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QUARTER PEALS.

The merit of peal ringing is that it sets before the Exercise a standard and a task which demand the best that is in a ringer. Skill is needed and knowledge, patience and concentration, team spirit and co-operation with others. These are things worth cultivating for their own sakes; and, besides them, peal ringing has a definite value because it supplies the best means a ringer can have of perfecting himself in his art.

It is the simple truth that the best ringing ever done is during peals. When the band is a skilled one, and every man a good striker and trying to do his best, the bells will settle down to a beat and a rhythm which reveals how good bell music can be, and which is hardly possible even under the most favourable circumstances when courses and short touches only are rung.

There are many ringers who hardly ever have a first-class opportunity of appreciating the niceties of really good striking, and therefore, if we hold (as many people do) that the chief object of change ringing is Sunday service ringing and to ensure that the bells should best be used in the service of the Church and of religion, we shall value peal ringing because it is the best means by which the quality of service ringing can be raised and maintained. Experience has abundantly proved this.

But peal ringing is not for everyone, especially under present conditions. Bands must be got together, and permission to ring must be obtained, and neither is very easy. It behoves us, therefore, to see if we cannot find some substitute for peal ringing more suitable for war time, which will at least give ringers an opportunity of producing the best ringing they are capable of. The best substitute is perhaps the more frequent ringing of quarter-peals.

The advantage of a quarter-peal is that it is just long enough to fit in with the time usually allotted to a meeting for service ringing. By the time the bells are raised, the quarter-peal rung, and the bells ceased, the full hour has been occupied. The task set the ringers is enough to call for their best efforts, and if they have it in them they have the opportunity of showing how well they can ring. The conductor, too, has a chance of exercising his ability, which is not afforded by short and usually familiar touches. It would be well, then, if the practice of ringing quarter-peals for Sunday service was more generally adopted.

But there are difficulties which must not be lost sight of. A quarter-peal on a Sunday requires much the same sort of arranging as a peal does. The band must be

(Continued on page 426.)

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selected and, generally speaking, the most suitable men picked. That means, if there are more than just the bare band attached to the belfry, that some members must be temporarily excluded. Here is where discretion and tact are needed. It is unfortunately the fact that in some towers there are ringers whose keenness is not great, who are inclined to turn up when they think they will, and often perhaps late. That sort of man is very apt to take offence if, when he arrives at the church, he finds an attempt being made for a quarter-peal and for him no chance of a pull. Likely enough he will go away with a grievance and will be seen no more for a season.

It is easy to say that such men are not worth considering, but that attitude does not always pay. And most captains and bands do not wish to offend anyone, not even those who show least consideration for their fellows.

A good way out of the difficulty would be to fix a definite recurring time—say, one Sunday in each month—when a quarter-peal will be attempted and give everyone in turn a chance to take part. If something of that sort can be done, quarter-peals may play an important part in increasing the interest and raising the quality of ringing.

SIX BELL PFAL.

EARDISLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 19, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 13 cwt.

*E. PETER ROCK Treble	A. BRIAN ELLSMORE, R.A.F. 4
TREVOR EVANS 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
*LAWRENCE T. MAINWARING 3	*S. T. GWYNNE PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal. Rung as a farewell to E. P. Rock on his departure for Aberystwyth College.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5041 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ISAAC J. ATTWATER 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 11 in G.

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

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM.—At St. Thomas' on September 12th for thanksgiving service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lawton 1, J. Ogden 2, C. B. Taylor 3, I. Garside 4, *J. Brooks 5, J. W. Truelove 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, L. Brooks 8. * First quarter-peal.

OLD WHITTINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Thanksgiving Day, September 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: G. Lawrence 1, S. Scattergood (conductor) 2, *F. Gibbons 3, D. Culling 4, J. G. Newman 5. * First quarter-peal.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Fakenham on September 11th, when 22 members attended from Acle, Bergh Apton, Fakenham, Leverington, Mulbarton, Norwich, Sculthorpe, Salisbury, Sheringham, Snettisham, Terrington St. John and Wymondham. Methods up to Double Norwich and Cambridge Major were rung. The Rector, Dr. Morison, preached at the service and welcomed the ringers to Fakenham again.

At the business meeting the general secretary said that, in response to various suggestions, he was arranging a series of practice meetings (without service or business meeting in some cases) on Saturday afternoon, to keep interest alive when black-out makes practice nights too difficult to arrange. The dates and places in view at the moment were Blofield on September 18th, Ranworth on September 25th, Scotow on October 9th, and Norwich (probably St. Miles' and Man-croft) on September 23rd.

The Blofield meeting was duly held on September 18th and was most successful, 24 ringers attending from Blofield, Burlingham, Haddiscoe, Kingston-on-Thames, Mulbarton, Norton, West Norwood, Norwich, Ranworth, Wroxham, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth. The six bells were rung in various methods up to Cambridge Surprise. Tea was very kindly provided by the Rector, Canon Shillito, and as members brought their own food there was interesting variety in this direction.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

A meeting of the East Grinstead Guild was held at Turner's Hill on September 11th, when 20 members attended from Balcombe, Cuckfield, Crawley, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Lindfield, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield and West Grinstead, with Mr. Clarke, Three Bridges, and Mr. G. Cecil. At the business meeting one new member was elected, and East Grinstead was fixed for the November meeting. Ringing from rounds to Cambridge Major was enjoyed till 8 p.m.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Clent on September 18th. Sixty-four members and friends had arrived by tea time, and upwards of eighty were there altogether.

Clent having recently lost its Vicar by death, the service was conducted by Mr. A. L. Homer, of the Diocesan Guild of Lay Readers, who gave an excellent address. The organist and choir were present and an excellent service resulted.

At the business meeting the retiring officers were reappointed, and eleven new members belonging to Rowley Regis were elected. It was decided to hold monthly meetings at Wollaston and Brierley Hill on October 23rd and November 27th, and the next quarterly meeting at Stourbridge on January 15th.

The ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT STANFORD-LE-HOPE.**

About 40 members of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association were present at a meeting at Stanford-le-Hope on September 11th. They came from Dagenham, Romford, Fobbing, Orsett, Chelmsford, Broomfield, Woodford, Wanstead and the local band.

