Isle of Wight. Mr. E. Bankes James conducted.

On the same date in 1923 the first twelve-bell peal in Hants was rung at Winchester Cathedral.

William Eversfield, a distinguished ringer and composer, died on September 9th, 1847, at the age of 79.

Henry Law James called a peal of Surfleet Treble Bob Caters at Surfleet on September 9th, 1913.

'A Compleat peal of Five thousand and forty of Gathrine's Triples' was rung at Coddham, in Suffolk, on September 10th, 1741. Theodore Ecclestone rang the treble.

On September 10th, 1898, a peal of Canterbury Pleasure Royal was rung at Bromsgrove. The method is Plain Bob spoiled.

The Christleton ringers of Cheshire rang 5,376 Double Norwich Major on September 11th, 1844.

CONFISCATION OF BELGIAN BELLS.

According to reports published in 'The Daily Telegraph,' Belgium will soon have no church bells left if the present rate of confiscation made by the Germans is continued. The Vatican has protested to the German Government, and resistance is growing in Belgium itself. The Belgian bishops in a protest say: 'It is impossible for us to refrain from publicly voicing our denunciation and condemnation. We solemnly declare that we will exert all our authority to oppose a measure the sole object of which is to convert our bells into weapons of war and instruments of death. It is the first time in the history of Belgium that such desecration has been carried out.'

During the last war there were many tales of Belgian and French bells having been confiscated and used for munitions, but for the most part they proved unfounded. In past centuries it was the custom of all armies (including our own) to treat church bells as legitimate spoils of war.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The remarks of Mr. Lankester are very interesting, and it would be of the utmost value if full information can be got as to the alleged sale of two bells 60 years ago. I have been through our Leicester journals, but beyond mentions of the central lantern tower being dangerous and its ultimate repairing and rebuilding, there is no mention of bells. I am still of the opinion that the late T. North's account is substantially correct and that after 1831 there never were more than five bells. As the dates given are so recent there would certainly be references in the Cathedral records and the local press. Perhaps Mr. Lankester or one of the local ringers can make research and get full evidence.

ERNEST MORRIS.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM FISHER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Fisher, of Coseley, which occurred on August 21st at the age of 64 years. The funeral service was held at Christ Church, Coseley, on August 27th, and was conducted by the Rev. G. R. Garnham, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. C. H. Barker. The body was laid to rest in the churchyard adjoining.

The bearers were Messrs. W. Jeavons, S. Baker, A. Baker and J. D. Holden, members of the local band, and other ringers present were Messrs. N. Leach, B. Horton and F. Holden. The bells were rung half-muffled and on the next day an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but it came to grief after 35 minutes' ringing. Afterwards a quarter-peal was rung by G. Hughes treble, J. D. Holden 2, H. Knight (conductor) 3, J. Cope 4, F. Brotherton 5, S. Baker 6, N. Leach 7, and A. Baker tenor.

Mr. Fisher was attached to the Coseley belfry for more than 40 years and for most of that time was conductor. He rang 302 peals for the Stafford Archdeaconry Society and some for other associations. The list includes Grandsire, Stedman, Oxford Bob, Darlston Bob, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Major and Caters, Superlative, Cambridge, Norfolk, Staffordshire, Bristol and London Surprise. He conducted the only peal of Staffordshire Surprise rung for the society. At one time he was a member of the Central Council.

OUR LOST BELLS.

THE TOLL OF WAR.

During four years of war we have suffered a grievous loss of bells, but when we consider the great number of churches which have been destroyed, we have cause for thankfulness that the number of ringing peals which have perished is not still greater. London has fared the worst, and at present there remain in the City only three churches where the bells can be rung. One ten (St. Magnus'), one six (St. Andrew Undershaft) and one five (St. Bartholomew) have been taken down for safety, and another six (St. Katherine Cree) are safe but unringable.

The following is a list of the destroyed rings. We believe it is complete, but should be glad to receive any additions or corrections:—

CITY OF LONDON.

