

THE RINGING WORLD



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

'The year is dying in the night; ring out wild bells, and let him die.' Whatever other thoughts may to-day be in our minds, all of us are glad and thankful that one more of the war's years has gone. The journey is long, and the way hard and full of perils, but another milestone has been passed, and the end draws steadily nearer. When it will come we do not know, for certainly there is still to face a period more bitter and more bloody than we have yet experienced. It is quite unlikely that this war will end, as did the last, by the capitulation of the men who dominate the enemy forces; they have been told to expect no mercy and have no other course than to fight to the utmost extremity.

Yet, as we turn our eyes backward over the year that has gone, and note what has happened since nineteen hundred and forty-three was born, we may reasonably have a sober confidence that when next the bells ring out the old and ring in the new it will be to a world in which formal war, at any rate, has for the time ceased. How soon peace, in any other sense than the mere cessation of war, will come to the world is the great problem of the future. Anything and everything which makes for the higher and better things of life—religion, humanity, charity, goodwill, and high ideals—will be sorely needed, and for England the influence which church bells exert will have a definite and valuable, if humble, part to play.

So far as the Ringing Exercise is concerned, we may look back on the past year with thankfulness and restrained satisfaction. We have had overwhelming evidence of the hold church bells have on the affection of the people. We stand higher in popular estimation and are better appreciated than ever we were. The very natural fear that the long silence of the bells, the diversion of men's attention and interest into other channels, and the dearth of recruits, would have a disastrous effect on change ringing has not been realised. The art is not, cannot, and should not, be practised to the extent of peace time, but enthusiasm is alive, service ringing is well maintained, and when the opportunity comes ringers will be able to face the full task of rehabilitation with confidence and assurance of success.

The Exercise has three invaluable assets. One is that change ringing is a most fascinating art founded on a strict mathematical science and therefore on fundamental truth. Another is that it has a hard core of men who, having become ringers, find in their vocation a lifelong

(Continued on page 566.)

interest, which is proof against all changes and accidents. The third is that we are intimately connected with the Church and have her great influence behind us when we need it and if we deserve it. These things, in varying degree, have kept ringing alive for more than four centuries. They are our assurance for the years to come.

We do not therefore despair for the future. But anything worth having is worth working for and struggling for, nor otherwise can it be enjoyed. There is much to be done, both in individual bellfries and in the wider spheres of the great associations and guilds and the Central Council. So far the men whom we look to as leaders have not failed us, and we are sure they will not.

We can go forward into the New Year with hope and confidence. Let us never forget that one of the greatest attractions of change ringing is that it sets high ideals before its devotees. No man ever has, or ever will, get out of it all it has to offer. To whatever heights he rises there is still something more to be achieved, whether it be in method ringing, or in composition, or in excellence of striking. The way of progress and that which brings the greatest satisfaction is to have the highest standards, and always to strive to reach them though they never are attained.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

STONE Y STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1943, in three hours and three minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*CYRIL ISON... .. Treble	L. ONARD TREVOR 5
ARTHUR KIDDINGTON 2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 6
WILLIAM A. WOOD 3	†FRANK TROYMAN 7
JAMES DRAICOTT 4	FRANK MEASURES Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Major. Rung to celebrate the third wedding anniversary of the ringer of the 5th.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTERS Treble	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 5
RICHARD G. BELL 2	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 6
MADRICE F. R. HIBBERT 3	CECIL C. MAYNE... .. 7
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

THOMAS W. WHITE Treble	GEORGE L. GOVER 5
FREDERICK OLDROYD 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 4	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

The above band comprises the past and present Sunday band of the Cathedral with the general secretary of the Guild.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The 5,000th peal by the Midland Counties Association was rung April 22nd, 1939, at Peckleton, Leicestershire. Since then 114 more peals have been rung.

ERNEST MORRIS, General Hon. Sec.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 21, 1943, in two hours and twenty-eight minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5076 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
†BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 7-8
*D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Caters. † 25th peal. First peal of Caters as conductor and for the association. Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Spice on their silver wedding day.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 22, 1943, in two hours and twenty-five minutes

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) ... 7-8
*D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Ten. The first peal of Royal for the association.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 23, 1943, in two hours and twenty-two minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF REVERSE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

M. J. F. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (Oxford) 5-6
BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 7-8
D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 23, 1943, in one hour and fifty-four minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART, Tenor size 16 in B.

