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**GILLETT
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CROYDON**

Founders of the
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FALSE COMPOSITIONS.

The news given in a letter in last week's issue that another favourite and often rung composition has turned out to be false is a reminder of the many obstacles which lie in the peal ringer's path. Before a peal can be regarded as worthy of record, it must pass many tests. The full length must be accomplished. There must be no shift of course and no mistakes and patches of bad ringing which a sensitive conscience could not pass as temporary faulty striking. And the composition must be true.

The latter is the one in which failure is apt to cause the greatest amount of disappointment. Nearly all the other failures are due to some lapse of the band or member of the band, and even when the cause is a broken rope or some defect in the bell fittings, it can, and usually is, treated as bad luck. What makes a false composition such a disappointment is the fact that for some time, perhaps for months or even years, the band has enjoyed the satisfaction of having accomplished a well struck peal and done everything they hoped to do, and then, for no fault of their own, their record cannot stand. If it is a record length, or in other ways an outstanding performance, the disappointment is proportionately greater.

We have said that the risk and the chances of failure in peal ringing are among the things which make it worth while. If peals could be rung every time they were started for, they would hardly be worth attempting. But false compositions are not in the same class as the other causes of failure. If they can be obviated it will be to everybody's advantage. But how?

It is easy to blame the composer and to say he should be more careful; but that would not be fair or reasonable. The men who compose peals take as much pains to ensure that they are true, as the men do who afterwards ring the compositions. But they make mistakes. Even the best and cleverest of men make mistakes, and, however much they may regret it, they need not be ashamed of it. Very often a bad mistake will do a man a lot of good, for it reveals his weakness and supplies an incentive to better things.

It should not, however, be necessary, in teaching this salutary lesson, that other people should suffer. Granted that the composer should be allowed an occasional lapse, some means must be found to detect it before it reaches the conductor. The best way to do that is for any man

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who proposes to call a peal to prove it first and satisfy himself that it is true. Many conductors do so, at least with the simpler methods. Here we have one reason for a wider knowledge of the theory and science of change ringing among men who have no particular ambition to be themselves composers, and this is one justification of the technical articles published from time to time in this journal. But obviously there are many conductors who could not trust themselves to guarantee the truth of a composition in a simple method like Bob Major or Double Norwich, and very few who would undertake to prove a peal of Stedman or of a Surprise Major method. Expert help is called for.

Now it seldom happens that a peal becomes popular among conductors without finding its way into the annual report of some association, perhaps of several. There are conductors who rely on the figures in annual reports for their peals. They have a right to do so, and there is almost an obligation on the association officials to see that no false compositions appear. This is being increasingly recognised and many associations appoint a competent man to prove and guarantee every composition before the figures are published. It should be done by every society. That would be a safeguard for the future, but there still remain the reports of the years gone by, and here the example of the Yorkshire Association should be followed. It was a long and a laborious job to prove all the compositions printed by that society, but it was worth doing, and we do not doubt that there are men in other associations who would gladly undertake a similar task to Mr. Barton's in the spirit that the work is its own reward.

One more suggestion may be made. Many peals are rung of which the figures have never appeared in print, and so have not come under any particular scrutiny. It would be a good thing if each association were to appoint an official to whom a conductor could refer any such composition. The official would undertake either to guarantee himself the truth of the peal, or to put the conductor in touch with someone who would undertake to do so. There are some compositions (like, for instance, a peal of Erin Triples, or Spliced Surprise Major in several new methods) which an average, competent man could not be expected to guarantee, but for most methods the plan would probably work very well and save the disappointment due to ringing false peals.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.—On Sunday, October 15th, at Emmanuel Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss R. Roberts 1, W. H. Cole 2, H. W. S. Gregory 3, Mrs. D. Bowles 4, *Miss J. McDowall 5, H. S. Gregory 6, W. J. Rawlings (conductor) 7, *L. Warren 8. *First quarter-peal. First as conductor.

PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. J. B. Hadden 1, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 2, J. Pinfold 3, J. F. Harvey 4, H. H. Fearn 5, R. C. Ingram 6, F. E. Haynes 7, J. N. London 8.

BRADFORD.—On Sunday, October 15th, at the Cathedral, 1,008 Stedman Triples: H. C. Buckley 1, J. Briggs 2, E. Dalingwater 3, A. Ashton 4, J. W. Cundall 5, T. B. Kendall 6, E. H. Rayner (conductor) 7, C. Barker 8.

FOLKINGHAM, LINCS.—On Sunday, October 15th, for evensong, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: Mrs. P. Humphrey 1, B. Dalton 2, J. H. Botham 3, Mrs. J. H. Botham 4, C. T. H. Bradley (conductor) 5, J. H. Musson 6.

COGENHOE, NORTHANTS.—On Friday, October 20th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: *P. Jones 1, *J. W. L. Linnitt 2, Miss E. Bedford 3, *G. Care 4, *J. R. Sharman 5, *R. Noon (conductor) 6. *First 720 in the method.

LUTON, BEDS.—On October 21st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Rushton 1, A. Day 2, J. Herbert 3, A. King 4, H. Wood 5, W. Botterill 6, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, A. J. Smith 8.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

PERCY L. HARRISON Treble	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
*JILL POOLE... .. 2	HAROLD G. JENNEY 8
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	ERNEST MORRIS... .. 9
G. STEDMAN MORRIS... .. 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER 10
*HARRY G. WAYNE 5	*WILLIAM J. ROOT 11
SHIRLEY BURTON 6	HAROLD H. POOLE Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cambridge Maximus. Birthday compliment to the conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

YOULGREAVE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation) Tenor 26½ cwt.