	No. of Bells
St. Bride's, Fleet Street	12
St. Giles', Cripplegate	12
St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	12
St. Lawrence Jewry	8
St. Stephen's, Coleman Street	8
All Hallows', Barking, Tower Street ...	8
St. Olave's, Hart Street	8
St. Andrew's, Holborn	8
St. Dunstan-in-the-East	8
St. Vedast, Foster Lane	6

EAST LONDON.

St. Mary's, Bow, Stratford	8
St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel	8
St. George-in-the-East	8

WESTMINSTER AND SOUTH LONDON.

St. Clement Danes', Strand	10
St. John's, Horsleydown, Southwark ...	10
St. John's, Kennington	8
Christ Church, Blackfriars Road	8

THE WEST.

Charles Church, Plymouth	10
St. Nicholas', Bristol	10
St. Sidwell's, Exeter	10
Stonehouse	8
St. Peter's, Bristol	8
St. Mary-le-Port, Bristol	8
Clifton Parish Church	8
St. Andrew's, Bath	8
St. James', Bath	8
Clyst, St. George	6

THE NORTH AND THE EAST.

St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth	12
St. Martin's, York	8
Little Horkesley, Essex	5

THE SOUTH AND WALES.

St. Mary's, Southampton	10
Holy Rood, Southampton	8
SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley	8
St. Mary's, Swansea	8

Several other churches have been destroyed, leaving the towers and bells intact. Whether it will be possible to ring the bells in some cases is very doubtful.

DEATH OF MR E. D. BUCKINGHAM.

The death has occurred of Mr. E. D. Buckingham at the age of 64 after an operation at Epping Hospital. He learnt to ring at Thornham Magna in 1896 and rang his first peal there, one of Doubles, in April, 1898. In 1900 he was in the employ of the late R. H. Hayward at Marlesford and rang several peals with him. In 1904 he went as groom to Mount Park, Coggeshall, and was there a number of years. He joined the Coggeshall company and rang several peals of Double Norwich and Surprise with Messrs. D. Elliot and E. Beckwith, and afterwards with Mr. W. Keeble. He then went as groom-gardener to the late Archdeacon Scott at Bradwell-juxta-Braintree, still keeping with the Coggeshall company. He was noted as a very sure ringer and good striker.

He joined up at the beginning of the last war and went to Salonika, where he developed deafness, and, after being discharged from the Army, went to live at Writtle, joining the Writtle company and ringing several peals in the district.

In 1920 he went as head gardener to Canon Paynter, Rector of Springfield, and there he formed and taught a new company. On April 22nd, 1922, he conducted the first peal on the bells. In 1929 Canon Paynter went to live at Blackmore, Mr. Buckingham going with him. His deafness increased and he was so handicapped that he had to abandon ringing altogether, greatly to his regret. However, on Victory Sunday he cycled the 24-mile return journey from Blackmore to Springfield to ring for the morning service.

He kept no record of his peals, but he rang 13 for the Norwich Association and many of Double Norwich and Surprise for the Essex Association.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT EAST ARDSLEY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at East Ardsley on August 28th, when members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Felkirk, Headingley (St. Chad's), Liversedge, Rothwell, Bushey and the local company.

Ringling began soon after 3 o'clock, when the visitors were entertained to tea by the ladies of the local company.

The president took the chair at the business meeting, which was held in the belfry.

A vote of thanks to the ladies was proposed by Mr. J. W. Benteen and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. Pinder acknowledged the vote. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local band was acknowledged by Mr. E. Watson.

Two new members were elected, Mr. P. Woodward, of Felkirk, and Mr. S. Dell, of East Ardsley.

The next meeting will (if possible) be held at Idle on September 25th, and an alteration to the visit to towers list was made after consideration had been given to travelling difficulties. The October meeting will be held at Birstall and the November meeting at Bradford.

DEATH OF MR JOHN WOODBERRY.

A WELL-KNOWN WORCESTERSHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Woodberry, of the St. Mary's, Kidderminster, company, who passed away in his sleep on Sunday, August 29th, after a brief illness, in his eighty-fourth year.

