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FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1944.

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THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE

The Midland Counties Association is considering a proposal to divide itself into four smaller guilds, and that brings to the fore the question of the general organisation of the Exercise, which has always been of interest to ringers.

At present the Exercise is divided into a comparatively large number of separate societies which differ considerably from each other. Some are large and wealthy, and some are small and rather poor. Some are territorial, and others are not. Some are on a diocesan basis, some on county, and some cover smaller and less strictly defined localities. Some have a nominal membership altogether larger than their actual practical strength. It seems a rather chaotic state, and it is no wonder that many men think that a better system could and should be found. This is one of the reasons why the idea of a national association finds supporters.

If ever it fell to the lot of any man or body of men to draw up a scheme for the complete reorganisation of the Exercise there cannot be any doubt that a diocesan basis would be adopted. The bells are the property and instruments of the Church, ringers exercise their calling mainly in her service, and the future and well being of the Exercise and the art of change ringing depend to a very large extent on the co-operation of the ringers and the church authorities. An organisation which takes the parochial band as the unit and the diocese as its scope, with the parson as the local head and the bishop as the general head, would seem to be so obvious as hardly to admit of an alternative. Indeed, the tendency is toward that direction, and it might seem rather strange that any other system has ever come into being.

One of the things which most strikes the man who has studied the history of the Exercise is the extraordinary way in which in its development and organisation it has, on its small scale, reproduced the general characteristics of the English nation and people. Englishmen have never been logical in what they do; they have never troubled about general principles; they have been content to take things as they come and to provide for contingencies as they arise; with the result that the English constitution, English common law, and English institutions are largely a matter of hand to mouth expediencies with no few anomalies. The justification of the system has been that, on the whole, it worked well,

(Continued on page 226.)

though, owing to the increasing stringency of modern life, the old style is fast disappearing.

It was therefore quite in accordance with things in general that when the reformers seventy years or so ago founded the earliest territorial associations they never thought of adopting some general scheme, but used what seemed to be the most suitable for their immediate time and place. So we have county associations for Devon and Yorkshire and Kent, and Diocesan Associations for Oxford and Norwich—to mention only one or two of the earliest.

And, after all, though it was not logical, it was the sound thing to do. The first object of an organisation is to serve the interests of the Exercise; and desirable as it is as a general rule, the diocese is not in every case the best unit. Kent, for instance, is shared by two dioceses, and if the diocesan area was universally adopted, not only would what is for ringers a homogeneous district be divided, but Croydon, which is in the heart of Surrey, would be attached to far-off Canterbury. Some of the more recently founded dioceses in populous districts are not very suitable as the area of a territorial ringing association because the number of ringing peals and ringers they contain bears no relationship to their general population.

Our present organisation has grown up mainly because it was the best for its particular purposes, and it would be folly to seek to alter it merely for the sake of change. Nevertheless, alterations should always be possible when they are needed, and the diocesan association should always be looked upon as the ideal. The Exercise will watch with interest the experiment the Midland Counties Association contemplates making, and will wish it every success.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

WALSALL, STAFFS.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 26½ cwt. in D.

THOMAS H. REEVES ... Treble	JOHN PINFOLD 7
WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 2	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 8
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS... 9
FRANK E. HAYNES ... 4	ALBERT WALKER 10
HENRY H. FEARN 5	A. PADDON SMITH 11
GEORGE E. FEARN 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., May 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in C sharp.

FRED HAYES Treble	GEORGE R. GOODSHIP... 6
*AUDREY MABEL LOOK ... 2	CECIL A. SMITH 7
JAMES W. WILKINS ... 3	FRANK WEST 8
RALPH COLES 4	MAJ. J. H. R. FREEBORN 9
ARTHUR JONES 5	†ALECK STRATHDEE ... Tenor

Composed by MAJOR FREEBORN. Conducted by FRED HAYES.

* First peal on ten. † First peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOODSTOCK, OXON.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., May 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5888 CHANGES!

Tenor 12 cwt.

*†ALAN WHITE ... Treble	†BETTY SPICE 5
‡MARGARET D. TELFORD 2	HARRY MILES 6
MARGARET L. TUTT ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
*†JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG... Tenor

Composed by T. DAY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major on tower bells. † First peal of Treble Bob. ‡ First peal of Treble Bob on tower bells. The first peal of Treble Bob on tower bells for the society.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES

Tenor 13 cwt.

WALTER AYRE ... Treble	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT... 5
FRANCIS KIRK 2	EDWIN JENNINGS 6
EDWIN A. BELSHAM ... 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7
RICHARD G. BELL ... 4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

FIVE BELL PEALS.

RAYNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., May 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

Tenor 7 cwt.

RONALD SUCKLING ... Treble	STANLEY BONES 3
HENRY PRATT 2	HERBERT REASON 4

ROBERT LE BEAU ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

TERLING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF ST. SIMON'S DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

MRS. E. HUXTER ... Treble	STANLEY BONES 3
HENRY PRATT 2	ROBERT LE BEAU 4

RONALD SUCKLING ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

First peal in the method by all.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

1,280				1,280			
23456	B	W	H	23456	B	W	H
52436	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
34526	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	23645	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—
1,280				1,280			
23456	B	W	H	23456	B	W	H
23564	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
62534	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—
36524	—	—	—	36524	—	—	—
36245	—	—	—	62345	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—	34625	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Street dismisses too readily the notion that changing ratios of weight play an important part in the behaviour of a bell. His geometrical figure is a good point, but one which I omitted because I did not wish to make the subject mathematical in treatment. It is, however, a secondary phenomenon when compared with other phenomena which are taking place, and the conclusions he reaches are an over simplification. True, the behaviour of a bell has nothing to do with the force on the gudgeons. I made the point in an endeavour to show the distribution of weight at various angles. The operative factor is not the weight on the gudgeons, but the weight which is not on the gudgeons.