ERNEST PAULSON... .. Treble	GEORGE H. PAULSON 5
ROBERT ALLSOP 2	VERNON BOTTOMLEY... .. 6
HUGH W. GREGORY 3	HERBERT E. TAYLOR... .. 7
RAYMOND GREATOREX 4	*FRANK TOFT Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT E. TAYLOR.

* First peal.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART,

Tenor 23½ cwt.

*JEAN A. SOUTHERST Treble	WALTER F. JUDGE 5
WILLIAM PORTER 2	MAJOR J. H. R. FREEBORN... .. 6
BETTY SPICE 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
NEIL ALLNATT 4	H. PETER RAYNOR Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' Tenor 12½ cwt.

MRS. J. E. BAILEY Treble	ALAN G. HALL 5
DENNIS L. HALL... .. 2	FREDERICK A. COLRY 6
FREDERICK J. CULLUM 3	EDWIN BARNETT 7
ROBERT WAKE 4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT.

Rung muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

MRS. J. THOMAS... .. Treble	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN... .. 5
*VICTOR R. WOODARDS 2	*DENNIS H. LANGDON 6
*PHILIP D. COWARD 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7
*ERIC A. DENCH 4	*W. DOUGLAS SMITH Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major on tower bells. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... Treble	FREDBRICK A. FINCH 5
J. E. LEWIS COCKEY 2	HARRY KILBY 6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
ARTHUR JONES 4	ARTHUR HARDING Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

ALFRED H. PULLING Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON... .. 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	C. ERNEST SMITH 6
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS... .. 3	CHARLES F. ANDREWS 7
EDWARD R. COLES 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT... .. Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

GEORGE W. HELEY Treble	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 5
ALBERT W. BEARD 2	JAMES G. NEWMAN 6
MRS. DORIS LIDBITTER 3	† EDGAR CONQUEST 7
* HUBERT C. HILLYARD 4	ALBERT G. MATTHEWS Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944 in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

* ARTHUR H. BEAMISH ... Treble	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD... .. 5
† MRS. A. H. BEAMISH 2	FRANK E. PERVIN 6
† LEONARD TREVOR 3	D. HAROLD ARGYLE 7
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	FRANK K. MEASURES Tenor

Composed by R. PYE. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* 50th peal. † First peal in the method.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently. Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR G. WORRELL ... Treble	MISS I. IS ROWE 4
* MISS JOAN ROWE 2	* ARTHUR DARLINGTON 5
MISS ADA C. DUKES 3	FREDERICK E. DUKES ... Tenor

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

* First peal. First peal in the method by all.

EYTHORNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 24, 1944 in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents, ten callings. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIS BROOKS Treble	CHARLES TURNER 3
LAURENCE BODMAN 2	E. THOMAS ELLENDER 4
BERNARD SMITH Tenor	

Composed by CHARLES TURNER.

BURGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. BOTOLPH AND ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Cambridge Surprise, two 720's Kent, Oxford and Plain.

Tenor 9 cwt.

* JOHN F. JENNINGS Treble	CHARLES CLARKE 4
JAMES W. JENNINGS 2	GEORGE A. FLEMING 5
MRS. C. W. PIPE 3	CRCIL W. PIPE Tenor

Conducted by JAMES W. JENNINGS.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain and one 720 of Oxford Treble Bob.

JACK LISHMAN Treble	STANLEY PROUD 4
CHRISTOPHER LAMB 2	JOHN JACKSON... .. 5
STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN... .. 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

Rung for the 21st birthday of the ringer of the third.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 14 extents each of Plain Bob, St. Simon's and Grandsire.

Tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat.

* FRANK PARTNER... .. Treble	RONALD SUCKLING 3
MRS. E. M. HUXTER 2	STANLEY BONES 4
HENRY A. PRATT... .. Tenor	

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5079 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	MRS. J. THOMAS 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, October 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS 9-10	

Composed by J. PIGOTT. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal in hand by all.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.	
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS... .. 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, October 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE 3-4	* JEAN A. SOUTHERST 7-8

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued on page 432.)

The first of the Plain Major methods is Bob Major. It is the simplest and best known of them all, and is so simple and well known that most men are inclined to treat it rather with contempt as something that might interest them when they were beginners, but is now too elementary for their notice. But, just because it is elementary and simple, there is no method which will better repay a close and thorough study when we are trying to understand the essential problems of change ringing, whether they relate to method construction, peal composition and proof, music and rhythm, or striking and the actual practice in the belfry. Most of the problems which face us in the more complex systems of ringing are there, but in their simplest, and therefore most easily understood, forms. Though the forms are simple the problems themselves are just the same. Suppose you were to select the very best band you could think of from the ringers throughout the country and set them to ring a peal of Bob Major. Suppose they were on their mettle and did their best. When the peal was finished it would still be true that it could have been rung better. This is an example of how high a standard change ringing can exact even in what appear to be its easiest and most elementary forms. That is really the strength of the art and the reason for the fascination it has on ringers; for there is nothing you do that you could not have done better, and however much you know, there is still far more to be learnt.

The construction of Bob Major is simple. Each lead in a natural course consists of a plain forward Hunting Course on the eight bells (which include the treble). At the lead end, while the treble is leading full, the other bells (the working or "extreme" bells) take one step of backward hunting—Seconds place is made and the rest of the bells dodge in pairs. So we get a natural course of seven leads. (By a natural course we mean any course which is produced by plain leads only and no bobs or singles; and starts and finishes with the same course end. The plain course is the typical natural course and the only one which occurs in actual ringing in the tower, but for purposes of composition the presence of other and similar natural courses must be recognised.)