A familiar figure at district and other meetings, he was an active ringer up to the last, and his genial smile and ready greeting will be missed at these gatherings and in his home tower, where, during 50 years, he had a record for Sunday service ringing equalled by few.

As postmaster for Franch, near Kidderminster, for many years, his opportunities for peal ringing were somewhat limited, but he rang 39 peals for the Worcestershire Association. The details of peals for other associations are not available. His last peal was Grand sire Caters at Kidderminster on April 29th, 1939, which was conducted by his son, Mr. Charles H. Woodberry, the present Master of the Dudley Guild. He was then in his eightieth year.

The funeral was at Wolverley on Thursday afternoon, September 2nd, and the large gathering practically filled the church.

Before the burial the bells were rung fully muffled in rounds and a course of Bob Minor, and a course of Grand sire Triples was rung on handbells over the open grave by John Bass 1-2, William Short 3-4, Robert Matthews 5-6, Bernard Ashford 7-8. This was followed by 360 Bob Minor on the tower bells, now half-muffled. The 'whole-pull and stand' was then rung 83 times, followed by a further 360 Bob Minor.

In addition to those who rang at the graveside, the following members of the association were present: Messrs. K. Salter, J. Smith, A. Wright and J. Bennett, of St. Mary's, Kidderminster, C. Skidmore (Brierley Hill), and J. William Smith (Stourbridge).

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COTGRAVE.

The quarterly meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association at Cotgrave on August 28th was well supported, 60 members and friends sitting down to tea, arranged by Mr. Walter White, of Cotgrave.

A short service was held at 4.30, the address being given by the president of the association, Canon Wilkinson, who took as his text, 'Go ye forth abroad and make disciples,' a most apt quotation for a ringing cleric to enlarge on, which he did in a manner which appealed to all.

Four new ringing members and one honorary member were elected.

Long Eaton was selected for the next quarterly meeting in November, with Eastwood for the October meeting and Radcliffe for December. The secretary reminded the members of the Newark meeting on September 25th, and hoped for a good attendance. Votes of thanks to those who had made the meeting a success concluded the business.

Methods were rung from Grand sire Doubles to Cambridge Minor, including one touch of Bob Minor, in which Nottingham, Leicester, Devonshire and Kent were represented.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Allow me, sir, to applaud your leading article of 'The Ringing World' dated August 27th. I, for one, would go further and say omit all reports of meetings from your pages, except, perhaps, those of annual general meetings. After all, when all is said and done, to those that have attended a particular meeting, a report is superfluous, whilst to those that were absent a report is of little interest.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Grove, N.W.9.

[Reports of meetings have an interest for some readers, and we have no intention of suppressing them or curtailing them beyond the elimination of superfluous words and matter.—THE EDITOR, 'The Ringing World'.]

BELGIAN AND DUTCH CARILLONS.

AN ENGLISH MUSICIAN'S OPINION.

Readers of 'The Ringing World' will probably remember Dr. Charles Burney from the reference to the 'Tintinnaloga' in his 'History of Ringing,' and also as the man who preserved John Jenkins' 'Five Bell Consorte.' In his time (that is during the latter half of the eighteenth century) he was an important person in musical and literary circles. On two occasions he made an extensive tour on the Continent in search of material for his great history, and during the second, which took place in 1772, he had considerable experience of carillons and carillon playing.

At Ghent he went up the belfry to examine the bells and machinery and watch the carillonneur at his job. He found him 'in his shirt with collar unbuttoned and in a violent sweat.' Performances were given on four days a week from 11.30 until mid-day. Burney acknowledged the skill of the performer, but the whole affair was only 'a Gothic invention and perhaps a barbarous taste, which neither the French, the English, nor the Italians have imitated or encouraged. The notes of one passage run into the next, and everything is rendered so inarticulate and confused as to occasion a very disagreeable jargon.' The tunes played mechanically by the clock were, in his opinion, very tiresome 'for night and day to hear the same tune played every hour during six months, in such a stiff and unalterable manner, requires that kind of patience which nothing but a total absence of taste can produce.'