Let me illustrate the point by analogy; the steelyard type of balance. Let us begin by setting the weight to the 1 lb. mark on the scale, and on the hook at the other side placing a weight of 1 lb. The scale will now balance. Now move the weight further from the pivot until it coincides with the 2 lb. mark on the scale. Result: the arm will behave as though it had acquired additional weight and will come to rest on its lower stop. From this we can state a principle: that, in an apparatus of this kind, if the centre of gravity be moved further from the axis, it will exert a greater potential force in relation to a fixed point at the other side of the balance.

Now, let me state another principle involved, again by analogy: the type of runway used to lower barrels from a brewer's dray. If the carter is wise, he will so arrange his runway that it makes the smallest possible angle with the horizontal, and for a very good reason. That is to say, the ratio, weight supported by carter/weight supported by runway, at successive points, will be small. The fact that the barrel will now travel further, as Mr. Street in effect points out, is merely a function of this process.

Now, let us compare our analogies with the bell, still using the geometrical figure. First draw the circle. Now plot through its axis a vertical and a horizontal diameter. In one of the lower quadrants plot radii at equal angles to represent the centre of gravity in relation to the axis at successive points. At the outer ends of these radii, plot lines at right angles. This will show the effect due to the sloping runway principle. Now from the points where the radii intersect the circumference, plot lines vertically to intersect the horizontal, and these points of intersection will show the effect due to the steelyard balance principle. This is so, because, no matter how far the rope extends round the wheel, it will behave as though the weight were being applied to a fixed point: the point of intersection of the horizontal with the circumference. (Note here, that the effect of this weight will be to shift the operative centre of gravity further from the axis.)

If Mr. Street still doubts this thesis, let him try an experiment. Stand beneath a bell weighing, say, 14 cwt., and let him push her until he has raised her centre of gravity half an inch. He will not find this too difficult. Now let him arrange to have the bell raised through an angle of 90 degrees, and have her supported by timbers in this position. He will be a remarkable man, if he can now raise the centre of gravity for a quarter of this distance.

The potential energy necessary to raise a bell by any amount must first of all be sufficient to neutralise the potential energy exerted by the bell. Finally, it must be pointed out that the above is true, only if the structure in which the bell swings be perfectly rigid. If this condition is not satisfied, then centrifugal force must be taken into account, together with frictional losses due to bearings, ropes, pulleys and air resistance.

A. G. OLIVER.

Sutton, Surrey.

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with Mr. Street and think his admirably concise treatment explains the matter well. However, for ringers who are not geometers I would like to suggest the following: Suppose a very strong man pulls on the rope of a light bell without letting go. As the bell rises the force he must exert increases to a maximum when the bell is horizontal and then decreases again—a result which follows from the principle of moments of forces about a point—the downward moment of the bell increasing as the centre of gravity moves away from the vertical axis of the bell at rest. Now suppose that the strong man does not increase his pull uniformly, but raises the bell by jerks. Each time he applies the same pull for the same time, i.e., he does the same amount of work, but as the downward moment of the bell increases, and work done=downward moment×distance the C.G. rises, so the latter quantity must decrease each time until the bell is half-way up.

This is exactly what a normal ringer really does—he must apply his pull when the bell has nearly come to rest, or is just beginning to move again. Hence, we may forget what happens in between and so kinetic energy, centrifugal force, etc., do not enter into the problem.

Last, the block and tackle analogy is not a good one, as one end of the rope supporting the load must be fixed, whereas in a rising bell the rope and load are only stationary for an infinitesimal time while the bell stops, then changes direction and falls back. The nearest principle is that of the lever—the force applied via the rope is transmitted to the load via the wheel spokes, the effective fulcrum being the line joining the gudgeons.

J. MERRITT.

Hulme Hall, Manchester.

WAR MEMORIALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading through past numbers of 'The Ringing World' recently, I have noticed an occasional suggestion here and there, which is bound to come up for greater discussion as the war approaches its end. I refer to the idea of increasing the numbers of bells in the towers of England as a war memorial.

I have myself rather strong views on this point. A war memorial should be something which takes the mind back to something we have all had to go through together, and to the losses we have had to suffer in order to achieve the ultimate freedom. It is a sorrowful, and yet glorious, memory.

But are bells a fitting memorial for these things? I do not think so. Bells are a symbol of joy, to be used on the happiest occasions.

The time is 1950. The bells of the parish church have been increased from eight to ten. On the wall of the belfry is the list of men these bells commemorate. But the victory peal has been rung, and who cares now about who the new trebles are for? A few of the older ringers, who knew the fallen—the occasional interested visitor.

But generally to the ringers it will matter far more that they can now ring Grandsire and Stedman Caters instead of Triples, and they can start practising Cambridge Royal.

Do not let us use the war, and the fallen ones, to obtain our own ends. If we want two new trebles, let us be honest, and have them for the real and proper reason—because we want to ring more for the greater glory of God. Let us have them for things joyful, not as a standing memorial of some of the greatest horrors that have yet been perpetrated.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

India.

MUSIC AND METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May 19th I noticed the letter of Mr. C. Brett Smith on music and methods. Whilst I agree with him on the musical qualities of Grandsire Caters, I cannot agree with his reference to the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' book, 'Surprise Methods.'

I take it that the intricate methods he refers to are Cambridge and London. These methods, according to the reverend gentleman, are hopeless as regards music, and it is obvious that they were included in the book owing to the fact that they were very popular with the Exercise at the time of writing. But I am afraid that Mr. Smith cannot say the same about the other methods in the book.

In the Minor version we have Annable's London, Norwich, Norfolk, Ipswich, Primrose and Hull. These are all excellent methods, very easy to ring by any Minor band who cares to give a little time to study, and contain all the best musical properties.

The above version also applies to Major. Mr. Davies tries to make it clear that the Burton variation of Cambridge was much the better of the two, and goes to no small amount of trouble to impress on the Exercise the undesirability of the intricate methods that Mr. Smith talks about, i.e., Cambridge and London.

E. M. BRADLEY.

Sherburn-in-Elmet.

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading Mr. Oliver's interesting letter and considering the matter further, I should like to submit the following conclusions.