Several touches were rung until 4.15, when the Rev. H. Watson, the Vicar of Mucking, conducted service, and an interesting address was given by Mr. Allen. Tea and the business meeting followed, with the Rev. H. Watson in the chair.

Mr. Chalk said he was pleased to see such a good gathering. He spoke of the death of one of the members, Mr. Buckingham, of Blackmore Mrs. Wiltshire, of Fobbing, was elected a member. It was proposed that the next meeting should be held at Barking at the end of October. Mr. Heazel expressed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. H. Watson, the organist and to Mr. Howell for what he had done to make the meeting successful.

A collection during the service for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 13s. 11d.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NEWARK.**

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Newark on September 25th, the eve of the commemoration of the Battle of Britain. Canon Parkinson welcomed the early comers and showed great interest in the ringing. The first attempt, a well-struck touch of Stedman Caters, was followed by a course of Cambridge Royal, the first by a number of the band since the ban was imposed. Plain Bob, Little Bob, London and Stedman followed with varying degrees of success, and ringing continued until 7.30.

About 40 ringers attended from many of the towers in the Nottingham district and from Derby, Lincoln, Grimsby, Handsworth and Sheffield. Even if some did have to walk the latter stages of their homeward journey it was worth it, for they knew they had lost their last bus when they voted their thanks to Canon Parkinson and the local ringers.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT RIPLEY.**

A very successful meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ripley on September 18th and was attended by about 44 members.

After ringing during the afternoon Mr. A. Hutchison entertained the ringers to tea, and at the business meeting which followed, the Vicar, the Rev. H. P. Hargreaves, occupied the chair. Five of the local company were elected members of the association, and it was decided to hold the next meeting on October 23rd at Derby Cathedral.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and to Mr. A. Hutchison was proposed by Mr. F. G. Bradley, president of the Preston District of the Lancashire Association.

The methods rung included Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Double Norwich, Duffield, Treble Bob, Spiced Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major, as well as rounds and queens for the beginners.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CANTERBURY.**

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held on Saturday, September 18th, and 42 members attended, representing three districts of the association and 16 towers.

The first part of the meeting was at St. Stephen's, where ringing was carried on in various methods until 4.15, when service in the church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. R. Barnes, Mr. Masters being at the organ.

Tea was at the Rose Inn, Sturry, and those who had no cycles were conveyed in taxis provided by Mr. H. R. French. At the business meeting the Rector was in the chair. The secretary's report and balance sheet were read and adopted, the present secretary (Mr. B. J. Luck) was re-elected, and Mr. S. P. Masters was elected Ringing Master. For the offices of representatives three names were nominated: Mr. H. R. French (Sturry), Mr. J. W. Unwin (Canterbury) and Mr. C. Turner (Dover), the resulting ballot going in favour of the two former. Whitstable was chosen for the next meeting and Wingham for the summer meeting.

Thanks were passed to the Rector and to Mr. French for what he had done to make the afternoon a success.

The bells of Sturry Church were open to the members during the evening and good use was made of them until 8 p.m.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.**MEETING AT WEST BROMWICH.**

A meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at All Saints', West Bromwich, on Saturday, September 11th, at which between 40 and 50 members were present.

A variety of methods were rung during the afternoon and evening. In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar (the Rev. A. S. Talbot), the service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Barker, and an address was given by the Rev. Frank Jones, Vicar of Christ Church, West Bromwich. Cups of tea were supplied and served by the wives of local ringers, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Peart.

The next meeting was provisionally arranged to take place at Willenhall on April 22nd, and a practice will be held at St. Bartholomew's, Wednesbury, on Saturday, October 9th, at 3 p.m.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT EXETER.**

Over thirty members were present at a meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, held at Exeter on September 17th. Among those present were Mr. E. J. Ryall, the chairman, Mr. T. Laver (general treasurer of the Guild), Mr. Gardner, Mr. E. J. Biffin, Mr. Glass, Mr. T. Bartlett, Mr. Selley and Mr. Pook.

Service in the Church of St. Mary Major was conducted by the Rev. M. V. Narracott, Vicar of St. Sidwell's, and tea was served at Western's Cafe.

At the business meeting an apology for absence was received from Prebendary E. V. Cox, the president of the Guild, and the memory of two members who had passed away was honoured. Mr. Richardson was for many years the Ringing Master of the branch and a member of the St. Sidwell's band. At 76 he set out to turn in St. Sidwell's tenor (25 cwt.) to a peal of Kent.

Mr. C. R. Lilley had a wider career and was well known. He rang his first peal for the Guild, one of Double Norwich, on the then new Heavitree bells on October 7th, 1901. He rang 156 peals for the Guild on tower bells, of which he conducted 100, and 24 on handbells, which he also conducted.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed for December 11th at St. Edmund's, Exeter.

Capt. W. J. Rawlings, the Rev. E. E. J. Gover and Mr. Hele, of St. David's, with Messrs. W. H. Wills, E. G. Drew and Eric Filley, of St. Thomas', were elected members.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. M. V. Narracott and the organist.

The towers of St. David's, St. Thomas' and Heavitree were visited during the afternoon.

A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

(Continued from page 419.)

The meeting at Flixton affords an excellent example of prize ringing at its best and at its worst. As a match between two bands there was little in it to find fault with. Both companies were keen and skilful; both were striving to win the match on merit; and, though the money prize was an additional incentive, that was not their main object. Every precaution was taken to ensure that the contest should be a fair one; the judges and umpire were fully competent and above suspicion; and, apart from the miscall, there was no suggestion that there was any foul play or attempt at it.

The quality of the ringing was excellent. There probably have not been many occasions on which Holt's Ten-part has been better rung than in the eight practice peals and the two in the match. It may not be a good thing for ringing to be so fast as these were, but the quick time is itself a proof that the ringing was regular and there were no trips or hesitancy among the ringers.

Nor is there any suggestion that the behaviour of the outside crowd was anything but proper. It is hardly likely that the scenes would be approved of nowadays. A lot of Lancashire working men, out for a holiday in the early days of the nineteenth century, could not be expected to behave like a Victorian Sunday parade in Hyde Park, but there is no reason to suppose that there were any disorderly scenes, so long as the bells were actually ringing, such as we have been told disgraced prize ringing meetings on too many occasions. What happened on the way home to Ashton is another matter.

