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LAST YEAR'S PEALS.

In ordinary times the number of the peals and the quality of the methods rung are a very good gauge by which we can judge the progress made by the Exercise. Peal ringing and method ringing are by no means the only important things in the art of change ringing, but they are important, and excellence in them is usually not unaccompanied by excellence in other things. Hence the interest and the value the yearly Analysis has for ringers.

These are not ordinary times, and any comparison with the years of peace is likely to be misleading and futile. Yet we cannot but turn to what was done in peal ringing during Nineteen Hundred and Forty-four, hoping to discover some indication of how the Exercise stands after more than five years of war. The result is distinctly encouraging. When the war broke out, almost all ringing activity came to an end, and soon after a partial revival of peal ringing was attempted the ban on all ringing was imposed, and for three years ringers were condemned to silence. No wonder we all thought that our art had suffered such a setback as would take years after the conclusion of peace to recover from. Peace has not yet come, but we have been released from the ban for eighteen months and during that time as much has been done to recover the lost ground as might reasonably have been expected in three or four normal years. Three causes have mainly operated to bring about this result. One was the reaction of churchpeople and the general public to the stoppage of ringing. This gave every encouragement to ringers and provided them with facilities. It led also to the second cause, the great number of recruits who have come to the belfries to replace the depleted bands, and who, we hope, will be a permanent source of strength to the Exercise. The third cause was that there were sufficient really keen men still available, who had not allowed their interest and enthusiasm to grow cold, and through the dark days had waited patiently until they could resume their activities in the belfry. In many cases they have had their reward.

In all, 619 peals were rung during the year, 466 of them on tower bells. In the circumstances this is a large number, and it would have been larger still if conditions in some parts of the country had not made peal ringing inadvisable. When the year opened everybody was in an expectant and hopeful mood. This was to be the year of victory. One more great obstacle had to be surmounted

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and then would come the end. It was probably this spirit which caused so many as fifty peals to be rung in January. This high average was not maintained, and when longer days and warmer weather might have increased the number of peal attempts, the renewal of air raids, first in the old style and then as flying bombs, almost entirely put a stop to peals in the south-eastern parts of the country. But the partial removal of the black-out had good results in the rest of England, and the number of peals greatly increased during the autumn.

Of the methods rung Grandsire was easily the most popular, and that is well. Grandsire is the method of the beginner and the method of the band who, forced to be content with the day of small things, are looking forward. Thirty-nine peals of Grandsire Doubles would seem in an ordinary year an undue proportion; now it is a hopeful sign.

Next to Grandsire came Plain Bob, and that is not less satisfactory. For as a stepping stone to higher things, no method is superior, and hardly any is equal to it. There is a tendency for Grandsire to lead to Stedman and then to a dead end, but Plain Bob is the beginning of a path which leads on straight to the very highest things in change ringing and has no ending. Twenty-nine peals of Bob Minor were rung, and forty-five of Major.

Of Stedman, seventy-seven peals were rung, and here the more experienced bands showed their activities, for there were eleven of Cinques as well as seventeen of Caters and forty-eight of Triples. Twenty peals of Double Norwich Major were rung.

Of the Surprise methods Cambridge was, as might have been expected, easily the most popular. Seven peals of Minor, fifteen of Major, nine of Royal, and two of Maximus make a total which shows that, whatever shortcomings the method may have, it appeals strongly to the more skilful companies. Three peals of Spliced Surprise in the four standard methods would, twenty years ago, have been unheard of. Spliced ringing is likely to be one of the great features of change ringing in the future, and since its difficulties have been steadily decreasing may prove capable of very great development and extension.

Altogether the list of peals is satisfactory and encouraging, not only or chiefly for itself, but because it is a good indication of the vitality and activity of the Exercise as a whole.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ASFORDBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On December 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Shelton 1, E. Littlewood 2, E. Lomas 3, H. Bell 4, J. H. Cook (conductor) 5, S. Read 6.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, December 31st, 720 Bob Minor: H. Howes 1, H. W. Barrett 2, S. Croft 3, W. H. Seabrook 4, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons 5, F. E. Hawthorne (conductor) 6, W. Maxwell tenor.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Sunday January 7th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Cleaver 1, G. C. Tarr 2, Miss P. Holmes 3, L. R. Tarr 4, H. Hodgetts 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, January 14th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss M. Blount (first 720 Bob Minor) 1, Mrs. G. Savill 2, G. C. Tarr 3, J. Cleaver 4, L. R. Tarr (first 720 Bob Minor as conductor) 5, F. W. Brinklow 6.—On January 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. Blount (first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples) 1, G. Savill 2, H. Hodgetts 3, G. C. Tarr 4, J. Cleaver 5, L. R. Tarr 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7.

BACKWELL, SOMERSET.—On January 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *K. A. Lewis 1, *T. G. Phillips 2, E. E. Fisher 3, L. W. Pullin 4, H. W. Knight (conductor) 5, R. Roberts 6, J. Lott 7, *R. A. Lewis 8. * First quarter-peal.

WALKDEN, LANCS.—On Saturday, January 13th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Denner 1, Miss A. Potter, 2, *R. Collier 3, James Denner 4, J. Potter (conductor) 5, A. Burton 6. *J. V. Cheatham 7. *H. Prescott 8. * First quarter-peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor 19½ cwt.	
JENNY PYM	Treble	CLEMENT GLENN	5
JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 2		NORMAN H. COOMBS	6
HERBERT KNIGHT ... 3		GEORGE TALBOT	7
*JOHN M. STALLARD ... 4		EMLYN F. HANCOCK	Tenor

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Jan. 18, 1945, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

HARRY G. WAYNE	Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON	5
REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 2		ERNEST MORRIS	6
RONALD H. DOVE 3		WILLIAM J. ROOT	7
HAROLD J. POOLE 4		FREDERICK H. DEXTER... ..	Tenor

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

Rung on the 'Stelfox Eight.'

BUCKLAND, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

ANNA SELLORS	Treble	BETTY SPICE	5
*JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 2		W. BERTRAM KYNASTON... ..	6
CHARLES J. GARDNER ... 3		WILLIAM JUDGE	7
MARIE R. CROSS 4		JOHN E. SPICE	Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method on tower bells.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt. in D.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ...Treble		STAFFORD H. GREEN	5
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2		FRANK H. HICKS	6
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 3		GEORGE GILBERT	7
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 4		WALTER F. JUDGE	Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

CHURCH, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON ...Treble		RICHARD BLAKEY	5
FRED LONGWORTH 2		JAMES BARNES	6
CHARLES BLAKEY 3		ROGER LEIGH	7
JOSEPH WOODS 4		LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS	Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 37½ cwt. in C.