During the process of being raised, the bell, at the start and at the finish of each swing, is momentarily at rest *whatever its height* at the time. The whole weight is, therefore, being taken by the gudgeons *whatever the bell's position*, and there is no variation in this factor as Mr. Oliver contends.

If for the sake of simplicity we consider a frictionless bell at either end of its swing, the only forces acting on it are the bell's weight and the reaction at the gudgeons. These two are equal and opposite and constitute a couple whose moment tends to rotate the bell and the bell will fall and rise again to the same height as before, but with its centre of gravity now on the other side of the gudgeons. This motion, but for friction and air resistance, would be perpetual and is independent of the height from which it starts.

What the ringer has to do, therefore, is (a) to overcome the resisting friction, and (b) to increase the height of the bell. To my mind, the effort required for this work is practically the same in any position.

The ringer finds it harder when only half-way up than, say, when three-quarter way for two reasons only: (1) In the former case the period of the bell is smaller, so he has to work faster, i.e., put in more strokes per minute, and (2) the fillet-hole in the wheel is not yet past the ground-pulley at the end of the swing, so the ringer can only work at back-stroke and can put in no hand-strokes at all. In the latter case, however, not only does the ringer have more time between strokes, but he can now work at both ends of the swing thereby halving the force he need exert.

To my mind, therefore, Mr. Oliver has drawn the right conclusions, but has reached them in spite of incorrect reasoning.

G. A. S. DIBLEY.

Lewknoor, Oxford.

ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

Lic. : Royal Institute of British Architects.
Fellow : Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

No section of the population has a better opportunity to study church architecture than ringers, and I hope that these notes will encourage many to gain a greater appreciation of this glorious heritage of inspired achievement than is possible in a few cursory glances on the way to the tower. To be able to read the history of a church in its stones is an attractive accomplishment: many of them can show the work of several centuries, and it is satisfying to be able to distinguish the original building from the alterations and additions of later ages. An acquaintance with the outlines of our Island History, which exercised so great an influence upon the development of churches, is presumed.

The early Saxon churches were crude wooden affairs but, as intercourse with the Continent increased, knowledge and taste developed. By the date of the Conquest, there existed over 4,000 cathedrals, monasteries and churches, mainly of stone, modelled on the Romanesque; of which some sixty have survived to this day, wholly or in part, and provide proof of an excellent building tradition. The Normans introduced an improved pattern of the same style into England. A very large proportion of our mediæval churches have something of Norman in them, while there are many which have stood through the eight intervening centuries with little alteration.

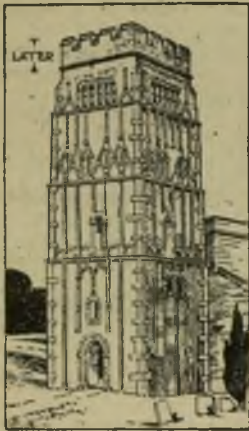


FIG. 1.

Earls Barton (Saxon).

The early Norman work was plain, rugged and massive, but the XII. century saw great progress in richness of detail and greater delicacy of structural design, for which the Cistercian Order was responsible. By the year 1170, a transition had begun which within a comparatively few years blossomed into the first true native style, known to us as Early English or First



FIG. 2.

Stewkley (Norman).

Pointed. Towards the end of the XIII. century, design had been further developed, in decorative rather than structural detail; and the term Decorated has, therefore, been given to the Second Pointed style, during which English Gothic reached its greatest heights.

As early as 1350, the Gloucester School of Masons began to build in a new and striking manner which everywhere supplanted the

Decorated as soon as the country recovered from the effects of the Black Death of 1349. Greater riches and security raised a demand for new, larger, and better-lighted churches. Wider windows, with depressed arches, and a general striving after verticality, prompted a later age to attach the term Perpendicular to this, the Third (and last) Pointed style of the Gothic art. During these four centuries every feature of the church was constantly undergoing change, and each period may be distinguished, not only by its windows but its doors, arches, mouldings, capitals, ornament, woodwork and external features. The great Minster of Beverley is but one of many instances of this constant change. Of the Norman church the Font remains, the Transepts and Quire are Early English, the Nave is Decorated, and the east window and western towers are Perpendicular. The Stalls are early XVI. century, and there is a Restoration font-cover.



FIG. 3.

Frampton (Early English).



FIG. 4.

Heckington (Decorated).

When Henry VIII. came to the throne, most inhabited localities had a church, and the disappearance in that reign of both monastic and papal influence further discouraged the building of churches. Such new work as went on, for example, at Oxford and Cambridge, was in a form of Perpendicular called Debased, from its greatly depressed arches and general air of utility, but which, none the less, has given us many beautiful buildings, as the Divinity School at Oxford. The growth of Protestantism and interest in Classical forms during the reign of Elizabeth, with the Puritan interlude of the XVII. century, killed the Gothic influence. When building began again with the Restoration of Charles II., the

few new churches were in the pure Roman manner (as at Avington), which persisted for 150 years.

The term Gothic needs some comment. It became the fashion to sneer at the Pointed styles and to dub them rough and uncouth by comparison with the classical work of the Renaissance. Now, the roughest people known to Christendom were the Goths, who overran Southern Europe in the IV. century. So the intelligentsia of the new era could think of no better term than Gothic with which to label the form of architecture they despised; that, at any rate, is as likely an explanation as any. And while the term of opprobrium has stuck, public opinion has once again learned to know the Gothic as the most beautiful form of building ever devised by human skill and devotion.

The later years of the Georgian era saw a Gothic revival, stilted and ill-understood (with one or two notable exceptions), for the tradition had been lost. Queen Victoria had reigned nearly fifty years before the true mediæval spirit was recaptured, and meanwhile much harm had been done to ancient fabrics by well-intentioned but ignorant restorers.