All this everybody knows and understands, and accepts as a matter of course, but let us look a little closer into the subject. First of all there is the lead. This consists of sixteen rows produced by all the bells plain hunting. They follow each other in a definite order and this order is their Coursing Order. Coursing order is only another way of saying hunting order, and since plain hunting on eight bells will produce sixteen changes and no more, it follows that there are only sixteen changes in which the bells are in the same Coursing Order. We do use the term in a rather wider sense, but always with this strict and original meaning in mind. We can say, for instance, that throughout the plain course of Bob Major, the bells are in the same Coursing Order; but we consciously and deliberately restrict the terms to the working bells, and exempt the treble. In fact, except when we are referring to the Hunting Course, we always use the term Coursing Order of some, not all, the bells. It may be of all the working bells or only a part of them, but the number is definite.

A right understanding and a right use of the term Coursing Order are essential to understand the problems of change ringing.

Next let us look at the working bells. Every time the treble leads full they take one step of backward hunting or (as we say) they dodge. When we bring these steps of backward hunting together we find they make up a complete Hunting Course on the seven working bells, in which the bells move in the opposite direction to what they do in body of the lead. And because it is a complete Hunting Course, the seven bells keep throughout the same Coursing Order among themselves.

At the first sight it would seem that the treble has nothing to do with this backward Hunting Course, but when we look closer we find that the treble is put at each step in a different position in the Coursing Order of the whole eight bells. In the first lead of the plain course it is between the Second and the Third and the Coursing Order is 46875312. In the second lead it is between the Third and the Fifth and the Coursing Order is 46875132. Then it is between the Fifth and Seventh. Then between the Seventh and Eighth. Then between the Sixth and Eighth. Then between the Fourth and the Sixth. Then between the Third and the Fourth. And finally again between the Second and the Third as the bells come home.

Thus the treble makes a complete cyclical journey through the Coursing Order of the other bells; and here we have the simplest example of a Hunt and Extreme Bells, which is one of the most important, if not the most important, of all the things in the science of change ringing. Every method, every peal composition, and every round block, is made up of a combination of Hunts and Extreme Bells on different numbers of bells. Some of them are simple, as simple as this one in Bob Major. Some of them are complex. But all of them are alike in nature. A Hunt, be it remembered, is not merely a bell which has a fixed regular path; it is a bell which performs a cyclical path through the Coursing Order of other bells.

We must thoroughly understand these two things—Coursing Order and the construction, which consists of a Hunt and Extreme Bells—before we can understand how methods are built up, how one is related to another, and how the most complex follow from the simplest by a purely logical process. This is one of the services a study of Bob Major can render us; and there are many others, but it is no part of our present scheme to deal with Bob Major except so far as it is a necessary preliminary to the study of other and less known methods.

(To be continued.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

Fifteen members and 60 recruits were present on October 15th at a meeting of the Oxford University Society in the Junior Common Room of New College.

Miss Betty Spice was appointed secretary in the place of Mr. A. White. The treasurer, Miss B. W. Smith, reported that the balance in hand was £7. The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, reviewed the work of the past year. Three tower-bell peals had been rung—Grandsire Triples, Minor in 3 methods, and Kent Treble Bob Major; and four handbell peals, Double Bob, Spalding College, Kidlington College, and Maidstone Bob Major. Three more handbell peals had been scored after the close of the academic year.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, tenor covering: W. G. Whiting 1, J. Bennett 2, L. O. Wightman 3, G. Bennett 4, L. G. Brett 5, T. W. Last (conductor) 6, A. E. Whiting tenor.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT KIRKTHORPE.**

At the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society held at Kirkthorpe on October 14th, ringers were present from Crofton, Felkirk, Sandal, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Wath, Wakefield, Liversedge and the local belfry.

At the business meeting, which followed tea, the Vicar, the Rev. M. Buchanan, presided. Welcoming the society, he said that although he had been Vicar for twelve months it was the first time he had heard the bells. The next meeting was arranged for Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, on November 11th. A variety of Minor methods were rung.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BEXLEY.**

The annual meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association, held at Bexley on October 21st, was attended by 34 ringers representing nine towers.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address, and tea was at the Crayside Cafe. At the business meeting Mr. A. G. Hill was reappointed honorary district secretary, and Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., ringing master. Mr. J. E. Bailey was re-elected district representative on the Central Committee, but Mr. E. Barnett, in spite of strong pressure, refused to be nominated. He felt that the younger men ought to be given a share in the management of the association. Mr. P. Corby was appointed in his place.

A report of the year's activities and the balance sheet were adopted, and one new member was elected. Lewisham was selected as the place of the next meeting, to be held in January, with Woolwich as the alternative.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. J. J. Lamb.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT LEEDS.**

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Leeds on October 28th, when members and friends were present from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Calverley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley St. Chad, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell, Shipley, Selby, Sherburn, Woodlesford, Wakefield and Handsworth.

At the business meeting in the tower Mr. Senior presided, and one new member, Mr. T. H. Foster, of Selby, was elected.

The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on November 25th.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT LEAMINGTON.**

A meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Leamington on October 21st, was attended by about sixty members and friends from Arley, Allesley, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Bedworth, Keresley, Stoke, King's Norton, Nuneaton, Stratford-on-Avon, Rugby and Wolvey, together with the local band.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. C. Streatfield, and the business meeting was held in a room at G.F.S. House, the Vicar taking the chair. Stoke and Chilvers Coton were each proposed for the January quarterly meeting, and Coton was selected. The hon. secretary mentioned that the tower at Coton Church, damaged in May, 1941, when the remainder of the church was destroyed, had been repaired and the bells overhauled and replaced on ball bearings. They would be ready for ringing by the end of November, when a special rededication service would be held, to which the Guild members would be invited.

The Rev. C. Casson was elected an honorary member, and Messrs. J. F. Harvey and H. C. Spencer non-resident life members. The elections of Messrs. G. Large, Newport, Mon., F. Trotman, Burbage, and J. Gibson, Nuneaton, were ratified.