*MICHAEL J. FOSTER ...Treble		NOLAN GOLDEN	5
JOHN R. SMITH 2		GEORGE SAYER	6
ERNEST SHORTING ... 3		HENRY TOOKE	7
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 4		RUSSELL W. CURSON	Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN.

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Triples. Rung half-muffled for Canon F. J. Meyrick.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

FRAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1945, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of College Bob IV, Old Oxford Delight, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Single Court and Plain Bob. Tenor 13 cwt.

ERIC KEMP Treble	J. R. KEMP 4
A. YOUNG 2	G. W. BURRELL 5
H. BARSLEY 3	J. R. YOUNG Tenor

Conducted by J. R. YOUNG.

POWICK, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Jan. 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt. in E flat.

GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... Treble	*ALLEN MORGAN 4
BETTY SPICE 2	*REGINALD WOODYATT ... 5
GEORGE E. LARGE 3	GEORGE AMBLER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Surprise away from treble.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents, four callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*EDDIE ROBINSON ... Treble	PHILIP JONES 4
*WILLIAM HAMMONS ... 2	GEORGE CARE 5
JOSEPH W. L. LINNITT ... 3	RONALD C. NOON Tenor

Conducted by RONALD C. NOON.

* First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor.

EARDISLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one six-score of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, one of Stedman and forty six-scores of Grandsire (10 callings). Tenor 13 cwt.

FREDERICK R. HARRIS ... Treble	RONALD H. MEWIES ... 4
E. PETER ROCK 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
JOHN D. ROCK 3	THOMAS R. ECKLEY Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Jan. 17, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two six-scores each Reading, New Bob, Shipway's Place, Orpheus, St. Dunstan's, Chase, Stedman Slow Course, Union, London, New Grandsire and Antelope; three six-scores each Stedman, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, St. Simon's, Old Doubles, April Day, Plain Bob and one 240 Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

JOSEPH W. L. LINNITT ... Treble	CYRIL BARRICK 3
PHILIP JONES 2	RONALD C. NOON 4
GEORGE CARE Tenor	

Conducted by R. C. NOON.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Jan. 17, 1945, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 6½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON ... Treble	WILLIAM A. WOOD 4
ERNEST MORRIS 2	JOSIAH MORRIS 5
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

Rung half-muffled for L.-Cpl. Reginald W. Collis.

STISTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A.	
ALBERT SAUNDERS ... Treble	HENRY PRATT 4
*DERICK TALBOT 2	RONALD SUCKLING 5
STANLEY BONES 3	ROBERT LE BEAU Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal of Minor inside.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Chester, Munden, Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, York and London Surprise. Tenor 7½ cwt.

RICHARD BUSBY ... Treble	GEORGE W. PARK 4
W. NORMAN PARK 2	*JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... 5
ROBERT T. SIMPSON ... 3	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

* First peal in seven Surprise Minor methods.

BURGH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. BOTOLPH AND ANDREW,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 8 cwt. in A.

LEWIS J. LAST ... Treble	FREDERICK J. CRAPNELL ... 4
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 2	LESLIE G. BRETT 5
MRS. C. W. PIPE 3	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Conducted by MRS. C. W. PIPE.

WATERFOOT, ROSSENDALE, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1945, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

G. BROWN ... Treble	G. MORTEN 4
*F. KENDALL 2	†H. PARKINSON 5
*A. V. WILLIAMS 3	A. MILLS Tenor

Conducted by A. MILLS.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. First peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1945, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH VESTRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by FREDERICK H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Witness: Cecil F. Knight.

Rung for Mr. John O. Lancashire's 80th birthday.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Jan. 16, 1945, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	*J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 7-8

Composed by CHAS. SEVERN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON

DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 18, 1945, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN BOB AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR,

5056 CHANGES;

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

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

Contains 3,360 Plain Bob and 1,696 Kent, with 72 changes of method.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 5.)

So far, we have considered the group of methods produced by the general law that if the bell hunting up next before the treble in Coursing Order makes any place, crosses the treble's path, and immediately makes another place, those two bells will change positions in Coursing Order, and the lead end (provided there is no other operation within the lead) will be 3527486. This Court Shunt can be made either at handstroke or at backstroke, and when we work out the different possible combinations of these shunts we get a group of methods all closely related in construction, but widely different in the actual practice of the belfry, some being quite simple and some very difficult. We must next consider any modifications and adaptations of this law.

Single Court Shunt. Single Court Shunt.

	Backstroke.	Handstroke.
	12345678	12345678
A1	21436587	21436587
	24135678	A1 24163857
	42316587	42613587
	43261857	46231857
	34628175	64328175
	36482715	63482715
	63847251	36847251
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	68374521	38674521
	86735412	83765412
	87653142	87356142
A2	78561324	78531624
	75816342	A2 75813264
	57183624	57183624
	51738264	51738264
	15372846	15372846
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13527486	13527486

The first is this—If the bell hunting up next before the treble in Coursing Order makes any place and crosses the treble's path; and then, instead of immediately making another place, hunts down to the lead, and, when hunting up, makes a second place directly it crosses the treble's path (which is now downwards) those two bells will change positions in Coursing Order, and the resulting lead end will be 3527486. Again it does not matter where the places are made, or whether they are at handstroke or backstroke. In the illustrations it is well to draw a line along the paths of the treble and the third (the two bells concerned) and then the effect of the shunt will be clearly seen.

When we examine this shunt and compare it with the regular Court Shunt, we find that the two operations are really the same thing. Each has two parts, but whereas in the regular Court Shunt the second part immediately follows the first part, in the Single Court Shunt it is delayed until the second half lead when the rows are in reverse order. The actual changes are,

42316587 and 78561324
24361857 75816342.

The method produced by this shunt Shipway called Single Court Bob, and quite clearly he had justification; but it is not symmetrical, and so is of no practical value to-day.

If we make the Single Court Shunt in both the available backstroke positions we shall get Single Norwich Court. This is a symmetrical method, but to understand its construction we must realise that, though Fourths place in the second half-lead balances Fourths place in the first half-lead, and Sixths place balances Sixths place, the complementary place to Fourths in the first half-lead is Sixths in the second half-lead, and the complementary place to Sixths in the first half-lead is Fourths in the second.

Single Norwich Court. Single Coslany Court.

12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24135678
42316587	42315768
43261578	43251786
34625187	34527168
36452817	35472618
63548271	53746281
<hr/>	<hr/>
65384721	57364821
56837412	75638412
58673142	76583142
85761324	67851324
87516342	68715342
78153624	86175432
71856342	81674523
17583624	18765432
<hr/>	<hr/>
15738264	17856342

There was at one time considerable dispute in the Exercise as to what is the correct Single Norwich Court. Shipway gives it as we have and as it is given in the Central Council Collection of Major Methods, but some writers prefer to have the first half-lead as in Double Norwich, and the second half-lead all plain hunting. There is little to be said for that version.