The dates I have given are, of course, approximate, for each period merged almost imperceptibly into the next. Changes began later and were more gradual in remote parts of the country than in the larger centres of population. Each style developed in sympathy with local conditions and materials. Thus we have, for example, the flintwork of East Anglia and Herefordshire, the fine stone churches of the Stone Belt from Somerset to Lincolnshire, the timber towers and spires of Kent and Hampshire, the rectangular plan and simple, lofty towers of the West, the rugged strength

of the North, and the good tower tradition of Yorkshire. Every church has its peculiar interest, for of this great heritage, which is at once our pride and our responsibility, there is no building, however humble, in which may not be discovered some detail of construction, plan or decoration, not to be found in any other.

The styles which I have passed in brief review may thus be tabulated:—

1. Saxon or pre-Conquest, VI. century-1066.
2. Norman, 1066-1189 (XI.-XII. century).
3. Transitional, 1160-1200.
4. Early English or First Pointed, 1189-1307.
5. Decorated or Second Pointed, 1272-1377.
6. Perpendicular or Third Pointed, 1350-1603.
7. Classical Revival, 1558-1820.
8. Gothic Revival, 1820 onwards.

The three Pointed styles are often referred to loosely as XIII., XIV. and XV. century respectively. I propose to deal in some detail with the first six periods.

GLOSSARY.

CAPITAL. Carved and/or moulded topmost member of a column or pier.

MOULDINGS. Contours given to angles to produce light and shade.

NORMAN. The style introduced by William the Norman (the Conqueror).

RENAISSANCE. The rebirth of the Classic style of ancient Rome which began to influence English architecture about 1575.

ROMANESQUE. The western European version of the Roman to XII. century.

SAXON. All building from the Saxon invasions to the Norman Conquest.

(To be continued.)

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, May 14th. at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Barber 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. Jones 3, F. W. Goodfellow 4, F. Blondell 5, W. Honor 6, T. G. Bannister (conductor) 7, C. Over 8.

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
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'The Ringing World.'

Yesterday was the second anniversary of the death of John Sparkes
Goldsmith, founder and for 31 years editor of this journal.

REBUILDING OF WAR DAMAGED CHURCHES.

Last week a statement was issued by the War Damage Commission,
giving the terms of which have been decided upon after a long series
of consultations with a committee, presided over by the Bishop of
London, representative of the Christian Churches.

Nearly 14,000 churches, monasteries, convents and other ecclesiastical
buildings have suffered in varying degree during air raids on Great
Britain. These buildings belong not only to the Church of England,
but also to the Roman Catholics and the Free Churches. All are,
of course, for this purpose treated alike.

The damaged churches will, unless they are no longer required, be
either reinstated on the same site or else rebuilt elsewhere.

In exceptional cases where the damaged building remains for archi-
tectural, historic or other reasons of special importance, it may be in
the public interest to secure exact reinstatement.

In ordinary cases the aim will be replacement in the former
materials and in style appropriate to the situation of the church. A
tower or spire will be replaced, but if the new church is smaller than
the old one, the tower and spire will be proportionately smaller, and
where the design will allow it, the spire may be omitted.

It is satisfactory to find that towers are to be rebuilt, for this feature
is usually considered to be the one which from the point of utility
can most easily be dispensed with. No mention is made of bells, for
they were expressly excluded from any scheme of restoration by public
funds, and the various parochial authorities were advised either to
safeguard them or to insure them.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at
the Church House, Salisbury, on May 20th. The Master, the Rev.
C. C. Cox, presided over an assembly of about 90 members.

The president, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was unable to be pre-
sent, wrote: 'May we hope the time is not far distant when we shall
be able to ring in the blessings of peace.'

The Master referred to the recent death of Mr. C. H. Jennings,
who had been a tower of strength to the Guild.

The statement of accounts presented showed a credit balance of
£88 2s. 9d.

The officers were re-elected: Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox; general
secretary, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Green.
The auditors and committee members were also reappointed. Mr.
F. W. Townsend was elected a life member. The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards,
Messrs. F. W. Romaine, W. C. West and J. T. Godwin were elected
representatives on the Central Council.

The question of undertaking arrangements for a competition in
bellringing was discussed, and it was resolved to refer the matter to
the branches, and a small committee was appointed to report on the
result.

The Guild service was held in St. Martin's Church. The Rev. C. C.
Cox officiated. The Rev. C. A. Phillips read the lesson, and the
Rector addressed a few words of welcome and encouragement to the
large congregation of ringers.

Tea was served in St. Martin's Hall.

The bells of all the city churches were rung during the day.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEEDS.

More than 80 members of the Yorkshire Association and their friends attended the annual meeting of the society, held at Leeds Parish Church on May 6th.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Reeve, and tea followed in St. Peter's Hall. At the business meeting, the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, was supported by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the general secretary, Mr. S. F. Palmer, the treasurer, and Mr. W. Barton, the peal secretary. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, E. Hudson, R. Duffield, F. Tingle, J. B. Hutchinson and George Lewis.

Canon Marshall presented the 68th annual report, which, as he said, showed that the association was in a very satisfactory condition.



CANON C. C. MARSHALL.

In these difficult times, it stated, among other things, 'it is good to record that our actual membership has gone up during the year. We started with a membership of 1,127, and of these 15 have died and 10 have lapsed, but we have elected 33 new members, leaving the membership now at 1,135. The numbers serving in H.M. Forces are 114. Amongst those who have passed from us we would especially mention two or three of our old and valued members. Josiah Woodhead was one of the few surviving original members of the association and a contemporary with our first president. He spent his ringing years between Leeds Parish Church and St. Matthew's, Holbeck, and is credited with 51 peals. George Titterington, of Bradford, was a very familiar figure at all our meetings to which he could get. He died

at the age of 88. H. N. Imeson, of York, had been a member of the General Committee for many years. Harry Gibson was at his death the president of the Northern District.'

Owing to war conditions it had been possible to hold only two general meetings during the year. The annual meeting was at Leeds, at which about 40 members attended.

Nineteen peals had been rung during the year, eight on tower bells and eleven on handbells. Two members rang their first peals.

The eight tower bell peals were rung in eight churches. They consisted of Superlative Surprise Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Plain Bob Major 1, Stedman Triples 1, and Treble Bob Minor 1.

The eleven handbell peals consisted of Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 3, Bob Major 6, and Bob Minor 1.