Mr. F. E. Pervin gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting the alteration of Rule 1, the title of the Guild to read 'The Warwickshire Guild for the Diocese of Coventry.' Mr. H. C. Burt supported this.

Mr. Pervin said he would also propose the division of the Guild into districts as formerly.

YOUNG RINGERS' ENTHUSIASM.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Wilton (Salisbury) ringers on October 19th, it was reported that in addition to keeping their own bells going every Sunday during the past year, organised excursions had been made to no less than 38 towers, apart from attendances at branch meetings of the Guild; the experience gained by the young members, while handling all sorts and conditions of bells, from unwieldy rings of four and five to the perfect peal of twelve at Trowbridge, has been invaluable, and a marked improvement in the striking had resulted. A suggestion was put forward that as the parish would be celebrating the centenary of the dedication of the church in October next year, they might consider the possibility of augmenting the peal to eight; it would be something to last for all time, and with the existing bells rehung and retuned, they would have bells worthy of the most celebrated modern church in the diocese and the ancient Borough of Walton.

Wilton, Salisbury.

E. G. CAPLE.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
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changes, or other particulars. Such cannot be published. Cor-
respondents should write their reports strictly in the form always used
in our columns, and use no unnecessary words.

PEAL RINGING IN WARTIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If Mr. Post will re-read my letter in the issue for
October 13th he will see that I did not state that the absence of
any preparation for victory ringing would have a detrimental effect
on peace-time ringing. On the contrary, my statement was one of
wonder, as to whether, having in mind the probable course of the
war, these preparations now being made will mature on anything like
the scale one would expect, and, indeed, Mr. Post confirms my argu-
ment when he says that he is one of those who would rather give up
ringing until happier times are here. Compared with 1940, I think
happier times have long ago arrived. I would suggest to Mr. Post
that he reads the admirable leading article in to-day's issue of 'The
Ringing World.' Those of us in the West Country who are able to
indulge in peal ringing have long ago fulfilled all the suggestions laid
down in this article, and I think that when the time does come we
shall be a lot fitter to start for that 'one peal' than will Mr. Post.

D. G. CLIFT.

21, Wathen Road, Bristol 6.

FAST PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in the peal column this week that a peal of
Grandsire Triples was rung at Rotherham in 3 hours 6 minutes, the
weight of the tenor being given as 34½ cwt. Is not the time of the
peal rather quick for bells of this weight? Furthermore, is there any
pleasure in ringing fast peals on heavy rings of bells?

A. L. BENNETT.

Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

THE HIGHEST HUNG BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was recently asked if there are many rings of bells
hung at a greater height above sea level than Ebbw Vale. I was
unable to answer this, although I had often mused over the matter.
It would be interesting to know if there are many rings of bells over
1,000ft., and what is the loftiest situation.

It is evident from the pages of 'The Ringing World' that there
are people with a vast amount of data relating to towers and bells
and they may be able to answer this offhand.

The surveyors give me the site level of Ebbw Vale tower as 1,020ft.,
and as the bells are over 60ft. above ground, they must be over
1,080ft. Bedwelty tower, a few miles away, is situated at 1,000ft., and
Blaenavon possibly a little higher, but in both cases the towers are of
no great height, so the bells are not high above ground.

There may be towers in Derbyshire or elsewhere exceeding this,
but I have no figures.
Ebbw Vale.

R. ALSOP.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THREE MASTERS.

Three hundred years ago the Society of College Youths had been in existence seven years, and already it ranked as the foremost ringing company. The Civil War between King Charles the First and the Parliament had broken out and many of the Society's early leaders had left London, but the Law Courts still functioned, and, as the Society was largely composed of lawyers and law students, it continued to flourish. Captain John Harrison, who in 1644 succeeded Robert Mackworth as Master, was a different kind of man to his predecessors. Soldier, courtier, envoy, administrator, author and divine, he played many parts during an adventurous life spent in three Continents. Probably his connection with ringing was a slight one, and, like several others, his duties as Master were almost confined to the annual feast.

Of his birth and parentage nothing is known, but he was a man of some education and probably sprang from a good middle class family. We first hear of him in Ireland, where he spent three years in the wars of Queen Elizabeth's later days. In King James' reign he held the appointment of groom of the privy chamber to Henry, Prince of Wales, with a salary of £13 6s. 8d. per annum. After the prince's death he was in the suite of the Princess Elizabeth, wife of the Elector Palatine.

After ten years on the Continent he returned to England and was then made sheriff of the Bermudas. In 1625 he was sent on a mission to the States of Barbary and the town of Sallee, and during the next few years paid seven visits to Morocco as the envoy of the English government.

The coast towns of Morocco were then nests of pirates who captured and plundered the ships of Christian countries and enslaved their crews. The merchants who traded with them staked their lives and liberty against the hope of gain. They went there at their own risk, and none of the European Powers would be, or perhaps could be, at the trouble and expense of rooting out the pirates by force of arms. Instead, envoys were sent who by flattery and bargaining endeavoured to obtain toleration for the traders and freedom for the captives. That was Harrison's mission, and he was not unsuccessful. He claimed in a letter to the king that he had secured the release of 250 slaves and established a peace which lasted until an English ship adopted the Moors' tactics, seized a ship from Sallee, and sold the crew as slaves to the Spaniards.

Harrison was always more or less in financial difficulties. He was granted forty shillings a day during his services, but complained that he was not paid. He borrowed money from a William Wheeler, goldsmith, on security of household goods, and Wheeler, not receiving payment, petitioned that he might keep the goods, and, when Harrison was away, seized them. The matter having been referred to the Council, and the king having directed the Lord President Conway to inquire into it, the latter found that Harrison owed Wheeler £20, and asked a Sir William Blake to advance the money on security.