We may take it that everybody concerned, and the general public as well, looked on the match as a first-class sporting event, carried out in a thoroughly sportsmanlike spirit. The fact that Ralph Wright, the magistrate, sent the losers a consolation of ten guineas, shows that the gentry sympathised with the lower orders in their liking for these matches, and saw nothing amiss in the fact that they took place in a church steeple.

So much we must freely admit; but there is another, and not nearly so pleasant, side to the incident. It does not concern the ringers themselves so much as the outsiders, but the ringers are not wholly free. There certainly was, as a direct result of this and other prize-ringing meetings, between the Oldham band and the Ashton band, a feeling, not merely of keen rivalry, but of bitterness and personal dislike. That feeling may be attributed almost entirely to the money prize. We said the two bands contended for the victory and not for the prize, and that undoubtedly is true, but the loss or gain of (to them) so large a sum of money as forty guineas was enough to prevent the bands from treating the match as a purely sporting event in which both parties could do their best and get all the satisfaction they needed by letting the best side win the prize.

But a money prize (provided it was not too large) need not, in the circumstances of the times, have led to anything objectionable. It was the betting of outsiders—supporters and backers they called themselves—which caused the abuses. We do not venture to express any opinions on the morality of betting on sporting events. It has existed in this country in all ages, and it would have been impossible to hold a meeting in 1808, like that at Flixton, without some betting. Nor may this present

generation, when vast sums of money are lost and won in every normal year on football pools, horse racing and dog racing, criticise the men of a century and a half ago, who betted on ringing matches.

But it was the betting which caused the trouble at Flixton, and that raises, the question: Did Jonathan Wild sell the match?

We do not know much about John Travis, but what we do know leads us to suspect that he would not have been above arranging for one side or the other to lose the match, if it could be done safely. He may have approached Wild with a very tempting bribe, and Wild, who was a poor man and apparently a harmless, inoffensive person with no great strength of character, may have fallen. If he did, there is no great reason to judge him hardly. Whether or no Travis and Wild had agreed that the Ashton peal should be lost, they could not have played Travis' game better than they did. Wild acted so that, though the peal was definitely lost, the outsiders knew nothing about it until the last moment, and Travis had made every arrangement so that he could know the minute the miscall was made, and take full advantage of the ample time which was given him to arrange his betting.

But it must be remembered that the charge against Wild was based on nothing more than suspicion. Nobody ever claimed to have proved anything, and Wild to the last protested his innocence. He had a habit in after years of throwing his cap on the ground and crying out, 'Sithee, if ah sowd um ah hope my hed may drop in my hat!'

We may very well believe him, for there is nothing he did which might not have been done by an innocent man, and whether the match was sold or not was of no great importance to the Exercise at the time, and is of still less importance now. What was of importance was that it could have been sold. It was the fact that there was the possibility of foul play, and always the suspicion of foul play, which brought a bad spirit into prize ringing and poisoned the relations between ringer and ringer and band and band. Allegations were freely made of attempts to influence the judges or tamper with ropes and bearings; and whether they were well founded or not, they did much harm.

Fortunately prize ringing ceased to have much attraction for outsiders as sporting events to bet on. In that it was like cricket, and for the same reason. At the time of the Flixton ringing match there was a lot of betting done on cricket; now there is little more than there is on peal ringing. The cause is the rise and development of the professional bookmaker. For his purposes neither a game of cricket nor a match between two peal-ringing bands is a suitable event. Horse races and suchlike events, where there are many starters, are what suits him. Even football can only be made a suitable medium for professional betting when elaborate systems, comprising many matches, are worked out. We are well rid of any betting in our art. It was only in the prize ringing of the North that it existed to any extent, and there only for a time.

Whatever we may think of the Lancashire prize ringing, and especially of that by the Oldham and Ashton companies, it is certainly the fact that the existence of two of Lancashire's rings of twelve is directly due to the spirit which promoted the matches and the public in-

terest they aroused. In 1819 a new ring of ten from Whitechapel was hung in Ashton steeple, and the bells were opened by a touch of 719 changes of Grandsire Caters by the local band and conducted by Samuel Moss, who had rung the third at Flixton and since had taken Jonathan Wild's position as conductor.

Then followed four full days of ringing which included two complete peals of Grandsire Caters, five unsuccessful attempts for Grandsire Caters, two attempts for Stedman Caters, one for Kent Treble Bob Royal, one for Kent Treble Bob Major, three for Grandsire Triples, as well as some touches and a 720 on the back six. These were all by visiting bands who were competing for prizes.

The band which won the prize was a mixed one made up of distinguished ringers from all parts of the country, a most unusual thing in those days. It included Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, who conducted, Stephen Hill, Joseph Riley, and Samuel Lawrence, who rang many peals with the Birmingham men and elsewhere, Thomas Hurry, of Norwich, and William Woodhead, the Wakefield conductor, who called the first peals of Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Royal ever rung. The band rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, and the meeting was closed by another peal of Grandsire Caters rung by the local company. Five of the band had taken part in the Flixton match.

The mixed band had two men to the tenor, but Jacob Ogden, of Ashton, who was in his 61st year, rang it single handed. Robert Southey, then Poet Laureate, refers to him in his book, 'The Doctor': 'James Ogden was interred with honours at Ashton-under-Lyne in the year of this present writing, 1827. His remains were borne to the grave by the ringers of St. Michael's tower in that town, with whom he had rung the tenor bell for

more than fifty years, and with whom he performed the unprecedented feat of ringing five thousand on that bell (which weighed 28 cwt.) in his sixty-seventh year. After the funeral his old companions rang a dead peal for him of 828 changes, that being the number of the months of his life. Such in England are the funeral honours of bell-ringers.'

The Oldham men were one of the competing teams at the Ashton opening. They rang 4,680 Grandsire Caters, and then their tenor man gave up. John Powell Powell, the squire of Quex Park, was present at this opening.