MR. BARTON'S GREAT TASK.

Mr. William Barton had now completed the great task he set himself of proving all the compositions rung by the association since its foundation in 1875. The number exceeded 2,000 and it was believed that the Yorkshire Association was the only one which had undertaken such a task and brought it to a successful conclusion. Out of the total only 38 were found to be false. They included two to be added to the list given in the last report. One was a peal of St. Clement's Bob Triples, which was rung to a true composition of Grandsire Triples, and the other a peal of Grandsire Cinques, rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1915.

The balance sheet appeared at first sight to show a loss, but this was accounted for by the fact that the accumulated indebtedness for notices of meetings had been paid off, and those members who were serving in H.M. Forces had been excused their subscriptions.

The report was accepted on the motion of Mr. P. J. Johnson, seconded by Mr. H. Lofthouse.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris was re-elected hon. general secretary on the proposition of Mr. H. S. Morley, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson.

Mr. Morris, returning thanks for the election and the vote of thanks which accompanied it, said he was one who believed that official positions should go round, and he asked that the members should seriously consider the appointment of a successor. His work during war time had been difficult, but the loyal support of his colleagues had greatly lessened his task.

It was decided on the proposition of Mr. Johnson that no collections for the Bell Repairs Fund should be made at general meetings. Mr. Johnson pointed out that those members who most regularly attended general meetings were those who most regularly attended district meetings, and, therefore, were called upon to subscribe twice. The committee had approved the motion.

Canon Marshall and Messrs. L. W. G. Morris, S. F. Palmer and P. J. Johnson were re-elected as representatives on the Central Council.

The Rev. J. C. Pearks, Provost of Bradford, was elected an hon. life member, and Miss M. E. Spencer and Messrs. J. Hargreave, C. Ashworth, B. Sutcliffe, W. Southwell, J. Briggs, E. Hirst and R. Wheatley as ringing members.

It was decided to accept an invitation to hold the next meeting at Tadcaster.

Thanks were given to the Vicar of Leeds and the churchwardens, to the local company, and to the association's officers for the work they had done, including Mr. Barton, the peal secretary, and Mr. Palmer, the treasurer.

The Yorkshire Association is one of the very few guilds which have been able to issue a printed report during war time.

Although small compared with peace time issues, it is a booklet of fifty pages and contains a full list of towers and resident members, particulars of peals and compositions, annual report and balance sheet and list of deceased members. There is also a full list of the compositions which Mr. Barton found to be false. This should be a great help and safeguard to conductors, for there is a surprisingly large number of really first rate composers in the list, men whose names might reasonably be taken as guarantees for the peals, men like William Harrison, James and Tom Lockwood, Henry Johnson, Charles H. Hafttersley, Arthur Knights, John Thorpe, Henry Law James and others. It is not quite fair to Joseph J. Parker that his name is there, for it was not his fault that somebody used his true peal of Grandsire Triples for St. Clement's. It has often been pointed out and should be generally known that Holt's singles are the only ones which may be used with pure symmetrical Triples methods other than Grandsire.



MR. WILLIAM BARTON.

Before and after the meeting the twelve bells of the Parish Church were rung. Unfortunately, during a touch of Stedman Cinques the clapper came out of the tenor and the ringing after that was restricted to lesser numbers.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SANDIACRE.

Forty members of the Midland Counties Association attended a meeting of the Nottingham District held at Sandiacre on May 6th. After service, conducted by the Rector, the tea and business meeting was held, at which Canon Wilkinon, president of the association, took the chair.

Meetings were decided on at Bingham in July, Stapleford in August, and Woolaton in September.

The proposal to decentralise the Midland Counties Association was considered, but as only about 50 per cent. of the members was present, the secretary, Mr. Thomas Groombridge, was instructed to get a full vote of the members before the Woolaton meeting.

It was agreed that the association had become somewhat unwieldy and that some of the outlying areas had suffered from it. Reorganisation on diocesan lines would make for more efficiency and lead to closer co-operation with other regional societies such as the East Derbyshire and North Notts Association. The retention of the initials M.C.A. in the titles of the new guilds was favoured as an indication of their origin, and those present agreed with the president's suggestion that all who have been members of the association before 1944 should be recognised by all the new guilds alike as members for peal ringing and social purposes.

It was considered that the assets of the present Midland Counties Association should be divided equally between the four new guilds.

These proposals will be forwarded to all the helfries in the district and a decision arrived at by the meeting at Woolaton on September 2nd.

Mr. P. L. Parrott, of the local band, who had arranged the tea, said it had realised a profit of 10s. This he handed over to the Belfry Repair Fund.

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 209.)

The bells in the parish churches survived the dangers caused by the Reformation and so far as the people at the time were concerned the changes in doctrine and ritual made little difference to their use. But actually these changes influenced ringing and the Exercise profoundly, and the more permanently so, because their effect was gradual and unnoticed. The Exercise of today and the art of change ringing are what they are mainly because of what happened in the sixteenth century.

The most important result was that the laity took almost entire control of the bells, and ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) became completely secular. There is no doubt that this was a tendency which had been going on for many years, and which was largely unconnected with any changes in doctrine or ritual. The bells had through the ages been used for civic and secular purposes as well as for ecclesiastical purposes. The love of the sound of the bells had grown up among the people and the love of ringing as a sport among the young men. While there was ringing for processions and vigils as well as for victories and weddings and the visits of great persons, the Church might seem to have the first claim on the services of the ringers; but when the more advanced leaders of the Protestant party discouraged 'superstitious' ringing, the common folk were not at all inclined to argue the point. So long as the bells were rung they did not care very much what they were supposed to be rung for; if they might not ring for saints' days then they would ring for sport, and if they were not allowed to ring on Sundays then they would ring on week-days. It was this twofold objection of the puritans to ringing (that it was superstitious and that it was Sabbath breaking) which almost completely divorced ringing from the service of the Church and made it the secular art and sport which for centuries it was and still to a very large degree remains.