BETTY SPICE (Oxford) ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6
*M. J. RICHARDSON (Bristol) 3-4	D. T. RICHARDSON (London) 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal in the method on an inside pair.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT CHILDE OKEFORD.

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Childe Okeford and was attended by members representing Mere, Gillingham, Shroton, Fontmell Magna, Zeals, Hazlebury Bryan, Sturminster, Stoke Wake, Okeford Fitzpaine, Cucklington, Stoke Trister and Kington Magna.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. W. Delahay), who gave an address. Tea followed in the Schoolroom, the arrangement for which was in the capable hands of Mr. Haughton.

At the business meeting apologies for absence were received from Dr. E. W. J. Hellins (chairman), the Rev. W. C. Shute (Ringing Master) and Mr. W. G. Payne. The statement of accounts, read by the secretary, showed that receipts to date amounted to £5 18s. and the expenses to 11s. 2d.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins; vice-chairman, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; secretary and treasurer, the Rev. William Uphill; Ringing Masters, Mr. W. C. Shute, Mr. L. Perrett and Mr. E. P. T. Field. Nine new ringing members were elected.

It was decided to make a contribution to the central funds of £3 and to invest another £5 of the credit balance in Savings Certificates. The next meeting was arranged to take place in March at Fontmell Magna.

The secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and the local band for the cordial reception given to the Guild, and also to Mr. Haughton and his assistants for providing tea.

NINETEEN FORTY THREE.

For ringers the most important event of the past year was the ending of the ban on the use of church bells and the resumption of the activities of the belfry. The previous year had seen a break in the long silence of the bells when we rang for the victory of El Alamein, but that was definitely stated to be exceptional, and the people at the War Office clearly intended to keep the use of bells in their own hands so long as the war lasted. In response to the pressure of public opinion, they did (grudgingly, as it would seem, and at the last moment) admit of Christmas ringing; but most of us had reconciled ourselves to the prospect of having to wait until the end of the war.

We ought not to blame them overmuch. They knew (what we did not) how narrow was the margin of safety by which England had escaped invasion. They realised (as we could not) what war in this country would mean. And they were reluctant to alter or relax any precautions which had once been thought necessary. Still they must have been increasingly aware that church bells were very inadequate for the purpose intended, so an amended order was issued in March, which, however, seemed only to make the prolonged silence more certain.

But the general public were by no means satisfied, and qualified persons were of opinion that in the event of invasion ringing would not only be of no use as a warning, but would be a positive danger, while the Church objected to the deprivation of one of her forms of expression. The Archbishop of York took the lead and a debate in the House of Lords made it clear that the issue could no longer be shirked. The Prime Minister and the War Cabinet took the matter into their own hands and decided that there was no reason why Sunday ringing should not be resumed. Even then the new order was so drafted as to cover only what was actually said in Mr. Churchill's formal statement, and to ignore the implication of his explanatory statement that 'the significance of invasion no longer attaches to the ringing of church bells.' It was not until the end of May that we recovered full liberty.

PROGRESS OF RINGING.

It is an excellent sign of the vitality of the Exercise that Sunday service ringing and the holding of meetings have been resumed with far less difficulty than might have been expected. Not, of course, in full degree, for war-time conditions operate severely, but in a way which seems to show that the ultimate future of change ringing is assured.

Peal ringing is always an excellent test of the life and enthusiasm of the Exercise, and here the record for 1943 is quite satisfactory. The lifting of the ban did not lead to that 'orgy of peal ringing' which some expected because, apart from the fact that a certain number of ringers did not feel disposed to ring peals during war time, the difficulties of getting together good bands were great, and as the autumn and winter drew on, many belfries were made unavailable by the black-out restrictions. There was also the very serious handicap caused by the difficulties of travelling.

Notwithstanding all this, nearly one hundred peals were rung on tower bells. The actual number so far reported in our columns is 97, but this most certainly will be increased by several rung last Monday, of which as yet we have received no reports.