At Louvain was a certain Monsieur Kennis, a fine violinist. 'The solos he writes for his own instrument and hand are so difficult that no one hereabouts attempts them but himself, except M. Shippen, the Carillonneur, who lately, piqued by the high reputation of M. Kennis, laid a wager that he would execute upon the bells one of his most difficult solos, to the satisfaction of judges appointed to determine the matter in dispute; and he gained not only his wager, but great honour by his success in so difficult an enterprise.'

Dr. Burney visited Munich, Vienna, Leipzig and Berlin. He returned by way of Hamburg and Amsterdam. At Groningen 'I again found myself in a country of carillons. I had indeed heard some slight attempts made at Bremen, but in this place every half hour is measured by chimes.'

At Amsterdam Burney was introduced to M. Pothoff, the blind organist at Oude Kerk. 'He was deprived of his sight at seven years by the smallpox and this misfortune first suggested to his friends the thought of making music, which hitherto had afforded him no pleasure, his profession, and it afterwards became his darling amusement.' He was the carillonneur of the town and took Dr. Burney up the tower of the Stad-huys while he performed. 'It is a drudgery unworthy of such a genius; he has had this employment however for

many years, having been elected to it at thirteen. He had very much astonished me on the organ, after all I had heard in the rest of Europe; but in playing those bells his amazing dexterity raised my wonder still higher; for he executed with his two hands passages that would be very difficult to play with ten fingers.

'He began with a psalm tune with which their High Mightinesses are chiefly delighted, and which they require at his hands whenever he performs, which is on Tuesdays and Fridays. He next played variations upon the psalm tune with great fancy and even taste. When he had performed this task he was so obliging as to play a quarter of an hour extempore in such a manner as he thought would be more agreeable to me than psalmody.

'But surely this was a barbarous invention, and there is barbarity in the continuance of it. If M. Pothoff had been put into Dr. Dominicetti's hottest human cauldron for an hour, he could not have perspired more violently than he did after a quarter of an hour of this furious exercise. He stripped to his shirt, put on his night cap, and trussed up his sleeves for this execution; and he said he was forced to go to bed the instant it was over, in order to prevent his catching cold as well as to recover himself, he being usually so much exhausted as to be utterly unable to speak.

'By the little attention that is paid to this performer, extraordinary as he is, it should seem as if some hewer of wood and drawer of water whose coarse constitution and gross habit of body required frequent sudorifics would do the business equally to the satisfaction of such unskilful and unfeeling hearers.'

'Besides these carillons à clavier, the chimes here, played by clockwork, are much appreciated. The brass cylinder on which the tunes are set, weighs 4,474 pounds, and has 7,200 iron studs fixed on it, which, in the rotation of the cylinder, give motion to the clappers of the bells. If their High Mightinesses' judgment, as well as taste, had not failed them, for half the cost of this expensive machine and its real charge for repairs, new setting, and constant attendance, they might have had one of the best bands in Europe. But those who can be charmed with barrel music, certainly neither want nor deserve better.

'This is truly the country of chimes; every quarter of an hour a tune is played by them at all the churches; but so indistinctly, on account of the confluence of sounds, that I was seldom able to discover what was played. There is scarce a church belonging to the Calvinists in Amsterdam without its chimes, which not only play the same tunes every quarter of an hour for three months together without being changed; but by the difference of clocks one has scarce five minutes' quiet in the four and twenty hours. In a few days' time I had so thorough a surfeit of them, that in as many months, I really believe, if they had not first deprived me of hearing, I should have hated music in general.'

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 387.)

The most striking incident in the 'battle of styles' since the publication of Thomas C. Lewis' protest, was the attempt to prevent the recasting of the ring at Coventry Cathedral in 1926. The bells of St. Michael's, Coventry, for long enjoyed a very high reputation, and it was at one time usual to class them among the three best tens in England. It must be remembered that their reputation depended almost entirely on tradition, for in the year 1885 it was decided that the safety of the tower and spire did not permit any further ringing, and the bells were hung dead for chiming only. In 1926 there were few men who had ever really heard the bells, and no importance can be attached to vague memories forty years old. Still there is every reason to believe that the bells had earned and deserved their reputation. They were cast by Pack and Chapman just before the Mancroft ring, and they hung in a lofty tower.