Not all or the majority of Church leaders were puritans and those who belonged to the Anglo-Catholic party (or as it was then called the Arminian) would have had little objection to the old semi-liturgical uses of bells. The most influential of these men was William Laud, successively Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. Laud was a statesman as well as a bishop, and he had many much more important things to think of, but in his episcopal visitations he took care to inquire whether the bells were in proper order, and, if not, to give instructions that they should be repaired.

'Directions given to the Deane and Prebendaries of the Cathedrall Church of Rochester for the reformacon of certen thynge presented in the Metropolitan Visitacon of the moste Reverend Father in God, Willm by Goddes provydenche Archbishop of Canterbury.

"3 Item. You are withoute delaye to repayre the glasse windowes of your church in a decent manner as alsoe to put your bells in good order together with the frames of them.'

Whereunto the Dean and Chapter replied—'To the thirde we answere that at our last audit we tooke order for performing of both those thinges mentioned . . . and the belles likewise soe soone as the season for felling of tymber for that purpose will permytt.'

Coventry and Lichfield—1635—'Item that the frame of your great belles wch is much decayed be substantially replayed.'

Peterborough. 'That enquirye be made after the executors or administrators of Deane Fletcher that some satisfaction may be had from them either by a faire composican or by compulcion of the lawe for that great bell wch through his meanes in his tyme was taken away and that the ringe of belles wch wants repayre be suddenly amended and that you give an accompte of yor doinges therein.'

Bishop Wren, of Norwich, also set himself to counteract puritan ideas—'Particular orders, directions, and remembrances given in the diocese of Norwich upon the primary visitation of the reverend father in God, Matthew, lord bishop of that See, 1636. That there be the same manner of ringing and tolling of bells to church on holly days as is used on Sundays and there be no difference of ringing to church when there is a sermon more than when there is none, excepting knells for funerals.'

But the time of the ascendancy of the puritans was at hand and once more the church bells of England were in danger of destruction. As in Edward's reign, it did not actually happen and for the same reason; but that the danger was real is shown by an order of the House of Lords on December 12th, 1642, that the ring at Exeter Cathedral should be melted into ordnance, and the motion brought before the House of Commons in 1652 'that the bells of such Cathedrals as Parliament shall think fit to be pulled down shall be applied to publick use for making ordnance for shipping.' The motion was defeated by only two votes.

During the actual Reformation period (say from 1532 to 1559) there was little or no casting of bells and for the same reasons that there was no church building. The activity of the previous years had given England all the bells she needed for her present purposes, and the dissolution of the monasteries had made many more available for parish churches. But in Elizabeth's reign there was a great revival of bell founding, and parishes all over the country began to increase the rings in their steeples; not because the bells were wanted for church services, but because the common people wanted more bells for ringing as a sport. It was a movement which concerned the laity almost exclusively and from which the clergy and especially those of the puritan party, stood aloof.

As a rule the puritans had no objection to bells in church towers so long as they were used only for the purpose of calling the people together, and for that one or two were sufficient. Ringing they disliked and discouraged, partly because they looked on it as a relic of popish superstition, partly because it was in their opinion a form of Sabbath breaking, and partly because they disapproved of all sport. But though their influence steadily increased during the first half of the seventeenth century they remained but a minority of the people, and even when during the Commonwealth they had gained complete power in Church and State, they could not prevent either the spread of the new art of change ringing or the provision of new bells for its service.

It has generally been assumed that during the Commonwealth and the rule of the puritans there was little

or no bell founding in England, but that is not correct. From 1642 to 1647, owing to the unsettlement caused by the Civil War, and still more, we may assume, to the heavy taxation, there were few bells cast and bell founders fell on an evil time; but as soon as the country had settled down to order and prosperity under the rule of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell, the trade began to revive. In 1641 the number of church bells known to have been cast is over 100. In 1641 it drops to 36. Only one bell is known to have been cast in 1643, and only two in 1644. In 1645 the number is seven, and in 1646 is eight. In 1647 the number rises to 40 and after 1651 there is a steady upward tendency until the average of over 100 is again reached. Meanwhile, ringing societies like the College Youths were popular and flourishing.

There was a small but violent section of the puritans who were bitterly against anything like ornament or decoration in the churches, and whenever they had the opportunity they did enormous damage to the buildings that had come down from the Middle Ages, smashing painted glass and defacing carved stone and woodwork. It was these men who petitioned Parliament to destroy the bells in cathedrals and led to the motion I referred to above. One of them, a man named Samuel Chidley, published a pamphlet supporting the petition and entitled 'Bell Founder Confounded or Sabinianus Confounded with his Damnable Sett.' It is said to have been a violent tirade against bells. I have not been able to see a copy of it, but some few years later Chidley published another pamphlet addressed to His Highness the Lord Protector, etc., and the Parliament of England, in which he maintains that 'idols, temples, steeples and bells' are evil things and should be destroyed. He reminds Cromwell that the Long Parliament abolished 'the Kingly office as useless and unprofitable. How much more ought these Steeples to be demolished for the uselessness and unprofitableness thereof. And therefore you ought to root them out, lest the great God of heaven root you out as he did your predecessors. They took away the crosses from the tops of Steeples as idolatrous, but gave no order to demolish the Steeples, for their judgement was not informed and they saw not that the Steeples were idolatrous as the Crosses thereupon. But it is no new thing for better and wiser than they to be mistaken like the Scribes and Pharisees. . . . So it may be said contraversive of these, which is greater the Crosses or the Steeples the pillars and foundations thereof? Therefore, when they pulled down the Crosses from the Steeples they should have pulled down the Steeples also, the Steeples being as idolatrous and useless as the others. Therefore down with these old Chyming Chimneys of the drunken whore of Babylon, that so the fire and smoke of abomination which maketh desolation may be utterly extinguished with the names of the idols out of these places. And what are these Steeples? Are they not Popish Pillars? for they were erected by the Catholick Papists in honour of their Popish gods. Therefore, although these towers of Babel are builded to reach up to heaven and some have as many steps as there are days in the year, down with them and their Babylonish bells to the very ground and let not one stone of them remain upon another.'