The handbell peals numbered 137, and the total for the year, 236, exceeded the total for the year before, which was 225. Of course, no useful comparison can be made, as all the 1942 peals were on handbells.

SOME PEALS.

The ban was finally lifted in the closing days of May, and on June 5th the first tower bell peal was scored. It was rung at Crayford by members of the Kent County Association, all of whom were well-known as peal ringers and could be expected to take the first opportunity of resuming their hindered activities. The method was Double Norwich and the conductor Mr. George Cross. It was followed next week by Grandsire Triples at Burgess Hill, with Mr. Frank Bennett as conductor, and not long afterwards by Stedman Triples at Guildford pro-Cathedral, conducted by Mr. Alfred Pulling.

Mr. Pulling also called the first peal rung on ten bells, one of Stedman Caters at Haslemere on July 3rd. The first peal of Royal (Plain Bob) was rung a week after that at Newcastle-under-Lyme, with Mr. John Worth as conductor. Cinques was reached on September 4th with the wedding peal of Stedman at Surfleet, but none of Maximus was achieved. Meanwhile Doubles (on six bells) and Minor had been rung; the first on June 14th at Croft in Leicestershire with Mr. Henry Bird as conductor; the other at Ticknell in Derbyshire and Chatteris in Cambridgeshire, both on June 19th. Mr. J. Bailey and Mr. Frank Warrington were the conductors. A peal of Doubles, rung as Doubles should be on five bells in a five-bell tower, was accomplished at Brafield, Northamptonshire, on November 27th, with Mr. Philip Jones conducting.

As was inevitable in the circumstances, the majority of the other peals were in the simpler of the standard methods. That was wise, for it is much better for the outside public, and should be much more enjoyable for the band, to ring a good peal of Bob Major, or Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, rather than to attempt Surprise before practice has restored the old skill. Cambridge Royal was rung at Beddington on October 16th, Bristol Surprise Major at Bushey on October 23rd, and the four standard Surprise Major methods spliced in the same tower on November 13th. The bands were mixed, but

made up largely by the same persons. On November 9th the Oxford Society rang 5,016 Grandsire Cinques at Christ Church.

A peal of more than usual interest was the Stedman Triples at Crayford on July 24th, when Messrs. C. T. Coles and James Bennett each completed his list of 1,000 peals.

At the time the year was born, the Leicester band were in the middle of a handbell peal of Stedman Caters, and during the following twelve months they maintained the position they have long held among handbell ringers. Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Grandsire Caters and Double Bob Royal, were rung in the town during the year.

HANDBELL PEALS.

Birmingham is another town where good handbell performances may usually be looked for. The men there rang peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques, and Kent Treble Bob Royal and Maximus. The St. Mary-le-Tower band at Ipswich rang Kent Treble Bob Maximus. We have an idea that they began to practise for a peal in that method on July 14th, but, if so, the renewal of tower-bell ringing probably diverted their activities into other courses.

At Bushey the band, made up of three local ringers and Mr. Ernest Turner, added to the fine list of peals already scored by them. London Surprise Major was rung on February 25th, Bristol Surprise Major on May 26th, and Spiced Surprise Major in the four standard methods on July 5th. All of them were conducted by Mr. Harold Cashmore.

At Edmonton, Mr. John Thomas was the mainstay of a band which rang several peals in various methods, including Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Royal, Kent Treble Bob Royal, and Stedman Caters. Mr. Thomas is a most efficient instructor, and the indications are that some of his latest pupils will go far. We may hear more of them in the coming year.

There were other bands (among them those at Bournemouth, Oxford and Kent) who kept up the standard they had reached in the year before, but obviously we cannot mention all the performances that deserve praise. The ban was a great stimulus to handbell ringing. Without it the high standard of method ringing would hardly have been reached in so many places and by so many persons. Now that tower bell ringing is coming again into its own we may find that the interest in handbells will to some extent decline, but however that may be, the handbell peals of the last four years have borne an important part in the keeping alive the art of change ringing, and it has enough fascination of its own to make it always popular with some ringers.

LOSS BY DEATH.