When they were taken to the foundry, as might have been expected, they revealed many defects. The overtones were a mass of unrelated discords, and generally the bells not only failed to reach even approximately the five-tone standard but did not reach the standard laid down by T. C. Lewis, which some have supposed was the standard of the old founders and tuners.

The answer to this might have been that how the bells sounded in the foundry, and whether the overtones were correct or not, was, for the people of Coventry, of very little importance. What mattered was how the bells sounded in the steeple, and they had, through many years, shown themselves to be, not merely a satisfactory ring, but one of outstanding merit. This, in effect, was the answer given to a suggestion to retune Painswick bells. But, in the case of Coventry, it was not equally convincing. The conditions which made St. Michael's bells such a fine ring had passed away and would not return. They were cast and tuned to be a ringing peal and would ring no more.

There can hardly be a doubt in the mind of anyone that, as chimes and for the purposes of tune playing, modern bells are altogether superior to old style bells. It is a great pity that the famous old Coventry ring has been lost to the Exercise, but it happened when the bells were hung dead for chiming. As a ringing peal they might have been preferred by some men to any modern bells; but, as things actually are, the people of Coventry undoubtedly are much better off than they would have been if the bells had not been recast.

Those who are specially interested in bell tuning should read a little book by Mr. Cyril F. Johnston entitled 'The Antiquary, the Bellfounder, and the Church,' which deals with the question clearly and authoritatively from the point of view of a modern founder. There are also two small books by Mr. E. Alexander Young — 'Bell Tones and How to Observe Them,' and 'English Bells and their Tuning'—in which the case for the old style bells is forcibly put.

So far as the general public is concerned (and that includes ringers as a body) there need not be any controversy between old and new style tuning, for tuning is not an end in itself, but only a means to an end; and that end is to produce bells which will delight and satisfy the hearer. Correct tuning is much more important in

the case of carillon bells and bells used for chiming tunes than it is for ringing peals. In carillon music there is a definite air which attracts the attention of the ear and necessitates conscious listening on the part of the hearer. Each note is of definite value and must be in proper tune or the air is spoilt. In change ringing there is no air, and the hearer seldom listens to the bells in the sense that he listens to music.

The charm and attraction of ringing bells lies in the mysterious power they have of forming a background to a man's thoughts, of awakening memories, and stirring emotions. Many years ago we were talking to the late John W. Taylor, who had just returned from a visit to France. He had been to Paris and on his way back stopped at Rouen to hear the big bell there. We asked him what he thought of it, and his reply was, 'It made me feel religious.' That was a striking and a significant reply, especially from a bellfounder.

For single bells and for ringing bells perhaps the most important quality is that elusive and indescribable thing we call tone. It seems to be independent of harmonies, for many old bells have it whose overtones most certainly are discordant, and the peculiarly attractive qualities of the best Rudhall or Thomas Mears bells are not found in modern bells. These, however, have their own attractive qualities, and there is no absolute standard in the matter. The standards of artistic taste change from age to age, and the younger generations will probably expect from bells something rather different from what their forefathers did. In any case it would be foolish for a modern bellfounder to go back to the old unscientific style of tuning on the chance that, by some luck, he might produce another Painswick or Mancroft ring.

(Concluded.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. F. Judge (conductor) 1, *Miss Valhalla Hill 2, W. L. B. Leese 3, W. Judge 4, J. Malins 5, J. E. Judge 6, G. Caudwell 7, A. Lambourn 8. *First quarter-peal.

GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE.—On Sunday, August 29th, at All Saints' Parish Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Tilston 1, G. Williams 2, L.-Cpl. Ann Goddard 3, R. Sperring (conductor) 4, A. Newhall 5, J. Randles 6, T. R. Griffiths 7, R. Jarvis 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, August 29th, 720 Bob Minor on back eight with 6-8 covering: *Miss K. Brooks 1, *Lieut. W. F. Gibbons, R.E.M.E. 2, *G. Dodds 3, S. Croft 4, F. D. Bishop 5, H. Brooks 6. Capt. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E. (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8. *First 720.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Whitby 1, V. Tipton 2, S. Clark 3, J. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, S. Carter 6, F. Bird (conductor) 7, B. Copping 8.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. T. Petty 1, W. H. Evans 2, E. T. Bailey 3, J. E. Spice 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. W. Wright 6, D. R. James 7, D. Hughes 8. Ring half-muffled for Mr. B. J. Toby, who died on August 27th.

FOXEARH, ESSEX.—On Saturday, September 4th, 720 Bob Minor: Samuel Twitchett 1, Mrs. L. Wright 2, P. Gridley 3, Gnr. N. Hough 4, A. Maxim 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6. Also a 720 Kent Treble Bob by P. Gridley 1, A. Maxim 2, Gnr. N. Hough 3, L. Wright 4, S. Twitchett 5, J. W. Jennings (conductor) 6.

HAVERHILL.—On Sunday, Sept. 5th, 720 Bob Minor: Peter Carter (first 720) 1, F. Making 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, Gnr. Norman Hough 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

PUTNEY.—On Sunday, September 5th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. T. Elson 1, E. Cassell 2, J. Herbert 3, E. Bilby 4, A. Williams 5, W. Malins (conductor) 6, H. G. Miles 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

DARLINGTON.—At St. John's, on Sunday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Lindsey 1, A. Coates 2, A. West 3, H. Taylor 4, F. Newton (conductor) 5, T. Hill 6, L. Venus 7. Ring by the combined members of St. John's and St. Cuthbert's, who have combined to ring alternately at both towers.

WONSTON, HANTS.—On Sunday, September 5th, 960 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. W. R. Melville 1, Nesta Smith 2, W. R. Melville 3, G. Smith 4, E. Warner 5, R. Smith (conductor) 6.

NEED FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.**CRITICISM AND ADVICE.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Whilst travelling up and down the country I have taken every opportunity of ringing at various centres widely separated, and have come to the conclusion that it is high time that we ringers as a body bucked up our ideas and greatly improved the standard of our performances, not from the point of view of methods so much, but of striking and regular attendance, *to time*, at practices and for Sunday service ringing.

Although certain individual towers may regularly turn out good ringing, the average is a poor show, compared with what it could be if everyone made the maximum possible effort.

We have not a lot to pat ourselves on the back for. There is still too much indifference to striking, too much practising done on a Sunday, too many absentees and latecomers, too little effort made towards regular week-night practices, too little co-operation between some ringers in the same tower and between neighbouring towers. In short, in spite of the brake necessarily applied by war-time conditions, too much apathy, too much selfishness, too many thinking what can be got out of ringing instead of what can be put into it. It is our duty to give our best always and, if necessary, inconvenience ourselves to be present and help the rest of the team.

In spite of the difficulties due to the war, a much greater effort is need and is possible. It is no use waiting until after the war to make a real general effort.

More youngsters must be properly taught, ringers must attend more regularly and punctually, and we must greatly raise the standard of what is generally regarded as good enough for service ringing.

Competent ringers who consider that the ringing at their tower is satisfactory must not leave it at that. They must go to other towers and help them, if they need and desire help, at their practices, and so help to get all the bells going and teach new ringers on a much greater scale than ever before.

Well-struck call changes are better than badly struck methods, and well-struck Plain Bob better than badly struck advanced methods. Nevertheless, bands which are capable should always endeavour to improve their 'method' standard as well as striking, but striking comes first.

In conclusion, let us all put our backs to the wheel, pull the wool from over our eyes and realise that at present our efforts leave much to be desired. Let us get down to the job now and produce results worthy of the traditions and the bells of this country.