Ashton bells were increased to twelve in 1871. In the year after the Flixton meeting the Oldham men rang 15,120 Bob Major on their own bells. Joseph Newton composed and called it, and five others of the Flixton band took part. Twelve years later they rang 14,016 Kent Treble Bob Major, Newton again calling, and with three others of the Flixton band. In 1825 Newton composed and called 9,999 Grandsire Major, but he was the only one of the Flixton band who stood in that peal.

As a result of the interest created in Oldham by this talented company, a new ring of twelve bells was hung in the steeple in 1830, and the first peal on them, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung by the local band. Joseph Newton again conducted, and so he did when in 1832 the Oldham men rang 7,392 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and beat the peal the Birmingham men had rung in 1820. Two of the Flixton men besides him took part in it.

(Concluded.)

BIRMINGHAM.—At Bishop Ryder Memorial Church on Sunday, September 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Wilfred E. Box 1, Henry H. Fearn 2, Albert Walker 3, Leonard Tuffrey 4, Harold Chant, R.A.F. 5, George E. Fearn (conductor) 6, *John N. Lindon 7, William T. Froggatt 8. * First quarter-peal 'inside.' Rung for the harvest festival.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Bob Major at Tunstall recorded last week was Miss Betty Spice's first tower-bell peal and Mr. S. H. Dobbie's 75th. And, of course, it was not Mr. William Spice's first tower-bell peal. We must not blame the printer; the position of 'stars' and 'daggers' in reports are sometimes not too clear.

Mr. Alfred King, who joined the band at Luton Parish Church in 1902 and has been hon. secretary to the company for over 40 years, celebrated his golden wedding on September 13th.

The handbell peal of Stedman Caters at Enfield on September 14th was arranged and rung on the 40th anniversary of the peal at Exeter Cathedral, on September 14th, 1903, when the tenor was rung single-handed by William Pye. Mr. Roberts, who called the handbell peal, took part, and the same composition was rung on both occasions.

It was the 50th anniversary of the peal of Superlative called by Mr. James Parker at Crawley on September 14th, 1893, his first of Surprise Major

The peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells at Waltham Abbey was Mr. John Thomas' 100th peal of Grandsire. Fifty of them were rung on tower bells and fifty on handbells. He has now conducted Holt's Original from every bell on tower bells, and from every pair on handbells.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onsiow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

OUR LOST BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your list of church bells destroyed by enemy action I don't think any mention was made of Liverpool.

You might like to have the following information, if you have not already got it:—

St. Luke's, Bold Street, Liverpool, eight bells, tenor 16 cwt. Church burnt out by fire, bells completely destroyed and pieces picked up in street.

St. Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, six bells, tenor 9 cwt. Church burnt out by fire, and bells completely destroyed.

St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Liverpool, 12 bells, tenor 39 cwt. approx. Church completely burnt out by fire, outer walls only standing. Bells, however, all intact and ringable. A meeting with bells 'silent' has been held since destruction of church. Since then the bells have been removed to Taylors at Loughborough for safety.

(Rev.) D. P. ROBERTS

Liverpool.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT PRESTON.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Preston on September 11th, at which members were present from St. Peter's, Dorchester, Fordington St. George, Upwey, Preston, Stratton, Westham and Wyke Regis, as well as Mr. J. Sheppard from Swindon.

The bells were available from 3 o'clock, and the Guild office was sung, the service being taken by the Vicar of Preston (the Rev. T. R. Teague).

Tea was served in the Vicarage gardens, and a short business meeting was held, with Canon A. W. Markby in the chair. It was decided, owing to the approach of the darker evenings and the difficulty of transport, that the next meeting should be the annual at Dorchester, and the hon. secretary would do his best to arrange the branch practices in the meantime.

PRIZE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—An interesting reminder of prize ringing days is a news cutting hanging in the belfry of Whalley Church, N.E. Lancashire, taken from 'The Preston Guardian.'

It is headed 'Bellringing fifty years ago,' and shows the photos of the six ringers of Whalley Parish Church. Underneath it says the above ringers were successful in winning the first prize, a cup valued at 11 guineas, in a competition held at Blackburn Parish Church (now the Cathedral) on Tuesday, June 6th, 1876. On their return home to Whalley they rang the bells of Whalley Church till near on midnight.

C. S.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIRE GUARD.

COMMENTS ON CURRENT TOPICS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When all ringing was stopped except in the case of invasion, I suggested in your columns that these who might be called upon to sound the alarm could perhaps pass the time of waiting with a little handbell practice. We did not know at that time that no satisfactory arrangements would be made for such alarm ringing and it was fair to assume that ringers would be called in for the purpose. In fact, as far as I know, suitable district arrangements were made only in one county, and ringers did not have the opportunity for handbell practice which I anticipated.

Later on much idle time was spent by fire watchers waiting for an alert: Miss Ellen Wilkinson stated on one occasion that fire watchers should not spend their evenings playing darts and other games, thinking that they should always be perfecting their stirrup pump drill or performing other exercises. She said nothing about handbells. As a result four handbell peals have been rung in this office while I have been waiting for black-out or for an alert.

Now things have changed again under the new orders which came into force on September 20th. This volunteer fire watcher has become for a few months a conscript fire guard. Selection as deputy sector captain involves duty at the sector post for half an hour. The break into the evening precludes all peal attempts, and there are possibilities of meditation upon ringing matters during periods of enforced waiting. May I, therefore, comment on one or two matters which from time to time have been raised in your columns?

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE WAR.

There have been several complaints that the Central Council has not met since 1939. I have not publicly expressed any opinion on the advisability of this course, but I would like to call attention to the following points.

Apart from Government announcements it was quite evident from the early stages of the war that travelling should be limited as far as possible, and at one period travelling with any certainty of arrival at a specified time became almost impossible. Later still the Government definitely expressed disapproval of all unnecessary conferences, particularly at holiday times.

The most active members of the Council are also the most active in other duties connected with Civil Defence or other forms of war work and many would have found it very difficult to attend a meeting.

A large number of the younger ringers are away from home or out of the country on active service, and it would not be fair for the Council to pass resolutions affecting ringing matters during their absence.

I don't think that a meeting of the Council could have had any effect whatever on the 'ban.' Through the hon. secretary the officers kept in close touch with the departments concerned, and everything possible was done quite as effectively as if the matter had been discussed at a Council meeting.