During the year several men passed away who were well known and respected in their own circles and in their own time, though none was in the first rank of ringers. John Martin Routh, who died on February 15th had reached the great age of 97 years. He had far outlived all his contemporaries, and to the present generation he was no more than a name; but he had held a leading position for some years in the Ancient Society of College Youths. Philip Hodgkin was a Kent ringer somewhat of the old type, a man of very strong physique, and distinguished by his feat of turning the tenor at Tenterden in to a peal at a time when it was really a strong man's job. William J. Jeffries was well known among the ringers of South London, especially as a conductor of Grandsire Triples. Other Kent ringers who died in 1943 were F. Belsey, of Rochester, William Latter, of Tunbridge Wells, and John W. Steddy, of Edenbridge.

The College Youths lost an old member in the person of Richard T. Woodley a former secretary of the society, and the Cumberlands an old member in Arthur J. Neal, in his younger days a ringer at Aylsham in Norfolk.

Richard F. Lane was known to many ringers through the work he did as a bell hanger for Messrs. John Taylor and Company, and Edgar H. Bailey was the oldest member of the family which some years ago made ringing history in the belfry at Leiston. Frank Butler was one of the band at St. Paul's Cathedral, and George Frederick Dickens a valued member of the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham. Robert I. Maynard was for long steenkeeper at Walthamstow, Sentimus Radford was conductor at St. Nicolas' Guildford, and Thomas Fitzjohn at one time leader at Thetford. William Farley had been closely associated with the bells of Wells Cathedral. Lincolnshire lost Thomas L. Bainbridge, and Yorkshire Joseph Thackeray. Edward Clapshaw, said to be the oldest ringer, died in his 99th year.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Two lives which might have been of great value to the Exercise were lost when Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp and Flying Officer R. F. Kingham were killed on active service. Both failed to return from bombing operations over Germany. The war claimed another victim in Lieut. W. F. Trobe, of the Royal Navy, who had been a member of the band at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields.

War-time conditions and the shortage of paper made the publication of new books very difficult. Miss Snowden, however, was able to place on the market, soon after the ban was lifted, an entirely new edition of 'Standard Methods,' which had been written just before the war broke out, and printed before the cost of printing went up and the quality of paper went down.

Mr. Frederick Sharpe issued further sections of his book on 'The Bells of Berkshire.' More parts will be printed next year and the book when completed will take high rank among the county histories of bells.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

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All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

We occasionally hear of readers who find a difficulty in obtaining 'The Ringing World' through newsagents or of irregularity in delivery. They are not many considering the number of subscribers, but they are more than we should like. The trouble is entirely due to the difficulties of distribution caused by war conditions and are beyond our control. Until the delay caused by the heavy Christmas mails there has been no trouble in the delivery of copies sent from the office by post.

The Editor thanks those friends who kindly sent the copy of 'The Ringing World' asked for in the last issue.

Mr. Walter Perkins, of Irthlingborough, has had an unfortunate accident. On the morning of December 18th he slipped and fell, breaking his collarbone.

To-day is the 55th anniversary of the 15,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton, in which Canon G. F. Coleridge rang the sixth.

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very painstaking of Mr. Barnett to revive the account of Great Paul's journey to London.

There is much more in the account than I can call to mind. At the time that the bell passed through Leicester I was an apprentice in an iron foundry in that city. It was parked, the first night of its journey, in a field in Belgrave, and Belgrave presented quite the appearance of a 'fair' that evening.

Coles and Matthews, Coventry, were the haulage contractors.

When I visited the Giralda Tower of Seville in 1910 a blind man was the ringer, but he did no leap. He rang the bells while standing on the belfry floor, just as one would ring a school bell. I forget whether the bell wheels were half or full.

E. DENISON TAYLOR.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

THE LATE MR. E. F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Among the books which the Guildford library inherited from the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's collection was a small manuscript book written throughout by Mr. Behan. The book contains a great number of touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters of varying lengths up to quarter-peals, also a small number of touches and quarter-peals of Stedman Triples. Also there are some notes on the scientific side of Grandsire Triples, mostly, I think, obtained by a study of the W. H. Thompson articles in Snowdon's 'Grandsire.'