Samuel Chidley and his friends were extremists and this wild tirade cannot be taken to represent the opinions

of the more moderate puritans, but it shows the spirit of the men who at the time did so much to deface the churches and cathedrals of England. There was, however, little destruction of bells. It was easy for the gangs of fanatics like the notorious Will Dowsing, who did so much harm in East Anglia, to break into churches and destroy carved work, painted windows and vestments; but the bells were not so accessible. When 'ye faire bell called Jesus Bell at Lichfield was knocked in pieces by a Presbiterian Pewterer who was ye chiefe officer in demolishing of ye Cathedrall' he may have had other motives than zeal for purity of worship, for he was a worker in metals and knew the value of the bell as scrap metal.

In the year 1660 came the restoration of the monarchy and the Church of England. From that time there has been no danger of the loss of bells by violent means. What destruction there has been has been caused by neglect, bad usage and fire.

(Concluded.)

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HORBURY.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Horbury, near Wakefield, on May 13th, was well attended, ringers being present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk, Friezland, Kirkburton, Liversedge, Rothwell, Rotherham, Sandal, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local belfry. Tea was served in the Co-operative Cafe, and the Vicar, the Rev. R. Coombe, presided at the business meeting. Mention was made of the death of Mr. S. Woodcock, of Darfield, who had passed away on May 7th.

Nine new members were elected, J. Smith and C. R. Parkin (Friezland), J. Carter (Saddleworth), J. Clayton (Mosley), I. Kay (Moor-side), A. Blackburn and L. Bardon (Liversedge) and C. Scott (Horbury), all as ringing members, and S. W. Strangeways (Rothwell) as honorary life member.

Replying to a vote of thanks, the Vicar said that during the following week the 150th anniversary of the building of the church would be celebrated, and there could not have been a better beginning than a meeting of ringers and the ringing of the bells. He assured his visitors that they were very welcome at Horbury. He said that when he was returning from abroad the two things he longed for were to hear the church bells and to hear a blackbird.

The next meeting was fixed for Ecclesfield on June 17th. During the afternoon and evening various methods of Minor, Triples and Major were rung on the tower bells; and touches of Triples and Major and a course of Grandsire Caters on handbells.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Over sixty members and friends were present at the annual meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Croydon on May 20th.

Service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Bishop of Croydon assisted by two of the curates, and tea was at the Sylverdale Hall. The Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, took the chair at the business meeting. An apology was received from Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, who was absent through indisposition.

The hon. secretary, Mr. C. de Ste. C. Parks, submitted the annual report, which gave a satisfactory account of the activities of the association. In spite of widely separated towers and war conditions, some towers had been able to maintain ringing by joining forces, and in one instance seven ladies and two lads had taken up ringing and were now able to ring for Sunday services.

Six meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of 35 in addition to a joint meeting with the Guildford Guild.

Three peals were rung, Bob Major on handbells and Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal on tower bells.

The committee regretted to have to record the death of Mr. W. England, of Carshalton.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin, presented a satisfactory balance sheet, which was passed unanimously.

Ringings took place at Croydon Parish Church before and after the meeting.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT COLLINGTREE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Collingtree on May 20th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. G. Thompson, who welcomed the ringers and afterwards took the chair at the business meeting. The bells were rung at three o'clock and after the business.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH.

Among the many London churches destroyed or damaged during air raids is Chelsea Old Church which stands by the riverside and was the parish church until 1819, when St. Luke's was built.

Originally it was dedicated to All Saints, but towards the end of the seventeenth century it began to be called St. Luke's, the alteration, it is supposed, having been suggested by Dr. Adam Littleton, at the time rector, as a compliment to a physician, Dr. Baldwin Hamey, a prominent man in the parish who gave a bell to the church tower. Since the new St. Luke's has been opened it has usually been called the Old Church, but officially of late years the original dedication has been revived.

The eastern part of the building is pre-Reformation and includes the chapel built by Sir Thomas More to be the place of his sepulchre, though where his body actually lies no one knows.

During the seventeenth century the nave and tower were pulled down and the present structures erected, the tower being finished in 1674. At the time of Edward the Sixth there were 'in the steeple three greate bells and one lyttyll saunce bell.' These may have been added to in the following years, and when the new tower was finished the ring of bells was restored.

Besides the bell given by Dr. Hamey, another was the gift of William Ashburton, who endowed it with money so that it could be rung every night at nine o'clock. The tradition is that he had lost his way one dark night and was in danger of falling into the river when the sound of the bell from Chelsea Church striking the hour warned him of his whereabouts. The ringing was discontinued in 1822, but the bell was preserved and still, we believe, is safe.

In 1762 Thomas Janaway recast the other bells and made a ring of eight, which hung in the steeple until 1824, and then, when the new church was built, all but the fourth were sold and a new ring of ten supplied to St. Luke's by Thomas Mears.

During the sixty years they were in existence only one peal is known to have been rung on Janaway's bells. This was a 5,040 of Bob Major in 1785, conducted by James Worster and rung by a band of College Youths who belonged to the belfries in the villages on the western outskirts of London. As the tablet refers to it as the first 'true' peal on the bells, the presumption is that another, false either in composition or performance, had been rung. The tablet was preserved on the north wall of the tower by the entrance and a photograph of it is reproduced in the Survey of London issued by the London County Council.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOODFORD.

At a meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at Woodford on May 13th, 64 members and friends were present from Hornchurch, Dagenham, Walthamstow, Leyton, West Ham, Leytonstone, Wanstead, Barking, Woodford, Chigwell Row, Waltham Abbey, Epping, Shenfield, Watford, Brentwood and Cardiff.

Service was conducted by the Rev. T. J. Ison, and Mr. J. G. Mathieson presided at the business meeting. Seven honorary members from Woodford were elected and 13 ringing members, four from Woodford, two from Wanstead, three from Shenfield, three from Brentwood and one from Hornchurch.

It was decided to send letters to Mr. Henzel and Mr. Theobald and to hold the next meeting at Epping in June. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to £2 1s. 6d.