Constructionally Single Norwich Court is a very interesting method, but not a great deal can be said for it in practical use. It is too much like a good thing spoilt. The skeleton course is not an unattractive one, but the splitting of the shunts into widely separated parts throws the bells below the treble out of their natural Coursing Order, and the music suffers accordingly. Peals of it have been rung (the first was on handbells in 1922, conducted by Mr. W. H. J. Hooton), and no doubt others will occasionally be rung in the future, more as curiosities than anything else. There are many worse methods, but there are also many better.

When we add Seconds place to the lead end of Single Norwich Court, we get Single Oxford Bob. This is not nearly so useful a method as Oxford Bob Minor or Oxford Bob Triples. It has five-pull dodging behind and three-pull dodging in 5-6, and below the treble the bells are out of their natural Coursing Order. A peal of it was rung at Warnham in Sussex as far back as 1889, and one at least has since been accomplished. It is worth ringing to an occasional peal, but cannot rank among the best methods.

Sevenths place cannot be added to Single Norwich Court when the treble is lying behind, because then the bells are not in their natural Coursing Order. It is a

general rule that Court Shunts can only be made when the bells are in natural Coursing Order, which means when the working bells are in the same Coursing Order as they are at the lead ends. We shall come to many methods where this rule seems at first sight to be broken, but it is only apparently so.

The handstroke Single Court Shunt shown in the illustration gives a symmetrical method; but, since a bell lies for four consecutive blows behind, it is of no practical value. When, however, the handstroke shunt is made between two backstroke shunts we get Single Coslany Court, and when, further, Seconds place is made at the lead end, we get Single Mancroft Bob. Both have rather complex skeleton courses and both are good methods.

We saw that the handstroke Fifths Place in the third change of Double Mancroft Bob may be moved to the first change. The same thing can be done in Single Mancroft, and the resulting method will be Single Sandringham Bob. The first six rows of the plain course will be:—

12345678
21435768
12347586
21435768
24137586
42315768

In the second half-lead, handstroke Fifths place must be made in the last change instead of as in Coslany and Mancroft.

If Coslany is varied in this way one bell will lie for four consecutive blows in Eighths place at the lead-end.

(To be continued.)

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION,

Owing, no doubt, to the bad weather, only 14 members of the Bedfordshire Association were present at the annual meeting of the Luton District, held at Dunstable on January 20th. They came from Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Linsdale, Tilsforth and the local belfry.

At the business meeting, the Rev. G. Dale was elected chairman and Miss D. E. Liddbetter secretary and treasurer. Mr. H. Hillyard and Mrs. H. P. Whitney were appointed committee members. Luton was selected as the place of the next meeting.

The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY FYLES.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Fyles, of Halsall, which occurred on January 14th in his 77th year. The funeral was at St. Cuthbert's, Halsall, and was attended by family mourners and ringers from Halsall and Southport.

Mr. Fyles learned to ring at Woolton, Liverpool, and in 1891 joined the Lancashire Association, for which he rang 37 peals, one seven Surprise Minor methods, non-conducted.

Before the funeral 720 changes of Bob Minor were rung half-muffled, and afterwards 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: R. Critchley 1, L. Tyldesley 2, H. Serjeant, jun. 3, H. Serjeant, sen. 4, J. Ridyard (conductor) 5, E. Blundell 6.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CONGRESBURY.

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Congressbury on December 16th, at which ringers were present from Wrington, Cheddar, Badgworth, Yatton, Shipham, Bristol, Weston (Bath), Weston-super-Mare, Batheaston, Kewstoke, Worle, Portsmouth, Rotherham, Wick St. Lawrence, Winscombe, Churchill and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Rev. F. Pizzey, and tea was in the refectory.

In the absence of the president, the Rev. L. Y. Powys David, Mr. Pizzey took the chair at the business meeting. The accounts showed a credit balance of just under £7. The following officers were re-elected: President, the Rev. L. T. Powys David; Ringing Master, Mr. G. Prescott; and hon. secretary, Mr. E. J. Avery. Eleven new members were elected from Shipham, Winscombe and Banwell.

It was decided to hold meetings at Lymsham, Winscombe and Shipham. The methods rung were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Minor and Major, Little Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

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THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

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Etc.

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

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The increasing circulation of 'The Ringing World' has now exhausted the extra supply of paper recently allowed us, and new orders for delivery by post can only be accepted subject to vacancies occurring in the present list of subscribers, either from death or some other cause. Orders sent to Mr. George W. Fletcher will be dealt with in strict rotation as quickly as opportunity offers.

Mr. J. Hare, of Hitchin, who celebrated his 85th birthday on December 31st, is still an active ringer and took part in the Christmas ringing.

THE YEAR'S PEALS.

During the year nineteen hundred and forty-four, 619 peals were rung, 466 of them on tower bells and 155 on handbells. In January 50 were rung, in February 34; in March 37; in April 48; in May 41; in June 34; in July 47; in August 57; in September 60; in October 74; in November 67; and in December 70.

The tower bell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 39, Triples 58, Caters 3; Bob Doubles 6, Minor 29, Major 45, Royal 1; Oxford Bob Triples 4; Little Bob Major 7; Gainsborough Little Bob Major 1; Stedman Doubles 1, Triples 48, Caters 17, Cinqs 11; Kent Treble Bob Major 31, Royal 3; Oxford Treble Bob Major 3; Spliced Kent and Plain Bob 1; Erin Caters 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 20; Cambridge Surprise Minor 7, Major 15, Royal 9, Maximus 2; Superlative Surprise Major 9; Lincolnshire 1; Bristol 8; London 4; Four Spliced Surprise Major methods 3; Doubles 10; Minor 54.

The handbell peals were: Grandsire Doubles 9, Triples 26, Caters 9, Cinqs 3; Plain Bob Doubles 1, Minor 2, Major 23, Royal 8, Maximus 5, Fourteen-in 1; Stedman Triples 3, Caters 22, Cinqs 10; Kent Treble Bob Major 6, Royal 4; Oxford Major 2, Royal 1; Double Bob Major 1; Spliced Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Little Bob Royal 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 5; Spalding College Major 1; Kidlington College Major 1; Maidstone Bob Major 1; Spliced Kent and Oxford Major 1; Seven Spliced Plain Major methods 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Five Spliced Surprise Major methods 1.

These figures must not be taken as official and final. When in due course the Analysis Committee issues its report, it is possible there may be a few corrections.

MESSRS. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON, LTD.

A New Year's party and dance for the staff and workpeople of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., was given by the managing director, Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, and Mrs. Johnston on Tuesday, January 16th, at the Grandison Hall, Norbury. The invitation was extended to include the wives and husbands of the married employees, and a very large and happy gathering assembled.