In a note, Mr. Behan refers to the Australian tour, and sends the book hoping it will be of more use to the ringers of Great Britain than appears likely to be the case in Australia. It is rather strange that, so far as I recollect, there was no meeting between Mr. Behan and the English ringers during the 1934 visit. A. C. HAZELDEN.
Guildford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SWINDON.

Over thirty ringers attended a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 11th. The local towers were well represented, and among the visitors were Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester, and two members of the R.A.F. The ringing ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman Caters.

At the business meeting, after the tea, all the officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. G. Lancaster, of the Branch Committee, who has had to give up ringing on account of failing sight. Mr. H. W. Bishop was elected in his stead. The meeting welcomed the taking over of 'The Ringing World' by the Central Council and expressed a hope that the various associations would provide the necessary funds as outlined by the Council.

It was decided to hold monthly meetings in future on the second Saturday in each month, and the places fixed for the next three meetings are St. Mark's, Swindon, Stratton St. Margaret, and Rodbourne Cheney.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MELKSHAM.

At the annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Melksham on December 11th, forty members were present from Melksham, Holt, Westbury, North Bradley, Longbridge Deverell, Bishop's Cannings, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), Southbroom, and visitors from Bath, Wilton and Salisbury. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, and rounds for the beginners.

The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Sangster, and tea was partaken of in the parochial club room. The business meeting was presided over by Mr. A. T. Weeks (vice-chairman) in the absence of Mr. E. F. White (branch chairman). All the officers of the branch were re-elected, and Mr. P. Harding was appointed Ringing Master to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. S. Hillier. Many young ringers were proposed as members of the Guild. The chairman thanked the Vicar and organist and the ladies who provided the tea.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on December 18th, was attended by about 30 ringers from five district towers and visitors from Hemel Hempstead, Leverstock Green, Luton, Watford and Bristol.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, Bob Major and Royal, Kent Royal, Double Norwich and Cambridge Major.

A service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson. Tea was arranged in the St. Peter's Institute by the local ringers, and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar was chairman.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hatfield in January. The secretary's report showed an encouraging position in spite of the general shortage of ringers. At several towers instruction was taking place and bands were co-operating as far as possible for service ringing.

The district officers were re-elected as follows: Secretary, Mr. R. W. Darvill; committee, Messrs. A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell and Mrs. Fergusson. Mr. Hazell was elected as deputy secretary.

A motion was passed that as soon as possible a notice should be inserted in 'The Ringing World' for the benefit of visitors of the times of ringing at all towers in the district, and that where possible notices of these times should be posted in the respective churches.

It was agreed that ringing meetings shall continue to be held monthly, but that business meetings should only be the quarterly ones to save time during the winter months.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Coles to the Vicar and those who had prepared tea.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

About 25 members of the Midland Counties Association were present at a meeting of the Nottingham Branch at Radcliffe-on-Trent on December 11th. They represented Bulwell, Cotgrave, Daybrook, Nottingham and the local band.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar. Illness near the church prevented any ringing after tea, although the young lady beginners had made a set of black-out curtains and fixed them ready for the meeting. When the proprietor of the tea-room heard of the difficulty he offered the use of a room for the evening, and handbells were made good use of, the methods being Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major with some tunes.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. G. Nowell, who had been active in making the arrangements for the day, but unfortunately was confined to bed with a chill.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to the curate who played the organ, and the young ladies who fixed up the black-out.

HANDLING A BELL.