The Council meets for two main purposes, firstly to receive and if necessary discuss the reports of the committees who work throughout the year, and, secondly, to discuss and, if it thinks fit, pass resolutions on any matter concerned with ringing. It is obvious in the first case that the work of the committees has been much curtailed through the activities of the members in other directions. In the second case I should like to point out that not a single notice of motion has been sent in for the Council to discuss.

Those who criticise the apparent inactivity of the Council should remember that in times of peace ringers who want matters to be discussed should get in touch with their representatives and get a motion sent in so that after deliberation action may be taken, if desired by the majority.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

After the last Council meeting certain remarks of mine made at the meeting were described as 'churlish.' I had suggested that after what had happened the previous day I thought that if the Council received permission to ring at Westminster Abbey it should be open to members only. I should like to remind you of the facts. The London Reception Committee had obtained permission for ringing at the Abbey, and I understood that it was limited to Council members. I was sent a 'members' pass,' which had to be signed before presentation for admission to the tower. Unfortunately I had no opportunity of presenting it, as the doctor who was attending me for shingles would only allow me to come up to town for the Standing Committee meeting. Imagine my disgust when I was told by a well-known ringing authority that a broken stay had put a stop to the ringing and that perhaps it was just as well that it had put a stop to the unholy row that had been made, or words to that effect. Naturally the next morning I was still feeling sore in mind as well as in body.

Your recent remarks on good striking have brought the whole subject back to my mind. I have not the slightest objection to capable ringers having access to as many towers as possible, but it would be as well if ringers would realise the limits of their capacity. You would not expect a beginner who could just get through a simple chant on the village harmonium to ask for permission to play on the organ at Westminster Abbey.

(Continued in next column.)

WILLIAM DOUGLASS JAMES.

BY A DEVONIAN.

September 25th is the 28th anniversary of the death of William Douglass James.

William Douglass James was born in Plymouth, September 23rd, 1892. Educated at Plymouth College, he proceeded from there to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he eventually took an honours degree in engineering. After leaving Cambridge he was appointed to a position in the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. and lived in the Birmingham district. As a schoolboy he learnt to ring at Charles Church, Plymouth, and quickly mastered standard methods. Entering Cambridge University, he became a member of the University Guild and was in residence at the same time as Mr. Maurice Atkins. He was Master of the Cambridge U.G. in his last year. The C.U.G. at that time was very strong, they used to go on tour annually and rang a lot of peals. During his ringing career he conducted quite a number of peals in several methods, and he must have rung altogether upwards of 50 or 60 peals. He rang his first peal at the age of 16 at Charles Church Plymouth. This peal was an anniversary wedding compliment to his brother-in-law, the Rev. H. A. Fleetwood, Rector of Creething St. Mary, Suffolk (incidentally the Rev. H. A. Fleetwood was also a ringer, having rung a peal at Charles Church in April, 1908). He found the late W. Pye in one of his West Country tours and was one of the band who lost a peal of Treble Bob Royal at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, a rope breaking a few leads from home.

Joining the Royal Artillery as a second-lieutenant very early in the war, he was killed in action on September 25th, 1915, aged 23. His younger brother, Charles Douglass James (a non-ringer), was wounded in France and died on September 25th also. Both these lads were sons of the late Charles James, Esq., J.P., of Plymouth, who was the donor of the two trebles making ten at Charles', and a few years ago he paid for a general overhaul of this peal. Unfortunately, through enemy action this peal is now completely lost.

Their maternal grandfather was Sir James Douglass, the builder of the celebrated Eddystone Lighthouse 12½ miles off Plymouth.

William Douglass James was a fine ringer, well endowed physically and mentally, and had he lived he certainly would have been a power in the Exercise.

A MENDIP VILLAGE BAND.

At Rowberrow in the Mendips there is a ring of six bells all cast by Billie of Chew-Stoke, except the third, which was broken and recast a few years ago by Major J. H. B. Hesse and his sister as a memorial to their father and mother. Major Hesse's grandfather had been Rector of Rowberrow for 40 years.

A new band has now been formed and Major Hesse is instructing them. They can ring rounds and a few call changes and ring very well for Sunday service. The Rector, the Rev. G. A. Bailey, and his wife are both ringers.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I notice in Mr. E. T. Paul Field's letter in 'The Ringing World' this week that he puts Clossworth tenor at 19 cwt. This bell, according to Ellacombe's 'Bells of Somerset,' is 41½ in. diameter. If this measurement is correct, the bell would not weigh more than 14 cwt., and as the cannons have been removed I do not think she would go 13½ cwt.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington, Somerset.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOOTTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Wootton on September 25th. The Rector, the Rev. L. Hopkins, conducted the service and welcomed the branch. Refreshments were provided in the Memorial Hall, followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector and those who had contributed to the success of the gathering. Ringing was enjoyed before the service and after the business meeting.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIREGUARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

Of all towers in the world that of the Abbey should be looked upon as a 'performance' tower, not as a 'practice' tower. I still think that if, by opening the tower to all and sundry, beginners capable of breaking a stay get access to the bells, it would be better to limit admission to those for whose benefit permission was given in the first place.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

It seems to me that the question of peal ringing in war time is largely one for the individual ringer's conscience, subject to two limitations. No peal should be rung if it causes annoyance to any of those who are forced to listen, specially if they be night workers. No ringer should ever spend the time ringing if he could have been doing some job more directly connected with the war instead of ringing.—I am, yours, etc.,

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

2, Seamore Place, London, W.1.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.
(Continued from page 422.)

Rochester Cathedral now has a ring of 10 bells, tenor 30 cwt. 14 lbs. Note D. The old eight bells were all recast and augmented by Gillett and Johnston, and rededicated May 14th, 1921. There are very few records of the bells originally hung in this cathedral. It appears, however, that in 1154, Prior Reginald made two bells and hung them in the greater tower, and that one cracked bell was used in casting another bell. This greater tower seems to have been a detached campanile then in existence, and the cracked bell was probably an alarm bell which previously hung there. Some years later there is a record of another bell named 'Thalebote' being cast.