When Harrison returned he wrote to the Secretary of State and complained bitterly of the way he had been treated. He found himself, he said, at the end of his

means. Never was a poor gentleman who had done such service for the State as he had done so much neglected. The king had promised him a prize ship and it had gone to another. Getting no satisfactory reply, he wrote again, and in the end he was paid £100 to settle his claim of £200.

Like many of the adventurers of his time, Captain Harrison had a strong vein of religious feeling in his nature, and during his sojourn in Barbary he wrote a treatise entitled 'The Messiah already come,' with the object of converting the Jews to Christianity. Though unreadable now, it was then sufficiently well thought of to go through three editions. On the title page of the last, issued in 1656, the author is described as 'that Learned and late Eminent Divine.'

Another of Harrison's books, 'The Tragical Life and Death of Muley Abdala Melck,' is an interesting account of a Sultan of Morocco, a bloodthirsty tyrant who made himself drunk and then went about torturing and killing people for the mere lust of cruelty, until he was shot down as men shoot a mad dog that has broken loose. In this book Harrison notes that the Moors have no bells. Harrison also published two other books dealing with the affairs of the Elector Palatine.

William Gardiner, the Master of the College Youths in 1744, was a gentleman who lived at Richmond. In 1740 he added the two trebles to the ring there. Very likely he was a son of Thomas Gardiner, who joined the College Youths in 1713, and probably was churchwarden at St. Saviour's, Southwark, when the bells were recast. William was elected a member in 1724, and in 1729 rang two peals with the company. One was Bob Major at St. Peter's, St. Albans, 'the first true peal ever rung in the County of Hertford'; the other was Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis', Backchurch, 'the first that was rung in that steeple.'

The Master in 1844 was James Mash. The society was then at its lowest ebb and had narrowly escaped total extinction. By the year 1820 the class of men which had supplied the members during the eighteenth century was no longer attracted to the belfry, and the survivors were few and getting old. They were scarcely able to ring the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and another company of young men was formed to supplement their work. They called themselves the Society of Junior College Youths, but they had no official connection with the older society, the members of which looked down on them socially and disliked them personally. Osborn suggests that they had only one good quality—they were good ringers. James Mash joined these men, and with them rang 25 peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal and one Stedman Triples.

In 1830 the fortunes of the old society were fallen so low that to save it from extinction the junior society was taken into membership. During two years James Mash, as a full College Youth, rang seven peals of Stedman Caters and Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal. But the union was not a happy one, and in 1832 it was dissolved and the old Junior College Youths formed themselves into the Sussex Society—why Sussex does not appear. They rang a dozen or so peals of Stedman Triples and Caters and one Cinques, and Oxford Treble Bob Major, and then began to trickle back to the College Youths, one or two at a time, until they gained complete control and made it the society men knew half a century ago.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from page 436.)

The church of St. Mary, Launton, Oxfordshire, which possesses a sweet toned ring of six, has a western tower with an unusual type of approach to the ringing chamber. Mr. F. Sharpe, author of 'The Church Bells of Berkshire' and other works, kindly supplies details as follows: The tower was built in the middle of the 12th century, and its architecture shows clearly the transition between the Norman and Early English periods; the belfry windows being composed of double lancets of early character grouped under semi-circular hood mouldings. On the south side is a large stone pentangle.

About the middle of the 15th century a serious subsidence occurred to the foundations of the tower, causing it to lean westward some feet out of the perpendicular, and as this subsidence was greater on the south, it had the effect of twisting the tower as well. With the tower came also the wall of the north aisle. This aisle was at once rebuilt, but the leaning position of the former west wall of the aisle is still to be clearly seen on the north wall of the tower. To disguise the fact that the tower is not upright, the upper portion was covered with rough cast, and the leaning appearance of the tower was further disguised at the end of the last century by the erection at the north-west and south-west angles of huge flying buttresses to minimise the likelihood of further trouble in this direction.

The approach to the ringing chamber is by an external iron ladder of nineteen rungs, by which access is gained to what is merely a narrow opening in the wall of the tower. From this a series of stone steps through the thickness of the wall leads to the ringing chamber door, a curious small one, measuring only four feet ten inches high by one foot six inches wide at the bottom, and only one foot two inches wide at the top. One has to enter sideways, head first; and leave feet first, walking backwards with body turned sideways until the iron ladder is reached. This curious entrance was constructed over a century ago by the then Rector. Formerly the bells were rung from the ground floor, and an internal ladder gave access to the room which now forms the ringing chamber. According to local tradition, a relative of a former Rector—one Colonel Browne—had led one of the famous cavalry charges at the Battle of Waterloo. He apparently never ceased talking of his exploits, and became known locally as 'Waterloo Browne.' One of his chief delights was to take a barrel of beer into the church on each anniversary of the battle, for the refreshment of the ringers who rang on that occasion. The rector disapproved of this and so constructed the awkward means of approach to the ringing chamber by which it would be entirely impossible to introduce a barrel. Needless to say, there has been no record of drinking in the tower within living memory, and all the ringers of to-day are keen church-workers. When the external approach to the ringing chamber was first constructed, a movable wooden ladder was used. This had the great disadvantage of constantly being removed during practices by practical jokers, who delighted in seeing one of the ringers lowered to the ground on a bellerope to find the ladder and so releasing his companions.