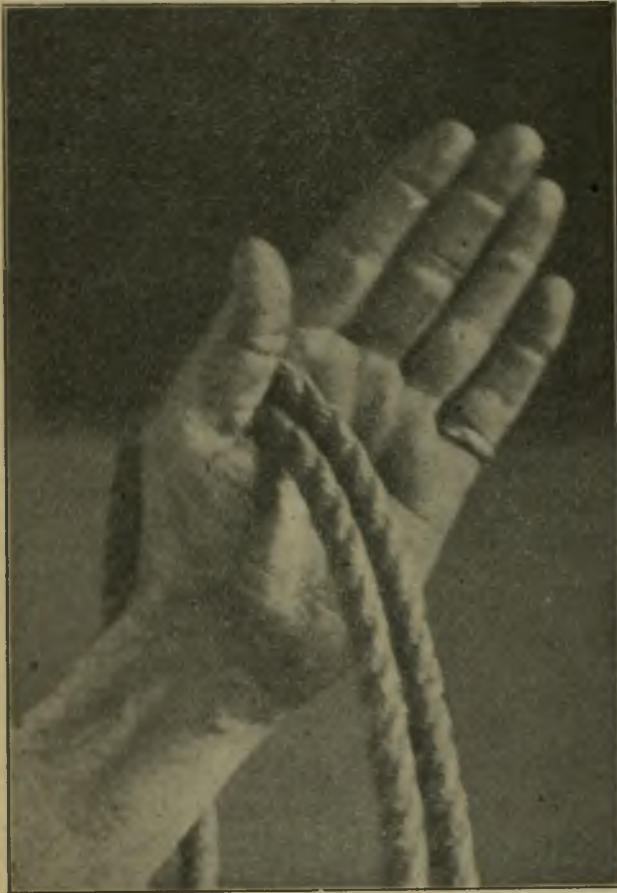
(Continued from page 549.)

Before the ringer actually rings a bell there are two points which need careful attention.

The first is the manner in which he grips the rope. We have already stressed the importance of keeping the hands close together and, in addition, there is a right way and a wrong way of grasping the sally. We have seen that the 'rope' which transmits the energy exerted by the man to the bell consists partly of that portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the

the rope flying about wildly. But always a beginner should be taught complete control of the handling of the bell at handstroke without having any concern with the tail end. The instructor can look after that.

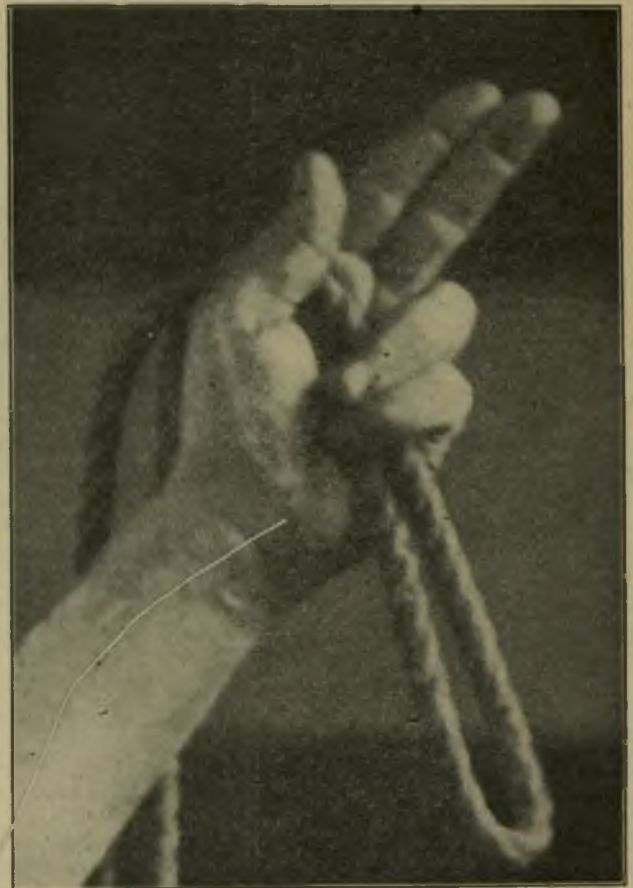
Since the ringer must hold the tail end in one hand when he pulls at handstroke, he must learn to do so in such a way that it does not in the slightest interfere with his natural grip on the sally. He can do it if he keeps the tail end in the fork of the thumb (as shown in the first illustration) and does not depend on his fingers to hold it.



No. 1.—THE RIGHT WAY.

ringer's hands, and partly of the man's arms and body; and if it be so, it is essential that the join between the two should be a sound one. The join is provided by the grip of the man's hands.

Now, to grip a rope firmly is an action which comes naturally to most men, and it is quite correct, and almost sufficient, to say that the proper way to grip a sally is to grip it naturally. Indeed, there would be no difficulty whatever in the matter if it were not for the tail end. When the bell is at hand the tail end is a superfluity. It has no work to do and, so far as ringing and striking the bell are concerned, might be left alone hanging to the ground. That would in practice (after the handstroke pull is made) be awkward and clumsy; and so it is necessary to have the end in one hand to be ready when the backstroke pull comes to be made, and to prevent



No. 2.—THE WRONG WAY.