In 1200 we find that Ralph Bretun caused a cracked bell which had stood for a long time in the nave to be recast for the repose of the soul of his brother, and sixty years later Richard de Waldene added another bell named 'Andrew.' Lastly, in 1343, Bishop Haymo-de-Hythe caused the cathedral tower to be heightened, and placed four new bells therein, named Dunstan, Paulinus, Itmarus, and Lanfranc.

After this a blank of nearly three centuries occurs in the history of the bells. In 1635 the 3rd was recast, and in 1683 Christopher Hodson contracted to recast the 5th and tenor for £120. In 1695 the treble was recast by John Wood, of Chancery Lane, London. In 1711 Richard Phelps estimated to recast a cracked bell, but evidently this did not materialise, as the 4th was recast the next year by James Bagley, of Cripplegate, London, on behalf of his father, Matthew Bagley, who was then very close to the end of his career. Up to 1904 there were six bells, and in that year two trebles were added and several old ones recast. As stated above, these eight bells were recast and two further trebles added in 1921.

The ascent to Rochester Cathedral belfry reminds me of that at Tewkesbury Abbey. Here the spacious central tower is one of the largest in England, and the ring of twelve (tenor 24 cwt.) hang in one corner. Some idea of the size of the tower may be gained from the fact that it would hold four such rings of bells on one level. The ringing chamber has been made comfortable by a partition which encloses a portion of the available space, although in the days when there were only eight bells the ringers were exposed to the great area of the whole chamber.

The approach to this ringing chamber is first by a long and wide spiral stairway at the end of the north transept, emerging on a spacious false ceiling over the aforesaid transept and among the timbers supporting the roof above. You then traverse a wooden platform at the apex of this vaulted ceiling to the centre of the tower: then turn left to the corner and mount a further spiral stairway until the ringing room is reached.

The history of the bells at Tewkesbury—like the famous Abbey itself—is a long one, and goes back to 1224, when the Bishop of Killaloe dedicated two large bells in the tower. In 1241 two new large bells were added. There was a campanile which stood to the north of the Abbey, but it is not known how long this was used for the bells. In 1582 it was converted into a house of correction, and in 1817 it was demolished. At the time

of the dissolution of the Monastery in 1539 there were eight bells. These bells were bought by the townspeople from the King's Commissioners who had confiscated them, but three or four of them must have been sold again, for from that date until 1612 there were only four large bells and a Sanctus. In that year a 5th bell was added, but sold away the next year, leaving the old four, which remained until 1632, when they were 'new caste into sixe.' Several of these were subsequently recast, and in 1696 Abraham Rudhall increased them to eight. In later times several of these were recast, and in 1837 the bells were restored by Thomas Mears.

Not much change ringing was done here locally until C. D. P. Davies, the son of the Vicar, while still a lad, interested himself in ringing and got together a local band and with them rang the first local peal (Grand-sire Triples) in 1877. The late George Cleal (then aged 15) rang the treble to this peal and C. D. P. Davies, Esq. (afterwards Rev.) rang the second.

For 30 years this band kept together and maintained a high standard. In 1913 two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank, forming a ring of ten. The writer had the pleasure of ringing the tenor here on April 26th, 1919, to 5,057 Grandsire Caters, conducted by John Austin. In 1934 a National Memorial, consisting of a ringers' chapel; the provision of two bells to increase the ring to twelve; recasting two former trebles, as well as tuning the other eight, was dedicated to honour the memory of one who did so much for the art of ringing—Charles Douglas Percival Davies, priest, who was born at Tewkesbury in 1857, and who rests in the quiet cloister garth of the Abbey he loved so well. This augmentation and restoration of the bells was carried out by J. Taylor and Co., and since that date several peals have been rung on them.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BOLTON.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Bolton, of St. Mary's, Putney, at the age of 82. He had been a ringer at St. Mary's for 59 years, during 36 of which he had been Master. He began change ringing somewhat late in life under the direction of Mr. J. W. Driver, of Fulham. He had rung several peals of Grandsire Triples and was most regular in his service ringing. He was a sidesman for many years and was also a member of the Church Council. The funeral took place at Putney Vale Cemetery and was conducted by the Rev. H. C. Kemp. The ringers were represented by Mr. F. W. Wicks and the Church Council by Mr. Tribe.

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago I replied to a correspondent's enquiry on the above, and a further correspondent supplemented my notes with a report that there were five bells at Lezayre and eight at Kirk Braddan. I have recently been able to check up at both churches in question, and for the benefit of readers who might otherwise be misled, the 'bells' at Lezayre are five Harrington tubes, and the 'octave' at Kirk Braddan are gramophone records. R. H. DOVE.

70, Morris Lane, Leeds 5.
P.S.—The octave at St. Luke's, Liverpool, should be added to your list of rings destroyed by enemy action.

THE BELLS OF PETERBOROUGH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am not in a position just now to look into the Peterborough Cathedral records, but maybe a local ringer could help in this matter, as Mr. Morris suggests. At the same time, I shall do my best to find out all I can concerning the bells, as I still feel sure seven hung in the tower until about 1887.

Having read the history of several English cathedrals without finding any reference to bells, even where there are famous peals, I am not surprised to hear that Mr. Morris found no mention of Peterborough bells in the Leicester journals.

E. LANKESTER.
205, Chapter Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2.

ST. JAMES', BUSHEY. THE CHURCH BELLS AND RINGING.

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

From 1552 until 1887 the church possessed three bells, one of which, the present seventh, was cast between 1420-1430 by Roger Landon, of Wokingham, and two bells cast in 1664 by William Eldridge, of Chertsey. With regard to these three bells a legend, which long existed in Bushey, is to be found in 'The Legends of the Bells,' by Mr. Ernest Morris.

In 1887 they were increased to a peal of six, and during 1889 the octave was completed by the gift of two trebles.

For many years there has been a good ringing tradition in the district, and since 1890 the standard of ringing has been maintained at a high level and much ringing history recorded in the tower.