The ringing chamber is very small, its internal dimensions being only 7 feet by 7 feet 7 inches, out of which the works of the clock occupy a space 2 feet 8 inches

by 2 feet in one corner, and the clock-weight case another, while the remaining two corners of this tiny room are taken up by an iron ladder leading to the belfry, and by the entrance door. The rope circle (or oval as it is here) is only 2 feet 9 inches across its minor axis by 5 feet 9 inches at its major axis. It is possible to catch one's neighbour's sally on the opposite side of the 'circle,' and all the ringers stand shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the walls on three sides of the tower. It was here on February 18th, 1926, that the late Mr. Edwin Hims, of Bicester, rang the second and third bells to a peal of Bob Minor in 2 hours 49 minutes. During the peal, the ringing was much criticised by the parishioners, there being a great deal of speculation as to which two bells Mr. Hims was ringing. It was well struck throughout and no one guessed the correct pair. Normally it would only have been possible to ring either 1-2, 4-5 or 5-6, by reason of the position of the ladder leading to the belfry, and the clockcase; but on this occasion the ladder was removed to enable Mr. Hims to ring 2-3. Since the above mentioned peal, the approach to the belfry has been rearranged for the benefit of Mr. F. Sharpe, the present churchwarden and captain of the ringers, who frequently rings a pair of bells in touches, and rising and falling in peal, but who has not yet aspired to ring a full 5,000 double-handed.

When the tower was erected, c. 1150, it was equipped with one bell of 3½ cwt., also a Sanctus of ½ cwt. Two more bells, weighing between them 12 cwt., were added in 1416, and at the same time the original bell was recast. The inventory of church goods made in 1553 states: 'Item iij belles in the stepull and the saunce bell,' and these existed down to 1701. What happened then is not quite certain, but either the three bells were recast into a ring of four by Richard Chandler, of Drayton, Parslow, Bucks, to which a tenor was added in 1712, or he recast them into a ring of five in 1701 and recast the tenor later. Chandler also recast the Sanctus in 1725. This bell hangs out of the east window of the belfry, and is still used for its original purpose during Holy Communion services. The mediæval bell frame for three bells was altered and adapted by Richard Chandler for five bells by the inclusion of pits for the two smallest bells placed diagonally to the older pits. This meant that the second bell swung right into the south window recess, and the fourth into the north window recess. The rope 'circle' thus formed was most curious. The treble man rang with his back to the other ringers, and facing the doorway leading down to the ladder into the churchyard. The second ringer faced the south window; while the third faced the south-west of the tower, and each could see the rope in front of him only by taking a quick glance over his left shoulder. The fourth ringer was more fortunate as his rope came down in the centre of the chamber, but he could never see more than two ropes at a time without turning round. The tenor man had to face north-east and could not see any of his companions. No stays or sliders were fixed to any of the bells, and steps were cut in the tower wall for the tenor man to climb when he had the misfortune to let his bell go over a little too far.

These bells existed down to 1907, when they were recast by Gillett and Johnston, who added a treble, making six, to the memory of Richard Thomas Staples-

(Continued on next page.)

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 445.)

When I said that we may with some confidence place the beginnings of modern ringing in the fifteenth century, I did not mean that there was then any particular change in the use of bells either for ecclesiastical or social purposes which would have been noticeable to the people of the time; but that by then ringing had acquired certain characteristics which decided the future of the Exercise and still largely influence it. Before that time bells had been used in England much in the same way and for the same purposes as they were used on the Continent. But two things happened which decisively separated English ringing from that in France, and Italy and Spain. One was that the ordinary layfolk got to love the music of the bells and required that there should be more of them, and that they should be cast to a musical scale. The other was that the men employed to ring them found out that it could be a first class athletic sport. It was these two things, and not any ecclesiastical necessity, which gave England her bells and made her 'the ringing isle' during the following three centuries. In the Low Countries, Belgium and Holland and Flanders, the music of the bells appealed just as much as it did here, but the result was totally different; it produced the carillon and a vast number of very fine bells.

It is, of course, easy to talk about the 'profanation' of church bells by making them the instruments of a sport comparable to football and wrestling, but it is the historical truth that not only was the love of sport one of the main reasons why the bells were cast and hung, but it probably was the decisive thing which saved them from spoliation when nearly all that was valuable in church goods and ornaments was confiscated in the reign of Edward the Sixth. Had the bells before the Reformation been merely the sacred objects devoted solely to the services of religion, as Ellacombe and the others supposed, they would have shared the same fate as the chalices, and copes, and jewels. But for sport the bells in our steeples to-day would be something like the bells in the churches of Scotland, or at best like the bells in the churches of France.

These things gave the ringing Exercise definite characteristics which it has never lost, and there were other important influences at work. Before the Reformation, the ecclesiastical, and social and sporting uses of bells were mixed up indiscriminately, but one of the principal efforts of some of the reformers was to put a stop to what they called 'superstitious' ringing, which included almost all the ringing for distinctively ecclesiastical purposes. That tended to make ringing as distinct from tolling and chiming, almost entirely secular, and this tendency was further increased by the sabbatarian opinions of the puritan party in the Church, who held that to ring on Sundays more than the one bell needed to call the people together was Sabbath breaking and a sin. The time when bell ringing was more popular with the general public than at any other time was the time when it was least used for the service of religion.

Meanwhile, the paid ringing done for the parish and for weddings and such like was still performed by men of the labouring and artisan class. They have always formed the bulk of the Exercise, and if it had been con-

finied to them it is hardly likely that ringing would have influenced the number of bells cast. But other people, more influential in the parish, found out also what a good sport bell ringing could be, and during the sixteenth century ringing was popular with all classes. It was among the students at the Universities and the Inns of Court that change ringing was invented, and after their student days these men took the love of the new art down to their country homes and not only introduced it among the yeomen and farmers, but were largely instrumental in adding to the number of the bells so that it could be practised. These better class ringers were only a comparatively small part of the Exercise, but their influence was great, and so long as they existed the Exercise and the art were held in high esteem by the sober and religious members of the Church who accepted the secular nature of ringing and its use for recreation as a matter of course and nothing to be ashamed of or regretted.