The difficulty with beginners is that they are afraid they will drop the tail end, and they are quite easily tempted to use some of their fingers to hold it (as in the second illustration). Here is one important reason why the learner should not be allowed to hold the tail end until he has finished his lessons on handling a bell at handstroke. For it is pretty certain that, if he once contacts the habit of using his fingers to hold the tail end at handstroke, he will have the utmost difficulty in breaking himself of it. A grip with only two fingers, instead of with four, is not a natural grip. It means a faulty join in the 'rope' and a loss of energy.

There is another defect which is very easy to acquire, and once acquired almost impossible to get rid of, and that is to grip both sally and tail end with the four fingers instead of keeping the tail end in the fork of the

(Continued on next page.) ●

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from previous page.)

thumb. It is not nearly so bad a fault as the other, and in some circumstances and with some men is hardly a fault at all. But the slack rope does not hang so well as when the tail end is correctly held, and the grip on the sally is not so perfect. If from the very start the instructor insists that his pupil holds the tail end properly there will be no trouble in the matter.

In the excellent little book, 'Hints to Instructors,' issued by the Central Council, the authors recommend that 'during the handstroke practice a short loop of rope to represent the tail end should be held in the crutch of the lower hand.' It is a good idea, and will accustom the novice to the proper way of holding the tail end before he actually has to manipulate it; but it should not be used until the last stages of the lesson. The important thing is that the beginner should know how to control and 'feel' the bell at the end of its upward swing, and to apply in the proper manner and at the proper time the correct amount of energy to the following downward swing. Everything else is of lesser importance, and anything which may distract the attention from the main object should be excluded.

For the grip on the sally to be an effective join in the 'rope' it is, of course, essential that it should be of sufficient strength. Actually very few persons are inclined to grip the sally too lightly when they are pulling. The tendency is the other way, and the grip with beginners is usually unnecessarily strong. The sally should be gripped just as tightly as seems natural to obtain a firm grasp and no more. And the grip should last only so long as the comparatively short time in which actual pulling is done. During the rest of the time the hands, even when touching the sally, should be free, and the tail end should be held quite lightly except when pulling or checking is done at backstroke.

Over-gripping and a too tight hold on the rope mean muscular strain and resulting tiredness, as well as sore hands and blisters. It is a common experience that when a ringer begins, his hands very quickly become sore and his first peal usually produces a crop of blisters. As he goes on the rope has no effect on his hands, and he can ring peal after peal without the suspicion of a blister. It is commonly thought that his hands become hardened and inured to the work. Most likely it is so to some extent, but the real explanation is that practice has taught him that it is not necessary to hold the rope so tightly as he once did.

The second important point is how to stand while ringing. Here again the best description is to say that the more naturally and easily the man stands the better. Before he begins to ring he should stand with his body lightly and equally poised on his two legs. His muscles should all be relaxed but ready to come into action the instant they are needed, for ringing calls on to a greater

or less degree most of the muscles of the body. The feet should be slightly apart and the right foot somewhat in advance of the left (if the ringer holds the tail end in his left hand) or the left somewhat in advance of the right (if he holds the tail end in his right hand).

The ringer should stand as closely under the rope as he can, provided there is room to allow the rope to fall in a direct downward path, and this will be possible and easy if the sally is only two or three inches in front of the man's nose. When, as some men do, he stands a foot or so behind the rope the pulling has to be done with bent arms, and with consequent muscular strain and loss of energy.

It is a good plan for a man who is about to ring a bell of more than average weight (especially if he himself is on the light side) to raise himself on his toes and, stretching his arms to the fullest extent, grasp the sally as high as he can. He can then drop back on to his heels and allow his arms to take their ordinary tension. He will then have the bell on the balance and be in a position to exert just the amount of energy required to strike the bell correctly in the first rounds and will be ready for the backstroke change. This plan can be used with advantage with bells of medium weight, for it is a great help in gaining quickly that knowledge of the exact amount of pulling a bell needs without which complete control is impossible.