The Bushey Society has always been run on democratic lines, with no monopoly of masters or conductors. Previous to 1914, Bertram Prewett tried to get every member of the society to call a peal in a different method, six or seven doing so. Among the older members of the society are Messrs. W. G. Whitehead, F. A. Smith and J. J. Allen, with over 47 years' service, and M. F. R. Hibbert with 41 years, all of whom have been masters of the society and are still members.

The first peal on the bells, Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original) was rung on October 4th, 1890, conducted by the late E. P. Debenham, of St. Albans. Messrs. W. H. L. Buckingham and G. W. Cartmel, of St. Albans, took part in this peal.

The first peal by the local band was rung in November, 1891, being Grandsire Triples; conducted by Mr. Buckingham. The late E. E. Huntley called several peals here, chief amongst them being Thurstans' and Lates' one-part peals of Stedman.

In 1900 Bertram Prewett joined the band and Superlative Surprise Major was rung in 1902. In 1904 New Cambridge and London Surprise Major, the first for the Hertford County Association. In 1910 the first of Bristol Surprise Major was accomplished.

Up to date a total of 230 peals has been rung on these bells, in 41 different methods, six of Triples and 35 of Major, about 20 methods being rung for the first time, and 30 being rung by the Herts Association for the first time, including London.

After the death of Bertram Prewett, who, during an active career of 15 years, had taken part in 953 peals, the conducting devolved chiefly on Mr. M. F. R. Hibbert. The peals conducted by Mr. Hibbert include the only peal of Original Triples yet rung, and a peal of Original Major, containing 825 calls, the maximum number to date. Also various short course compositions of Stedman Triples, and others of from one to seven parts inclusive, many of these being rung for the first time, as well as Erin Triples by the local band. Besides the

usual standard Surprise methods, Mr. Hibbert also called the first of Norfolk Surprise Major on the bells, this being the first in the method for the Herts Association.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore has, during recent years, conducted numerous peals on these bells and besides the four standard Surprise Major methods, the following have been rung for the first time: Bushey, Hertfordshire, Elstree, Apsley, Kendal, Southall, Newbury, Raunds, Verulam, Queensbury, Zetland, Bedford, Napsbury and Goudhurst Surprise Major. Also Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Debenham and Watford, all conducted by Mr. Cashmore.

In 1935 he called a peal of Eryri Major. This method is an extension of Bristol Surprise, with the treble performing a double dodging hunt and it was the only peal on the plan ever rung.

In August, 1939, he also called the first peal of Spliced Erin and Stedman Triples yet rung, also Spliced Surprise Major in 3, 4 and 6 methods, the 3 and 6-method peals being the first for the association on tower bells.

For a great number of years there has also been a good ringing tradition on handbells in the district, this mainly due to the exertions of Mr. G. N. Price who, prior to 1914, rang, besides Stedman, from Triples to Cinques, three peals of Superlative Surprise Major and Double Norwich.

In 1927, Mr. Fred Brinklow, of Oxhey, with H. Hodgetts, these two being former members of Mr. Price's band, were successful with H. G. Cashmore and R. W. Picton in ringing a peal of Surprise Major (Superlative), and this peal was in a way unique, inasmuch that it was the first peal in anything for R. W. Picton and the first handbell peal for H. G. Cashmore.

From 1933 to 1939 Messrs. H. Hodgetts and C. W. Woolley, both members of the Bushey Society, Mr. F. W. Brinklow, of Oxhey, and Mr. H. G. Cashmore, then a member of the Watford band and now a member of the Bushey Society, were successful in ringing the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major in hand and also peals of London, Bristol and Spliced Surprise in two, three, four, five and six Surprise Major methods spliced.

From 1939 until 1941, Mr. C. W. Woolley rang several Plain Major methods with a band composed chiefly of E. A. Barnett, E. C. S. Turner, J. E. Spice, F. W. Brinklow and E. Jennings. In 1942, Mr. Cashmore was successful in obtaining another Surprise handbell band, composed of E. C. S. Turner, of Ealing, F. W. Brinklow, of Oxhey, and H. G. Cashmore and E. Jennings, of the Bushey Society. Since May, 1942, the following peals have been accomplished: Two peals of Cambridge and one of New Cambridge Surprise Major, one each of Superlative, London and Bristol Surprise Major, the only peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major rung in hand, and also the four standard Surprise methods spliced.

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23456

1,260.

- 34526 Single Before, Bob Home
- 45326 Home
- 52346 Before and Wrong
- 34256 Before and Single Wrong

Five times repeated. B. for S. at Wrong in third and sixth parts.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

1,260.

231456 S H Q

- 345261 x x
- 435216 x
- 125346 x x

Four times repeated.

BOB MAJOR.

1,264.

23456 W B M R

- 35264 1
- 42356 -- --
- 34256 -- --
- 25346 -- --
- 32546 -- --
- 32465 1 --
- 43265 -- --
- 24365 -- --
- 53246 -- --
- 45236 -- --
- 23456 -- --

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,280.

23456 W R

- 43526 2 1
- 45236 1 2
- 25346 2 1
- 23456 1 2

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

1,280.

23456 I F H O

- 65324 -- --
- 25463 -- --
- 42356 -- --
- 25346 -- --
- 54326 -- --
- 43256 -- S

Repeated.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A practice meeting, held at Houghton-le-Spring on September 11th, was attended by ringers from Chester-le-Street, Bishopswearmouth, Sunderland (St. Ignatius) and the local band.

During tea, which was provided by the local ringers, the Rector, the Rev. — Ushdown, expressed his pleasure at the ringing of his bells. A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies for the tea arrangements was proposed by Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland.

The next meeting will be held at Bishopswearmouth, Sunderland, on October 2nd.

HOLY TRINITY, BOLTON.

A useful combined practice is being held weekly at Holy Trinity, Bolton, and is doing good in keeping together the ringers that are left in the town, as well as those in H.M. Forces stationed in the neighbourhood.

The personnel attending the last meeting was typical of the times and rather interesting. There was a Reserve Police sergeant, a sergeant and two constables of Special Police, two N.F.S. men, an Air Force man who hails from the Salisbury district, an Army man from Leatherhead, munition workers, two females and a schoolboy.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EASTRINGTON.