But fashions in sport change, and the time came when ringing no longer interested the gentry class. By the beginning of the eighteenth century it had died out at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and during that century the bulk of the best ringers were drawn from the lower middle class, the tradesmen of the towns and the yeomen and farmers of the villages. A century later these, too, began to desert the belfries, so that before the nineteenth century was very old, the Exercise was again composed almost exclusively of the same sort of men as had first formed it and had all along formed the largest part. Ringers were labourers and artisans, sharing the opinions, and habits, and failings of their class. After the long stagnation of the eighteenth century vast changes in the social and religious life of the people and in the Church were taking place. Many things which once were harmless and easily tolerated became noxious and a scandal. Two alternatives lay before the Exercise; either it must be reformed from without or from within, or else it must perish. Either could quite easily have happened.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

Browne, a descendant of 'Waterloo Browne,' before-mentioned. At the same time a new iron H frame was erected. Later the bells were overhauled and hung on ball-bearings by Richard White, of Appleton. The tenor is now 7 cwt. 5 lbs. in B flat.

The church of SS. Peter and Paul, Mitcham, Surrey, was rebuilt in 1821, and is of flint covered with cement in the Perpendicular style. The tower of three stages, battlemented and with four tall pinnacles at each corner, is on the south side, and the whole of the base of it is filled by an organ. Therefore, to reach the ringing room, one has to squeeze up a straight wooden ladder between the back of the organ and the tower wall. This lands one in a window recess. Then turn right and ascend more wooden steps and enter the ringing chamber through a trap-door. In the 1552 inventory there was at Mitcham 'Item iijor gret belles: Item, a sautes bell: Item solde to Henry Pyke a hande bell for ijs. iiijd.' There is now a ring of eight by Thomas Mears, jun., recast when the church was rebuilt, and dated 1820. The tenor is 15 cwt.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Cambridge Minor, tenor covering: M. Wingrove 1, K. E. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3, J. Harrison 4, D. R. Fletcher 4, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, R. Buckland tenor.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 London Surprise Minor, tenor covering: M. Wingrove 1, D. R. Fletcher 2, W. Redrup (conductor) 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, H. Wingrove 6, J. Harrison tenor.

SHIPLAKE, OXON.—On Saturday, October 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Cleave 1, E. Smith 2, J. Cook 3, W. Wicks 4, E. Nash (conductor) 5, J. Hiscock 6, N. Tanner 7, J. Smith 8.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, October 15th, at New College, 1,260 Stedman Triples: V. J. F. Bennett 1, Miss M. D. Telford 2, Miss M. L. Tutt 3, Miss B. Spice 4, H. Badder 5, J. E. Spice 6, H. Miles (conductor) 7, R. Challen 8.

STANTON-ON-HINDHEATH.—On October 16th, twelve six-scores Grandsire Doubles: E. V. Rodenhurst, F. Leach, A. Bayley, R. Turner, F. Venables, R. Davies.

HALESOWEN.—On October 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. H. Webb 1, V. Warr 2, J. H. Cox (conductor) 3, A. Greenhall 4, H. Shilcock 5, L. Clissett 6, T. Greenhall 7, A. H. Harris 8. Rung on the 65th birthday of Mr. W. H. Webb in recognition of 46 years' service in the belfry.

GROBY, NEAR LEICESTER.—On Saturday, October 21st, 2,160 Minor, being 720 each of Double Court, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob: Victor Geary 1, Stanley Gardner 2, Ernest Geary 3, Derek Dodson 4, Dennis Dodson 5, Redvers F. Elkington (conductor) 6.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.—On October 22nd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: A. Catterwell 1, F. Wiseman 2, S. Dace 3, B. W. Pettit 4, R. Ripplingale 5, C. E. Broyd (conductor) 6.

CROSTHWALTE, KESWICK.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Bob Minor. Mrs. T. Wilson 1, R. Grisdale (first 720) 2, T. Wilson 3, F. Grisdale 4, J. Brownrigg 5, Tyson Hogarth (conductor) 6.

GOLDHANGER, ESSEX.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob: W. J. White 1, J. R. Owens 2, J. D. Buckingham 3, C. J. Mann 4, B. C. Mann 5, H. B. Gardner (conductor) 6.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCS.—On October 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Joseph D. Johnson (conductor) 1, Ralph Harris 2, James Hemming 3, S. George Chaplin 4, Joseph Newman 5, P. C. Vincent A. Hemming (first in the method) 6, Geoffrey J. Hemming 7, George Freeman (first quarter-peal) 8.

BOURNE, LINGS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Single Court: J. T. Pollard 1, J. W. Lake (conductor) 2, F. W. French 3, *Rev. D. N. Tindall 4, *Peter Romaine 5, S. Smith 6. *First 720 in method.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Bidulph Double Surprise Minor: S. B. Bailey 1, W. Corfield 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

RUISLIP.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. H. Colyer 1, G. M. Kilby 2, P. Blondell 3, W. Bunce 4, A. Hunter 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, Tom Collins (conductor) 7, N. Genna 8.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. R. Glasscock 1, J. Armstrong (conductor) 2, W. J. Bowden 3, J. E. Miller 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, H. Miller 6, S. Wade 7, S. G. Piper 8.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Sub-Lieut. D. Watson, R.N. 1, John W. Smith (conductor) 2, A. L. Dunn 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, Robert Lees 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, W. A. Beddard 7, E. S. Bushell 8.

LEWISHAM.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, C. H. Walker 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, V. J. Benning 4, J. Bennett (conductor) 5, P. J. Spice 6, G. R. H. Smith 7, E. Mounter 8.