(To be continued.)

A FALSE TOUCH OF STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—What exactly does Mr. R. J. B. Hadden mean? From his description the sixes run: Bob, plain, bob, repeated (as necessary). This produces a seven (not five) part touch. It runs to 252 changes, and is true, not false.

He seems to mean: Bob, plain, bob, followed by 11 plain sixes. This is false.

Staverton Vicarage.

E. S. POWELL.

[The ambiguity was ours, not Mr. Hadden's.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT WELLINGTON

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Regarding the handbell peal of Bob Major at Wellington on December 16th, Mr. W. Saunders of Coalbrookdale, informs me it is the first handbell peal in the method rung in Shropshire and the first for the Shropshire Association.

C. BRETT-SMITH.

Cosford, Salop.

DOUBLE WEDDING AT IBSTOCK.

On Saturday, December 18th, at Ibstock, Leicestershire, one of the local ringers, Corol F. S. Fowkes, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Fowkes, of Glen Helen, Melbourne Road, Ibstock, was married to Miss Nora Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, of 18, Park View, Oakthorpe. The bride was given away by her father and had as her bridesmaids Miss Beryl Goacher (cousin) and Miss Margaret Fowkes (sister of the bridegroom). Mr. C. Hawkesworth, brother-in-law, was best man. Both the bridegroom and his father are members of the local company, and the bridegroom is home after service with the R.A.S.C. in Africa.

At the same time the bridegroom's sister, Miss Muriel Fowkes, was married to Mr. Frank Smith. The bride was given away by her father and had as her bridesmaids two more sisters, Miss Gwen Fowkes and Miss Freda Fowkes. Mr. G. Attwood was best man. The service was choral and was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. R. Newberry.

The wedding bells were rung by A. E. Rowley, Miss I. Rowley, C. Verey and W. T. Goadby, of the local band, assisted by H. O. Over and E. Ford, of Hugglescote, and E. C. Holland, of Market Bosworth.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester, January 1st. Service in the Cathedral 3.45 p.m. Address by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Winchester. Tea and meeting to follow at Dumpers' Restaurant. Cathedral bells (12) before service and St. Maurice's Church (6).—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 1st, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 1st. Bells (10) 3.30.—A. Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Annual district meeting at Mistley, Saturday, January 8th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting and tea to follow probably at the Thorn Hotel. Bring food and a little tea. Good train and bus service via Manningtree.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at East Crompton, Saturday, January 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food. Subscriptions due; reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Annual meeting at Frome, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 5th.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Annual meeting at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells at Fordington 2.30 p.m., St. Peter's 4. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow at The Spinning Wheel Cafe (near the church). Names for tea by Jan. 4th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Weymouth.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Annual meeting at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Trying to arrange tea. Names by Jan. 5th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Holy Trinity, Blackburn, Saturday, Jan. 8th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District).—Joint meeting at Staveley, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Names for tea to Mr. A. Parsons, 42, Circular Road, Staveley, near Chesterfield, by Jan. 5th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Annual meeting at Leicester, Jan. 8th. Ringing St. Margaret's (12 bells) 3 till 5 p.m., Cathedral (12 bells) 7 p.m. till 9 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., Victory Cafe, Carts Lane, followed by meeting at the Globe Hotel, opposite. Names for tea before Jan. 5th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea provided; please apply.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Ringing 2.30 and after meeting. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 6d.) and meeting at Tower Cafe 5 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Annual meeting at Bedford on Saturday, Jan. 8th. St. Peter's bells from 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

HADDENHAM, CAMBS.—Meeting Jan. 8th. Bells from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. proximately.—R. H. Bullen.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Andrew's, Derby, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, election of officers. Own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lindfield, Saturday, January 15th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service and meeting to follow.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

NEW YEAR GREETING.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Fidler, Grandison, 28, Nanpantan Road, Loughborough, send greetings to all ringing friends.

DEATH OF MR. A. W. DOBBINS.

The death is announced of Mr. A. Wallace Dobbins, which occurred on December 11th. Mr. Dobbins was captain of the band at Gorseinon, South Wales, for many years, and a sidesman at St. Catherine's Church. He was a proficient ringer in the standard methods.

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