The September meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Eastington on September 11th and was attended by about 35 ringers from Goole, Hemingbrough, Howden, Hull, Hessele, Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sutton-on-Hull and the local company, and visitors from Ulceby and Goodall, Lincs.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Fowlke, and was followed by tea in the Parish Hall, where the business meeting was held. The Vicar presided and welcomed the association, saying he was pleased to hear the bells again. Five new members were elected, Messrs. W. W. Williams, of Barnsley, E. F. Wale, of Ilford, Essex, attached to Market Weighton Company, and H. Howcroft, J. J. Taylor and H. W. Cooper, of Eastington. The place and date of next meeting were left in the hands of the district secretary.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, Mr. Fox, a ringer from Kirk Ella, to the ladies who served the tea and to the local company was passed. Tower and handbells were made good use of at the meeting. A collection for the association's Bell Repair Fund realised 12s. 6d.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WITHAM.

Only fifteen ringers representing eleven towers attended the meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Witham on September 18th.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. B. E. Payne, the address was given by the Rev. Browning, of Inworth, and the district secretary, Miss Hilda Snowden, was at the organ.

A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 8s. 6d. Tea and business meeting followed, with the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, in the chair. Braintree was chosen as the next place of meeting for early November. The District Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Payne, the Rev. Browning, Mr. Evers and the ladies who had helped with the tea, and to the secretary for officiating at the organ. He also welcomed the visitors, which included Mr. J. Chalk, Mr. B. Weaver and Mr. H. G. Herbert.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CROFT.—On Sunday, August 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Joan Dunn 1, W. A. Wood 2, C. H. Webb (conductor) 3, H. Bird 4, A. Warwick 5, F. Watson 6. *First quarter-peal.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Friday, September 3rd, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled on the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, September 5th, a quarter-peal of Doubles in four methods (1,260 changes), being 120 each of St. Dunstan's and London Single, three 120's of Antelope, five 120's and 60 changes of Grandsire: *Mrs. G. Wareham 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, H. White (conductor) 4, M. M. Martin 5, G. Wareham 6. *First quarter-peal. First quarter-peal by a local band in four methods.

TAUNTON.—At St. Mary Magdalen, on Sunday evening, September 5th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters: F. Chidgey 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, S. G. Coles 3, A. J. Wyatt 4, A. Hayward 5, A. H. Reed 6, W. Tarr 7, W. H. Lloyd 8, H. Mockridge 9, S. P. Merson 10.

OXFORD.—On Monday, September 6th, at Merton College, 1,260 Stedman Triples: V. J. F. Bennett 1, G. Horwood 2, W. H. B. Wilkins 3, W. F. Judge (conductor) 4, W. G. Collett 5, G. Holified 6, G. Caudwell 7, R. White 8.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, September 12th, in St. Peter's Hall, a peal attempt broke down after 90 minutes, during which 28 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were completed: John V. Davis 1-2, Arthur V. Davis 3-4, *Percy W. Brayshaw 5-6. *Aged 14 years, first attempt for a peal and longest length.

SUNDERLAND.—On Sunday, September 12th, at St. Ignatius' Church, 672 Stedman Triples: T. Stephenson 1, W. Armour 2, W. Oxley 3, L.S.A. R. A. Johnson, R.N. 4, R. Walker 5, J. W. Parker 6, R. L. Patterson (conductor) 7, F. Ainsley 8.

YORK.—At the Minster on September 12th to celebrate the surrender of Italy, a course of Grandsire Caters with Great Peter as bass accompaniment. This was broadcast. After evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Imeson 1, T. F. Earnshaw 2, S. H. Steel 3, E. Rickitt 4, H. Forden 5, L. Woodcock 6, H. Walker (conductor) 7, E. Ayre 8. W. Ayre and F. Atkinson took part in the morning ringing.

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

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business at 5 o'clock. —E. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Ashton, St. Peter's, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Acton, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Short service 5 p.m. The Rector hopes to provide tea and sandwiches. Ringing (probably) at St. Mary's, Ealing, in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Garston, Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphyll Road, Liverpool 17.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 6 p.m. and business meeting. No arrangements for tea.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Poolstock, Saturday, October 2nd. Bells 2.30. Tea 5 p.m., approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

BRISTOL RURAL.—Meeting at Warmley on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—R. C. Gifford, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on October 9th, at 3 p.m.—Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, October 3rd, 10.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Meeting at Shepton Mallet on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names to E. H. Nash, Hon. Sec., The Talbot, Wells.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Dorking, Saturday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business meeting in the Church Room at 7. — A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Northowram, Halifax, Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Tea arrangements later.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Watlington on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5, bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Northchurch on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. No tea arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District). — Meeting at Eckington on Saturday, Oct. 9th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach P. J. Jervis, 48, High Street, Eckington, by Oct. 7th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice at Scottow on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 2 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Additions to food welcomed.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of the Gainsborough District at Upton on Saturday, October 9th, 5.30 to 8.30. No service or tea.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Withyham, October 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Postcard to Rev. A. Miles, Withyham, for tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WILTON, NEAR SALISBURY.—Combined practice Saturday, October 9th, 3 p.m. Notify C. F. Haines, 8, Dalston Terrace, Wilton, for tea.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bedworth, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m.—Allesley, October 16th, ringing before induction (3 p.m.) of new Rector (Rev. F. W. Moyle), president of the Guild. Tea provided at 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Penwortham, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Barwell on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BOURNEMOUTH.—St. Peter's.—A parting gift to the Vicar from the district ringers on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 3 p.m. to 4.30. Tea and presentation to follow.—Arthur V. Davis.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Penistone, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30. For tea, notify Mr. R. Crossland, Hillside, Thurlstone, near Sheffield.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

WEDNESBURY.—Open practice meeting at St. Bartholomew's Church, Saturday, October 9th, 3 to 5 p.m.—A. Hingley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45. Tea at Carlton Cafe 4.30. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, by October 12th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Banbury (10 bells) Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and evening ringing. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Woodstock, Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.15 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Bear Hotel 4.30 p.m. Names by Tuesday, 12th.—W. Evetts, Branch Hon. Sec.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Ringing at the Parish Church every Sunday, 10.15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Practice during winter first and third Saturdays, 3 p.m., commencing October 17th.—E. E. Edwards, Hon. Sec.

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