BIRMINGHAM.—On October 26th at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Arthur D. Cook 1, Richard J. B. Hadden 2, Herbert C. Spencer (conductor) 3, John Pinfold 4, James F. Harvey 5, Sgt. Ernest Sibley, R.A.F. 6, George E. Fearn 7, Henry H. Fearn 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On October 26th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Mary Davis 1, Mrs. F. J. Marshallay (conductor) 2, Rev. C. A. Phillips 3, Percy W. Brayshaw 4, Andrew I. Pearmain 5, Charles R. Forfit 6, Eli Waters 7, Arthur V. Davis 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop.

HINDLEY.—On October 28th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. S. Cooper 1, E. Ford 2, L. Wood 3, A. Greenhalgh 4, J. Halsall 5, P. Crook, sen. (conductor) 6.

BOLDMERE.—On Saturday, October 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Terry Hampton (first quarter-peal) 1, G. W. Critchley 2, N. G. Smith 3, Allan J. Cartwright 4, W. G. Anker (conductor) 5, G. W. Anker 6.

ROTHERFIELD.—On October 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Bishop, jun. 1, R. Miles 2, R. Mitchell 3, A. Leury 4, F. Hammond 5, C. Brasier 6, W. Rogers (conductor) 7, F. Bishop, sen. 8.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Sawyer 1, W. Webb 2, K. White 3, F. Abbott 4, T. Rober 5, B. Brown 6, A. Webb (conductor) 7, W. Thorne 8.

COSGROVE.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: H. Cummins, E. J. Lambert, J. Higgins, F. Lambert, E. C. Lambert. Half-muffled for Archbishop of Canterbury.

ARKSEY.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Lucy Mottishaw 1, *Dennis Wilson 2, *Miss Laura Mottishaw 3, Mrs. I. Somerville 4, Ernest Cooper (conductor) 5, Ben Birkit 6. *First quarter-peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
52364	—	—	—	1	—
26354	—	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—	—

1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
42356	—	—	—	—	—
26354	—	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	1	—

1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
42356	—	—	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	1	—

1,248.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	R
52364	—	—	—	1	—
42356	—	—	—	S	S

Each three times repeated. Single half-way and end.

Five times repeated. Bob for Single half-way and end.

TEACHING BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The time is over-ripe for a reformation on a large scale of the methods of dealing with learners. As Mr. Knight says, the customary few minutes at the rope and sallie during the weekly practice is not enough.

The most monotonous stage in the course of the learner is first the handling of a bell and then the mastering of round ringing. He should have a night of his own (more if possible) in the tower apart from the general practice, whilst in the 'tied clapper' stage and where there are a number of learners this should continue at least until a proficiency of round ringing is produced. If handbells are available, these should be made good use of. This all helps to produce a certain amount of variety, lack of which is the main cause of learners falling away before they become of any use to the band.

How often during a practice is the remark made, 'And now a few rounds for the learners,' putting them all in together and hoping for the best. This does not give them a fair chance and the people in the vicinity have to suffer. If the belfries are to be kept full ringers must look to these points (there are many others) and be prepared to sacrifice more of their time to that end.

S. HARRISON, B.L.A.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

MEETING AT MARKET WEIGHTON.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Market Weighton on October 21st, and was attended by over 30 ringers from Beverley Minster and St. Mary's, Eastington, Goole, Hessele, Howden, Hull (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's), Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburholme, Selby Abbey, Sutton-on-Hull and York Minster. Choral evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. M. Mundy.

Tea was served in the Church Hall and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by Mr. A. H. Fox. Two new members were elected, Miss B. Roaseley, of Hessele, and Mr. G. R. Hessay, of Kirk Ella. The place and date of the next meeting was left in the hands of the district secretary. A collection for the Bell Repair Fund realised 17s.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOZEAT.

A meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Bozeat on October 21st, was attended by ringers from Irthlingborough, Wellingborough, Great Doddington, Ecton, Easton Maudit, Finedon, Woolaston, Rushden, Kingsthorpe, Duston, Turvey, Biddenham, Bromham and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address, and over forty sat down to tea in the Church Hall. At the business meeting Finedon was selected as the place of the annual meeting in January. Mr. H. Tyler was elected a ringing member and the Vicar an honorary member.

During the afternoon and evening the bells were rung, and the opinion was expressed that the services of a bell hanger would soon be necessary.

LLANDUDNO.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *H. Geeson 1, J. Flood 2, S. Brown 3, *Miss M. Jones 4, L. Barry (conductor) 5, H. Lawrence 6, G. Jeanes 7, H. Smith 8. *First quarter-peal.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Accommodation limited to 110. Names by Nov. 6th.—A. B. Peck.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —Meeting at Willesborough, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe 5 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Meeting at Deane and Church Oakley, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service in Deane Church 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at the Deane Gate. Names to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, by Nov. 7th.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Langport, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names by Nov. 9th to Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Meeting at Old Woking, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing until 8 p.m.—A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Alverstoke, Gosport, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 2.30. Tea 4. Service 5. Names by Tuesday, Nov. 7th.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road; Portsmouth.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Aidan's, Blackhill, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Woolton, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Annual meeting at Haslingden, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Business in tower 6 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec.; 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Preston Parish Church (10 bells), on Saturday, Nov. 11th, 2.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting at Stagsden (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea.—Frank C. Tysoe, Bromham, Bedford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice at Washington Saturday, Nov. 11th, 5.30 p.m. Meeting Heene, Dec. 9th.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—A practice at Holy Trinity, Morecambe, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Practice at Daventry (8), Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8 p.m.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heath, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Tea provided; bring food.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting Linton, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Buses leave Maidstone 2.30 and 3.5. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Kidderminster (12 bells), 3 p.m., Nov. 18th. Tea Florence Cafe, Blackwell Street, 6 p.m. Names by Nov. 16th; accommodation limited to 50.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowl-ing Green Road, Stourbridge.

PRACTICE NIGHT at All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, is changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne.

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