A few personal friends of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston were also present, including Councillor G. Lewin and Mrs. Lewin, the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon, Mr. E. Taberner, the Town Clerk of Croydon and Mrs. Taberner, and Lt.-Col. H. E. Peirce, of the 59th Surrey Battalion, Home Guard.

The greater part of the time was taken up with dancing and competitions, and a cabaret turn by Bennett and Williams, the radio comedians, proved immensely popular.

During the evening, a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Johnston of a silver propelling pencil and a silver trinket box respectively was made by the youngest boy and youngest girl employees on behalf of the staff. In expressing their thanks for the gifts, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston took the opportunity of saying how pleased they were to see everyone enjoying themselves so much.

UNATTACHED MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While there may, 50 or 60 years ago, have been some justification for the assertion that unattached ringers, as a rule, lived solely for peals and did nothing to help on Sundays or at practices, this has long since disappeared.

There are many reasons not always immediately apparent, which may justify a man appearing as unattached. More often than not it is because of local circumstances. There was, not many years ago, an instance not far from here of a young and enthusiastic ringer being driven away from his local tower by the leader of the company, who never managed to realise that the time would come when he would have to give way to someone younger than himself. Since then the ringer has remained unattached.

At a committee meeting of the Kent County Association some 15 years ago the whole question of the unattached ringer was discussed. At the time there were less than twenty, but one member painted a gloomy picture of what would happen if this were allowed to continue. But investigation established that only one was not a regular Sunday service ringer—and he had given up ringing years before, but had been kept on the association's list by his brother, a very active ringer, probably in the hope he would return. One prominent name on the list was John H. Cheesman, but no one could have been more conscientious in attendance on Sundays than he.

It is time the idea was dispelled, particularly in Kent, where it was once said by a man who should have known better that 'the unattached ringer was a rotten ringer.'

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM KNIGHT.

The death is announced of Mr. William Knight, of Bristol, who died on January 14th at the age of 82 years.

The funeral was at Arno's Vale Cemetery on January 17th. It was conducted by the Rev. W. G. H. Thomas, Rector of St. Stephen's, who referred to Mr. Knight's services to St. Stephen's Church and his qualities as a man. In addition to the family mourners, several ringers were present, including Mr. William H. Thomas, Mr. F. G. Leaker, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Brown, Miss Annie Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bennett, Mr. H. Burt, Mr. Reg. Gilbert, Mr. Arthur Prince and Mrs. Burford.

As a boy Mr. Knight joined the St. Stephen's choir and afterwards the band of ringers. For 45 years he was secretary of the St. Stephen's Guild, and still held the office at the time of his death. He was one of the founders of the Bristol United Guilds and was chairman in 1926. He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and had rung many peals in all the standard methods, including the first peal of Clifton Surprise Royal. For 53 years he was a member of the clerical staff of Messrs. Spear Brothers and Clark, of Bristol and Bath.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on January 13th and was attended by about 50 ringers from 16 towers. The Vicar, the Rev. F. A. Page, conducted service and the address was given by the Rev. — Maby.

Tea was at the Duke's Head, and was followed by the business meeting with Mr. Page in the chair. Six new ringing members, Messrs. I. Gurr, G. Matthews, M. Morford and J. Williams, Miss P. Page and Miss F. Edgar, and four honorary members, Mr. E. G. Davis, Mr. W. Upton, the Rev. J. Armitage and the Rev. F. A. Page, were elected. The report and balance sheet for 1944 were considered very satisfactory and adopted. The district officers were re-elected and the Guild general officers renominated.

Cobham, Banstead and Ewell were suggested as meeting places for the coming year, with the usual joint meeting with the Surrey Association on August Monday at Leatherhead. A discussion took place on the question of payment for the Guild's new peal book, and it was decided that the cost should be allocated according to membership.

DEATH OF MR. FRANK GREEN.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank Green, of Devizes, which took place at the Devizes Hospital on January 16th. The funeral at St. Mary's on January 20th was conducted by the Rector, and among the large congregation were Mr. C. D. Heginbotham, who was for many years chairman of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, Mr. E. F. White (the present chairman) and Mr. W. C. West (secretary). After the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and in the evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung by Mrs. G. Waite 1, Capt. Lister 2, G. Winter 3, F. Hale 4, S. G. Grant (conductor) 5, and W. Mortimer 6.

Mr. Green, who was 66 years old, had been associated with the ringing at St. Mary's, Devizes, for more than forty years. He was secretary for the branch from 1921 to 1932, and assistant secretary to the Salisbury Diocesan Guild from 1930 till the time of his death. He rang 31 peals for the Guild, consisting of Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor and Major.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

1,277		1,277	
23456789		23456789	
62354978	1-4S	62354978	1-4S
32465	1S-4	32465	1S-4
43265	9-3	53264879	9 in and out at 2
24365	9-3	45362	8-3S
		24563	8-3S
52463	9-3S		
45263	9-3	32465	8-3S
34562	9-3S	43265	8-3
		24365	8-3
23465	9-3S		
42365	9-3	52463	8-3S
34265	9-3	45263	8-3
		34562	8-3S
53462	9-3S		
25364	9-3S	23465	8-3S
42563	9-3S	42365	8-3
		34265	8-3
		1,295	
		23456789	
42356978	1-4	45326798	9 in and out at 2
34256	9-3	52346	8-3
23456	9-3	24356	8-3
63452	89S	34256	98S
43256	89	42356	98
24356	9-3	65243	8-2
32456	9-3	34562	8-2
62435	1S-4S	23465	7-3S
23465	8-3	42365	7-3
42365	9-3	34265	7-3
34265	9-3	23465879	7 in and out at 3
23465879	1-3-4S	42365	8-3
42365	8-3	34265	8-3
34265	8-3		

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RANMOOR.

A meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Ranmoor on December 16th, when about 40 members were present from Doncaster, Eckington, Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham, Barnby Don, Chesterfield, Tickhill, Langwith, Sheffield Cathedral and St. Marie's, and the local belfry.

Tea in the Church Hall was followed by the business meeting, at which the chair was taken by the Vicar, Canon H. E. Foster, who gave the association a hearty welcome.

The resignation of Mr. George Lewis, vice-president, through continued ill-health, was accepted with regret. The next meeting was arranged for Barnsley on March 17th. Four new members were elected, Messrs. Leslie W. Bacon and George L. Chambers, of Cresswell, and David Adams and Edgar Liversedge, of Rotherham.

The secretary pointed out that it would be necessary to elect a new vice-president at the meeting in March, and he asked the members to give this matter their careful consideration and let him have their nominations as soon as possible.