'RINGER IN THE SERVICES.'**H.M.S. 'RENOWN,'****GIFT OF HANDBELLS.**

On Thursday, September 2nd, the ringers of Leicester Cathedral met in the choir vestry to hand to the Bishop of Leicester a set of eight handbells, which are to be presented to H.M.S. 'Renown,' Leicester's adopted warship. The Bishop had been asked by the chaplain of 'Renown' to aid in obtaining a set of handbells for use in the ship, as there were ringers among the crew. An appeal to the Cathedral company met with a ready response, and a set of eight, made as good as new by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., is the result. A brass plate on the box is inscribed, 'Eight Bells, H.M.S. "Renown."'

The bells were handed to the Bishop by Inspector Harold Poole, who said it had been a pleasure to carry out the request, and thanked those who had helped in the various stages of the work.

Accepting the bells on behalf of the officers and men of 'Renown,' the Bishop said he hoped they, as well as the bells of the Cathedral, would before long be ringing to celebrate peace. He read the letter he proposed to send. A message of good wishes from the ringers was also sent, with hopes that the bells would prove of good use and give pleasure to those who rang and heard them.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED set of small handbells (6 or 8). Tenor about size 12.—H. Means, 303, Norwich Road, Wisbech, Cambs. Phone Wisbech 516.

WEDDING.

At St. Lawrence's Church, Surfleet, on Saturday, Sept. 4th, Ashley Joseph Brian, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Teddington, Middlesex, to Enid Mary, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs have removed to The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 11th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at All Saints', West Bromwich, Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Quarterly meeting at Eastrington on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (6) from 2 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. each) at 5 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Turner's Hill, September 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Mrs. Pollard, Forge House, Turner's Hill, Sussex.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring sandwiches. Cups of tea and cakes provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fakenham on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting 4.45. Tea at Corner Cafe, Oak Street, 5.15. Trains leave Norwich Thorpe 12, Norwich City 1.45; leave Fakenham for Norwich 6.25.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Moorside, Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bring own food.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Shrivenham on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Great Gaddesden on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Bring own food. Buses from Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at East Ilsley Saturday, September 11th. Service 4.30 p.m., tea 5 p.m. Ringing before and after service.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, September 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Benington on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30. Names for tea by Sept. 13th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., and tea to follow for those who notify me by the previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch. — Meeting at Haddenham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 10th.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m. Names for tea must reach Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, Wakefield, by Sept. 15th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting at Northaw on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided at the Hut. Buses from Potter's Bar Garage every 30 minutes.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Wolvey, Saturday Sept. 18th. Bells (6) during afternoon and evening. Tea in Village Hall, 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Meeting at Ramsbury on Sept. 18th. Bells (6) open 2.45. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Sept. 14th. — T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, near Marlborough, Wilts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice, Finchampstead (6 bells) on Saturday, Sept. 18th, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Horsham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells at 3 p.m. Efforts will be made to arrange tea for those who advise me by Sept. 13th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. Clement on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5. Bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western Division. — Meeting at Lyminster on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4, followed by tea and meeting at the Vicarage. Names for tea must be sent by Sept. 14th to L. Stilwell, Acting Hon. Sec., Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. All requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Hutchison, Market Place, Ripley, by Sept. 15th. — W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual district meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who notify Mr. H. R. French, Lamorbey, Sturry, near Canterbury, by Wednesday, Sept. 15th. Nominations for officers must reach me not later than Sept. 16th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Witham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Annual Meeting at Clent, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., Lytton Hall. Names for tea by Sept. 16th to Mr. A. Crane, Parame, London Road, Knebworth.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Uttoxeter on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. to all who notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, before Sept 14th.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — Meeting at Great Waltham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) during afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Tea and business afterwards. Numbers for tea before Sept. 15.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Enderley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8). Ringing 3 p.m. Tea in School for those who notify me by Sept. 15th.—H. D. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at Bispham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Burrington on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at North Wingfield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea for those who notify Mr. W. Wain, South View, Church Lane, North Wingfield.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Practices will be discontinued until further notice. Sunday ringing at 10.15 a.m.—W. T. Elson.

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