The ringing ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Nottingham Districts. — Joint meeting at Sawley, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. each. — W. Lancaster and T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting, Saturday, June 3rd, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Sundridge, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Beechcroft.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch. — Meeting at Old Leake, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (6) 2-3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage at 5 p.m.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Remembrance visit to grave of J. S. Goldsmith at Pyrford, Saturday, June 3rd. Service there 5.15 p.m. Buses leave Woking Car Park 10 minutes to each hour.—G. L. Grover, East Clandon, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln and Sleaford Districts. — Meeting at Sleaford, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. No tea.—G. V. S. Andrews and K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Bunwell, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, Close, Norwich.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Combined practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, on June 3rd, 2.30 to 6 p.m. No teas. Meeting at Eling on June 10th, 2.30 p.m. Names by June 6th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — Meeting at Bitton, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Number for tea by June 5th. — N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Vestry, St. Andrew's, Hillingdon West, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. No tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Market Drayton, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea, for which arrangements are being made.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Christ Church, Epsom, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Christ Church Hall 5.15. Names to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by June 7th.—A. H. Smith.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Practice at St. Mary's, Reading, on Saturday, June 10th, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District. — Meeting at Epworth on Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Business meeting 6 p.m. Bring tea. — Geo. L. C. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Highworth, June 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Lingfield, June 10th. Bells (8) 3-7 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Wallis, Mount Pleasant, Lingfield, by June 5th.—C. A. Bassett.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Mid-Devon Branch. — Meeting at Newton Abbot on Saturday, June 10th. High-week bells (8) 2.30 p.m., Wolborough (8) 6.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., at Thomas's Restaurant, Courtenay Street. Names by Tuesday, June 6th.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh. Phone 3121.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches. — Meeting at Halsall, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Names to Mr. A. Maudsley, Post Office, Halsall, near Ormskirk, by Wednesday.—S. Forshaw, G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Saturday, June 10th, 2 p.m. Business 3 o'clock. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. Bradley, 34, Mansfield Road, Skegby, by Wednesday, June 7th. Bring sugar.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Great Horwood, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4. Tea and cakes provided.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Braunston (6), Saturday, June 10th. Bring sandwiches. Cup of tea provided.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District. — Meeting at Eaton Socan on Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at Singleton, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District. — Meeting at Market Harborough, June 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names to Mr. W. Hector, 12, Highfields Street, Market Harborough, by June 8th.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. Southern District.— Joint meeting with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies at Ecclesfield, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tea at Black Bull Hotel, 5 p.m., at 2s. 6d. (plain 1s. 6d.). Names to Mrs. Crossland, Black Bull Hotel, Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, by 14th, stating which required. Business meetings follow tea. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Towcester Branch. — Meeting at Cosgrove, Saturday, June 17th. Service 4 p.m. Picnic tea. Bring food and sugar. Cups of tea provided.—Rev. E. V. Fenn, Hon. Sec., Lois Weedon, Towcester.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Shilton, near Coventry, Saturday, June 17th. (Hampton bells not available). Bells (6) 3-9 p.m. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m. Bring food and sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BIRTH.

CASTLE.—On May 25th, at The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Berks, to Violet (nee Newell), wife of B. C. Castle, a brother for Sylvia (Robert John).

DEATH.

CORBETT.—On May 21st, at Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Mary (nee Prestidge), wife of Ted and daughter of Mr. A. Prestidge (late leader of St. Andrew's Band, Netherton) and Mrs. A. Prestidge, of 3, St. Andrew's Street, Netherton. 'If God thinks it best we doubt not his word.'

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

OXHEY, HERTS.—On April 25th, 1,260 Stedman Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, *E. Rosson 3, F. W. Brinklow 4, J. Rosson (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, *H. Hayes 6. * First quarter-peal in method.—On May 2nd, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss T. Waldron 1, R. Cadamy 2, *J. Cleaver 3, *L. Tarr 4, *J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. * First 720 in method.

BARNBY DON, DONCASTER.—On Saturday, May 6th, 1,440 Bob Minor: J. Wardle (conductor) 1, *T. Shaw 2, *R. Hirst 3, R. Lunn 4, *F. Lamb 5, *E. Padget 6. * First quarter-peal.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, May 7th, 720 Plain Bob Minor, with 6-8 covering. Rung half-muffled for the late Flight-Sergt. A. J. Brian Weyman: D. Chamberlain 1, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 2, Miss K. Brooks (first 720 inside) 3, A. Thirst 4, F. D. Bishop 5, H. Brooks 6, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8.

STAPLEGROVE, SOMERSET.—On Thursday, May 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (ten callings): Douglas Fear (first quarter-peal) 1, Samuel Pyne 2, L.-Bdr. Charles Denyer, R.A. (conductor) 3, Gdsmn. Reginald Borsberry 4, Jack Roy 5, Frederick Copham 6.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, May 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. G. Nash 1, A. R. Glasscock 2, D. Wright 3, W. J. Bowden 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, S. G. Piper 6, S. Wade (conductor) 7, H. Miller 8.

SINGLETON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, May 14th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. Tomlinson (conductor) 1, J. Hill 2, B. H. Hall 3, J. H. Foster 4, Opl. E. Stainrod 5, Gnr. H. E. G. Jeans (first quarter-peal in method) 6.

STANMORE.—On May 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. R. Fulton 1, G. A. Hughes 2, F. A. Vincelt 3, W. Wenban (conductor) 4, J. W. Best, R.A.F. 5, C. J. Kazer 6, J. E. Rootes 7, C. Wenban 8.

GAINSBOROUGH.—On Sunday, May 21st, 720 Bob Minor: F. S. W. Butler 1, H. Torr 2, J. Dixon 3, E. Batters (first 720 inside) 4, C. H. Baker 5, George L. C. Lunn (conductor) 6.

CRADLEY.—On Sunday, May 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. White 1, A. Grove 2, B. Lawton 3, J. Lloyd 4, V. Warr 5, A. Wyre 6, J. Cox (conductor) 7, T. Greenhall 8.

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