A collection for the Bell Repair Fund realised 12s. 6d.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

Sixty members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which was held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, on January 20th. Service was conducted by the Rev. G. F. Turner and the address was given by the Rev. G. Bryant. Tea was served in the Church Rooms, and at the business meeting, which followed, the chair was taken by the Rev. M. L. Couchman.

The secretary's report and statement of accounts were presented and adopted. The officers for the coming year were elected and three new members admitted.

In addition to the bells of the Holy Sepulchre, which were rung before and after the meeting, the ring at St. Giles' was made use of in the evening.

PEALS OF DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a member of a five bell tower, I have often been interested in the time taken by peals of Doubles in your peal columns. We are fairly fast ringers at Twineham, the tenor being slightly under 7 cwt., but we cannot get through 42 six-scores under 2 hours and 40 minutes. I think if any band gets through quicker than that it is too fast for good music.

CHARLES H. WICKENS.

2, North View, Blackstone, Henfield.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 538.)

In Kent are two towers with peculiar double spires, *i.e.*, at St. Mary's, Bexley, and at St. Mary's, Upchurch. The former has a pleasant light ring of eight bells, and the latter six. In both instances there is a western square tower and the beginning of a square spire, but after rising several feet the square suddenly stops and an octagonal top is placed thereon, giving them both a most unusual appearance. To enter the ringing room at Bexley one ascends an outside iron ladder. Originally a ring of six by Thos. Janaway, of London, 1763, they were later increased to eight. At Upchurch the six bells date variously from 1632 to 1866. Beneath this church is a crypt approached by a spiral staircase.

Kent is also noted for the peculiar detached belfry at Brookland, described by Mr. C. G. Harper in 'Ingoldsby Country' thus: 'Imagine three old-fashioned candle extinguishers placed one upon another, and you have that odd campanile very closely imitated. It stands apart from the church, is of massive oak framing, weather-boarded thickly and elaborately tarred.' It contains a ring of five bells, the 3rd being by Henry Jordan, of London (1442-68), and others by John Hodson, 1685. In 1552 there were 'Item in the steeple iiij small bells and in the church one warning bell, one hand bell, and one Sacringe bell.'

The old-world church of St. John-the-Baptist, Newton Nottage, Glamorgan, is a somewhat small building, with a great western tower. In the year 1250 or thereabouts the church did not look quite the same as it does to-day. There are indications from which it can fairly be conjectured that the nave and chancel, then probably flat-roofed, were surrounded by a parapet or battlement, as was also the tower, for the gables which crown the tower at present, the western door porch, and most of the windows are the products of more peaceful times. It is generally supposed that our old parish churches were places of refuge, and that a warning beacon was fired from the summit of many an old church tower is an ascertained fact. But there are very few examples which conclusively prove that some parish churches, at any rate, were fortified. Newton Nottage tower stands 54ft. high, with walls 4ft. thick. It was divided into ground floor, first, second and third floors, the last being surmounted by a flat embattled roof. The corbels which once supported these floors or compartments still remain. The three upper rooms were each lighted by three narrow slit windows, very much splayed on the inside. The absence of the usual belfry windows is at once noticeable. The compartments were approached by ladders which could be drawn up in case of necessity. The spiral stone staircase to the first floor was added later. From the third floor—the room just below the roof—a door 6½ft. in height opens directly over the nave roof. This doorway was thought to be a window opening and at one time was partly built up. Should an unwary person by any chance now step forward from this old doorway he would be precipitated on to the roof below, but in the old days this would not have happened, for a range of great stone corbels stands out some two feet from the wall face. These once supported a wooden platform, which was protected on three sides, and in all probability covered by a wooden roof or screen. A somewhat similar modern instance may be seen projecting from the wall of Cardiff Castle, which

gives a fair idea of the outer defences of Newton Church tower. The advantage of this outer defence is at once apparent. Archers stationed here, themselves protected, could cover the entire body of the church, and thus be of the greatest assistance to its defenders, and could make it extremely unpleasant for an enemy who had got even so far as the nave roof. There are six bells here, restored and augmented by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol, in 1906, from four old bells dated 1622 (two) and 1689 (two), hung in an iron frame.

Another good instance of a tower built for defence is that of the detached one at Marston Mortaine, Beds. Here the massive tower stands 50ft. away from the church. It is evidently of earlier date than the latter, and its walls are six feet thick. There are only arrow slits in the lower storey, and the original entrance was not by the door below but by one higher up in the wall. It is on the south side of the tower, and the walls are so thick that it resembles a small tunnel. Access was obtained by ladder, which could be drawn up inside if the tower were besieged. There are five bells, all cast by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, and all are 'alphabet bells,' dated 1610. The timbers of the bell frame are exceedingly large and strong.

The entrance to a ringing room by a ladder placed outside and drawn up after the ringers had entered—though for a far different purpose than those above recorded—recalls vividly the writer's visit to the church of St. Michael and All Angels, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, when on August 13th, 1921, he called the first and—up to now—the only peal yet rung here. There is nothing curious about the western tower and small spire, but the entrance to the ringing room, which is really a gallery set half-way up the tower arch, is somewhat curious. The ground floor is used as a choir vestry, and the tower arch is entirely matchboarded over, with a small door inserted for the choir to enter the church. Consequently the ringers' gallery is sealed off this side, and the only means of gaining access is by a ladder taken out of the west door and set up in the churchyard, the top going through the small arch at the head of the said west door. On the occasion of the above-mentioned peal we pulled up the ladder to prevent interference, but during the ringing someone—we later found it to be the Rector—from the outside threw up 5s. (two half-crowns) for our refreshment after the peal.

Originally four bells, the old second bears the name in Gothic caps, 'George Purefie Esquier Anno D. 1596,' and the fourth, 'The gift of Sir Henry Puriefoy Baronet 1684.' The Purefoys were settled here as early as the reign of Richard II., and their magnificent tombs may be seen within the church. In 1909 Messrs. Carr, of Smethwick, added a treble, recast two of the old bells and rehung the whole in a new wood frame of two tiers, with 2-3 above and 1-4-5 below. On the treble and tenor is an inscription in Welsh, the only one in this language in Leicestershire. The Rector (above mentioned), the Rev. Jenkyn Edwards, was a Welshman.

(To be continued.)

SHRIVENHAM, WILTS.—On Friday, January 12th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: V. Burrow 1, W. Cater 2, E. Anger (conductor) 3, R. Partridge 4, P. Anger (first quarter-peal) 5, P. Anger 6.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCs.—On Saturday, January 13th, 1,344 Bob Major: W. Smalley 1, Miss A. Potter 2, E. Ford 3, J. Potter 4, L. Wood 5, A. Greenhalgh 6, Rev. F. F. Rigby (conductor) 7, P. Crook 8.

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Continued from page 17.)

I think I have made it clear that ringing was at a very low ebb when Chattel came to Birmingham, and there can be little doubt that his influence had much to do with its revival. He taught more young ringers than anyone else I have known or heard of in Birmingham, as the old ringers generally took the contrary course and usually tried to make everything mysterious. His pupils could generally hold their own both in tower and on handbells.

There was one thing which made Chattel popular with his men and that was the Christmas outing which he generally managed to organise. The week after Christmas Day was always a quiet one with him and he would be pretty sure to arrange for a peal somewhere. Coventry was a very favourite place with him, and in 1847 or 48 he scored Johnson's 5,003 of Grandsire Caters, a performance much talked about at the time on account of its excellence. I think it was at Whitsuntide, 1850, that Mr. W. Cary, of Bristol, visited Birmingham and rang with us at Aston, and on leaving gave us a very pressing invitation to Bristol; so that at Christmas in 1851 Chattel took his band there. We arranged to break the journey at Gloucester, where we lunched, and, after looking over the Cathedral, were met by Mr. W. Estcourt, who had walked in from Painswick that morning. Under his guidance we set out to walk to Painswick—seven miles—and a memorable walk it was, for, being frosty weather and the road nearly all uphill, it was hard work. However, we got there and found a good dinner waiting for us. Afterwards we went to the tower, where we rang two courses of Treble Bob Royal. We wanted Maximus, but there were no ropes to the trebles. Chattel said that they were taken off or pulled up in order that we should not hear them, they were so bad.

We walked to Stroud—four miles—and here found that the bells were being rung muffled as it was Innocents' Day, and it was a custom to ring muffled on that day. The Stroud men wanted to hear Royal, so the buffs were taken off and two courses rung there. We tried to charter a conveyance to Stonehouse about four miles further on, but thought the proposed charge so excessive that we decided to walk and did so. From Stonehouse we took train to Bristol, arriving there about 10 p.m.

A VISIT TO BRISTOL.

Next morning, after a look round the city and a walk to Clifton, we visited the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe and rang a course of Royal on the grand ten, afterwards ringing a touch of Stedman Caters with—I think—one or two of our Bristol friends standing in. We were rather disconcerted on coming down to find that one of our men, while we had been ringing, had been partaking too freely in the Bristol stale beer. That did not look very promising for the peal we intended to attempt at Christ Church in the early afternoon. However, we took the best care of the man we could until the appointed time, and in due course rang the peal of Treble Bob Royal as arranged, but it was not a creditable performance, as the said man was very unsteady, especially in the early part. This was the more vexing, as we were in first rate practice, and the preliminary peal we rang at home was probably the best peal we ever did ring. We spent a very pleasant evening with a large number of Bristol ringers and next morning rang on several of the rings of eight in the city, and in the afternoon set out for home again.

At Christmas, 1852, we visited Northampton. Chattel had long been desirous of ringing a peal in his native county. The authorities at All Saints' Church were written to, and permission to ring on the bells of that church given. On our arrival at Northampton we were not met quite as we expected. I cannot remember how it was, but when we got to the church there seemed to be something not quite right. However, we raised the bells and started for a peal of Major, and had rung a course or so when a fussy official came up into the belfry and ordered us to stop, saying that no one except himself had any right to give us leave to ring. He made a lot of bother, so we lowered the bells and were a bit disgusted. By-and-by one or two gentlemen came to us and apologised for the conduct of the man, who, if I remember aright, was the parish clerk. They begged us to stop over the night and placed the bells at our disposal at our own time the next morning. After a consultation, it was agreed to, and the next morning found us in the tower at day-break. We rang a fairly good peal of Treble Bob Major, and left Northampton about midday, calling at Coventry for a touch on that grand ring of ten.

STEDMAN CATERS AT LEICESTER.

At Christmas, 1853, we had a most enjoyable outing to Leicester, and rang an excellent peal of Stedman Caters at St. Margaret's. Our next outing was to be at Worcester, but I do not think we went at Christmas. If my memory serves me it was in the autumn of 1854 we went there first. I know we lost our peal through R. Yates being taken ill with diarrhoea. I ought to say that it was arranged for two noted Worcester ringers, James Green and James Burford, to be in this peal. On Easter Monday, 1855, we went again and succeeded in ringing a first rate peal of 5,111 Stedman Caters, Green and Burford ringing the eighth and ninth and another Worcester man named Fudger ringing the tenor.

The peal was at All Saints', where the tenor is 23 cwt. (The ring of twelve at the Cathedral had not yet been cast.—The Editor.) This peal was known to us for some years as the beef-steak peal. When the ringing was over we found some of our West Bromwich friends—S. Marsh, Perks, Bassett and others—had been listening to the peal. Mr. Burford then said he would go and arrange for a bit of a snack at the Ewe and Lamb Inn, and, although most of us were accustomed to see things pretty well done, I do not think anyone present had ever seen such dishes of beef steak as were placed before us. Mr. Burford played the part of host, and, although I knew him as one of the most kind and genial men I had ever met, I never saw him look so happy as he did on this occasion.

Christmas, 1855, was the last occasion of my going out with the St. Philip's Society, and then four of us with four from West Bromwich rang a peal of Treble Bob Major at Darlaston. Christmas, 1857, was the last time I was ever out with Chattel, when a mixed band rang the first peal of Stedman Caters on the bells of St. Michael's, Coventry.

A DOUBTFUL PEAL.

Than Chattel I should think a better ringer could scarcely be. He was equally at home from treble to tenor, a fine striker all round and a terror to bad ones. He had a good theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the standard methods, justly priding himself on his ability as a Stedman ringer, and at the tenor in Treble Bob had few equals. When at his best his great strength and powers of endurance enabled him to ring with comparative ease a bell that another man dare not tackle. He was a safe conductor, indeed I never heard of his losing a peal through missing a call or anything of that kind, but I have known him to patch one up.

On Easter Tuesday, 1845, a band was picked for a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Philip's when I was to have been in. I was on my way in good time for the meeting, but as I entered Colmore Row, to my surprise I heard the bells in changes. Later on I discovered that a tramping ringer named Graham (old Dick) had visited Chattel that day, and, learning that a peal was on, persuaded him to give him a chance by starting half an hour earlier than was arranged for, and ousting me as being, I suppose, the youngest hand. Circumstances favoured the arrangement. I was rather nettled, and I was walking about the churchyard when I met Johnson, and presently Lates came up to us. After a chat Lates began to figure with his finger on his hand, when suddenly, turning to Johnson, he said, 'Harry, what the devil is he up to? The sixth has gone away.' I forget Johnson's reply, and by and by the bells were right again, while Lates rubbed his hands and chuckled over the fun to come later on. When the peal was finished and the men came out of the tower, Lates accosted Chattel somewhat as follows: 'I say, Billy! What were you up to so and so, when the sixth was behind the ninth?' 'Oh!' said Chattel, 'Old Dick and the sixth changed course.' 'Well, how did you manage?' 'Why, the worst of it was, I called a hob before I noticed it, but I planted old Dick at once. I knowed what the next course end should be, and before it came up I managed to get them all in their places.' Lates enjoyed this immensely, and said he would go to somewhere if Billy was not a devilish clever fellow. Johnson took rather a different view of the matter, and I must say I was very glad I was not in the peal. This affair was much talked of and had a good influence years after.

A MODEL STEEPLEKEEPER.

As a steeplekeeper Chattel was untiring. If a bell did not go well he never rested until he had found out the cause. He rehung the seventh and eighth, and afterwards the fourth, having the bells out, the gudgeons cased and turned, new brasses fitted, and made them go well. He repaired the wheels, etc., and, in fact, was always doing. The tenor was his master, for although he had it out time after time, he could do but little with it.

In August, 1849, when St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral bells, a ring of five, were about to be opened, C. Oliver, sen., who hung them, applied to Chattel for a band to open them. Chattel was ready to do so on these conditions—'If you make our tenor go I will open the bells for you.' Oliver agreed, and one or two others and I assisted him in getting the bell out and in again. The chief reason that it did not go was that the gudgeons were loose in the headstock and moved sideways. This was remedied by wrapping sheet iron round them and so making them tight. The brasses were levelled, of course. The job took the whole of the day, and when the bell was rose we were rather surprised at the result of our labours. Oliver pulled her off a time or two and said, 'She'll go,' and go she did, and Chattel rang her through several peals of Royal after.

In 1854 on Shrove Tuesday we attempted a peal of Treble Bob Royal with the first half in Tittum position. It was lost, after half the peal had been well rung, by the eighth trying to double back into the slow after just leaving it. Chattel was conducting, and was in some measure to blame, but put it on my shoulders, although I was entirely innocent. We met again, I believe, in a fortnight after, for another attempt. After ringing rounds for longer than usual, I being at the seventh, he looked at me and said, 'Are you going on?' 'Certainly not!' I replied, 'Neither shall I,' he said. I rejoined, 'Oh, if that's what you mean, here goes!' I then shouted 'Go,' and called the identical peal we had failed in before. He could not help showing that he was a bit riled over this, and intimated

(Continued on next page.)

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

(Continued from previous page.)

that I had taken the peal out of his hat surreptitiously. This was entirely wrong, because he had asked me, as he had often done before, just to look the peal over as a precaution.

At the present time (1894) there is seldom a meeting of ringers but something occurs to bring Chattel's name up. The following specimen of Chattel's manners I witnessed myself, and it is only one of many. On Christmas Eve, 1845, we had raised St. Philip's bells for the usual midnight peal when a decent looking man walked into the belfry, introduced himself as a ringer, and said that he should be pleased to have a touch with us, adding that he came from Oxford. 'I suppose you can ring Stedman?' asked Chattel. 'Oh, yes!' was the answer. 'Catch hold then!' We were one short for ten, so we fixed for Triples, the stranger taking the third. We started all right, but when the third left the slow work and should have gone up into 4-5, he was all at sea and we had to stand. Another start was made. This time we got a little further, and then came another breakdown. Chattel's looks were anything but pleasant, but still he made allowances for the bell—always rather an awkward one for a stranger—so this time he said no more than, 'Let's have one more try.' A third attempt was made with a similar result. Chattel then walked across the belfry and accosted the stranger in this way, 'Did you say you came from Oxford, sir?' 'Yes.' 'Then you had better go back again. We don't want that sort of ringing here.'

(To be continued.)

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BIGGLESWADE.**

The annual meeting of the Biggleswade District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Biggleswade on January 13th and was attended by about 25 members from Tempsford, Henlow, Maulden, Great Barford, Bromham, Turvey, Sandy and the local belfry. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. S. B. Fairbridge, who also took the chair at the business meeting, which followed the tea. Mr. C. J. Ball was re-elected secretary, and entered on his 25th year of office. Mr. C. H. Harding was appointed chairman, and Messrs. C. Smith, L. Bywaters, Y. Church and A. C. Sinfield placed on the committee. The accounts were received and found to be satisfactory. Two new members, Messrs. R. Burch and O. Smith, were elected.

The methods rung included Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH.**

The annual meeting of the Aylesbeare Branch of the Devonshire Guild, held at Withycombe Raleigh on January 13th, was attended by 65 members and friends. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. Bond, and the business meeting was presided over by the Rev. H. W. Gardner. Mr. B. Pidgeon, the hon. secretary, presented the annual report and balance sheet. One new member was elected and the following officers were appointed: The Rev. H. W. Gardner, chairman; Mr. B. Pidgeon, secretary and treasurer; and Mr. J. I. Glanville, Ringing Master. The next meeting was fixed for April 7th at Sowton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT PRESTON.**

About thirty ringers were present at a meeting of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at St. Mark's, Preston, on January 13th. They were from eight belfries. During the day the following methods were rung: Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Double Court, Oxford Single Bob, Kent, Oxford and Woodbine Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise.

Three new members were elected and one past member re-elected. Chorley St. Mary's was chosen as the place of the next meeting.

LEICESTERSHIRE RINGER KILLED IN GREECE.

News has been received that L.-Cpl. Reginald W. Collis, a member of the band at Croft, Leicestershire, has been killed in Greece. He died in hospital on January 1st as the result of a wound received while engaged with a detachment of his section in bringing in a wounded man under fire. He was buried the next day in the British military cemetery at Palvon, Athens. He was 21 years of age.

Reginald W. Collis joined the Midland Counties Association in 1936 and rang his first peal at the age of 12. He had rung four peals in all. A muffled peal of Bob Minor was rung to his memory at Croft on January 17th.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Wednesday, January 10th, 720 Bob Minor: P. Thomson 1. N. Bell 2, A. Oldfield 3, R. Smith 4, I. Church 5, L. Bywaters 6. Rung half-muffled for H. Bywaters, an old member of the local band, who died on January 6th.

EXETER.—On Friday, January 12th, for the wedding of Mr. F. Wills, a member of the local band, the bells of St. Thomas' were rung to various touches of Grandsire Triples.

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.

COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. Ringing, Bishopsgate 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting at Basford, Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) at 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Election of officers and important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Widford, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.30. Tea and business after.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Lewisham, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Annual meeting at Farnham on Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—W. Viggers, Acting Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual general meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, Jan. 27th, 5.30 p.m. Ringing 3 to 5 p.m.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

KENT ASSOCIATION.—Sittingbourne, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.45. Service 4. Tea and meeting at Cremer's (opposite Town Hall).

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Annual meeting at Ottershaw, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., Infants' School, Brox Road.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District.—Annual, All Saints', Gainsborough, Saturday, Jan. 27th. Ringing afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Business in the Vestry 6 p.m. No tea.—Geo. L. C. Lunn.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.—Practice, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. No tea.—Oliver G. Barnard.

CHESTER GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Annual, Cheadle, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—T. Wilde.

OXFORD GUILD.—Clewley, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 3d. Committee after tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

ESSEX ASSN.—N.E. Division.—Annual, Mistley (6), Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Thorne Hotel 4.45 p.m. Bring food.—Leslie Wright, Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch. — Annual, Calverleigh, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—C. G. Dymond, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—Chiswick, Saturday, Jan. 27th, 2.30 p.m. No tea. Business in belfry 4.30 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey. Per. 5320.

OXFORD GUILD.—Adderbury (8), Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30 p.m. — E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

SHROPSHIRE ASSN. — Annual, Shrewsbury, Feb. 3rd. St. Mary's (10) 3 p.m. Service and business, St. Chad's, 4 p.m. Tea at Ward's cafe. Evening, St. Chad's (12).—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER SOCIETY. — Annual at Doncaster, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Names to W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

KENT ASSN.—Whitstable, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3. Service 4.15. Names to C. C. Dilnot, 75/77, Oxford Street, Whitstable.—B. J. Luck.

ESSEX ASSN.—Northern Division.—Annual, Braintree, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names to H. G. Felton, 42, Panfield Lane, Braintree.—Hilda G. Snowden.

SURREY ASSN.—N.W. District.—Annual, Epsom, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, Christ Church, 3 p.m. St. Martin's in the evening. Service, Christ Church, 5 p.m. Tea and business, Chrisf Church Hall. Names to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Amphill (6), Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Tea at Notts Cafe 5 p.m.—L. H. Bowler.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—St. Barnabas', Shore, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) 5 p.m. in Schoolroom. Business in belfry, 6.30 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Lee, 9, Bk. William Street, Littleborough.—I. Kay.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30. Service. No tea.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HEREFORD GUILD.—Ross District.—Annual, Ross (8), Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business 4.30 p.m. at Central Cafe. Names to W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross-on-Wye.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Oswaldtwistle, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30 p.m.—Charles W. Blakey, 133, Ormerod Street, Accrington.

DEVON GUILD.—Bramford Speke, Feb. 3rd. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Names to W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—Annual, Islip (6), Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Tea, 30th. Names to W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock, near Kettering.

SHEFFIELD SOCIETY.—Eckington (8), Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5.15. Names to G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

HERTFORD ASSN.—Rickmansworth, Sat., Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Longton (8), Saturday, Feb. 3rd. No tea.—Andrew Thompson.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Presentation to Mr. G. Preston. Names to J. M. Turner, 55, Harland Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Bassingham (6), Saturday, Feb. 10th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15.—Names to Kenneth W. Mayer, 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Annual, Spalding, Feb. 10th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea, British Restaurant 4.10. Business in church 5.10. Names to W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck.

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Guildford District.—Annual, Guildford, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30, followed by tea and business. Cathedral bells 3 to 4, S. Nicolas' from 3.30 and after meeting. Names to A. C. Hazelden, 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

HEREFORD GUILD.—Hereford Branch.—Annual St. Nicholas', Hereford, Feb. 10th. Service 4.30. Tea and business. Names to J. W. Downes, Hon. Sec.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WARKTON.—On January 9th, 1,260 Doubles, being 120 Canterbury, 120 Chase, 240 New Doubles, 240 St. Simon's, 240 Plain Bob and 300 Grandsire: G. W. Clark 1, R. W. Lawrence 2, L. G. Toseland 3, A. S. Toseland 4, B. P. Morris (conductor) 5. Rung for the wedding of L.-Cpl. David Bussey, a member of the local band.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS.—On Saturday, January 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Bernard J. Saddington 1, George Care 2, Philip Jones 3, Harry Baxter 4, John Fitzhugh (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 5, J. Bell 6, Ronald C. Noon (conductor) 7, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 8. First quarter-peal in the method as conductor.

BANSTEAD.—On Sunday, January 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Betty Layton 1, Jill Brittain (first quarter-peal inside) 2, Winifred Adams 3, D. N. Layton 4, H. J. Smerdon 5, A. G. Oliver 6, H. N. Pitstow (conductor) 7, E. T. Woolloff 8.

BRIDGNORTH.—On Sunday, January 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. F. Cottrell 1, W. Hayward 2, G. Dodds 3, M. R. D. Harford (first quarter-peal) 4, B. Head 5, W. Overton (conductor) 6, H. W. Overton 7, W. D. Fowkes 8.

SUDBURY.—On Sunday, January 14th, at All Saints', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Herbert 1, C. Clarke 2, D. Elliott 3, A. Haynes 4, A. Titch 5, L. Johnson 6, S. Howell (conductor) 7, L. Wright 8.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, January 14th, at the Cathedral, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: John Morris 1, Betty Spice 2, Horace Bentley 3, Geoffrey Lewis (conductor) 4, George Hinton 5, Dennis Sayers 6, Dennis Morris 7, John Jeffries 8, George Ambler 9, Frederick Fluc' 10.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On January 14th, 720 Stamford Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, W. Corfield 2, W. E. Wheeldon 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, January 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey (conductor) 1, W. E. Critchley 2, J. Holmes 3, E. Dalingwater 4, R. Thompson 5, H. Wagstaffe 6, J. McCluskey 7, P. J. Dane 8.

SLOUGH.—On January 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Rivers 1, F. V. Sinkin 2, John Gayford 3, W. Worsefold 4, W. E. Judd 5, E. Hudson 6, A. R. Gale (conductor) 7, E. H. Preston 8. Rung half-muffled.

COVENTRY.—At St. Michael's, Stoke, on Sunday, January 14th, 720 Bob Minor: B. Ellender (first 720) 1, R. D. Hayne 2, A. Roberts 3, T. Sheppard (first 720 as conductor) 4, F. E. Perkin 5, C. Parker 6.

EXETER.—On Sunday, January 14th, at St. Thomas', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. W. A. Wills (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Howe 2, A. W. Searle 3, Miss Queenie Pring 4, F. Wills 5, W. A. Wills 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, R. Truman 8.

TITCHFIELD, HANTS.—On Sunday, January 14th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: G. W. Barton 1, L. H. Page 2, J. Hunt 3, P. Page 4, T. Page (conductor) 5, J. W. Best 6.

SYSTON, LEICESTER.—On January 16th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. Hubbard 1, Miss A. Mansfield 2, A. Mansfield 3, H. Humphries 4, G. T. Walker (conductor) 5, L. H. Whitehead 6, W. Wright tenor.

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